

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Zeller, Elias Reynolds Senator _____
Represented Madison County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 13 Sept 1844 Millville, Ohio,
Butler County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Harriet Cook 16 Sept 1879 Madison County, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business 1883-1884 in partnership with Col. H. J. B. Casperson;
he edited and published The Interest Madisionian.

B. Civic responsibilities Charter member of the Madison County
Historical Society, later secretary and treasurer; GAR

C. Profession Farmer; educator; journalist

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 33rd, 34th General Assembly 1909; 1911

6. Public Offices

A. Local Madison County school superintendent 4 years; County
inspector work 7 years; president of the Interest School for several
years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 22 Jul 1935 Hinterest, Iowa; buried Hinterest Cemetery, Hinterest,

8. Children Kathryn (Mrs. W. L. Kales); Theodore C.; Joseph Walter Iowa

9. Names of parents John and Susan (Kumler) Zeller

Zeller, Elias R.

10. Education Educated in the district schools of
the Millville, Ohio area

11. Degrees Miami University, Oxford, Ohio graduate of 1871
publishing the Oxford Citizen newspaper of Oxford, Ohio
while in college. He later took advanced classes.

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He was raised on a farm near Millville, Ohio
- Military service - Civil War - Co. K 167th Ohio Volunteers
Infantry
- After he returned from the war he sold the farm in 1867
to enter the field of journalism
- He disposed of his newspaper interests and moved to
Burlington, Iowa in 1871
- In Burlington he was the city editor of The Burlington
Gazette, Burlington, Iowa
- Later he purchased and edited The Eldora Herald, Eldora,
Iowa which he sold in 1873
- In 1873 he moved to Winterset, Iowa to take charge of the
Winterset public schools where he was principal for 5 years.
He became owner and editor of the Winterset Mediciner.
- He was also a correspondent for the Chicago Times
- Mrs. Harriet, died 4 Jul 1952, also buried in the Winterset Cemetery,
Winterset, Iowa

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

| Source | Non Applicable | Applicable | Information obtained |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------|--|
| - Obituary | | | - <u>The Western Medication Spinterest, Iowa</u> <u>Forum July 25, 1935, p. 1, col. 3</u> |
| - Iowa Official Register | | | 1909-1910, p. 686 |
| - History of Madison County, Iowa | | | 1915, p. 178-181 |
| - Madison County Marriage | | | 1849-1880 |
| - GAR Records | | ✓ | |
| - findagrave.com | | | (accessed 24 Jan 2019) |





HON. ELIAS R. ZELLER

Historical Society
Capital Building

**BEWARE OF
A BULGING WAISTLINE**

and Mrs. William McClure live in Douglas township recently captured a large bull snake last week, using the technique of the big-time snake hunters in Asia and Africa. The McClures retired on this particular night after tucking their pet away safely for the night in a cage downstairs. The next morning in place of the bird, they found a snake in the cage. The canary was inside the snake. The reptile had entered the house during the night, climbed into the cage, and swallowed the canary. However, when the snake went to leave, it made such a bulge in its waist that it was unable to get out between the bars. The McClures killed the snake.

TIMELY TOPICS

(Ed M. Smith)

no problem of state government in Iowa show such a degree of negligence, if not criminal negligence as in the control of traffic on the highways. The list of killed and injured published daily, exceeds that of Iowa's loss in the World War. Yet we accept the situation with unconcern much as we accept the loss of property and human life to fire, floods, or other agencies which are beyond human control. In fact we act as though highway accidents were an act of God when in fact highway slaughter is largely, if not altogether, the result of human indifference and stupidity and official cowardice because of human cowardice.

These may be harsh words that will offend, but they express the dulterated truth and every one who reads this knows it to be the truth. If we can arouse the public and those responsible for traffic regulation and enforcement to their obligation and responsibility in this matter we are not greatly concerned about who smarts under the indictment.

Maybe you say that the legislature provided for a highway patrol that 50 highly trained patrolmen will be on the highways within a few days and that the maiming and killing will then stop. It is nothing of the kind. It will just

**DEATH ENDS CAREER
OF HON. E. R. ZELLER**

**Former Editor of Madisonian
Was Prominent in Many
Fields of Endeavor**

An outstanding personality and a citizen of the highest order was lost to Madison county early Monday in the death of the Honorable E. R. Zeller, for more than half a century an educational, journalistic, and political leader of the state and community. His death, received the distinct sense of loss by residents of Madison county, was mourned by a wide circle of friends throughout Iowa.

Mr. Zeller's death came unexpectedly although he had been in declining health for several years, and for more than a year he had been confined to his home. In spite of failing physical health, his last years had been marked by unusual mental alertness. He would have been 91 years old on September 13.

