
THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN BAKER
(ca. 1640–1704) OF HARTFORD,
CONNECTICUT,
THROUGH THIRTEEN GENERATIONS

Volume I

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Other Voices Press
Golden, Colorado

Published by:
Other Voices Press
Golden, Colorado

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ISBN 978-1-49295-338-8

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Printed in the United States of America

To my parents and all descendants of John Baker who have gone before me.

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PREFACE

My father was never very good about writing anything down. He was however excellent at telling stories. As a boy I remember him reciting a litany of what at that time seemed like a series of confusing and unrelated stories about our family. The Bakers fought in all the wars, he said. They were always “revolutioners” and they married other “revolutioners.” Many were sailors and put their boating experience to good use in the Revolutionary War. One ancestor had even fought alongside George Washington. But who were these Bakers, I asked? Where did we come from? He never elaborated. The closest response I would ever get was, “We’re Scotch, Irish, English and Dutch, but never did amount to much.”

Many years later, after receiving some encouragement from my cousin in Chicago, I set out to find out more about him, our family, and other branches connected to the family. The product is this book, a genealogical history of the Baker family, which starts with John Baker of Hartford in 1665 and follows his descendants forward in time. A companion book is currently in the works that documents the ancestors of my father Con James Baker (1898–1973), who seems like a good starting point for tracing our ancestors in America back to England and Europe. That book will be two or more years in the making although much of the research for it has already been completed.

In compiling the John Baker genealogy I wanted to establish the facts about each person and their relationships as supported by good-quality documentation. At the same time I wanted to be able to write a little bit more about the main characters, to bring them to life, and provide some context about their situation and the times in which they lived. This was possible in some cases but in many others information about my ancestors proved to be extremely limited. On the other hand, I was lucky that some family members from my direct line kept useful records or were alive to share family knowledge about our ancestors and their lives.

My goal in writing this book has been first and foremost to satisfy my curiosity about where we Bakers came from. At the same time I wanted to weave together the facts and stories from existing family histories as well as my own family records to create a legacy document—one that could be used as a reliable source for many readers and could also serve as an organizational framework for other researchers to attach their family branches and histories to.

To achieve my goal I have tried to use only the best available data in preparing the book so as to provide the reader with complete documentation for searching out the sources that I have used. That is why there are more than 8,000 footnotes to support the facts that I have cited, which will hopefully allow readers to research further in their own genealogical investigations. I have also included a few colorful stories about some family members that are based on fact but may not be completely accurate. I did this to provide a greater dimension to those deserving characters than to merely list their vital statistics, which already comprise the majority of the book. The photographs and illustrations that I have added are intended to supplement the history of the family.

It is a well-known truth in this line of work that a genealogy is never finished. The more one looks, the more one finds. I am aware of the fact that there are many family members whose lives can be embellished and whose ancestors and descendants are yet to be filled in. That is the task of future researchers. I rest with the satisfaction that despite what my father said, the Bakers *did* amount to much. We were farmers, soldiers, land owners, and risk takers who went on to

become doctors, lawyers, surveyors, scientists and statesmen, ever pressing westward with the American frontier and thus contributing to the settlement of this country.

I wish to thank all the members of the Baker family past and present who have contributed to this endeavor through their compilations of family records, narration of oral histories, and provision of otherwise much needed moral support. The majority of them are cited in the footnotes associated with specific individuals and families referred to in the text. Most of all, I must thank my most patient wife, Hannah, who after listening to all the stories, traveling across the country to visit libraries, cemeteries, and sites of historical interest to the Baker family, still remained resolute in her help with the editing and fact checking of this book.

As a final note, if any readers wish to contact me with additional information, comments, or corrections to the material that I have presented, please do so at the email address provided below. Your input is greatly appreciated.

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DOCUMENT SOURCES AND STYLE CONVENTIONS

Sources

A large number of document sources of varying styles and origins are typically used in the preparation of a genealogy. They can be broken down into three general categories: 1) primary sources or summaries of primary records, 2) secondary sources, and 3) family records. Primary sources include such items as town vital records, birth and marriage certificates, deeds, wills, estate inventories, church records, census records, deeds, World War I draft cards, and other similar official documents and records generally kept by a third party or governmental body. These can be in the form of original records on file in county clerk offices, microfilms of original records, or direct transcriptions of records. When using copies or transcriptions it is important to clarify whether the data came from the original document or the transcription just in case transcription errors have been introduced into the original. So for critical data it is important to go back to the original record if possible to insure that the transcribed information is accurate. Common transcription errors found in census and other vital records arise when the transcriber has interpreted a handwritten name or date incorrectly, or if the page number is not correct. The availability of online images of census and other documents can help to reduce these sorts of errors.

Secondary document sources include compilations and transcriptions of data from primary sources; genealogy works by family historians; town and county histories; journal articles and papers; newspaper announcements such as obituaries, birth, marriage, and death notices; databases or compilations of data such as cemetery grave photographs, transcriptions of tombstone records, wills, and other documents; and lastly, all other non-primary sources. Within this category one can place differing levels of confidence in the quality of the source, some being very reliable and others of lower quality being applicable only as guides or clues about an event but not to be taken at face value alone. The difference between the reliable and unreliable involves the quality of work done by the preparer and the quality of documentation provided.

In general, compilations of primary data prepared by a careful compiler from one or more sources with thorough documentation can be considered very reliable. For example documents such as the *The Great Migration Begins* by Anderson, *Families of Early Hartford* by Barbour, *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found in Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800* by Bailey, and articles published in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, (abbreviated as *Register*), the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *The American Genealogist*, or the *Dictionary of National Biography* are considered very reliable because they were produced by recognized authors, overseen by professional editors, reviewed by peers, and were heavily documented. Well-researched genealogies and family histories distinguished by a high level of supporting documentation and superior training and experience of the authors can also serve as good, reliable sources. Newspaper announcements and town histories can be useful as well but they need to be screened more carefully.

The third category of document sources used in the preparation of a genealogy is family records. Family records tend to vary a great deal in reliability, again due to the quality of documentation provided, but also because of the wide variety of items potentially available. Few people are lucky enough to actually own a family bible with the family's vital records written inside. More often, we acquire letters and notes written by family members about important

family events such as births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages. These notes and letters are often quite accurate and valuable if the persons involved are contemporaneous with the events they have reported. Recollections of older family members' memories can be either extremely reliable or not at all, depending on the acuity of the individual. An example of the former are the papers of the author's cousin Edith (Huston) Richardson, who left several simple, well-organized, and accurate notes documenting important family births, marriages and deaths, which were all later checked out and found to be correct.

Family records also include photographs and memorabilia, which if labeled and dated can identify family members and relationships that were not written down elsewhere. Many a genealogist's family relationships have been identified through well-labeled photographs and photo albums that have been passed down through the family. Family memorabilia can also be used to establish occupations, residency, land ownership, professional and charitable memberships, and other facets of family members' lives that have not been recorded elsewhere.

The author used only sources that he found to be reliable in the preparation of this book. Many were clearly primary sources or compilations of primary sources such as vital records, church records, and military service and pension records, but a number of secondary sources were also used. The secondary sources included such items as articles published in genealogical journals, government reports and documents, official certificates and records, dictionaries, and selected histories and genealogies. Before accepting any source, especially genealogies prepared by independent researchers, the author or compiler's training, experience, approach, and documentation were carefully evaluated. Sources containing data with specific references that could be easily verified were given more weight than those with inadequate references.

