

**Biographical and Historical Record - Adams and Wells Co. Indiana Lewis Publishing Co. Chicago, IL 1887**

HON. DAVID ELEY, of Washington Township, was born in this county February 27, 1841, son of Michael and Rachel Eley, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. The parents came from Ohio to the county about 1836 or 1837, settling in Monroe Township, and were among the early pioneers of that section of the county. David was reared in this county and assisted his father on the farm during the summer season, while laying the foundation for a thorough education during the winter. At the age of eighteen years he commenced teaching, and for several years thereafter he attended school, teaching at intervals to acquire means to defray his expenses. After attending several institutions of learning he graduated at the Indiana State University at Bloomington, with the title of Bachelor of Law. He then returned to Adams County, and entered the law office of France & Heller, at Decatur, where he remained two years, then began the practice of his profession. His success has been marked from the beginning. He was first elected justice of the peace, serving four years, then served five years as deputy prosecutor. In the fall of 1882 he was elected to represent Adams and Jay counties in the State Legislature, serving two years, and was re-elected in 1884. Finding that close confinement to his office was likely to impair his health, he decided to abandon the practice of law and engage in agricultural pursuits. In October, 1864, he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry, and was assigned to the Seventeenth Army Corps under command of General Logan. He was engaged principally in guard duties in various States, and was discharged in June, 1865, after which he returned to Adams County. He has been a resident of this county since, with the exception of two years spent in Knox County, Ohio. He was married June 1, 1876, to Mary C. Carlisle, also of this county. He owns 120 acres of land in Washington Township; is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Grand Army Post at Decatur.