

## A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JACOB ELLER OF NC and TN

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Jacob Eller was born January 13, 1822 in Buncombe County, North Carolina, the fourth of nine children born to Joseph Eller and Sarah Stephens Eller./1/ As a lad he was bound out to a cabinet maker. When he was 21 years of age he was given a horse, saddle, tools and \$20.00 for his services. That day he left North Carolina and rode to Tennessee./2/

One year later, January 17, 1844 he married Miss Haney Moss Wood of Smith County./3/ They lived near Hartsville for a while, sold that property and bought 165 acres on Taylor Branch. The house he built there is still standing, in good shape, and occupied at this time. He lived in that house the remainder of his life.

Nine children were born to this union. Three died of diphtheria in November 1862. Haney Wood Eller died August 30, 1880. June 23, 1881 Jacob married Miss Eleanor Royster. She died August 30, 18- 92. He next married Arrena Pritchard, who survived him.

After the Civil War Jacob was very active in the East Fork of Goose Creek Baptist Church. November 1868 he was appointed Trustee along with Wm. C. Johnson, John S. Johnson, Doctor B. Cothron, and Sammy Donoho to "raise a fund by subscription to build a church, to let out and superintend the building of same, and remain as permanent trustee for said Church". He served as treasurer of the church for seven years, being appointed February 1877 and released from that duty April 1884./4/

Jacob outlived all but three of his children. Lillian married McClanahan. She died 5 March, 1881. Susan married James W. Meador. They moved to Grandview, Johnson County, Texas, where she died 7 June, 1894. Joseph A. married Diadama Gifford (1st) and Martha Ellen Uhles (2nd). He died in Macon Co., Tennessee, 10 January, 1896.

Jacob died 8 October, 1899. He is buried in his family cemetery along with Haney, Eleanor and several other members of his family. The cemetery is located near his home on Taylor Branch.

James Jacob married Susan Gauden (1st) and Rebecca (2nd). He moved to Kentucky, living in Franklin City, Simpson County for a short time. Around 1900 he moved to Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas. He lived there until his death May 14, 1916. (His picture on cover)

Marion M. married Nathan Adams. They lived in Cleburne for many years before she died 17 March 1929.

William Josiah, Jacob's youngest son, stayed in Macon County, assisting his father with the family business. There was a roller mill and a general store at Hillsdale. He was appointed Jacob's guardian during the last months of Jacob's life and Executor of the Estate after Jacob's death. Years later he moved to Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee, where he died 19 September 1934.

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Jacob's descendants are many. Some have stayed in Tennessee. Others are now living in Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, -29- Wyoming, Montana, California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Michigan, Kentucky and probably other states, as there are many I have been unable to contact  
●●●●●● Charlotte E. Marshall ●●● great, great granddaughter of Jacob ●●●●● April 7, 1987.

References:

- 1) Goodspeed Histories- Sumner, Smith, Trousdale Counties of Tennessee.
- 2) Letter from Hal E. Adams to Ted Eller, grandson of Jacob, dated 23 September 1972.
- 3) Bible record- Jacob's Bible 1854.
- 4) Microfilm record of church book- East Fork of Goose Creek Baptist Church.

## RECORDS FROM THE BIBLE OF JACOB ELLER

*Printed in Philadelphia: Jesper Harding 1854*

### SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JOSEPH ELLER AND SARAH ELLER

- Nancy Eller born June 15, 1817
- John Eller born July 3, 1819 (Eds. Gr. Gr. Grandfather of J. Gerald Eller)
- Mary Eller born February 25, 1821 (?)
- Jacob Eller born January 13, 1822 (Eds. Gr. Gr. Grandfather of Charlotte Marshall)
- Elizabeth Eller born April 5, 1825
- James Eller born November 24, 1831
- Abraham A. Eller born August 26, 1833
- Joseph M.F. Eller born November 11, 1835 (Eds. Gr. Gr. Grandfather of Janine Porter)
- Robert V. Eller born in the year 1828.

### SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JACOB ELLER AND NANCY M. ELLER

- Susan F. Eller born November 8, 1845
- Joseph A. Eller born March 5, 1847
- James J. Eller born October 4, 1848
- John S.W. Eller born June 27, 1850
- Sarah P. Eller May 7, 1852
- William J. Eller born January 12, 1854
- Nancy M. Eller born August!, 1855
- Lillian C. Eller born October 15, 1857
- Marian M. Eller born May 4, 1860.

### DEATHS

- My mother, Sarah Eller died September 25, 1848
- My brother Robert V. Eller died September 25, 1852
- My father, Joseph Eller died September 25, 1863

### Sons and daughters of Jacob Eller and N.H. Eller

- Nancy M. Eller died November 6, 1862
- John S.W. Eller died November 11, 1862
- Sarah P. Ellr died November 11, 1862 all three died of diphtheria.

## MARRIAGES

- Jacob Eller and Nancy M. Wood married January 17, 1844.

## THE GOODSPEED HISTORIES OF SUMNER, SMITH, MACON, TROUSDALE COUNTIES OF TENNESSEE

*Published 1887*

Jacob Eller, a millwright and farmer in the Fourth District, P.O. Hillsdale, is the son of Joseph Eller and Sarah Stephens Eller, the fourth of 13 children and was born in North Carolina in 1822. Joseph Eller and wife were born in North Carolina and were of Dutch and Irish descent. Joseph Eller died in Sept. 1863. Mrs. Eller died Sept. 25, 1846. Mrs. Eller's father was with General Jackson in the Indian War and participated in the famous fight at Horse Shoe Bend on the Tennessee River, where he was killed.

Jacob Eller is a self-made man, getting his education while at work without outside assistance. He has an excellent memory and is well posted on the history of the County. He is also a born mechanic, early adopting the millwright business as his chosen vocation. As a millwright he is sought far and wide to construct mills, even going outside the state in many instances. He is also quite an inventor, having invented some very useful articles.

He was reared a Whig and since the dissolution of the party he has voted the Democratic ticket. He cast his first presidential vote for Gen. Harrison when only 16 years old, which was allowable in North Carolina to young and old if they could pay the poll tax.

Mr. Eller began life with horse, saddle and bridle; and by his industry, foresight and good management has accumulated quite a handsome competency. He first bought near Hartsville, sold out there and purchased a farm of 165 acres, beautifully situated and nicely improved near Hartsville and LaFayette road, six miles from the latter place.

January 17, 1844, he married Miss Nancy H. Wood, by which union 9 children were born. Susan F., now Mrs. Meeador; Joseph A., James J.; Jno S.W., (deceased); and Marion M., now Mrs. Adams. Mrs. Eller died Aug. 30, 1880 and he married Miss Eleanor Royster, June 23, 1881.

Himself and family, excepting one child, are members of the Missionary Baptist Church. For many years Mr. Eller ably served his friends and neighbors as Magistrate. He has been a very energetic and active man. He is now 65 years old and has still a good share of the fire and vim of his younger days. At his advanced age he can do more work and displays more mechanical skill than many young men in the county. His ancestors are noted for their long life, his grandfather reaching the age of 108 years, and being actively engaged in the work of his trade until death. Jacob Eller bids fair to rival his ancestors for longevity and is still using his first pair of glasses, showing how little his eyes have failed.

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*(Eds. The 108 year old grandfather referred to in the last paragraph was Jacob Eller, Jr., son of Jacob Eller, the immigrant of Rowan County, NC. This is the only clue concerning the fate of Jacob Eller, Jr. after*

*he abandoned his family in Buncombe County, NC in the early 1800's and returned to Tennessee. Where and when he died remains unknown.)*