

The Pennsylvania-German, Volume 10, January 1909

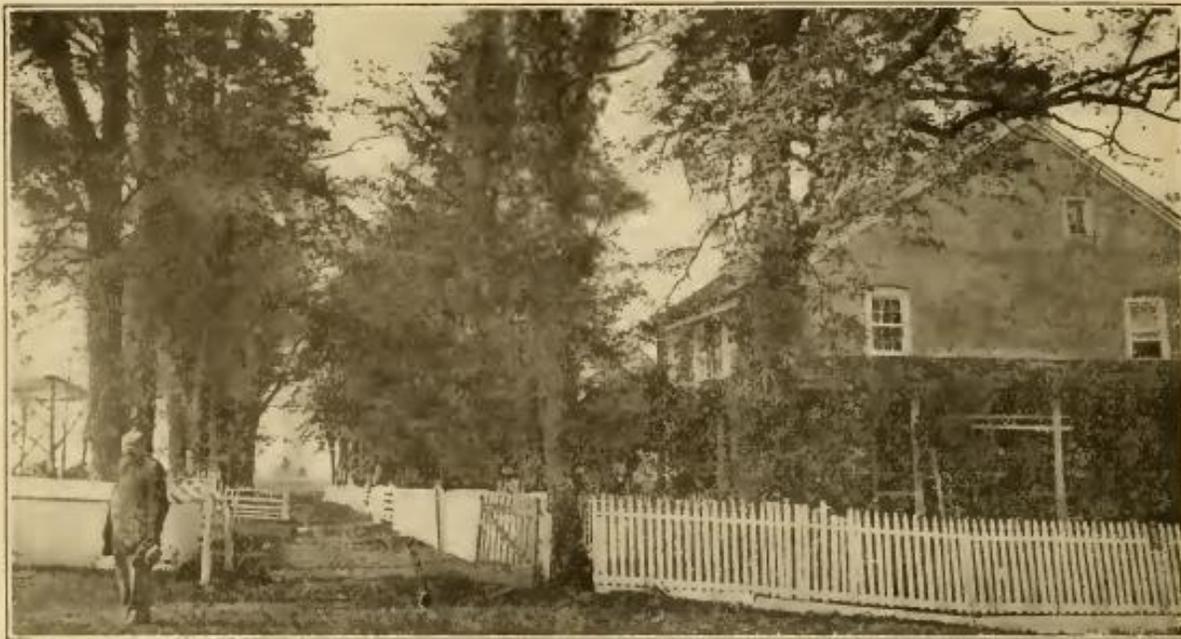
### **The Ellmaker Family**

By J. Watson Ellmaker, Lancaster, Pa.; Henry Pettit, West Palm Beach, Florida

The name **Ellmaker** appears to have been first so written in America. In Germany it was, spelled **Oelmacher**. **Oelmicher**, **Ailmocker**. **Ailmacker**. The word **Oelmacher** probably contains in the first syllable the root of a previous Guild designation and suggests that at some time the family belonged to the guild of oil manufacturers.

**John Leonard Ellmaker** (commonly called **Leonard Ellmaker, Sr.**) the progenitor of the American Ellmaker family, was the youngest son of **Elias** and **Mary Magdalena (Bremer) Oelmacher**. His father was born about 1652 at Gaulhof near Nurenberg and so far as is known always lived in Germany. He was a farmer, free citizen and conducted an extensive business as an active member of the guild of bakers. He raised his own wheat, manufactured his own flour and according to tradition baked the bread for the king's household. The mother, **Maria Magdalena Bremer** was of French Huguenot descent and was carried in her mother's arms from France into Germany.

**John Leonard Ellmaker** was born January 3, 1697 at Gaulhof, Nurenberg, Germany. On the sixth of May 1726 he was married to **Anna Margaret Hornberger** who was born in the year 1703 at Frankenthal, Germany, a daughter of **John Adam** and **Maria Hornberger**. She had a bright, mind, indomitable energy and was well educated, having received part of her training in France. During the reign of Louis XIV her grandmother of French Huguenot descent was Ladies Maid in Waiting to Marie De Medici wife of Henry IV of France. When the unhappy Queen was exiled by Richelieu she fled and resided in the valley of the Rhine not far from Frankenthal.



