

The Buzzard Family

One of the earliest citizens to rise to prominence in what is now Union Township, Hendricks Co., Indiana was David S. Buzzard. The reason for this was his occupation - that of blacksmith. Blacksmiths were few and very necessary to the pioneers. He was a man among men.

David S. Buzzard was the son of John Buzzard of Phoenixville, Chester Co., Pa. It is thought that his grandfather was Frederick who paid tax in 1777. John Buzzard had a sister Esther. There were also buzzards in Maryland and Virginia in the late 1700's.

John Buzzard had nine children - Frederick, died young; Simon, stayed in Pa.; Jonas, stayed in Pa.; Henry; John; David; Susan, married a Groves; Elizabeth, married a Lang; and Mary married a Buckwalter.

David S. Buzzard was born April 13, 1796. He was said to have been of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. He was married Dec. 5, 1821 to Louisa Baker. She was born Dec. 2, 1800 and was the daughter of Jacob Baker, and a granddaughter of Henry Baker or "Heinrich Beechter" as the name was given in the German.

Heinrich Baechter was born in Germany in 1731 and came to America in 1755. He married Maria Fink in Winchester, Va., 1759. He died in 1807. The family soon changed the spelling to the name to Baker. Henry and Maria Fink Baker had seven children: Henry W. who was a prominent man, probably a merchant, and a Revolutionary soldier. He married Catherine Miller of Maryland and had children George and Jacob who with their descendants became prominent merchants of Winchester.

Then after Henry W. We have Joseph, Isaac, John, Abraham, Jacob and Elizabeth.

Jacob Baker was born about 1770 and married Maria _____ about 1791. Their children were George, Isaac, Hillary, b. 1796, Henry, b. 1798; Louisa (Buzzard) b. Dec. 2, 1800; Emily (Brown) and Catherine (Sherred)

Jacob Baker settled in Frederick Co. Va. on the Allegheny Mountains about 15 or 18 miles from Winchester on a ridge of excellent farm land and became quite prosperous in land and negroes. He had four sons

who were prosperous farmers near their father. The Baker girls had to learn to spin and weave and did lots of it even though there were slaves. They had silk dresses and other things in accordance, but had to make them after the allotted days work was done.

David S. and Louisa Baker Buzzard settled near Jacob Baker. To them were born three children, Harriet Amanda, b. Sept. 21, 1823; William Baker Buzzard and Francis Marion Buzzard.

Things went smoothly and the David S. Buzzard family was a happy one for a number of years. They were well fixed and had a good home. They had two or three slaves, one or two of them having been given Louisa by her father. But financial reverses came through no real fault of theirs. David S. Buzzard went a man's security and he failed, so his creditors came to Mr. Buzzard and to get their dues took every thing the Buzzards had, even the household goods.

This was quite a blow to the family. After some debating they decided to try their fortunes in the new country to the West.

Jacob Baker, the old man, and Joseph Coffin, a young man, had made a trip thru Ohio, Indiana and as far west as Bloomington, Illinois a year or two before this to see the prospect for settling. Mr. Coffin entered land west of Danville, Indiana. But Mr. Baker concluded that he was too old to undertake life in a new country.

David S. and Louisa Buzzard, hearing the father's description of the West decided to go to Illinois. With the help of Mr. Baker, they in the late summer of 1836 equipped a wagon for the journey. Bidding friends and relatives goodbye they went down the Shenandoah Valley to the Cumberland road and began the journey westward. It must have been a hard journey with over two hundred miles of hills and mountains to cross. They passed Zanesville, Ohio before they came to level country. They passed thru Indianapolis and took the Crawfordville road.

The last day out of Indianapolis Harriet Amanda walked most of the way as she was so tired of riding in the old covered wagon. It had been raining and the road was very muddy. When they reached a point about a mile east of where Lizton is now, their wagon broke down. This seemed quite a calamity to them as they were yet about 150 miles from Bloomington, Illinois. They spent

the first night with John Lambert family, who, two years previous, had come from England. On learning that Mr. Buzzard was a blacksmith they settlers begged him to stay in the community for a time and do blacksmithing for them.

Mr. McCrosky kept a Tavern just east of where Lizton is and on the east side of his land and on the main road was an empty cabin. They moved into this cabin and at once made themselves as comfortable as possible and useful to the community. Mr. Buzzard made every iron article the settlers used from nails to rifles and door hinges and wolf traps. He mended emigrant wagons and shod horses and cattle, making the shoes himself.

