

Johnie & Marie Baxter

The Paths Traveled Before Us

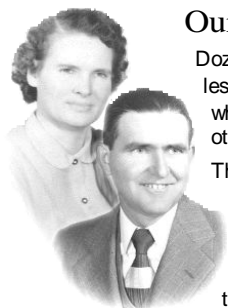
Our Family Story



Main Street, Carmi, Illinois 1875

Johnie & Marie Baxter

The Paths Traveled Before Us



Our Family Story

Dozens of interesting people have traveled numerous paths and countless miles by foot, by ship, by wagon, by train, and by car to get us to where we are today. Many of them came from England; some of the others came from places still unknown to us.

The paths of at least two of our ancestral lines can be traced back to early English immigrants to the American colonies and other lines can be followed back almost that far. The longest path traveled stretches back ten generations before us. Our known family history covers a period of 374 years. This is the story of the paths they traveled before us.

THE BURGESS - MITCHELL PATHS

Our earliest known ancestor was **William Burgess**. He was born about 1622 and came to the American colonies. It was not until he was 38 years old that he married his wife **Ursula** in 1660. He lived to be 64 years old and had a child just a couple of years before he died on January 24, 1684 at London Town, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, along the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, Maryland.

Ursula lived another 14 years dying on December 12, 1700, just five months after the marriage of their daughter. Sixteen year old **Susanna Burgess** was married to **John Mitchell** on July 14, 1700, a few miles farther west at All Hollow's in Prince George's County, Maryland, just east of present day Washington, D.C.

John and Susanna had a son, also, named **John Mitchell**. This John and his wife Elizabeth had a daugh-

ter, **Sarah Mitchell**, on August 31, 1720, there in Prince George's County, Maryland. Sarah did not marry until she was about 22 years old when she met a man who had been deported from England at the age of 22 as a thief, but was becoming a prosperous land owner by the time of their marriage ten years later.

THE ATTERBURY - ATTERBERRY PATHS

A few years before back in London, England, at St. Giles Cripplegate on March 24, 1685, a son was born to **William and Jane Atterbury** which he named William, after himself. The younger **William Atterbury** was married at the age of 22 in 1707 to **Sarah Rogers**.

There at at St. Giles Cripplegate, London, three years later William and Sarah Atterbury had a son on June 21, 1710, which they, following in the family tradition, named William.

This **William Atterberry** (now spelling his name "berry"

instead of "bury") was a laborer in the parish of St. James in Liberty, Westminster, Middlesex (the western end of present day London), England. During the reign of King George II on January 31, 1732, at the age of 22 he found himself in trouble with the law – perhaps on purpose knowing that the probable punishment was deportation to America and that paying for ships passage to that land of new opportunity was far beyond his means.

“**H**e [William Atterberry] was committed by Ol. Lambert Esquire, on oath of Frederick Humble for stealing out of the shop of George Cole som stuff, five yards of Linsey Woolsey, worth 3 shillings.” As his punishment William was deported to America from Newgate Prison on the ship *Patapscoe Merchant* captained by Darby Lux on April 17, 1733, along with a total of 76 other crew and passengers. The ship (probably) landed in the Maryland colony.

About ten years later (c.1742) at the age of 32 William married a third generation American resident 22 year old **Sarah Mitchell**. By 1746 William was living on *Prince Spring Plantation*, a 50 acre farm which he owned there in Prince George County, Maryland, “on the north side of the White Marsh, being a draught of the Eastern Branch of Potomack River.”

There in Maryland William and Sarah had seven children including **Richard Atterberry** (born about 1748), Charles (c.1747), and John (c.1751-55). On August 16, 1746, William sold his plantation for 3000 pounds of tobacco to John Riddle, Jr., and moved across the Potomac River to Loudon County, Virginia.