ELLMAKER HOMESTEAD, EARL TOWNSHIP, PA.

Six days after their marriage the couple left their fatherland and started for Pennsylvania, landing at Philadelphia, Pa., August 1, 1726. They went to Lancaster county and took up a claim near a spring close to where the Alms House is now located. A month later they went to the south branch of the Mill Creek where they took up 220 acres of land for which they received a deed dated February 8, 1734.

Twelve children were born to this family of whom eight lived to grow up. **Anna Margaret Ellmaker** died at the **Ellmaker** homestead December 18, 1779.

The use which **Mrs. Ellmaker** had made of her educational advantages proved of great value in the new world in the selection of a home, the care of a large household, the education of her children the rendering of kind offices to her friends and neighbors at a time when knowledge, good judgment and self-reliance were of superior importance.

This old Lancaster county household has been for a century and a half a credit to the neighborhood, a joy to the family connections. It has been an influence for good in times of war by sending the sons to the defense of the country, by providing stores and sending them to Valley Forge as the contribution of the daughters and in times of peace by supplying bench and bar, counting room, medicine, science and literature with incumbents. The following is a copy of the marriage certificates issued to **John Leonard Ellmaker** and **Anna Margaret** his wife.

It is hereby certified that **John Leonard Ellmaker**, Legitimate son of **Elias Ellmaker** of Gaulhoff, district of Nuremberg and **Miss Anna Margaret Horberger**, legitimate daughter of **John Adam Horberger**, citizen of this place on the production of the license from the proper authorities (according to law) and after three public proclamations according to Christian usage of our Evangelical Lutheran Church were duly married, consecrated (blessed). This certificate is therefore delivered to them with the wish of prosperity, moreover invoking the divine blessing on this wedded couple who are herewith committed to the gracious guidance of God. - Frankenthal, May 6, 1726. Signed JOHN ERNEST BIERAN. Elect Palatinate Evangelical Lutheran Church of this place.

The following- is a copy of the passport of **John Leonard Ellmaker**.

The bearer of this, **John Leonard Ellmaker**, "Baker" during a residence of two years in this place (Frankenthal) has been a consistent member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and its Holy Communion and has otherwise been of a pious and of a quiet deportment, and not less faithful and industrious in his occupation. And it was with regret that he was reluctantly allowed to sever his business relations. This testimonial is given and these presents delivered to him for his future use (or as a recommendation for future use) and may he always be in the grace of God and under the guidance of His Holy Spirit. Frankenthal, May 12, 1726. - (Signed) JOHN ERNEST BIERAN, Elect Palatinate, Evangelical Lutheran Church at this place.

**Mary Magdalena Ellmaker**, first child of **John Leonard Ellmaker** was born August 9, 1727 and was married in the year 1745 to **Philip Adam Diller**, son of **Casper Diller** a neighbor. The **Dillers** had emigrated from Alsace, France, (now Germany). The family was blessed with eight children, all of whom lived to grow up and were married into worthy pioneer families. Many of the descendants of the male line of this family exercised considerable influence in politics and held offices of trust. Of the descendants of the female line several have through marriage connected themselves with some of the most noted families of our country, notably the Washingtons, Madisons, General Packett and others.

**Anthony Pretter Ellmaker**, oldest son of **John Leonard Ellmaker** was born April 13, 1729 and was married to **Elizabeth**, one of the nineteen children of **Nathaniel Lightner**, of Leacock Township, Lancaster County. **Anthony** was a man of ideal usefulness. He was surgeon and dentist, his dental instruments being preserved by some of the descendants to this day. December 15, 1774 he was elected a representative to the General Assembly and was a member of the Committee of Observation. His name is found on many papers relating to the settling of estates. His oldest son **Isaac**, was also a man of great business ability and at the time of his death in 1834 had amassed a large fortune. His son-in-law **William Hiester** was a member of Congress from 1831 to 1837 and his son **Isaac Ellmaker Hiester** in 1852. Another grandson **Anthony Ellmaker Roberts** was elected Sheriff in 1839, held the position of United States Marshal from 1849 to 1853 and in 1854 was elected to Congress. **Anthony Bretter Ellmaker** died March 21, 1817<sup>1</sup>. His youngest daughter died in 1880 at the age of 97. She is said to have had a very retentive memory and was a brilliant conversationalist.

