



# THE ELLER CHRONICLES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ELLER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Volume XIX, Issue 2

May 2005

## *Eller Family Association*

### *Ninth Biennial Conference*

*July 20-24, 2005 - Winston Salem, North Carolina*

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You may submit material for publication in *The Eller Chronicles* as follows:

Email to [judy.eller@eller.org](mailto:judy.eller@eller.org) OR mail to Judy Eller, 64 Long Lane, Kirkwood, PA 17536.

If you are submitting photographs, please scan in JPEG format and copy to a 3.5" diskette, ZIP disk or CD. Most Kodak developers can perform this service if you do not have a computer. If you prefer, you may submit photo quality copies; however, they will not be returned.

Plans are well under way and our dates are nearing for the Ninth Biennial Conference. Some of you have asked about specific airports; that information is on the website. We do realize that not everyone uses a computer, so we hope the following information is helpful. Also, feel free to call us if you need extra help.

There are three airports you can fly into; the closest is the Piedmont Triad which serves Greensboro, High Point and Winston Salem and is located approximately 32 miles east of Winston Salem. Charlotte Douglas airport is approximately 82 miles away and many of you probably used that airport when you attended the Salisbury conference. Raleigh-Durham airport is also about 82 miles away. There's heavy traffic in all directions during the peak travel hours.

Raleigh is the capitol of North Carolina and the Archives are located there.

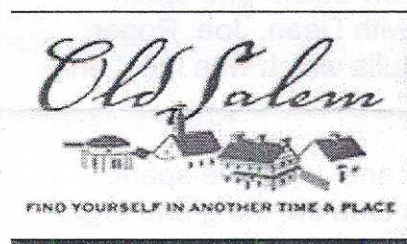
Our day trip in Old Salem is a walking tour on sidewalks of brick, which are somewhat uneven. We will try to keep our van close by for anyone

that needs a lift.

I am providing some websites for those of you who may want to extend your stay or come early for sightseeing. There is much to do in the area, depending on your interests. Our library has a North Carolina room that some might want to visit for research. There are also many vineyards in the area, and we are not far from the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina.

Some of the websites you may want to visit are: [www.visitwinstonsalem.com](http://www.visitwinstonsalem.com); [www.biltmore.com](http://www.biltmore.com); [www.childressvineyards.com](http://www.childressvineyards.com); [www.oldsalem.org](http://www.oldsalem.org). When visiting [www.visitwinstonsalem.com](http://www.visitwinstonsalem.com), click on "Links, links, and more links!!" which will give you many options to choose from.

[daleearnhardtinc.com](http://daleearnhardtinc.com)), Richard Childress Racing ([www.rcrracing.com](http://www.rcrracing.com)) and Dale Jarrett Store in Hickory are just a few.



We want to say a special thanks to our President Paula Eller, and our Secretary/Treasurer Roger Eller and their spouses who have spent much time and travel in assisting us with plans for this meeting.

Hope to see you in July!

Joe & Dean

\*\*\*

Due to our oversight there were no children's prices on our previous registration forms. We do apologize and the form in this issue of the *Chronicles* has those prices added.

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For the racing fans, North Carolina is NASCAR country. There are several attractions within driving distance. Dale Earnhardt Inc ([www.dalearnhardtinc.com](http://www.dalearnhardtinc.com)).



## EFA POLO SHIRTS

Here is the embroidered version of the Eller Crest. It is approximately 3.1" x 3.3" and will appear on the left chest side of the shirt. These are the actual thread colors as well. I think with this being a summer reunion and with the humidity you will want these on the White or Ash (grey) t-shirts. But the design looks really nice on the navy or black shirts as well. Ben please put these up on the website as soon as you can. I have enclosed pictures of the four shirt colors available. And if Judy has another edition of the Chronicles going out it can go in there as well.

**This is a Stedman by Hanes Cotton Jersey Sportshirt – \$23.99 per shirt with embroidery**

6.1 ounce 100% cotton jersey. Welt collar, hemmed sleeves. Two-button clean-finished placket.



**Available Sizes: S-4XL**

**Available Colors:** White, Ash (Grey), Black, Navy (Also available in Red & Royal but it doesn't look as nice)

**Words are optional: EFA Winston-Salem 2005**

**Your names embroidered on it is optional as well.=\$2.00 extra**

To order please email me at:

stacie@blankiebundles.com with size, color, if you want the "EFA Winston-Salem 2005" words or not and if you want your name embroidered or not. I can take American Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa, or checks payable to "Blankie Bundles." Mail Orders can be sent to:

Blankie Bundles, Attn: Stacie Dahl, 7541 Shady Glen Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Phone orders to 714-642-6633 (Southern California).

If you would like me to call you I would be happy to do that so you don't have to pay the long distance charges. Just tell me the time that would be best to call you.

P.S.-Cut off to order this is 2 weeks before you need them. i. e. if I am leaving 3 days before the reunion for travel then allow for that to get to your house to pack them in your suitcase.





## *The Eller Family Association*

### *Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, April 3, 2005*

Pursuant to a called meeting by President Paula Eller, the Board met Sunday evening, April 3, 2005 at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time by telephone conference hookup.

Present were President Paula Eller, Vice President Devon Dahl, Secretary-Treasurer Roger Eller, Directors Eric Eller, Kent Eller, Van Eller, Gene Ellison and Sue Koenig. Also present were Ben Eller, Web Master, and Joe and Dean Eller, 2005 Conference Coordinators.

Paula thanked all those on the call for being present for the meeting. She noted that there were several topics or issues that she wanted to discuss. First, she asked Ben what is the latest date to submit material to Judy for publication in the May issue of the *Eller Chronicles*. Ben said that April 30 is set as the deadline, which gives Judy about a week to organize and compile data submitted and send it to the printer. Roger suggested that we mail this issue of the newsletter first class rather than bulk mail because of the two to three weeks of time it seems to take for the postal service to deliver via bulk mail. He noted that the additional cost should not be very much. Discussion ensued regarding the eventual delivery of the newsletter

via email. Ben stated that he will endeavor to establish a membership "log-in website" which will be protected and limited to members.

