

The Eller Family Before Kaspar/Casper

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Most of the Eller family research traces back to Kaspar (Casper) Eller who was born in Germany and died there. His sons (we believe they are all sons), Jacob, Melchoir (Melker), Christian, George Michael and Henry all immigrated to America in the period 1740 to 1750. There is also likely a sixth son who did not emigrate with the other five. There might be a seventh son and a daughter.

The marriage records of two of these men show Caspar Eller as their father.^{1 2}

There are a few researchers that say some of the sons were actually sons of Paul and/or Georg Eller.³

To date, we've found scant evidence of Kaspar's parents or beyond. We're not even certain where in Germany Kaspar lived. All the immigrant sons were described as being for the Palatine, a term that was used at the time to describe almost all the German immigrants.⁴

So, it's been a real hope we can trace back the Eller line in Germany.

One step in that direction came in 2015 when the mayor of Eimsheim, Germany, agreed to take a DNA test. The results show a connection between Mayor Hans-Joachim Eller and five members of the Eller Family Association.⁵

In May 1999, Eller Family Association member Benjamin Lawrence Eller, Jr. published information that traced Kaspar Eller back to a Matthes Eller of Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany, in the 1580's.⁶ In his published research, he says, "One must note here that Matthes is believed to be our earliest progenitor, but it has not been confirmed as yet."⁷

Recently, the widespread use of Ancestry.com and the ability to look at other researchers' work has provided additional information on these earlier Eller generations.

There are ten published "Ancestry Member Trees" showing Kaspar Eller as George Paul Casper Eller (or Elhers) with birth date of 1689 and a death in 1758.⁸ All the data on these trees are

¹ St. Paul's Lutheran Church records, Red Hill, Montgomery County, PA.

² Eller Assn; "John Jacob Eller and His Descendants"; Chapter 9, Pages 31 & 35.

³ Eller, Benjamin, "Matthes Eller: Preamble, May 2001,
http://www.ellerfamilyassociation.com/media/Matthes_Eller.pdf

⁴ Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palatinate_\(region\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palatinate_(region))

⁵ "A DNA Connection to Ellers Now in Germany," <http://www.ellerfamilyassociation.com/media/DNA-Test.pdf>

⁶ Eller, Benjami; "Matthes Eller: Preamble, May 2001,

⁷ Eller, Benjamin, "Matthes Eller: Preamble, May 2001,

⁸ Ancestry Member Trees: (1) Harris Family Tree, Rghinabq; (2) Greene Family Tree, Charles Greene; (3) Working Collins Family Tree, Macollins264; (4) Connor-Hedenus-Evans Family Tree, Wiederholen22; (5) Anderson Family

almost exactly alike which leads this researcher to believe that either they are correct or that they copied from each other.

It is also possible that the information originated from Benjamin Eller's published Matthes Eller speculation, although there are some significant differences. In all ten cases, there is not a lot of primary attribution.

I have attempted to contact these researchers to ask about the source of the information. I've heard back from one who could remember no source and another who conceded he was relying on other Ancestry trees.

Despite that, I am compiling below the consensus of these ten family trees because they are detailed, somewhat consistent, tend to confirm Benjamin Eller's research and offer information heretofore not widely adopted by the Eller Family Association.

First Generation

1. **Matthes Eller (Heller)** was born in 1585 in Königsburg, Kosel, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia, Germany. He died in 1660 at the age of 75 in Königsburg, Kosel, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, SchleswigHolstein, Prussia, Germany.

Matthes Eller (Heller) and Marie Dittrich were married on 16 Oct 1610 in Königsburg, Kosel, RendsburgEckernförde, Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia, Germany. Marie Dittrich was born in 1589 in 1615 • Koenigsburg, , East Prussia, Germany. She died in 1615 at the age of 26 in 1615 • Koenigsburg, , East Prussia, Germany.

Matthes Eller (Heller) and Marie Dittrich had the following child:

+2 i. Johann Michi Eller, born 27 Aug 1611, Königsburg, Kosel, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, SchleswigHolstein, Germany; married Anna (Anna Barbara) Sihler (Startzig), 9 Feb 1635, Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany; died 9 Feb 1706, Bayern, Germany.

Second Generation

2. **Johann Michi Eller** (Matthes-1) was born on 27 Aug 1611 in Königsburg, Kosel, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He died on 9 Feb 1706 at the age of 94 in Bayern, Germany.

Johann Michi Eller and Anna (Anna Barbara) Sihler (Startzig) were married on 9 Feb 1635 in Koenigsburg, East Prussia, Germany. Anna (Anna Barbara) Sihler (Startzig) was born in 1611 in Koenigsburg, Bavaria, Germany. She died in 1640 at the age of 29.

