

**“The Land between James River and Roanoke River is for the most parts Low Suncken Swampy Land not well passable but with great difficulty, and therein harbours Tygers bears and Devouring Creatures.”<sup>1</sup>**

So is described the land that characterized the:

## **Buckland Plantation**

The remnants of the Buckland Plantation lie on the west side of N.C. 37 at the junction of SR 1313, near the Buckland Mill Branch, earlier known as Knotty Pine Creek,<sup>2</sup> five miles south of the Virginia line in Gates County.

The old mansion is Buckland Plantation’s third manor house<sup>3</sup> build in 1795 by William Baker, whose maternal 3rd great grandfather Col. John Blake patented the Plantation’s original total in excess of 2,500 acres<sup>4</sup> on October 10, 1670, on account of Col. Blake having imported 48 persons into the Virginia Colony. The plantation was deep in the wilderness of the then Upper Parish, most of the southern part Nansemond County, Virginia, now appearing on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>5</sup> The land seems to have been the southernmost patent for land in Nansemond County so far issued by the Colony of Virginia and the first ever patented in what is now Gates County, North Carolina.<sup>6</sup>

John Blake had entered into the Virginia Colony prior to 14 Dec 1654, accumulating over 750 acres in the near vicinity of Mathews Creek, and Blakes Creek<sup>7</sup> branches of the Nansemond River fifteen miles downstream on the James River from Jamestown, Virginia.<sup>8</sup> Col. Blake was a Burgess from Nansemond

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<sup>1</sup> Map of *Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year* 1670. @<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3880.ct000766/>

<sup>2</sup> *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracted and Indexed* by Nell Marion Nugent, Vol. II: 1666-1695, Patent Book 6, p.96, dated 10 October 1670, p.369.

<sup>3</sup> Buckland, Gates County, NC,,<https://iif.lib.ncsu.edu/iif/bh1202pnc001/full/1000,672/0/default.jpg>.

<sup>4</sup> *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracted and Indexed* by Nell Marion Nugent, Vol. II: 1666-1695, Patent Book 6, p.96, dated 10 Oct 1670, p.369.

<sup>5</sup> US Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/GA0005.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Buckland Plantation, by Thomas F. Baker. p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> <https://jcb.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/workspace/handleMediaPlayer;JSESSIONID=04ff83be-5aa3-4bc4-9a86-a39b014501ee;JSESSIONID=45c46386-ff46-4ed7-adab-f855ea71087b?lunaMediaId=JCBMAPS~1~1~1192~115902426>

<sup>8</sup> John Blake, 300 acre at in Mathews Cr., a branch of the southern branch of Nansemond Riv. 14 Dec 1654 p. 280, C & P; 150 acs, 01 Apr. 1658, at the head of Parker Creek, p. 358, C & P; Jno. Blak (Blake), 300 acs in Mathews Creek, a branch of the Branch of Nansemond Riv., 30 Oct 1662, C & P, p.443.

in 1655 and 1666-67<sup>9</sup>; High Sheriff of Nansemond in 1661<sup>10</sup>; Militia Colonel<sup>11</sup>; Surveyor for the County in 1654<sup>12</sup>, and Member of the Governor's Council of State and General Court of Colonial Virginia in 1667.<sup>13</sup>

Col. Blake accumulated holdings totaling 9500 acres by 1674. Previous researchers have concluded that Col. Blake died in the 1680's,<sup>14</sup> but reasoning for this assumption is unknown.

Henry Baker I born 1640 married Mary [Blake]<sup>15</sup>, the only known heir of Col. John Blake.<sup>16</sup> They resided in the northwest part of Isle of Wight County, Virginia.<sup>17</sup> They had five sons, Henry II, John, James, Lawrence and Williams, and four daughters, Mary, Sarah, Katherine and Elizabeth.<sup>18</sup> Henry Baker I was characterized as "a wealthy merchant, a Justice of the County Court in 1685, 1688, 1693, 1695, 1698-99, High sheriff 1694-95<sup>19</sup>, and 1702<sup>20</sup>, a Burgess in 1692-93 and a Lt. Colonel commanding the Isle of Wight Militia".<sup>21</sup> His will dated June 10, 1707 at age 67, was proven July 28, 1712.<sup>22</sup> His estate was substantial - 26 slaves, a mill at Somerton, several plantations comprising 7042 acres of which 5,600 acres were in Nansemond county.<sup>23</sup> Including "Twenty five hundred/ acres of land att Buckland<sup>24</sup> I give and bequeath unto my son Henry and the Mill."<sup>25</sup> Mary's will dated March 5, 1732, was proven Sept 23, 1734, and left to son William Baker 2,000 acres in Nansemond Co., called "Wickham".<sup>26</sup> Wickham had been originally patented by Col. John Blake on Feb 25, 1673/4.<sup>27</sup>

Henry Baker II, the eldest son of Henry and Mary [Blake] Baker of Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties, VA was born by 1680 in Isle of Wight and died testate between 09 Jan 1737 and 01 May 1738

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<sup>9</sup> Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1658/59, Edited by H.R. McILWAINE;

<sup>10</sup> Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, William Wade Hinshaw, Chuckatuck (also called Nansemond and Levy Neck) Monthly Meeting, p.25, testimony of Thomas Jordan, first day of ye 7mo. 1661.