According to family tradition passed down through several family lines: “The father [William Atterberry] of the brothers was a wealthy land owner, and very loyal to the crown. Then the dissatisfactions began to materialize [as the

American colonies began to demand independence]. I suppose that this situation increased until there was a break in his health. Anyway, he sent the boys out one morning to round up the horses. Upon the return of one of them, the father met him at the door and said, ‘Me and the devil have killed your mother.’ Upon investigating, the boys found their mother’s body rolled under the bed. Upon this the father tried to escape, but the boys caught him and held him for the authorities. He was tried, found to be insane, and released.” It is speculated that this may be the cause of all the brothers migrating to other parts of the country to forget the unhappy incident.

It was not until about 1781 when **Richard Atteberry** (note the dropping of the first “r” – perhaps to break with his sad family history noted above) was about 31 years old that he finally married. It was to **Rebecca Bennett**. In 1799, while living in South Carolina (where most

of the sons moved to after the death of their mother), they had a son, **John Atteberry**. Richard died at the age of 57 in Grayson County, Kentucky.

John Atteberry married and moved to White County, Illinois, with his wife **Barbary**. About 1824 their son, **Charles W. Atteberry**, was born there around Carmi, Illinois, about 35 miles west of Evansville, Indiana.

THE HOCKING PATHS

Meanwhile, back in England, **Richard Hocking, Sr.**, was born in 1781 at Ruan Laniorne, Cornwall County on the southwest tip of England. At the age of 25, on January 30, 1806, he was married to 23 year old **Amy Johns** at Cornelly in Cornwall County. She was from Philleagh there in Cornwall.

Richard and Amy had five sons (George in 1807, John on Nov. 20, 1809, James on Sept. 3, 1810, **Richard Hocking, Jr.**, on January 25, 1816, and William) and two daugh-

ters (Sarah in 1808 and Mary on July 12, 1812).

Some records indicate that **Richard, Sr.**, died before the family left England. He would have been 60 years old when they left in 1841. **Richard, Jr.**, turned 25 years old the year the family came to the United States of America and settled in the area of Bone Gap, Edwards County (the next county north of White County), Illinois.

THE LOUGH PATHS

In this same period of time in the area now known as West Virginia there lived another family whose father had been a Revolutionary War soldier. On Christmas Day 1815 his son, 23 year old **Rev. Peter Lough**, was married to 15 year old **Prudence Gibson**.

Twenty-two years later in 1837 **Prudence** and **Peter** moved along with her parents to Edwards County, Illinois. With them they brought their 13 year old daughter, **Charity Temperance Lough**, the

fourth of their fifteen children. Prudence and Peter are buried in the Wesley Cemetery near Passport in Clay County, Illinois, about 40 miles northwest of Bone Gap.

It was on July 22, 1841, in Bone Gap, Illinois, that 17 year old Temperance (as she was known) married a young man who was newly arrived from England, Richard Hocking, Jr. Richard lived another 30 years dying at the age of 55 in 1871. Temperance lived on to be 74 in 1898. Together they raised eleven children there in Bone Gap including Mary, Lovina, and their fifth son, **Charles Marcellus Hocking**, born on May 28, 1856.

THE FISCHEL - NADING PATHS

During this same period in a thriving Moravian community in the part of central North Carolina now known as Forsyth County on July 29, 1802, 19 year old **Johann Philip Fischel** married 18 year old **Rachel Elisabeth Muller** (some families later changed the spelling to Miller).

Two years later on February 9, 1802, their daughter **Elisabeth Fischel** was born. When she was nearly 22 years old Elisabeth married a local 24 year old young man named **Joseph Nading**. Sadly just 4 years into their marriage she died at the age of 26 in child birth along with their baby. She was buried in the Friedburg Moravian Church Cemetery near Winston Salem, North Carolina.

She left behind their two earlier children: her first born, a boy named **Matthew Nading**, and a daughter, Anna Marie. Joseph went on to have two more wives and five more children. He lived to be 81 years old and was buried in 1865 in the nearby Hopewell Moravian Church Cemetery with his later wives.