Tree, Misty Anderson; (6) Kennedy Family Tree, Kathryn Kennedy; (7) Karmen Slater family tree, Karmenearn; (8)s/DeYoung, Sjohnnessen; (9) Mitchell Family Tree, Pudgymitchell; (10) Poston Family Tree, Fred Poston.

Johann Michi Eller and Anna (Anna Barbara) Sihler (Startzig) had the following child:

+3 i. **Johann Adam Valintin Eller**, born 1636, Königsburg, Kosel, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany; married Margarete Gerbert, 1654; married Magdalena Lager; died 1731, Traunstein, Bavaria, Germany.

Third Generation

3. **Johann Adam Valintin Eller** (Johann Michi-2, Matthes-1) was born in 1636 in Königsburg, Kosel, RendsburgEckernförde, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He died in 1731 at the age of 95 in Traunstein, Bavaria, Germany.

Johann Adam Valintin Eller and Margarete Gerbert were married in 1654 at Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bayern, Germany. Margarete Gerbert was born in 1638 in Planer, Schmelzthal, Bohmen, Austria. She died in 1733 at the age of 95. One researcher shows her maiden name as Gerberich

Johann Adam Valintin Eller and Margarete Gerbert had the following child:

+4 i. **George Paul Casper Eller**, born 7 Jan 1689, Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bavaria, Germany; married Germaine Anna Margaretha Huels, 7 Aug 1714, Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bayern, Germany; died 5 Sep 1758, Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany.

Johann Adam Valintin Eller and Magdalena Lager were married. Magdalena Lager was born (date unknown).

Fourth Generation

4. **George Paul Casper Eller** (Johann Adam Valintin-3, Johann Michi-2, Matthes-1) was born on 7 Jan 1689 in Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bavaria, Germany. He died on 5 Sep 1758 at the age of 69 in Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany. The name is shown as Eller or Elhers or Hiller. Two researchers (Kathry Kennedy; sjohannessen) show Kaspar dying in Frederick, Maryland.

George Paul Casper Eller and Germaine Anna Margaretha Huels were married on 7 Aug 1714 in Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bayern, Germany. Germaine Anna Margaretha Huels was born on 1 Dec 1694 in Kaltenbrunn, Itzgrund, Coburg, Upper Franconia, Bayern, Germany. She died on 2 Mar 1766 at the age of 71 in Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany.

George Paul Casper Eller and Germaine Anna Margaretha Huels had the following children:

5 i. **Johann (John) Jacob Eller** was born in 1715 in Rieschweiler, Sudwestpfalz, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. He died on 7 May 1782 at the age of 67 in Rowan County, North Carolina.

6 ii. **Andreas Johann Eller** was born on 25 Nov 1719 in Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany. He died on 14 May 1785 at the age of 65 in Grosssheirat, South Carolina. We believe this is the son that did not come over to America at the same time

as the other five. And some of these researchers show him not leaving Germany but dying in Sachsen Coburg, Gotha, Thuringen, Germany

7 iii. **Melchior Eller** was born in 1721 in Rowan County, North Carolina. He died in Rowan County, North Carolina.

8 iv. **George Michael Eller** was born on 22 May 1722 in Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bavaria, Germany. He died on 25 Aug 1778 at the age of 56 in Frederick County, Maryland.

9 v. **Christian Eller** was born on 22 Jul 1724 in Traunstein, Algau Area, Bavaria, Germany. He died on 30 Apr 1804 at the age of 79 in Rowan County, North Carolina. The birth/death dates are consistent. However, the birth location varies between: Algau, SW, Bayern, Germany Algau, SW, Bayern, Traunstein, Bavaria, Germany Algau District, Bayern, Germany It is geographically possible that the town of Traunstein is in the Algau District of Bavaria.

10 vi. **Frederick Eller** was born in 1724 in Germany. He died in Maryland. Not all the research shows Frederick as a child of Kaspar Eller.

11 vii. **Heinrich (Henry) Wilhelm Eller** was born in 1726 in Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany. He died in Dec 1788 at the age of 62 in Hagerstown, Washington, Maryland.

12 viii. **Kunigunda Eller** was born on 18 Apr 1729 in Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany. She died on 14 Apr 1734 at the age of 4 in Untermerzbach, Hassberge, Bayern, Germany.



If any of these family trees are correct, the location Konigsburg, Kosel, Rendsburg-Eckernforde, Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia, Germany, is the place our ancestors originated. If this is true, we are from far northern Germany near the border with Denmark.

We should note there is another Koenigsberg which was renamed Kaliningrad which, after World War II, became the Russian enclave near the border with Poland and Russia.

Our ancestors next show up in Kaltenbrunn, Coburg, Bavaria and from there to Traunstein is in the Algau District of Bavaria.

We should also note there is an Algau to the west of Traunstein.