Where is the Watch and Seal?
SAM BAKER’S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

According to tradition, a silver watch with a seal bearing the reversed Baker Coat of Arms was brought to America by the first Baker. It has been handed down for generations. Although we have a photo of it (shown at right), we at the Bakers of Buckland Society, Inc. do not know the whereabouts of this relic.

Youth member, Sam Baker, son of member and Founder, Dr. Josiah Baker, is hopeful to find the owners of the watch and see it for himself. He also hopes to work with them to see if the watch can be lent to a library or museum where it can be displayed for the general public.

“I think this can make a great Eagle Scout project for me!” he says. He plans to submit this project for approval this summer.

If anyone has helpful information for Sam, please contact him:
Home Phone: (407)-365-3825

Notes on Dr. Benjamin Baker

CONTRIBUTED BY ROBERT BAKER

Dr. Benjamin Baker, Jr. was born in Norfolk, VA, received his B. S. in 1922 from the Univ. of Va, and M.A. in 1925 from Oxford Univ. where he was a Rhodes scholar, and earned his M. D. in 1927 from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Baker served in the Fiji Islands during World War II as Chief of Medical Services at Hopkins’ 18th General Hospital. He was later assigned to Gen Douglas MacArthur in 1945 as Chief Consultant in Medicine.

Dr. Baker was a physician and professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a

Continued on page 5
Where was the First Manor House?

William Baker (1743 - 1805) is known for having built the Buckland Manor Plantation House that currently stands in Gates County, NC (pictured left). But did you know that when he died in 1805, an inventory* of his estate was conducted, and two houses were recorded? The inventory specifically designates two areas of Buckland Plantation: one was called the "Manor Plantation," and the other was referred to as the "Old Place." Inventory shows the "Old Place" had a sparsely furnished house of some sort, livestock, and quarters for twenty three slaves.

What exactly is the "Old Place?" By its very name, it is implied to be an earlier manor house that predates the "Manor Plantation." This is no surprise. Keep in mind that Buckland had been owned and occupied by the Baker family since 1670, so when Henry Baker III died in 1773, he must have owned some sort of house that he left behind. At his death, this house would have been part of the Buckland property inherited by his eldest living son, William Baker. This supposition is indeed confirmed by the widely read "Recollections" of Simmons Jones Baker. Simmons was William's nephew and Henry's grandson. He was born in 1775, two years after Henry's death, and at a time when William had already inherited Buckland and had already married Judith Norfleet.

Although Simmons never knew his grandfather, Henry, he liked to write about him and his wonderful old house, which Simmons called "Buckland." He fondly described it as a "one story" "old mansion" with "dormers above," and a huge fireplace that could hold logs "from six to eight feet long!" This is unique: unlike any of the eight fireplaces found in the present day Buckland Manor.

Simmons recorded that he occasionally lived with William and Judith (as a child), at Buckland while his father was "at war" or out of town. In one case, Simmons describes an experience that he had with Judith in the "Entry" of Buckland, which he points out was once his grandfather's house, but is now his uncle's. This same "Entry" is also mentioned in Henry's father's will in 1737, so we know it was built prior to 1737.

Simmons also stated that he experienced several Christmasses in that house, and that his Uncle William lived there "for some time," so William and Judith must have used that house for many years.

But where was the "Old Place" located? Simmons' Recollections provides us two important clues:

1. It was "about a mile away" from Knotty Pine Chapel.
2. It was "about a mile away" from Brady's race path

Thanks to Thomas Baker of Houston, TX, who performed extensive research in the 1980's on survey plat maps and land deeds, we know the location of both of these places.

To the right is a map that illustrates locations of the present Buckland Manor, the Knotty Pine Chapel, Brady's path, and the possible locations for the "Old Mansion."* The 1805 estate inventory is filed at the Gates County Courthouse

September: Searching for the First Manor House by Satellite

Last summer, we combed satellite images to find any evidence of ruins of the "Old Mansion" (built prior to 1773). We found what appeared to be a ruined house embedded in the woods very close to Margaret Baker's grave. Assuming the family members were buried near the original house, we decided to travel to Gates, NC to investigate the ruins. We only found an old, rotting house that was probably built around the time of the civil war.

Where is William’s “Old Mansion”?

Clues come from the writings of Dr. S.J. Baker. In his RECOLLECTIONS, he noted that the Buckland manor house of his youth was "about a mile" from Knotty Pine Chapel, and was also "about a mile" from the race track at "Brady’s Path" which was a half-mile north of Knotty Pine Chapel.

The ruins we explored in September 2014 were not of William’s “Old Place.”

