

Clipping dated October 26, 1930, Portland, Indiana

William M. Nelson "Colonel Bill", Jay County Showman Dies

William M. Nelson, aged 67, died at this home in this city following an illness of two weeks of inflammation and blood clot of the brain. The deceased was one of the picturesque characters of the county, and was well known among his show friends as "Colonel Bill" Nelson. He was a candy maker and had the record of operating a concession at the Jay County Fair without missing a single year since the fair started here. He started the work with his father. Nelson had traveled extensively through the south and west, following fairs and expositions. He was also well known as an impersonator and had appeared as an entertainer. During the last few years he had appeared only on local programs. He was united in marriage to Sarah E. Loy, who survives with two sons and two daughters, eight grandchildren and two brothers. Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday afternoon from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. Lee Tyndall will officiate, assisted by the Rev. H.R. Carson, pastor of the church.

Portland Commercial Review, Jay County, IN

William M. Nelson, a life long resident of this city, came to the end of his life's journey on Sunday Evening, October 26, 1930 at 6:25 o'clock at the late home on Ship Street. The deceased was a son of Jonathan and Mary (Bell) Nelson, and was born September 25th, 1863. He was united in marriage to Sarah E. Loy, November 24th 1889, who survives with two sons and two daughters, Morris W. Nelson of Leesburg, Florida, Dee E. Nelson of Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. Homer Sheffer of Noble Township, and Mrs. George Patton of Richmond, Indiana. Eight grandchildren are living. He is also survived by two brothers, Bert and Charles Nelson of this city. One brother, Edward Nelson and one sister, Cora Shank, preceed him in death. Mr. Nelson was a kind husband, a loving father, a splendid neighbor and a good citizen. He was a great lover of children and they always knew him as their friend. He was a member of Class No. 7 of the Methodist Sunday School. Funeral Services were conducted Wednesday afternoon, st 2:00 o'clock, October 29th, from the Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Lee Tyndall officiated, assisted by the pastor, H.R. Carson.

Contributed by Eloine - no date listed