

Buracker & Boraker

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How This Research Began

By Robert C. Boraker

MY INTEREST in family history began with my contact with **Walter M Boraker** of Las Animas, Colorado. I first learned about Walter back in 1954 when I was working on magazine subscription files in Pasadena, California. I was a student there at the time and had a part-time job in the office, that involved filing address stencils in trays alphabetically. While doing this job, I came across "Walter M Boraker" in Colorado. I hadn't heard of him before but thought he must be a relative. After all, "Boraker" is a very uncommon surname.

So I wrote to Walter and he told me he had been compiling the family history. He sent me the family tree he developed back to **Henry BOROKE** who was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia (in 1789 as I found out last year). He later visited me with his father Frank. And that's how my interest in the family history began.

In 1974, while looking for my parent's telephone number in the Seattle directory at a library in London, I came across a **Kenneth F. Boraker** who lived in Seattle. I didn't know him, but since he had to be a relative as well, I wrote to him. He said his father was **Fred T. Boraker** and his grandfather was known as "Dutch" This spurred me on to do more research in order to find out where that line fitted in with ours.

I received the Birth Record from the Crawfordsville library in Indiana and discovered that "Dutch" was a nickname for **Martin V.** -- which I now know stands for Van Buren, thanks to Ruth Henry who gave me a letter written by his father, **William Boraker**, a son of Henry.

While I was in Seattle last summer, Kenneth came over to my father's house where we met for the first time. He is my father's third cousin. His son David is a professor of medicine at the University of Vermont.

My research has continued and much information has been found about the different family lines that settled in Page County, Virginia; Champaign County, Ohio and Montgomery County, Indiana. The spelling of the family surname has evolved from POROCKER in 1763 to BURRICKER in 1800. Those who remained in Virginia spelled their name BURACKER.

Adam and Martin BOROKE are recorded in the 1810 census for Shenandoah County. **Henry and Adam BOROKE** are recorded in the 1830 census for Champaign County, Ohio. Those who remained in Ohio adopted the spelling of **BUROKER**. Henry went on to Montgomery County, Indiana and his descendants spelled their name **BORAKER**. And

there are other variations in the records.

This information has been costly to obtain since I've had to employ several researchers to do some of the work because of being in England. I have also purchased many books to help in my research. But your information is also important and could be a valuable addition to what I have already collected.

I therefore will send these reports to those willing to exchange the following types of information: Ancestor and Family Charts (I can supply forms if needed), biographical sketches, family records, obituary notices and general information about family members.

If we all cooperate, the various family lines can be drawn together and the history of the Buracker, Buroker and Boraker Families can be preserved for posterity.