Nearby lived **David Fishel** and his wife **Lydia Clodfelter** who had both been born in the Friedburg community along the southern edge of Forsyth County, North Carolina, in 1806 and 1812 respectively. They

had been married in October of 1837 when he was 30 and she was 25 years old. Their only child was a daughter, **Mary Ann Fishel**.

When he was 25 years old Matthew Nading married 18 year old Mary Ann Fishel on April 6, 1852. They had a son born to them each of the first two years of their marriage. Altogether they had seven children: three boys and four girls. Their first daughter was born on February 22, 1856, and named **Eliza Ernestina Lucresta Nading**. Their last daughter was born just three months before Matthew died at the age of 38 in September of 1865.

Around that time several residents in the Moravian community moved to form the new community they called West Salem in southeastern Illinois in Edwards County. Among them was the widow Mary Ann Fishel Nading, her children, and her parents. She remarried at the age of 35, four years after Matthew died, when her daughter Eliza was 13 years old, to

30 year old **William J. Hoeszel**.

Eliza's grandfather, David Fishel, lived to be nearly 72 years old dying in 1878. Her grandmother, Lydia Clodfelter Fishel, lived another 14 years - to 1892. Both are buried in the West Salem Moravian Church Cemetery at West Salem, Edwards County, Illinois.

The year before her grandfather Fishel died, in the little town of Bone Gap just about five miles south of West Salem, Eliza Ernestina Nading, then 21 years old, married Charles Marcellus Hocking who had been born in Edwards County three months after Eliza was born in North Carolina.

Living there in Bone Gap, Eliza and **Charles Marcellus Hocking** had nine children in the 18 years between 1877 and 1895. The two youngest were their daughters Mary and **Luvina Hocking**.

Luvina attended the local school through the sixth grade. She was still a teenager when, around the

end of 1910, her parents moved taking her and the other younger members of her family farther west to the area of Clay County, Arkansas, just north of Corning.

THE SHULL - HUNSINGER PATHS

Meanwhile nineteen year old **Elizabeth Shull** married 22 year old **Jacob Hunsinger** in April of 1805 in Muhlenberg County, in the west central part of Kentucky. Betsy (as she was called) was born on September 15, 1786, in Fayette County, in the southwestern part of Pennsylvania. Jacob had been born in North Carolina on March 31, 1783. They moved on to Illinois and had a daughter, **Susan Hunsinger**, in 1827. Betsy died in 1859 at the age of 73. Jacob lived three more years.

THE ATTEBERY PATHS

In White County, Illinois, just to the south of Edwards county, on August 24, 1848, 24 year old **Charles Attebery** was married to 21 year old **Susan Hunsinger**.

There in White County, Illinois, in 1849, still a few years before the Fishels would arrive, **Ezekiel Huntsinger Attebery** (now having just one “r”) was born to Charles and Susan.

When he was 30 years old “Zeke” Attebery married 24 year old widow, **Sarah Jane Robertson Engel**, who had a 2 year old daughter named Maude Engel. They lived in the Carmi, Illinois, area near the Wabash River about 30 miles south of Bone Gap.

Together “Zeke” and Sarah had four more daughters and two sons. About a year after the birth of their last child, Arthur, in 1891, Sarah died. Their oldest son, **William Oscar Attebery**, was about 4 years old (born November 3, 1886) and their step sister about 15 years old when their mother died there in Carmi.

Although a widower at 43 years of age and with five children between the ages of 1 and 15 years

“Zeke” kept his young family together by himself. Though he could neither read nor write on his own, while working as a hired farm laborer for large farm owners in the area he made sure his children received a “complete” education graduating from the eighth grade there in Carmi.

Saving his money from wages earned by working for the surrounding large farm owners, by the time he was 15 years old Oscar was able to buy a team of mules and rent a few acres of land to begin farming for himself. So he raised a crop of sweet potatoes. That fall he was able to haul them in a mule drawn wagon into the nearby towns and sell them to the residents there.

