

Jonathan Nelson, a former resident of this city and well known here, died today near Westchester. He was born in Jackson County, Ohio on February 3, 1832. Funeral services will take place at the First Christian Church on Sunday at 2 pm, conducted by the pastor, Rev. G. B. Garner. Interment at Green Park Cemetery. J. S. Hines is the undertaker.

Portland Daily Commercial, Jay County, IN; March 28, 1896

Contributed by Jim Cox

Jonathan R. Nelson Died, On Saturday, March 28, 1896 at 7 a.m. at the home of his mother, in Bearcreek Township, Jay County, Indiana. Jonathan Ross Nelson, aged 64, 1 month, 25 days. Thus another pioneer has gone to his last long home-passed away-which reminds us of life's uncertainty of life and fate of all mankind. He was born in Jackson County, Ohio, Feb. 3rd, 1832. In 1852, when but 20 years old he came with his parents to Jay County, and was one of the first settlers of the town which is now the city of Portland. He was a good engineer and worked for many years in "the old fleuring [flouring] mill" of the city, which is no more. He planted the beautiful shade trees that now adorn the court yard, but few had to be replanted; and planted hundreds of other trees, which now adorn the city. He was a good honest and noble citizen, always ready to lend a helping hand and well liked by all who knew him. Last fall that dread disease consumption seemed to take hold on him; he went to visit his mother and was stricken down, and grew worse and worse; his mother being quite old and feeble, but waited on and cared for him as only a mother can care for a child, until she was stricken down with lagrippe and suffered untold misery without a murmur for three weeks, when her heavenly Father called her to her long home, just one week previous to that of her son. He bore his sufferings with patience and without a murmur and hoped to regain his strength and that he might repay his friends who had so kindly attended on him. He was the father of five children, four sons and one daughter who survive him and followed to his last resting place. He also leaves three brothers and one sister and many friends. Funeral was held at the first Christian church in the city Sunday, March 29th, conducted by Rev. Garner, from Job 14th Chapter and 10th verse. But man dieth, and wasteth away; yes, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? A large concourse of friends followed his remains to the Green Park cemetery, where it was interred beneath the clods of the valley, there to sleep that long last sleep.

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Note: Jonathan Ross Nelson was the son of Moses Nelson and Mary Childers. He married Mary Jeanette Bell in Jay County, Indiana on 18 March 1860. They were divorced in 1886.