

PHILEMON N. COLLINS, deceased, who was one of the prominent citizens of Adams County, was born in Richland County, Ohio, November 20, 1820, a son of Zenas and Catherine (Sites) Collins. The father was a native of Virginia, and the mother was born in Maryland. They subsequently went to Missouri, where both died. Philemon grew to manhood in Ohio, receiving an academic education. At the age of seventeen years he commenced teaching school, which he followed for nine terms. His father gave him eighty acres of land located on section 20, Wabash Township, Adams County, which he began improving in 1844. He was married March 9, 1848, to Miss Eliza J. McDonald, who was born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1826, her parents, A. R. and Jane (Matchet) McDonald, being natives of the State of Pennsylvania. In 1831 the parents of Mrs. Collins removed to Columbiana County, Ohio, and later removed to Hamilton County, Ohio. In 1845 they located in Wayne County, Indiana, and three years following came to Adams County, settling in Wabash Township. In the fall of 1855 they came to Lagrange County, where the father died in the fall of 1875. He had been twice married. His first wife; the mother of Mrs. Collins, died in 1834, and by her he had six children, two sons and four daughters. Mr. McDonald was again married in 1836 to Elizabeth J. Anglemyer, and to this union were born thirteen children. The father was a shoemaker by trade, which he followed in connection with farming. He was a member of the Presbyterian church. To Mr. and Mrs. Collins eleven children were born, and of this number only one is living, a daughter named Geneva B., who is now the wife of L. C. Messner. After this marriage Mr. Collins engaged in farming. He was engaged as civil engineer and county surveyor for nine years. He was station agent at Ceylon, Adams County, for five years. He and B. B. Snow were proprietors of the town site of Ceylon, a part of the town being located on part of his land. He also represented his county in the Legislature for three terms, serving with credit to himself and to the best interests of the county. He was very successful in his farming operations and at his death left about 600 acres, 400 acres being in one body, his original purchase being eighty acres. He took an active part in the political affairs of his county, being formerly a Whig, but later affiliated with the Democratic party. During his residence in the county he won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him, and his death, which occurred October 31, 1878, was a source of universal regret. His widow still resides at Ceylon. She united with the Christian church May 14, 1876, and April 5, 1885, she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.