

## A Visit to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill, Pennsylvania

*By J. Gerald Eller, February 1996*

This past October Juanita made a genealogical expedition through Virginia into Pennsylvania. The trip was really a pilgrimage to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, in Red Hill, Pennsylvania, the place where my immigrant ancestor, Jacob Eller, Sr., was married. We wished to see the one place in Pennsylvania where we knew he had been at one time. We also wanted to compare the published record of his marriage against the original which we knew to be among the church's records. We confirmed his marriage record as published matched the actual translated church record, which simply states, "Jacob Eller, son of Casper Eller, born in the Palatinate, m. 11 Dec 1753, Maria Eva Goettge, daughter of Hannes Goettge, born in Zweybrucken."

We hoped that more information might be found, but this was the only statement recorded for him. We have yet to receive a copy of the original record which was written in German. It was interesting to see so many early records of early Germans, but our greatest thrill was seeing the actual communion set and table that were in the old log church at the time of Jacob's wedding.

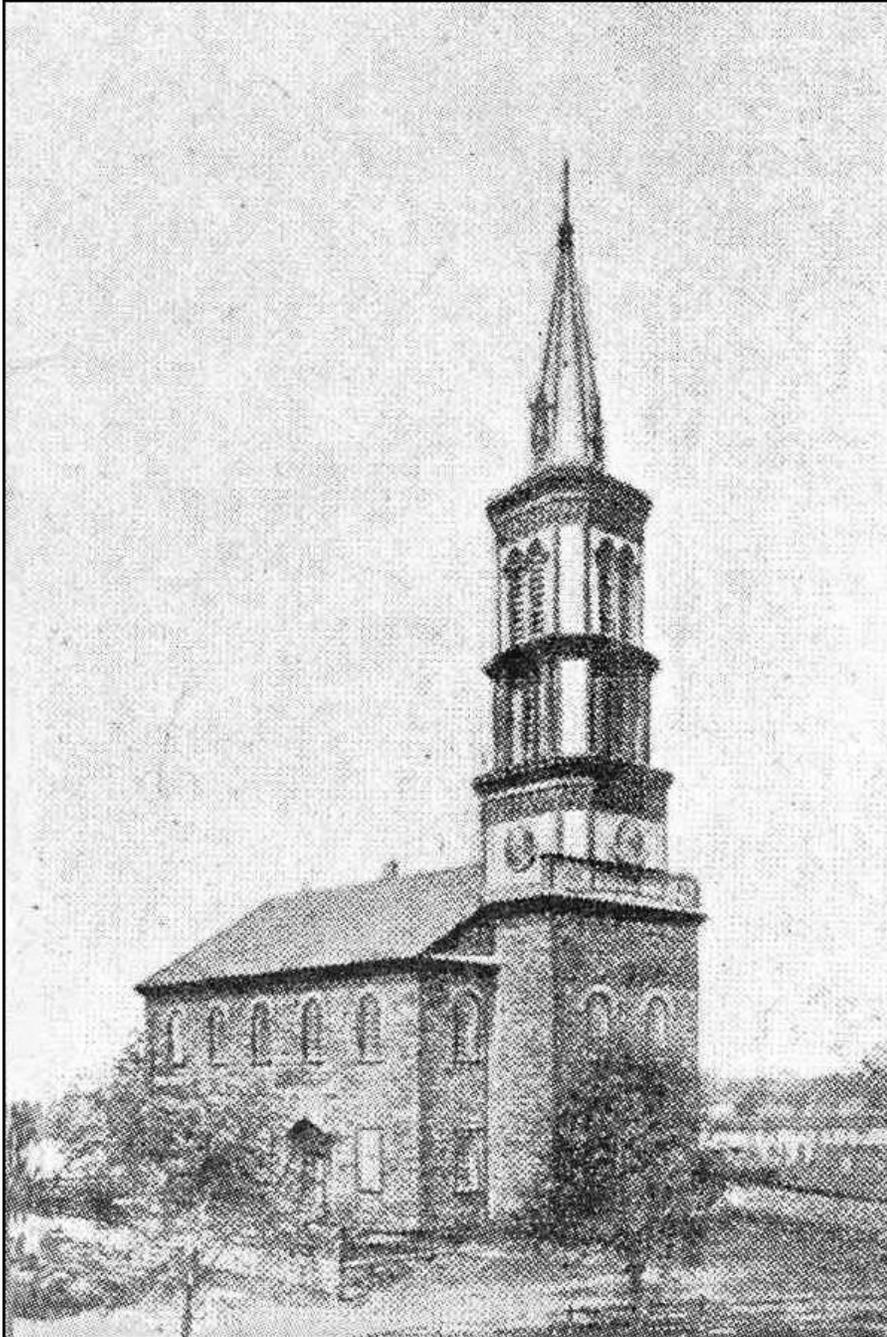


As indicated in the following documents, the original log church has been replaced, but some of the logs are still in existence. The magnificent church of today stands on the same site as the original. Much of the large church yard is filled with early headstones inscribed in German. The following pictures, excerpts, and maps provide additional information about the church and the area where many German settlers who later came to Rowan Co., NC, first settled.

The first church building of which we have record, was a log building which served as a schoolhouse and church. Records do not reveal where the parochial school and church was located, prior to the building of the log church, but it is quite possible that a portion of the present sexton's house predates the first church building, with school and church activities conducted therein. The first church, a log church, was

