

# Eric Pålsson Mullica

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**Eric Pålsson Mullica** (Mullikka) was an early Finnish settler to New Sweden. He and his family were the source of the name of several geographic features and places in New Jersey.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## Background

Eric (or "Erkki" original Finnish name) Mullica was born in April 1636 in Mora, Delsbo parish, Hälsingland, Sweden. His father was Pål Jönsson Mullica who arrived in New Sweden with his wife and children on the vessel *Örnen* (*Eagle*) which sailed in 1654 from Göteborg (Gothenburg), Sweden. The father of Pål (Paavo) was Juho Mulikka, who had had earlier immigrated to Sweden from Finland. Juho's father was Antti Mulikka, who lived in Middle of Finland in place which is still called Mulikka or Pääjärvi. "Mullica" is a variation of the Finnish term *mullikka*, which means young bull.

Mullica lived for several years at Tacony,<sup>[2]</sup> adjoining the present-day Frankford neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and later moved to the area of Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey. Mullica built a homestead near Little Egg Harbor. The area in which he resided near Little Egg Harbor was named Mullica Township in Atlantic County, New Jersey in his honor. What had been known as the "Little Egg Harbor River" is now called the Mullica River.

Mullica later moved after his sons William, Eric Jr. and John further north to an area now known as Mullica Hill, a census-designated place located within Harrison Township, in Gloucester County, New Jersey.<sup>[3]</sup>

Mullica first married Ingrid, the daughter of Olof Philipsson, a Finn who arrived with his family on the *Mercurius* in 1656. All of Mullica's eight children were by his first wife. After Ingrid's death, Mullica married Ingeborg Helm, daughter of Capt. Israel Helm. Mullica died before 1704.<sup>[4]</sup>