

# A clarification of the family of CONRAD ELLER of Wilkes County, NC

by Wilma Jean Church Reynolds

There are two men born in Rowan Co. NC, by the name of Conrad Eller. The elder Conrad Eller is the one who came to Wilkes Co. NC and died here before 1850. In the past forty years since I have been researching Conrad Eller who died here in Wilkes Co. NC, there has been confusion between the two men. Which Conrad Eller married Mary Eller in Rowan Co. NC on 8 Aug. 1820, and which Conrad Eller is the father of which children. It seems some researchers have determined that the 2 Conrad Ellers are the same man. Therefore, all the children belong to this one man. This is not true, and I will present the research on the elder Conrad Eller who came to Wilkes Co. NC and died here before 1850. The younger Conrad Eller stayed in Rowan Co. NC, and appears there on the census in 1830 through 1860. I have based their ages on the earliest records of the two men.



Ms. Reynolds is a director of the Wilkes Genealogical Society.  
Photo: Wilkes Journal-Patriot

The first record of a Conrad Eller I found in Rowan County, NC was a Confirmation of a Conrad Eller in 1796, at Peint Church (Pine Dutch Lutheran Church). This Church was located 5 miles from Salisbury, NC, on Bringle Ferry Road, at the present site of Union Lutheran Church. According to local Rowan Co. NC sources this could have been one of 2 men named Conrad Eller in Rowan Co. NC at the time. The first Conrad Eller was born about 1784, and had never been confirmed in the Lutheran Church, due to the lack of a Pastor to do so. It seems at this particular period of time many children in the same age group as the elder Conrad Eller, were being confirmed. The younger Conrad Eller was born

in 1797, according to the 1850 Rowan Co. NC census. If this is correct, he could not be the Conrad Eller confirmed in 1796. This information is from The Account Book of Pastor Storch translated from German by Ingrid Seidler.

The next record of the elder Conrad Eller in the census of 1810, in Rowan Co. NC. By then he is married and has children. He is listed as age 16-26, wife age 16-26, and 2 females under 10.

In 1810, Conrad Eller sold 75 ac. of land in Rowan Co. NC. He had to be 21 years old to sell land. A man b. in 1797 would not be old enough to sell land.

In 1811, Conrad sold 50 ac. Of Land in Rowan Co. NC.

1819 Bk. 20, p. 219 Conrad Eller sold 75 ac. of land for \$100.00, no wife signs, to Christian Eller, this land was proved in 1811. What is important about this sale is no wife signs, which means his wife was dead, and the land had been from her family.

By the 1820 census in Rowan Co. NC, the elder Conrad Eller has married before 7 Aug. 1820, and has had three children added in the household since 1810 census. This is important to note, as there is a Conrad Eller m. 8 Aug. 1820, to Mary Eller, this would have to be the younger Conrad Eller, who does not appear on the 1820 census. This helps to define the differences between the two men, and which one actually married Mary Eller on 8 Aug. 1820. On the 1850 census the younger Conrad Eller's wife is named Mary. The elder Conrad Eller's second wife is never identified by name, but is in his household on 7 Aug. 1820, along with two children born between the 1810

and 1820 census. This clearly indicates the younger Conrad Eller is the one who married Mary Eller on 8 Aug. 1820.

1820 census Rowan Co. NC:

Conrad Eller

1 male 16-26, (this male not shown on 1810 with Conrad, maybe son of second wife?)

1 male 26-45 Conrad b. 1784

1 female 26-45 second wife

1 female 16-26 (dau. Sophie Eller, dau. of Conrad and first wife.)

3 females under 10 dau. (Anna child of Conrad and first wife, and 2 other daus.)

We do not know when Conrad's first wife died or when he remarried. We do know, he did not have a male with him on the 1810 census. We do know he had 2 females Under 10. Sophie Eller Bolin was born about 1802, Rowan Co. NC, and Anna Eller was born about 1810, Rowan Co. NC.

My great-grandmother Rebecca Boldin Pardue, was the granddaughter of Sophie Eller Bolin (Bullen) and Charles Bolin (Bullen). She wrote a lot down about the family migration in a biography of her father, John Boldin (Bolin, Bullen). In this she tells of the land her grandfather Charles Bolin (Bullen) and Conrad Eller bought in Grayson Co. VA and of land they bought Wilkes Co. NC in 1830. This farm has been identified and located. Charles Bolin (Bullen) and Sophie Eller were married in Rowan Co. NC, on 26 Jan. 1826. Leaving shortly for Grayson Co. VA, Conrad Eller went with them. Both had relatives in Grayson Co. VA. A George Eller, a dunkard preacher from Rowan Co. NC, had married Christina Bullen. Christina being the great-aunt of Charles Bullen. There are many arrest records of George Eller preaching on the streets of Salisbury. Christina's brothers would bail him out of jail, finally he was told to leave the county. He and Christina went to Grayson Co. VA. George and Christina Bullen had descendants that came to Wilkes Co. NC.

According to family records, and Rowan Co. NC records, Charles Bullen came into an inheritance when he became of age in Rowan Co. NC. It was with this money they moved to Grayson Co. VA, and bought land, and later in 1830 in Wilkes Co. NC. With Charles Bullen paying the way.

