

IRA DENNEY, one of the pioneer residents of the city of Portland, died at his home on west Main street at 4 o'clock Friday morning; at the age of 77 years and 14 days.

Mr. Denney has been ill for some days, and declined rapidly from the first. Within the last three days it was plainly evident that his restoration to health was beyond human power, and the end could only be awaited, no hope of recovery being at hand.

Thursday night the stricken man began to sink, and as the daylight of Friday morning became dawn his life ebbed away.

The funeral services will take place from the First Christian church, east Main street, Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by Revs. O.L. Pride and Fred Stovenour. The interment will be in Green Park cemetery by Baird & Hardy.

The deceased was a member of the I.O.O.F. and Masonic lodges of the city.

Unknown source

Ira Denney was born in Gallia county, Ohio, March 8, 1824, being a son of Lewis and Felicia LeClere Denney. His father was a native of North Carolina, born in 1797, and removed with his parents to Gallia county, where he was married in 1821. His wife was of French parentage.

Ira Denney was reared on the home farm in his native county and succeeded in acquiring sufficient education to enable him to teach, and by that means he earned sufficient money to defray the expense of attending the academy at Gallipolis. He made teaching his profession until 1850, and in August of that year was elected clerk of the court of this county, assuming the duties on October 10 of the following year. He was elected for a term of seven years, and by virtue of this change his time expired in 1855. He was re-elected and served a second term of four years.

He was married to Miss Belinda Miller, and as he was the county clerk he issued his own marriage license. He had been a resident of Jay county since 1847 and of Portland since 1850. He was a prominent member of the Masonic lodge of the city, and together with General Shanks, whose life ended some weeks ago, was among the oldest of the membership of the order in Portland.

Mr. Denney was a conscientious member of the Christian church, and for a period of two years held the office of secretary for the Union college, and for a number of years was a trustee of Merom college, Sullivan county. By his energy and frugality Mr. Denney attained quite a competence, although hampered by the uselessness of a portion of one arm.

One son is engaged in the jewelry business, another in dry goods, and the only daughter resides in Dayton, Ohio. Had Mr. Denney lived until November 27, he and his estimable widow would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.