

# GEORGE HENRY M. ELLER

*Provided by Winnie Green - May 1992*

George M. Eller (he did not use the name Henry after he went to Texas) was born 11 May 1848 in Rowan Co. North Carolina to George and Rocena Goodman Eller. The approaching Civil War upset the family, to what extent I do not know, so they went to Union Co., Illinois. His mother died there 9 Feb. 1869 and his father died on 26 Jan. 1870; both were buried in the Missenheimer Cemetery, Perks, Illinois.



His first wife Lucinda Penrod died 4 Sep. 1879. Their youngest son, Charles David, died earlier that year on 1 Jan. 1879. The 1880 Pulaski Co., IL census found George M. Eller, his son William Frank, living in the household of his sister Eva Rose Ann Eddleman.

His father bought 40 acres of land in 1864 and 5 acres from Sheriff J.H. McElhandy on 5 Aug. 1867; later an additional 160 acre tract was purchased. All were sold to George M. Eller on 14 July 1869. (Ltr. from Rose Mary Orr, dated 23 Jun. 1991.)

In the early 1880's George Henry M. Eller with his son William Frank Eller, the Penrods and his brother, Michael David Eller and his wife Mary, with their son George David Eller went to Texas. George M. Eller and the Penrods settled in Parker County near Poolville, TX. On 20 Dec. 1887 he married his 2nd wife, Laura Elen Eugene (Shaw) McClendon who was the widow of B. Shaw whom she had married 12 Jul. 1877 and with whom she had one son, Arthur Henry Shaw b. 5 Jun. 1878 in Pennsylvania. Arthur became a step-son of George M. Eller.

George M. Eller remained in Poolville, Texas about twenty years during which time two more sons were born, George Joseph Eller on 19 Sep. 1890 and Jewell Earnest Eller on 12 Dec. 1895. In 1902 he sold his land in Texas and moved to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma which had just been opened for settlement. His trip across the Red River was quite a journey but he had a new red wagon and team of mules; Old Beck was grey and Bunt was a bay.

George J. and Arthur, his stepson, drove the horses and cows. They were old enough to ride the horses across the river, but my Dad, Jewell, complained that he had to ride in the wagon.

They settled in the Red Top Community, Greer Co., OK, where there was a school by the same name which the boys attended. It was one room and offered only the first 8 grades. George, a carpenter, was called upon to make the wooden boxes and coffins; he would always haul the corpse to the cemetery.

He was a leader in his community and was loved by all. He was of the Lutheran faith and was a devout Christian who was a strong advocate of divine healing which he practiced in the community. He was a 32nd degree Mason and attended Lodge in Willow, OK. He served on the first Grand Jury ever held in Greer County at Mangum, OK.

He asked that the following inscription be placed on his tombstone: "I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." He died 6 Dec. 1910 and was buried in the Plainview Cemetery, Greer Co., OK.

*[ Winnie Green: "I would give one eye tooth to know if the "M." in my grandfather's name is for Michael, Mikel, Milken, Melchoir or Milton. I have been told there were more than one George Michael Eller. "*

*More information is in the "Eller Chronicles"*

[http://www.ellerfamilyassociation.com/chronicles/1992\\_05.pdf#page=5](http://www.ellerfamilyassociation.com/chronicles/1992_05.pdf#page=5)