The older son, Baker, as he was called worked in the shop with his father. He liked to hunt and liked to work on guns. He made some of the best "Long-rifles" used in the community. A trail came from the north east to the shop called "Buzzard's Trail".

Amanda, the daughter, worked at the Tavern, and later told many interesting stories of the life there. This family were all well educated for the time and soon became leaders among the settlers. In 1838 the younger son died. His grave is probably the third in Union Township - Francis Marion Buzzard.

The Buzzards liked the location and continued to live in the community and prospered as the community prospered.

Mrs. Louisa Buzzard was not idle, being an excellent cook, according to her grandchildren, and keeping her house in "apple pie order" as they said. But the thing for which she was most loved and remembered was her visits to the sick. As there were no doctors, then, she went far and near prescribing home remedies. She was particularly useful in attending mothers and babies.

The Buzzards were strict Presbyterians in faith and as there was no church of this denomination near, they attended the M.E. church but never affiliated with it.

David S. Buzzard was elected second Justice of Peace of Union Township. Mr. Alexander having been elected two years before. Mr. Buzzard filled this office for many years, dealing out justice to his neighbors in a creditable way and writing their deeds and other legal papers. Not the least of his duties was the performing of marriage ceremonies, of which he performed many, among them that of his own daughter Amanda and James Lawrence Loak.

In 1845 Mrs. McCrosky died and the Buzzards moved in with Mr. McCrosky and Mrs. Buzzard managed the Tavern and acted as hostess until 1850 when Mr. McCrosky died and the place was sold.

That year Mr. Buzzard bought 80 acres of land one half mile west of Lizton. They built a good frame house and moved to their new home which was the first they had owned for some fifteen years.

Mr. Buzzard continued blacksmithing. He made plenty of maney and they lived well. He was of a kindly disposition, a man of few words, yet always glad to talk to his friends. He was a great lover of children. He spent much of his spare time with his garden and he delighted to work with bees, of which he had many swarms housed in home-made hives. He had a number of these fixed with glass in the side so he could watch them work. He was a believer in progress and prophesied that his grandchildren would see buggies run by an engine.

They kept in fairly close touch with their relatives in Virginia, writing letters frequently for those times. Before the day of railroads Mr. and Mrs. Buzzard drove a horse and buggy to Virginia and back to make a visit.

Louisa Baker Buzzard died March 9, 1869 and David S. Buzzard died Feb. 8, 1870.

Harriet Amanda Buzzard married James Lawrence Leak, Oct. 27, 1839. They had eleven children.

Leak children

1. Virginia, b. Sept. 14, 1840; d. Feb 19, 1866
Married Charles Leak, son of Hiram, Oct. 28, 1860
Children, James David and Henry Edward.
2. Henry Baker, B. Jan 16, 1842, d. Jan. 31, 1922
Married Sarah Elizabeth Thompson, Nov. 28, 1867
Children, Ora Elmer and Iza Alice (Kennedy)
3. Franklin Blair or "Dock" b. Nov. 8, 1843 d. July 12, 1866
Married Mary Davidson, Jan. 1, 1865
Child, Ethan married Nettie Bailey
Grandson, Lyal
4. George L. b. Feb. 9, 1845, d. March 26, 1920
Married Alice Hedges, Oct. 3, 1869 - no children
5. America Alice b. Feb. 11, 1848, d. Nov. 25, 1879
Married Thomas J. Nelson, May 31, 1863
Children, Amos Franklin, Odolia (Scott) Ondis A.
and Amanda Eldora (Keeney)
6. Emily Maria, b. May 6, 1850 d. Mar. 17, 1927
Married Francis Marion Shirley, May 26, 1867
Children, Edgar A. Otto No. Bert E. Clarence I
and James Luther.

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7. James Hillary, b. May 6, 1852, d. Nov 12, 1923.
Married Margaret Catherine Leach, Oct. 18, 1883
Children Roscoe R. and Denio (Dungan)
8. Thomas Robinson, B. Nov. 1, 1854 d. Aug 13, 1910
Married Emma Lookabaugh, April 5, 1891
Children Esther (Ayers) and Winnie
9. Mary Lucy, b. July 28, 1857, d. Nov. 2, 1870
- 10 Charles, b. Dec. 27, 1860, d. Oct 10, 1863
- 11 William B. Dec. 27, 1860, do Oct. 24, 1870

(See history of the Leak family of Hendricks Co.
Indiana for more details of this family.)