Tertiary sources used in the book included family records such as letters, diaries, family photographs, documentary photographs taken by the author, genealogy notes written by the author and other relatives, records of conversations with family members, and other materials that the author has collected over the years while assembling the family history. Much information personally obtained by the author from visits to various sites in New England, the Midwest, and Britain, also contributed to the Baker family history. This information derived largely from transcriptions of records and cemetery gravestones, is referenced in the text where appropriate.

Some professional genealogists, historians, and librarians have viewed secondary sources such as genealogies and family histories with suspicion, as expressed by Mills in her article "Genealogy in the Information Age." The author took such skepticism into account by only accepting genealogies and family histories that passed a comprehensive verification process. First, the contents of the genealogy under scrutiny were examined to establish whether it contained specific references for the facts cited, and whether it clearly explained how the family research was conducted. Next, considerable effort was devoted to verifying the work through other documented sources. The standard of verification used was thirty percent. That is, if thirty percent of the data cited could be verified with minimal or no errors using other reliable sources, then the genealogy was accepted. If the portion of work evaluated contained significant errors based on comparison with other documented sources, then it was not used.

There were unfortunately many document sources available in printed and electronic form that were interesting but could not be relied upon without further confirmation because the authors did not adequately document where individual pieces of information came from. These included many family genealogies and histories created by hobbyists and amateur genealogists who either did not track their specific sources or did not realize the importance of listing them.

Some of these works might have contained excellent information, but if supporting data were not provided it was unwise to rely upon them.

Also included within this category were online family trees, websites, and organizations that at first glance seemed to provide good information but upon further investigation were found to contain data that were not properly referenced or documented and were therefore unusable. A good example of this was provided on the online website *Family Search*, which contained many databases of family trees and information submitted mostly by amateur family historians who listed family relationships derived from documentation of variable quality. In many cases, the information provided was reliable if the data cited were tied to specific references and sources. However in other cases, information posted on the website that was simply copied from another undocumented source thereby creating the impression that it might be common knowledge or verifiable when in fact it was not, could not be used. Genealogy chat rooms and message boards were also loaded with potentially inaccurate information or information from unknown sources that could not be used.

This book did make use of a few online family histories in which the respective authors provided specific citations for their work. In most of these cases, sources and research methods were verified through communication with the authors. In addition, information from several websites was considered reliable if the documentation provided were scanned images or photographs from the principle sources cited.

Format and Style Conventions

The general format of the book is based on the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* numbering system in which families are presented in a modified *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* style. (See Curran and others, *Numbering Your Genealogy*). In this system, every person receives a tracking number that is unique to him or her. Numbers are sequential as each person is introduced. In some cases, a letter extension has been added to a person's number indicating that that particular person was added to the list after the original sequence was established. In a few cases, a number in the sequence has been skipped indicating that a person was removed after the initial numbering took place. A plus sign before a child's name indicates that he or she had children and additional information about their family is provided in the discussion for the next generation. In a few cases where there is a good amount of information about a childless person, he or she is given a plus sign and receives a more detailed summary as if they had produced children. This is done only to avoid providing excessive information within the children's block of text.

Footnotes of sources are given for each significant fact or item that is not well known. References cited in the footnotes are presented in complete form upon their first occurrence, but are abbreviated upon subsequent use. Footnoting and reference citations are based on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, the *Register*, and some recommendations provided in the reference *Evidence Explained* written by Mills.

Christian names and surnames are reproduced largely as they were reported in the various sources cited within the book. In some cases where various sources spelled names differently, the author has chosen the most common spelling for that person. One particular case is the name Baysey, which is the surname of the family John Baker married into in Hartford, but which was subsequently used as a first or middle name for the children of several generations of Bakers. Because the spelling of the name has been highly variable over time the author has chosen to

keep the form used on public documents or the version of the name used in key sources for each individual carrying the Baysey name. Therefore, various spellings of the name exist.

Place names are cited by city, township, county, and state when they are first mentioned in a family group listing, but they are shortened thereafter to just the city or township as appropriate. Depending on the source, the location where an event occurred may vary. For instance, one person may have been born in Hornellsville, Steuben Co., New York, but the location given for a brother born a year later may only be given as New York. This may occur when the source for the brother's birth did not specifically state where he was born, thus only the state was provided or could be inferred. Many birth locations are defined only by state name because the census records contained only that level of information. County is abbreviated as "Co." throughout the text, Township is abbreviated "Twp." when it is cited in the children's block of text, and state names are abbreviated in the long-form style used by the *Register*.

Memorable events in the life and history of each family are presented whenever the author could find them. They are intended to provide additional insight into the life and times of John Baker's descendants as are the selected photographs of people and places provided as a packet bound into the text following Generation Eight, after page 476. Excerpts from other documents are included as quotations rather than as paraphrased paragraphs. Important wills and obituaries are integrated within the text whereas longer relevant documents such as probate records, estate records, and biographies are presented in the Appendices in the order they are referenced in the text. Regrettably, copies of many additional court documents in the author's personal files cannot be presented here due to space limitations although they have been used extensively as primary sources.

INTRODUCTION

John Baker became a resident of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1665, settling on Baker Lane (now Ward Street) according to J. H. Trumbull.¹ His origin remains unknown although he is believed to be of English extraction. The family of John Baker and his earliest descendants are listed (with some errors) in L. B. Barbour's landmark work, *Families of Early Hartford*.² Although there have been several well-researched attempts to document different portions of his descendancy, none have focused on all of the early descendants in Connecticut and the more recent generations as the family expanded into other states.³ The current work is the first known attempt to do just that by constructing a complete genealogy and family history of all of John Baker's descendants through thirteen generations and encompassing all known branches of the family. The work draws upon these previous efforts, correcting some misinformation and adding much new information while completing much more of the family history. It also establishes the relationships between the Baker family and other prominent families in Connecticut and other states throughout the country.

The document presented here is based on several years of nearly full-time research. Much effort has gone into presenting the material in as factual and readable manner as possible. Footnotes have been provided to support the majority of facts and data that have been included with the exception of some information originating from the author's personal knowledge. This information obtained from his family records and personal databases is referenced as such. Also incorporated into this work where applicable are the contents of two articles published by the author about the ancestors and descendants of the main Baker line. These include the "Ancestry of Josiah Jewett Baker of East Haddam, Connecticut"⁴ and "The Descendants of John Baker (ca. 1640–1704) of Hartford, Connecticut through Three Generations."⁵

Our genealogy starts with John Baker because he is the oldest member of the Baker line that the family has been able to document at this time. He apparently arrived in Hartford during the winter of 1665/6 and married Lydia Baysey in the following year. Although his previous movements are unknown, we can infer a good deal about him from the information we have available. John was almost certainly English Protestant and probably middle class, a man of some means. These assumptions are drawn from the fact that he joined the First Congregational Church of Hartford immediately upon his arrival in town and he bought property shortly afterward. He must have been considered of reliable character because he was given the position of chimney viewer at the town meeting of February 1665/6. The fact that he married the eligible

¹ J. Hammond Trumbull, ed., *The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut, 1633–1884*, (Boston, Mass.: Edward L. Osgood, 1886), 1:272.

² Lucius Barnes Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1977), 27–28.

³ Plowdon Stevens, *Stephens-Stevens Genealogy, Lineage from Henry Stephens, Or Stevens of Stonington, Connecticut, 1668*, (New York: Frank Allaben Genealogical Co., 1909); Mary Baker Pearce, *A Partial History of the Baker Family*, (Morris, Minn.: Morris Sun Press, 1910); Commander Philip R. Baker, "John Baker of Hartford," (Privately printed, eighteen-page pamphlet, 1920); Captain Frederick Lansing Oliver, *Oliver-Miner Ancestors and Descendants*, (Newton, Mass.: Garden City Printer, 1956).

