

Catherin Evelyn King Baker

Known as 'Eva', Catherine King fell in love with William Elliott Baker. William graduated 2nd in his class from Princeton (then known as the College of New Jersey) in 1850. In 1854, he sailed an 89 day trip via Panama to Sacramento, CA where, on April 27, 1856, he founded the First Presbyterian Church of CA (now the Westminster Presbyterian Church). That same year, he returned to Roswell to marry Eva in the parlor of Barrington Hall on July 17th. Then, ignoring the strong opposition of Eva's parents, Eva and William traveled back to Sacramento to continue William's missionary work. In 1857, William accepted a pastoral position at 1st Presbyterian Church in Staunton, VA, where he succeeded Dr. Wilson, the father of the US President Woodrow Wilson. While in Staunton, the Baker family lived the manse provided by the Presbyterian Church. "Today, this house is open to the public as the "Birthplace of Woodrow Wilson".

The Bakers lived and worked in Staunton from 1857-1883. They raised their seven children there. The Baker's were instrumental in persuading Miss Mary Baldwin to take charge of the Augusta Female Seminary (today known as Mary Baldwin College), which was directly across the street from their church.

In 1883, at the age of 53, William gave up the pastorate and he, Eva, their 4 daughters, and youngest son, moved to Barrington Hall to live with Eva's widowed mother. The Bakers two oldest sons were living in Minneapolis where they created a successful company which would pioneer 'soluable' (instant) coffee. Their high end coffee products were called "Barrington Hall" and featured a photo of the home on advertisements and labels. "Baker & Co, Importers and Roaster of Coffee" remained in business until WWII, at which time the US Government took over the company and converted production to K-rations for the Allied troops.

After Mrs. King's death in 1887, William and Eva purchased Barrington Hall from the estate. The Bakers lived in Barrington Hall until 1923, when Eva died. After Eva Baker's death, her children and 1 grandchild inherited Barrington Hall. In 2004, Eva had over 340 known descendants.