

Chapter Three**FIRST GENERATION**

Christian Israel Leimberger, son of Christian Leimberger and Margretta Staud, was born in St. Matthews Parish ca. 1743. He was known by the given name of Israel. He married Appollonia Daumer, daughter of Michael and Waldpurga Oechsse Daumer, on August 28, 1764. Michael Daumer was from Langensee by Ulm (1). Israel and his wife, Appollonia, lived in the Mill District on his father's grant of land which was located about three miles below Ebenezer on the Augusta Road. Israel sold one of the 100 acre tracts of land, that his father had been granted, to John Steiner in 1767 (2). Urban Buntz (3) bought one of the town lots that his father had received. An interesting entry in Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg's Journal dated Friday, December 2, 1774:

"Pastor Rabenhorst set out on the journey to Savanna[h] to catechize the young people tomorrow, God willing, and to conduct divine service on Sunday. I was taken two miles away to the home of a young Salzburger, who teaches in the school at Zion Church and occupies a bit of land in order to baptize the twins born to his wife (last night). This man had recently purchased a negress for 40 pounds sterling and had borrowed the money to do so. But she had been poisoned by other Negroes and was buried yesterday. A great loss for a young beginner." (4)

The young schoolteacher in Muhlenberg's Journal was Israel Leimberger and the twins were Samuel and Israel Christian Leimberger (5). Apparently, in order to pay for his loss, Israel tried to dispose of the other 100 acre tract that had been granted to his father (6). No record of this sale has been found and the property passed on to decedents so he must have weathered the financial loss.

Israel Leimberger and Appollonia were members of the congregation of Jerusalem Lutheran Church (7). Records of the church show them to have been the sponsors at several infant baptisms (8). At that time, the church was served by two pastors, the Rev. Christian Rabenhorst and Rev. Christoph Friedrich Triebner. A bitter division arose in the congregation when it was discovered that a royal grant covering their newly constructed brick church building and surrounding property had reserved the building and grounds for the Church of England.

Rabenhorst's faction was led by a deacon named John Adam Treutlen while Rev. Triebner's forces were headed by John G. Wertsch, the trustee who had obtained the mixed-up land grant. Treutlen and his followers actually locked the Wertsch faction out of the church after keeping them from entering the building by the use of drawn swords. The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg, an elder minister of the Lutheran Church in the Colonies, was called to Ebenezer in 1774 to mediate the dispute. Despite his efforts to make peace, the dispute was still raging when the Revolutionary War broke out. The Rev. Triebner and his group sided with the British, while Rev. Rabenhorst's followers vowed to remain neutral.

It appears that Israel Leimberger was sympathetic with the Rev. Triebner's position, as he signed a petition on September 21, 1775 protesting the possible separation of the colonies from England. The petition states:

"We who have just put our names to this paper, inhabitants of the Parish of St. Matthew and town of Ebenezer, think it necessary in this public manner to declare that about the 4th day of this inst[ant]. we were told by certain persons that we must send a petition to our King in regard to the Bostonians, to beg for relief, as a child begs a father when he expects correction; and that all who would not join must sign their names, that they might know how many would be in this parish; and that should we decline what was recommended, we must expect the Stamp Act imposed upon us. By these and like flattering words we were persuaded to sign, but we find we were deceived, for that the people who met at Savannah on the 10th inst[ant]. did not petition our King, but made up a paper, which we think is very wrong, and may incur the displeasure of his Majesty, so as to prevent us from having soldiers to help us in case of an Indian war. We therefore disagree entirely from said paper, and do hereby protest against any resolutions that are, or may hereafter be, entered into on this occasion." (9)

The British occupation of Ebenezer came on January 1, 1779, which was after the town of Savannah had surrendered. The Rev. Rabenhorst promptly left for St. Augustine and his home was the first that was burned. The British commander allowed Rev. Triebner to resume the pastorate of Jerusalem Church. After the British were forced to withdraw from Georgia, Rev. Triebner left Ebenezer and went to England.