<sup>11</sup> Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. II: 1666-1695, p.142, abstracted by Nell Marion Nugent.

<sup>12</sup> Transcription of Lower Norfolk County, Virginia Records, Vol. Two, Record Book C, 1651-1656, compiled by John Anderson Brayton, p. 225.

<sup>13</sup> Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1659/60—1693, Edited by H.R. McIlwaine, p. 37, 47, 49.

<sup>14</sup> Buckland Plantation, by Thomas F. Baker, p.2.

<sup>15</sup> "His wife Mary was undoubtedly the daughter of Col. John Blake of Nansemond County", Historical Southern Families, Vol. IV, p. 6, by John Bennett Boddie.

<sup>16</sup> See note 18.

<sup>17</sup> Buckland Plantation, by Thomas F. Baker, p.13.

<sup>18</sup> Colonial Families of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia, Vol 8, p. 422-23, compiled by John Anderson Brayton

<sup>19</sup> Colonial Families of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia, Vol. 3, entry # 70, compiled by John Anderson Brayton.

<sup>20</sup> English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records compiled by Louis des Cognets, Jr.p.10,14

<sup>21</sup> Documenting the American South: Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, pp.586, 587, dated July 27, 1703 – July 30, 1703, Colonel Henry Baker of Virginia, @ <http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/ccsr01-0299> and Seventeenth Century, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, by John Bennett Boddie, p. 206

<sup>22</sup> Colonial Families of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia, Vol 8, p.422-423, compiled by John Anderson Brayton.

<sup>23</sup> Buckland Plantation by Thomas F. Baker, p. 13.

<sup>24</sup> "Buckland" as it would become to be know, was originally patented by Col. Jno Blake on 10 Oct 1670, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. Two: 1666-1695, p. 96 by Nell Marion Nugent.

<sup>25</sup> Colonial Families of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia, Vol 8, p. 423, compiled by John Anderson Brayton.

<sup>26</sup> William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. 7, No. 4. (Apr., 1899).

<sup>27</sup> Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. II: 1666-1695, p. 142 by Nell Marion Nugent.

was bequeathed the 2,500 acres of Buckland plantation. Henry II allegedly first married to Angelica Bray.<sup>28</sup> They had one son Henry III and a daughter Catherine<sup>29</sup>. Henry II married second Ruth Chancey, prior to 01, 15.1722,<sup>30</sup> the daughter of Sarah Keile and Hon. Edmund Chancey Jr of Pasquotank Co., NC.<sup>31,32</sup> Granddaughter of Hon. Edmund Chancey Sr., Member of the Grand Council of North Carolina in 1672.<sup>33</sup> They had four sons, John, Blake, David, Zadock, and three daughters, Mary, Sarah, and Ruth.<sup>34</sup>

Henry II was Sheriff of Nansemond 1712-13,<sup>35</sup> Justice 1714, 1726 & 1729,<sup>36</sup> Surveyor for the county 1726-28<sup>37</sup>, a Vestryman and Warden of his church<sup>38</sup>, Captain of Militia<sup>39</sup>, a Burgess from Nansemond in 1723-26,<sup>40</sup> Justice of Chowan 1731,<sup>41</sup> a member of the first Grand Jury for the whole Province of North Carolina,<sup>42</sup> Justice on the Court of Oyer and Terminer (1736)<sup>43</sup>,

During the over 60 year period from the Carolina Charter of 1665<sup>44</sup> until the official map was prepared and dated on October 26, 1728,<sup>45</sup> both Virginia and North Carolina claimed sovereignty over a 35 mile

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<sup>28</sup> Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight, Some Isle of Wight Families, by John Bennett Boddie, p.207.

<sup>29</sup> "My great aunt Caty eloped through that small window with Mr. Wiggins", Recollections of the Baker Family, By Dr. Simmons Jones Baker, p.3, dated at Scotland Neck, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1847, transcript prepared by the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration, May 12, 1938, from The Southern Historical Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Special Collection Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

<sup>30</sup> When Ruth Chancey, daughter – Edward (Edmund) disowned by the Pasquotank (Symons Creek) Monthly Meeting, N.C., U.S. Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol I-VI, 1607-1943, by William Wade Hinshaw, p. 135.

<sup>31</sup> Order of First families of North Carolina, Ancestor Biographies, Vol. 1, "The First Two Hundred ", pp.49-50, compiled by John Anderson Brayton.

<sup>32</sup> The Will of Edmund Chancey, Jr, dated 15 March 1753, proven at July court 1753, mentioning his daughter's Ruth's children, John Baker, Mary Degrafenred, Blake Baker, Sarah Baker, Ruth Baker and Zadock Baker. David mentioned in his father's will (Henry Baker II) of 09 Jan 1737, seems to have died underage by 1753. North Carolina Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, p. 55-60.

