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CHELICIE BAIRD ELLER

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Chelcie Baird (C.B.) Eller, son of Dr. A.J. and Zora Church Eller, was born December 14, 1900. He attended the local one-teacher school, then attended Mt. View High School, Mars Hill College and North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University) in Raleigh, N.C., graduating in 1925.

He began teaching and coaching athletics in Warsaw High School in Duplin County in 1925. He moved to Thomasville High School for the school year 1927-28, returning to Warsaw High School as high school principal and athletic coach.

Mr. Eller married Cora Elengir Holland, daughter of Gideon Gaines and Della Stroud Holland, August 2, 1928.

Mr. Eller was elected superintendent of Wilkes County Schools in June 1933 and served in that capacity until 1966. In 1933, the Wilkes County school system consisted of ninety elementary and nine union schools. (Union schools were schools serving students from beginners to high school graduates.) Of the ninety elementary schools, forty-eight

were one-teacher schools and thirty were two-teacher schools and ten were three-and-four-teacher schools. Of the ninety-nine school, eighty-six served white students and thirteen served black students.

Superintendent Eller realized and was convinced that to improve the educational advantages for the children of Wilkes County, schools must be enlarged and better facilities provided.

This period being in the depth of the great Depression, it was very difficult to secure funds to operate, much less to improve. With a dedicated Board of Education supporting the superintendent, a program of consolidation and improvement was advanced. As fast as space could be provided, roads improved and busses secured, small schools were consolidated with union schools or combined with other elementary schools. Wilkes County was one of the first counties in North Carolina to affect a high school consolidation program.

In 1952, Ferguson and Wilkesboro Union schools were consolidated with North Wilkesboro to form Wilkes Central High School in the North Wilkesboro Administrative Unit. In 1954 Roaring River and Ronda Union schools were consolidated forming East Wilkes High School. In 1956, Mt. Pleasant and Millers Creek Union Schools were consolidated to form West Wilkes High School. In 1957 Mt. View and Traphill Union Schools were consolidated to form North Wilkes High School. During 1965-66, twenty-three schools were operated, three high, one union and nineteen elementary schools.

It is generally conceded that C. B. Eller had a part in more school consolidations than any other educator in North Carolina history.

Mrs. Eller taught fourth grade in Duplin and Wilkes County for twenty years until health conditions forced her retirement. She was very active in the Baptist Church where she taught a lady's Sunday School class for twenty-five years.

C. B. Eller is a Deacon Emeritus in the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro, an active Kiwanian, Mason, treasurer of Old Jail, Incorporated, and Secretary-treasurer of the C. O. McNeil Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Sources: personal knowledge.

— Chelcie Baird Eller

THE CLEVELAND ELLER FAMILY

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Cleveland Eller was born 30 June 1861 to Anderson and Elvira McNeil Eller. They had six children: James Calvin, Simeon, Ambrose, Thomas Cleveland, Rufus Cicero, Carrie and Margaret. Cleveland Eller was married to Mary Jane Church who was born in 1861. He was a blacksmith by trade and died 29 Dec. 1902 at the age of 42, apparently by typhoid fever.

To Cleveland and Jane Eller was born one son, Troy Albert 14 June 1889. He married Bessie Irene Rash on 25 Oct. 1905. She was the daughter of John Clark and Mary Elizabeth McNeil Rash. Troy worked as a furniture and

cabinet maker, especially corner cupboards. He was also well known county-wide as a traveling music — singing schoolteacher. He conducted "singing schools" at night in various churches throughout the county. He taught notes and scales using a tuning fork and charts on paper. He died 10 March 1955 of cancer.

Bessie Irene Rash was born 7 July 1886. She was a tiny woman about 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighing about 95 pounds. She had black hair which stayed dark until she was old. She was a very energetic and cheerful woman. She always had a "well starched" look about her. She always wore a fresh, clean apron that stayed clean whether she was hoeing corn or sitting chatting with neighbors.

When I got married she gave me a partial setting of green cherry blossom depression glass. I also inherited the corner cupboard built by my grandfather. She died 27 Jan. 1976.

To Troy and Bessie Rash Eller were born 6 children: Thomas Cleveland, 18 June 1907; William Glenn, 14 April 1909; Russell Johnson; Mary Virginia died at birth; Ella Sue Jane, 28 Feb. 1920; and Troy Albert, Jr., 29 July 1923.

Thomas Cleveland Eller married Myrtle Opal Stoltz on 16 Feb. 1927. He worked as a truck driver for many years before taking up carpentry and brick mason work. He laid the brick on most of the buildings in Millers Creek including the old Millers Creek School, fire department, postoffice, Lovettes and Arbor Grove Methodist Church where he was an active member and Sunday school teacher until his health failed. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He trained bird dogs for many people as well as himself. Thomas Cleveland Eller died 16 May 1982 and is buried at Arbor Grove United Methodist Church.

Myrtle Opal Stoltz was born in Forsyth County 23 Sept. 1909 to Julius Ulysses Stoltz born 22 Sept. 1867, died 2 Dec. 1943 and Ann Eliza Merritt born 6 April 1873, died 1 March 1937.

Julius Stoltz, son of Rev. Thomas Stoltz, was a German. He originally owned and operated an emporium in Salem, N.C. He and Ann had three children: Irene, Opal and Bud. They lived in Salem until they sold their store and moved to Millers Creek in Wilkes County, N.C.

At the age of 16, Opal Stoltz went to a revival meeting at the old Millers Creek Methodist church. When Thomas Eller walked in the door she commented to the girl sitting beside her, "There comes the man I'll marry." The girl sitting beside her was Tom's cousin, Daisy McNeil, who after the service introduced them. Six months later they were married.