William Abraham Baker Buzzard b. May 28, 1824
m. Mary Davison, Jan 11, 1849

1. Emaline Buzzard b. March 4, 1850 m. Johnson Logan
 1. Elva Logan
 2. Alma Logan m. Newton Tharp
 - 1.
 - 2.
 3. Lula Logan m. Homer Higgins, New Augusta, Ind.
 - 1.
 - twins { 4. Cleveland Logan, dead
 5. Cleo Logan
 6. Leon Logan
2. Catherine Buzzard m. Henry Hale - live in Nebraska
 1. Omer Hale
 - 1.
 2. Edgar Hale
 - 1.
 3. Harry Hale - dead
 4. Harley Hale
 5. Jefferson Hale
 6. John Hale - died young
3. Ann Buzzard m. Jub Adams
 - 1 sons
 - 2
4. Alice Buzzard m. Gibson
5. Jane Buzzard m. Lewis

Some facts told by George L. Leak as he learned them when he and his mother, Amanda Buzzard Leak, visited the Bakers in Frederick co., Va. in 1882

The Brown's - the family of Emily Baker Brown, were in sympathy with the North. Charley and _____ were forced into the southern army but they slipped away and came back home. Several officers and soldiers came in and asked for them. Not seeing them they started upstairs. Uncle "Billy Brown said, "Don't go up there, the boys will kill you", but they went just a few steps when the Brown boys fired, killing one and wounding another. The others went back to the group, consulted, and with a flag of truce came and got the dead soldier. They had a brief shooting fray firing back and forth - the Brown boys firing from the upstairs of the house.

Then the soldiers left. Some of their horses ran away and were hid in the lane back of the barn. The next day the Brown boys rode them into the Union lines and sold them. These boys went into the Union Army. The bullet holes were there plain in the house when George L. Leak visited in 1882.

The South were suspicious of Uncle Hillary Baker and sent officers to find an excuse to arrest him. The girls had a Union flag hid in a vase. It was dinner time and Uncle Hillary said they watched every word he said for an excuse to arrest him, but finding none they left and he was unmolested.

Uncle Henry Baker was southern and when George L. Leak and his mother visited there in 1882 his family and the Browns had never visited but did at that time. Uncle Henry Baker was very proud to display the picture of Jeff Davis - on the wall - to Uncle George Leak. He later said, "I didn't give him the satisfaction of looking at it but when he went out of the room I took a good look at the gentleman."

At this time, 1882, they still kept their toddy in the "good old way". Of course they set it up to their visitors and they to be polite took a little. When grandmother (Amanda) went to leave, she stumbled when getting into the carriage and Uncle George always joked her about getting too much.

The water was high and they had a terrible time getting around. A darkey took them in a carriage and at one place where they forded a stream they were in danger of being washed down.

Some folks visited at that time were Hillary and Henry Baker, quite old, and Dr. Norval Baker, Mary Groves, the Griffins, and Browns.

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Whitacre, Va.
Jan. 11, 1927

Mrs. George Keeney
Danville, Indiana

I received your letter and will try to give you the information you ask. I am the widow of Dr. Norval Baker who died Dec., 6, 1924, aged 82 years, one month and 28 days. He was the one that took the big hunt with George Loak. They corresponded with each other for a while. I remember reading his letters, and I think there is one of George Loak's letters around here yet.

Harriet Amanda Baker Buzzard who left this country years ago, was the niece of Henry Baker, Dr. Baker's father. All of this family have passed away. There are his (Henry Baker's) grandchildren living at Gainsboro, Frederick Co., who were his daughter Annie Adams' children. Uncle Hillary Baker has one grandson, C.G. Baker, living at Cross Junction, Frederick Co., Va. Aunt Emily Brown has one granddaughter living at Whitacre, Frederick Co., Va. who is Mrs. Annie Whitacre, and daughter of Mrs. Housholder by the first marriage. Mrs. Housholder married John Griffin for her first husband. She was Aunt Emily Brown's daughter.

Uncle George Baker went to Texas years ago and died there. Uncle Hillary Baker died years ago in his 92nd year. His daughter, Mrs. Mary Groves, died about two years ago in her 94th year.

Dr. Baker's father, Henry Baker, died in 1888, in his 91st year. His son Erastus (Dr. Baker's brother) died three months before Dr. Baker. He was in his 80th year. Charles William Baker died about ten or twelve years ago in Kansas, in his 82nd year. He was Dr. Baker's oldest brother. His oldest sister, Carrie Baker, died in 1910, aged 76 years. His youngest sister Annie Adams, died a good many years ago about 54 or 55 years old.