*The location of Knotty Pine Chapel was given on the 1745/46 survey plat of Buckland Plantation. The site of Brady’s Race Path (beginning 1/2 mile north of the Chapel) was determined by locating the geographic position of a 91-acre parcel of land, described as “Beginning at a Pine on the North Side of Brady’s Race Path,” sold by James Brady to William Byrd, later in 1813. (Research performed by Thomas F. Baker)
Note From the President

It's certainly my pleasure to welcome all to the Bakers of Buckland Society. The adventure may have just begun for some, while for others this is another chapter in the deep history in the story of our (very) extended family's lives. I remember growing up and hearing all of the stories of my ancestors from my grandfather, Robert A. Baker Jr.; I was hooked. It all seemed so mysterious, thrilling, and larger than life in many cases. As I grew older, I couldn't help but wonder how much more information was out there. I couldn't help but wonder how many other families I had that shared an interest - small or large - in our roots. Then came the Internet. If it weren't for email and/or social media, we would have a terrible time even getting this society off the ground. Yet, here we are just a few short months into it and we see distant cousins joining our adventure regularly. Perhaps the most important aspect of what we're creating is that each of us are a piece of a marvelous puzzle that would otherwise be incomplete without you. We are just a few short months into it and we see distant cousins joining our adventure regularly. Perhaps the most important aspect of what we're creating is that each of us are a piece of a marvelous puzzle that would otherwise be incomplete without you. We are growing our membership so we can learn more about OUR family history.

Huge “Thank You” to Our Founding Members!

We would not be here today without your generous contributions and all around support of our efforts!

John Baker, FL
David Reese, KY
Susan Woolridge, NE
Robert Baker, CA
Charlene Baker, CA
Sarah Beaulieu, SC
Thomas Baker, TX
Christin Flynn, WA
Jim Baker, FL
Danielle Haymore, UT
Annalise Haymore, UT
Josiah Baker, NC
Samuel Baker, FL
Maxwell Baker, NC
Karen Baker, AUS
Roger Vann Smith, NC

ON THE RADAR - Projects For 2015

Contact Us if You Want to Help!

Success is never guaranteed, but these are two projects that we plan to start this year.

1. Simmons Jones Baker Portrait: We plan to reach out to the Masonic organization in Raleigh, NC to negotiate preservation of the portrait of Simmons Jones Baker.

2. Buckland Manor House Restoration: A huge undertaking: To restore the house and convert it into a structure that is useful and accessible to the local community.

Book Suggestions


HISTORY OF ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: The Early Years, 1838-1887 by John H. Carter, Sr., ca. 1930. A 239 page hardback book, copyright 1983, published by P.M. Publishing & Typographics, inc. Dr. Simmons Jones Baker was a founder and Vestry Member of this church in Marianna, FL. Some of his descendants are buried in the church cemetery, and some still attend this church as of 2006.


New Book to be Released this Year!

We are pleased to bring you Thomas F. Baker's original 1985 unpublished work, "Buckland Plantation," updated and endorsed by the original author! We are in the final stages of editing and hope to release it on Amazon.com this spring. Look for updates in your email!

Dr. Benjamin Baker, Continued from page 1:

pioneer in the understanding, treatment and prevention of coronary artery disease. Several notable patients of Dr. Baker were screen stars Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Wallace Berry and Dick Powell, South Pole explorer Richard E. Byrd, and author F. Scott Fitzgerald. Dr. Baker's career spanned much of the 20th century and he died in 2003 at the age of 101. He was remembered as a man "endowed with the charm of a Virginia gentleman, the easy grace of an athlete and the intellect of a medical scientist and physician."
Bakers of Buckland Society, Inc. Officially Founded!

Seventeen like-minded and concerned individuals came together to found the Bakers of Buckland Society, Inc. in 2014. We were officially organized as a non-profit Corporation in North Carolina at the Board Meeting on November 8, 2014. The Founding Members affirmed their support at our first Annual Meeting, held in Orlando, Florida, on November 29, 2014. Most of our members voted via proxy through the mail, but five members attended in person. Two of the three Corporate Directors (Judy Freed and Roger Vann Smith) attended via telephone.

The founding process has been challenging but rewarding. We anxiously anticipate driving the preservation of important historical edifices, relics, items, etc. And we also eagerly look forward to uniting many more descendants of Henry Baker and Mary Blake into one unified Society that can make a positive, and hopefully permanent, difference!