They had 8 children: (1) Thomas Cleveland Eller born 3 Feb. 1928 married Frances Dillard. They have 5 children: Geraldine, Patsy, Lynn, Teresa and Lisa, deceased. (2) Richard Glenn Eller born 27 June 1929 married Betty ? and they had four children. (3) Rose Ellen born 13 April 1931 married Warren Ellis and they have three children, Angel, Bill and Melissa. (4) James Roosevelt born 25 April 1933 married Dare Wingler and they had one daughter, Linda. (5) John Clinton born 15

May 1937 married Shelby Wade and they have two children, David and Mark. (6) Troy Albert III born 14 June 1940 married Twila Church and they had a daughter, Gail. (7) Cynthia Anne born 16 Feb. 1945 married Sam Elledge and they have two children, Tamara and Sheri. (8) Cecil Clayton born 31 August 1947 married Judy Brown and they have two children, Vicki and Wendy.

Sources: Genealogical research and personal knowledge.

— Anne Eller Elledge

ERNEST A. ELLER

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It is believed that George Michael Eller arrived in America from the Palatinate of Germany and took his Oath of Allegiance on October 7, 1743. George Michael Eller died in Frederick County, Maryland before August 25, 1778.

George Michael Eller had a son, Peter born about 1746. He married about 1766, Elizabeth Dick, daughter of Conrad and Katherine Dick of Frederick Co., Maryland. Peter died in 1799 in Ashe County, N.C.



Ernest and Geneva Eller.

Peter had a son John who was born about 1767. John married Susannah Kems on November 5, 1792. Susannah died April 10, 1853. John died in 1823. John and Susannah had 8 children. One of the children was Absalom Eller who was born February 17, 1803. He married Sally Reynolds on March 1, 1824. She was born February 16, 1805. The farm of Absalom and Sally Eller was located on Parlears Creek.

Sally died March 6, 1875 and Absalom died February 7, 1879. Absalom and Sally had ten children. One of whom was James Madison Eller born June 17, 1840. James married Nancy Louise Vannoy. James and Nancy ran a store where they hauled merchandise by horse and wagon from Statesville, N.C. James and

his family were very interested in education. They let young men and women live with them so that they could go to New Hope Academy. They had eight children. James Madison Eller died July 15, 1920.

One of James' sons was William Thomas Eller born August 29, 1869 at the old home place. He went to school at New Hope Academy, then taught school a few years. He married Nora Robinette from the Stony Fork Creek Community October 2, 1902. Tom and Nora moved to a farm near New Hope Church in 1917. Tom died on December 4, 1936. He was buried in the New Hope Cemetery. They had six children, the first 3 at Roaring River.

(1) Vernon was born on April 29, 1904, married Bessie Lovette in 1923. He was ordained a Baptist Minister in 1936. Five children were born to this union: Mabel, born 1923, died 1972; Frances, born October 21, 1925; Gilbert, born June 29, 1928; Rex, born December 22, 1930; and Glenn, born 1933, died in 1958.

(2) Viola was born November 6, 1905. She attended college at Boone, N.C. for one year and received a teacher's certificate. She married Charles Combs in 1929. Eleven children were born to this union: Marie, born January 20, 1930; Blanche, born November 6, 1931; Nora, born June 22, 1932; Tommy, born in 1933; Roberta, born July 16, 1935; Sarah, born May 3, 1937; Louise, born May 12, 1941; Patsy, born June 15, 1943 — died at birth; Lewis, born June 21, 1944; Barbara, born April 10, 1947; and Steve, born July 14, 1949.

(3) Clyde was born May 7, 1907. He married Nora Belle Faw in 1929. Thirteen children were born to this union: Ernestine, born in 1931; Franklin, born in February, 1933; Philmore, born in May, 1934; Willie, born September 27, 1935; Lorene, born November 7, 1937; Richard, born September 7, 1939; Christina, born August 18, 1941; Marvin, born March 29, 1943; Jimmie, born December 19, 1944; Arlene, born September 22, 1946; Harold, born January 5, 1949; Max, born November 20, 1950; Maxine, born February 5, 1953.

(4) Electra born October 2, 1913 at Beaver Creek. She graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1931. She married Clifton Goodwin in 1935. Two children were born to this union: Betty Jean born February 18, 1939 and R.C. born March 5, 1937.

(5) Edna was born October 12, 1920 at Purlar, N.C. She graduated from Millers Creek School in 1937, and married Joe McNeil. One daughter was born to this union: Juanita, born October 16, 1939. Edna and Joe were divorced and she married Ernest Martin on September 12, 1945. Three children were born to this union: Bronca, born September 17, 1946; Judy, born May 15, 1949; and Pat (son) born on February 21, 1957.

(6) Ernest A. was born September 28, 1915 at Beaver Creek. He graduated from Mount Pleasant School in 1934, and married Geneva Faw on September 15, 1942. She is the daughter of James T. and Etie Faw. They went to Camp Cook in California where he was stationed in the U.S. Army. They came back to Wilkes County in 1943. Ernest is a retired poultry farmer. Geneva worked at Wilkes Gen-

eral Hospital for 13 years. Three sons were born to this union: Larry Ernest; Earl Thomas; and David James.

Larry Ernest Eller was born on August 6, 1944. He graduated from West Wilkes High School in 1962. Since November, 1962 he has been employed by Central Telephone Company. On August 2, 1963 he married Helen Moore, daughter of Archie William and Rozella Chambers Moore. Helen has been secretary at the First United Methodist Church since 1969. Larry is Fire Chief at the Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department. Two children were born to this union: Tammy Renee, born November 7, 1967 and James Larry, born April 7, 1971.

Earl Thomas Eller was born March 28, 1946. He graduated from West Wilkes High School, and from Mars Hill College. He majored in physical education and for several years was head football coach at North Wilkes High School, but is now Athletic Director. He was married in 1969 and a daughter, Kristy Jane Eller, was born on January 7, 1976.

David James Eller was born October 21, 1949. He graduated from West Wilkes High School and joined the U.S. Army on September 17, 1969. On October 21, 1970, he was sent to Viet Nam. He married Susan Woods October 21, 1978, daughter of Carroll M. and Betty Ernest Woods. Since 1976 David has worked at Hayes Print and Stamp Company. Susan is a secretary at the Abitibi Corp.