All of his time was not spent laboring, sunny Sunday summer afternoons were sometimes spent swimming in the nearby Wabash River. Cool weekend nights often found Oscar with other young men of the area – sometimes in mischief. One Halloween night the

young men of the area crept into the barn lot of a successful farmer, dismantled his large wagon, and reassembled it piece by piece on top of the barn roof.

Oscar was fond of telling how he and his brother would go to the fair with beautiful, young girlfriends on their arms. With brown hair and sparkling blue eyes to set off his handsome face he became the star shortstop on the local baseball team which travelled across southern Illinois for weekend games.

When “Zeke’s” children were grown a couple of the older ones married and started families of their own in surrounding towns in southern Illinois. Then around 1910 when he was about 60 years old Zeke moved his remaining family west. They settled down in the area just south of the growing town of Corning in Clay County, Arkansas.

Oscar, previously a dashing and rambunctious young man, had suffered a severe eye injury while

playing baseball, and now at about 25 years old was in serious search of opportunity to fulfill his lifelong dream of being a large farmer with land of his own – like those for whom he and his father had worked back in Illinois.

There in Corning, Arkansas, the Hocking and Attebery families, both recently arriving from southeastern Illinois, met. Within the span of about two years the two Attebery sons had married the two Hocking daughters (Oscar and Luvina in 1911, and Arthur and Mary in 1913) and the youngest Attebery daughter, Maggie, married the youngest Hocking son, Loren, in 1912.

There in Clay County, Arkansas, **William Oscar Attebery** started farming and **Luvina Hocking Attebery** gave birth to their first four children including their first daughter, **Marie Attebery**, on September 5, 1917.

Then about 1920 Oscar bought a 40 acre farm of his own one-

quarter mile north of the Arkansas-Missouri state line – about five miles away from the Hocking farm. There farming with mules and horses walking mile upon dusty mile along row after row in the soft fertile soil with the reins tied together and hung around his neck while guiding the plow or cultivator around the tender young plants he began raising his favorite crop: watermelons.

His farm lay on the edge of a sandy ridge that crossed the community known as Buncombe located in Ripley County about 5 miles south of Naylor, Missouri. Starting with a two room house already too small for his growing family, Oscar soon built a new house with four rooms downstairs and additional bedroom space upstairs.

It wasn't long before he added more land and they had more children. And he set about to be able to give each of his children a forty acre farm (actually giving them 80 acres each several years later). Eventually he had fields containing hundreds

of acres with individual rows that stretched out one mile long.

By 1934 he had bought his first automobile, a Model T Ford. But he never learned to drive a car because his eyesight was never fully recovered despite extensive treatments.

There **Marie Attebery** grew up walking to the Buncombe school house one-quarter mile to the east and to the Buncombe Baptist Church one-quarter mile to the south (just across the state line in Arkansas).

THE ADAMS PATHS

Going back to the days of the American colonies we find a 150 acre farm on the south side of the Nottaway River and the south side of the Three Creeks at a place then known as “Adams Grove” between Emporia, Drewryville, and Courtland, in southeastern Virginia. It was purchased on March 24, 1725, by **Henry Adams**. This pioneer (or perhaps a son also named Henry)

later had two sons: **Jesse Adams** born in 1753 in Bute County, North Carolina, and **Bryant Adams** born in 1756 there in Three Creeks, Virginia. About 1760 the Adams family moved back to North Carolina.

After the younger son, Bryant, served in the Revolutionary War he moved to Montgomery, Alabama in 1825, but after his wife **Nancy** died in 1836 when he was 80 years old he returned to North Carolina to live with his son.

Henry’s elder son, **Jesse Adams**, married a girl from the area of his birth, Bute County, North Carolina, named **Unicy**. While living in North Carolina they had twelve children between 1782 and 1809. Then at the age of 49 years Jesse packed up his family and moved to Smith (now Macon) County, Tennessee, the area along the border with Kentucky about 50 miles northeast of Nashville.

Jesse and Unicy's eldest son (third child) was named **Henry Adams** (after Jesse's father). In 1815 when he was about 39 years old this younger Henry married 33 year old **Catherine** from back in North Carolina and she joined him there in Tennessee. Together they had five children.