Those Hook boys are nephews of Mrs. Annie Whitacre, and are living at Gore, Va. and Trowe, Va., Frederick Co. I think that is all that are living in this country of your grandmother's people. I will give their names and addresses.

(Aunt Emily Brown's granddaughters) Mrs. Annie Whitacre, Whitacre, Va. And Charlie Brown's daughter, Mrs. Alice Whitacre, Whitacre, Va. Uncle Hillary Baker's grandson: C.G. Baker, Cross Junction, Va. Henry Baker's grandchildren* Miss Nannie Adams, Gainsboro, Va. W.E. Adams, Gainsboro, Va. Miss Carrie Adams, Gainsboro, Va. C.T. Adams, Gainsboro, Va. Also a great many great-grand children. These are all that are living near here, all within 5 miles of each other.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Lucy A. Baker.

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Mrs. Mary Buzzard Buckwalter, daughter of John Buzzard, had a son George. He married Elizabeth Christian and settled in Huntington Co., Indiana. His descendants and those of Amanda Buzzard Leak of Hendricks Co., Indiana have always kept somewhat in touch with each other. The following information was received from Mrs. Bessie Leyman Snyder, of Huntington, Indiana, Feb. 8, 1927.

George A. Buckwalter, b. Aug. 27, 1822 married
Elizabeth Christian b. Oct. 15, 1825

Children -

Mary Jane Buckwalter b. Nov. 3, 1853, d. July 13, 1909
Never married

Margaret Ann Buckwalter, b. April 1, 1855, D. May 31, 1871

Maria Louisa Buckwalter, b. Nov. 11, 1857
Married Frank Freshaffer, Dec. 15, 1889
He died Oct. 20, 1895.

She lived at 721 Woodlawn Ave. Huntington, Ind.

Sarah Francis Buckwalter b. Jan 5, 1860

Married Ezra Shock who died May, 1921

Children

Effie Lininger, Huntington, RFD

Albert Shock, Dayton, Ohio.

Laura Shock, a missionary to China.

George Shock, Findley, Ohio

Eldon Shock, Huntington, Ind. RFD 9

Mabel Stults, 1453 Grayston Ave. Huntington, Ind.

Mrs. Shock makes her home with Mrs. Stults

Elizabeth Ellen, b. Feb. 18, 1862, lives Huntington RFD 9

Married Joseph Leyman Dec. 25, 1884 (He died
in March after this information was received)

Children

Walter Leyman, b. Mar 22, 1886 d. Dec. 26, 1925

Bessie Leyman Snyder b. Mar. 22, 1888

Married Elmer Snyder b. June 20, 1903. He died Oct. 1,
1913

Robert Leyman, b. Feb. 15, 1890, Arcola, Ind.

Schoolteacher

Elsie Leyman Lahr b. May 12, 1892, Huntington, RFD

Albert Leyman, b. June 16, 1893, Bippus, Ind, RFD 1

Lawrence Leyman, b. July 15, 1907. At home.

second wife of George Buckwalter, Tena, died Mar. 5, 1866

Married only 50 days.

Third wife of George Buckwalter, Sarah Jane, b. May 20, 1837

d. Sept 11, 1903

Virginia Lee, b. Nov 28, 1868, d. Dec. 29, 1877

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Revolutionary record of John Buzzard, father of David S.
Pennsylvania Archives - Fifth Series, Vol. V

Chester Co. Pennsylvania

Capt. Thomas' Muster Roll, First part of 1780

Capt. Sampson Thomas

John Buckwalter - 1st class

John Buzard 2nd class

Probably means squad or
mess

Muster Roll of Capt. Sampson Thomas' Company for the year 1781

John Buckwalter - 1st class

John Buzard - 2nd class

Dan'z Buckwalter - 7th class

David Buckwalter - 8th class

Muster Roll of Capt. Sampson Thomas's Co. 7th Company

4th Batt Chester Co. For the year 1781

John Buckwalter - 1st class

John Buzard 2nd class

Daniel Buckwalter 7th class

David Buckwalter 8th class

Indiana State Library - Heads of Families - Pennsylvania 1790

Chester Co.

Charlestown Township

	Male -16 up	under 16	female
Buckwalter, Jacob	3	4	2
" John	1	3	3
" David	1	6	1

Buzard, Jacob

1 1 3

Pikeland Township

Buzard, John

1 1 1

Dauphin Co.

Buzard, John

1/2 1 1/2 3

Franklin Co.

Buzard, John

2 2 5

Philadelphia Co.

Buzzard, Jacob

1 3

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This brief history of the Buzzard family was collected
and compiled by

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