Sources: Eller Family History, by Mrs. Nora Robinette Eller.

— Helen M. Eller

JAMES MADISON ELLER

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James Madison Eller was born June 17, 1840, the son of Absalom Eller, who was born February 17, 1803 and died 7 February 1879, and Sally Reynolds Eller, who was born February 16, 1805 and died March 6, 1875. James Madison married Nancy Louise Vannoy. Eight children were born to this union: Albert Johnson, Thomas, Matilda, Rebecca, Ethel, Mae who died young, John G., and Sally who died in infancy.



James Madison and Nancy Louise Vannoy Eller.

The family lived on a large farm on the north prong of Lewis Fork Creek in Stanton Township near New Hope Baptist Church and the early New Hope Academy. James Madison operated a tannery that produced leather for shoes and harness for work animals. He also operated a retail store.

He was very much interested in education, a strong supporter of the New Hope Academy, and kept most of the teachers that came to the community to teach in the school. James Madison died July 15, 1920 and was buried in the family cemetery on a high hill facing the family home.

Albert Johnson Eller, the oldest son of James Madison Eller, was born December 2, 1867. He attended New Hope Academy and studied under other teachers in the county. He graduated from College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Maryland in 1893 and began general practice of medicine at Ready Branch Community in Lewis Fork township in western Wilkes County.

He married Nancy Zora Church September 2, 1894, the daughter of Linsy Lafayette and Elizabeth Simmons Church.

For many years his mode of travel was by horse back, but in spite of this he served the people over a large area of western Wilkes County. To serve as many people as possible, he would travel to an area on a specific day. For example, he would go on Monday to the Stony Fork area and on Tuesday, the Congo area. The people knew his schedule and would leave word for him at key places in the community or homes of critically ill people where they knew he would be visiting.

At that time there was a considerable amount of typhoid fever and other contagious diseases. He realized the need and importance of vaccinations to prevent contagious diseases so when these vaccines became available he promoted, encouraged, and administered them. Mrs. Eller learned how to administer some of these vaccines and was a big help with the program.

The closest dentist was in North Wilkesboro, thirteen miles away, so he pulled a lot of teeth. Mrs. Eller helped him. So many came to



Dr. Albert Johnson Eller.

his office and home that she began to pull teeth. For years she pulled more aching teeth than he did.

With drug stores also thirteen miles away, it was necessary for him to keep a supply of medicine in his office and to carry a supply in his saddle bags as he visited patients.

In 1931 he accepted the position as Wilkes County Health Officer and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1950. As health officer he joined forces with "an angel of mercy," Mrs. Bertha Bell, public health nurse. They promoted inoculations of students and adults against contagious diseases. They screened children for defects and literally combed the county for crippled children. With the help of the Kiwanis Club and other agencies, they were able to get many children in orthopedic hospitals for corrections.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. Eller were a daughter, Vera Faustina Eller, born September 10, 1895, a son, Chelcie Baird Eller, born December 14, 1900, and a son, Wayne Vannoy Eller, born November 24, 1904.

Vera attended Appalachian Training School at Boone, and Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. She married Andrew Casey June 28, 1919, after he returned from military service. They went to Washington, D.C., where she worked in the Registered Mail department of the Postal Service. When they returned to North Wilkesboro, she taught in the public schools for four years. After Andrew's death she accepted a position with the Wilkes County Department of Social Services, primarily in child welfare work, and continued in that position for 24 years until her retirement in 1967. She lives in North Wilkesboro and will be 87 years old her birthday in September, 1982.

(See Chelcie Baird Eller and Wayne Vannoy Eller in separate story).

Sources: Personal knowledge.

— Chelcie B. Eller

THE JOHN ELLER FAMILY

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John Grover Eller, son of James Madison and Louisa Vannoy Eller, was born Jan. 4, 1886. He married Ethel Beatrice Jones on Dec. 24, 1906. Ethel Beatrice Jones was born Dec. 20, 1890. She was the daughter of Robert and Mary Elizabeth Hall Jones. They spent their entire lives (John died Jan. 1, 1953; Ethel on Oct. 6, 1964) near his birthplace on the North Prong of Lewis Fork Creek. After teaching in the public school system of Wilkes County for one year, John was engaged in the lumber industry, cattle raising and farming.

They reared a large family — fourteen children who survive at this writing: (1) Gwyn Jones b. Feb. 24, 1908, married Olla Staley. They have two children — Gwendolyn married West Nickelaw and they have three children (Celeste, Wendy and Christie), and Colbert who married June Rhyne and they have one daughter, Melody. (2) Charles Clinton, b. July 31, 1909, married Connie Scott. They have one daughter Patsy. Patsy married Athel Phillips and they have two children, Alisa, who married Ricky Pierce and Kevin, a student at Appalachian State University. (3) Ruth Irene, b. June 3, 1912 married Joe Mikeal. They had three daughters. Betty, single; Wilma who married James Fairchild and they have three boys — Jeffery, Mark, and Anthony; Shirley married Dean Brown. They have two boys, Mikeal and Eric. After the death of Dean, Shirley married Bill Johnston and they have a daughter Tonya. After the death of Joe Mikeal, Ruth married Ralston Triplett. They had four children. Roy Triplett married Pansy Bowman and they have two children, Dora Lee and Lynn. Roy is presently married to Shirley. Clay Triplett married Christine Kokot. They have one daughter, Darlene. Clay is now married to Lois Prime. They have a daughter Heather. Johnny Triplett was killed in Vietnam. Linda Triplett married James C. Morrison. They have two children — Kenneth and David.