Mr. Zeller came to Winterset in 1873 to take charge of the public schools. For five years he served in the position of principal. He was then elected county superintendent, serving in that capacity for four years. For seven years he was engaged in county institute work. In 1883 and 1884, in partnership with Col. H. J. B. Cummings and Henry Wallace, he edited and published the Winterset Madisonian.

In later years, Mr. Zeller's attention turned more than ever to public service. He had always been a strong Republican, and in 1908 he was elected to the state legislature. He was reelected in 1910, thus serving in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth general assemblies. During his legislative service he was connected with ten important committees, and left a personal impression upon the legislation enacted during that period.

In 1904 the Madison County Historical society was organized, with Mr. Zeller a charter member and a guiding spirit in its founding. He was elected first treasurer of the organization, and served many years as secretary and then secretary-treasurer. Much of his work in recent years had been devoted to that society where he acted as custodian of the historical rooms. He

PIONEER EDITOR - EDUC



HON. E. R. ZELLER

Boiled Down News

OLD SI

This is a historical document from the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa. Digitized by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

OLD SETTLE PLAN

J. M. Grime Paper W

Charles B. the Madison association, an secured J. M. Osceola Cent dress, at the picnic which park on Lab 2nd. The full nounced late The comm to make arr following: F Smith and M C. W. Aikins, King, and M vitations, Ed and H. C. Campbell, W Zink; Police W. Wright an ments; Carle ger and Clyd tion, P. G. W. J. Beeler; Tidrick and

Death

John Gentry in the pul set, died at Valley Junct stroke of par

Mr. Gentry leaving in 19 after retiring He leaves th sisters. They les, Frank of Winterset, ar ris of Atwoo Palmer of Sylvia Gentr Mrs. A. P. S Funeral se Church of Cl day. The Re of Valley Ju Burial was i cemetery.

PARENTS TOTS SEN

The five of Bob Young, from 5 to 1 sent to the of Dav. Both recent

Boiled Down News

W. R. Bobbitt, manager of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, states that their toll maintenance department has been enlarged, so that their territory now extends west to Fontanell and north to Stuart and includes Macksburg Truro and Peru in this county. L. W. Woods has been assigned to this territory, and he and his family now have an apartment in the Mrs. John Guiher home. Miss Catherine Smith of Milo recently came here to serve as a clerk in the office.

The Guy Wallace family are leaving Winterset the middle of August for Pasadena, California. They have purchased a small community store in the residential section of Pasadena, and will operate it. Chester Wallace, who is to be a senior at Simpson college next fall, is remaining here to complete his college work, and Russell, who is to be a sophomore is considering staying for one semester. Victor will accompany his parents to California.

C. E. Hamilton of Des Moines purchased Tuesday the house at 722 West court avenue, belonging to Mrs. Sam D. Koser. The L. L. Blomgren family now occupy the residence but possession will be given to the Hamiltons, September first. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and children have been living in Des Moines since January 1933, Mr. Hamilton being assistant attorney general. He plans to continue with his work, driving back and forth to Des Moines.

Mrs. Mary K. Gregg, state home demonstration leader, will be here to write the project for Madison County women's work for the coming year, on Tuesday, July 30. The meeting will be held in the basement of the library starting at 10:30 a. m. All township chairmen, publicity chairman, music and drama chairmen and 4-H club leaders and county committee are expected to attend. A picnic lunch will be brought by the women.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Farris of Atwood, Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Farris of Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Mrs. Dana M. Palmer of Ottawa Illinois, were the relatives form a disa See who are society now in Italy. Des the funeral svices of John Gentry.

that period. In 1904 the Madison County Historical society was organized, with Mr. Zeller a charter member and a guiding spirit in its founding. He was elected first treasurer of the organization, and served many years as secretary and then secretary-treasurer. Much of his work in recent years had been devoted to that society where acted as custodian of the historical rooms. He was also an important contributor to magazines and periodicals in various parts of the nation.

Mr. Zeller's death was the occasion of sincere tributes from those who knew his work. Ed M. Smith, publisher of the Madisonian, said: "His public service was probably more varied and extensive than of anyone in Madison county's history."

Elias R. Zeller was born near the village of Milville, Ohio, on September 13, 1844, the son of John and Susan Zeller. His parents were of Swiss ancestry. He was reared on a farm, acquiring his education in the district schools. At the age of 20 years, in 1864, he enlisted in the Union service for the Civil war, joining Company K, 167th Ohio volunteer infantry. He saw service with the federal forces in Virginia. After the war he returned to the old homestead, which he sold in 1867. He then entered the field of journalism, publishing the Oxford Citizen at Oxford, Ohio, while he enrolled as a student in Miami university of that city. He graduated with the class of 1871, later taking an advanced degree there.

