

# A DNA Connection to Ellers Now In Germany

*By Tom Eller & Harvey Powers*

We now have a DNA connection between Eller families in the United States and an Eller family in Germany.

In August 2015, Eller Association members Lauren (Eller) and Dan Liggett (Houston, TX), Ed Eller (Dalton, GA) and Anna (Eller) Bliss (Mesa, AZ) made a trip to parts of Germany where we believe the ancestors of some of the Ellers in America originated.



*Mayor Hans-Joachim Eller takes his DNA test.*

While there, they visited the town of Eimsheim finding at least 14 Ellers in the town cemetery. They also found the Mayor was an Eller. Mayor Hans-Joachim Eller met with our group and agreed to take a DNA test to see if there is a connection. There is!

A history of Eimsheim that Mayor Eller put together as part of his mayoral duties revealed several Ellers as mayor of Eimsheim over the years. Among them were Paul Eller (1680-1707), his son Christian Eller (1707-?), Johann Friedrich Eller (1753-?) and more recently Georg Eller II (1946-1964).

The DNA test results show a connection between Mayor Hans-Joachim Eller and five members of the Eller Family Association who have also taken a DNA test.

The closest connection is with James Maurice Eller, of Florida, with a genetic distance of four. The Genetic Distance number reflects the number of mutations of the DNA between the subject (in this case Hans Joachim Eller) and the “match person” (the other people who showed up as matches). The smaller the number the closer the match.

The coordinator of the Eller Family Association's DNA project, Thomas J. Eller, says It is particularly interesting to note that when James Maurice Eller first did his DNA test, he matched with Walton Glenn Eller of Fort Worth, TX, who traces his lineage to John Jacob Eller who is descended from the first Ellers to come to the USA in the mid-1700s.

However, James Maurice Eller's ancestors did not come to the US until the mid-1800s. Later it was determined that the five Eller men who came to the US in the mid-1700s left behind in Germany their youngest brother.

We believe James Maurice Eller is descended from that brother. So his match with Walton Glenn Eller has a genetic distance of 4. The later emigration from Germany likely accounts for the closer match between Mayor Hans Joachim Eller and James Maurice Eller.

There were also genetic connections with: John Woodley Eller of California (a generic distance of 5; and from the Christian Eller line), Kathryn Eller Barton's father (a genetic distance of 5, and from the Alexander Eller line from the 1800's) and from John Eller, of Rockwell, NC (a genetic distance of 5 and from the John Jacob Eller line).

And there was a connection with Walton Glenn Eller of Fort Worth, TX (a genetic distance of 6 and from the John Jacob Eller line).

To learn more about the Eller DNA testing, visit our website at:  
<https://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/eller/index.html>