(4) Ruby Lee, b. Aug. 2, 1913, married Joe Greer. Their son, Billy Joe married Ruth Reeves. They have three children — Clara Joe, who married Tommy Earp, had one son Thomas Stuart. Clara Joe is now married to Tommy Miller. Diane married Johnnie Childress. Charles is single. After the death of Joe Greer, Ruby married Clate Greer, now deceased. (5) Florence Vivian, b. April 15, 1915, married David Reddish. After his death, she married Hyman Hagopian. (6) Lucy Marie, b. Feb. 22, 1917, married Javan Byrd. They had a daughter Janet who was killed in an automobile accident. Later, Marie married Harris Brewer, now deceased. (7) Myrtle, b. April 20, 1918, is single and lives at the homeplace. (8) Edna Beatrice, b. Oct. 6, 1919, married Edd Hipps. They have two children — Dean, who married Lavitta with two children, Scotty and Tiffany, and Eleanor who married Edd Franklin, with two children, Paige and Ross. (9) Mattie Lou, b. Feb. 15, 1921, married Herbert Minton. They have four children: Herbert Jr., Virginia (single), Kenny who married Holly Wilkerson and had one child (Emily), and Barbara. (10) Fred Forrest, born Aug. 21, 1922, is

single. (11) James Robert, b. July 15, 1926, married Nancy Yates. They have three children: James Robert, Jr. (single); Gary, who married Candice Crosby (they have a daughter Laura); and Christal. James is presently married to Frances Lovette Hinshaw. (12) Edythe, b. April 10, 1928, married Richard Levine. They have a daughter, Stephanie. (13) John Lester, b. Jan. 30, 1929 married Helen Ford. They have three children — Clara Lee married John Ullrich and has one child, John Christopher; Ruby married Allen Perry; and John married Sheva Heff and has two children, Johnny, III and Tommy. (14) Albert Grayson, b. Oct. 18, 1933, married Velma Brown. They have three children: Nita who married Tex Simmons and has one child, Elizabeth; Tena who married Kurt Noel; and Timothy who is single.

Sources: Personal Knowledge.

— Mr. Clinton Eller

JOHN W. ELLER

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John W. Eller was born September 29, 1875, the son of Mary Ann Eller. On November 5, 1899 he married Cora Bell Kilby, born December 15, 1879, who was the daughter of John Jackson Kilby and Martha Jane McNeil Kilby. They lived their entire lives in Wilkes County at Millers Creek. They had ten children, Nellie, Albert, Dessie, Arlie, Belva, Conrad, Lawson, Eula Mae, Clara and Ernest. All the children were delivered by the same physician, Dr. J. M. Turner, who drove a horse and buggy for seven miles and some time had to spend the night before his mission was accomplished.

John had a farm, which the children mainly tended, while he ran a country store and also a livery stable and camp ground for travelers who could not make it into the Wilkesboro in one day.

In 1918 three of the family died of influenza only a few days apart. Many Dessie born January 18, 1904 died October 19, 1918; John, October 24, 1918, and Eula Mae born July 20, 1913, died November 8, 1918. It was an uncertain year, families dying all around. None were able to attend funerals, so memorials were held after the flu died down.

After John's death, Cora had a hard time raising and keeping the rest of the family together. She had pride and managed without asking for help. Work was not plentiful and most of her living was made on the farm. Cora had some very good years after she raised her family. On July 8, 1950 she died with cancer at the age of 71.

Conrad Manus born May 25, 1909, died in 1935. He joined the Navy in 1927 and was discharged in a year or so with tuberculosis. He came home for a short time, then decided to go to New Mexico for his health. He only lived a short time and never married.

Albert Vester born October 5, 1902, died July 2, 1968. He was married to Agnes Pearson, September 27, 1937. They had three children: Kenneth who married Nancy Rhodes; Catherine married Robert Anderson, Jr.; and Philip, who was killed in an automobile acci-

dent, September 25, 1968, the same year his father died.

Ernest born January 7, 1918, died August 10, 1977. He married Ila Church April 12, 1941. They had five children: Jack who married Shirley McNeil; Steve married Sandra Eller; Peggy married Jim Murry; Tony lives with his mother in North Wilkesboro and Neil, who died in a sleighing accident at the age of 13.

Five of the children are still living. Belva and Lawson, still live on the farm land in Millers Creek where the family was raised.

Nellie VeNora (Nell) born February 22, 1901, married Rufus Luther Hendren August 20, 1920. They had one daughter, Margaret Rebecca. On June 20, 1943, Nell married Thomas M. Green and now lives in Charlotte, N.C. Margaret married Carr L. Miller; they were divorced. She later married Cecil H. McEachin; now divorced.

James Arlie born January 15, 1906, married Theresa Beck, October 28, 1933. They had six children: James Arlie, Jr., who married Emma Ann Smith; Patricia, Rose married Walter Mason King; Andrew married Wynona Jones; Timothy and Anthony. Arlie joined the Navy at age 21 and remained there until he retired after 30 years of service. Norfolk, Virginia has been the family's home.

Belva Dean born August 9, 1907 was married May 8, 1927 to Nat K. Tolbert from Stokes County. They were married in High Point, N.C. and lived there several years. They came back to Wilkes County in 1936 and built a home on part of the Eller farm. They had four sons: Jimmy married Jamie Clark; Max married Linda Jean Hayes; William (Bill) married Alan Bumgarner, and Gary married Deborah Miller.

John Lawson born April 21, 1911, married Mary Hester Clark February 19, 1957, who is also from Wilkes County. They have two sons John and James. Both are living at home. Lawson built a home on the same spot where the first Eller home stood.

Clara Luxell, born June 13, 1915, married John R. Prevette of Wilkesboro September 3, 1966. They live in Charlotte, N.C.

Having grown up in a community where homes were so far apart, the Eller family was very close. Communication was very difficult because of the distance between families. Although the family is scattered, today the family is still close.

Sources: Family Bible, personal knowledge.

— Belva Tolbert

THOMAS GAITHER ELLER FAMILY

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Thomas Gaither Eller is a fifth generation descendant of George Michael Eller, who at the age of 20 arrived in America on the ship *St. Andrew* or *Pheonix* from Rotterdam in 1743. The descending family line developed through: (1) Peter and Elizabeth Dick Eller; (2) Peter, Jr. and Mary Ann Pennington Eller; (3) Nancy Eller; (4) James Madison and Eliza Camilla Roberson Eller; to (5) Thomas Gaither Eller.



