

[Garfield, Eliza Ballou]

THE MOTHER OF PRESIDENT GARFIELD DEAD  
Sinks Peacefully to Rest at the Age of 86

CLEVELAND O., Jan. 21,—Mrs. Eliza Ballou Garfield, mother of the deceased President, died at 5 o'clock this morning, at the Garfield home at Mentor. The members of the family present were Mr. Rudolph and Mrs. Trobridge, brother and sister of Mrs. Lucretia Garfield, who is in England with Mrs. Mollie and one of the boys. "Grandma Garfield," as she was familiarly known, passed away as peacefully as if going to sleep. The funeral services will be held Monday, and the body will be deposited in the vault in this city that for months contained the remains of her distinguished son. Mrs. Garfield was born in New Hampshire, Sep. 21, 1801, and was the daughter of Hosea Ballou, the great Universalist divine. She first met Abraham Garfield in Otsego County, N.Y., in 1810. The Ballous moved to Zanesville, O., in 1815. Garfield had taken up a claim in Newburgh, this county, four years earlier, and improved the first opportunity to renew his acquaintance with Eliza. Cleveland was then a little village. They were married in February, 1821, and their first home was a log cabin 18 by 20 feet, containing but one room. It had places cut in the logs for windows, but such a luxury as glass was not thought of. Greased paper formed the substitute. Garfield had manufactured all the furniture of the house. It consisted of several three legged stools, a puncheon table, a bed made of poles cut in the woods and a couple of benches. Here they lived nine years or until 1830, when Garfield bought fifty acres in Orange township, this county. Two years later he caught cold from his efforts in extinguishing a forest fire and died in a few days, leaving the widow to care for their three children. Her struggles to keep her family together and educate them were heroic. She sold part of the farm to pay a mortgage and improved the remainder assisted by her eldest son, Thomas Garfield, who now lives near Grand Rapids, Mich.

For 55 years Mrs. Garfield was a widow. She was the only woman who ever saw her son inaugurated President of the United States. Since that son's tragic death she has lived at Mentor, tenderly cared for by Mrs. Lucretia Garfield and other relatives.

*Republican Watchman*, Monticello NY, Fri. 27 Jan 1888