Paula asked Joe and Dean to review the conference itinerary. They related the schedule of events from Wednesday afternoon registration (July 20), meeting of the membership and board on Thursday, as well as planned speakers, Friday's visit to Old Salem, and on Saturday the genealogy instructional workshops, the evening banquet and musical group "The Tar Heel Travelers". Paula commended Joe and Dean for their hard work putting together an excellent conference for the membership.

The next subject for discussion was to hear reports regarding potential sites for the 2007 conference. Van said that he and Betty have obtained information about the Indianapolis area; and Gene stated that he, Gloria, and the Woods have information about the Savannah area. Both Van and Gene plan to make presentations at the 2005 conference.

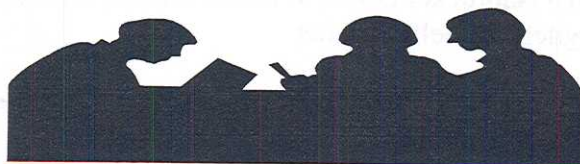
Paula said that the Association has two awards that are usually pre-

sented at the biennial meetings; the James W. Hook Memorial Award for distinguished service for research and preservation of Eller family heritage, and the Eller Family Association Award to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the Association. Paula has asked Lynn Eller to chair the awards presentations at 2005 conference. She suggested that anyone having a recommendation should call her or Lynn.

Joe Eller indicated that the meeting room for the genealogy workshops planned for Saturday July 23 will cost \$150 and that this cost was not considered or included in the registration fees. He asked that the Board approve this expenditure. Motion was made, seconded and passed that the \$150 charge for the meeting room be authorized.

We were reminded to mail our conference registrations to Joe & Dean, and to order the EFA polo shirts from Stacie Dahl.

Submitted by  
Roger Eller, Secretary





# Eller Family Association Conference 2005

## July 20-24 2005

!!!Continental Breakfast each day 6:00 to 9:30 a.m.!!!

### Wednesday, July 20

- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Early Registration - Hospitality Room 302  
6:15 p.m. Dinner on your own - Bayberry Restaurant on site

### Thursday, July 21

- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Registration in Poplar Room  
9:00 - 10:45 a.m. Welcome, Board meeting, Ed Eller speaking on the John Jacob book and heritage  
10:45 - 11:00 a.m. Short walk to Winston Salem visitor center for greeting and reception  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Group Luncheon in Poplar Room  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Genealogy Speaker  
2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Richard Starbuck "*Moravian Archives*"  
3:00 - 4:15 p.m. Ben Eller "*Speaking about our Web site and family research*"  
Judy Eller "*Speaking about the Chronicles*"  
5:30 p.m. Dinner on your own  
K&W cafeteria/other restaurants to choose from/maps provided

### Friday, July 22

- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration Hospitality Room 302  
8:30 Depart for Old Salem Visitors Center  
9:00 Tour begins at Visitors Center  
11:30 Sharp- Lunch at Salem Tavern  
12:30 Resume Old Salem tour at your leisure  
5:45 Leave hotel for dinner at Little Richard's Lexington style Barbecue or  
dinner on your own maps will be provided.

### Saturday, July 23

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration Hospitality Room 302  
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Lynn E. Croasmun "*Eller's in Smyth County, Virginia*"  
9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Biennial Membership Meeting  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Devon Dahl "*Eller Family Research Efforts and Results*"  
11:00 a.m. - 12N Introduction to "*A Gift to Family History*"  
(Three ring binders & inserts provided-cost of \$5.00 each)  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Interactive training session  
"*Preparing & researching your personal gift of family history*"  
5:15 - 6:00 p.m. Photo Session (No Professional Photographer)  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Banquet, Awards  
8:00 - 9:30 p.m. Entertainment - *Tarheel Travelers*

### Sunday, July 24 Continental breakfast & farewell!

**\*\*If you need help finding a church see Dean or Joe\*\***

Anyone wishing to attend our Baptist Church we will be leaving the parking lot at 10:00 a.m.



## Genealogy Exchange (continued)

printed over ten years ago. I have added a very few links to corrections, but additional information should probably be printed in the chronicles directly.

Contact the Editor of The Eller Chronicles, I found it before on this page:

<http://www.eller.org/> but it is sure hidden. -- Oh, there it is, under Member Access sites, The Eller Chronicles.

Judy L. Eller, Senior Editor  
George C. Eller III, Assistant Editor

Benjamin L. Eller, Jr., Chronicles DocMaster

Alfred D. Eller, Asst. Chronicles DocMaster

[judy.eller@eller.org](mailto:judy.eller@eller.org)

HMMM! I wonder how I got to be the asst. Chronicles DocMaster, and what on earth are my duties? Weil I

suppose I had better check it out, in the mean time, you can send me whatever you have, I will try to arrange it for publication. If they don't like it, I may just have to tender my resignation, today is the first I knew anything about this DocMaster post.

Is the line I noted above the correct one? I would sure hate to get two Nannie Millers mixed up.

Alfred D. Eller

Alfred D, Eller  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~adelr/>  
----- Original Message -----

**From:** Martin Thomas-WLTM07

**To:** 'adeller@santel.net'

**Sent:** Thursday, May 05, 2005 10:56 AM

**Subject:** Family Tree

<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~adelr/aug94se/d296.htm#P296>

I can fill in much info below Nannie (Nancy Ann) Miller, as she was my great grandmother if you are interested.

Thanks!  
Thomas Martin





# A Gift of Family History (continued)

3. Backup disks and CD Rom Read-write capability if available.

4. If you have access to dial-up only internet connection, make sure you have your internet software loaded to enable you dial up access to your internet provider in your room—should you need to download the various software programs before or after the workshop session. Search out a local number for Winston-Salem that your internet provider can provide, so you aren't using long distance phone lines.

5. Do some preliminary research to obtain as much of the following information as possible:

**A.** Yours and your spouses vital statistics (i.e. legal spelling of name, date of birth, marriage date and place, christening date & place, baptismal date and place.

**B.** Vital Statistics on second marriages, past marriages, divorce dates, death dates, children-and their children.

**C.** Vital statistics on your children and their spouses including your grandchildren.

**D.** Vital statistics on your parents and siblings (including death dates, burial dates, place of burial, etc.).

**E.** Vital statistics on your maternal and paternal grandparents and their siblings if available.

**F.** Vital statistics on your maternal and paternal great-grandparents and siblings if available. (Maternal means mothers side of the family—Paternal means fathers side.)