⁴ Fred G. Baker, "Ancestry of Josiah Jewett Baker of East Haddam, Connecticut," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 43 (2010):267–79.

⁵ Fred G. Baker, "The Descendants of John Baker (ca. 1640–1704) of Hartford, Connecticut through Three Generations," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 44 (2011):194–229.

daughter of one of the established Founders of Hartford tells us that he was of sufficient social status to marry into the Baysey family, a reputable English family of some means. His family was likely merchants who might have owned land in England. He was probably not the oldest son, otherwise he would have inherited any family land or business from his father and stayed close to home. In those days it was common for younger sons to have to make their own way in the world.

However, that is as far a circumstance will take us. What is very clear is that John's family produced several early notable descendants who contributed both to the history of the Colony of Connecticut and to other colonies before and during the Revolution. Later generations contributed to the growth of the United States, fought in its wars, build businesses, explored the West, settled the land, and in many ways contributed to the history of the United States.

Like most families that had some money to invest, John Baker's early descendants invested in land. Land was the one resource that was available in abundance in early America. People who bought land in newly opened areas could usually sell it for a profit to others entering the country in succeeding waves of immigration. Nearly all of the early settlers of New England were farmers, even if they had an additional business or trade to support the family, because self-reliance in food was a necessity of life within the colonies. As towns and commerce developed, families with other trades had less need to farm for themselves.

The acquisition of land opened many doors for a family from a business as well as a domestic point of view. A newly purchased plot of forested land had to be cleared to make room for a house, barn, and other outbuildings, as well as for fields and pastures. Logs could be used to build fences, make lumber for home building and other construction uses, or they could be sold. A newly settled family with a few animals could be largely self-sufficient in a year or so after their first crops were harvested. Lumber could be sold quite profitably to towns and shipyards that produced the ships carrying trade to England and bringing immigrants back to America. By the late 1700s, the forests around Middletown and East Haddam, Connecticut, supplied lumber to the many coastal towns and shipyards that launched the fishing and whaling fleets which comprised the heart of commerce in the state. Quite quickly, the land of America became the resource base for an overcrowded and resource-scarce Britain and Europe. In so doing, the reputation of the colonies changed from being a destination for indigent and troublesome people into a valuable resource for struggling nations.

For the Bakers and allied families, land provided opportunity. Their families were large and needed space and provisions to grow and prosper. The many children helped to work the fields during their youth but they eventually needed more land for their own use and families when they grew up. Large farms could be subdivided for more than one child to inherit. But if each part of the inheritance was too small to sustain a family, then the siblings would usually arrange to sell their interest in the land to the son who remained to work the family farm. The money gained from the family estate could then be used to move to new areas where the next generation could establish their own farms. New land was generally available in areas farther to the west where friends and neighbors had already moved to further their prospects. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, it was common for young people in Connecticut to set out to make their futures in western New York and Ohio.

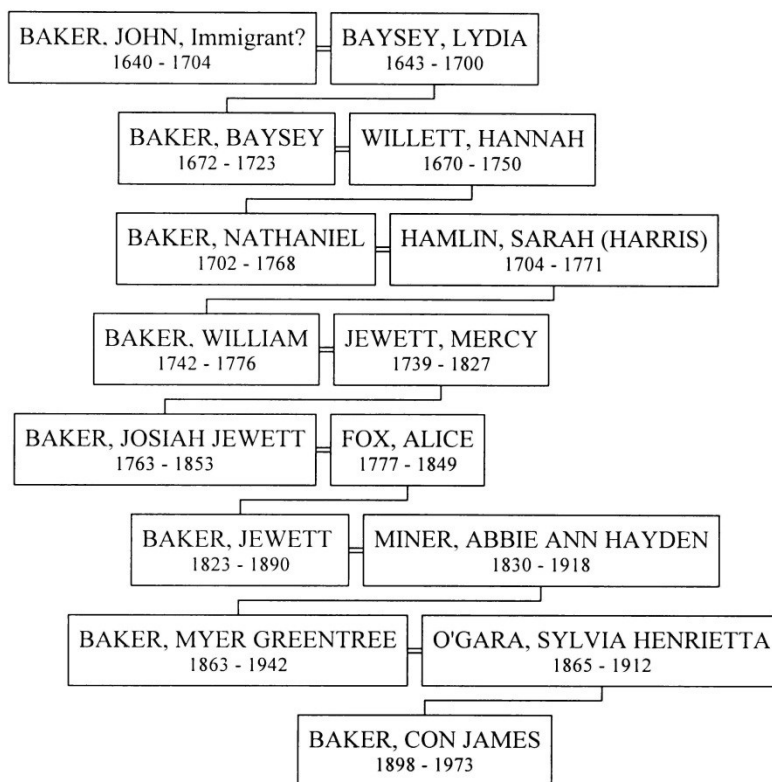
The Baker families of Middletown and East Haddam heard the call to move West at about this time. Bayze Baker moved his family from East Haddam to West Bloomfield, New York. Jeremiah Baker, Sr., and his brother William Baker of Middletown moved first to the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania and later settled in Steuben County, New York. Two of Josiah J. Baker's

sons, John Anson and Jewett Decatur, moved to central Illinois to establish new lives there. Several Baker daughters married young men who also moved away from Connecticut looking for new land and opportunity. The families into which they married included the Ensigns, Wells, Ushers, Flowers, Tracys, Peltons, and others. As a result of this migration, the center of mass of the Bakers and allied families moved ever westward.

The westward movement to find new land proved to be a risky undertaking for many families. The most affordable land was inevitably near the western frontier of the colonies, near the edge of civilization, and it often infringed on what had been or still was land claimed by Indian tribes. This led to frequent encounters and skirmishes between white settlers and Indians, especially before the United States gained its independence, a time when both the French and British hired Indian tribes to harass and attack settlers during the various conflicts that were prevalent in those times.

Fortunately, most of John Baker's descendants survived and lived to tell the tales that are recorded in this book. The story of his descendants is the story of land, opportunity, and hard work focused on improving each family's well-being. It is the story of the westward expansion of a nation—the settling and building of America.

Direct Descendants of JOHN BAKER, Immigrant?



FIRST GENERATION

1. **JOHN¹ BAKER** was born in about 1640, probably in England, and died after 27 March 1704 in Hartford, Connecticut.⁶ He married first in about 1665 at Hartford, **LYDIA BAYSEY**,⁷ who was born in about 1643 in Hartford⁸ and died there on 16 May 1700,⁹ the second daughter of John and Elizabeth (____) Baysey.¹⁰ Lydia's father, John Baysey, was one of the Founders of Hartford. John married second in December 1702 in Hartford, **RACHEL (BALLARD) MERRY**.¹¹

John Baker moved to Hartford in 1665 and was elected chimney viewer for the south side of town at the town meeting held on 16 February 1665/6.¹² He married Lydia Baysey in the same year. On 7 August 1667, he purchased a tract of woodland, then near the edge of Hartford, along the highway that was called Baker Lane. He cleared the land and built the first known Baker homestead on it. The original purchase consisted of:

One percell of woodland which he Bought of Joseph Mygatt Containing by estimation Nine Acres (be it more or less) abutting on land belonging to John Arnold East on Thomas Bull his land Sowth, on Joseph Easton his land west & on a high way North.¹³

John was listed in the "Freemen of the South Side of Hartford" in October 1669.¹⁴ He became a member of the First Congregational Church of Hartford (his wife's family's church) probably soon after arriving in town, but took full communion later, on 25 February 1693/4.¹⁵ He was likely a covenant member since his marriage, but church records for the pre-1685 period that might confirm this fact have been lost.