built in 1750 ... this church stood until 1803, when the congregation resolved to build a new stone church (below).

The old church was torn down and sold, and the purchaser used the best logs in the erection of a house. (Incidentally, this house is still standing in Bucks County and is the property of the Ondra family.) Kine, Raymond A., *The Past and Present of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill, Pennsylvania (1739-1970)*, Ch. 3, p. 39.



Old St. Paul's Church – Built 1803 – Courtesy of Historical Society of Montgomery County, PA



ORIGINAL COMMUNION TABLE AND SET AND  
FIRST RECORD BOOK STARTING 1739.

MARRIAGES

St. Paul's  
Red Hill  
Census  
Books

Fifteen early marriages are found scattered among early baptisms. In the first church record book, after the baptisms is a list of marriages from 1752 to 1774, with many intervals during which none were recorded.

Year 1739

May 15 Christian Møller and Margrotha Nist  
Aug. 14 Michael Knappenberger, widower, and Catharina Heilig  
Aug. 21 Dieterich Baumann and Eva Elisabetha Weil(in)

1740

May 13 Adam Krammes and Gertraut Haspel, widow of Ludwig Haspel

1741

Jan. 18 Martin Conrad and Maria Barbera . . .  
Mar. 30 Johann Peter May, widower, and Juliana Mack, dau. of Jacob Mack  
July 6 Jacob Kürz and Anna Zimmerman, widow of Michael Zimmerman

1742

Jan. 5 Georg Zimmerman and Anna Catharina Seidel  
Jan. 12 Michel Fabian, widower, and Anna Catharina Eisenmann  
Feb. 16 Bernhard Lotz and Wilhelmina Margroth. . .  
Mar. 2 Wilhelm Jansz and Regina Antes  
Mar. 23 Michael Riess, widower, and Anna Elisabeth Brucher  
June 7 Georg Schwalz, widower and Catharina Barbara Bernhardt, widow of Herrich Bernhardt

1743

Mar. 13 Paul Broner and Anna Gertraud Schmoll

1745

July 5 Conrad Holtz, widower and Regina Christina Hartmann, widow  
Witnesses - J.J.J. Birckenstock, Christian Schnyder, Mathes  
Walter and Georg Heilig