**G.** Vital statistics on any other direct line ancestors where available.

**H.** Histories written by yourself or other family members.

**I.** Family pictures, photos of posterity and ancestors, barns, farms, farm equipment which may be scanned and shared with others who might desire a copy.

**J.** Military discharge papers, photos, land descriptions, school pictures, pedigree

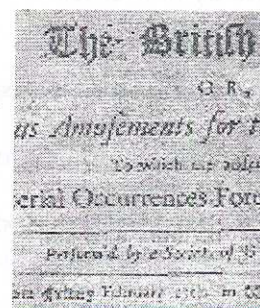
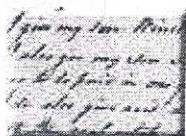
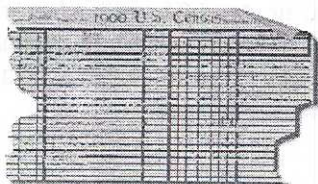
charts, and family group sheets.

These are just a few suggestions. You may have documents and data, which can prove invaluable to other Eller family members which you might wish to share.

Let's come together and participate a most meaningful workshop which is intended to stimulate and educate us, so we might develop our own set of Eller family "scripts" which can be assembled then passed on to generations yet unborn. Looking forward to sharing together. If you have questions you may contact me at (714) 963-9797 or on the internet at [DahlEnt@Aol.com](mailto:DahlEnt@Aol.com).

Devon N. Dahl  
Vice President  
Research & Genealogy

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# Obituaries (continued)

## ANN HUFFINE

*Email Message from Dwight E. Eller, Tucson AZ (Eric's Dad):*

Hello, Relative; here is the obituary of Ann Huffine. She is on page 234 of "George Michael Eller (etc)". Jane, her sister, wrote the obituary. Their mother, Marjorie Rae Rollins Huffine, also is on page 234. Ann and Jane are 9th generation down from George Michael; Marjorie was 8th. Her mother, Mary Merle Eller, raised me for most of my youth. MME is on page 232. She and Mr. Rollins had four children. Ann's mother was the youngest; she died February 15, 1996, in Bozeman also.

What is so amazing to me right now, is that Jane telephoned me just now! ... It was just as I was starting this e-mail to you. She said that she was so happy that I intend be up there in Bozeman, Montana, for a week including Sunday May 1st when the Memorial for Ann will be held.

### *Obituary:*

Ann Huffine lost her battle against multiple myeloma on March 16, 2005.

She was born July 29, 1945 in Seattle, Washington to William and Marjorie Huffine. Her last days were spent at her home west of Bozeman on land owned by the Huffine's for over a century.

She spent her younger days on her folks' ranch at the mouth of Bridger Canyon, where she attended country school at Story Mill School. She was an honor student, editor of the yearbook, and graduated from Bozeman Senior High School in 1963.

At MSU, Ann was again an honor student and editor of the college yearbook. After college, she spent several years in West Yellowstone. The friends she made in West and the time she spent there remained some of her fondest memories.

A great storyteller with a great sense of humor, her stories of snowmobile racing, "hot potting" in the park, and other youthful frolics were some of her best. She had an infectious laugh and the ability to see humor in so many different situations. Such was her sense of humor that a casual encounter with her could become a hilarious experience.

Ann's years of 4-H interest with beef cattle served her well during her career; she was involved with the cattle industry at the national level. She was editor of the "Brangus Journal" and the "Register" all monthly national trade publications.

During her career in the cattle industry, she served at times as associate director of the Livestock Industry Institute, director of public relations for Brinks Brangus, Sisterdale, Texas and copy writer and production manager for The Outfit, an advertising agency in Arlington, Texas. In addition, Ann worked for the American Simmental Association.

She returned to Bozeman in 1991 and opened and managed Huffine's Restaurant for three

years. Ann spent many hours volunteering at the Pioneer Museum and the Museum of the Rockies. Her closest friends were very dear to her.

Ann's greatest talent, and she had many, was her artistic creativity. This gift was first publicly recognized when she began designing fiber art. Ann won the national fiber art show in Sante Fe, New Mexico with a jacket she created. Most recently, she developed her incredible talent for combining color and texture in the design and manufacture of jewelry.

In 2001, Ann was reacquainted with a college classmate, Jim Olson. The happiest years of Ann's life followed. Together Ann and Jim created and marketed beautiful jewelry.

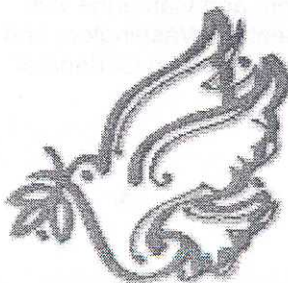
Ann Huffine is survived by her sister Jane Huffine of Bozeman and Seattle; her nephew, Scott Lund and his family (wife Debbie and daughters Maggie and Kyle) of Ronan, Montana; a long list of friends, and especially Barb Monahan; and the love of her life, her soul-mate and Guardian Angel, Jim Olson.

There will be no services. A celebration of Ann's life will be held May 1.

Contributions in memory of Ann may be made to Bozeman's Deaconess Hospice, Gallatin County Historical Society and Pioneer Museum or the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are under the care of Dakker-Nelson Funeral Service.

Bozeman Daily Chronicle,  
March 20, 2005.





# Obituaries (continued)

## HILDRED ELLER MILLSAPS (continued)

The Reverends Fred Lunsford, Jimmy Millsaps, Daniel Stewart, and Mickey Stewart officiated. Burial was at the Old Mother Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Graham County Rescue Squad.

According to a family story, she stood on the counter in the commissary as a five-year-old and sang for the customers. Hildred grew up on Eller Branch, from which it was "a hop and a jump" by trail to town, school, and the Robbinsville Baptist Church. She joined the church in 1926 and was baptized in Tallulah Creek.

Because the Robbinsville school could afford only seven months of education in her senior year, Hildred attended Sylva Collegiate Institute for the last six weeks of the year (along with Oleta Rice Nelms and Maude Shope) and received her high school diploma in 1930.

She played basketball during high school and after graduation continued to play, now on the Robbinsville town team. Primarily a support player, she once found herself holding the ball in the final seconds of a game against Andrews. She shot the ball, and to her great surprise,

made the basket and won the game.