**Elias** second son of **John Leonard Ellmaker** was born 1732. He was a soldier and was wounded in Braddock's defeat, July 3, 1755 from the effects of which he died, 1756.

**Anna Maria**, daughter of **John Leonard Ellmaker** was born 1736 and was married to **Isaac Levan** a son of one of the pioneers of Berks County.

**Leonard, Jr.** son of **John Leonard Ellmaker** was born April 12, 1741 and was married to **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Peter Baker** a pioneer settler in Earl Township, Lancaster County. He was a successful farmer in Salisbury Township where he had a farm of four hundred acres and a flourishing mill which he carried on in connection with his farm, he was entrusted with many valuable estates and at the time of his death was vestryman of St. John Episcopal Church. His grandson **Peter Carpenter Ellmaker** was United States Marshal and during the Civil War held a commission as Major.

**Anna Margaret Ellmaker**, the third daughter of **John Leonard Ellmaker, Sr.**, born, August 20, 1744, was married to **Philip Frick** according to the marriage license issued Nov. 3, 1764, and died at Northumberland, Pa., October 24, 1830. The following is the marriage license: By

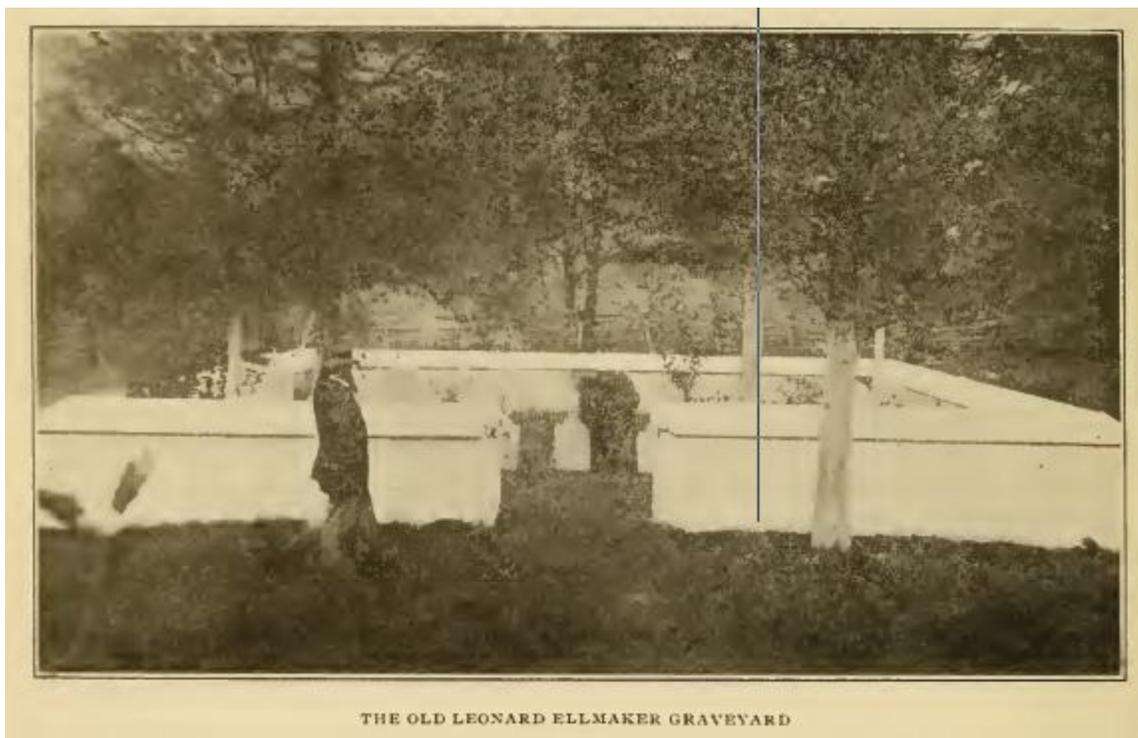
---

<sup>1</sup> Anthony Pretter Ellmaker took much pleasure in relating the following: 'When he was twelve years of age he went with his mother to hear George Whitfield preach at the old Pequa Presbyterian church five miles away from their home. When they got within half a mile of the place they heard the hills re-echo the words of Whitfield's text, "Watchman, what of the night ? " People afoot going to the place of worship fell on their knees.

the Honorable John Penn. Esq., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Province of Pennsylvania and Counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex on the Delaware.