After the division in Jerusalem Church, it appears that Israel and Appollonia Leimberger and family worshipped in the church at Zion which was about a mile north of their farm in the Mill District.

Israel Leimberger witnessed the Will of Ann Barbara Rabenhorst on June 30, 1779. In the fall of 1780, Christian Israel Leimberger died (10). This was just over a year after the withdrawal of the British from Ebenezer. It is not known at this time, the circumstances surrounding his death. It is assumed to be from natural causes.

His widow, Appollonia made application on June 15, 1791, in the newly created county of Effingham, to obtain Letters of Administration on her late husband's estate (11). She sold a stock of cattle and hogs to John G. Zettrower on December 2, 1791 (12). On August 30, 1792, she placed the following advertisement in the Savannah, Gazette:

"Strayed or Stolen On the 12th instant, from the suscriber, A Dark Bay Horse, about 13 1/2 hands high, trots and paces, has a white spot on his forehead, branded on the mounting shoulder, I. L. and has one or more brands unknown. Whoever will bring said horse to the suscriber three miles below Ebenezer or John Smith, baker, Savannah shall receive a reward of four dollars."

On October 26, 1792, Appollonia Leimberger purchased 50 acres of land at a sheriff's sale (13). This property was part of a parcel of 100 acres of land that her late husband had sold to John Steiner in 1767. On July, 18, 1795, an inventory and appraisalment of the estate of Christian Israel Leimberger was presented to the probate court of Effingham County by Thomas Wylly, John Kogler, and Andrew Seckinger (14). The inventory and appraisalment is as follows:

1 cow & yearling 30/-., one heiffer 20/-.
 1 cow 18/8/. one do. & calf 25/-., one cow & calf 25/-.
 1 cow & yearlin 40/-., one cow 20/-., one cow & yearlin 30/-.
 1 cow 25/-., one small steer 14/-., one calf 9/4-.,
 1 cow 25/-20 head of hogs 102/8., 11 pewter basons 13/10.40
 10 pewter plates 6/8-., 1 pewter tea pot 4/4-.
 2 knives and forks & one all 2., 1 flesh fork & ladle 10.,
 1 candle mole, funnel, & 2 candle sticks
 1 box iron & 2 heaters 1/2-., 1 hammer & chisel 1/2-.,
 1 scale & weight 3/6-., 1 mill 2/4-., 2 sives 1/2-.,
 2 cow chains 3/6-., 2 trace chains 3/6-.,
 3 dung forks 2/-., 3 wedges & maall 3/-.,
 1 fro 1/6-., one ax & spade 7.,
 1 pr. sheep shears, pinchers, drawing knife & dog
 1 pr. stillard 4/8-., 1 bell.,/4-.,
 1 pr. old cards & box and pepper mill
 1 lot old iron 1/6-., 2 whetstones 8.,
 2 old kettles & bowlers 6., 1 pitcher & bottles 6.,
 2 jugs 2/-., 1 foot wheel 3/6., one chest 1/-.,
 2 chests 2/-., one do. 6, 1 buffet 2/4-., 1 case empty bottles 1
 1 table & bench 2/-., 1 empty case 2., 1 chair 3.,
 2 tubs & 2 pijins 2/-., 2 potts 5/-., 2 fat jars 1/2-.,
 1 kettle 1/6-., 1 churn 1/-., 1 grin stone 3/-.,

These were valued by the appraisers at 29 pounds, 1 shilling and six pence.

In 1798, Appollonia Leimberger received a grant of 300 acres of land in Effingham County from the state of Georgia (15). On April 24, 1799, she applied for dismissal as the administrator of Israel Leimberger's estate (16). On August 31, 1812, Appollonia sold 75 acres of land to her youngest son, David Leimberger (17). On August 7, 1819, she sold an additional 50 acres of land to her son, David (18).

