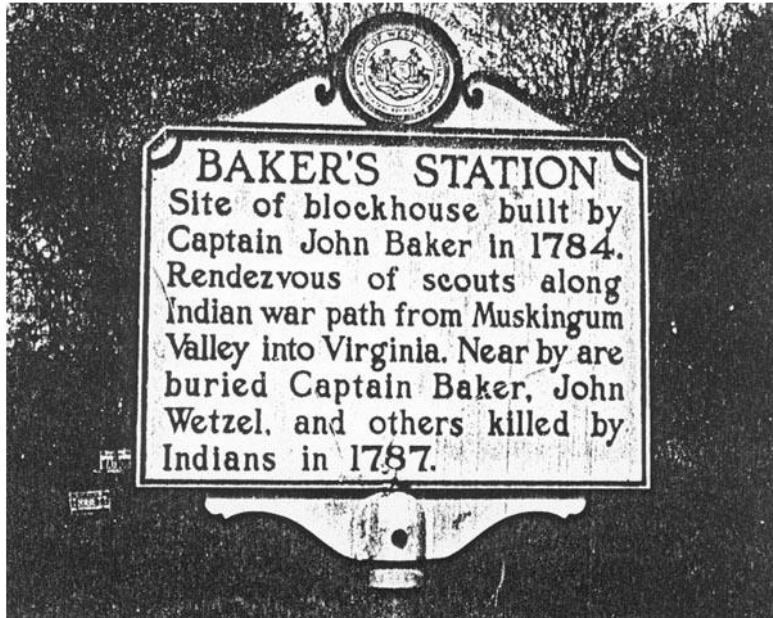


CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER



BAKER'S STATION

This marker is at the location of the block-house built by Captain John Baker. It is located on West Virginia Route 2 south of Moundsville, West Virginia.

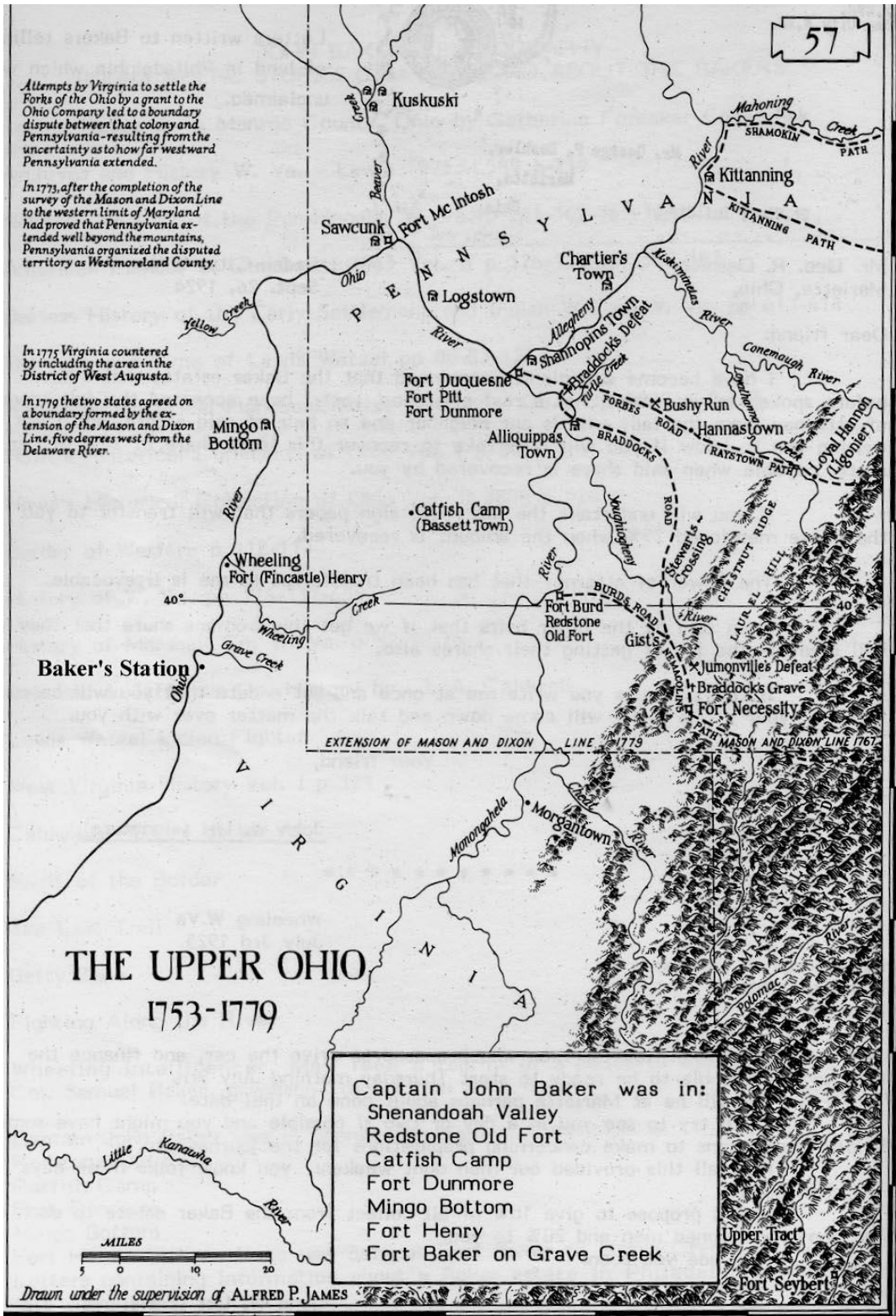
Captain John Baker and Elizabeth Sullivan Baker, his wife, maintained this frontier station for several years.

Captain John Baker was killed, opposite Baker's Station, near Powhatan Point, Ohio in 1787.

He was buried near Baker's Station and later reburied in Riverview Cemetery, Moundsville, West Virginia.

Captain John Baker and Elizabeth Sullivan Baker are Patriots listed in the SAR and DAR.

CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER



From: Baker Family History,
 Joann Cummings, 1985

CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER

History of Marshall County West Virginia 1984

FORTS AND BLOCKHOUSES

(SOME BY TRADITION)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Baker's Station, Rt. 2, Cresap, 1784 | 6. Martin's Fort, Rt. 2, mouth of Fish Creek | 10. Well's Fort, five miles up Middle Grave Creek |
| 2. Beelers Station, U.S. Rt. 250, 1779 | 7. Meighen Blockhouse, Rt. 74, Fish Creek | 11. Wetzel-Van Metre, Wheeling Creek, near Shephard's Bridge, 1769 |
| 3. Clark's Fort, Rts. 88 & 86, Sherrard, 1784 | 8. Sockman's Fort, Rt. 74, Adaline | 12. Whorton-Enlow Blockhouse, near Majorsville |
| 4. Dague-Whetzel Blockhouse, Rt. 15 | 9. Tomlinson's Fort, near Moundsville Junior High, 1771 | |
| 5. Himes Blockhouse, Green Valley, Cameron, 1784 | | |

Compiled by Dale Lowe



CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER



ELIZABETH BAKER - DIED - May 22, 1836
Age of 92 yrs 3 mos 8 days

Buried in old cemetery located on the Matz Farm at the junction of Rt. 26 and 800 south of Woodsfield, Ohio (This used to be the Baker farm.)