After disposing of his interests in Ohio, he came to Burlington, Iowa, in 1871, where he served as city editor of the Burlington Gazette. Later he purchased and edited the Eldora Herald, selling that in 1873 to come to Winterset.

In 1879 he was married to Miss Hattie Cox. They were the parents of three children, Mrs. Kathryn Kale, who is county superintendent of schools, Theodore, and Joseph Zeller of Forest Hills, New York. All are left to mourn their father's death.

Dr. A. H. Barker, district superintendent of the Methodist church will conduct his funeral services, which will be held at 2:30 o'clock this Thursday afternoon. He will be assisted by the Rev. B. F. Hamilton of Winterset, and burial will be in the Winterset cemetery.

MADISON COUNTY PAYS \$8,826 PENSION TAX

Citizens of Madison county have paid \$8,826 in old age pension taxes so far this year, a report from the office of the state comptroller shows. Collection of the taxes started July 1, but remittances continue

obligation and responsibility matter we are not greatened about who smarts undictment.

you say that the legislature ide for a highway patrol ighly trained patrol be on the highways within ays and that the maiming ing will then stop. It will ng of the kind. It will jua whether it helps a little or a depend almost altogether supervisor at the head. the something back of n to the courage and akin obligation that prompts men their country in time of whether the something back inspired, prompted and in-by votes at the coming

use the question because e violations of the law are mitted. Trucks, 90 out of them, pay no attention to mits. Reckless drivers are oved from the highways und until at the end of a for damages. Drunken are paroled from the bench oned by the governor als soon as they are found f a driver gives evidence nally reckless driving, hli r and injures himself be. of his family, we do him off the highways. We he kills or maims someone ngs action. Then we remove nse for a few months and store his rights on the high-

use the drunken or crazy of a railroad locomotive open his throttle wide open give his passengers a thrill ng would the railroad com- eep him? And during the ey kept him who would pay o ride the train, if they he driver's insane desire to eed? On every paved road tate, heavy trucks are driv- and 60 miles per hour when vful limit is 35 or less de- on size of truck and kind

his is being written four people are in the Winterset l. The car, a nearly new one ect condition, went off the and turned over three times. we no blinding lights ap- n slippery pavement, no brakes or steering wheel— Continued on page 4.)

ARE ARRESTED AS RECKLESS DRIVERS

automobile drivers were a before Mayor M. S. Logan

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators. Collected from the public domain and made available by the National Historical Archives.

HISTORY OF
MADISON COUNTY
IOWA
AND ITS PEOPLE

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1915

wise a student in that school; Jerome, attending the district schools; Elma, Lloyd and Albert, all attending school; and Erma, who completes the family.

Mr. Golightly exercises his right of franchise in support of the candidates and policies of the republican party, being fully convinced of the soundness of its principles. He is a valued member of the local Methodist Episcopal church and can be counted upon to further its work in any way possible. The success that he has achieved in his chosen occupation is the result of his industry, foresight and progressiveness, qualities which anyone may emulate and which invariably bring their reward.

HON. ELIAS R. ZELLER.

Hon. Elias R. Zeller, of Winterset, has been prominently known as an educator and journalist of Madison county and also as a political leader. Through individual activity as well as through the columns of his paper he has done much to shape public thought and action and has left the impress of his individuality for good upon many lines of improvement.

He was born near Hamilton, in Butler county, Ohio, September 13, 1844, and comes of German ancestry. His parents were John and Susan (Kumler) Zeller, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The former became a farmer and carpenter and was also a local preacher of the United Brethren church. He met with a fair measure of success in life and passed away in 1857 at the age of sixty years. His wife was also a native of Pennsylvania, as were her parents, but the family comes of German ancestry. Her father, Henry Kumler, was one of the first bishops of the United Brethren church in America. Mrs. Zeller passed away at the advanced age of seventy-five years. In the family were eleven children, eight sons and three daughters. Five of the sons reached adult age and all served in Ohio regiments during the Civil war, valiantly defending the Union.

Elias R. Zeller was reared upon the home farm in Ohio and acquired his education in the district schools. He was twenty years of age when, in 1864, he responded to the country's call for further aid in crushing out the rebellion in the south and joined Company K, One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry for one hundred days. He spent the period of his enlistment in Virginia and took part in several skirmishes. Following his military experience Mr. Zeller engaged in farming on the old homestead, which was sold in 1867. It was subsequent to that time that he entered the Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, from which he was graduated in the class of 1871, while in 1887 he received a post-graduate degree. Entering the field of journalism, he became publisher of the Oxford Citizen at Oxford, Ohio, and following his removal to Iowa was city editor of the Burlington Gazette. He afterward published the Eldora Herald and eventually became owner and editor of the Winterset Madisionian. He has also been correspondent for the Chicago Times and other metropolitan papers.