Thomas Gaither and Martha Walsh Eller.

Gaither was the oldest of the seven children of James Madison and Eliza Camilla Eller. His brothers and sisters were: Sophia Elmira (1867-1953) married Thomas J. Walsh and lived in the State Road area of Wilkes County. William Hamilton (1870-1949) married Mirbie Lee Haire and lived in the Purlear community of Wilkes. Lloyd Eller (1872-1941) married Doshie Walsh and lived in the Beaver Creek area of Wilkes. They had no children and are buried in the German family cemetery. Malona V. (1876-1943) married John F. German and lived in the Beaver Creek area and buried in the German family cemetery. John was born 1878, married Nellie Jones and lived in Jonesville, N.C. Green More (1882-1974) married Martha Walsh, a sister of Lloyd's wife Doshie.

My grandfather, Gaither Eller, was born May 19, 1866 and died February 19, 1937. He was married on March 20, 1898 to Martha Ann Walsh, the daughter of Bennet Hall and Sarah Ann Melton Walsh. Gaither and Ann lived and farmed in Beaver Creek, Story Point in Alexander County, Butler, Virginia and returned to a Wilkes County farm of Mr. Sankie Steelman, where he died of pneumonia after thrashing out grain that had been covered with soil during a flood of the nearby Yadkin River. This farm was in the community known as *Adley*, in the area where the W. Kerr Scott Dam was built. The *Adley* post office, Methodist Church, *Adley* school and the house where Grandmother Eller sold candy and other treats to the community children are now gone. Gaither and Ann were blessed with eight children:

Sophia Camilla (1899-1964) married Jesse A. Walsh, who was a carpenter. They were active workers in the Goshen Baptist Church where he was a deacon and church clerk; they are buried in the church cemetery. Their children are William Warren, Annie Ruth W. Hori, Wade Terrill, Grace Edith W. Boyd, Helen Irene W. Spaulding, Fannie Faye W. Walker, Sophia

Pauline W. Kilby, Jesse Alonzo, Jr., Jerry Thomas, and Homer Calvin Walsh.

Sarah Arizona, born November 11, 1899, married Grover C. Johnson from Alexander County, N.C. They lived in Wilkesboro. Their children are Mildred J. Woodruff; Devola J. Walsh, Edward Johnson, Ernest Johnson and Marjorie J. Gerner.

Thomas Irving, born April 23, 1903, married Sally Severst and lives in Moravian Falls. Irving was a brick mason. Sally and Irving have been faithful workers in the Moravian Falls Baptist Church where he has been a deacon for many years. They have two sons, Thomas Irving, Jr. and Robert Calvin Eller.

Tempa Lucinda, born March 13, 1905, first married Robert DeGueere and second George Borland. She works as a beautician and lives in Elkton, Maryland. Tempa has a daughter, Roberta DeGueere Wallace.

Annie Evelyn, born December 1, 1906, married Thomas R. Goodson. She worked for a furniture company and Tom worked for the Southern Railroad. They live in Hickory, N.C.

Willard Rayvaughn, April 16, 1909 — June 8, 1978, was a brick mason. He married Gertrude Mae Johnson, his childhood sweetheart. Gertrude taught school for 36 years in Wilkes County. They lived in the Brown's Ford area west of Wilkesboro. They had a daughter Jewel Christine, wife of William Glenn Walker, and a grandson Glenn Rayvaughn Walker.

Lafayette Bennet "Fate," born November 15, 1911, served in the U.S. Army during World War II and later married Elmina Rocpe. They have a son, Kenneth Doyle, who married Judy Goode. Fate and his family live in Lenoir, N.C. where he worked as mechanic, drilled wells and sold office equipment.

Edgar Eugene Eller, born February 6, 1919 and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He also became a brick mason. Edgar is married to Marie Joines and they live in the

Goshen community of Wilkes. Their children are Danny, Dianne, Wayne and Michael Eller.

The three brothers — Irving, Willard, and Edgar — spent many hard working, but happy hours together as brick layers. Most of their work was in Wilkes County building schools, churches, business offices and many homes.

Sources: Wilkes County census, family memories, family Bible, grave markers, interviews with family members.

— Christine Eller Walker

W.H. and MERTIE HAIRE ELLER

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William Hamilton Eller, who was born 24 April 1870, was the son of James Madison (Matt) and Eliza Camilla Roberson Eller, daughter of David and Temperance Peasley Roberson.

William Hamilton Eller, better known by his friends as "Ham," was married 5 April 1896 to Mertie Lee Haire, daughter of James M. and Susan Walters Haire. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. W.H. Hamilton for whom William Hamilton Eller was named. James Mumford Haire, a Civil War veteran, was the son of Perry Haire who was killed during the Civil War. Susan Walters was the daughter of Lewis and Chloey Walters of Ashe County, N.C. It is believed that Chloey's family came to the United States from Holland.

"Ham" and Mertie Lee first lived on Beaver Creek near Ferguson, N.C. where their first two children, Phinas Hamilton and Katie Susan were born. They bought a large farm in the Purlear community from J.H. Johnson, sheriff of Wilkes County at that time, and they raised their family and lived out their lives on this farm.

To this union was born three more children: a son, William Walter, and two daughters, Maymie Camilla and Mertie Agnes Eller.

(1) Phinas Hamilton married Cecil Teague and they were the parents of Evelyn, Clarence, Tracy, Mertie Lee, and Georgia. (2) Katie Susan married J.F. Hayes. Their children were Hazel and Joan. (3) William Walter married Beatrice Parsons and they had one son, Billy. (4) Maymie married Robert Kerr and they had two sons, Robert, Jr. and Tommy. They live in Durham, N.C. (5) Mertie Agnes married J. Van Caudill and they had one son, John Alvan.

New Hope Baptist Church at Purlear and its functions was a big part of this family's life along with all sorts of games and activities that took place in the home. Their home was a place where the young people in the community liked to gather to sing, play and just have a good time.

