

Oldenburg (Oldb) 9. Nov.
Lindentallee 27 1948.
Britische Zone

Emile

Dear Mr. Hellmers,

Nearly a year ago I wrote you that I intended to compose a "History of the Family of Hellmers" in order to give you a little sign of gratitude for all the good help you have shown me and my children. To a family history I need the register books of the parish where the family lived in old times, and secondly the States Archives. Therefore I wrote to the clergyman in the parish of Bardenish where the Hellmers lived since 1500 nearly. When I got his answer of the 2nd Nov. 1947, I was very disappointed, because he informed me that about 1800 a fire in the "Pastorei" of Bardenish (= official house of the pastor) had destroyed all register books of the parish of Bardenish. In these church registers one can find all names and dates of birth, of marriage and of death from 1650 nearly to 1800. So I had the church books only since 1800 to my disposition, and not those before 1800. What to do now? I resolved to search through all the documents and registers of the States Archives in order to find a connection

between the members of the Hellmers family in the time before 1800. And I am glad that I can say: rather a good success. Of course, sometimes it was rather difficult to come forward, and on the other side I was very glad of having found more details about the family, but now and then I searched a whole forenoon in piles of old documents and went home without having anything of importance.

Therefore, dear Mr. Hellmers, will understand ^{and} excuse me that a year has passed before my work was done.

The principal line of the Hellmers (the "Stammhaus" as we say in German) is at Hørspe, a village in the parish of Bardewisch. In this parish as well as in the other parishes of Stedingen it was a legal rule that the last born male descendant always inherited the farm belonging to the family. So the Hellmers farm was inherited from 1500 to 1727. The last proprietor Claus Hellmers died 1727 without children. The widow inherited the Hellmers farm, as in Stedingen it was an old right "Länger Leib, länger Gut" which means the longest living part (husband or wife) inherited the farm. Therefore the second husband of Claus Hellmers' f from father to son

widow, a John Bauer, was now proprietor of Hellmers farm.

But some members of the family Hellmers (sons, brothers and grandsons) married into other farms of the parish Bardorvish. In my work you will find their names.

Dear Mr Hellmers, My work is not yet quite perfect. I shall look out for more materials. But I thought it would be better to send you what I have found till to-day. I send it in German language. But my niece Elisabeth Schütte in Bremen, whom you know, and I will translate it into English. She has nearly finished the translation. I shall copy the translation for you, and complete it where it is necessary and translate some German words of old times being not easy to be translated. In three weeks I hope to be able to send it off to you.

First I send you this German text as we do not know how long it will last that we can't send to America, for the political state is not good. And it would be a pity, if you had not received my work at all.

Together with the English

text I shall send you a nice ~~set~~
sketching of the "Haumarkte" of the
Hellmers family and a plan of all
houses in the parish of Bardewisch
and the village Sannau.

To Anna and Adolf Hellmers
I shall send or copy in German.

Meanwhile I shall try to
find more details in the Archives
and then I send them to you.

I hope that my work will
reach you and make you a little
joy.

My best wishes and hearty
greetings.

Your
Wilhelm Warrtjen.

(23) Oldenburg (Oldb)

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P.S. In the translation you will
already find more details which
I found the last days, especially
about No. III Hinrich Hellmers
who descendants live at Farge now.

W.