

THE JAMES WRIGHT ELLER FAMILY

A Brief Biography By Clarence J. Neff, 20105 NE Kings Grade, Newberg, Oregon 97132

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James Wright Eller was the second son born to James Holiday Eller and Faraby Sanders in Monroe County, Indiana, 3 July 1843. He was raised on the family farm in Owen County, Clay Twp, Indiana and served in the Civil War at the same time as his father who had previously served in the Mexican War. During the Civil War he was captured at the Battle of Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, 19 July 1864. This event would forever change his life. He was imprisoned at the infamous Andersonville Prison. Fortunately, he was there for just five months. He escaped with others by digging a tunnel with spoons and other eating utensils. He suffered physically to his old age from the effects of the confinement. He says he weighed only 60 pounds when he escaped.

Nancy Ann Milam was the last of nine children born to George R. Milam and Mary Baird Chipman. She was born 26 Nov 1848. The Milams had come from Shelby Co, Ky and had settled first in Green County and then Owen County, Clay Twp, Indiana. Both James Holiday Eller and George R. Milam were staunch members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It is likely that these two families attended the Heddings Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and where James Wright Eller and Nancy Ann Milam met. Nancy's mother, Mary Baird Chipman, was a direct descendent of John Howland, one of the Mayflower Planters. She had also been raised in the Methodist Episcopal church.

After the Civil War, James Wright Eller and Nancy Ann Milam were married, 8 July 1866, in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana and began their family life there. To this union were born eight children. Two children died in infancy, Mary and Flora, a twin to my grandmother, Ona.

Following the birth of Homer in March 1877, I believe James decided he wanted to go out West to find work. In my interviews, no family member knows why the family moved out West with four children, with the youngest less than two years old. The hardships of the travel would make an interesting story. I believe they came by train and then stage coach. There was no rail service into Oregon until 1883. Thus, they must have come north by stage coach. My father says the family lived for a short time at Napa, Oregon. Napa is about 15 miles east of Astoria. This suggests that maybe they did come by ship to Astoria and lived for a short time at Napa and then travelled to Portland by stem wheel steamship. The Columbia River was the highway of this period down to Portland, Oregon and then to Lewiston, Idaho.

In 1880, we find the Eller family living at South First Street in Portland, Oregon. And later at 69 South Porter Street. Both of these locations are in the now South West part of Portland. Porter Street is still there and so named. This was the early "suburban" area of Portland. James worked as a carpenter and is so identified in the city directory of 1887-1890 and the U.S. Census, 1880, Portland, Multnomah Co, Oregon.

Two more children would be born in Portland, Della and Minnie. Then tragedy struck when Nancy Ann Eller contracted pneumonia and died at the age of 40. She was buried at the Riverview Cemetery not far from the west bank of the Willamette River. Her unmarked grave was located last year. No obituary appeared in the Portland papers or a death notice. I have had a grave stone made and placed on her grave site. It identifies her as a "Milam Mayflower Descendant".

As was the rule in those days, when there was financial hardship following the loss of a parent, the county court intervened. I believe this might have happened next as the children of minor ages were placed in various homes for care. Della was adopted by the Hodson family. The older boys, Emmett and Emery, lived with their father for a time. Minnie went with the Tanners in a traveling circus. Ona was raised by the Hodson family. We don't know who cared for Homer.

James married Jane O. Hall, 22 Aug 1889, in Portland at his home. She was a widow lady who had grown children. This marriage lasted for 10 years. However, it ended in divorce which grew out of a dispute over property ownership. James left her, went to California and then back to Indiana. She divorced him in Multnomah County Court. The decree was finalized on 28 June 1899.

His children remained in Oregon except Minnie. The older boys established successful careers. Emmett worked for Pacific Bell Telephone Company all of his professional life. Emery moved to Seattle, Washington and worked for the Postal Telegraph Company. He was the chief telegrapher. These were the "high tech" careers then.

Ona married David Neff, my grandfather. Homer worked as a teamster operating a dray wagon hauling freight. Minnie married Lewis Bannon. Della Eller Hodson married Eugene Vernon Phelps.