Then in 1849 when their youngest child, "J.", was 13 years old and their oldest, **Briant Adams**, was 34, the whole family moved to Ballard County, Kentucky – just across the river from Cairo, Illinois, about 100 miles south of Carmi, Illinois, and about 100 miles east of Corning, Arkansas.

Briant Adams was a shoemaker. He married **Jane Woods**. When Briant was 39 years old they had their first of three children, **Jesse Thomas Adams**. Three years later came their daughter Charity R. Adams. And five years later in 1863, when Briant was 47, their youngest son, **Bryant Bascom Adams**, was born there in Ballard County.

Around this same time and place we find a young man by the name of **Caloway Waters** (born in 1842) marrying **Mitilda C. Hampton** (born in 1847) both originally from Kentucky. In 1867 "Cal" and "Cate" (as they were called) had their one known child, a daughter they named **Nancy Waters**.

It was on Christmas Eve of 1884 there in Ballard County, Kentucky, that 21 year old **Bryant Bascom Adams** married **Nancy Waters** who was just 15 years old at the time. For the first several years they lived in the next county to the south, Carlisle County (across the Mississippi River from Missouri), Kentucky. There they had two children: **Minnie Lee Adams** and **Charles Grover Adams** (who later married **Lottie Neal** from East Prairie, Missouri, just a few miles to the west across the Mississippi River).

Then around 1890 Bryant moved with "Nannie" (his wife) and their children to settle in the Bennett community in Ripley County near

Doniphan, Missouri. There they had three more children: **Calvin Bryant Adams**, **Kate Jane Adams** (born July 17, 1889), and **Pearl June Adams**.

Tragedy struck the Adams family in March of 1898 when Nannie died and then again in March of 1900 when Bryant died leaving their five children aged 4 to 13 years old orphaned. So the children were parceled out to surrounding families who would take them in: 13 year old Minnie went to live with the **Pickett family**; Charlie (11), Calvin (8), and Pearl (4) were fortunately taken in by Bryant's older brother Jesse (who had, also, moved to the Doniphan area) although Jesse and his wife "**Sallie**" (**Sarah Effie Tremmel**) already had seven children of their own between 2 and 21 years of age; and 10 year old Kate was taken in by **Nathan Price** and his wife. Then calamity struck again the very next year. In March of 1901 Jesse died ... and before Christmas that year Sallie had died as well.

Nathan Price and his wife were friends of Bryant and Nannie. They lived five miles west of Doniphan, Missouri, and provided young Kate Adams with a primary education at the Price Community School just an eighth of a mile from their house. At noon she would come home for lunch and then wash the family dishes before returning to school.

Each Sunday the family attended worship services held in the same building used for school during the week. At school Kate would play soft ball with other girls. Her closest friend was **Berdie Patterson**, who later married the grandson of Nathan Price. Every Saturday was a special day when the whole Price family and Kate would climb into the fancy horse drawn buggy and ride into the county seat of Ripley County, Doniphan, Missouri, to sell the eggs and butter they had gathered and made that week.

When she was a teenager Kate Adams attended a pie supper

at the local school. It was a big occasion in her young life. The Price family had given her a pretty new dress to wear and she was delighted. Before getting ready to go to the supper with her beautifully baked pie she had to milk the cows. In her excitement of getting ready in the dim coal oil lamplight without a long mirror she failed to notice her mistake. A very nice young man bought her pie and with it the privilege of eating it with her. Arriving home after the supper Kate was embarrassed to find she had forgotten to take off the big pair of old dirty work shoes she had worn to milk the cows.

Young Kate met and married **Charlie Long**. But things did not go well. Not long after they were married he ran away and never returned. She had the choice of waiting seven years for him to be declared legally dead, or to work, save her money, and obtain a divorce herself. She chose the latter.

