

## Chapter 6

### The Baxter Family

The first allied line of our American branch of the Mitchell family of which we have record is the Baxter Family, Margaret Baxter having married William Mitchell in Scotland in the early 1600's. Both families were of the Scotch Covenanters who experienced many persecutions and hardships because of their religious convictions. From the data of the Mitchell Family Tree handed down to us we understand that these two forebears were the first to leave Scotland for settlement in Ulster, Ireland, but we have no information as to the exact year. It is impossible to secure complete and accurate data from either private or public records of North Ireland (see Chapter 5, "Presbyterians in Ulster," of Section I); and it seems probable that William and Margaret left Scotland at a later date than implied on the Family Tree or that one Mitchell generation in Ulster is not recorded.

The name Baxter is classified as of "trade" origin since it is Scotch and feminine name for baker. As stated in "The Scottish Clan" of Section I, the Baxter Family was a Sept or Sub-Clan of the Macmillan Clan which was closely allied with the Buchanan Clan. The brief history of Clan Macmillan relates the misfortunes which befell this Clan in early days and resulted in some of its members settling in southern Scotland, notably in Galloway. According to Guppy the Baxters were originally seated in Central Scotland - Fife, Forfar, Perth, Sterling, Dumbarton, and Argyll, but chiefly in Perth and Forfar. All of these shires are north of the Firths of Clyde and Forth. Therefore it is believed that our ancestress Margaret Baxter was of the Sept of the Clan Macmillan which settled in Galloway since our Mitchell Family was a Sept of the large Stewart Clan, with several seats in the Lowlands of Scotland, south of these two Firths, and largely in Ayr and Galloway. The Galloway district is considered as Wigtown and Kirkcudbright counties and the southern portion of Ayr.

As Eyre-Todd points out on page 380, Volume II, of his "Highland Clans of Scotland" there is a universal tradition that the members of the Macmillan and Buchanan Clans are of the same blood. This seems to have been the basis of the Mitchell tradition that "The Mitchells are kin to President James Buchanan". However, Mr. Buchanan's father, James Buchanan, who came to America in 1783 from Donegal County, Ulster, Ireland, may have been the son of a descendant of William and Margaret Baxter Mitchell and known to John Mitchell, Sr., when living in Ireland.

A history of "The Baxter Family" in New England has been written by Frances Baxter. In her Foreword Miss Baxter states:

"The Baxters were neither Scot nor Celt, but Anglo-Saxon and are such wherever found. They are not found in the pages of Burke or Debrett, nor even among the great landed gentry. They were the small landed gentry or merchants, and they all have many

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1. "Homes of Family Names."

characteristics in common. Love of books and a strong attachment to their own blood."

However, other records, both biographical and general historical, show members of this family prominent as ministers and scholars, and in Scotland as well as in England.

Edward Bruce Baylor 1-4-1837

He grandfather Wm Baylor from the  
Wm Baylor & Mary Walker

several child Wm Baylor Jr f/o EBB

dob 1857  
age 73 — Wm dob 1784 born in Washington Co.  
in Elizabeth Benoni (d. 1859)

fought War of 1812

f/o Edward & Margaret

Herbison Bruce  
resides of Va.

✓ Wm A

Lafayette

Jane H

Eleg.

Frances

Edward

Captured at Springfield

now now at Johnson's

detained

10-7-1870 Ellen Gregory (4-8-1848)

Mr 10-7-1870 Walter Mary Sutherland (Gregory)

d/o Walter Mary Sutherland (Gregory)

C. teacher

George Edward

✓ in Margaret's command  
in 2 brothers