John inherited a weaving loom with all the attachments from John Baysey upon his death.¹⁶ This suggests that he worked as a weaver in addition to operating his small farm for a living. Nothing else is known about his occupation.

⁶ Hartford Deeds, 1:279, which records that John Baker gave his son William a portion of his home lot in Hartford on that date.

⁷ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 27–28.

⁸ Charles William Manwaring, comp., *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records, Hartford District, 1635–1750*, 3 vols. (Hartford, Conn.: R. S. Peck, 1904–06; reprint Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995), 1:179–81, Probate Records 3:94–97, Will of John Baysey. Lydia was the middle daughter of three girls as presented in her father's will. The youngest of the daughters, Elizabeth, was baptized on 23 Aug. 1645 at the First Church of Hartford. Lydia's birth date of 1643 is estimated to be about two years before her sister's birth in 1645.

⁹ Albert C. Bates in *Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford among the Settlers, 1639*, Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, vol. 14 (Hartford, Conn., 1912), 623.

¹⁰ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 44.

¹¹ Lorraine Cook White, ed., *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records: Hartford 1635–1855*, vol. 19 (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999), D:25. Her maiden name is taken from "Vital Records of Northampton, Massachusetts," *Corbin Collection Volume 1: Records of Hampshire County, Massachusetts*, CD-ROM, Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003, (hereafter cited as NEHGS), (Online database, <www.NewEnglandAncestors.org>, NEHGS, 2008), Item no. 4445.

¹² Charles J. Hoadly, comp., *Hartford Town Votes, Volume 1, 1635–1716*, Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, vol. VI (Hartford, Conn., 1897), 149.

¹³ Bates, *Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford*, 178, 378.

¹⁴ J. Hammond Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636–1776*, 15 vols. (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1850–90), 2:519.

¹⁵ *Historical Catalogue of the First Church in Hartford, 1633–1885*, (Hartford, Conn.: First Church of Christ, 1885), 39, (hereafter cited as *Hartford First Church Catalogue*).

¹⁶ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 374, Will of John Baysey dated 14 Aug. 1671.

In January 1667/8, a John Baker and two others were fined five shillings for “sitting out of the meeting house on the Sabbath day.”¹⁷ On 7 May 1674, he and two others were fined five pounds each and were to be jailed for “unseasonable nightwalking and injurious wilfull spoyleing destroying of their neighbours’ estate.”¹⁸ The record is not clear as to exactly what the men did to their neighbors’ property. Although the above actions seem out of character, there is no evidence that another John Baker was present in Hartford at that time.

After the death of Lydia Baysey, John married Rachel (Ballard) Merry as his second wife. Rachel had married her first husband Cornelius Merry on 11 August 1663 at Northampton, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts.¹⁹ They had had seven children together, the oldest of whom, Cornelius, Jr., purchased land in Hartford on 16 December 1698.²⁰ They also had a daughter named Rachel,²¹ born at Northampton, Massachusetts on 30 August 1670.²²

There is some confusion in the record concerning which John Baker and which Rachel Merry were actually married. Barbour mistakenly states that John Baker, Jr., (3. below) married Rachel Merry in 1702,²³ but this is not likely as John, Jr., had died previously on 26 April 1697.²⁴ To add to the confusion, Irwin and Isabella Merry state in their 1968 manuscript that Cornelius Merry, Jr.’s sister, Rachel, born on 30 August 1670, married John Baker at Hartford in December 1702.²⁵ However, Parsons²⁶ refutes the Merry assertion and presents a strong argument that this Rachel Merry actually married Thomas Morgan and that the Rachel Merry who married John Baker, Sr., was the former wife of Cornelius Merry, Sr.

There were no children known to result from John’s second marriage, presumably due to Rachel’s age, as she was born before 1645 (based on an assumed age of eighteen at the time of her first marriage in 1663),²⁷ which would make her at least fifty-seven years old at the time she married John Baker in 1702. John’s age would have been sixty-two or older (assuming that he was at least twenty-five at the time of his marriage to Lydia Baysey). This would place his birth date at about 1640, or earlier.

Children of John¹ Baker and Lydia Baysey, all born and died in Hartford except Baysey Baker:

- 2 i. SUSANNAH² BAKER, died before 6 Jan. 1746/7;²⁸ married 20 July 1731 in Hartford, as

¹⁷ Helen S. Ullmann, *Hartford County, Connecticut, County Court Minutes*, vols. 3 and 4, 1663–1687, 1697, (Boston, Mass.: NEHGS, 2005), 95.

¹⁸ Ullmann, *Hartford County, Connecticut, County Court Minutes*, 180.

¹⁹ *Corbin Collection*, “Vital Records of Northampton, Massachusetts,” Item no. 4445.

²⁰ Levi Woodhouse, George S. Burnham and Gordon Roberts, *General Index to the Land Records of the Town of Hartford, from the Year 1639 to the Year 1839*, (Hartford, Conn.: Wiley, Waterman and Eaton, 1873).

²¹ *Corbin Collection*, “Vital Records of Northampton, Massachusetts,” Item no. 4445A.

²² *Corbin Collection*, “Vital Records of Northampton, Massachusetts,” Item no. 4449.

²³ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 27.

²⁴ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:534, Probate Records 6:46, Estate records of John Baker, Jr., give his death date as 26 April 1697.

²⁵ Irwin L. and Isabella G. Merry, *A 300 Year Record of Descendants of Cornelius Merry of Northampton and Northfield, Massachusetts*, (Chicago, Ill.: Irwin Lewis Merry, 1968).

²⁶ Gerald James Parsons, “The Early Parsons Families of the Connecticut River Valley,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register* 148 (1994):215–38 at 235 (hereafter cited as *Register*).

²⁷ *Corbin Collection*, “Vital Records of Northampton, Massachusetts,” Item no. 4445.

²⁸ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3:679, Probate Records 15:30–36.

- third wife of ROBERT WEBSTER,²⁹ born 1662³⁰ and died Feb. 1743/4 in Hartford,³¹ son of Lt. Robert and Susannah (Treat) Webster;³² no children.
- 3 ii. **JOSEPH BAKER**, born before 14 Aug. 1671;³³ died before 8 April 1691;³⁴ unmarried.
- + 4 iii. **LYDIA BAKER**, born say 1670; died 16 Sept. 1701;³⁵ married JAMES ENSIGN, SGT.
- + 5 iv. **JOHN BAKER, JR.**, born before 14 Aug. 1671;³⁶ died 26 April 1697;³⁷ married MARY GRANT.
- + 6 v. **BAYSEY BAKER**, born 1672;³⁸ died 4 Sept. 1723 in Middletown;³⁹ married HANNAH WILLETT.
- + 7 vi. **WILLIAM BAKER**, born 1678;⁴⁰ died 12 April 1762;⁴¹ buried 13 April 1762 in the Ancient Burying Ground on Center Church Cemetery (hereafter referred to as the Center Church Burial Ground) in Hartford;⁴² married between 26 Dec. 1712 and 2 March 1712/3 in Hartford, SARAH SMITH,⁴³ born 14 April 1684 in Hartford,⁴⁴ daughter of Arthur and Sarah (Newell) Smith of Hartford.⁴⁵

²⁹ William H. Webster and Rev. Melville R. Webster, *History and Genealogy of the Gov. John Webster Family of Connecticut with Numerous Portraits and Illustrations*, 2 vols. (Rochester, N.Y.: E. R. Andrews Printing Co., 1915), 36.

³⁰ Webster and Webster, *History and Genealogy of the Gov. John Webster Family*, 36, Birth year was back-calculated from his death date of Feb. 1743/4 at age 53.

³¹ Webster and Webster, *History and Genealogy of the Gov. John Webster Family*, 36.

³² Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 648.

³³ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:179–81, Probate Records 3:94–97. Joseph was mentioned in his grandfather John Baysey's will dated 14 Aug. 1671.

³⁴ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:401, Probate Records 5:28.

³⁵ Bates, *Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford*, 612.

³⁶ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:17–981, Probate Records 3:94–97. John Jr., was mentioned in his grandfather John Baysey's will dated 14 Aug. 1671.

³⁷ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:534, Probate Records 6:46, Estate records of John Baker, Jr., indicate he died 26 April 1697.

³⁸ Samuel H. Parsons, "Epitaphs in the Old Burying Place Established in Middletown, Conn." *Register* 15 (1861):161, which says "Here lyeth the Body of Mr. Bayze Baker, who died Sept. ye 4th 1723, aged 51 years." Baysey's year of birth was back-calculated from this information.

³⁹ Lorraine Cook White, ed., *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records: Middletown 1651–1854*, vols. 26–27 (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000), LR2:8.

⁴⁰ Ancient Burying Ground Association, "Burial List and Map" (of the Ancient Burying Ground on Center Church Cemetery, Hartford, Conn.), p.11, online document accessed 10 March 2009 from <www.theancientburyingground.org/history/burial_list_map.php>, which mentions the burial date and age as "1762, Apr. 13, William Baker, aged 84, Son of John and Lydia." from which his birth year was estimated.

⁴¹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 45.

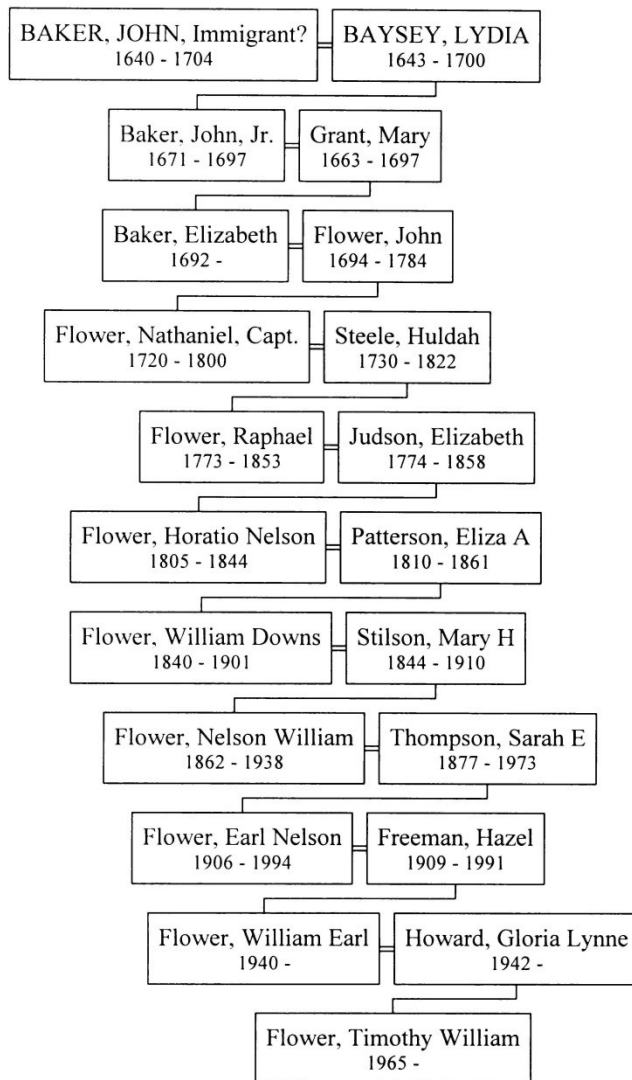
⁴² Ancient Burying Ground Association, 11.

⁴³ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:296–97, Probate Records 8:110, 120, 174, 181. Sarah was referred to by her maiden name in the will of her father, Arthur Smith, dated 26 Dec. 1712. In a later court document dated 2 March 1712/3 she was referred to as "Sarah Baker, formerly Sarah Smith, daughter of Arthur Smith, executrix."

⁴⁴ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, D:19.

⁴⁵ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford Connecticut*, 544.

Direct Descendants of JOHN BAKER, Immigrant?



SECOND GENERATION

4. LYDIA² BAKER (*John*¹) was born around 1670, in Hartford, Connecticut. She died on 16 September 1701 at Hartford⁴⁶ and was buried in the Center Church Burial Ground. She was married on 20 March 1690 in Hartford, JAMES ENSIGN, SGT.,⁴⁷ who was born on 8 July 1666 at Hartford,⁴⁸ and died there 13 June 1754,⁴⁹ the son of David and Mehitabel (Gunn) Ensign.⁵⁰ James' grandfather, James Ensign I, was one of the Founders of Hartford. After Lydia's death, James married second between 1699 and 1706 in Hartford, ANNA _____,⁵¹ and had six children.⁵²

James and Lydia were members of the First Church of Hartford, where both of their families attended church and Lydia and all four of their children were baptized. They entered into full communion there on 1 March 1695/6.⁵³ James left the First Church and joined the Second Church of Christ in Hartford sometime after 19 March 1697/8,⁵⁴ when their son Ebenezer was baptized at the First Church, and before 2 September 1717, when James' daughter Elizabeth (by his second wife) was baptized.⁵⁵ This might have coincided with his second marriage.

In May 1718, the Town of Hartford selected Sgt. James Ensign and two others to form a committee to take over the estate of Ebenezer Benton.⁵⁶ It seems that Ebenezer's father, Andrew Benton, had recently died and the town found Ebenezer "impotent both in body and mind" to manage his own affairs. The committee was empowered to sell off Andrew's lands to raise money for Ebenezer's future needs and support as supervised by the Hartford County Court.

In 1720, the Town of Hartford appointed Sgt. James Ensign and Ensign Thomas Seymour to negotiate with the native Indians to purchase land west of the Towns of Hartford and Windsor for creation of new plantations in that area.⁵⁷ The land in question was claimed not only by Hartford and Windsor, but also by the Colony of Connecticut itself, through the General Assembly. A committee was established by Hartford and Windsor to select a site for their new town. The committee, which included John Seymour, Samuel Catlin and William Baker of Hartford, and Thomas More and Job Elsworth of Windsor, laid out a town comprised of sixty-seven lots, which the towns then priced at £6 per lot. The General Assembly responded to the potential sale of the land, which it found to be under its own jurisdiction, by directing that the members of the Hartford and Windsor committees be arrested for trespassing on Colony property. In response, Hartford sent a delegation including Joseph Talcott, Esq., Capt. Hezekiah Wyllys, Rep. Lt. Thomas Seymour, and Rep. James Ensign, Jr., (son of Sgt. James Ensign) to the May 1723 session of the Assembly to defend the Towns' claim to the land. This they did, and after a period of six years, the lands in question were divided between the Towns of Hartford and

⁴⁶ Bates, *Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford*, 612.

⁴⁷ Bates, *Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford*, 612.

⁴⁸ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, D:12.

⁴⁹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 263.

⁵⁰ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 238.

⁵¹ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 238.

⁵² Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 238.

⁵³ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 40.

⁵⁴ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 176.

⁵⁵ Edwin P. Parker, *History of the Second Church of Christ in Hartford: 1670–1892*, (Hartford, Conn.: Belknap & Warfield, 1892), 322.

⁵⁶ Charles J. Hoadly, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, from May 1717, to October 1725*, (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1872), 48.

⁵⁷ Trumbull, *The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut*, 77.

