

Preamble - May 2001

Matthes Eller is the earliest known ancestor to early Eller immigrants to the New World. He is the great, great grandfather of these immigrants. In the 1700's many German immigrants came to America via the wooden ships of Rotterdam. Five young Eller men left the homeland to seek new fortunes and to escape religious persecution in the 1740's. Many believe that these Eller men were brothers and cousins, the sons of Casper, Paul and Georg Eller from the Palatinate region of Germany. One must note here that Matthes is believed to be our earliest progenitor, but it has not been confirmed as yet.

Before taking you to America and introducing you to my family I would like to take you back to Europe, northern Europe, during a truly barbaric time period. A time when brute strength ruled the land and the next day was never a guarantee. Around 115 BC the Teutons from Utelund would storm against the Roman Empire. Their early metalurgical skills gave them the ability to equip themselves with products of iron ore and thus huge tempered swords and armor. It is believed that these people were able to hold off the Roman Empire for 400 years. Later this group of people then known as the Vikings would venture in ships across the North Atlantic Ocean and become the first Eastern Hemisphere explorers to discover the New World. 9th Century Danes were called Teutons and today 70% of Denmark's population claim such heritage. But war after war in Europe would cause these people to be nomadic, migrating from one part of the continent to the next. They would find themselves in the first millennium AD also at the foot of the Hirshberg near the "west Allgau" a smaller range of the Alps near the Germany - Austria border. This migration would change continents in the 1700's for some of these people.

George Michael Eller, Henry Eller, Sr, John Jacob Eller, John Melchoir Eller and Christian Eller ventured to the new world. Upon arriving in America through the Port of Philadelphia, their German family and friends welcome them into their settlements in and around Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. This allowed them to get the start they needed until land could be purchased or a grant could be acquired from the King of England and his colonial governors or after the Revolution, from the state governments.

All five of these early Eller immigrants have descendants in almost every state of the United States today. That's why being vigilant and learning where and why we have traveled where we have traveled is part of who we are as a family. The proud and well respected Eller name from Germany has indeed continued this heritage in America.

I have been doing genealogy for nearly 20 years and with much effort for the last 4 years. I am a member of the Eller Family Association that holds an bi-annual conference open for all to attend. The Eller Family Association (EFA) provides a quarterly periodical called The Eller Chronicles which is filled with Eller family research and updates. You may click on the link below to find the EFA site. A committee has been formed to start a centralized website for all Eller research that is scheduled for being online sometime in 2002.

Many smaller family groups hold reunions also. I am past President/Chairman of the Henry Cleveland Eller Reunion that is held annually on the 2nd Sunday of June at Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Purlear, Wilkes County, North Carolina, USA. Henry Cleveland Eller is the great, great grandson of George Michael Eller. Over 150 attend this reunion annually.

Help me keep the info current. Comment on my Gedcom or Family Tree Maker records. You may add to my files also... contact me at benjamin.eller@eller.org . Thank you and happy researching!

The Descendants of Matthes Eller

by Benjamin Lawrence Eller, Jr., at Bel Air, Maryland, USA

The distinguished surname of Eller originated in Germany. Eller translates roughly into "near the alder tree, or living near the alder tree." Eller's have been found in Palatine (now part of Switzerland, France and Germany), Northern Germany by Austria, near the Rhine River, and close to what is now the Balkans. Eller's are also known in Sweden and Norway. There were Eller's in England recorded as far back as the 1300s and 1400s. The name translated from the Saxon language to the same meaning as the old German. Spelling variations include Eller, Eller's, Eler, Aller, Aler, Ellern, Ellere and many more. First found in Westphalia, where they emerged as a notable family within the territory in the early Middle Ages. Some of the first American settlers of this name or some of its variants were Mary Eller, who settled in Carolina in 1724. Johan Georg Eller came in Philadelphia in 1740; John Eller arrived in 1773, while T. Jacob Eller arrived in Philadelphia in 1880.

- A. MATTHES ELLER was born 1585 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany. He married Mrs. (Unknown) ELLER about 1610 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany.

Children of MATTHES ELLER and Mrs. ELLER are:

B. i. Johann ELLER

- B. JOHANN ELLER was born on August 27, 1611 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany. He was married to ANNA BARBARA STARTZIG on February 9, 1635 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany. ANNA BARBARA STARTZIG was born in 1611 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany.

Children of JOHANN ELLER and ANNA BARBARA STARTZIG are:

C. i. Johann Adam Valatin ELLER

- C. JOHANN ADAM VALATIN ELLER was born in 1636 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany. He was married to MARGARETE GERBERT about 1688 in Kaltenbrunn, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany. MARGARETE GERBERT was born about 1648 in Planer, Schmelzthal, Bohmen, Austria.

Children of JOHANN ADAM VALATIN ELLER and MARGARETE GERBERT are:

D. i. Georg ELLER

E. ii. Paul ELLER

- D. GEORG ELLER was born on January 7, 1689 in Kaltenbrunn, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany and died on

September 5, 1758 in Untermerzback, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany. He was married to MARGARETHA HUELS (daughter of JOHANNES HUELS and MARGARETHA DRESCHSLER) on January 31, 1719 in Untermerzback, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany. MARGARETHA HUELS was born on December 1, 1694 in Kaltenbrunn, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany and died on March 2, 1766 in Untermerzback, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany.

Children of GEORG ELLER and MARGARETHA HUELS are:

i. Georg M. ELLER

- E. PAUL CASPER ELLER was born aft. 1691 in Kaltenbrunn, Unterfranken, Bayern, Bavaria, Germany (also known as The Palatinate) and died Bet. 1753 - 1756 in The Palatinate, Germany.

His wife's name is unknown. He is the Father of five Eller immigrant sons as we believe are listed in this Genealogy report. This report also shows direct links to three of the five sons in the descendent family of Joseph Alec Eller (John Jacob Eller and John Melchoir Eller) and Susan Evelyn Eller (George Michael Eller).

Children of PAUL CASPER ELLER and MRS. ELLER are:

1. i. John Jacob ELLER

2. ii. John Melchoir ELLER

3. iii. Georg Michael ELLER

4. iv. Henry ELLER

5. v. Christian ELLER

Notes for PAUL CASPER ELLER:

German spelling of his middle name may have been Caspar or Kaspar. There are German records for both. The American church marriage records

record both John Jacob Eller and John Melchoir Eller as having a father by the name of Casper Eller of the German Palatinate. John Jacob Eller was married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill, Montgomery County, PA (records still exist, see page 66, Chap. 13, of the John Jacob Eller book).

See pages 31, 35, Chapter 9 of the book "John Jacob Eller and His Descendants", The Eller Family Assoc., 1998. Place of son John Jacob Eller's marriage and the name "Casper" used for this Eller's name.