

# ANCESTRAL SHADOWS

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1 My ancestors, according to the flesh, were from both  
Scotland and England, my great-grandfather, on  
3 my father's side, being John McNeil of Edinburgh.

His wife, my great-grandmother, was Marion Moor,  
and her family is said to have been in some way related  
6 to Hannah More, the pious and popular English authoress  
of a century ago.

I remember reading, in my childhood, certain manu-  
9 scripts containing Scriptural sonnets, besides other verses  
and enigmas which my grandmother said were written  
by my great-grandmother. But because my great-grand-  
12 mother wrote a stray sonnet and an occasional riddle, it  
was no sign that she inherited a spark from Hannah More,  
or was her relative.

15 John and Marion Moor McNeil had a daughter, who  
perpetuated her mother's name. This second Marion  
McNeil in due time was married to an Englishman,  
18 named Joseph Baker, and so became my paternal grand-  
mother, the Scotch and English elements thus mingling  
in her children.

1 Mrs. Marion McNeil Baker was reared among the  
2 Scotch Covenanters, and had in her character that sturdy  
3 Calvinistic devotion to Protestant liberty which gave those  
4 religionists the poetic daring and pious picturesqueness  
5 which we find so graphically set forth in the pages of Sir  
6 Walter Scott and in John Wilson's sketches.

7 Joseph Baker and his wife, Marion McNeil, came to  
8 America seeking "freedom to worship God;" though  
9 they could hardly have crossed the Atlantic more than a  
10 score of years prior to the Revolutionary period.

11 With them they brought to New England a heavy sword,  
12 encased in a brass scabbard, on which was inscribed the  
13 name of a kinsman upon whom the weapon had been  
14 bestowed by Sir William Wallace, from whose patriotism  
15 and bravery comes that heart-stirring air, "Scots wha hae  
16 wi' Wallace bled."

17 My childhood was also gladdened by one of my Grand-  
18 mother Baker's books, printed in olden type and replete  
19 with the phraseology current in the seventeenth and eigh-  
20 teenth centuries.

21 Among grandmother's treasures were some newspapers,  
22 yellow with age. Some of these, however, were not very  
23 ancient, nor had they crossed the ocean; for they were  
24 American newspapers, one of which contained a full ac-  
25 count of the death and burial of George Washington.

26 A relative of my Grandfather Baker was General Henry  
27 Knox of Revolutionary fame. I was fond of listening,  
28 when a child, to grandmother's stories about General  
29 Knox, for whom she cherished a high regard.

30 In the line of my Grandmother Baker's family was the

1 late Sir John Macneill, a Scotch knight, who was promi-  
nent in British politics, and at one time held the position  
3 of ambassador to Persia.

My grandparents were likewise connected with Capt.  
John Lovewell of Dunstable, New Hampshire, whose  
6 gallant leadership and death, in the Indian troubles of  
1722-1725, caused that prolonged contest to be known  
historically as Lovewell's War.

9 A cousin of my grandmother was John Macneil, the  
New Hampshire general who fought at Lundy's Lane,  
and won distinction in 1814 at the neighboring battle of  
12 Chippewa, toward