Love and respect were taught in Ham and Mertie's home and it was known as a place where anyone needing help, a place to stay or food to eat was welcome.

The people of Purlear began to see a need for another church in their settlement. The community was growing and it was a four mile walk to New Hope Baptist Church (walking was the only way most people had to travel). Ham along with many of the neighbors gave materials, money, time and labor and in 1932 the Purlear Baptist Church came into being. Ham, Mertie, and some of their children were among the charter members of this new church.

Ham died 2 October 1949 and Mertie Lee followed him in death 1 August 1952. They are buried in the cemetery at Purlear Baptist Church.

Sources: Family Bible and personal knowledge.

— Agnes E. Caudill

WAYNE VANNOY ELLER

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Wayne Vannoy Eller, born November 24, 1904, was the youngest child of Dr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson Eller of Ready Branch, N.C. He attended Mountain View School, Appalachian Training school and N.C. State College, class of 1928. He worked for Reynolds Tobacco Company for thirty-three years beginning in 1931, as a salesman in Bluefield, West Virginia. In 1936, he became division manager in Evansville, Indiana. From 1941 to 1943 he was assistant department manager of the Winston-Salem department and in 1943, he became departmental sales manager for New York City, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and part of Maryland and Ohio. He maintained offices in Philadelphia and New York.

In 1952 he returned to Winston-Salem to do general staff work and travelled throughout the United States for Reynolds. He became field sales coordinator for them in June of 1956 and continued working in that capacity until his death June 23, 1964.

Wayne Eller was a member of the Masonic Order, Phi Pi Phi Fraternity, the Presbyterian Church, Oldtown Club in Winston-Salem, and was active in the Chamber of Commerce. His hobbies were sports, woodworking and gardening.

He was married to Julia Thelma Holland of Warsaw, N.C. on December 19, 1931. She was born October 30, 1908, the younger daughter of Gideon Gaines and Della Stroud Holland. She was an alumna of Peace College and East Carolina Teachers College and was an elementary school teacher at the time of her marriage. She was active in the Woman's Club, her church work and enjoyed music, bridge, gardening and antiques.

Wayne and Thelma Eller had two daughters: Elizabeth Ann Eller, born July 26, 1934, and Martha Eleanor Eller, born July 17, 1940.

Elizabeth (Libby) graduated from Duke University in 1956 and was married to Henry Madrey (Penny) Boone on December 27, 1955. He was born November 9, 1933, was a 1956 graduate of N.C. State College in industrial engineering. After a year of graduate training at the University of Michigan, he served for two years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Germany.

In 1959 following army service the Bookes returned to Winston-Salem, N.C. where Penny began work with Wachovia Bank in the area of data processing. In 1972 he joined the family firm of Boone and Company, where he has established a Defined Contributions Division of the pension service company.

Community affairs have been a major interest of the Bookes. Libby has served on the boards of several arts organizations and has been president of the children's Theatre Board and the Arts Council of Winston-Salem. She is also active in church, civic and school activities. The Bookes are members of the First Presbyterian Church, Old Town Club and the Twin City Club.

They have two children, Henry Madrey Boone, Jr., born November 2, 1963 and Martha Eller Boone, born May 13, 1966.

VIRGINIA VANNOY ELLER

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William Albert Forester served two years in the Civil War. At the end of the war, he returned to Wilkes County and married Sarah Virginia Forester, whom he had met before leaving to enlist in the army. Their children were: Fidel (F.D.), who married Geneva Adams; Dianne Addeline, who married William Allen Vannoy; Virgie Dean who married Eva Tulbert; Ida Isabell, who married Brevard Raymer; Floyd (Tom) Commodore, who married Line (Mamie) McLean; and Cora Alverde, who married Ben Colvard first. Ben Colvard married Cora Taylor second after Cora Alverde died.

Dianne Addeline Forester was born 22 May 1873, died 21 April 1923. She married William Allen Vannoy, who was born 4 April 1868 and died 21 March 1927, and had two children, Virginia Elizabeth and William Albert.

Virginia Elizabeth Vannoy was born 4 November 1903, married Isaac Milton Eller, Sr. on 6 January 1922. Isaac Milton was born 9 July 1900 and died 10 May 1941, the son of Osco Freeland and Amy Elvira McNeil Eller. Virginia's second marriage was to Zollie Osco Eller, brother to Isaac Milton, who was born 4 April 1895 and died 16 September 1960, after being a widow for nineteen years. Virginia is a good businesswoman as well as a devoted mother to her five sons. Both of her husbands were well known merchants.

Born to the union of Virginia Elizabeth Vannoy and Isaac Milton Eller, Sr. are the following: (1) Isaac Milton Eller, Jr. born 17 February 1923, married Frances Moezel Crawford 7 December 1940, daughter of James M. and Eula Burgess Crawford. They have two sons, James Milton and Thomas Latham. (2) Jack Vannoy Eller, born 15 May 1925, married Edna Bell Miller 10 June 1946, daughter of Rufus John and Stella Miller. (3) Mack Allen Eller, born 1 January 1928, married Vida Alice Joines 21 April 1945, daughter of Frank and Eva Joines. Their children are Michael Allen, Robin Camille, and Kelly Gray. (4) William Osco Eller, born 28 October 1929, married Nancy Sue Absher, 29 June 1948, daughter of O.O. and Della Rhodes Absher. They have two children, Nancy Claudia and William Absher. (5) Joe Thomas Eller, born 19 October 1931, married Carol Delores Wilson 3 June 1957, daughter of Floyd and Flossie Wilson. Their children are Dianne Carol and Glenn Thomas.

Sources: Vannoy and Eller Bibles.

— Darrell Eller Howell

Martha Eleanor Eller graduated from Duke University in 1962 and was married to Lewis Sterling Kunkel, Jr. of Harrisburg, Pa. on March 23, 1963. Lewis Kunkel was born July 4, 1937 and was a 1958 graduate of Princeton University and a 1961 University of Pennsylvania Law School graduate. He is a partner in the law firm of Pepper, Hamilton and Schutz of Philadelphia.