From 1933 to 1935, she attended Western Carolina Teachers College and earned a two-year teaching degree. She lived in the homes of two professors and paid for her education by cooking and doing housework.

In 1935, she began her teaching career at the one-room Upper Yellow Creek School and roomed at Mr. and Mrs. Greenis. Her next teaching job was a year-long stint at Rhymeris Ferry. During that year, she began to date Roy Millsaps of Yellow Creek, who had to cross the lake in a boat to visit her. Her last teaching position was as Tapoco.

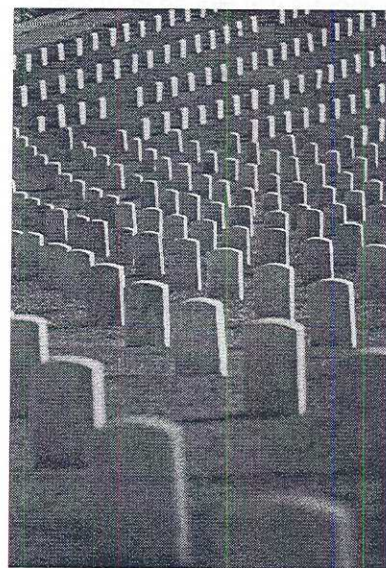
Roy and Hildred were married on July 4, 1937, and began their 63 years together living in a single room that adjoined a grocery store and a grist mill on Gladens Creek. In 1939, they bought a grocery store on Court Street in Robbinsville and turned it into Millsaps Food Store.

The following year, they built a stone house across the street from the elementary school on land purchased from Bemis Lumber Company. After World War II, Millsaps Food Store reopened as Millsaps Dry Goods store, which became known for its quality shoes and work clothes: "The Place to Go for the

*Brands You Know.*" Roy and Hildred closed the store in 1979.

During her many decades as a member of First Baptist Church, Hildred served in virtually every facet of its ministry. One of her special joys was leading the church music program. She first began directing a youth choir in the early 1950s and over the years took youth choirs to Fruitland to perform in contests. She also delighted in teaching the music classes for the children as Vacation Bible School. Later, as a director of the adult choir, she expanded the music program, adding anthems and cantatas...

The Graham Star  
March 31, 2005





# LIFE PORTRAIT: "Longtime educator lived a life full of purpose, caring"

Willie Eller, 91  
October 29, 1913—January 21, 2005

**A Solsberry resident**, he taught at Solsberry High School, where he coached several sports, including basketball and baseball.

**He ended his 35-year teaching** career at Binford Junior High School, serving as head of the math department for 16 years, until his retirement in 1975.

**His was a purpose-drive life**—caring for his family, teaching his grandchildren and proving by example that we are here to help and care for each other.

"I see his life as being his total commitment to his faith, his family and his friends," said daughter Shirley Sullivan.

SOLSBERRY—Despite the fact that his daughter, Shirley Sullivan, had fixed his favorites dishes, Willie Eller ate only a few bites of food.

He pretty much stopped eating after his wife, Thelma, died Christmas Day. They'd been married more than 60 years.

"He just started shutting down," Shirley said of her father's decline. "He couldn't go on without her. His purpose—to see that she was cared for—was finished."

Willie, who died January 21, exemplified the purpose-driven life, starting in his youth.

His widowed mother struggled to raise her four young sons, who were growing up poor in the 1920s and 1930s.

All four Eller boys got an education, though, and became teachers. They did it through sheer drive and brotherly love.

"All the brothers were devoted to each other," said Sue Koenig, Willie's oldest daughter. "Each worked and helped the others through college."

Willie loved numbers and taught math for years at Solsberry High School, where he served as principal for a time and coached sports,

including basketball and baseball. "He was very competitive," grandson Jeff Sullivan said.

His 35-year career in education also included serving as head of the math department at Binford Junior High School in Bloomington.

He loved kids and took his work seriously. At Binford, he'd be the first to arrive, so he'd head for the teachers' lounge and make the morning coffee. "They gave him a golden coffee urn when he retired," Sue said.

His students returned the affection. "Even after kids would graduate from high school, they would still call and talk to him," Sue said.

After Willie retired from teaching, his grandchildren became his students, and the outdoors his classroom. "We were doing things like mushroom hunting, picking berries, gathering hickory and walnuts," Jeff recalled.

And when it came to playing school with the little ones, Willie was still all about learning.

"I would be the teacher, and he was my student," his granddaughter Missy Abram said. "I'd give him math problems to do, and he would miss certain problems on purpose

to see if I would catch it when I graded it, so it was an awesome learning experience."

Playtime might also include a fun way to learn literature.

"We'd sit in his swing out in his yard, and he'd read James Whitcomb Riley poetry to all the grandkids," Missy said. "He could even recite a lot of them just by memory. Our favorite was 'Little Orphan Annie.'"

Willie taught that life's purpose extended beyond family and the work place. You were here to care for one another, which may be one of the reasons he grew enough vegetables in the summer to feed 10 families.

"He would take things to people who didn't have a garden or were sick and couldn't get out and garden," Missy said of his purpose in caring for others.

Written by Donita Hadley  
H-T Staff Writer/Reporter





## LIFE PORTRAIT: Willie and Thelma Eller (continued)



**Willie and Thelma Eller  
Sue Koenig and Shirley Sullivan (standing)**

The above picture is of Willie and Thelma Eller and their two daughters, Sue Koenig and Shirley Sullivan.

This picture was taken at Willie's 90th birthday just a year ago.

These materials were submitted to the Chronicles by Sue Koenig, daughter of Willie and Thelma, who also serves on the Board of Directors for the Eller Family Association.

Sue and her sister lost both their parents just 27 days apart.

We wish to convey our deepest sympathy to Sue and her family.

### Editors Note:

I would like to encourage everyone to submit similar materials for publication in the Chronicles. This is one way to honor those who have passed on and to preserve their memory.





## A Message from the President...

My, how time flies, we are already in the second quarter of 2005. Spring has not yet sprung in Alaska but most of the roads and lawns are clear of snow now but of course that could change next week.