Sophie and Charles first two children were born in Grayson Co. VA, Mary in 1828 and John Bolin (Bullen, Boldin). Both Conrad Eller and Charles Bolin appear together in 1828, on a Tax Record for Grayson Co. VA.

Charles and Sophie Bolin (Bullen) and Conrad Eller moved from Grayson Co. VA to Ashe Co. NC for a short period, and were in Wilkes Co. NC by the 1830 census. Charles and Conrad bought land together, in the Brown's Ford area, along the Yadkin River, at the bend of the river, adj. to Amos Church. This is where the present-day NC Hwy. 268 and Germantown Road meets. The home place was along the creek called Third Creek. There is an old graveyard with several unmarked graves on this farm. This is where several of the early Ellers and Bolins (Bullen, Boldin) are buried, including Conrad Eller and Charles Bolin. In my Great-grandmother's biography of her father she states that her father and ancestors are buried there.

Charles Bolin (Bullen) died in 1845, after having made the last payment on the farm. The last payment was due and Conrad could not come up with his part, therefore Charles sold a horse to come up with Conrad's part and paid off the land. The horse was a favorite horse of Charles' children and they were heartbroken. After Charles died, Conrad Eller lost the farm for bad debts, leaving his family and Charles' family without a home. Conrad died before 1850, in Wilkes Co. NC.

The land was sold and a neighbor Amos Church bought it. He told Charles' family they could stay in their home. However, Charles' oldest son John Boldin (Bolin, Bullen) went to work for the Hamilton Brown Plantation, as an overseer and worked the slaves in the Brown's Ford Yadkin River bottoms, until he earned enough money to buy a 100 ac. of land from the Brown Family. This land was located a short distance from the land his father bought in 1830. The road became known as Germantown Road, so named for the German families that settled there. John built a log cabin there for himself and his wife, and one for his mother Sophie and his brothers and sisters. This was about 1852. Sophie Eller Bolin remained there until after the Civil War. She and all the children except John moved to Carter Co. TN. This was where her oldest daughter Mary "Polly" and her husband William Hester lived. She lived in Carter Co. TN until her death, after 1880.

The Ellers in this Germantown area are separate from other Ellers in Wilkes Co. NC, and are thought to be children of Conrad and his first 2 wives. It is noted that Conrad was related to many of the other Ellers settled in Ashe and Wilkes Co. NC.

The younger Conrad Eller, born 1797, of Rowan Co. NC stayed in Rowan Co. NC past 1860 census, and is believed to have died there. There are many researchers who have confused the two men, named Conrad Eller. They have mixed the children of both Conrad Ellers into one family. But with careful examination of the records in both Wilkes and Rowan Counties, it is easy to see they are two separate men.

I am including the census data for both families, in the two different counties of Wilkes and Rowan, starting with the 1830 census. The 1830 Rowan Co. NC census is the first census the younger Conrad Eller shows up on in Rowan Co. The elder Conrad is on the 1810 census and 1820 census in Rowan Co. NC, and appears on the 1830 census in Wilkes Co. NC. My great-grandmother's biography of her father tells when the elder Conrad Eller left Rowan Co. NC, and of his owning land with her grandfather Charles Bolin (Bullen) in Grayson Co. VA, moving to Ashe Co. NC for a brief time and then coming to Wilkes Co. NC. Grayson Co. VA records support this, as Charles Bolin and Conrad Eller do appear on a Grayson Co. VA Tax list for 1828.

#### 1830 census Rowan Co. NC:

- Conrad Eller (younger) b. ca 1797
- 1 male under 5
- 1 male 5-9
- 1 male 30-39
- 2 females under 5
- 1 female 30-39

#### 1830 census Wilkes Co. NC:

- Conrad Eller (elder)
- 2 males under 5 (This is Levi b. 1827 and Hugh Montgomery b. 1830.)
- 1 male 5-9 (This is Henry Alexander b. 1824)
- 1 male 50-59 (Conrad)
- 1 female under 5 (This is Malinda b. 1825.)
- 1 female 5-9 (This is Pricilla Lucretia b. 1821.)
- 2 females 10-14 (This Mirah b. 1823 and Lucy b. 1828.)

Hugh Montgomery is the last child b. 1830, therefore Conrad's wife may have died at his birth since she is not on the census.

1840 census Rowan Co. NC:

Conrad Eller (younger)  
1 male 5-9  
1 male 10-14  
1 male 40-49  
2 females 10-14  
2 females 15-19  
1 female 40-49  
1 female slave under 10

1840 census Wilkes Co. NC:

Conrad Eller (elder) b. ca 1785  
1 male 5-9 (Hugh Montgomery b. 1830)  
1 male 10-14 (Levi b. 1827)  
1 male 15-19 (Henry Alexander b. 1824)  
2 females under 5 (grandaus.)  
1 female 5-9 (Pricilla Lucretia b. 1821)  
1 female 15-19 (Malinda b. 1825)  
1 female 20-30 (Anna b. 1810 or Marah b. 1823)

The 2 females under 5 are probably granddaughters of Conrad. Mariah had a dau. Martha Mahaley b. in 1838.

