

## **JAMES W. ELLER<sup>5</sup>**

*From: Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison and Hamilton Counties, Indiana, Chicago, 1893 . (Photocopy of document from Jean Oliver.)*

*(Eds. Lineage of this James W. Eller<sup>5</sup>, [ Absolom<sup>4</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Leonard<sup>2</sup>, George Michael Eller<sup>1</sup>])*

**JAMES W. ELLER<sup>5</sup>** a prominent citizen of Hamilton County, and one of the well-known farmers of Delaware Township, was born in this township and county, January 26 1841. He traces his ancestry to Germany, where his paternal great grandfather, Leonard Eller<sup>2</sup>, was bom on the 20th of March, 1754. Emigrating to the United States, he settled in North Carolina, and from there removed to Ohio, settling near Dayton. In 1823 he came to Indiana and made his home in Hamilton County until his death, which occurred in the year 1840.

Joseph<sup>3</sup>, the son of Leonard and Elizabeth Eller, was born in North Carolina October 15, 1788, and in his youth made his home upon his father's farm, where he gained a thorough knowledge of agriculture. He married Rachel Eller, whose birth occurred February 19, 1791, and after their union they commenced in life with little or none of this world's goods.

In 1822 he came to Hamilton County and entered a tract of Government land, upon which he built a small cabin. He brought his family here in 1823, and at once began operations as a farmer and stock-raiser. An energetic and industrious man, he never went in debt for any purchase, waiting until he had sufficient ready money with which to secure the article or property desired. He accumulated about twelve hundred acres, upon which he conducted stock-raising and general farming with great success.

The grandparents of our subject reared a family of twelve children, of whom we note the following, Matilda, wife of David Allison; Rachel, deceased, was formerly the wife of David Wilkinson; Elizabeth, who married Frances Beck, resides in Indianapolis; Salinda, deceased, was the wife of F. Farley; Absolom, father of our subject, is deceased; Harvey is also deceased; Henry is a resident of Indian Territory; George, lives in Noblesville, this state; Jacob, resides in the Indian Territory; William, died when a young man as did the youngest son, Joseph.

Politically Grandfather (Joseph) Eller was a Whig. He was a man of quiet, reserved disposition, and was invariably honorable and upright in his business transactions. His death occurred about 1854; his wife passed away several years before his demise.

Near Dayton, Ohio, the father of our subject, Absolom Eller<sup>4</sup>, was born on the 3rd of April 1815. He was reared on a farm and received a practical education in the common schools. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-three, and then married Elizabeth, daughter of William D. and Phoebe (Iddings) Rooker, and a native of Indiana. A farmer by occupation, he succeeded in clearing eighty acres received from his father, and also improved forty acres in addition, becoming (in partnership with W.W. Rooker) the owner of two hundred acres. As a stock-raiser and general farmer he was successful and became prosperous.

A Whig in early life, Absalom Eller adopted the principles of the Republican party upon its organization. In his religious convictions he was a Methodist. His death had occurred in 1871; his wife survived him for a short time, passing away in 1881. They were the parents of eight children as follows, Joseph, a resident of Noblesville; James, of this sketch, Fernando C.; Marion, who died in 1892; Elizabeth, who is wife of Asa Williamson; Phoebe, who is deceased; John, a resident of Delaware Township, this county; Alonzo, who lives in Missouri.

In his father's home our subject grew to sturdy manhood, remaining there until he was twenty-two, when he commenced to work on a farm. In 1860 he was seized with a severe attack of hay fever, from which he was ill for six months, suffering excruciating pain. Upon his recovery he resumed farming operations, having received eighty acres of partly improved land from his father. He also devoted considerable attention to stock-raising and for six years engaged in buying and shipping stock. He has lost considerable property as a result of signing security notes, and is now the owner of fifty-seven acres.

The marriage of Mr. Eller occurred in 1867 and united him with Miss Martha, daughter of Ebenezer and Rachel Applegate. She was born in Ohio in 1846, and at the age of one year was brought by her parents to Delaware Township, Hamilton County, where she has since resided. She is the mother of four children, namely: Frank, married Grace Black; Maud; Hervey and Chauncy M. (Eds. Chauncey was father of Van Eller, 6455 E. 116th St., Fishers, IN 460380..note above)

Mr. Eller united with the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of sixteen and has been identified with that denomination ever since. Politically he is a Republican.