

William NORTH, veteran of the Civil war, who recently died at his home in Portland in his eighty-fourth year, had for many years been actively connected with the business affairs of that city, a former merchant and lumber mill man, one of the organizers and a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Portland, a stockholder in the Citizens Bank and in other ways interested in the general commercial life of the community, and at his passing left a good memory. And to this memory it is but fitting that some modest tribute here be paid. Mr. NORTH was a native of the old Keystone state, but had been a resident of Indiana for many years and of Portland since 1871. He was born on a farm in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1838, and was a son of Jacob and Sarah (DELHOUSEN) NORTH, both of whom were born in that same state. Jacob NORTH was a substantial farmer, the owner of 114 acres, and he and his wife were the parents of fifteen children, of whom the late William NORTH was the last survivor.

William NORTH was reared in Pennsylvania and received his schooling' in the schools of his native county. He early learned the trade of weaver and was for three years engaged working- in a woolen mill. After the death of his father his mother moved to Lima, Ohio [Allen Co.], and he accompanied her there and was for a year or more engaged In working at his trade in that place. He then took an extended trip West, but in. 1860 returned and was living in Ohio when the Civil war broke out. He presently enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause and went to the front as a member of Company I, 139th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. NORTH became engaged in saw-milling at Conway, in Van Wert county, Ohio. After familiarizing himself with the milling business Mr. NORTH bought a sawmill in Ohio and established his home in that state, where he continued engaged in lumber milling for about ten years, or until 1871, when he came to Indiana and bought a grocery store at Portland. For four years he continued in the grocery business at Portland and then became associated with his brother in the operation of a flour mill up in Wells county, though continuing to make his home at Portland. Three years later he withdrew from that business and became engaged in the lumber business at Portland and for some years operated three sawmills, at the same time becoming interested in land investments, and became the owner of 240 acres of land in Greene township, this county, which he rented. Mr. NORTH's business activities were carried on also along other lines and he was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Portland and at the time of his death had been for years a member of the board of directors of this institution. He also was a stockholder in the Citizens Bank and had other local interests. Mr. NORTH continued active in business until 1919, when failing sight compelled his retirement, and his death occurred in that city on January 15, 1922.

His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred on October 15, 1907. In his political views Mr. NORTH was a Republican. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and was a Royal Arch Mason and for many years took a warm interest in local Masonic affairs.

In 1862, in Ohio, William NORTH was united in marriage to Sarah LARE, who was born in Crawford county, that state, and to that union were born five children, namely: Margaret, who is unmarried and who continues to maintain the old home at 604 West Race street, Portland, where her father's last days were spent: Delia, who married Edwin HOPKINS, now living at Lynn, Ind.[Randolph Co.], and has one child, a daughter, Marie, who married Denzel ANDERSON and has one child, a son, Harold Hopkins Anderson; Elta, who married Luther FRAZIER, now living at Bluffton, Ind.[Wells Co.], and has five children, Dr. Chester Frazier, of Indianapolis, Merle, Hobart, Harold and Catharine: William L., who married Fannie CRING and who died on July 1, 1921, leaving one child, a daughter, Mary Helen, and John NORTH, who died on October 5, 1872.

Unknown source