Windsor and the Colony. As a result, the Towns were allotted an additional 326,800 acres of the northwest portion of the Colony for their development.⁵⁸

In his will, James left land, other property, and income to his surviving children: son Ebenezer by his first wife Lydia; and his daughters Anna (Ensign) Richards, Mary (Ensign) Hinckley, and Elizabeth (Ensign) Bunce by his second wife Anna. Grandchildren named in his will included: Joseph (son of James, Jr.); Jonathan, Jr., and James (sons of Jonathan); and Sylvanus and Ithamar Andrews (sons of Lydia (Ensign) Andrews). He left the family homestead to his son Ebenezer and grandson Jonathan, Jr.⁵⁹

Children of Lydia² Baker and James Ensign, all born and died in Hartford:

- + 8 i. **JAMES³ ENSIGN, JR.**, born 8 Feb. 1690/1;⁶⁰ died before 15 Jan. 1729/30;⁶¹ married ABIGAIL SEYMOUR.
- + 9 ii. **LYDIA ENSIGN**, born 7 Aug. 1692;⁶² baptized 14 Aug. 1692;⁶³ died before 9 Sept. 1745;⁶⁴ married JOHN ANDREWS.
- + 10 iii **JONATHAN ENSIGN**, born 20 March 1695/6;⁶⁵ baptized 22 March 1695/6;⁶⁶ died before 17 Aug. 1724;⁶⁷ married PHEBE SMITH.
- 11 iv. **EBENEZER ENSIGN**, born before 19 March 1697/8;⁶⁸ baptized 19 March 1697/8;⁶⁹ died about 21 Jan. 1772/3;⁷⁰ unmarried.

Ebenezer was the only child living at the time of his father's death in 1754.⁷¹ His father left him lands in Hartford and New Hartford as well as lands that were to be shared with his nephew Jonathan. Both Ebenezer and Jonathan were executors of Sgt. James Ensign's will.⁷² No children were listed for Ebenezer in the will, suggesting that he had none. Ebenezer served as administrator of his sister Lydia's estate in 1745.⁷³

On 16 December 1772, Ebenezer gave land to his nephew Sylvanus Andrews of Hartford.⁷⁴ On the same date, he gave a lot to his niece Elizabeth (Bunce) Clark, wife of Samuel Clark, upon which she and Samuel had built a house: "For and in consideration

⁵⁸ Trumbull, *The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut*, 77.

⁵⁹ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 1916, Will of James Ensign dated 30 April 1754.

⁶⁰ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:67.

⁶¹ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3:48, Probate Records 11:65.

⁶² *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:67.

⁶³ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 170.

⁶⁴ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3:380, Probate Records 15:59, Inventory of Mrs. Lydia Andrus dated 9 Sept. 1745. The date is based on the inventory taken on that date.

⁶⁵ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:67.

⁶⁶ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 174.

⁶⁷ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:504, Probate Records 10:243, Inventory of estate taken on 17 Aug. 1724.

⁶⁸ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:67. Hartford vital records give the birth as 20 March 1698, which conflicts with the baptismal date of 19. March 1698 provided in First Church records.

⁶⁹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 176.

⁷⁰ Martha Eunice Ensign Nelson, "Record of the Descendants of James Ensign and His Wife Sarah Elson, 1634–1939–1960," (Salt Lake City, Ut.: Self-published, 1960), 12; Ancient Burying Ground Association, 20.

⁷¹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 263.

⁷² Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 1916, Will of James Ensign dated 30 April 1754.

⁷³ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3:380, Probate Records 15:59, Inventory of Mrs. Lydia Andrus dated 9 Sept. 1745. Ebenezer was appointed administrator in the inventory document recorded on that date.

⁷⁴ Hartford Deeds, 14:37, Ebenezer Ensign to Sylvanus Andrews, 16 Dec. 1772.

of the Love and Good Will that I have and do bare unto my Loving Niece.”⁷⁵ These gifts confirm that Ebenezer had no children of his own. Ebenezer was buried in the Center Church Burial Ground at Hartford on 21 June 1773.⁷⁶

5. JOHN² BAKER, JR., (*John*¹) was born in 1672 at Hartford, Connecticut, and died on 26 April 1697. He married there in about 1688, **MARY (GRANT) GOODFELLOW**, who was born in 1663, also in Hartford,⁷⁷ the daughter of Peter and Mary (____) Grant⁷⁸ and widow of Thomas Goodfellow of Hartford.⁷⁹

Not much is known about John Baker, Jr., because he died young, leaving a wife and four children but little record. He was mentioned in his grandfather John Baysey’s will dated 14 August 1671, wherein he inherited three acres of pasture and his brother Joseph a woodlot of seventeen acres.⁸⁰ When Joseph died, he bequeathed the woodlot to John and his brother William.⁸¹

When Mary Baker’s father, Peter Grant, died in 1681, his lands were left to his wife for her life use and were subsequently passed on to his two sons Thomas and John.⁸² The untimely death of the sons led to a claim by Peter’s surviving four daughters, including Mary Baker. As a result, Grant’s land was equally divided among the daughters and Mary was to receive her share according to the court order of 13 April 1692.⁸³ Widow Mary may have remarried after John’s death.

Children of John² and Mary (Grant) Baker, all born in Hartford, and both daughters baptized at the First Church of Hartford, which the Bakers attended:

- + 12 i. **JOSEPH³ BAKER**, born before 10 Nov. 1689;⁸⁴ died after 16 Aug. 1737;⁸⁵ married HANNAH _____.
- + 13 ii. **ELIZABETH BAKER**, born before 10 July 1692;⁸⁶ baptized 26 July 1692;⁸⁷ married JOHN FLOWER.
- 14 iii. **JOHN BAKER III**, born before 10 Sept. 1694.⁸⁸
- 15 iv. **MARY BAKER**, born after 10 May 1697 and before 27 June 1697;⁸⁹ baptized 27 June

⁷⁵ Hartford Deeds, 13:536, Ebenezer Ensign to Elizabeth Clark, 16 Dec. 1772.

⁷⁶ Ancient Burying Ground Association, 20.

⁷⁷ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:313, Probate Records 4:67. The inventory of Peter Grant’s estate dated 5 Oct. 1681 gives her age as eighteen.

⁷⁸ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 282.

⁷⁹ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 27–28, 265.

⁸⁰ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:179, Probate Records 3:94–97.

⁸¹ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:401, Probate Records 5:28.

⁸² Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:312, Probate Records 4:67, Court order of 1 Nov. 1681.

⁸³ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:313, Probate Records 5:41.

⁸⁴ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 261, Inventory dated 10 May 1697.

⁸⁵ Barbour Collection, citing Middletown Vital Records, 1:10 and 1:70; Connecticut Church Records, *West Hartford First Congregational Church Records, 1713–1924*, 3 parts, (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut State Library, 1932), 1:27, Church Record 1:31, (hereafter abbreviated as *West Hartford First Church*, followed by State Library document citation, then by original church record citation.)

⁸⁶ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 261, Inventory dated 10 May 1697.

⁸⁷ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 170.

⁸⁸ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 261, Inventory dated 10 May 1697.

⁸⁹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 175, which gives her baptismal date as 27 June 1697. Mary was born after the inventory of 10 May 1697 and before her baptism.

1697.⁹⁰

Elizabeth and Mary were the children of John Baker, Jr., and not the children of John, Sr., as suggested in Barbour.⁹¹ Evidence for this is provided in the inventory of John Baker, Jr.'s estate dated 10 May 1697,⁹² which mentions that at the time of death his children were: Joseph aged seven years and six months; Elizabeth aged four years and ten months; and John III aged two years and eight months. Daughter Mary, named after her mother, was born about two months after John, Jr.'s death and was therefore not mentioned in the inventory.

