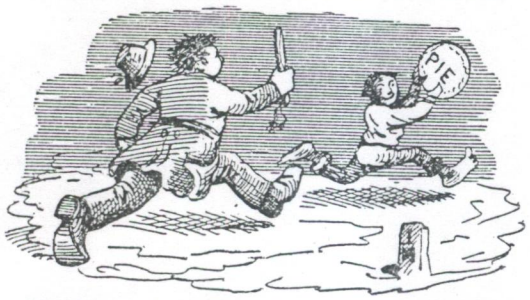
LAMB'S NATIONAL PIE BAKERY,



W. L. Schneider, Prop'r, 220 East Capitol street.

One of the most prominent and extensive houses in this branch of business in the city is the well-known National Pie Bakery known as Lamb's, situated at 220 East Capitol street, W. I. Schneider, proprietor. This business was established in 1861 by C. M. Lamb, from whom the establishment is named, Mr. Schneider succeeding to the entire control of the business in 1880. The premises occupied are 37 x 105 feet in dimensions and elegantly arranged and fitted up, having all the modern facilities for conducting the business. Employment is given to 12 experienced assistants, and four wagons are used in delivering the products of the house to the dealers throughout the city. A specialty is made of pies, for which the house has won a national reputation. Mr. Schneider is a native of Washington and is a baker of long experience, and has built up a large and successful business.

(Source: Historical and Commercial Sketches of Washington .... pub. 1884)

FOOTNOTE: "Terrace Court"

How did Terrace Court come about and why was it originally known as "Lamb's Court"?

The most likely reason the Court was once called "Lamb's" is provided in the clipping to the left discussing the National Pie Bakery.

As for the term "Terrace Court", the name came into usage when the 7 frame homes appeared in a row on 3rd St., N.E., and numbered 12 through 24. Together these homes were called "Washington Terrace", presumably in reference to the way these homes occupy a slight rise in the land from street level (see Sanborn map for 1888).

The term "Washington Terrace", which first appeared about 1878, continued in usage until 1910. No doubt the alley behind simply retained the name.

only a short time numbered "217". But the most important information provided by the permits issued in 1889 is that both permits were for new work. Nothing in either permit suggests any adapting or absorbing of previous construction, such as those of Mr. Grinder. Therefore, it is accurate to date the home at 219 A St. from the year 1889.

On the building permits we note "Emmons and King agents". George E. Emmons and Charles W. King combined building with other business ventures, such as loans, real estate and insurance. In the building market, Emmons' particular strength came in suburban construction linked to the city by trolley lines. Later, working with Charles King, he did much work in the SW section as well. The partnership excelled in just the kind of work they did on Square 759-- modest row houses facing the street and costing between $1,900 to $2,500 with alley dwellings behind and toward the center of the square. In other words, the row and the alley dwellings were but two parts of the same project so frequently done by Emmons and King.

On the exterior of 219 A St. we see a decorative use of machine pressed brick in the cornice, in the arched window treatment and in the border trim between the home's first and second levels. The production of machine molded and pressed decorative brick dates locally from about the mid-1880s. The advent of this process brought greater

Brick detail-- 219 A St., N.E.

variety of shape, size and color as well as reduced costs in brick production. It also helped create specialization in the bricklayer's trade. We soon had "facemen" and "corner men" who set decorative cornices, corners, raised levels from the surface, elaborate chamfered bay windows while generally increasing the overall beauty and interest in such work. An experienced bricklayer in 1880s might earn $4 per day; apprentice bricklayers and hod carriers might earn half or less that amount.

The partnership of Emmons and King lasted about a decade and a half. Emmons had taken a law degree and eventually concentrated in the field. As for Charles King, he continued to build. Having trained as a bricklayer in public works under the "Boss"Shephard government, King soon became known as a specialist in alley dwellings and small working-class homes. He did that type of contruction extensively in the area NW of the Capitol Building, managing to keep construction costs down to as little as $500 per dwelling and with 12 foot widths. Now, even at 1880s prices, that's tight!

Mr. King tried to introduce his son into the business but it seems junior preferred a career in architecture. There is an amusing story about the son and perhaps we'll take a moment here to relate it.

On the bright and blusterous day of April 26, 1902, it seems young King Jr. had just steped down from a street

car during a high business rush hour. There he was at 1413 G St., NW, directly in front of the Davidson Building where his father, Charles W. King, kept his offices. With his step resulting in an unexpected jar, his wallet slipped from his coat and hit the pavement. The contents--$500 in small denominations of one, five and ten dollar notes, emptied and nearly all of it was immediately caught up by the wind. In no time, or at least in so little time as could be imagined, the air and sidewalk were alive with racing, fugitive bills, rushing and skimming down the way and before startled passing crowds. A custodian employed by the Treasury Department promptly appraised the situation and took charge. He retrieved the wallet and organized on the spot a "much animated corps of volunteers" who were just minutes before mere strangers on the street. Very shortly there stood young King Jr. receiving bundles of cash in clasped arms and hands thankfully, as if he were some kind of waste paper basket positioned on the street. He quickly entered his father's office, deposited the money and then returned to the pavement where he fished out a few stray bills that had lodged in the rail conduit. A writer remarked in the Evening Star two days later, "For a few minutes the pavement and the air was enriched with a shower of money that probably never before had its counterpart." Even more surprising, it seems that when all was counted up and accounted for from the original $500 all had been recovered except for one ten and one five dollar bill!

When Emmons and King built the rowhouses on A St. and the alley dwellings in Terrace Court, they did so as agents for Mr. B.H. Warder (not to be confused with B.H. Warner, prominent local builder and contemporary). Benjamin H. Warder came to Washington from Ohio during the mid-1880s, having sold his farm machinery business to interests later to become the International Harvester Company. Mr. Warder arrived in the Nation's Capital with a proverbial 'ton-of-money'. By 1889 he had invested so extensively in real estate here he was, as an individual taxpayer, the sixth most significant property owner on the tax rolls! As you might suppose Mr. Warder and his wife, Ellen Ormsbee, caused quite a splash entering high society-- its genteel charity work, clubs, dinners and balls. A Quaker by upbringing, Mr. Warder gave the appearance of a tall, fine gentleman of courteous, dignified manner.

To Mr. Warder the property on A St. was strictly investment; he never resided here. Instead he and his family-- which consisted of his wife, three daughters and several live-in servants-- resided in the fashionable NW. Their home was located near 15th and K sts., a palatial structure in the McPherson Square area. After introducing his eldest daughter into society and having her marry well, Mr. Warder traveled to Egypt with his wife and two younger daughters in January, 1894. They planned an extended vacation in Egypt and the Holy Land, but