James lived a long life. He married Lavina Bault in 1902 in Spencer, Indiana and had a very successful marriage until her death in 1923. He married Mary Starkey in 1926 in Danville, Ill at the age of 83. She died around 1929 and he was a widower the remaining years of his life. He died at the home of his daughter Minnie in 19 Jun 1937. He is buried at the New Richmond Cemetery, New Richmond, Indiana next to Lavina Bault.

Descendants of James Wright Eller-Six Generations

1. James Wright Eller b: 03 Jul 1843 in Monroe County, IN d: 19 Jun 1937 in Crawfordsville, Montgomery Co, IN Burial Site: New Richmond Cemetery, Montgomery County
+Nancy Ann Milam b: 26 Nov 1848 in Owen Co. IN m: 08 Jul 1866 in Spencer, Owen County, IN d: 29 Dec 1888 in Portland, OR; Burial Site: Riverview Cemetery. Lot 7. Sec 12. Portland. OR

2 Emmett Ellsworth Eller b: 21 May 1868 in Spencer. Owen Co, IN d: 16 Jul 1941 in Salem, OR Burial Site: Portland Crematorium
+Anna Barbara Pfaender b: 16 Jun 1879 in Bethany, OR m: 01 May 1902 in Portland, OR d: 07 Feb 1966 in Portland, OR

3 Erma Elizabeth Eller b: 19 Aug 1907 in Portland. OR
+George Bickell Cron b: 25 Nov 1908 m: 29 Nov 1930 d: 22 Sep 1984

4 Jim Cron b: 23 Jun 1946
+Marie Elizabeth Gilbert

5 Cris Cron
5 Charlotte Marie Cron

4 Susanna Maud Cron b: 25 Dec 1947
+William Haag.
5 Katie Haag

3 Nancy Louise Eller b: 11 Mar 1910 in Portland. OR
+Walter Dederick b: 14 Nov 1909 m: ABT 1935 in Stevenson, WA d: 24 Jul 1983 in Bend, Deschutes Co, OR

4 Nancy Louise Dederick b: 02 Mar 1940
+Biff LeFors

4 Sharon Dederick
+Victor Nuntbers

2 Emery Stanton Eller b: 13 Nov 1869 in Spencer. Owen Co. IN d: 29 Apr 1963 in Bainbridge Island. Kitsap Co, WA Burial Site: Rivercrest Cemetery. Seattle. WA
+Harriet Peamtine b: 09 Sep 1875 in Clarissa. MI m: 06 Mar 1895 in Salem, OR d: BEF 1963 in WA

3 Earl Walter Eller b: 11 Jun 1896 d: 08 Oct 1918 in France Burial Site: France
3 Lloyd Francis Eller b: 12 Mar 1907 d: 1994 in Bellingham. WA

3 Arletta E. Eller b: 08 Apr 1904 in W A d: UNKNOWN
+Harold W. Wilken

4 Marcia Wilken

4 Dan Wilken

2 Mary Amanda Eller b: 05 Dec 1871 in Spencer, Owen Co, IN d: 12 Aug 1872 in Spencer, Owen Co, IN Burial Site: 18 Aug 1872 Heddings Chapel Church Cemetery

2 Ona A. Eller b: 08 Oct 1873 in Spencer, Owen Co, IN d: 10 Nov 1917 in Barlow, Clackamas Co, OR Burial Site: Zion Mennonite Church Cemetery, Barlow, OR

+David Albert Neff b: Oct 1861 in Bedford County, PA m: 14 May 1903 in Portland, OR d: 21 Sep 1920 in Decatur, IA Burial Site: Leon Cemetery, Leon, Iowa

3 Clarence Albert Neff b: 23 Nov 1903 in Goble, Colwnbia Co, OR

+Madeline Mary Helmcke b: 15 Feb 1906 in Portland, OR m: 06 Scp 1924 in Portland, Multnomah Co, OR d: 23 Mar 1954 in Portland, OR Burial Site: Jones Cemetery, Sylvan, OR