1752

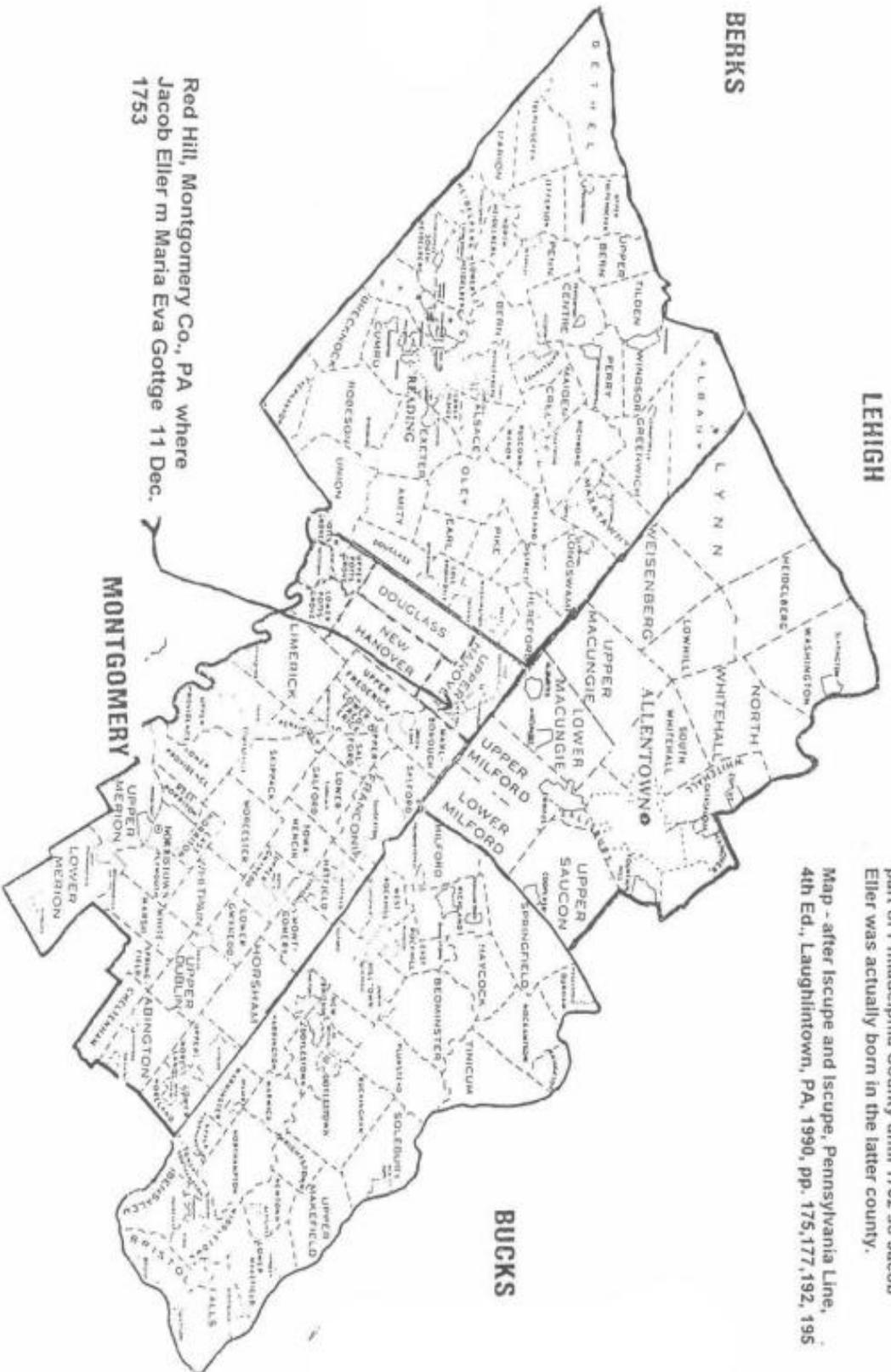
Apr. 19 Christian Bus and Anna Margaretha Allesin, widow  
June 23 Johan Wilhelm Siefert, of Tulpehocken, and Maria Elisabeth Franck

1753

. . .  
June 26 Herman Stump, widower and Philippina Elisabeth Finder of Indianfield  
Aug. 28 Michael Rothermel and Catharina Weiss  
Johan Jacob Schiefer, son of Hans Jurg Schiefer, born near Heidelberg in the Palatinate, and Anna Maria Charlotta Harte, dau. of Hans Nicol Harte of Great Swamp  
Oct. 10 Michel Kabel, 2nd son of Michel Kabel of New Goshenhoppen, and Margaretha Elisabetha Ruth, dau. of Nicholas Ruth, redemptor with Hans Dietr. Bauman, born in Jürgen Hausen, Darstadt, married in Bauman's house. N.B. This was prevented (since the groom committed adultery with his sister - his mother's 2nd daughter) until the matter was settled.

Nov. 19 Hans Jörg Reichert, born near Bisweiler, Alsace, and Eva Salze Aron, dau. of Johan Aron of New Goshenhoppen

\* Dec. 11 Jacob Eller, son of Casper Eller, born in the Palatinate, and Maria Eva Goettge, dau. of Hannes Goettge, born in Zwickbrücken



Note: Each of the four counties are subdivided into Townships. Montgomery County was a part of Philadelphia County until 1782 so Jacob Eller was actually born in the latter county.

Map - after Iscupe and Iscupe, Pennsylvania Line, 4th Ed., Lehigh Valley, PA, 1990, pp. 175, 177, 192, 195

Red Hill, Montgomery Co., PA where  
 Jacob Eller m Maria Eva Gottge 11 Dec.  
 1753