Johann "John" JakobZeiger was born February 1, 1821 in Knittlinger, Wuertemberg, Germany to Alexander and Dorothea Hartmann Zaiger. On January 25, 1849 he married Rosina Schuhr, daughter of Gottfried and Marie Rosine Silber Schuhr. In 1850, he purchased, possibly through proxy, property in the United States, Madison Township, Indiana. After the birth of two sons, John and Rosina, sailed on the Coriolan from Port Bremen, and arrived in America May 7, 1855.

Three more sons were born to John and Rosina. Lewis (Ludwig) in 1855, Christian (Charles) in 1858, and Daniel in 1860. All three were born and baptized in Madison Township, Indiana.

On October 15, 1862,at the age of 41, John enlisted to serve with the 57th Indiana Infantry, Company K for 9 months. Mustered in Indianapolis, the 57th proceeded to march to Murfreesboro Tennessee near to the end of 1862. On December 29, John was hospitalized due to illness. January 2 and 3, the 57th, fought at the Battle of Stones River. John was able to report back to duty mid-January. John Zeiger, mustered out in August 1863, with the Battle of Tallahoma behind him. He returned to his sons and wife, withplenty of farming ahead of him.

John died March 10, 1874 at age 53; Rosina, also called Rosanna, died two years later on May 18,1876. They are buried in Resthaven Cemetery, near to the church, farms and people they chose to be their home in 1855.