

Nathaniel Ferguson
Jan. 27, 1853 - May 16, 1933

By Mrs. Ivan Parkin Ruff.

Nathaniel Ferguson was born Jan. 27, 1853, and died May 16, 1933, being 78 years of age.

Mr. Ferguson was born of pioneer parentage, His father, who was of Scotch descent, came to America in 1836 from County Derry, North Ireland, in company with his cousin, William Oliver. Another cousin, Robert Oliver, preceded these two young men to Wisconsin, The Oliver brothers were pioneers in Dane county, Wisconsin.

His mother, Miss Almedia Porter, was also a pioneer and the third white child born where the city of Springfield, Ill., now stands.

These pioneer parents of Nathaniel Ferguson were married in 1845 and settled down in life upon a homestead in Exeter township, Green county, Wisconsin. Nathaniel was the sixth child born to this union, He grew to manhood upon this homestead and together with his brothers and sister engaged in farming. The Ferguson family held their family homestead in their possession and resided upon it for eighty-one consecutive years,

At the death of his sister in 1923, Mr. Ferguson moved to Belleville, where he resided until his death. For two years his residence was in the Elmer Cate home, where he received excellent care. His funeral was held in this home May 19, 1933. The Rev. Oscar L. Stanke conducted the service. Lloyd Gillette sang several beautiful selections accompanied by Miss Carolyn Gillette. There was a large attendance of friends, Interment was in the family cemetery in Exeter.

Mr. Ferguson is survived by his niece, Mary Green Ruff, wife of Ivan Parkin Ruff, formerly cashier of the Citizens State bank of Belleville, and now associated with the National State bank of Boulder, Colo. Also one grandniece survives, Miss Eleanor C. Ruff, who is now a junior at the University of Colorado, Mr. and Mrs, Ruff came from Colorado for the funeral. Mrs. Ruff spent several weeks at her uncle's bedside during March and April.

One by one the early pioneers and their families are crossing to the Great Beyond where we believe joy and peace unspeakable awaits them. Mr. Ferguson lived a quiet, unostentatious, and sincere life. He will be missed from the community where he so long resided and lived the part of a true citizen.

NOTE: From the Belleville Recorder, May 25 1933.