After living in Philadelphia for several years they moved to Harrisburg in 1969 when Lewis opened a branch office for the firm in the state capitol.

The Kunkels are very active in community affairs in the Harrisburg area. Martha has worked with the regional council of the Governor's Justice Commission, the Junior League, the Y.W.C.A. and the Family and Children's Service. Lewis has been chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Harrisburg Academy, and serves on the Harrisburg Hospital Board and other professional organizations.

The Kunkels have three children: Lewis Sterling Kunkel III, born October 14, 1964, Lucy Forsythe Kunkel, born October 1, 1966, and Elizabeth Holland Kunkel, born November 30, 1967. The family belongs to the St. Stephens Episcopal Church, and they live in an old restored farmhouse in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Sources: Eller history, personal letters, and clippings, personal knowledge.

— C.B. Eller
and Libby Eller Booke

ZOLLIE OSCO ELLER

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Zollie Osco Eller (1895-1960), a descendant of George Michael Eller, was the first son of Osco Freeland Eller (1874-1939), grandson of Jacob Eller.



Zollie Osco Eller and Ella Vetra Pierce Eller.

Zollie Osco Eller married Ella Vetra Pierce (1892-1958) 24 December 1914. Their material worth consisted of one good wagon and a pair of mules named France and Maude; cash asset of \$60.00. They started housekeeping in a one room log cabin near Millers Creek. Their only child was born 7 February 1916, and was named Vetra Dare. Being the only able bodied man to work the farm, my daddy was excused by the draft board as World War I was in full swing. When cold weather came, he went to the coal fields of West Virginia to make extra money. After three weeks of digging coal, he became home sick for his wife and baby, so he returned to the farm. In 1920, the three of us moved to North Wilkesboro. My mother was a good cook, seamstress, civic worker and dedicated to church work. Daddy drove an oil truck for several years, later owned and operated a grocery store and hatchery. One of his hobbies

was taking his beagles out to hunt rabbits when he came in from work. He and Mother also enjoyed traveling.

My grandmother, Amy Elvira McNeil Eller was the daughter of Thomas Winslow McNeil (1836-1886) and Martha Jane Nichols (1841-1880). Thomas Winslow McNeil, who lived on Fish Dam Creek, was the son of George McNeil (1802-1878) and Susanna Vannoy (1804-1880). George McNeil was a son of James McNeil (1773-1850) and Mary Shepherd (1773-1850). All the above born or died in Wilkes County near Millers Creek, Reddies River and Purlear townships.

James McNeil was one of nine children born to Rev. George McNeil, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1720. He and his brothers, Thomas and John, came to America. He was married to Mary Coats in Virginia. After coming into North Carolina, he settled on the north



Front Row, Zollie Osco Eller, Isaac Milton Eller and Novella Jane Eller. Back Row, Osco Freeland Eller, Amy Elvira McNeil Eller, Jacob M. Eller, Elizabeth Jane Church Eller.

fork of Lewis Fork Creek. He was educated in the Presbyterian ministry in Scotland, but soon after his arrival in America, he was ordained as a Baptist minister so that he might reach more people. He marched with the forces of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland as their Chaplain. He was one of the organizers of the Yaddick Baptist Association in 1786 and served for many years. He served in the Battle of King's Mountain under Colo. Cleveland during the Revolutionary War. This battle is said to be the turning point of the war.

Rev. McNeil died 7 June 1805 and is buried in Stoney Hill cemetery near Parsonsville. A marker was placed at his grave in June 7, 1905 by his descendants. The committee included the names of brethren Milton McNeil, Irvin McNeil, Oliver McNeil, J.M. Eller and George W. Welch.

Sources: The McNeil Clan by J.J. Hayes, Family Bible, George Michael Eller and his Descendants in America, by Hook.

—Dare Eller Howell

ELROD and MIKEAL

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Adam Elrod was born July 20, 1786, married 9 April 1805 in Wilkes County, N.C. to Nancy Phillips, born August 3, 1788. They lived in the Summit area of the county. They had the following children: (1) Elizabeth born March 11, 1807 (2) Sally born December 20, 1808 (3) Conrad born November 30, 1810 (4) Selah born December 7, 1812 (5) Rebecca born November 27, 1814 (6) Ezra born July 16, 1816, died December 24, 1818. (7) Calloway born March 3, 1818 (8) Hiram born November 10, 1820 (9) Polly born April 7, 1823 (10) Rachel born August 9, 1825. (11) Ally born August 2, 1827 (12) Nancy born August 10, 1829. Adam died February 19, 1875 and Nancy died October 17, 1879.

Selah Elrod, daughter of Adam and Nancy, was born December 7, 1812, died December 21, 1897. She married (March 5, 1840) David Mikeal born February 3, 1818, died May 15, 1905. They are buried at the Mikeal Cemetery at Fall Creek. They had the following children: (1) Ally B. born January 30, 1841 married October 14, 1864 Triplett Hamby. (2) Alexander born September 17, 1842, married A.J. Phillips May 20, 1859. (3) Asa L. born January 1, 1845, married Sarey E. Brown, born September 14, 1843. (4) Rhoda born February 5, 1847, married George Finley Blackburn, born December 26, 1847. (5) Eliza born January 16, 1849, married William M. Lee, born March 6, 1847. (6) Reed, born February 28, 1851 (7) Olive born March 16, 1853 (8) Willborn B. born September 10, 1855.

Olive Mikeal, daughter of David and Selah, married Shadrack Greer Baker, December 1, 1870. He was born November 30, 1845. They had the following children: (1) Laura E. born September 25, 1871 (2) David E. born May 25, 1873 (3) Thursa Mabilda born March 26, 1875 (4) William Henry born November 25, 1878 (5) Rhoda Alzora born December 28, 1880 (6) Selah Jane born July 10, 1883 (7) James Asa born June 12, 1885 (8) Granville Maxwell born

May 16, 1887 (9) Milton Greenwood born October 11, 1890.