In 1908 the nineteen year old Katie Jane Adams Long left the Price farm and went to Rector, Arkansas, where her uncle **Dan Long** lived. Upon her arrival she secured a job at a local hotel working in the kitchen preparing food for the guests. The first owners encouraged giving handouts to the hungry hoboes traveling the railroad track through the town; but a new owner discouraged such actions. Even so, Kate continued to sneak hot coffee and food out the back door to the hungry people who came begging.

She enjoyed working there and soon became friends with another kitchen worker, **Cona Jefferson** (for whom Kate later named her first daughter). They went to the moving picture show together, dated together, and had many memorable times together.

About two years later she left Rector and visited her brother in Success, Arkansas, a thriving saw mill town about ten miles to the south of Doniphan along the swift

and winding Current River just a couple miles from the Mozark foothills (or six miles to the west and south of the Buncombe community). While there she obtained a job working as a house servant for a well-to-do merchant family.

THE BAXTER PATHS

About 60 miles to the north in Iron County, Missouri, in December of 1854 **Jesse Baxter** had a son named **George W. Baxter**. George became a sawmill employee working in the thriving timber business and worked his way up to have his own saw mill. Along the way he married **Margaret Harbensen** and they had five children Walter, Ada, Elmer, Charlotte, Bertha, and **John F. (Faunzie or Fonzo) Baxter**.

Born on March 17, 1890, John Baxter inherited a love for the smell of fresh cut lumber. While John was still small his father and mother moved their family to the lumbering area in the hills near Thayer, Missouri (about 40 miles west of Doniphan near the Arkansas

line). In a short time the family moved again to the booming lumber town of Success about 30 miles away across the Arkansas line. There the mother died and the father married **Emma J. Stephens** on October 23, 1901. This added three stepsons to the family: **Bill, Josh, and Ambers Stephens**. Then two more sons were born, Jim and Martin Van Buren. But, as is often the case, the family never liked the new stepmother.

At the age of nine and still a slim lad, John went to work at the sawmill where his father was the head-sawyer. He never had the opportunity to obtain an education. In later years he would jokingly tell of the one day he attended school in his older brother's place. But being around the sawmill he quickly learned how to figure in his mind the amount of lumber in a board although he was never able to put it on paper and could barely sign his first and last names.

One day at their sawmill his father was adjusting the saw while it was running and raised up into the saw cutting a gash in his head. For several days he was a local curiosity going about town “normally” – until the resulting infection killed him.

This left John to care for his two younger brothers. John married a girl by the name of **Harris** there in Success, Arkansas. She died a few days after giving birth to their first child. That baby boy died two years later.

The Success baseball team held an ice cream supper during the summer of 1912 to raise money. A spunky 23 year old **Kate Adams**, whose brother was the catcher for the team, was one of those waiting on tables that night. A tall, slim, handsome 22 year old young man there asked her to allow him to walk her home that night. She accepted and thus began the courtship of Kate Adams and John Baxter.

Together that summer they attended many baseball games, picnics, and the Methodist Church. She spent much time with him and found him to be a lot of fun. On one occasion he arrived with an apple – which he claimed was the finest one of an entire bushel which he had bought and had chosen that one just for her. As he continued to talk he ate the whole apple himself. She found it delightfully amusing. On October 13, 1912, they were married in a small ceremony attended by family members.

John Baxter and his new bride kept his youngest brother and raised him as their own child. John Baxter worked the first year at sawmills near Success and near the Missouri line. In the middle of the next summer their first child was born, a daughter they named **Cona Baxter**.

Moving about the area with the lumbering work the new family continued to grow. Part of that time they lived in the Palatka community about halfway between

Naylor, Missouri, and Success, Arkansas. At times when he was not working as head-sawyer at some sawmill John tended a small rented farm and was doing quite well. They accumulated horses, cows, hogs, farming tools, a wagon, and even a nice car. Nothing was mortgaged; it was all theirs.

Working hard during the boom years of World War I about ten years after their marriage it seemed as if it were time to purchase a farm of their own and settle down in one place to raise their family. They located a big farm a few miles west of Corning, Arkansas, made a down payment, and mortgaged everything they owned to buy the farm.

