

Robert B. Baxter
1785 – April 3, 1850

Section 7 ID # 70023

Robert B. Baxter was born in New Jersey in 1785. In 1827, Baxter and his wife Rebecca (1796-1840) and several children were living in Montgomery County, Tennessee where he was serving as U.S. Postmaster.

Tennessee's 19th century iron industry was located along the Western Highland Rim. Robert B. Baxter was one of the leading Tennessee ironmasters. In 1844, at Louisa Furnace in Montgomery County, Baxter built a 33 foot tall furnace stack, on Louise Creek, powered by a steam engine, which turned out 40 tons of pig iron every week. An image of this structure was carved on his monument at City Cemetery.

He operated the Louisa Furnace and Tennessee Furnace until his death in 1850. Robert Baxter died of pneumonia on April 3, 1850 in Montgomery County. His sons-in-law continued to operate the Furnaces until the Civil War.

Sources

U.S. Postmaster Montgomery County, Tn. On-line
Iron Furnace Trail Montgomery County TN. website
Iron Industry Western Highland Rim. Nomination. National Register of Historic Places 1987
Tennessee Encyclopedia "Iron Industry"
U.S. Federal Census of Mortality Schedules 1850-1880. Robert Baxter
City Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions for Robert Baxter, his wife Rebecca & children

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