To any Protestant Minister where application has been made unto me by **Philip Frick** of the Borough of Lancaster, (Brewer) and **Anna Margaret Ellmaker** of the County of Lancaster. Spinster to be joined in holy matrimony and finding on due examination that there is not any lawful let or impediment of precontract, consanguinity, affinity or any other just cause whatsoever to infer the said marriage. These are therefore to license and authorize you to join said **Philip Frick** and **Margaret Ellmaker** in Holy Bonds of Matrimony an then to pronounce them man and wife. - Given under my hand and seal the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 1764.

Many of the descendants of this union are found in central Pennsylvania among whom are the **Montgomerys** some of whom have held offices of trust. The late **Colonel Jacob G. Frick**. of Pottsville, Pa., was a descendant. He was a veteran of the Mexican and Civil wars. He served as Colonel of the 129th Regiment. P. V. I. in 1861-1863. He was made provost marshall when the rebel army approached Wrightsville and ordered the bridge over the Susquehanna River between Columbia and Wrightsville to be burned to prevent the invasion of Lancaster County and a probable march to Philadelphia by the rebels.



Note. – The Old Leonard Ellmaker Graveyard is surrounded by a two-foot wall erected 1793 and kept in perfect condition and whitewashed yearly. The oldest grave (unmarked) dates back to about 1734. The most recent burial was that of **Sarah Watson**, wife of **Esaias E. Ellmaker**. Since her burial the iron gate has been removed and the opening walled in. – Editor

**Jacob Ellmaker**, fourth son of **John Leonard Ellmaker** was born February 16, 1749. He was married first to **Elizabeth Hoffman** and then to **Margaret Teeberne**. Eight children were born to the second marriage. **Jacob Ellmaker** was enrolled in Captain McConnell's company in the Revolutionary war. He inherited part of the original homestead, migrated to Perry County, Pa., in 1800 where he died August, 1824.

**John**, second son of **Jacob**, migrated to Ohio and settled on a large farm in Delaware County.

**Jacob Ellmaker, Jr.**, fifth son of **Jacob** was one of the pioneer settlers of Iowa when it was yet a territory. His descendants are among the most progressive farmers of Iowa, Missouri and Oregon.

**Adam**, eldest son of **Jacob**, died in Perry County, Pa., in 1836.

**Enos**, oldest son of **Adam** was appointed by Major Wilson superintendent of the first division of the Philadelphia and Columbia railroad from Green Street to Paoli tavern a distance of 18 miles, and he laid the first tulp or edge railing on the new road. Concerning this he wrote:

"When the first ship load of railing came across from England, Major Wilson, Head Engineer made inquiry of Mr. Provost where he could find a man competent to start or commence the laying of the rails. Mr. Provost recommended me. Major Wilson then gave me, plots and plans of the Liverpool and Manchester railroad to examine for a fortnight. After studying the plan I made tools. Then I took five men with me and we laid rails five days and succeeded to a demonstration of Railroad building.

After this **Enos** took a contract for sixteen turnouts. In 1836 he migrated to Iowa territory and became one of the pioneer settlers of Jefferson County. Here he cultivated 300 acres until 1853 when he sold out to move to Oregon territory. He procured two heavy ox-teams of six yokes to a wagon and one extra yoke for his wife and five children, the oldest **Byron** a lad of twelve years, the youngest an infant of seven months. Thus equipped he began a long and tiresome journey on which he experienced cold winds, blinding snowstorms, burning suns, parching sands, terrific hailstorms, howling wolves and Indian war-whoops and dances. He located on a donation claim of 320 acres on the Long Tom River in Lane County where he spent the remainder of his days dying 1885 in the 85<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

**Reuben** the youngest son of **Adam Ellmaker** was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1816. At the age of 21 he migrated to Iowa with his brother **Enos** and his uncle **Jacob**. He acquired a large tract of land where he resided to his death 1898. He endured all the hardships and privations of a pioneer life. He was a useful citizen and held various offices. He was industrious, kind, hospitable, universally esteemed and beloved.