6. BAYSEY² BAKER (*John*¹) was born in 1672 in Hartford, Connecticut,⁹³ died on 4 September 1723 in Middletown, Connecticut,⁹⁴ and was buried in the McDonough (Riverside) Cemetery in Middletown.⁹⁵ He married on 1 April 1697 in Hartford, **HANNAH WILLET**,⁹⁶ who was born in about 1670 in Hartford,⁹⁷ and died after 2 May 1750 in Middletown,⁹⁸ daughter of the prestigious Nathaniel and Sarah (Adams) Willet.⁹⁹ Nathaniel Willet was one of the Founders of Hartford, having originally moved there with the first group of settlers led by Reverend Thomas Hooker. Sarah (Adams) Willet was the daughter of Jeremy Adams,¹⁰⁰ also one of the Founders of Hartford. A discussion of Sarah Adams' husband and her sister, Hannah's husband is provided in Appendix A.

After Baysey's death, Hannah remarried on 11 May 1726 in Hartford to Joseph Webster of Hartford,¹⁰¹ brother of Robert Webster, who later married Susannah Baker, Baysey's sister. Both Joseph and Robert were sons of Lt. Robert Webster¹⁰² and grandsons of John Webster, a Founder of Hartford and Governor of the Colony of Connecticut. Joseph had been married before on 10 September 1689 to Mary Judd,¹⁰³ the daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Lewis) Judd,¹⁰⁴ with whom he had two children. The marriage between Hannah (Willet) Baker and Joseph Webster produced no children.

Baysey was a member of the First Church of Hartford, as were the Adams, Baker and Willet families. Hannah entered into full communion at the church on 28 October 1694.¹⁰⁵ Baysey and Hannah were married there and most of their children were baptized there.

Baysey purchased land in Middletown on 13 June 1713¹⁰⁶ and established a home there shortly afterward. This is confirmed by the fact that on 10 June 1712 his son Jeremiah was born in Hartford, and on 12 July 1715 his daughter Hannah was born in Middletown.

⁹⁰ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 175.

⁹¹ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 27–28.

⁹² Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 261, Inventory dated 10 May 1697.

⁹³ Samuel H. Parsons, "Epitaphs in the Old Burying Place."

⁹⁴ *Barbour Collection*, citing Middletown Vital Records, LR2:8.

⁹⁵ Samuel H. Parsons, "Epitaphs in the Old Burying Place."

⁹⁶ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, D:26.

⁹⁷ J. E. Bookstaver, *The Willett Genealogy (Willets-Willett-Willits), A Compilation of All Branches in England and America*, (Binghamton, N.Y.: Twentieth Century Publishing Co., 1906), 79.

⁹⁸ Webster and Webster, *History and Genealogy of the Gov. John Webster Family*, 37.

⁹⁹ Arthur Adams, *Jeremy Adams of Cambridge, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., and His Descendants*, (Boston, Mass.: Atlantic County Historical Society, 1955), 5.

¹⁰⁰ Adams, *Jeremy Adams of Cambridge, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., and His Descendants*, 5.

¹⁰¹ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:34.

¹⁰² Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 648.

¹⁰³ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 648.

¹⁰⁴ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 648.

¹⁰⁵ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 39.

Upon Baysey's death, his wife Hannah and son Nathaniel were named administrators of his estate.¹⁰⁷ Copies of all of the estate papers for Baysey are provided in Appendix B. The estate was found to contain land in Middletown, Hartford, and Farmington valued at £286, as evaluated by Baysey's brother William Baker in October 1723.¹⁰⁸ Distribution was declared by the probate court on 3 November 1724,¹⁰⁹ wherein the estate was valued at £1,042 after all debts were paid. The widow Hannah Baker received her widow's third of the moveable estate valued at £48 12s. 2d. Nathaniel, the eldest son, received a double portion of £397 9s. 8d. and the rest of the children, Timothy, Hannah, and Susannah, each received a single portion of £198 14s. 11d.¹¹⁰ Copies of Baysey Baker's probate records are provided in Appendix B.

Three years later, Joseph Webster, widow Hannah's new husband, filed a complaint stating that the original men appointed to carry out the distribution of the estate should be replaced for failure to perform their duties. On 5 December 1727, the court appointed James Ensign, William Baker, and David Ensign to this role.¹¹¹ For unknown reasons, the Farmington land was not surveyed and subdivided until 26 July 1738.¹¹²

Hannah was original guardian of the minor children aged as follows: Timothy seventeen; Thankful fourteen; Jeremiah eleven; Hannah eight; and Susannah five years old.¹¹³ On 2 January 1727/8, the court appointed Nathaniel as guardian of his sisters Hannah aged twelve and Susannah aged nine.¹¹⁴ Thankful and Jeremiah had died under Hannah's care and Timothy had become of age.

Children of Baysey² and Hannah (Willett) Baker, the first nine born and baptized in Hartford, the first three also died in Hartford:

- 16 i. **NATHANIEL³ BAKER**, born 4 Feb. 1697/8;¹¹⁵ baptized Feb. 1697/8;¹¹⁶ died 14 Feb. 1697/8.¹¹⁷
- 17 ii. **BAYSEY BAKER, JR.**, born 4 April 1698;¹¹⁸ baptized 9 April 1698;¹¹⁹ died 24 June 1698.¹²⁰

¹⁰⁶ Middletown Deeds, LR3:182, FHL 0,004,793. Warranty deed from John Moody of Hartford to Baysey Baker. Baysey exchanged twenty-nine acres of land with dwelling house and buildings in the western division of Hartford plus £28 for Moody's property of 247½ acres of wooded land in Middletown on the west side of the Connecticut River near Hornet Bay. A later deed dated 11 Nov. 1721 confirms that Baysey built his dwelling house on this land, LR4:121, FHL 0,004,793.

¹⁰⁷ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Middletown, no. 257, Bond order dated 3 Nov. 1724.

¹⁰⁸ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Middletown, no. 257, Inventory of real estate by William Baker dated Oct. 1723, no day given.

¹⁰⁹ Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Middletown, no. 257, Order of distribution by Judge J. Talcott, 3 Nov. 1724.

¹¹⁰ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:462, Probate Records 10:59, Order for distribution of the estate dated 1 Dec. 1724.

¹¹¹ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:462, Probate Records 10:59, Addendum to order of distribution by Judge J. Talcott, 5 Dec. 1727.

¹¹² Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:463, Probate Records 13:31.

¹¹³ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:462, Probate Records 10:37.

¹¹⁴ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 1:463, Probate Records 12:226.

¹¹⁵ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹¹⁶ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 176.

¹¹⁷ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹¹⁸ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹¹⁹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 177.

¹²⁰ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

- 18 iii. **BAYSEY BAKER**, born 10 May 1699;¹²¹ baptized 12 May 1700;¹²² died 4 May 1701.¹²³
- + 19. iv. **NATHANIEL BAKER**, born 10 Sept. 1702;¹²⁴ baptized 13 Sept. 1702;¹²⁵ died 15 May 1770;¹²⁶ married SARAH HARRIS.
- 20 v. **HANNAH BAKER**, born 25 Feb. 1704/5;¹²⁷ baptized 22 April 1704/5;¹²⁸ died 20 Oct. 1705.¹²⁹
- + 21 vi. **TIMOTHY BAKER**, born 15 Jan. 1706/7;¹³⁰ baptized 19 Jan. 1706/7;¹³¹ died between 19 Dec. 1760 and 4 March 1760/1 in Hartford;¹³² married HANNAH CANDE.
- 22 vii. **EBENEZER BAKER**, born 15 Dec. 1708;¹³³ baptized 19 Dec. 1708;¹³⁴ died 31 Dec. 1708 in Hartford.¹³⁵
- 23 viii. **THANKFUL BAKER**, born 31 Jan. 1709/10;¹³⁶ baptized 19 March 1709/10;¹³⁷ died 9 June 1724 in Middletown.¹³⁸
- 24 ix. **JEREMIAH BAKER**, born 10 June 1712;¹³⁹ baptized 15 June 1712;¹⁴⁰ died 8 June 1724.¹⁴¹
- + 25 x. **HANNAH BAKER**, born 12 July 1715 in Middletown;¹⁴² baptized 1715 in Middletown;¹⁴³ died after 6 June 1760;¹⁴⁴ married JOHN WELLES/WELLS.
- 26 xi. **SUSANNAH BAKER**, born 31 Dec. 1718 in Middletown;¹⁴⁵ died 9 Oct. 1738 in Hartford;¹⁴⁶ married 13 April 1738 in Hartford, ADONIJAH MOODY,¹⁴⁷ born 13 May 1717 in Hartford¹⁴⁸ and died 4 Jan. 1747 in New Hartford,¹⁴⁹ son of John and Sarah (Evetts)

¹²¹ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹²² *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 178.