By the 1850 census in Wilkes Co. NC Conrad Eller is no longer listed. There is an indication he may have died about 1846. But I have no proof of the actual date of his death. Conrad was known to be a wheeler dealer, and quite often a gambler. He was a master Rock Mason. He built the first rock mill house at the waterfalls on Moravian Creek. He and his second wife are buried in unmarked graves, on the Germantown Road farm where he lived here in Wilkes Co. NC.

The Ellers living in the same Hwy. 268 and Germantown Road area are:

1850 census Wilkes Co. NC:

#438

Sophie Bolin	45	Sophie Eller, wd. of Charles Bolin (Bullen)
Polly	23	Dau. of Sophie and Charles, m. Wm. Hestor.
John	21	Son of Sophie and Charles.
Evan	18	Son of Sophie and Charles.
Hugh	18	Son of Sophie and Charles.
Charles	12	Son of Sophie and Charles.
Thomas	9	Son of Sophie and Charles.
Susan	6	Dau. of Sophie and Charles.
Sophie	4	Dau. of Sophie and Charles.

#439

Wm Hester	21	(Son-in-law of Sophie Bolin)
Polly	24	(dau. of Sophie Eller and Charles Bolin, this is duplicate listing of Polly, as she is also listed in Sophie's household.)

#440

Mariah Eller	27	Half-sister of Sophie and Anna.
Mahaley	15	Dau. of Mariah
John	9	Son of Mariah.

#1266

Pricilla Eller	29	Half-sister of Sophie and Anna.
Martha	11	Dau. of Pricilla.
James	9	Son of Pricilla.
Mariah	6	Dau. of Pricilla.

#1397

John Laws	42	
Rebecca	41	
Alford 1	7	
Edward	16	
James	14	
David	11	
Daniel	8	
Amanda	2	
Polly	5/12	
Elizabeth Joines	81	
<u>Alexander Eller</u>	26	(Henry Alexander Eller) Half-brother of Sophie and Anna.
<u>Annis Eller</u>	18	? this is most likely Edda wife of Henry Alexander.

#1395

Montgomery Eller	20	(half-bro. of Anna and Sophie)
Anna Eller	40	b. Rowan Co. NC half -sis. of Montgomery, full-sister of Sophie.
Susan	7	(dau . of Anna)
Thomas	4	(son of Anna)
Lucy Eller	22	(half-sister of Anna and Sophie, full sister to Montgomery)
Malinda Eller	25	(half-sister to Anna and Sophie, full-sister to Montgomery and Lucy)
Allie	3	(dau. of Malinda and Hamilton Church, Bastardy Bond 1847,

1850 census Rowan Co. NC:

Dis.t 31 #1593

Conrad Eller	53 (younger)
Mary	52
Lucy	26
Jemima	24
Polly	18
Jackson	12
Jacob	9
Joseph	7
Julina	3
Jincey	1

1860 census Rowan Co. NC:

Jesse Pinkston	26
Sarah Pinkston	19
Conrad Eller	75
Mary Eller	60
Lucy Eller	40
Joseph Eller	16
Peter Eller	4

I do not have any marriages of the children of the younger Conrad Eller's children. I believe Joseph may have served as a confederate in the Civil War. Is Sarah Pinkston a daughter of Conrad? Lucy is still with her father and mother, is she the mother of Peter Eller age 4?

A lot of researchers have the Rowan Co. NC younger Conrad Eller's daughter Lucy Eller confused with the Wilkes Co. NC older Conrad Eller's daughter Pricilla Lucretia Eller. This is clearly shown to be not true, as on the 1860 Census in Rowan Co. NC census, Lucy is age 40 and still living with her parents, and is possibly the mother of Peter age 4. Pricilla Lucretia Eller is on the 1850 census in Wilkes Co. NC. Still listed as Lucretia Eller 36, with her children Martha 20, Jane 16, Mariah 15, William 10 and grand-daughter Mary Mandy 1. Also, on the 1870 and the 1880 census she is in Wilkes Co. NC. Pricilla Lucretia died at the home of her son James Frank Eller, just before 1900 in stony Fork Community of Watauga Co. NC. Pricilla Lucretia Eller was never called Lucy but had a sister named Lucy who appears on the 1850 census age 22. This Lucy is not found after that. Note that Lucy Eller is 26 in 1850 census in Rowan Co. NC and 40 in 1860 census in Rowan Co. NC.

The children of the older Conrad Eller of Wilkes Co. NC are easily traced and their descendants accounted for.

The younger Conrad Eller of Rowan Co. NC I find no trace of him or his children after the 1860 Rowan Co. NC census, except for a Joseph Eller who enlisted a confederate in 1862. This Joseph could possibly be the son of Conrad Eller of Rowan Co. NC. I believe they may have relocated.

I have a lot of information on the Wilkes Co. NC Conrad Eller descendants. I will be willing to share with others. I hope this information will be of help to other researchers trying to figure the difference between the two Conrad Ellers. I would love to hear from anyone researching either Conrad Eller.

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