4 Clarence John Neff b: 25 Jun 1929 in Glendale, CA

+Neva Carolyn Satterlee b: 25 Aug 1928 in Kootenia, ID m: 20 Jul 1952 in Forest Grove, Washington Co, OR

5 Gregory Scott Neff b: 03 Nov 1954 in Portland, OR

+Carol Marie Eastman b: 04 Jan 1958 in Bemidji, MI m: 09 Jul1976 in Newberg, Yamhill Co. OR

6 Matthew Dale Neff b: 30 Nov 1979 in Newberg, OR

6 Caleb Scott Neff b: 26 May 1983 in Newberg, OR

6 Lucas Gregory Neff b: 11 Oct 1987 in Newberg, OR

6 Corrin Marie Neff b: 12 Sep 1991 in McMinnville, OR

5 David John Neff b: 08 Nov 1956 in Portland, OR

+Donna Kathleen Anderson b: 13 Nov 1957 in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada m: 04 Sep 1982 in Newberg, Yamhill Co, OR

6 Philip John Neff b: 13 Dec 1984 in Portland, OR

6 Peter David Neff b: 03 Dec 1986 in Portland, OR

6 Christopher Morgan Neff b: 11 Dec 1988 in Portland, OR

5 Dale Edward Neff b: 26 May 1959 in Portland, OR d: 02 Nov 1976 in Tualatin, OR Burial Site: Valley View Memorial Park, Newberg, Or

5 Timothy James Neff b: 22 Oct 1970 in Newberg, Yamhill Co, OR
+Maureen Hannah McGrath b: 13 Oct 1971 in Ballston Spa, NY m: 20
May 1995 in Newberg, Yamhill Co, OR

*2nd spouse of Clarence Albert Neff:

+Faun Evelyn Gardner b: 26 Feb 1912 in Portland, OR m: 1956 in Sylvan, Oregon d: Aug
1976 in Seaside, OR

*3rd spouse of Clarence Albert Neff:

+Rolena Reeves m: 15 May 1978 in Cannon Beach, Oregon

3 Reuben Everett Neff b: 25 Mar 1905 in Goble, OR d: 14 Aug 1968 in South Bend, WA
Burial Site: Fern Hill Cemetery, Menlo, Wo

+Viola May Wheeler b: ABT 1922 in Aberdeen, WA m: 25 Jun 1954 in Pacific County,
WA d: UNKNOWN

3 Calvin John Neff b: 25 Dec 1906 in Tualatin, OR d: 15 Mar 1945 in Roseburg, Douglas
Co, OR Burial Site: Cedar Hill Cemetery, Oakland, Oregon (Plot F-187)

+Louise Benski b: ABT 1923 in Aberdeen, W A m: 03 Jun 1939 in Raymond, WA d:
UNKNOWN

3 Eugene Ellsworth Neff b: 30 Jun 1908 in Canby, OR d: 17 Jul 1974 in Wapato, WA
Burial Site: Res. Comm. Memorial Park. Wapato, WA

3 Vernon Neff b: 03 Jul 1911 in Aurora, OR d: 12 Mar 1943 in Troutdale, OR Burial Site:
Jones Pioneer Cemetery, Lot 40, Sylvan, Oregon

3 Mildred Neff b: 20 Nov 1915 in Aurora, OR

+Virgil Kindred b: 07 Sep 1914 in Warrenton, OR m: 13 Sep 1941 in Seaside, OR

4 Douglas Kindred b: 14 Nov 1943 in Portland, OR

+Barbara Ann Harding m: 01 Apr 1967 in Eugene, OR

4 Harold Kindred b: 20 Jun 1945 in Portland, OR

4 Karen Kindred b: 14 Sep 1953 in Portland, OR

2 Flora Alice Eller b: 08 Oct 1873 in Spencer, Owen Co, IN d: 25 Aug 1874 in Owen Co, IN

2 Homer Eller b: 29 Mar 1877 in Spencer, Owen Co, IN d: 15 Mar 1912 in Salem, OR Burial Site:
Portland Crematorium.

+Grace Clementine Kilgore b: ABT 1879 in OR m: UNKNOWN in Portland, OR d: 04 Mar 1964 in
Portland, OR Burial Site: Crescent Grove Cemetery, Portland, OR