Willborn B. Mikeal, son of David and Selah, was born September 10, 1855, married January 6, 1881 to Martha C. Phillips, daughter of Fannie Caroline and Hugh Phillips. Martha was born October 20, 1862, died January 22, 1955. Willborn died October 7, 1939. Both are buried at Yellow Hill Church Cemetery, Summit, N.C. They had the following children: (1) Ermit W. born January 21, 1882, died March 13, 1882. (2) Enoch Reeves, born February 10, 1883, died June 19, 1956, married Winnie Mae Church. (3) Noah Cleveland born April 1, 1885 (4) Fannie Caroline born March 1887 (5) Eliza Elizabeth born November 5, 1890 (6) William Daniel born April 19, 1895, died May 4, 1895 (7) Cicero Call born February 4, 1899.

Enoch Reeves Mikeal married March 26, 1905, Winnie Mae Church, who was born May 22, 1890, daughter of Harrison and Catherine Church. They had the following children: (1) Loy Martha Catherine born March 27, 1907, married Bledsoe Blackburn. (2) L.E. born March 1, 1908, died May 25, 1959, married Linda Rosser. (3) Scott Tillman born June 17, 1909 married Laura Leo Hung (4) Belle Boyd born August 2, 1911, married Charles Stansbury first and married second Fred Simmons. (5) Fannie Pearl born July 18, 1916, married Lonnie H. Parker (6) Ruth M. born February 16, 1918, married Vernal E. Lawrence (7) Asa Burton born February 18, 1920, married Annette B. McRorie (8) Enoch Reeves, Jr. born August 22, 1922, married Lucille Hauk (9) John Willborn born May 19, 1924, married Betty Jo Turner (10) Coy B. born September 23, 1925, married Alice Powers (11) Betty Nell born May 9, 1930, married first, David Knight and second Carroll Byrd (12) Max born February 3, 1933, married Julia Ann Phillips.

Sources: Bible of Adam Elrod.

—Linda R. Russell

ESTES (EASTES)

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Jacob Estep is the first of the clan in Wilkes County. He was born ca 1794 in Rowan County. His first appearance in the county was approximately 1816 with his father-in-law, Sterling Moore. The land purchased by Sterling Moore was conveyed 15th November 1826 to Jacob Estep. The land was described as lying on the Brushy Mountains adjoining Shadrack Standley and others. This property continued to be the residence for many years.

Jacob Estep and Nancy Moore were married Jan. 3, 1816, in Rowan County. He and Nancy has issue as follows: Elizabeth, born 4-5-1823, died 8-27-1895, married James H. Hayes, son of Henry and Frances Johnson Hayes; Harden, born 2-21-1834, died 7-1-1863, married Louise Malissa Ball, daughter of John Wesley and Ary Melvin Stanley Ball; William M., born Sept. 25, 1816; Reuben, born ca 1831; Polly, born ca 1836; Doctor Calloway, born 2-11-1840, died 12-3-1872, married Amanda Duncan daughter of John and Rebecca Duncan.

Doctor Calloway Estep married Amanda

Duncan on the 23rd day of February 1858 in Wilkes County. Their issue is as follows: David Brian, born 3-12-1871, died 6-9-1917, married Sarah Jeanette (Nettie) Marlow; Eliza Jones, born 10-25-1868, married Dora Lucinda Reavis; James Haywood, born 1-26-1863, died 11-15-1940, married Mary Moore; Ruah J., born 2-27-1867, married Jay Hayes; William, born 1859, died as a very young child; George, born 4-27-1861 died 10-12-1887, after a fall from a train, never married; John, born 6-4-1860.

Doctor Calloway was in the Civil War and was held as a prisoner of war for some time. He contracted tuberculosis while in the prisoner of war camp. Family tradition has it that three Union soldiers were killed by family members, due to the treatment of Doctor and their looking as they came through Wilkes County.

David Brian, son of Doctor Calloway and Amanda Estep, was born 12th day of March 1871 and married Sara Jeanette (Nettie) Marlow, daughter of Lafayette and Rena Hayes Marlow, on the 25th day of August, 1893. Their issue were as follows: Dorothy Mae, born 5-4-1894 died 4-10-1950, married William Regulus (Bill) Reavis; Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie), born 11-9-1895, never married; Frank D., born 2-8-1908, married Virgie Smith; Ruie Virgie, born 2-12-1900, married Alonzo Anderson; Julia Lucinda, born 5-11-1910, married Ed Johnson; Leora Amanda, born 9-27-1903 died 10-1-1950; Charity Rene, born 8-24-1894 died 4-6-1908; Iva Jeanette, born 5-1-1905, died 8-14-1969, married Edmund Anderson; Claude Roosevelt, born 4-30-1913, died 1-27-1945 during World War II and never married; Blaine Calloway, born 12-13-1915, died 4-4-1946 during World War II and never married.

Even though the family has spread into other counties, a number of the descendants of Jacob Estep still live in the Brushy Mountains and still own land that was previously owned by Jacob. The old family cemetery, Duncan-Estep, is located on Wildcat Road in a pasture and is in very bad condition at the present time.

Source: Personal knowledge.

—Betty Jean M. Baity

JACOB ESTEP FAMILY

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The first Estep to settle in Wilkes County was Jacob who arrived about 1816 on Hunting Creek. Jacob was born 1792. On 3 Jan. 1816 he married Nancy Moore, daughter of Sterling and Elizabeth Moore of Rowan County. On 15 Oct. 1826, Jacob and Nancy purchased the Brushy Mountain holdings of her father, consisting of 200 acres on Crane's Creek. They lived at this place until Jacob died 23 June 1869.

Because of his slight stature, Jacob was known as "Little Jackie." In contrast, Nancy grew to a large size, and in later life was said to have weighed almost 300 pounds. After the death of Jacob, Nancy moved to Ashe Co. to make her home with a daughter Rhoda Jane Chappel, wife of William. Nancy died in the