

NELSON, WILLIAM M

William M. NELSON, the well-known candy maker of Portland, was born in that city and has lived there all his life. Mr. NELSON was born on September 25, 1863, and is a son of Jonathan and Mary Jeannette (BELL) NELSON, formerly and for years well-known residents of Portland. Jonathan NELSON was born in Jackson county, Ohio, a son of Moses and Polly (CHILDERS) NELSON, who became pioneers of Jay county. Moses NELSON was a Virginian by birth, who had settled in Jackson county, Ohio, where he was married and where he made his home until in the '30s of the past century, when he came over here into Indiana with his family and settled in Wayne township, this county, where he had entered from the Government a tract of eighty acres of land and where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, one of the influential pioneers of that section of the county. Jonathan NELSON was but a boy when he came to this county with his parents and he was reared on that pioneer farm in Wayne township, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools. He remained there until after his marriage, when he made his home at Portland, where he became the engineer in the first steam flour mill operated in that city and was thus occupied for years. He later became engaged as a teamster in Portland and in that city spent his last days, his death occurring in March, 1896. His widow survived him for more than fifteen years, her death occurring in 1912. They were the parents of five children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, James A., Frank Edward and Charles D. NELSON, and a sister, Cora I.

Reared at Portland, where he was born, William M. NELSON received his schooling in the schools of that city and early became engaged as a painter, a vocation he followed until his marriage at the age of twenty-six, when he became engaged in his present line, that of candy making, and has since been thus engaged, his products having a wide sale hereabout. It was in 1889 that William M. NELSON was united in marriage to Sarah E. LOY, who also was born in this county, and to this union have been born four children, Rita D., Morris W., Anita B. and Dorris E., the two latter of whom are unmarried and at home with their parents. Rita D. NELSON married Homer I. SHEFFER, of this county, and has four children, Violet Pauline, Lawrence Everett, Bonita Ursel and Fahien Allen. Morris W. NELSON married Nellie Glee SHAW, also of this county, and is now living in Colorado. Mrs. Sarah E. NELSON was born in Pike township, this county, and is a daughter of Adam and Sarah (BICKEL*) LOY, the latter of whom died in 1883. Adam LOY was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and during the Civil war enlisted as a soldier of the Union and died at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., October 6, 1864, while in service, a sergeant of Company E, 89th regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, He left his widow with three children, two of whom are still living, Mrs. NELSON having a brother, Plina LOY. Their sister, Mary C. died on May 5, 1872.

* This name should be JONES.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.499-500. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.