In the meantime he became a prominent figure in educational circles. In 1873 he came to Winterset to take charge of the public schools and for five years

continued in the position of principal. He was then elected county superintendent, which position he filled for four years, and for seven years he actively and successfully engaged in county institute work. He had the ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired and to inspire them with much of his own interest in advanced educational standards. His efforts have been of marked value to the schools of county and state, and he is one of the highly respected and honored educators of Iowa. He still maintains a deep interest in educational work and on various occasions assisted the state superintendent in carrying on the examinations after the new law went into effect. For several years he was president of the Winterset school board and did everything in his power to advance the interests of the schools in that place. While he has now practically retired from the field of education and of journalism, he yet gives supervision to the farm which he owns near Winterset.

In 1879 Mr. Zeller was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Cox, who was born in Madison county near Winterset, and they have become parents of three children: Katherine, the wife of N. L. Kale, who is living on her father's farm near Winterset; Theodore C., at home; and Joseph Walter, a graduate of the Iowa Wesleyan University, now attending law school at Harvard.

In politics Mr. Zeller has always been a stalwart advocate of republican principles and has done much to shape the policy of the party in his section of the state. In 1908 he was elected to the state legislature and was reelected in 1910, serving in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth general assemblies. He was made a member of a number of important committees, including the committees on appropriations, schools and agriculture. He was also chairman of the committee on military affairs and a member of the railway committee. In fact he was connected altogether with ten different committees and has left the impress of his individuality upon the legislation enacted during the periods in which he was a member of the house. He belongs to Pitzer Post, No. 55, G. A. R., of Winterset and is popular among his comrades of that order. Although now seventy years of age, he is still hale and hearty. Advanced years do not necessarily suggest idleness nor want of occupation. There is an old age in which the individual gives out of his rich stores of wisdom and experience for the benefit of others and such is the career of Mr. Zeller. He still does considerable writing for the press and yet looks after his farming interests, although making his home in Winterset. He has wisely used his time and talents throughout his entire life and the course which he has followed has been largely characterized by signal service for the benefit of the community in which he has lived.

GEORGE W. POFFINBARGER.

George W. Poffinbarger, a well known stone, brick and cement mason and contractor of Winterset, was born upon the site of this city on the 17th of June, 1850, a son of Samuel W. and Hannah (Smith) Poffinbarger. The father, who was born near Boonesboro, Washington county, Maryland, on the 10th of March, 1818, accompanied his parents to Ohio when about twelve years of age, settlement being made near Columbus. His father carried on agricultural work there

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Zeller, Elias Reynold War

Residence Winterset, Iowa

Battles, etc.

Occupation Farmer, Editor

Nearest relatives

Date birth S. 13, 1844 Place Millville, Butler Co., Ohio

Father John Nativity

Date death 22 J1 1935 Place Winterset, Iowa
Cause Place burial Winterset, Ia.

Mother Susan Nativity

War record Pvt K 167 Ohio Inf
Rank Company Regiment State Organisation

Wife Hattie Cox b. D. 6, 1856
m Oct 16, 1879;

Children

Age 20

Katherine Zeller Kale Winterset

Theodore Glenwood, Iowa

Joseph Walter, 396 Burns St., Forest Hills, N. Y.

Enlisted 2 My 1864

Must. Out with company, 8 S
1864 at Hamilton, Ohio
Service 100 days

Source Ex. Soldiers living Ia. 1886:-
Winterset./ State Archives F61-59
Roster Ohio Soldiers: (Elias R)
Post 55 Desc Book #106- age 40 in 1885.
Family record given by Mrs. Hattie Zeller
Feb 17, 1944

Discharged

Date

Place

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Zeller, Elias Reynold

Record Membership and Dues Paid

Offices of honor in G. A. R.

Post name
Pitzer

Post No. Place Date Joined
55(106) Winterset 17 Je '85

Graves Reg.: carries name

dau. Kathryn Kale
Member-at-Large

| Year | Date Paid | Amount | Year | Date Paid | Amount |
|------|-----------|--------|------|-----------|--------|
| | | | | | |

Widow, Hattie Cox Zeller living Feb 15, 1944 in Winterset, Iowa - Charter member of W. R. C. No. 117 has been Guard for many years of the Corps. Lived in Oxford, Ohio, Burlington and Winterset, Ia. Had brothers in the War: Daniel, Joseph and Jacob A

Suspended

Died

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Elias R Zeller

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Birth: Sep. 13, 1844
Death: Jul. 22, 1935

Burial:
[Winterset City Cemetery](#)
Winterset
Madison County
Iowa, USA

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Record added: Jan 1 2006
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