

Henry Eller, one of the old settlers of Monroe County, was born June 9, 1817, in Virginia, and is the fifth of ten children born to John and Susan (Smith) Eller, natives of Virginia, and of German and English descent respectively.

Our subject was reared on a farm, and he had only the advantages of the common -schools taught in the country when it was an unbroken wilderness.

He came with his parents to this county in 1831, when he was about fourteen years old. They settled on the section where our subject now resides. His father first purchased 320 acres, added to and improved until he owned 520 acres, located about five miles west of Bloomington. When he came here he was elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held for many years. For two terms he was elected Probate Judge of Monroe County, and held that position at the time of his death in August, 1840.



Our subject was married, in September, 1837, to Velinda, daughter of Thomas and Barbara Bailey, natives of Virginia. Three children were born to them — Elizabeth J. (Stimpson), John Thomas and George Henry (deceased).

His wife dying in 1844, he was next married, on June 29, 1845, to Elizabeth W. Shreve, of Monroe County, and daughter of Williaian D. Shreve. To this union eight children were born, viz. : James W., Harriet A. (Ammerman), Melinda M. (Kirby), Susan V. (Mayfield), Frances M. (Johnston), Mary, Laura (Ward), J. B. M. and Charles D.

Mr. Eller enlisted in the three months' service on June 9, 1862, and did guard duty at Indianapolis. In May, 1864, he reenlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-third Indiana Infantry. His regiment was on guard duty at Bridgeport, Ala.

He was discharged in September, same year. While in the three months' service he was Sergeant of his company. During his last service he was also Sergeant.

While in the service, Mr. Eller lost his health, and has not been able to do a hard day's work since. He owns ninety-five acres of good land, well cultivated, and having all the modern improvements.

He is one of the leading stock-breeders in this county, having been engaged in it for forty-nine years.

For two terms Mr. Eller has been elected County Commissioner, and for several terms has been Township Assessor. He' and his wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is an active, stanch Republican.

Excerpt from:

“Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana. Historical and Biographical;” Blanchard, Charles, published 1884, D.A. Battey & Company, Chicago. Available Online at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo1.ark:/13960/t3pv72q3s;view=1up;seq=6>

See page 646.

We believe there are a couple errors in the biography above.

- We believe the first wife is Balinda Bailey.
- And the children listed by the second wife should be:
James William (1846-1923); Harriett Angelica (1848-1926) m. Ammerman; Margaret Balinda (1849-1899) m. Kirby; Vehene Susan (1850-1934) m. Mayfield; Francis McVicker (1852-) m. Johnson; Mary Laura (1854-1924) m. Ward; Joshua B.M. (1855-); Charles Dow (1858-).