3 Curtis M. Eller b: ABT 1903 d: UNKNOWN 3 Alfred C. Eller b: 23 Feb 1905 in
Multnomah Co. OR d: 09 Nov 1965 in Multnomah Co, OR

2 Minnie Eller b: 16 Dec 1882 in Portland, OR d: 24 Dec 1966 in Bradenton. FLA Burial Site:
Masonic Cemetery, Crawfordsville, IN

+Lewis W. Bannon b: 1870 m: 29 Sep 1900 in Wingate, IN d: Dec 1950 in Montgomery Co, IN
Burial Site: Crawfordsville Masonic Cemetery, Crawfordsville, IN

3 Paul Bannon b: 03 Jul1901 in Wingate, Indiana d: 21 Feb 1978 in Crawfordsville, IN
Burial Site: Masonic Cemetery, Crawfordsville, IN

+Mary Belle Sisson m: 23 Dec 1925

4 James Lewis Bannon b: 21 Oct 1928 in Browns Valley, Montgomery Co. IN

+Virginia S. Stephens b: 26 Aug 1935 in Acton, Taylor Co, KY m: 26 Apr 1958 in
Jamestown, IN

5 Stephanie Sue Bannon b: 19 Sep 1961

+Mark Totheroh m: 1 7 Aug 1985 in Crawfordsville, TN

6 Andrew Stephen Totheroh b: 08 Aug 1989

6 Adam Matthew Totheroh b: 26 Sep 1992

6 Emily Jane Totheroh b: 06 Mar 1995

5 Timothy Jan1es Bannon b: 12 Dec 1964 in Crawfordsville, IN

+Stacy R. Norris m: 01 Oct 1988 in Crawfordsville, IN

6 Tasha Rene Bannon b: 08 May 1991 6 Talia Savoie Bannon b:
24 Jul1993

4 Jerry Bannon

3 Luther Marvin Bannon b: 25 Apr 1907 in Wingate, IN d: 21 Jun 1972 in Indianapolis, IN

+Violet F. Bouchard m: 1933

4 Leslie A Bannon b: ABT 1934

4 Janice Bannon b: ABT 1940

3 Edythe Bannon b: 12 May 1904 in Wingate. IN

+Lee Doyel m: 1940

3 Edna Bannon b: 10 Feb 1916 in Wingate, IN

+Robert J. Shelley b: UNKNOWN m: Mar 1939 d: 1977 Marriage end: Jan 1956 .

4 Kathleen Roberta Shelley b: 13 Aug 1940

4 Robert Willian) Shelley b: 20 Jun 1944 2 Della Blanch Eller b: 01 Mar 1886 in
Portland, OR d: 05 May 1926 in Portland, OR Burial Site: River View Cemetery,

Portland, Oregon/Sec. 1 L Lot 1/2 51
+Eugene Vernon Phelps

3 Rena B. Phelps b: 30 Jun 1907 in Portland, OR d: 18 Sep 1976 in Sedro Woolley, Skagit
Co, WA

+Kenneth A Anderson b: UNKNOWN m: 19 Feb 1938 in Mt Vernon, WA d: ABT 1955

4 Kathleen Anderson

+Hans Nordmark

4 Kenneth W. Anderson b: ABT 1929

*2nd spouse of James Wright Eller: .

+Jane O. Hall m: 22 Aug 1889 in Portland, OR Marriage end: 28 Jun 1899

*3rd spouse of James Wright Eller:

+Lavina Jane Bault b: 25 Jun 1851 m: 20 Mar 1902 in Spencer, Owen County. In d: 07 Sep 1923 in
Montgomery County, In Burial Site: New Richmond Cemetery, New Richmond, In

*4h spouse of James Wright Eller:

+Mary Starkey m: 1926 in Danville, Ill

Clarence J. Neff

3 Jan 1996

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