

## **BUCKMAN COLONIAL LINE**

There are actually three main Buckman Colonial Lines. Massachusetts in 1650 practiced the Anglican faith, the one that immigrated with William Penn in late 1600's were Quakers, and our line beginning with John Baptist Buckman Sr. of the early 1700's. were of the Catholic faith.

## **BUCKMAN'S OF MARYLAND**

Excerpts from "The Buckman Family of Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, U.S.A.  
by Sister Mary Louise Donnelly

The story of the BUCKMAN FAMILY is a part of the history of those Catholic families of St. Mary's County, Maryland who took roots in the New World in the seventeenth century, suffered religious persecution in the eighteenth century, and moved west in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

King Charles I of England gave land in the New World to George Calvert, First Lord Baltimore, who planned the colony of Maryland. Except for the years of the Puritan upheaval, the vision of George Calvert and Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, of Protestants and Catholics living in peaceful communion in a small corner of the New World became a reality in Maryland. From 1634 until about 1689 Catholics practiced their religion freely and played a predominant role in the government of the colony.

With the death in 1715 of Charles Calvert, the third Lord Baltimore, Catholics lost all civil power in Maryland. Three years later Catholics were not allowed to vote for delegates of their localities. Thirty years later the land of Catholics was subject to double taxation.

The American Revolution ended religious persecution and opened fresh opportunities for Catholics in Maryland. Ironically, it was at this time that many Catholics made plans to leave Maryland and settle in Kentucky County, Virginia, in an area which in 1792 became the State of Kentucky. The desire to start a Catholic colony, the poverty caused by the Revolutionary War, hopeful tales of the Kentucky frontier, a spirit of adventure, or the scarcity of land in Maryland for their heirs, were single or collective factors for the movement.

The first known Catholic emigrants to the region were Dr. George Hart and William Coomes in 1775. They first settled at Harrod's Station and later in the Bardstown area. Dr. Hart was the first physician in the area and William Coomes' wife the first teacher. In 1785 a large colony of Catholics under the leadership of Basil Hayden, Sr. arrived in Kentucky County and settled chiefly on Pottinger's Creek around twelve miles south of Bardstown. In the spring of 1786 Captain Richard James Rapier lead another large group who located principally on the Beech Fork much nearer Bardstown. In 1787 Thomas Hill and his brother-in-law Philip Miles brought another band of settlers into Kentucky County. They were followed in 1788 by Robert Abell and his companions who settled on

Hardin's Creek in an area that became Washington County, Kentucky in 1792, later known as Calvary, Kentucky.

IGNATIUS BUCKMAN arrived with the last named group. He is recorded on Hardin's Creek in the 1788 tax list of Nelson County, Virginia. By the 1800 census of Kentucky all of the brothers of IGNATIUS BUCKMAN were residing in Washington County, Kentucky.

Historian Bancroft in the first volume of the HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, concerning Maryland, awards this praise to the BUCKMAN brothers and other Catholic pioneers of Maryland to Kentucky.

The Catholics who settled in Kentucky, came principally from this state, which had been founded by Lord Baltimore, and a band of colonists professing the Roman Catholic religion. Bold, hardy, adventurous and strongly attached to their faith, but tolerant towards those of other denominations, the Catholic emigrants to Kentucky proved not unworthy of their ancestors who had been the first to unfurl on this western continent, the broad banner of universal freedom, both civil and religious.

With the knowledge about my own ancestral roots (Sister Mary Louise Donnelly), which includes as Colonial Maryland grandfathers - Basil Hayden, Sr., Captain Richard James Rapier, and Thomas Hill - my interest and extensive research on families of Colonial Maryland and later Kentucky began. From Kentucky my ancestors went into Missouri in the 1830s and then into Texas in the 1850s. Along the way I collected information on other families into which my relatives married, including the BUCKMANS. My work is also an attempt to show how the Catholic families spread Christ's message of love and started Catholic Churches throughout the United States. BUCKMAN descendants donated land in Flaherty, Kentucky and Stithton, Kentucky for the building of Catholic Churches. They were instrumental in helping to build Catholic Churches in Missouri, Iowa and Kansas, prior to the Civil War.

My material has come from Catholic Church records, census records, county records, family Bibles, and numerous family records. TILLIE ONISCHAK of Sacramento, California, REV. JOHN B. TENNELLY of THE BUCKMAN FAMILY.

BUCKMAN is an English surname which had its origin in the middle ages. Many surnames were derived from the trade practiced. Books were very precious in the Middle Ages. They had to be either written or hand-lettered with quill pens and brushes. When this was done, the pages of vellum would be gathered together in a binding. The names that came from the ancient craft of bookbinding are not numerous because very few men followed that craft. (ENGLISH ANCESTRAL NAMES by J.R. Dolan, p 354)

Later in his book Mr. Dolan states that names derived from the book binding trade were Binder, Blocker and BUCKMAN (p 360).