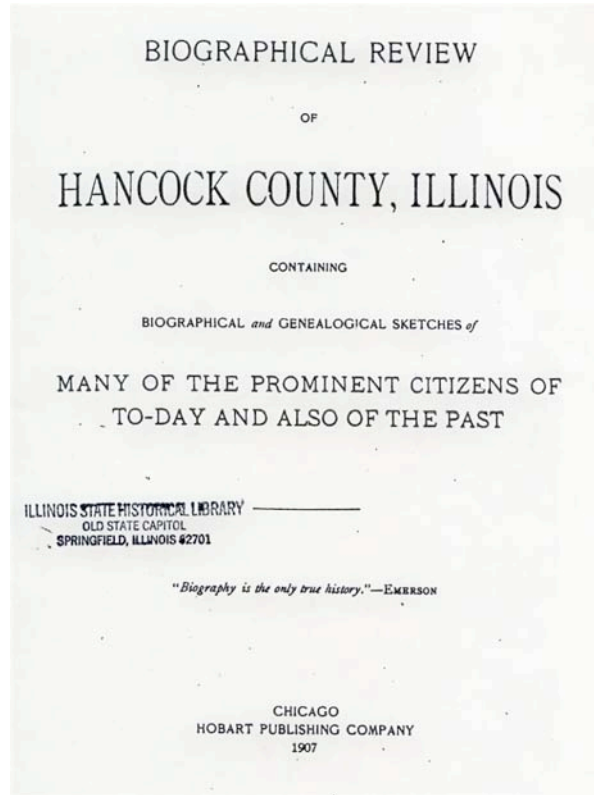


Emil J. Baxter

Emil J. Baxter is well known as a bee culturist and the business which he has conducted in this regard has become extensive and important. He carries on the work along modern scientific lines and in addition he engages in horticultural pursuits, while in other sections of the country he owns valuable landed interests. He is likewise the oldest director in point of continuous service of the State Bank of Nauvoo, and is regarded as one of the representative business men, his life of activity being crowned with success, while his commercial integrity stands as an unquestioned fact in his career.

Mr. Baxter is a native of Newark, New Jersey, a son of Emil and Annette (Powell) Baxter, both natives of France, the former born in St. Quintin. The paternal grandparents were John and Marie Baxter, the former born in England of Scotch parentage, while the latter was of French birth. John Baxter served as commander of artillery at the battle of Waterloo under the Duke of Wellington and was given a medal in recognition of his able military service. So well pleased with France was he that he determined to remain in the country and there engaged in the manufacture of lace, the product of his factory being sent to New York city and sold by Robert Jaffray, who established the wholesale lace house of Jaffray & Sons, which is today one of the largest wholesale establishments of the western metropolis.

About the year 1845 Emil Baxter crossed the Atlantic to the new world and accepted a position with the firm of Hennequin & Company, large importers of lace, dry goods, etc. in New York, and also owners of a store in Paris, France. He continued with that house until 1856, when he removed to Nauvoo and became secretary of the Icarian community. A year later, however, he returned to Newark, New Jersey, and again accepted a position as bookkeeper but his health failed and he returned to Hancock county, purchasing eight acres in the heart of Nauvoo. He made a specialty of the raising of grapes and the manufacture of wine. The gentle slope of the Mississippi river bank affords splendid opportunity for grape culture and Mr. Baxter continued successfully in business until 1894, when he removed to Keokuk to live with his daughter, Mrs. Addie Kruskopf, the widow of Ernest Krusdopf. There his death occurred in June 1895. He is survived by his second wife and four sons and two daughters of his first marriage and one daughter of the second marriage. Mr. Baxter had been married in the 29th of July, 1952, at Meriden,



Connecticut to Miss Annette Powell, who was engaged in teaching in a seminary in the state. Her death occurred in July, 1867.

Emil J. Baxter, the eldest of the children, remained with his father until 1877 and attend the common schools of Nauvoo during the winter months until sixteen years of age. In 1871 he went to Little Rock and to Hot Springs, Arkansas, and planted one of the first vineyards ever set out in that state. Several months later he returned to Illinois and engaged in teaching school for one winter, after which he went to Chicago where he continued in study of law for one year with John Lyle King. He had previously studied law at Nauvoo under the direction of R. W. McKinney and returning to Nauvoo, he engaged in teaching school through the winter seasons, while in the summer months his attention was devoted to horticultural pursuits and to the conduct of an apiary. He taught through thirteen winter terms for six months each and was regarded as one of the capable educators of this part of the state, his labors being effective in promoting the standard of education. In more recent years he has been making specialty of bee culture, having from two hundred to three hundred hives on hand. He has also been especially interested in horticulture, which he has studied in all its phases, including the subject of the insect enemies that attack fruit. He is a life member of the Missouri and the Illinois State Horticultural Societies and his knowledge concerning the best methods of cultivating fruit is now comprehensive and accurate, his decisions being largely considered authority throughout this part of the state. For many years he was the senior member of the firm of E. Baxter & Sons, his partners being Thomas P. and Cecil J. Baxter, to whom he sold out in 1901. He now owns ten acres in his home place in Nauvoo devoted to all kinds of fruit and he also keeps ninety colonies of bees at the home place. He likewise owns thirty acres additional within the city limits of Nauvoo, devoted to fruit raising, and he has a third interest in three hundred and twenty acres of farm land in Hand county, South Dakota, and likewise owns one hundred and sixty acres in Sherman county, Kansas. He is one of the heavy stockholders of the State Bank of Nauvoo and is its oldest director in years of service, while at the present time he is chairman of the loan and discount committee and chairman of the examining board.

On the 21st of June, 1877, Mr. Baxter was married to Miss Eugenie S. Dadant, a daughter of Charles and Gabrielle (Parrisot) Dadant, natives of France. Their children are: Alice A., born August 26, 1880; E. Miles, January 13, 1885; Charles Bayard, February 17, 1887; and Florence G., January 21, 1890. In the spring of 1905 Mr. Baxter erected a fine modern residence, supplied with all city conveniences and heated with hot water and system for lighting by either gas or electricity was installed. This is one of the attractive residences of Nauvoo, and its warm-hearted hospitality makes it a favorite resort with the many friends of the family.

Mr. Baxter is prominent politically and socially as well as in business circles. He is a stalwart democrat, and in 1880 served as supervisor of Nauvoo township, while for seven terms he has served as alderman of the city from the third ward and was again elected in the spring of 1906. He has served continuously since 1891 as a member of the school board in district No. 53, and he has been a member of the township high school board since 1900. His labors have been effective and far-reaching in his efforts to promote the

intellectual progress and uphold the political status of his community and he has used practical methods in working toward the ideal. He belongs to Temple lodge, No. 222, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he became a charter member on its organization in April 1888. He is also a member of the Rebekah lodge, and belongs to Puchechetuck camp, No. 7, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Keokuk. Also a charter member of the Temple camp, Modern Woodman of America. He also served for many years as representative to the grand lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen but has withdrawn from that organization. His life has been a success. His entire career is illustrated by the fact that certain actions are followed by certain results. As a business man he has always been enterprising, and his labors have resulted in successful accomplishment. As a citizen he has displayed sagacity and true patriotism and as a public official his actions have been above reproach or criticism. He stands today as a worthy representative of a high type of our American manhood.