John Baker
Virginia
Captain
11 VA Regt.
REV WAR
erected in
Memory of his
3rd Great Grandfather
Oran V. "Jack" Baker
Commissioner
Marshall County
1968

Captain John Baker Monument on Route 2 between Moundsville and New Martinsville, WV.

From: Baker Family History, Joann Cummings, 1985

CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER

Captain John Baker was stated to have been born in Bingen-on-the-Rhine,¹ Germany in 1737 and his original Surname may have been Becher. Bingen-on-the-Rhine is in the Rhine-Hessen region of the present day state of Rhineland-Palatinate. This was part of the older Palatinate area of Germany and a location of great unrest for centuries. In some references Captain Baker was listed as coming from Prussia that was the largest state in “Germany” at the time. Researcher Uwe Porten of Germany could not find any reference to the Becher (Baker) in his search of church records in Bingen-on-the-Rhine, Ober-Ingelheim, and Gensingen. The Protestants living in Bingen-on-the-Rhine during the 1700’s worshiped in the later two towns. Ober-Ingelheim had a Protestant church from 1650 and Gensingen had a Protestant church from 1660.² Bingen-on-the-Rhine was mostly Roman Catholic and the Baker family was Protestant in the United States and thus was probably Protestant in Germany.³ Germany, as we now know it, was formed in 1871.

The author believes that Captain John Baker was from further south in the Palatinate region. There is a very high probability that he was German Lutheran, Dunkard or Mennonite. Many of his children became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Baker family was associated closely with the Reager and Wetzel families. The Reager family was from Switzerland. Elizabeth Baker, wife of Captain John Baker, and many of the children moved to Monroe and Belmont counties of Ohio that were regions settled by the Dunkard’s. Captain John Baker and family lived at Dunkard Creek for some time in southern Pennsylvania.

Bingen-on-the-Rhine is situated at the junction of the Nahe and Rhine Rivers with the Nahe River forming the border of Hesse with Prussia and Bingen is located on the Hessian side. The term “*from Prussia*” does not necessarily mean that a person came from Prussia. The term “Prussia” was often used as a synonym for “Germany” as it was the largest German state. Because of its location Bingen-on-the-Rhine was a common departure site. The Main River joined the Rhine River just east of Bingen-on-the-Rhine by this time. South on the Rhine River from Bingen-on-the-Rhine the Neckar River joins coming from the southeast part of the Palatinate region.

The Palatinate area^{4 5} had been settled by many groups that practiced religious tolerance including the Brethern, Mennonites, Lutherans, Dunkards and Moravians. The Thirty Years War of 1618-1648 was a struggle between the Roman Catholic Church and Protestants as the Roman Catholic Church sought to crush the politically divided Protestants. The pacifists were caught in the religious fighting between Germany and France. After the end of the Thirty Years War there was a period of relative peace.

William Penn, son of Sir William and Mary Jasper Penn, was born in 1644. Sir William Penn supported the English Crown and was given land in present day Pennsylvania to satisfy these debts. In 1764 the German Society of Pennsylvania was formed. William Penn, Jr. began to attend Quaker meetings and ultimately joined with the Quakers much to the dislike of his father. For a period of time William, Jr. was disowned by his father but ultimately they reunited. Between 1671 and 1677 William Penn, Jr. traveled to the Palatinate area of Germany to encourage emigration to Pennsylvania. In 1667 a group of English Quakers purchased one-half of New Jersey and emmigation began. Quakers in

CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER

England were also promised religious freedom if they moved to Pennsylvania. The Crown of England owed large debts to the Admiral Penn family which were settled in exchange for land in present-day Pennsylvania.

In 1688 the area of Palatinate was again destroyed by the French armies of Louis XIV during the War of Palatinate also known as the War of the League of Augsburg. During the winter of 1688 the land and towns were laid to waste. Following this War the people were in severe poverty for twenty years at the end of which the armies of France came again and repeated the destruction. The severe winter of 1708-1709 was the harshest in one hundred years and many more people died. The poverty and severe conditions were followed by the migration of people from the Palatinate area down the Rhine River to Rotterdam and then they immigrated to England, Ireland or America. In 1709 Queen Anne of England invited people from the area to come to England but the numbers of immigrants became staggering as about one thousand people per week arrived in England. These were an early day "boat people". The accommodations were quickly overwhelmed and special taxes were required to care for the immigrants. Finally, an order was issued by the English government that new arrivals would be sent home.⁶

Many of the people from Palatinate were taken by ship to the Colony of Pennsylvania at William Penn's request.⁷ They often came as indentured or underwritten servants and had to work three to seven years before they were free to begin their own homes and occupations. This migration from the Palatinate area and immigration to America continued during the next several decades. This was during this time that our family immigrant Captain John Baker came to America, apparently arriving in 1754.

In 1803 the Palatinate area was divided with a portion going to the Kingdom of Bavaria, a portion to the Grand Duchy of Baden which included Heidelberg and Mannheim, and the final portion going to the Grand Duchy of Hessen-Darmstadt. The last portion became known as the Rhine Hessen and this is where Kreisheim is located. After World War II this area became part of the newly created state of Rhineland-Pfalz or Rhineland-Palatinate. In 1969 Kreisheim became part of Monsheim which had a population in 2003 of twenty-five hundred and six hundred lived in the former Kreisheim (Greisheim).

In 1667 William Penn visited Kreisheim to encourage the Mennonites and Quakers from Switzerland and Germany to immigrate to America. These people later became known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. In 1773 a Bäcker family was part of the Mennonite Church in Kreisheim. This may be the origin area for the family but church records have not been reviewed.

According to a family Bible reportedly in the possession of Benjamin Martin Baker it was written that the father of John Baker was George Perilous Baker. George's other children included: Henry, born in 1731; Jacob, George, born about 1749; Peter; Hannah; Betty (? Elizabeth); and John, born in 1737. Others report that Nicholas Baker was the father of Captain John Baker.⁸ The author believes that George Perilous Baker was probably the father of John Baker because John Baker named his first son, George, and

CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER

no child was named Nicholas in the next generations.

Andrew Jackson Baker, great grandson, of Captain John Baker, wrote that the family came from Hanover, Germany. ⁹ This information was probably incorrect.

Captain John Baker was reported by Linda Fluharty¹⁰ to have immigrated to America in 1755 on the ship *Neptune*. However, no listing of his name or similar name is found on the passenger list for the *Neptune*¹¹ in 1755. There were not many ships arriving between 1755 and 1763 because of the wars between England and France including Dunmore's War in this country.

On September 30, 1754 the *Neptune* arrived in Philadelphia on under the command of Capt. Waire from Rotterdam via Cowes and there is a Johan Baker, Arnold Baker and Phillip Baker listed as underwritten on the passenger List 221 A, page 620-622. List 221 B, page 622-624 lists Jacob Baker, Arnolt Becker, Philib Becker, Johann Georg Decher and Johann Peter Decher. List 221 C of those underwritten lists Jacob (O) Becker, Arnoldt Becker, Philib Becker, Johann Georg Decher, and Johann Peter Decher on page 624-626. The people were from Palatinate, Zweybrecht, and Darmstad.

On September 30, 1754 the ship *Edinburg*, ¹² from Rotterdam via Cowes under the command of Capt. James Russel arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam via Cowes, England. The passengers were from the Palatinate and Wirtemberg areas of Germany. Many of the passengers were reported to have had scurvy and thirty were hidden from the doctors. The passenger List 220 A on page 613-620, includes a Johannes Becker, Jurg Weitzel, and George Weitzel. List 220 B lists Johannes Becher, Casper Becher, and Johann Georg Weitzel. List 220 C, page 618-620 lists Johannes Becker, Caspar Becher and Johann Georg Weitzel. The list by William Egle, page 434-435, lists Johannes Becker, Casper Becker, and Johan George Weitzell. ¹³

The ship *Brothers* ¹⁴ was under the command of Captain William Muir who crossed the Atlantic six times between 1749 and 1754. The passengers were from the Palatinate and Mentz areas of Germany. Twenty-three were Mennonite and seven were Roman Catholic. The ship left Rotterdam via Cowes, England arriving in Philadelphia on September 30, 1754 with passengers from the Palatinate and Mentz regions. The passenger List 219 A, page 609-610, lists Jurig Baker, Jacob Baker, Peter Witsell and Adam Witsell. The passenger List 219 B, page 610-611, includes Johann Georg Becher, Jacob Becher, Friederich Becher, Peter (+) Witsell and Adam (XX) Witsell. The passengers that were underwritten on List C, page 612-613, included Johann Gorg Becher, Jacob Becher, Friedrich Becher, Peter (X) Weitzel and Anthony (XX) Weitzel. There were two hundred and fifty "souls" on the ship with one hundred and forty-nine listed as underwritten. Two hundred and ten were listed as "freights" (non-qualified or indentured) and one hundred and one listed as "qualified". All of the passengers were Protestant except seven were Roman Catholic and twenty-three were Mennonite. ¹⁵

A second source of passenger information by William Egle¹⁶ on page 432-433 does not divide the lists into A-C groups. Egle's information records the names as Anthony

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Weitzel, Peter Weitzel, Jacob Becher and Johann Georg Becker. William John Hinke lists a Johann Georg Becker, Jacob Becker, Peter (X) Weitzel and Anthony (X) (X) Weitzel on the ship *Brothers*¹⁷ from Rotterdam. The *Edinburgh*¹⁸ lists Johannes Becker, Casper Becher, and Johan Georg Weitzell. The ship *Neptune*¹⁹ lists Joh. Georg Decher, Philip Becher, Arnholt Becher, and Jacob Becher.

The State of Health of the Mariners and Passengers on board the Ships *Brothers* and *Edinburgh* were inspected and found “*healthy*” and were “*admitted to land in the City*” (Philadelphia) on September 30, 1754.²⁰

The three ships arrived the same day with many similar names on each ship and which makes it very confusing because of the variable spellings and lists for each ship. Thus it would appear that Captain John Baker could have arrived on either the ship *Brothers*, *Neptune* or *Edinburg* on September 30, 1754 in Philadelphia. The confusion was compounded when the *Brothers*, *Neptune* and *Edinburgh* ships arrived on the on September 30, 1754 have similar names of Becher on the passenger lists.

The author believes that Capt. John Baker arrived on the ship *Brothers*.

There were three passenger lists on each immigrant ship listed as A, B and C. The captain’s list was A, the Oath of Allegiance to the King of Great Britain was B, and the Oath of Abjuration was C. Each list was compiled by separate clerks thus there often were differences as the immigrants usually could not read or write English. The clerks may have written the name for the immigrant and often spelled it differently. Initially the passengers were to have a passport from their home government and a letter of recommendation from the pastor of their home church when they entered America. This requirement was later rescinded.

The trip to America was described by Mittelberger²¹ as beginning in May and ending in October. The trip on the Rhine River by barges passed several custom houses that inspected the boats. The long waits for each inspection required the passengers to spend money as the entire trip might take four to six weeks. The wait in Rotterdam might take another five or six weeks. The prices for food were very high and many had no money by this time. They went from Rotterdam to ports such as Cowes, Dover, Portsmouth, Fallmouth, or Deal, England and a further delay of one to two weeks might occur in England. The immigrants were required to stop in England and perhaps transfer to British ships because only British ships were allowed to enter American ports before the Revolutionary War. The voyage to America took seven weeks at best and could last up to twelve weeks. The vessels were very crowded and many diseases such as dysentery, scurvy, typhoid, and smallpox were common and children were usually the first to die. The food and water were often of poor quality.

When the ship reached the Delaware river a health officer came on board the ship and those passengers that were ill with contagious diseases were taken to Province Island (formerly Fisher Island) where many ultimately died. In 1754 Jacob Shoemaker, an undertaker, reported that two hundred fifty-three persons died on Province Island.

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The immigrants that arrived in Philadelphia were given a bill for their travel down the Rhine, the ocean passage, and advances for provisions which they received on the ship. The passage alone cost six to seventeen louis d'ors which was a French gold coin of four or five dollars value. Merchants in the American port cities would receive lists of the immigrants and their agreements for their passage when announcements were placed in the paper of how many of the immigrant contracts were to be sold. Those with money to pay their debts were released. Buyers of indentured immigrant contracts would then come to the ship and bargain with the immigrants for the time necessary to repay their debt. The indentured time was three to seven years and when the time was agreed upon by both parties the merchant paid the transportation bill. A government document was issued making the immigrant the property of the buyer for the time negotiated. Those who paid their own passage were listed as qualified and those with debts were listed as non-qualified on the passenger lists.²²

It is from the above background that Captain John Baker reportedly entered America as non-qualified or indentured.

John Baker was an indentured servant and served several years for his passage. About 1760 in Philadelphia he married Elizabeth Ann Sullivan²³ who was the daughter of a physician who was reported to have served in the Revolutionary War. Elizabeth Ann Sullivan is reported to have been born on February 14, 1744-1744 in Germany.²⁴ Andrew Jackson Baker reported that Elizabeth Sullivan was from Ireland.²⁵

After completion of the indentured service John and Elizabeth probably traveled west following the Old Warrior Trail later called the Great Wagon Road. This trail lead from Philadelphia via Lancaster, York, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and then to Hagerstown, Maryland. This road was followed by the current US Highway 30 to Gettysburg where they would have enter the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. They would have traveled out of the Shenandoah Valley along the Potomac River and at Cumberland they could have traveled on the Old Nemaquin Trail which Thomas Cresap and his friend, a Delaware Indian named Nemaquin, had marked and improved while working for the Ohio Company.²⁶ This trail was followed by the current US Highway 40. Braddock's Road was built in 1775 and generally followed the Nemaquin Road. Burd's Road from Braddock's Road would lead to Redstone Old Fort at Brownsville, Pennsylvania located on the Monongahela River.

In 1767 after leaving the Shenandoah Valley area the family moved to the Dunkard Creek²⁷ area of present day southern Pennsylvania, which was the location of Fort Statler. When Dunmore's War began the family moved to Redstone Old Fort which was later called Brownsville. Michael Cresap owned land at Redstone Old Fort which he sold to a man named Brown who then changed the name to Brownsville.²⁸ The Baker family moved to Catfish Camp and then on the Fort Henry near Wheeling, West Virginia. Isaac Baker was born at Fort Henry. The family then moved to Cresap's Bottom where they built Baker's Station near the mouth of Fish Creek and the Ohio River.^{29 30} Some authors list the Station as south of the Fish Creek mouth on the Ohio River and some list the

CAPTAIN JOHN BAKER

location as north.

In 1770 George Washington and George Rogers Clark were early surveyors in the Ohio River Valley and claimed many thousands of acres including land in Cresap's Bottom. Cresap's Bottom was on the Virginia side opposite Powhatan Point, Ohio. Michael Cresap disputed the claim of George Rogers Clark for land on Cresap's Bottom but Cresap later obtained the clear title. At that time land was initially claimed by "tomahawk claims" which were made by marking trees on the corners of the claim with tomahawk.³¹

The area of West Augusta County, Virginia was recognized in 1775 and sent delegates to the Virginia Convention. At this time Augusta County included the land north of a line beginning at the Blue Ridge Mountains, passing just south of Staunton, Virginia, south of the lower end of Lake Michigan and extending to the Mississippi River. South of this line was Botetourt County, Virginia. The south border of Botetourt County was North Carolina which extended to the Mississippi River. Portions of the West Augusta County were later divided into three counties: Ohio, Monongalia, and Yohogania in 1776. Pennsylvania assumed parts of all of these counties when the State boundaries were drawn and formed the counties of Greene, Fayette, and Washington. The remainder of Ohio County, Virginia was divided into Hancock, Brooke, Ohio and Marshall Counties that are now in West Virginia.

John and Elizabeth Ann Sullivan Baker were reported to have had eleven children. The included the following:

Catherine b. 1761, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia (twin)
Margaret b. 1761, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia (twin)
George b. 1762, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia
Henry b. 1763, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia
Mary Jane b. 1764 Shenandoah Valley, Virginia
John Jr. b. 1765, Dunkard Creek and Fort Statler, Greene County, Pennsylvania
Elizabeth b. 1768 Dunkard Creek and Fort Statler Greene County, Pennsylvania
Joseph b. 1773, Old Redstone Fort, Fayette County, Pennsylvania
Jacob b. 1775, Old Redstone Fort, Fayette County, Pennsylvania
Martin b. 1780, Catfish Camp, Washington County, Pennsylvania
Isaac b. 1782, Fort Henry and Wheeling Creek, Ohio County, West Virginia

The birth dates are listed differently by several authors but all agree on the names of the children.

On March 1, 1862 Judge Jeremiah Hollister of Woodsfield, Ohio wrote to Lyman Draper about the area of Captina Creek and Baker's Station. He stated "*there was a Block house about one mile below on the Virginia side called Bakers Station.*" The Battle of Captina Creek ³²was described by Hollister including the following "*Lietenant (sp) Abraham Enochs fell dead and John Baker ³³fell mortally wounded two others whose names I have forgotten Baker was shot in the hips and drawed himself to a shelving rock where he hid*

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but the Indians followed his trail and he had become to weak to shoot and was found tomahawked scalped and his body dreadfully mutilated.”³⁴

On March 20, 1862 Jeremiah Hollister wrote to Lyman Draper about individuals Jeremiah knew from the area of Captina Creek and the region of Baker’s Station. Jeremiah wrote “(I) will refer you to Isaac Baker brother of John Baker who was killed in the Battle of Captina Isaac Baker is the youngest of the Baker family there were George John Henry Jacob Martin and Isaac Mary and Elizabeth. Isaac was about 10 years old at the time of the Battle of Captina and lived in the Block house or Bakers Station. Jacob who resided on Wills Creek died last fall (1861). You will find this Isaac Baker now living with his son Jacob Baker in Taswell County State of Illinois.”³⁵

From 1765 to 1767, after their marriage in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, John and Elizabeth Sullivan Baker moved to the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia. These were happy days for John and Elizabeth. In 1767 the family moved then to the Dunkard Creek^{36 37} area of what is now Greene County, Pennsylvania. They lived there until 1774 during which time the Indians and settlers lived peacefully together. After the beginning of Dunmore’s War in 1774, the family moved for protection to Redstone Old Fort which is now Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Many families moved there for protection and remained at the Fort during the Dunsmore War. Capt. John Wetzel and his family also moved from Dunkard Fort to Redstone Old Fort at the same time.³⁸ In 1774 Capt. Michael Cresap and his family also moved to Redstone Old Fort.³⁹ The Baker family remained at Redstone Old Camp until 1781⁴⁰ according to Col. Samuel Baker, son of Henry Baker and grandson of Capt. John Baker. Co. Baker reported in the Wheeling Intelligencer that the Baker family moved to Catfish Camp, Washington County, Pennsylvania.⁴¹

Redstone Old Fort (Brownsville)⁴² was at the end of the Braddock’s Road (formerly the Nemaquin Indian Trail or Old Warrior Trail) which began at Cumberland, Maryland. The American Revolutionary War unofficially began on April 19, 1775 at Lexington soon after the close of Dunmore’s War but the official start of the War was on July 4, 1776. The Ohio County Virginia Militia was established on July 31, 1777. John was in the service of the Colony of Virginia much of the time during the War. His war service has been accepted by the Daughters of the Revolution and is noted in the *Patriot Index*, Centennial Edition, Part I, page 125, Washington: 1990. It is reported in the SAR No. 151823 that he was a “*Captain, 11th VA Regiment at Redstone Fort under Colonel Silas Hedges Reg. Militia*”.

From Redstone Old Fort the Old Warriors trail lead to the area of Fish Creek that is south of the current Moundsville, West Virginia. The trail was very near Baker’s Station.

In 1781 after the end of the Revolutionary War the family moved to Catfish Camp^{43 44} “*where Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania now stands.*” Catfish Camp was on the road from Redstone Old Fort to Wheeling that was a continuation of the Braddock Road and the Old Warrior Road. Catfish Camp, with a fort and several large cabins, was second in population to Wheeling.

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The biographical sketch of General Andrew J. Baker, ⁴⁵son of George Baker, Jr. reports that the fort was built in 1788. It was described as “*block house or fort.*” The three brothers George, Sr., Henry, and Isaac Baker assisted in building Baker’s Station. George Baker, Jr. was born at the Station on April 26, 1796. Andrew J. Baker lived in Centerville, Iowa at the time the biography was written. ⁴⁶

It was on Cresap’s Bottom that they built Baker’s Station in 1784. It is thought to have consisted of several blockhouses connected by pickets covering an area of about a quarter of an acre. ⁴⁷ The block-houses were erected as a joint effort of the settlers and John Baker, the proprietor, neighboring settlers, and his family. ⁴⁸ Baker’s Station was on a good spring just south of where stream called Grave Yard Run ⁴⁹ emptied into the Ohio River. Approximately one mile south of Baker’s Station was Michael Cresap’s land that consisted of about one thousand acres. ⁵⁰ This land was located on a horseshoe bend on the eastern bank of the Ohio River. Mrs. Michael Cresap remained on this land after his death.

On June 29, 1742 Michael Cresap, Sr. was born in Frederick County, Maryland, the youngest son of Thomas Cresap, the famous frontiersman and trader. Michael and Mary Whitehead Cresap built a home in Old Town, Maryland that now houses the Irvin Allen/Michael Cresap Museum. Thomas Cresap was involved in the border disputes between Pennsylvania and Maryland involving William Penn and Lord Baltimore. Thomas was a friend of Lord Baltimore. Thomas was from Skipton, Yorkshire, England and came to America at an early age and settled in what is now Pennsylvania. The area was in dispute as the original boundary between the two states was to be the 40th parallel but the boundary was finally established as the Mason and Dixon line. Initially Philadelphia was settled south of the 40th parallel. There were many fights over ownership of this land which was sometimes called the *Conojohelar War*. ⁵¹

In 1774 Captain Michael Cresap, Sr. was initially thought to be an instigator of the unfounded settler attacks on local peaceful Indian tribes known as the Logan or Yellow Creek massacre. ⁵² However, he had tried to discourage and stop the attacks but other men wished to continue. The actual killings were done by Daniel Greathouse ⁵³ ⁵⁴ and his men. This killing of women, children and a few old men was the beginning of the Indian War and ultimately the Revolutionary War. Lord Dunmore’s War or the Indian War begun in response to the settler’s requests for protection after the attacks by the Mingo Indians on the settlers as Lord Dunmore was then the Governor of Virginia. In October of 1774 the War ended with the Battle of Point Pleasant.

Rick Greathouse reports that the granddaughter of Lucy Baker later gave a speech that credited Daniel Greathouse and his men for stopping what was going to be a massacre of the Joshua Baker family. This speech was never given full credit for the events that followed. ⁵⁵

The next decades were very bloody on the Ohio River. Cresap had been encouraged to leave the area by John Gibson who was the husband of an Indian woman that reportedly

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was killed by Cresap at the Yellow Creek Massacre. In 1774 Cresap was at Redstone Old Fort, later called Brownsville. In 1775 while making settlements on the Ohio River Michael Cresap became ill and returned to his home. He was then asked by a friend to form a group of volunteers to join Washington's Army. He was ill but accepted the command the First Company, Maryland Rifles. His volunteers marched from "*the banks of the Ohio*" to Frederick, Maryland and on to Cambridge, Massachusetts a distance of about 650 miles, over a period of twenty-two days without the loss of a man. After three months of fighting in the Boston area Captain Cresap's illness forced him to begin a return home but he became too ill and stopped in New York. He died "*of fever*" on October 18, 1775 in New York City. He was only thirty-three years old and was buried with military honors in the Trinity Church cemetery.^{56 57} The Trinity Church cemetery is the burial site for many famous individuals including Alexander Hamilton, Horatio Gates, Robert Fulton and John Jacob Astor.⁵⁸

In 1771 Michael Cresap, Sr. had made improvements on the Round Bottom property. Michael Cresap, Jr. obtained a settlement certificate for his father's land on Round Bottom and 1787 he received a patent. This claim by Michael, Jr. was in conflict with land owned by George Washington and Michael, Jr. lost most of his land in Round Bottom and then moved to Cresap's Bottom.⁵⁹

Baker's Station provided protection for the settlers of Cresap's Bottom and to those located further north on the lower portion of Round Bottom. The location of Baker's Station was on the Warrior's Trail at one of the crossings of the Ohio River to Powhattan Point, Ohio where the Indians began raids into the interior of Virginia. Many early encounters with the Indians occurred not far from this Station and are reported in the history of Marshall County. The Battle of Captina in 1791 involved Baker's Station. Simon Girty with about three hundred Indians attacked Baker's Station. When the Station was attacked the wives and daughters of the "*frontier's men*" were reported to have "*rendered services of the most meritorious character*".⁶⁰

The Warrior's trail had origins some five or ten thousand years earlier. Native American tribes used the trail to travel from the eastern United States to Flint Ridge, Licking and Muskingum Counties, Ohio for flint stone to make arrow points and hunting tools for buffalo and mastodons. The present day restored trail begins at Greensboro, Green County, Pennsylvania and ends in Marshall County, West Virginia on the Ohio River some sixty-seven miles later.⁶¹

In 1997 Baker's Station area was described as being under waters of the Ohio River or under the railroad bed and fill on the east side of the Ohio River. In 1886 a map of the area shows Baker's Station as being just south of the junction of Grave Yard Run and the Ohio River. This location was about two miles north of the junction of Fish Creek and the Ohio River.⁶²

There was a Wetzel's Fort on Wheeling Creek north Baker's Station, West Virginia. John Wetzel was born in 1731 according to Allan Eckert⁶³ and 1733 by others. It was not reported as to where he was born but he and his wife were reported to have lived at the

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Moorfield Settlement on the South Branch of the Potomac River in Virginia. Six of their children were born there including Christinia, Martin, George, Lewis, Jacob, and Susan. John, Jr. was born at Dunkard Creek near the Monongahela River in Pennsylvania. Lewis Bonnett and John Wetzel settled at Dunkard's Creek in 1769.

Capt. John Wetzel, Sr. was killed by Indians in September 1785 near the relatively new Baker's Station on Cresap's Bottom. According to Alan Eckert Capt. Wetzel was buried at Cresap's Bottom but later the body was disinterred and taken back to the family place on Wheeling Creek and reburied. Harry Enoch reports that John Wetzel's marker, but not the body, was moved to a cemetery on McCreary Ridge, east of Moundsville, West Virginia. John Wetzel Sr.'s son, George, was killed three years earlier by Indians. John Wetzel Sr.'s son, Lewis, became a famous Indian scout and sought revenge from the Indians. He and his brother Jacob had been captured and released by the Indians when the boys were young but after the death of his brother and father, Lewis became intense in seeking revenge.

Baker's Station was a place for settlers to seek protection when Indian attacks were expected or occurring. The Station did not have a regular military garrison but was protected by the settlers and scouts residing within. The frontier wives and daughters also helped in times of danger.⁶⁴ Indians were frequently seen on the Ohio side of the river.⁶⁵ An Ohio Census in 1787 reportedly showed the Baker family owned seven cattle. These may have been for food for the people living at the Station.⁶⁶

Peter Yoho married Captain John and Elizabeth Sullivan's twin daughter, Margaret and Henry Yoho, Peter's brother, married the other twin daughter, Catherine. This area is the Franklin District of southwestern Marshall County where the Baker's and the Yoho's were among the first settlers in the Graysville, West Virginia area in the early 1780's.

Baker's Station was about one mile south of Captina Creek where it entered the Ohio River on the east side of the River. In 1803 Thaddeus Harris described this area as "*fine cultivated plains and rising settlements charm the eye amidst the boundless prospect of desolate wilds.*"⁶⁷ In 1808 Fortescue Cumings was on a trip down the Ohio River and described the region as "*We passed Captina creek on the right, emptying into the Ohio through and extensive bottom, with three mills and several settlements on it. A mile lower, on the left is Baker's station, which has the appearance of an old settlement.*" The report further notes "*Mrs. Cresap owns about one thousand acres of land here.*"⁶⁸

The early settlers in Marshall County for the most part were religious people but the early fear of Indian attacks kept most of the religious service in homes until churches were formed. Camp meetings were held in the Flats area of Grave Creek as early as 1787 and the Moundsville Campgrounds became the site of large Camp meetings beginning in 1824 and continuing well into the 1900's.⁶⁹

Baker's Chapel⁷⁰ or Baker's Meeting House, now Graysville Calvary Methodist Church, is reported to have been the center of community life beginning in 1842. Graysville was formerly known as Hornbrook's Mill. The Graysville church was built on land deeded

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by George, Sr., son of Captain John and Elizabeth Sullivan Baker, and Sarah Beam Baker on January 26, 1842. George and Sarah Baker requested on the land deed that “*they shall erect and build or cause to be erected and built thereon a house of place of worship for the use of the Methodist Church in the United States of America.*” ⁷¹ At that time it was a Methodist Episcopal Church known as Baker’s Meeting House that was a log building, lap weather boarded, and sealed. It contained wooden benches without backs and was heated by a burnside stove. This log building was used until 1872 when a church was erected to the right of the old Meeting House. ⁷²

Scouts looking for Indians regularly rendezvoused at the Baker’s Station. The John Baker family resided in the block-house but it never had a regular garrison of soldier. Baker’s Station was rarely attacked by the Indians as hunters and scouts were frequently staying at the Station. The scouts regularly watched for Indian signs along Big Captina and the Ohio side of the river. The settlers and the Indians often exchanged shots across the river. Although we do not know exactly how Baker’s Station was constructed, other stations that were a class of forts, such as Fort Clark, had a cabin at each corner with the sides closed with pickets.

Death of Capt. John Baker

The Wetzel brothers were frequent visitors to the Station. While the brothers were at the station in 1787 they and Captain Baker noticed some Indians on the opposite shore at Powhattan Point, Ohio. The Indians were waiting for an opportunity to shoot at settlers who had taken refuge at Baker’s Station. Captain Baker fired first and killed one of the Indians and the others ran away leaving the dead Indian where he fell. John Baker and the two Wetzel brothers crossed the river and were viewing the body when several shots were fired. Captain Baker fell mortally wounded and was captured by the Indians while the Wetzel’s ran and began to return the fire when others from Baker’s Station crossed the river and reinforced the Wetzel’s. They were able to recover Captain John Baker as he was found alive a short distance from where he fell but his eyes had been gouged out. Captain Baker died a short time later after arriving at the Station. Captain Baker was very well known in the area and his large funeral was attended by Henry Baker and family, Rueben Roberts and family, George Baker, Leonard Raigor (Reager, Ragar), Sr. and two brothers, Aaron Hughes, and Captain Roberts. Henry and George Baker were Capt. John Baker’s sons. Three canoe loads of people from Round Bottom went to Baker’s Station for the funeral. Captain John Baker was buried on a flat near a stream called Grave Yard Run at the upper end of Cresap’s Bottom. Several scouts and settlers that were killed by Indians⁷³ are also buried at the Grave Yard Run cemetery including Capt. John Wetzel. Grave Yard Run was named for a fight with the Indians in 1778 that the Indians won. ⁷⁴

In 1819 Margaret Reager, the daughter of the above Leonard Reager, Sr. married Captain John Baker’s grandson, George Baker, Jr.

Capture of Henry Baker

An account of Henry Baker, son of Captain John Baker, was given by Colonel Samuel P.

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Baker, Henry's son and Capt. John Baker's grandson.⁷⁵ In the spring of 1781 reports were circulating that the Indians were on the south side of the Ohio River near Catfish Camp where Washington, Pennsylvania now stands. The Indians were preparing for an early and active operation against the settlers and three men started toward Fort Henry, Wheeling, West Virginia to inform settlers of their danger. The group consisted of Henry Baker, age eighteen, Henry Yoho, who later married Henry's sister Catherine, and a man named Starnater

The three rode along without seeing any sign of Indians until they reached the narrows of Wheeling Creek when they were ambushed. Starnater shot the Indian nearest him and he and his horse were in turn shot and killed by the Indians. A bullet struck Yoho's horse causing it to fall but it quickly arose and ran safely to the fort with the rider.

A bullet struck Henry Baker's horse which ran about one hundred yards and fell dead. Henry separated from the horse with some difficulty, abandoned his gun, and began running for the fort at full speed. He met an Indian with a tomahawk in one hand and pistol in the other. The Indian called in good English, "*You are a prisoner,*" and Henry Baker stopped. He was taken back to the other Indians where a brother of the slain Indian wanted to kill Henry but was stopped by the Indian chief.

The party followed the river and descended a hill near Kate's Rock to the river where a party of Indians were waiting with canoes. They continued along the river for a short distance and then abandoned the canoes and began to walk. The Indians and their captures passed Fort Henry on foot and crossed the river near the lower end of Round Bottom. They camped on the side of the river opposite the head of Captina Island. The next day they began a three day and night nonstop trip until they arrived at Chillicothe, Ohio. The party rested, ate and then proceeded to Sandusky, Ohio where a party of three hundred Indians had just arrived from Kentucky with several prisoners. Each day one of the prisoners was forced to run the gauntlet and then burned at the stake when they failed.

The Indians constantly reminded Henry Baker that his turn would come on the last day. When his time came he ran the gauntlet with little difficulty. He reached the council house safely but an enraged warrior knocked him down. Baker fought with the warrior until he saw the man in a uniform of a British officer riding toward him. The man was the notorious Simon Girty and Henry asked Simon to save him. As Girty wanted information about the conditions at Fort Henry and Wheeling, Girty talked with the Indians for two hours and finally convinced them not to burn Henry Baker. Henry thought that an attack on the Fort was being planned by the Indians and the British. Girty and Henry then traveled to Detroit and Henry was released after a few days because he was not a prisoner of war. Henry hired on with a trader and traded with the Indians before he and two Virginians decided to return their homes near Wheeling, West Virginia. They were lost for about three weeks but ultimately they reached the Ohio River near the current city of Bridgeport, Ohio opposite Wheeling, West Virginia.

Four men were on the opposite side of the river collecting sugar when they saw Henry and his companions approaching in Indian dress. The men fled to the fort to give alarm

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but after some time, Henry and his companions convinced the people of the fort as to their identity and a canoe was brought for them to cross the river. While Henry Baker was away, the Captain John Baker family had moved from Catfish Camp, Pennsylvania to Round Bottom and Cresap's Bottom, Marshall County, West Virginia. Henry left Catfish Camp and joined his family at Baker's Station. A family by the name of Parr had moved to the Flats area in 1784 and Henry later married one of the daughters. Henry married first Elizabeth Parr and second Nancy Swaney and lived in Marshall County, West Virginia until his death about 1848. Henry and Elizabeth Baker lived in Tomlinson's Fort located on the Ohio River at the mouth of Grave Creek.⁷⁶ Later they moved to Baker's Station, which was south of Tomlinson's Fort, near Fish Creek and the Ohio River. After Wayne's Treaty in 1791 Henry moved from Baker's Station and purchased a tract of land in Round Bottom including Captina Island.⁷⁷

Andrew Jackson Baker gives a slightly different version of the story of Simon Girty and Henry Baker. Henry reportedly witnessed the burning of several men by fire and then he was taken out and tied to the stake. Andrew Jackson Baker wrote:

"A historic renegade with man named Simon Gerty, who for some act of criminality had to flee justice, attached himself to the Indians and came to be regarded as a great chieftain among the tribes. Adam Baker⁷⁸ had known Simon Gerty in their youthful days and had at sometime shielded him and done a great kindness to him. Uncle Henry knew this, and while he was blacked and bound to the stake, Simon Gerty arrived in the village and seeing a prisoner bound to the stake to be burned, he went up to him and slapped him in the face with the flat side of his tomahawk. Henry recognized Gerty and "Simon Gerty ought not to slap the son of Adam Baker" thus making his identity known. Gerty then said to him that he would try to get him off."

Another family account reports that while working near Baker's Station, Henry Baker and his sister, Kate (Catherine), were taken prisoner by the Indians. Henry and Kate were taken to an Indian camp near Round Bottom where Henry was compelled to gather wood which he thought would be used to burn him at the stake. While he was gathering wood Henry picked up a knife that a warrior had dropped and hid it in his clothing. Later that night after the Indians became intoxicated on whiskey and fell asleep, Henry and Kate cut their ropes loose and they began their escape. They ran but the Indians were overtaking them when they came to a large, hollow log and crawled into each end of the log. The Indians passed Henry and Kate without detecting them and they avoided capture. They reached Kate's Rock and swam to the Ohio side of the Ohio River, walked to the mouth of Big Captina River and swam back across the Ohio River again to reach home. Kate's Rock was later a steamboat landing located at the north end of Glen Dale near the "Narrows".

Death of John Baker, Jr.

Another Baker family encounter with the Indians was by John Baker, Jr. and was told by Martin Baker, his brother. In May of 1794 four scouts crossed the Ohio River from Baker's Station to look for indications of Indians. The group split into two parties with

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one going up and the other down the river. Soon one group encountered Indians and ran to escape. One man was caught, killed and scalped but the other swam the river to the Station. The other two men encountered Indians and one was killed and the other captured and kept until the treaty of Greenville in 1795 when he was released.

No one was anxious to engage the Indians but ultimately the group departed Baker's Station including John Baker, Jr. A force of about fifty men from the station crossed the river to attack the Indians in an encounter that was known as the "Battle of Captina Creek". Another member of this party searching for the Indians was young Duncan McArthur who later became Governor of Ohio. The leader, Captain Adam Enoch, was killed and a retreat began. John Baker, Jr. was shot in the hip making it impossible to carry him from the field and he killed an Indian and John Jr. was killed. The bodies of the two men were recovered the next day but they had been mutilated. John Baker, Jr. and Captain Adam Enoch were buried at Grave Yard Run, where Captain John Baker, Captain John Wetzel and George Wetzel, Captain John Wetzel's son, had been buried in 1786 and 1787.^{79 80} The 1790 Census records 55,873 people living in West Virginia.

There is a sign along the West Virginia Route # 2 that states the following: "*BAKER'S STATION. Site of blockhouse built by Captain John Baker in 1784. Rendezvous of scouts along Indian war path from Muskingum Valley into Virginia. Near by are buried Captain John Baker, John Wetzel, and others killed by Indians in 1787*".⁸¹

Three members of the Captain John Baker family were reported killed by the Indians. This included Captain John Baker, John Baker, Jr., and Margaret Baker. Margaret Baker had married Peter Yoho and she died in 1830.^{82 83}

Captain John Baker's grave marker was moved from the cemetery near Baker's Station and was placed in the Military Section of the Riverview Cemetery, Moundsville, Marshall County, West Virginia. The marker on grave site states:

"John Baker Virginia, Capt. 11th Va. Regt. Rev. War. 1738-1787. Erected in memory of his 3rd great grandfather. (by) Oran V. "Jack" Baker Commissioner, Marshall Co. 1968".

The remains are probably under the slag heaps beside Graveyard Run as the markers were moved when the industrial site was created. The markers were placed in Americana Roadside Park, established in 1965, adjacent to Route 2. The road was widened in 1991 and the park was closed and John's marker was moved to Riverview Cemetery.⁸⁴ Oran V. Baker disinterred what he thought was the body of Captain John Baker when the road was widened.⁸⁵

About 1804 after the marriage of Isaac Baker, the youngest son, Elizabeth Ann Sullivan Baker migrated to Washington Township, Belmont County, Ohio with her son, Martin Baker. Elizabeth moved to Monroe County, Ohio about 1813 and lived in a separate household from Martin Baker.⁸⁶ She is listed in the 1820 Census as foreign and not naturalized which gives some credence to her being English but most records list her as

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being German.

The 1820 Census, Ohio, Monroe County, page 122 lists the following:

Elizabeth Baker male 100000 female 21011

Elizabeth Sullivan Baker would have been over forty-five years of age. The other people listed are not known. They may have been grandchildren and a daughter. No members of the household were listed as foreign and not naturalized. Martin and Isaac Baker are listed in the same 1820 Ohio, Monroe County Census. Joseph Martin and family are listed following Elizabeth Baker on page 122. Isaac Baker family is listed on page 124 as males, 121210 and females 10010. The Martin Baker family is listed on page 125 as males, 31011, and females, 01200.⁸⁷

The 1830 Census, Ohio, Monroe County, page 139 lists the following:

Martin Baker male 1221001 female 10020100001*

*The eighty to ninety year-old female in the household was probably Elizabeth Sullivan Baker living with Martin Baker at the time of this Census. She would have been eighty-six years old.

On May 22, 1836 Elizabeth Ann Sullivan Baker died at the age of 92 and is buried in the Stead cemetery on the old Baker Farm (Matz farm) south of Woodsfield, Monroe County, Ohio. Woodsfield, the county seat of Monroe County, is immediately across the Ohio River from Baker's Station. This cemetery is at the junction of Route 26 and Route 800 south of Woodsfield, Ohio.⁸⁸ Elizabeth is listed as a Patriot of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the First families of Ohio, and the First Families of Monroe County, Ohio.⁸⁹

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Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D.

Topeka, Kansas

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- ³⁰ *Affair At Captina Creek*, Harry G. Enoch, Heritage Books, page 26, 1999
- ³¹ *Affair At Captina Creek*, page 164
- ³² *Affair At Captina Creek*, page 51, The Battle of Captina Creek has different dates as reported by authors. Col. David Shepherd wrote a letter to Secretary of War, Henry Knox, dated May 6, 1791 that stated that “within a few days past” the Battle occurred. On May 25 the York General-Advertiser gave the dates as April 30 and May 1, 1791. The Battle occurred across the Ohio River from Baker’s Station and a few miles west along Captina Creekmm
- ³³ *Affair At Captina Creek*, page 26. This John Baker was the son of Capt. John Baker
- ³⁴ *Lyman Draper Manuscripts*, Brady and Wetzel Papers, Series E, Volume 7, page 40 and 40.1, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Letter from Jeremiah Hollister, March 1, 1862
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- ³⁹ *History of Maryland, From the Earliest Period to the Present Day*, J. Thomas Scharf, Vol. II, page 182, Tradition Press, 1967
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- ⁴⁵ *General Andrew J. Baker, Centerville*, The United States Biographical Dictionary, Iowa Volume 1878, page 409, Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Co., copy from Marvin W. Baker, Jr., Salem, Oregon, June 2003
- ⁴⁶ Ibid.
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- ⁵⁰ *Affair at Captina Creek*, Harry G. Enoch, page 34, Heritage Books, 1999
- ⁵¹ *Pioneers of Old Monocacy*, page 17
- ⁵² Yellow Creek is located in Ohio but the Joshua Baker cabin was across the Ohio River in present day West Virginia but the area was Virginia at the time of the event
- ⁵³ Jacob Greathouse was reported to be the leader of this attack in *Movers and Settlers: The Baker Family*, 2004 by this author. This information was incorrect as brought to the author’s attention by Rick

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Greathouse in 2016. The author had relied on the work by Allan W. Eckert, 1995, for the incorrect information on Jacob Greathouse

⁵⁴ Chief Logan referred in his speech referred to as the *Logan Elm Speech* of 1774 incorrectly referred to Michael Cresap as the instigator of the attacks and killings of Mingo Indians. This speech was given in Pickaway County, Ohio under an American Elm tree. Among those killed at the Yellow Creek Massacre of 1774 was a brother of Chief Logan. The Indians were in Joshua Baker's cabin and in all about twelve Mingo Indians were killed. Joshua Baker and Capt. John Baker were not related. Later Michael Cresap was exonerated of leading this massacre

⁵⁵ Personal communication, Rick Greathouse, 2016

⁵⁶ *Pioneers of Old Monocacy*, page 165

⁵⁷ *History of Maryland*, J. Thomas Scharf, Vol. II, page 181-183, Tradition Press, Hatboro, PA, 1967

⁵⁸ *From Indian Killer to Worthy Citizen: The Revolutionary Transformation of Michael Cresap*, Robert G. Parkinson, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Third Series, Vol. 63, No. 1, page 97-122, 2006

⁵⁹ *Affair at Captina Creek*, page 165

⁶⁰ *Battle of Captina*

⁶¹ Ohio Historical Marker, 16-45, Ohio Bicentennial Commission, Ohio Historical Society, 2003

⁶² *Affair of Captina Creek*, page 34-35 and 40

⁶³ *That Dark and Bloody River*, Allan W. Eckert, Bantam Books, 1996

⁶⁴ *Battle of Captina*

⁶⁵ *History of Marshall County*

⁶⁶ *Monroe County, Ohio Families*, Monroe County Historical Society, Virginia L. Baker Bininger, 1991

⁶⁷ *Affair at Captina Creek*, page 41

⁶⁸ *Affair at Captina Creek*, page 40

⁶⁹ *History of Marshall County*

⁷⁰ *History of Marshall County, West Virginia 1984*, Marshall County Historical Society, 1984

⁷¹ Land Deed, George and Sarah Baker, Marshall County, Deed Book 8, page 96, January 26, 1842

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⁷⁷ *History of the Pan-Handle, West Virginia*

⁷⁸ *Andrew J. Baker Letter to His Children*, Adam Baker named by Andrew Jackson Baker was indeed Captain John Baker

⁷⁹ *Battle of Captina Creek a Scrap of Border History*, The American Pioneer, George McKeirnan, page 353

⁸⁰ *History of Marshall County*

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⁸³ Ibid. page 100

⁸⁴ *Affair At Captina Creek*

⁸⁵ Oran V. Baker communication from Ray Martin, 2001, shared with the author

⁸⁶ *Monroe County, Ohio Families*

⁸⁷ 1820 Ohio Census, Monroe County

⁸⁸ The Steed Cemetery is located on the present day Louis Matz farm which was previously owned by Martin Baker. The Matz farm is located on the right side of Route 26 near the junction with Route 800. Information provided by Pat Starcevich, personal communication, 2015

⁸⁹ *Elizabeth Ann Sullivan Baker*, Monroe County, Ohio Families, Monroe County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, submitted by Virginia L. Baker Bininger, 1992