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William Axe, the son of George and Hannah (Lessely) Axe, was born in Germantown, Pa., April 20, 1823 and died at the home of his nephew, William Axe, Jr., in Westchester, Ind., at three o'clock p.m. Jan. 27, 1905, aged 81 years, 9 months and 7 days. He was the eldest of a family of eight children—three girls and five boys. Four of this family had already preceded William to the Glory land. They were: Ann Bergman, Peter, George and Fred Axe. Those whom survive him are Lyda Drake, Sarah Beck and Charles Axe. William accompanied his parents from Penn. to Ohio in the fall of 1837 and in June, 1838, the family moved to Jay County, Ind., and settled in Bearcreek, township, taking up a homestead in what was at that time a wilderness. Here the parents of our subject lived and prospered in spite of the difficulties incident to those pioneer days. William was never married and after the death of his father in 1847 he remained on the old homestead with his aged mother, to whom he was a faithful and devoted son, caring for her every want and need. The death of his mother in 1888 was a severe blow to William and somewhat darkened his subsequent life. For a short time after the death of his mother, he homed with his brothers and sisters but soon bought property in Portland into which he moved and lived the life of a retired citizen.

Owing to his infirmities and extreme old age, it was deemed unsafe for him to further live alone, as he preferred, and he was finally persuaded to go and live with his nephew and name-sake, William Axe, Jr., of Westchester.

While here he spent most of his time sitting around a warm fire in the country store kept by his nephew's son, George Axe. It was here that he was constantly meeting and renewing old acquaintances and was beginning to appear in better spirit of health. On Jan. 16, he took suddenly and severely ill with acute congestion of the kidneys which resulted in his death 2 days later.

As a citizen, Mr. Axe was highly respected and won the confidence and good will of all those with whom he came in contact in social and business relations. All through life he stood as a model citizen, faithful, upright, sympathetic and conscientious. In his dealings he was scrupulously honest and a great friend to the poor. In his personal habits he was always tidy, clean and temperate. He used neither tobacco nor coffee, and had no use for a stronger beverage than water. Although not a church member he was thoroughly religious, having read the bible through several times. During his last illness he was patient, kind, and obedient to those who cared for him, and his mind remained clear up to within a short time before his death, when he sank quietly into a profound sleep and his life slowly ebbed away without a frown or struggle. "Blessed are they who die in the Lord."

Funeral was held at Westchester U. B. church, conducted by Rev. Fred Stovenour and was one of the largest ever held in that place.

Contributed by LAH

William Axe, Sr., died Friday afternoon at the home of his nephew, William Axe, Sr., at Westchester, aged 82 years. He had gone to the home of his nephew at Westchester only three weeks ago to enjoy a visit and took ill of stomach trouble a week ago last Sunday. He was never married, but leaves one brother, Charles Axe of Noble Township, and two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Beck of Westchester and Mrs. Lydia Drake of this city. Mrs. Ann Bergman, mother of the late George Axe, all deceased were also members of the same family. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1823 and came to Jay County, Indiana in 1838. He had lived in Portland the last ten years of his life. Funeral at Westchester United Brethren Church Sunday at 11 o'clock.

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Contributed by Jim Cox