

# Julia Nelson

*Muncie, Delaware County*

December 11, 1863 – May 27, 1936

Julietta Reynolds was born in Mooresville, Indiana, in 1863. In 1880, she married Edward F. Nelson and in 1903, they moved to Muncie, Indiana, where her husband became a pressman for the newspaper. Julia was active in the Women's Suffrage movement, the Eastern Star, and the State Assembly Women's Club. She was a chairwoman of the Delaware County Republican Women's Club during the 1920 campaign.

The same year the Indiana Legislature ratified the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote, Julia D. Nelson (1862-1936) became the first woman to serve in the Indiana General Assembly. Representing Delaware County, she was selected to replace Representative J. Clark McKinley who died shortly before the November 1920 election. She served a full term from 1921-1923. Her first speech called for the care and support of poor parents by their children.

During her first year, she introduced five bills, two of which she sponsored alone in the General Assembly. House Bill 425 called for private hearings in certain cases involving rape and determination of paternity. She also introduced House Bill 322, establishing an Indiana Motion Picture Board that could examine, approve, and regulate movies shown in Indiana.

After her husband's death, she returned to Indianapolis in 1932. She died four years later in 1936 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

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Information about Julia Nelson can be found at the Indiana Archives.

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Photo: Indiana Archives



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