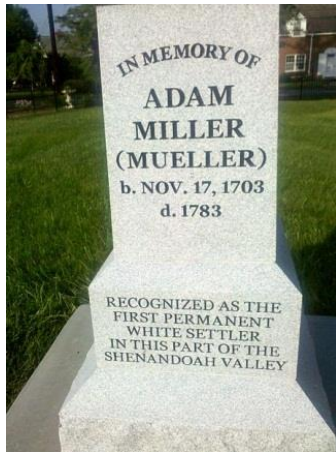


## The Adam Miller Line

This Adam Miller line is separate from the Abraham Miller surname line. This Miller line comes to George Miller through his mother, Ella Florence Hodgen.

### Adam Miller<sup>1</sup>



Adam Miller was born November 17, 1703 Schreisheim, Baden, Germany. His parents were John Peter<sup>2</sup> and Anna Magaretta Mueller. Adam Miller immigrated early in life with his wife Barbara Anna<sup>3</sup> and unmarried sister Catrina Miller, settling first in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

According to tradition, while travelling to Williamsburg, Virginia,<sup>4</sup> Adam Miller heard about a beautiful valley on the other side of the Blue Ridge Mountains from several of the Spotswood Knights<sup>5</sup>. Intrigued, he went in search for the Valley, finding it in 1726. Then in 1727, he moved his family to the valley, becoming the first white settler in the Massanutten area of the

Shenandoah Valley. He made his first homestead on the south fork of the Shenandoah River.

Later in 1730, after another immigrant Jacob Stover received a patent of 5,000 acres from then Lieutenant Govenor Gooch, Adam Miller purchased tracts of these lands.<sup>6</sup> In 1733, Adam Miller and the other pioneers who purchased tracts of land from Stover, petitioned the Governor for title rights to the property they had purchased but also preemptively owned by squatter's rights.

In 1741, Adam Miller purchased and moved his family to a second homestead on 820 acres, which included a large lithia spring (Bear Spring), near Elkton and it was there that he lived the remainder of his life.

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<sup>1</sup> Much of this information is from a variety of sources, including the "History of Rockingham County" by John W. Wayland)

<sup>2</sup> Born about 1680 in Lamsheim, Germany.

<sup>3</sup> Barbara Ann Koger (Coger) was a daughter of Nicholas Koger.

<sup>4</sup> Some reports state that Adam Miller moved to Williamsburg from Pennsylvania. The most credible evidence is that he moved directly from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley. In 1742, Colonial Governor Gooch stated in papers granting naturalization to Miller that he removed from PA to Massanutten.

<sup>5</sup> While not the first white explorers to explore the Shenandoah Valley, in 1716, the Colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood and a group of men, the "Spotswood Knights," crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains and explored the Shenandoah Valley.

<sup>6</sup> There is some question whether Stover actually had the rights to sell the land when he did.

On March 13, 1742, Adam Miller finally received from Governor Gooch a certificate of naturalization which recites that Adam Miller had been a resident on the Shenandoah for the previous fifteen years, thus establishing his date of settlement in the area of 1727.

In 1758, as hostilities flared between Britain and France, Miller fought in the French and Indian War,<sup>7</sup> serving in Lt. Christian Bingaman's Company.<sup>8,9</sup>

Adam Miller raised his family in the Shenandoah Valley. Adam and Barbara raised six children:

Anna Barbara Miller, born 1726, married Jacob Baer

Catherine Elizabeth Miller, born 1734, married John Baer

Adam Miller, born 1736, d. 1758 killed by Indians on family land

Henry Miller, born 1736, married Anna Elizabeth Coger (Koger)

Christian Miller, born 1738, married Catherine Conrad

Anna Christina Miller, born 1738

Peter Miller, born 1742

The Millers were devoted Lutherans, as were many of the early settlers of the Massanutten. Adam Miller died in 1783 and is most likely buried at St. Peter's church. Barbara's date of death is not known nor where she is buried.

A monument now stands in the Massanutten as tribute to Adam Miller and the other first settlers of that area of the Shenandoah Valley.