<sup>33</sup> *Ye Countie of Albemarle in Carolina*, A Collections of Documents, 1664-1675, Edited by William S. Powell, 1958, pp. 45-46, 48, 50.

<sup>34</sup> Henry Baker (II), 1739, Vol. 4, Will #81, Secretary of State Land Grants, Record books, 1693-1900, Chowan County, S.108.160.1

<sup>35</sup> English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records compiled by Louis des Cognets, Jr.p.5

<sup>36</sup> English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records compiled by Louis des Cognets, Jr. (1714) – 22, 26; (1726) – p. 32, 37, and 44.

<sup>37</sup> William Byrd's Histories of The Dividing Line Betwixt Virginia and North Carolina, The North Carolina Historical Commission, 1929 – "Mr.(William) Baker & his brother (Henry Baker) the Surveyor of Nansimond", p.79, April 3, 1728 & English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records compiled by Louis des Cognets, Jr.p.37.

<sup>38</sup> Vestry Minutes of St. Paul's Parish, Chowan County, NC, 1701-1776, Second Edition by Raymond Parker Fouts, April 26, 1736, p. 32.

<sup>39</sup> Colonial Soldiers of The South, 1732-1774, by Murtie June Clark, Herford County, NC, p.796.

<sup>40</sup> Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1723-1726; Seventeenth Century, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Some Isle of Wight Families by John Bennett Boddie, p.207 & 706

<sup>41</sup> Documenting the American South: Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council, May 01, 1731-May 22 1731, Vol 03, p. 244.

[@http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr03-0100](http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr03-0100).

<sup>42</sup> The Colonial Records of North Carolina by William L. Saunders, Vol. III, April 1, 1731, pp.134-135, April 1, 1731.

<sup>43</sup> The Colonial Records of North Carolina by William L. Saunders, Vol. VIII, Records of the Executive Council, 1735-1754, October 14, 1736, p.61.

<sup>44</sup> NCPedia – Carolina Charter, <http://www.ncpedia.org/carolina-charters-1663-1665>.

wide strip of land north of Albemarle Sound and south of Somerton Creek which includes the land at and around Buckland.<sup>46</sup>

The Nansemond land Henry Baker II inherited from his parents was cut off into that part of Chowan which would eventually become Gates County, NC. Henry Baker II was the first Baker to live at Buckland plantation.

Buckland was first claimed by Nansemond or Upper Norfolk County, VA, but the survey of the boundary line between the Provinces of Virginia and North Carolina in 1728 drew it into Chowan Precinct, later Bertie Precinct. In 1759 it was in Hertford County, and in 1779 it was included in the boundaries of Gates County.<sup>47</sup>

The first known map showing the Province of North Carolina in some detail was created by the Surveyor General Edward Moseley in 1733.<sup>48</sup> The plantation seat of "H. Baker" at Buckland is shown near the head of Sarum Creek where it is crossed by the road south from Somerton Chapel in Virginia. The Henry Baker Ferry, the first ferry across the Chowan River, established in 1722<sup>49</sup>, is shown at the mouth of the Meherrin River, another Baker plantation appears on the west bank of the Chowan River in Bertie Precinct. The Arrears of Quit Rents accounts from 29 September 1729 to March 1732, indicate Henry Baker with taxable property of 2000 acres in Bertie Precinct, arrearage 35 pounds<sup>50</sup> and 2400 acres in Chowan Precinct, arrearage 42 pounds, his father-in-law Edmund Chancey II with 1031 acres in Pasquotank Precinct, arrearage 18, 5 pence<sup>51</sup>The Quit Rent Rolls had been prepared from abstracts of all the Grants of Land in Abemarle (sic) County, delivered by Edward Moseley, Surveyor General, to the Council on January 19, 1726.<sup>52</sup>

Submitted by Frederick H. Cron, husband to Ella Margaret Bone the 7<sup>th</sup> great, granddaughter of Col. John Blake.

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<sup>45</sup> The North Carolina – Virginia border Surveys – 1709 to 1780, [http://www.carolana.com/Carolina/Noteworthy\\_Events/NC\\_VA\\_border\\_surveys.html](http://www.carolana.com/Carolina/Noteworthy_Events/NC_VA_border_surveys.html)

<sup>46</sup> Buckland Plantation, by Thomas F. Baker, p.15.

<sup>47</sup> The Colonial and State History of Hertford Country, North Carolina by Benjamin B. Winborne, p.52

<sup>48</sup> A New and Correct Map of the Province of North Carolina, East Carolina University Digital Collection, @<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/1028>, section 2, click on image to zoom.

<sup>49</sup> Buckland Plantation, by Thomas F. Baker, p.15.

<sup>50</sup> State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XXII, Miscellaneous, Arrears of Quit Rents, @<https://www.docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr22-0044>,p.240.

<sup>51</sup> State Records of North Carolina, Vol. XXII, Miscellaneous, Arrears of Quit Rents, @<https://www.docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr22-0044>,p.255.

<sup>52</sup> Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council, North Carolina, January 19, 1726, Vol. 02, pages 603-604. @ <https://www.docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr02-0281>.