Clif and I vacationed in Tennessee and North Carolina in March and the temperatures were below average most of the time. In the high country we had several feet of snow. We visited with several family members and drove out to Winston Salem and spent time with Dean, Joe, Roger and Julia which was most enjoyable.

Dean and Joe have spent much time planning and organizing an interesting and enjoyable biennial conference in July. I believe you will find the Hawthorne Inn a great place to meet and we're looking forward to seeing many of our friends and family and meeting new members of our

family association. Please call the 877-777-3099 or email:

[reservations@hawthorneinn.com](mailto:reservations@hawthorneinn.com) for reservations under the Eller Family Conference block. There will be EFA tee shirts for sale with Eller Family Association, the date and Winston Salem silk screened on them. We also have available the opportunity to order polo shirts with the Eller coat of arms as well as Winston Salem 2005 embroidered on the shirt. These can be order on line from:

[Stacie@blankiebundles.com](mailto:Stacie@blankiebundles.com)

Once again I'd like to encourage anyone currently a member of the EFA that is interested in running for the Board or as an Officer to please

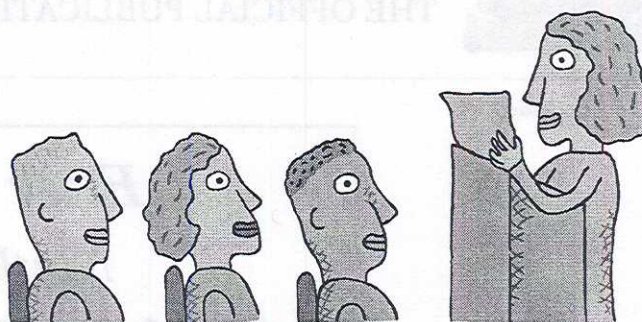
submit your name to me. Our association will only be as good as the people that are involved. So let's get involved!

Another request I have, please send in current and historical events, births, deaths, marriages of Eller folks to:

[judy.eller@eller.com](mailto:judy.eller@eller.com)

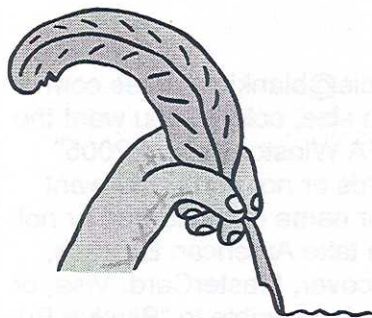
We really need your information if we are going to continue a quarterly Chronicles.

Paula





## From the Desk of the Secretary/Treasurer



Today is April 26, 2005 and the azaleas here are in peak bloom and are just magnificent. It is a wonderful time of the year in many respects.

We have new members to welcome; they are:

- ✓ Betty Russelavage and daughter Karen Pelzman  
509 North Poplar Street  
Paris, TN 38242-3437  
731/644-9057  
kpelzman2003@yahoo.com  
Betty is the daughter of Cleveland Augustus Eller b. 1888 Asheville, NC

- ✓ Gwendolyn Edmonds  
2216 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt C 203  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
719/251-2218

Oldest known Eller ancestor: Johan Jacob Eller 1717-1782

We welcome you new members and invite your participation in the Association's activities wherever your interest may be.

We have been talking about the Ninth Biennial Eller Conference for some time. It is not too late to make your plans to join us in Winston Salem July 20-24, 2005. We are confident that it will be an event that you will enjoy and appreciate-but you gotta be there!

This issue of *The Eller Chronicles* is being mailed first class rather than bulk mail. The delivery time should be three days instead of about three weeks. The additional

cost is inconsequential. Hopefully, you are reading this before the end of May.

Please check the address label on the cover of this newsletter. The numbers following your name indicate the expiration date of your membership. If the year on the label is before 2005, then please drop a check for \$25 in the mail to EFA, P O Box 515, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460.

Also, if you have anything on your mind that you need to share with someone, I'll be happy to oblige. My email address is rfjse@earthlink.net

Have a good day.

Roger Eller

## Old Family Photos!

Each issue we make a plea for information and articles to make our publication interesting and informative. In an attempt to obtain information, we will provide various topics and ask that you consider participating.

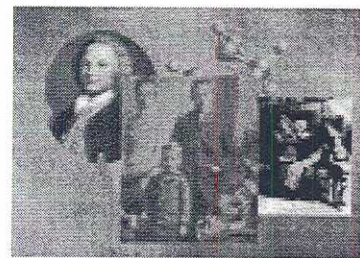
This issue, the topic is "Old Family Photos." Please search through your archives of family photos and consider sending a copy to the editor, along with a short story about the photo to be printed in the *Chronicles*.

Please do not send your originals. If you do not have a scanner, please take them to a copy center and ask for a photo-quality print of your photo.

Mail to the Editor, *Eller Chronicles*, 64 Long Lane, Kirkwood, PA 17536.

We look forward to reading about your family!

Thank you!





# Eller Family Association Conference

## July 20-24, 2005

### The Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center

### Winston Salem, North Carolina

Registration Form

**\*\*Please include names of all attendees\*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Conference activities</u>	<u>Cost per person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration fee (each family)		\$10.00
Wed, Jul 20 Dinner on your own (Menus and directions to variety of restaurants will be provided)		
Thur, Jul 21 Group luncheon	(Adult)\$15.00 X _____ = _____	
	(Child)\$ 9.00 X _____ = _____	
Dinner on your own (K & W and others to choose from. Maps will be provided)		
Fri, Jul 22 Tour of Old Salem and lunch	(Adult)\$28.50 X _____ = _____	
	(Child)\$15.00 X _____ = _____	
Dinner @ Little Richard's Barbeque (Lexington style, order from menu, Dutch)		
Sat, Jul 23 Lunch on your own		
Dinner, Group Banquet	(Adult)\$21.50 X _____ = _____	
	(Child)\$10.50 X _____ = _____	
Total Registration Fee		=====

Make check payable to Eller Family Association and mail to:

Joe Eller, Meeting Coordinator, 2610 Nantucket Drive, Winston Salem, NC 27103

Telephone 336/765-7353, email: jrgdeller@bellsouth.net

**Duplicate this form and send to others who may be interested in attending.**



# Genealogy Exchange

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Martin Thomas-WLTM07 [mailto:thomas.martin@motorola.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2005 11:05 AM  
**To:** 'Alfred D. Eller'; 'hpowers1@comcast.net'; judy.eller@eller.org  
**Cc:** Ragtop  
**Subject:** RE: Family Tree

Ok, I will Copy you both, if that helps any!