**Nathaniel (Ignatius)** the youngest son of **John Leonard Ellmaker Sr.** was born December 1751. He inherited the **Ellmaker** homestead where he lived until his death April, 1837. He took an active part in the Revolutionary war, furnishing aid for Washington's army at Valley Forge

1777-1778 for which he received thanks in letters from Washington. He was enrolled in Captain McConnell's company from 1780 to 1783. He was state senator in 1794. He had four sons. **Elias**, oldest son of **Nathaniel Ellmaker**, attended the Latin school of Rev. Smith, Pequea Valley, graduated at Carlisle, 1799, and at Princeton, 1802. He began the practice of law at Waynesburg, Pa., and died in Philadelphia when yet a young man.

**Amos**, second son of **Nathaniel Ellmaker**, was born Feb. 2, 1787. Was married to **Mary Rachel Elder**, daughter of **Col. Thomas Elder** of Harrisburg and died in the city of Lancaster, 181.... He began the study of Latin at the age of ten under **Charles Bradley** at the old Hollow school in Leacock Township, graduated from Princeton College in 1805 and completed his law studies in the school under Judge Reeves at Litchfield, Conn. He commenced the practice of law at Harrisburg and was soon elevated to a seat in Congress. He served also as President Judge, representative in the State Legislature....Attorney General of the State. In 1832 he was candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the United States.

**Nathaniel**, oldest son of **Amos Ellmaker** was born April 28, 1817. He studied at Beck's Academy, Lititz, Franklin Academy, Lancaster and took a course in law at New Haven, Conn. He read law in his father's office. He began the practice of law and soon rose to eminence. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was attorney for the Dunkers and Non-combatants and it was through his efforts that the Draft law was changed so as to exempt these sects from enlisting. He was married Oct. 1, 1844 to **Cecelia**, daughter of **Christopher Hager**, one of Lancaster's leading merchants.

**Levi**, third son of **Nathaniel (Ignatius) Ellmaker** was born at the old homestead in Lancaster Co., Pa., and died at his residence in Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 9th, 1835, in consequence of an accident received while driving in his gig. He established himself in Philadelphia at the age of 14 years and at the age of nineteen was married to **Hannah**, daughter of **John** and **Mary Richardson Hopkins**, the latter being a descendant of one of the earliest settlers in the Pequea Valley, Lancaster County. He became a prosperous and influential Philadelphia merchant with large shipping interests in the West Indies, Mexico and Central America. He cultivated Art and Science, Music and Opera, cooperated with others in establishing institutions in the city, helped to establish a steamship line between Philadelphia and southern ports and became an extensive owner of coal lands in Schuylkill County. He is described as being over six feet in height, handsome, and attractive. He left no sons.

**Matilda**, daughter of **Levi Ellmaker** married first **Alexander Stewart** of New Orleans and second **Rev. John Chambers** of the Broad and Sansom Street Independent Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

**Mary**, daughter of **Levi Ellmaker**, married **Augustus Willis** of New Orleans.

**Caroline**, daughter of **Levi Ellmaker**, married **Col. William C. Patterson** first President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. She was very active in the Philadelphia Sanitary Commission during the War of 1861-65.

**Laura**, daughter of **Levi Ellmaker**, married **Robert Pettit** of the U. S. Navy, leaving two sons: **Henry**, engineer and architect, identified with the Philadelphia Centennial and Paris Exhibitions and **Robert Ellmaker**, connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad.



**Louisa**, daughter of **Levi Ellmaker**, was married to **Dr. Richard Maris**, of Philadelphia. Pa.

**Julia**, daughter of **Levi Ellmaker**, married **David Jewett Waller**, of Wilkes-Barre, a descendant from **Elder Wm. Brewster**, of Plymouth Colony.

**Esaias E.** youngest son of **Nathaniel Ellmaker** was born June 19, 1802 at the **Ellmaker** homestead and died there November 27, 1867. He was educated at Norristown, Montgomery County, New Garden, Chester County and later attended lectures on physics, chemistry and medicine. He was married to **Sarah**, daughter of **Dr. John** and **Margaret Clemson Watson**, the **Watson** and **Clemson** families being among the early pioneer families of Lancaster County.