On September 1, 1821, Appollonia Leimberger and the heirs of Christian Israel Leimberger executed the following quit-claim deed (19):

"Georgia) Apelona Lyneburger & Others
) to
) Trustees German Congregation

This Indenture made the first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one and in the 46 year of American Independency Between Appolina Lineburger, Widow of the late Christian Lynburger with said John Lynburger, David Lineburger, Timothy Gnann, John Freyermouth heirs of the said Christian Lineburger of Effingham County of the one part and the Trustees Churchwardens of the Ebenezer Congregation in Trust of the other part also of Effingham County State aforesaid. Whereas some years ago were reserve[d] in Zion District on a piece of land that belongeth to Christian Lineburger for a burial place for the convenience of the German Lutheran Congregation to inter their dead and the rights thereof being lost. We therefore Appalina Lineburger widow, John Lineburger, David Lineburger, Timothy Gnann, John Freyermouth all heirs of the said Christian Lineburger DO renew unto the Trustees and Churchwardens of the Ebenezer Congregation and their sucessors in office in and for the benefit of the German Lutheran Congregation to bury their dead the right title claim and demand in two acres of land where the present burial place now is and on Christian Lineburger's land. WE DO also agree that the old church be taken from thence where it is and to be removed to the most suitable spot joining the present burial ground or anywhere on the two acres for a Chapel for divine worship whenever there is a funeral or whenever the minister of the Congregation feels inclined to preach and the said Chapel shall be known by the name of Zion's Chapel belonging to the German Lutheran denomination Ebenezer and that no preaching shall be carried on in said chapel by any other denomination without the apportion and consent of the congregation or their Representatives. But be it understood that if any stranger or none member of the Church should die in the neighborhood that such a person buried must not be excluded from being interred in the Burial ground of required and we the said Appolina Lineburger, John Lineburger, David Lineburger, Timothy Gnann, John Freyermouth for themselves, their heirs relinquishing all right, title, claim, or demand to the said two acres forever accepting the principles as members in the Congregation

have to hear and bury their dead. In witness whereof each have separately set their hands and seals this first day of September Eighteen Hundred Twenty One.

Signed & Sealed in the presence of	Appolina Lineburger
	John Line burger
David Powledge	David Lineburger
John Waldbauer	Timothy Gnann
Godlieb Seckinger	Jno. Fryermouth
	Joshua Lineberger"

Appollonia Leimberger, in her later years, lived with her daughter, Catherine, and her husband, Timothy Gnann (20). Appollonia died in Effingham County ca. 1823. Her son-in-law, Timothy Gnann, was appointed executor of the estate on March 10, 1823. The business affairs of her estate were not settled until some time after November 23, 1835 as Timothy sold 48 acres of land less two acres for a church and grave-yard to John Seckinger and Gottlieb Gnann (21). These two acres had been given to Jerusalem Church for the Plantation Cemetery by Christian Leimberger but no deed had ever been drawn up. Appollonia and the heirs of Christian Leimberger had renewed in an 1821 deed (22) the lost rights of the church to use the cemetery and to move Zion Church there.

The children of Christian Israel Leimberger and Appollonia Daumer were: (23)

1. Hannah Margaret, born July 25, 1765, died September 3, 1766.
2. Salome, born November 2, 1760, married John Freyerrmouth (24).
3. Israel Christian, twin brother of Samuel, was born on December 2, 1774 (25). He married Mary Catherine Sneider on May 2, 1799 (26). He died ca. 1809 (27).
3. Samuel, twin brother of Israel Christian, was born on December 2, 1774. He died sometime before 1821 without issue (28).
4. John, twin brother of Catherine, was born April 26, 1777. He married Christian Elizabeth Seckinger on April 2, 1802 (29). He died ca. 1831 (30).
4. Catherine, twin brother of John, was born on April 26, 1777. She married Timothy Gnann on November 6, 1799 (31). She died in 1827 (32).
5. David, was born posthumously on November 28, 1780. He married Naomi Keiffer on December 27, 1802 (33). He died ca. 1826 (34).

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26 Israel Christian Leimberger, Marriage Records (Effingham County, Georgia: Probate Court Records, Book 1, p, 95).

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32 P. R. Gnann, Georgia Salzburger and Allied Families (Savannah, Georgia: 1956).

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