They worked hard that year and made a good cotton crop. The agricultural depression hit hard that fall, however, and the cotton could not even be sold after being grown. Their fourth child, **Carney Baxter**, was born there in 1924. Although they tried to prevent losing the farm

their efforts were in vain.

In 1925 they lost everything for which they had worked so hard, even the livestock they had raised for their winter meat supply. For a short while they lived in the town of Corning while John worked with his team of horses (salvaged from their bankruptcy because they were so lively no one else could control the team) pulling logs out of the woods for the sawmills. Later he worked on a rice farm in the low wetlands area southwest of Corning.

John and the two oldest children, **Marvin Baxter** and Cona, just barely in their teens, hired themselves out as day laborers to provide for the family. For Kate it was an especially hard time. She lost four babies, three in a row, during that time. The summer after they lost the farm she was too sick to even do her housework ... and her thirteen year old daughter could not do it because her labor was needed to help buy food for the family.

The family moved back to Success and farmed there for three years. Their second son, **Johnie Elvin Baxter** (born September 17, 1920), started school there. One day a much bigger student, **Paul Moore** who lived with his family on a farm a couple of miles west of Success, pushed little Johnie down in the mud in front of the boys' outhouse – and so his five year older brother, Marvin, and the other boys held Paul down while Johnie was allowed to “beat him up.” (About 50 years later Paul's niece, **Janice Ann Moore**, married Johnie's son, **Roger Baxter**.)

Then they moved, again, to a farm west of Corning in the Richwoods community (located between Corning and Success) and farmed rented land there until 1934. The older children went to school there for a few years. Nine years after the loss of the first farm they were again able to purchase some land, this time a small farm in Missouri about four miles south of

Naylor and one mile north of the Arkansas state line in the Buncombe community. From there John again entered the lumbering business with a small sawmill of his own.

That winter at the Buncombe Baptist Church an itinerant instructor held a “shaped note singing school” and two handsome young men attended who were new to the community and all the eligible girls vied to get their attention. During breaks in the school sessions everyone would go outside to skate on the ice in the yard. Whenever a girl fell down – and it seemed quite often, Johnie or Marvin quickly helped them back to their feet. One girl there took Johnie's fancy and since the Baxter brothers had attended similar schools before and she seemed to need his help on the tests, he provided lots of individual help to **Marie Attebery**.

Even though he was only 16 years old and she was 19, on Christmas eve of 1936 Johnie and Marie were married by her uncle

Loren Hocking at his farm house about halfway between Buncombe and Corning. Young Johnie had to get his father to sign for their marriage license, but Marie did not tell her parents until it was bedtime for her younger siblings and sitting there in the living room of the Attebery home on the arm of the chair in which her new husband sat she asked, "Do you want to know my last name?"

Her father, Oscar Attebery's only response was, "Well, I thought you had been sitting awfully close all night!"

And so ends this story of the paths that led to us ... and a new story of the path that we have trod begins. That is the story we tell in *Remembering Our Lives* on the accompanying DVD.

Our path began there in Buncombe and took us through Corning, Rockford, Illinois, Naylor, and most recently to Granville, Illinois. Along the way there were

brief side trips to St. Louis, Arizona, San Antonio, the snowy Rocky Mountains, and elsewhere. While on that path we gained a son, **John Roger Baxter** (April 1, 1951) in Corning, and a daughter, **Janice Elaine Baxter Ossola** (January 30, 1958) in Rockford, and two grandchildren, **Adam Joseph Ossola** (March 4, 1987) and **Lora Ashley Ossola** (October 9, 1990) in Granville.

Now we celebrate 70 years of marriage and look back down life's path with many fond memories of people and places that have made up our lives and the lives of those going before us that stretch back for the 374 years represented by that story and marvel at how far we have come.

Johnie & Marie Baxter



1936 to 2006
Celebrating 70 Years Together

Produced in Celebration of
Johnie & Marie Baxter's 70th Wedding Anniversary – 1936-2006
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