Elected Officers for 2015

GEENALOGISTS
Thomas Baker
Bob Baker

MANAGING OFFICERS
John Baker, President
Susan Wooldridge, Secretary/Treasurer
Danielle Haymore, Online Tree Manager
Jim Baker, Director of IT

TOUR OFFICERS
Roger Vann Smith – Buckland Plantation House Tours, Gates, NC
Danielle Haymore – Genealogy Library Tours in Salt Lake City, UT
Josiah Baker – Raleigh, NC Tours
Bob Baker – Tours (overseeing the 2015 reunion tours)

CORPORATE DIRECTORS*
Suean Wooldridge, NE
Rogevt Vann Smith, NC
Devin Croll, FL (Interim until elections)

Thank you to Judy Freed for serving as one of our first Corporate Directors through February 3, 2015, and for helping us organize our Society. We wish you success in your future genealogy endeavors!

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Reunion Leadership

Bob and Charlene Baker of California are leading the reunion planning this year.

We deeply appreciate their expertise, organizational talents and all the hard work that they have already performed to make this happen. Thank you so much!

CONTACT US:
Send all inquiries to our Secretary,
Susan Wooldridge
Address: 3314 N. 129th Circle
Omaha, NE 68164
Phone: 402.502.4383
Email: woollabs@gmail.com

“Please make note: According to Federal law, the Society shall be overseen by (a minimum of) three Corporate Directors, all of whom are unrelated and who preside in the best interest of the Society.

Updates From Officers

On Line Tree Manager: Danielle Haymore

We have 827 people on our on line tree. If you have people to add to our tree, or if you have any corrections to our tree, please email me (Danielle) at: daniellehaymore@gmail.com

Thank you!

IT Director: Jim Baker

Great news! We have a new, more professional URL. The word “wordpress” is no longer part of the URL. Our new Internet address is: www.http://bakersofbuckland.org.

By the way, our website has been viewed about 900 times since it was created in June of 2014.

Founders Can Earn a Star!

To earn a star, include this form with your membership renewal

Please waive my membership dues in lieu of this Founding Donation.

STAR for me:

Silver Star: $1250
Gold Star: $2500

Plus a STAR for my Spouse:

Silver Star: add $250 more
Gold Star: add $500 more

Plus a STAR for my Child (Children) under 18:

Silver Star: add $0 more (free)
Gold Star: add $0 more (free)

ANNUAL DUES:

Renew My Membership

Student Membership: $10
Basic: $25
Benefactor: $50
Henry Baker and Mary Blake Club: $250

Renew My Spouse

Student Membership: $5
Basic: $10
Benefactor: $15
Henry Baker and Mary Blake Club: $100

Renew My Child Under 18

Free

New Mailing Address? Please tell us!
Street:
City
State
Zip

PAYMENT OPTIONS

A check is enclosed (to: Bakers of Buckland Society, Inc.)
Please send me an email so I can use a credit card through PayPal

Thank You!

Join in 2015 & get a FREE copy of our new book!

Not a Member? Join Us and Get a Free Book!

Yes! Please send me an application!

Which applications do you want us to send you?

Member
Spouse
Child under 18

Complete this form and send it to:
Bakers of Buckland Society, Inc.
Attn: Susan Wooldridge
3314 N. 129th Circle
Omaha NE 68164

See page 5 for more information about this book
JOIN US OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2015!

Pre-Reunion Tour
Tour Buckland Manor!

Tour the manor with Roger Vann Smith! See the “1775” date brick. Learn about the history of the manor house and hear about plans for the future!

Friday, October 2
Leave Smithfield Station at 1:00. Tour starts at the house at 3:00.

Baker Reunion at Smithfield, VA
Bring the whole family!

Tour Shoal Bay

Friday, October 2
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Meet up at hotel bar
6:00 pm Dinner at Smithfield Station

Saturday, October 3
9:00 am Reunion meeting at the hotel
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Tour Shoal Bay with Bob Baker
4:00 pm Cemetery walk, St. Luke’s Church
followed by a brief Baker presentation
6:00 pm Dinner at Smithfield Station

Sunday, October 4
Informal breakfast meet-ups

We need a head count
RSVP for all activities to Susan Wooldridge by September 1, 2015
Email: woolilabs@gmail.com
Phone: 402.502.3833

Post-Reunion Tour
Tour Hidden Baker Cemetery!

Not for the faint of heart! Hike with Susan Wooldridge 1/4 mile and into a thicket of trees to see the Simmons Jones Baker Monument!

Sunday, October 4
Leave Smithfield at 1:00. Tour starts outside the Trinity Episcopal Church, Scotland Neck, NC at 3:00.

Secretary, Bakers of Buckland Society, Inc.
3314 N. 129th Circle
Omaha, NE 68164

Bakers of Buckland Society Annual Meeting
At Smithfield Station in Smithfield, VA

Friday, October 2 at 10:30 am
Support our cause! Meet each other. Make a difference. Choose your officers. Get involved!

Meet in the Smithfield Station Library, third floor of the hotel.
RSVP to Susan Wooldridge by September 1, 2015 wooolabs@gmail.com / 402.502.3833