Roscoe Kenneth Martin was my grandfather. He was married to Agnes Marie Jackson, had 4 boys and later divorced (late 50's I think, I would take a stab at 1956-1957). My grandfather remarried to Lila Awny (not sure on last name spelling, her son is still alive in Peoria or Pekin, Ill, I will dig more details for you if you are interested) and Ken Martin (he went by Ken) died Feb 26, 1985.

Roscoe Kenneth had 4 boys, they were:

William Martin  
 Paul Robert Martin b 12-12-38 (fraternal twins)  
 John Thomas Martin I b 12-12-38 (fraternal twins)  
 Richard Lee (or Leander) Martin (died around 1994)

My father is John Thomas Martin I, he married Cathey Sue Haner, and had 2 children, myself, Thomas John Martin and my sister Theresa Lynn Martin (now Beck).

My mom has some long family tree info on a program called Reunion. If you can import those files maybe you can get the whole family tree dump. One side of the family has been traced to 1590's.

We sort of lost the Martin side at James Green Martin, who was Wallace Blair Martin's grandfather.

Wallace Blair married Nancy Ann Miller (Nannie, which is a name I don't recall, but my dad might, as he knew them pretty well before they died). Wallace Blair was son of William B Martin. My dad does remember going to their house as a child. She he did know Nannie and Wallace.

I Cc'd my mom, she has all the dates and the details of what is in the records and the Reunion family tree program that she has worked on.

Tom

**From:** Alfred D. Eller [mailto:adeller@santel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 05, 2005 1:16 PM  
**To:** Martin Thomas-WLTM07  
**Subject:** Re: Family Tree

I had to do some searching to find out who Nanny Miller was. I came up with this line:

Nannie (Nancy Ann) Miller, (1880- ? )

Clara Cleina Eller (1861 - ? )

James H. Eller (1821-1903)

John Eller (1786-1840)

George Eller (1752~4- 1808)

Christian Eller (1724-1804)

Harvey Powers might be interested in your data, he is the Christian Eller coordinator for the Eller Family Association.

[hpowers1@comcast.net](mailto:hpowers1@comcast.net)

net

If you would rather, you can send it to me and I will forward it to Mr Powers. I cannot very well add it to what I have because what I have listed in The Eller Chronicles pages is just a copy of what was





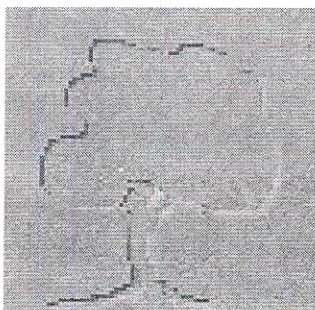
# A Gift of Family History

Larry King was recently presented his Family History by Gordon B. Hinckley, on "Larry King Live". Larry exclaimed: "This is the most meaningful gift I HAVE EVER RECEIVED."

What meaningful gift can you give your family? Your ancestors have provided a LEGACY which not only blesses you, but combined with your history, can bless your posterity for generations to come. The scriptures are a compilation of family histories-relating God's interactions and revealed truths which if followed will establish patterns of conduct that will bring joy and happiness to His posterity. They outline God's hopes and dreams for His family-including His desire for them to return to live together in the eternities.

Each day a curtain is drawn on the stage of life-revealing the "true scripts" which you act out. Many of the dramas, comedies, kind deeds, or spiritual events you've experienced could prove to be "CLASSICS" that should NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. They can only be preserved for your posterity to read and experience again and again IF you capture them in written or visual form. Those who

have done this, feel the spirit of Elijah the prophet, where hearts are turned to their children, and the hearts of children are turned to their fathers. (Malachi 4:5-6) YOU become the welding link that connects generations of the past, with generations of your posterity yet to be born. It becomes a captivating and sacred experience.



Most of us haven't produced our "Gift of Family History" for our posterity, and don't know how to re-search our family tree. We don't know how to organize and catalogue the text and pictures we have into a meaningful historical binder.

As a result, I have felt inspired to assist our Eller family by acquiring 50 binders containing colored inserts and other tools to assist each participant on how to research, organize, and prepare our own Gift of Family History. This workshop will be a "hands on" experience presented on Saturday morning, and afternoon at our Eller Reunion in Winston-Salem on July 23, 2005.

Joe and Dean Eller, our Eller Family Reunion conference coordinators, have reserved the Laurel Learning Center at the Hawthorne Inn. This room is uniquely adapted for this work-

shop. It has electrical outlets at each chair where you can plug in recorders, laptop computers, and other tools to capture and enhance the Power-Point presentation Devon has developed to assist us. You will be provided interactive CD Rom disks, which will assist you to download search tools to genealogy websites, including your own copy of Personal Ancestral File and PAF Tutorial. You will be taught how to download and access : CindisList.com, Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com, FamilySearch.com, Ancestry.com, genealogy.com, usgenweb.org during this interactive training program.

If you do not own a laptop, or other computer, don't stay away, we'll show you how to obtain help, and provide you addresses of centers near your homes, which have such tools available at little or no cost to you.

To make this a MOST meaningful experience we suggest you bring the following:

1. Your laptop computer.
2. Phone line connectors including Cat-5 cables and ethernet card (10/100), allowing you high speed DSL access. We are attempting to arrange a router with at least 8 ports, which will allow 8 people at a time to access the hotel's internet provider.



# Obituaries



## ROBERT C. (Bazard) ELLER

*Letter from Mrs. Robert C. Eller (v. Sedoris):*

Enclosed is a copy of the 'Obit' for Robert C. Eller. He died December 7, 2004. He enjoyed all the publications he received. Four or five years ago, Bob wrote a 'history' of his family and, as I remember, it was published in the association paper. Please excuse my writing, my fingers do not work too well. I wish you and all the "Ellers" the best of everything, God Bless all.

### *Obituary:*

A native of Spokane, WA. Survived by his wife, Sedoris at the home; brother, Richard J. Bazard of Eureka, CA; step-daughter, Ellen Kennedy; stepson, Dale Johnson; and by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A graduate of Millwood Grade School and West Valley High School (1933), he attended Spokane Junior College, Washington

State University and Montana School of Mines in Butte, MT.

