



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number : 047**

**Name:** Baker, Elizabeth (Nicholson)

**Dates:**

**Born:** Unknown

**Death:** 1812 Moon Township, Beaver Co., PA

**Colonial Society:** PA

**Date added to ROA:** December 2022

**Service:** Founder of Beaver County, 1773

**Authority:** Smith, Clifford J., Baker Family Research for Mill Creek Valley Historical Association of Pennsylvania

### **Biography:**

There is no proof of when Elizabeth Nicholson arrived in the Colonies, but she is known to be of English descent. She married a German immigrant, George Baker, in about 1760, likely in Philadelphia. The couple headed west in 1772-1773, to what is now Beaver County.

Their destination was not considered part of Pennsylvania until 1785, which meant they could not warrant, survey, or patent the land until that time. George Baker did so as soon as possible, warranting the land on which the couple had lived on 21 Mar 1786. They called their home Bethlehem.

Life on the Frontier was known to be brutal, especially for women. After a family of nearby Indians were massacred in 1774, Elizabeth, her husband, and 5 children were taken prisoner in retaliation. They were held captive near present-day Detroit until the surrender of Burgoyne in October 1777. Having been sold to the British, they were exchanged as prisoners-of-war and allowed to make their way back to their homestead. Elizabeth's husband and eldest son enlisted in the Revolutionary army. After the war, the family resettled their land.

In 1932, the lands that contained the Baker Family Cemetery were deeded to the Block House Baker Association, with the provision that the cemetery portion forever remain in memory and honor of Elizabeth and George Baker, and their heirs. Today, the site contains an official designation from the Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation.