



## RUDULPH ELLIS (1836-19xx)

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

*[The following is excerpted from Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania, by Gilbert Cope and Henry Graham Ashmead, published by The Lewis Company, New York and Chicago in 1904.]*

**RUDULPH ELLIS** was born in 1836 in Elkton, Cecil county, Maryland, a son of Francis Atterbury, a prominent lawyer, and Eliza (Howard) Ellis.

He came to Philadelphia as a boy to enter upon a business career, and entered the firm of Gaw McAllister & Co. as a clerk. At the outbreak of the rebellion he went to the front with the famous First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry during the three months' enlistment, and then became first lieutenant in Rush's Lancers, which later became the Sixth Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment. From a captaincy in that regiment he became assistant inspector general on the staff of General Torbert, of General Sheridan's division of the Army of the Potomac. He was severely wounded at the battle of Beverly Ford. At the conclusion of the war he resumed business in Philadelphia as senior member of the stock exchange firm of R. Ellis & Co., and although that firm was dissolved about fifteen years ago he continued to keep up his interest in public and financial matters. In 1901, on the retirement of Mr. John B. Gest from the presidency of the Fidelity Trust Company, Mr. Ellis succeeded to the office of this, the largest and most powerful institution of its kind in Philadelphia.

He is a director in many corporations, notably the Pennsylvania Railroad (succeeding the late William L. Elkins), in the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the Electric Storage Battery Company, the New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk Railroad, the Mercantile Trust Company, and Manhattan Trust Company, of New York; the Commercial Trust Company, and Fourth Street National Bank, of Philadelphia. He was a member of the committee formed to protect the bondholders of the Asphalt Company of America at the time of the collapse in 1902, and assisted in the reorganization of the property, becoming one of the votary trustees of the new General Asphalt Company.

In 1879 he took up his residence in Delaware county, purchased the old Davis and Pugh farms in Radnor township, and three years later added the Moore property extending into Haverford. The estate consists of over three hundred and fifty acres, and is generally considered one of the finest farms in the county. This has been the residence of Mr. Ellis and his family since 1880. The house which he completed that year stands on the crest of a steep hill which has always been called "Fox Hill," after which the whole property is named.

Mr. Ellis has always taken an active part in public affairs of the township, and when, in 1901, Radnor became a township of the first class, he was elected one of the five township commissioners, and serves as chairman of the highway committee. He has always been a staunch Republican in politics, and not infrequently receives the county leaders at his home...

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