He was the grandson of Clement S. Cadwell, an early Spokane builder and orchardist who homesteaded in the Chester area in the 1880's. His father, Lee R. Eller, was for 22 years the Mineral County (Montana) Engineer at Superior.

Mr. Eller was a retired photogrammetric engineer of the U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia; a former editor-in-chief of the technical journal "Surveying and Mapping;" an emeritus member and former news editor of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing; and the author and editor of many technical publications.

For 15 years he was a Boy Scout Leader in Manassas, Virginia.

A Visitation will be held Monday, December 13, 2004 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Hazen & Jaeger Valley Funeral Home, 1306 N. Pines Road, Spokane Valley. Private burial will precede the Memorial Service which will be held Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at the Millwood Community Presbyterian Church, 3223 N. Marguerite, Spokane Valley, with Pastor Craig Goodwin officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Union Gospel Mission, 1224 E. Trent, Spokane, or the Millwood Presbyterian Church. Arrangements are under the guidance of Hazen & Jaeger Valley Funeral Home.

## PAUL L. ELLER

Paul L. Eller, 92, of 18216 Rhoades Mills Road, Rockford, died at 7:20 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2005, at Van Wert County Hospital in Van Wert.

He was born July 21, 1912, in York Township, Van Wert County, the son of the late Charles Russell and Lulu Belle (Barnhart) Eller. On January 8, 1938, he married Mary Elizabeth Chubb, who died October 12, 1986.

Mr. Eller was a retired farmer in Liberty Township and was a member of Ohio City United Methodist Church and the Liberty Grange. Survivors include a son, Raymond L. (Joyce L.) Eller of Rockford; one daughter, Janis Owens of Van Wert; a brother, John R. (Rose Marie) Eller of Decatur, Ind.; six grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren, and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Russell L. Eller, in infancy; one brother, Dale R. Eller, who died November 3, 1983, and two sisters, Gladys Kull and Elizabeth Robinson.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday, April 25, at Cowan & Son Funeral Home in Van Wert, with Pastor Mike Waldron of Ohio City United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Ohio City.

Calling hours are 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Ohio City United Methodist Church.





# Obituaries (continued)

## HILDRED ELLER MILLSAPS

*Note from the Editor: I received a letter from Lynn Eller who provided a copy of the obituary for Hildred Eller Millsaps, sister to J. Gerald Eller, original editor of the Eller Chronicles. Hildred's passing follows just four months after the passing of David Hugh Eller (brother to Hildred and J. Gerald). We would like to convey our deepest sympathy to J. Gerald and his family.*

### Obituary:

Robbinsville—Hildred Eller Millsaps, 91, of Robbinsville, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, March 24, 2005, at her residence.

A native of Graham County, she was the daughter of the late J.W. "Smith" and Lillie Rogers Eller. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Roy Millsaps.

Together with her husband, she owned and operated Millsaps Dry Goods Store in Robbinsville for many years.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Linda Millsaps of Robbinsville; daughter and son-in-law, Billie Ann and Sam Williams of Colorado Springs, CO; one brother, Dr. Gerald Eller of Arden; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at Robbinsville First Baptist Church, of which she was a dedicated member. The Revs. Fred Lunsford, Jimmy Millsaps, Daniel Stewart and Mickey Stewart will offi-

ciate. Burial will be in Old Mother Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Townson-Smith Chapel, where the body will remain until taken to the church 30 minutes prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Graham County Rescue Squad.

Townson-Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

*Note from the Editor: An additional obituary was also provided by Paul Eller which follows:*

### Obituary:

Hildred Pearle Eller Millsaps died of congestive heart failure on March 24 at her home in Robbinsville. She was 91.

She was preceded in death by her husband Roy Millsaps on March 14, 2001, and by nine brothers and sisters: Hugh Eller of Robbinsville; Edora Harris of Cherryville; Jeanne Cable of Dallas, Texas; and six who died as children. She was the daughter of J.W. "Iona" (Smith) and Lillie Eller.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Billie Ann and Sam Williams of Colorado Springs, Colorado; her son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Linda Millsaps of Robbinsville; and her brother, Dr. Gerald Eller of Arden.

Her five grandchildren are Dr. John Williams of Boulder, Colorado; Jennifer McKinnie of Kirkland, Washington; and Catherine Williams of Seattle, Washington; and Jeff Millsaps and Kari Garland of

Robbinsville. Great-grandchildren are Elizabeth and William McKinnie, Rebekah and Nikolas Millsaps, and Maddi and Grady Garland.

Hildred was born November 25, 1913, in Graham County. As a young child, she and her family lived in logging camps, where her father sharpened saws and maintained the sawmill equipment.

... She also taught a women's Sunday school class and served as church clerk for many years.

Hildred was a lifelong avid reader, despite losing one eye to cancer in 1986. As a child, she read everything she could get her hand on, including classics lent to her by her teacher, Mrs. Slaughter.

She enjoyed all sorts of books, especially books about history and the presidents. She loved to discuss genealogies and had an amazing memory for names and events; she made a wonderful storyteller.

In the last years of her life, she continued to read and do the daily crossword and other word puzzles. Her mind remained sharp until the end of her life.

Her house was a special place for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; its atmosphere was welcoming, comfortable, and full of love. She had a talent for preparing large amounts of good food, often including home-grown vegetables and her famous iced tea. She was much loved and will be missed by all of her family and community.

Funeral services were held Monday at Robbinsville First Baptist Church.





# Obituaries (continued)



**THELMA LORENE ELLER**  
(Aug 24, 1921—Dec 25, 2004)

SOLSBERRY—Thelma Lorene Eller, 83, of Solsberry, died Saturday at Hospitality House in Bloomington.

She was born August 24, 1921 in Owensburg, to parents Orval Wilson and Luella Burch.

She was a homemaker. She was also associated with the Eastern Star, Ladies WSCS, and the Solsberry United Methodist Church, all in Solsberry.

Survivors include her husband, Willie M. Eller of Solsberry; two daughters, Shirley Sullivan of Solsberry and Sue Koenig of Glen Burnie Maryland; two brothers, Donald Wilson and Delbert Wilson, both of Indianapolis; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Dale Wilson.

Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, at Solsberry United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Billy Ed Hostettler and Rev. Deborah Reichenbach officiating. Burial will be at Solsberry Cemetery.

Friends may call 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Jenkins Funeral Home in Bloomfield, and 1 p.m. until services Wednesday at the church.



**WILLIE MILTON ELLER**  
(Oct 29, 1913—Jan 21, 2005)

SOLSBERRY—Willie Milton Eller, 91, of Solsberry, died at 2 a.m. Friday at Bloomington Hospital.

Born Oct. 29, 1913, in Hendricksville, he was the son of James S. and Della (Abram) Eller.

He attended Dyer School in Hendricksville and graduated from Solsberry High School. He went on to get a teacher's certificate from Central Normal College and later bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University.

His 35-year career in education began with three years at Scotland.

He then spent 16 years at Solsberry, where he coached three different sports and served four years as principal in addition to his classroom duties.

He was one of the original staff members at Binford Junior High School in Bloomington in 1959. He was the head of the math department there for 16 years before retiring in May of 1975.

He was a member of the Solsberry United Methodist Church and served in many offices.

He represented Greene County in the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame effort in New Castle. He served on the Solsberry High School Alumni reunion committee for many years, and the school board of Eastern High School.

He was a member of the Solsberry Masonic Lodge.

He was very proud to have coached the 1948 sectional champion team from Solsberry High School.

Survivors include two daughters, Shirley Sullivan of Solsberry and Sue Koenig of Glen Burnie, MD; one brother, George Eller of Bloomington; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Thelma Eller, Dec 25, 2004; two brothers, Russell Eller and Kenneth Eller; one half brother, Blaine Eller; and four half sisters, Maude Burch, May Hudson, Ruth Rowe and Charolette Espuland.

Services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday at Solsberry United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Billy Ed Hostettler and Pastor Deborah Reichenbach officiating. Burial will be at Solsberry Cemetery.





## LIFE PORTRAIT: "Solsberry woman had healing ways with plants and people"

**Thelma Eller, 83**  
**August 24, 1921—**

**A Solsberry resident**, Thelma Eller was born in Owensburg in 1921.

**Survivors** include her husband, Willie, and two daughters, Shirley Sullivan of Solsberry and Sue Koenig of Glen Burnie, Maryland.

**Thelma loved to help** those who were ill and even had a healing touch when it came to plants. "If you had a sick plant and brought it into her presence, it would start to improve," her daughter Shirley said.

Thelma Eller's hands were seldom idle, and you might even say she had the healing touch.

"She loved gardening and she had a green thumb," her daughter Shirley Sullivan said.

"If you had a sick plant and brought it into her presence, it would start to improve," she said.

"She didn't seem to do anything special to them—they just got better," Shirley added.

Even after flowers were cut and dried, Thelma took these accents of nature in hand, creating beautiful floral arrangements for her home in Solsberry, her daughter Sue Koenig said.

Thelma was always interested in the health care field, and she enjoyed taking care of sick people.

"I think if she had been born in this day and age, she might have been a nurse," Shirley said.

If there was a death in a family or someone fell ill, Thelma was quick to bake a pie and deliver it to those in need of her cheer.

Thelma, who died Christmas Day, was born into a Christian home in 1921 in Greene County.

Her father, who loved to write hymns and sing them at church reunions, operated a big sheep farm.

With her father, three brothers and farm hands to feed, Thelma had plenty of work to do—taking up her station in the kitchen, cooking and washing dishes.

To help out the family during the Great Depression, she worked in boarding houses and restaurants.

She met her beloved husband, Willie, while working at an eatery in Indianapolis. They married in 1940.

Willie was a math teacher and coach, first in Scotland and later in Solsberry.

The Rev. Billy Ed Hostettler, who delivered the eulogies at Thelma's funeral Wednesday, was a freshman at the school in Scotland, where Willie taught him geometry and coached him in basketball.

After away games, Willie would see to it that the bus transporting the players stopped somewhere so the team could celebrate with a sandwich, a soft drink and

maybe even some ice cream.

Hostettler recalled Thelma taking things in hand on the bus one night after a particularly bad loss, one that left the coach none too happy.

Willie announced that on that night, the team not only would be going straight back to Scotland, but they shouldn't expect to again be treated to a meal after a game. "Then Willie sat down in the front seat, his usual place, as the bus pulled out," Hostettler recalled.

"Thelma, who was sitting about half way back, got up and quietly walked to the front and sat down by Willie. We could not hear what they were saying, but it was obvious that Thelma was doing all the talking, and Willie was listening," Hostettler said.

The result of that conversation?

"We did stop for something to eat (that night), and we stopped after every going away game (thereafter) - win or lose," Hostettler added.

Written by Donita Hadley  
H-T Staff Writer/Reporter





# Eller Family Association Membership Application

The purpose of the Eller Family Association (EFA) is to draw all Ellers, regardless of their particular family line, and allied families into a cooperative effort. We owe it to the present generation and those of the future, this effort to come together, explore and record our common roots and heritage.

The EFA has already demonstrated that this approach is the quickest and most efficient mechanism for sharing family history and genealogical information.

The Mission Statement is that the EFA exists to assist all Eller and

associated family lines worldwide to:

- ✓ Discover and preserve our historical past
- ✓ Report current events and ongoing contributions
- ✓ Develop and expand current family ties
- ✓ Provide ongoing biennial meetings to summarize accomplishments
- ✓ Socialize and provide inspired direction as we focus on the future.

A quarterly newsletter, *The Eller Chronicles*, is published and sent to each member in February, May,

August and November. Information on all Ellers in the United States and Europe, from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the current time is being gathered and made available. To join the Association, please fill out the following information (to the extent known) and send with a check for **\$25 for the annual membership or \$250 for a lifetime membership** payable to the Eller Family Association to:

Roger Eller, Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Eller Family Association  
PO Box 515  
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

## Membership Application

Choose One: ☐ Annual Membership—\$25.00 ☐ Lifetime Membership—\$250.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Oldest known ancestor  
(names, dates, place) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Other family lines in which  
you are interested \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Signature \_\_\_\_\_