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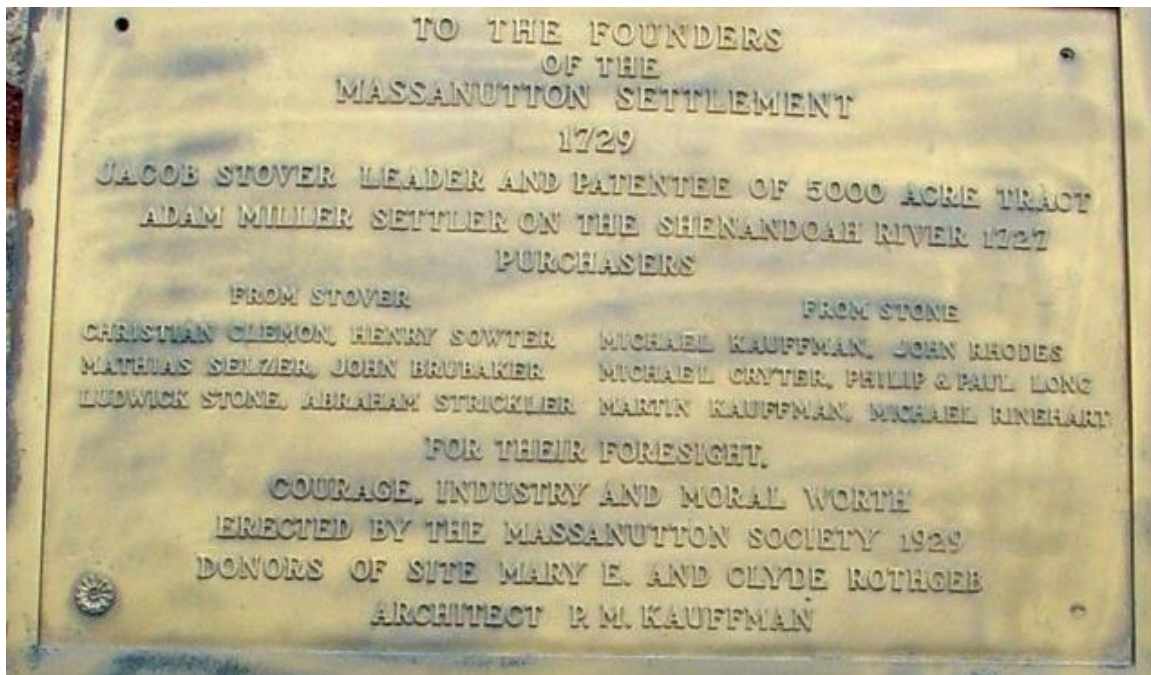
<sup>7</sup> The French and Indian War is the common name for the war between Great Britain and France in North America from 1754 to 1763.

<sup>8</sup> Wayland, "The German Element in the Shenandoah Valley," p 43

<sup>9</sup> Hening, William Waller, "Hening's Statutes at Large" Volume VII (1756-1763), 1820: Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond VA, p 186



Massanutten Monument located in Luray, Virginia



Plaque on the Monument

## **Henry Miller (1736-1784)**

Henry Miller was born in what was then Augusta County, Virginia, July 16, 1736. When his father died, he inherited the family homestead<sup>10</sup> for just about a year before he died. He attended the Reformed Church at St Peter's New River Settlement, Virginia.

In 1756 he married his cousin Anna Elizabeth Koger. Elizabeth Coger was born December 2, 1738.

Henry and Elizabeth Miller's children were:

Anna Barbara was born January 10, 1757. She married Conrad Harnsberger.

Elizabeth was born in 1760. She married first William Null and later Michael Shuler.

Catherina Elizabeth married Adam Price

Henry was born July 14, 1764. He married his cousin Maria Catherine "Mary" Price who was the daughter of Augustine and Anna Elisabetha.

Anna Christina married Robert Harnsberger.

Jacob was born July 19, 1769, and died in 1861. He married Anna Barbara Bear who was his cousin, the daughter of John Bear and Catherine Miller Bear.

Henry Miller died October 25, 1784. He is buried on the Miller homestead in Rockingham County, Virginia. Elizabeth Koger Miller died after May 1787.

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<sup>10</sup> The Miller homestead stayed in the Miller line until 1922. Today it is a National Historic Landmark.