¹²³ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹²⁴ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹²⁵ Edwin P. Parker, *History of the Second Church of Christ in Hartford*, 313.

¹²⁶ "Inscriptions from Gravestones at East Haddam, Connecticut," *Register* 81 (1927):59.

¹²⁷ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹²⁸ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 181.

¹²⁹ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:72.

¹³⁰ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:73.

¹³¹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 183.

¹³² Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 253, Will of Timothy Baker dated 19 Dec. 1761 and inventory of his estate dated 4 March 1761.

¹³³ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:73.

¹³⁴ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 185.

¹³⁵ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:73.

¹³⁶ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:73.

¹³⁷ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 186.

¹³⁸ Samuel H. Parsons, "Epitaphs in the Old Burying Place," 162.

¹³⁹ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:73.

¹⁴⁰ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 188.

¹⁴¹ Samuel H. Parsons, "Epitaphs in the Old Burying Place," 162.

¹⁴² *Barbour Collection*, citing Middletown Vital Records, LR2:8.

¹⁴³ Connecticut Church Records, *First Congregational Church of Cromwell (Formerly Middletown Second or North or Upper Society)*, 1715–1875, 2 vols. (Hartford, Conn., 1933, Connecticut State Library), 1:3, FHL 0,004,004. No day or month given.

¹⁴⁴ *West Hartford First Church*, 3:1083, Church Record 1:142, which says that her last child, Nancy, was born on 6 June 1760.

¹⁴⁵ *Barbour Collection*, citing Middletown Vital Records, LR2:8.

¹⁴⁶ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:77.

¹⁴⁷ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:77, 82.

¹⁴⁸ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, FFS:70.

Moody of Hartford;¹⁵⁰ no children from this marriage.

Moody married (2) 9 Nov. 1742 at New Hartford, SARAH SMITH,¹⁵¹ born 30 Oct. 1717 in New Hartford,¹⁵² daughter of Martin and Sarah (____) Smith.¹⁵³

7. **WILLIAM² BAKER** (*John¹*) was born in 1678 in Hartford, Connecticut¹⁵⁴ and died there on 12 April 1762.¹⁵⁵ He married in Hartford, SARAH SMITH,¹⁵⁶ who was born on 14 April 1684 in Hartford,¹⁵⁷ the daughter of Arthur and Sarah (Newell) Smith of Hartford.¹⁵⁸

William was a lifelong member of the First Church of Hartford.¹⁵⁹ He received the covenant on 23 February 1694/5,¹⁶⁰ and both he and his wife Sarah also received full communion there on 30 April 1721.¹⁶¹

William worked a farm as well as being a land surveyor and land appraiser.¹⁶² He was given a portion of his father's home lot on 27 March 1704 and presumably lived there afterward.¹⁶³ He and David Ensign of Hartford evaluated land for the estate of William's brother, Baysey Baker, in Farmington and Hartford.¹⁶⁴ He and two others were selected by the probate court to distribute Baysey's estate on 5 December 1727,¹⁶⁵ and (again with others) to set out metes and bounds for the property in Farmington on 4 July 1738.¹⁶⁶ He was one of the men selected to settle the division of land in the estate of John Watson, Sr., which task was concluded on 7 July 1730.¹⁶⁷ In 1722, William Baker, John Seymour, and Samuel Catlin, all of Hartford, and Thomas More and Job Elsworth of Windsor, were delegated by the Towns of Hartford and Windsor to select a location and lay out a new town in the "western lands" that were being claimed by the two towns. On 1 April 1723, this committee reported that they had laid out a new town comprised of sixty-seven lots.¹⁶⁸

William also assisted Sarah Smith with the administration of her father's estate, which presumably led to their marriage. He exhibited Arthur Smith's will before the probate court on 2

¹⁴⁹ Lorraine Cook White, ed., *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records: New Hartford, 1740–1854*, vol. 28 (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000), 1:21.

¹⁵⁰ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 405.

¹⁵¹ *Barbour Collection*, citing New Hartford Vital Records, 1:28.

¹⁵² *Barbour Collection*, citing New Hartford Vital Records, 1:21.

¹⁵³ *Barbour Collection*, citing New Hartford Vital Records, 1:21.

¹⁵⁴ Ancient Burying Ground Association, 11, which mentions the burial date and age as "1762, Apr. 13, William Baker, aged 84, Son of John and Lydia.," from which his birth year was estimated.

¹⁵⁵ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 45.

¹⁵⁶ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:296–297, Probate Records 8:110, 120, 174, 181. Sarah was referred to by her maiden name in the will of her father, Arthur Smith, dated 26 Dec. 1712. In a later court document dated 2 March 1712/3 she was referred to as "Sarah Baker, formerly Sarah Smith, daughter of Arthur Smith, executrix."

¹⁵⁷ *Barbour Collection*, citing Hartford Vital Records, D:19.

¹⁵⁸ Barbour, *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, 544.

¹⁵⁹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 269.

¹⁶⁰ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 22.

¹⁶¹ *Hartford First Church Catalogue*, 45.

¹⁶² Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3:392, Probate Records 15:10–11.

¹⁶³ Hartford Deeds, 1:279.

¹⁶⁴ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:462, Probate Records 10:209–10.

¹⁶⁵ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:463, Probate Records 10:171–75.

¹⁶⁶ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:463, Probate Records 13:31.

¹⁶⁷ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:606, Probate Records 10:25–27.

¹⁶⁸ Trumbull, *The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut*, 77.

February 1712/3.¹⁶⁹ William was later selected to be guardian of one of Arthur Smith's daughters and Sarah's half-sister Phebe, aged thirteen on 1 March 1713/4,¹⁷⁰ who later married Jonathan Ensign (Descendant No. 10). William administered the estate papers for his sister Susannah (Baker) Webster after her death before 6 January 1746/7.¹⁷¹

When he died, William left Sarah the full use and improvement of their house, barn, and land on Baker Lane. Having no children, he left the property on Baker Lane as well as all his land on South Meadow and along Hog River to his grand-nephew Sylvanus/Silvanus Andrews on the condition that Sylvanus live with and care for the widow. He also left three parcels of land in New Hartford to his grand-nephew William Baker, son of Timothy Baker of Middletown.¹⁷² The elder William was buried at the Center Church Burial Ground in Hartford on 13 April 1762.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁹ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:297, Probate Records 13:110.

¹⁷⁰ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 2:297, Probate Records 13:181.

¹⁷¹ Manwaring, *Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, 3:679, Probate Records 15:30–36.

¹⁷² Hartford District Probate Records Packet, Hartford, no. 267, Will of William Baker dated 9 April 1762.

¹⁷³ Ancient Burying Ground Association, 11.

