

# JOHN W. BAKER

## Record of Marriages

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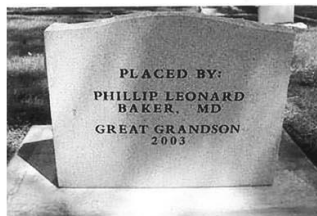
Name of persons married.

BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO ARCHIVES VOL 3, PAGE 5

Date	No.	Name of persons married.
1847	#	
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	47	Married on the 6 <sup>th</sup> day of March 1847, by Anthony Noble Esquire a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Fairfield, Thomas Russel and Mary Eschelberger.
* 14	54.	Married on the 11 <sup>th</sup> day of May 1847, by the Reverend Ezra Brown, John Baker and Margaret Lyst.

Butler County, Ohio  
 May 14, 1847  
 John Baker and Margaret Lyst  
 Great Great grandparents  
 of  
 Phillip L. Baker, M.D.

Frederick Baker  
 Son of John and Margaret Baker  
 b. April 17, 1860  
 d. March 17, 1919  
 Casper, Wyoming



**Margaret Lyst Baker**  
 Pattonsburg, Missouri  
 c. 1905

Photo provided by  
 Harold A. Ankeny

# JOHN W. BAKER



**Four Generations**  
**Edgar Baker, Glen Baker (son of Clarence),**  
**Clarence Baker (son of Edgar), Margaret Lyst Baker**

**Obituary**  
**Margaret Lyst Baker**  
**1909**

**DIES AT EIGHTY-SEVEN**  
**Faithful Christian Life Peacefully Closed**  
 Grandma Baker, mother of E. W. Baker five miles southeast, died Thursday of last week from cancer of the stomach. She had been ailing about a year but was only confined to her bed the past three weeks. The funeral was conducted from the M. E. church at three o'clock Sunday afternoon, the pastor, Rev. H. Trezona, officiating, and interment being made in the Laurel cemetery.  
 Margaret Woods was born at Hamilton, Ohio, March 15, 1822, and May 11, 1847, was married to John W. Baker of that place, who died thirty years ago. Three sons and a daughter survive, E. W. of Laurel (with whom Grandma has made her home the past few years), Albert, of Agra, Oklahoma, Frederick, of Denver, and Mrs. John Skelton of Cromwell, Iowa. Mrs. Fredrick Baker has been here the past three weeks caring for Grandma.  
 The deceased united with the Methodist church at the age of seventeen and throughout her long life held consistently the faith of that body.  
 She fought a good fight; she kept the faith; beyond a doubt a glorious reward awaited her. The sympathy of all goes out to those who loved her and will miss her dear presence. It is given to few to keep "Mother" with them so long, and their sadness must needs be tempered by thankfulness.  
 "Her life is done; her toils are past;  
 And she is truly blest;  
 She fought the fight; the victory won;  
 And entered into rest."

**Obituary**  
**Edgar W. Baker**  
**c. 1909**

**IN ST. JOSEPH, MO.**  
 Edgar W. Baker of Ida Grove, who died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Florence Skelton, seven miles northwest of here on Monday Jan. 5, was a resident of this community nearly 40 years ago, living on what is now the Frank Blazek farm near the Skelton home. Mr. Baker and family moved from here many years ago, locating at Ida Grove where his wife died shortly after moving there and where his remains were taken for burial. Services were held at the Skelton home Thursday morning and were in charge of Rev. Mr. Bressler of Nevinville. Mr. Baker is survived by seven children all of whom with the exception of the oldest son, Clarence, were in attendance at the funeral and accompanied the remains which were taken to Ida Grove for burial Thursday.  
 Albert and Roy Skelton of New Richland, Minn., came to attend the funeral services of their uncle, Edgar W. Baker, held at the home of their mother, leaving for their homes Friday.  
 Relatives here have recently

## FATHER DIED VERY SUDDENLY IN IOWA

Father of Mrs. Roy Ankeny and A. J. Baker Dropped Dead at Home of Daughter

Word was received in this city last Monday of the sudden death of the father of Mrs. Roy Ankeny and A. J. Baker. The tragedy occurred at the home of his sister, Mrs. Florence Skelton at Cromwell, Iowa where he was visiting at the time. According to the word the end came without warning, he falling over and was dead before aid could be summoned. He had spent a considerable of his time with his children in this community and is quite well known to many of our readers. He would have reached his seventy-sixth birthday sometime this month and had appeared to be in good health at all times. His sudden passing is a terrible shock to the relatives who will have the sympathy of the entire community in their great loss. Mrs. Ankeny left immediately for Cromwell. Funeral services are being held today at Ida Grove, Iowa where burial will be made.

**Death Notice**  
**Edgar W. Baker**  
**January 5, 1931**

**Obituary**  
**Martha Dowl Baker**  
**November 28, 1899**

**Obituary.**  
 Martha Dowl was born in Gentry county, Missouri, July 30, 1856, and died at the family home in Blaine township, Ida county, Iowa, November 28, 1899, aged 43 years, 3 months and 28 days. She was united in marriage to Edgar W. Baker October 15, 1878, and seven children, five boys and two girls, were born to bless their home, all of them living and were at her bedside when she died. Shortly after Mr. and Mrs. Baker were married they moved to Adams county, Iowa, where they lived for a number of years, coming to Ida county in 1891. She was converted at the age of 17 years and shortly afterwards united with the M. E. church and she has been a faithful and true christian ever since. In 1892 she united with the friends church at Ida Grove and she was greatly beloved by all who knew her. Indeed, to know her was to love her, for she was a kind sister, a loving companion and a devoted mother—a mother, whose love sacrificed life her devotion to prove. Dear mother, how we will miss you. Oh, how much you will be missed at home. Time will not permit, tongue cannot tell of the sacrifices you have made for your family and friends and of the prayers you have offered for them. God grant that those prayers be answered by this dispensation of Thy will and may Thy blessing be upon the bereaved husband and broken hearted children and aged mother.  
 Farewell dear sister, farewell!  
 As most for a few fleeting years,  
 For soon with you old we shall dwell,  
 And know neither sorrow nor tears.  
 Farewell dear companion, farewell!  
 I said we meet as that heavenly sphere,  
 Those seated with Christ on his throne,  
 Go out from his presence no more.  
 Farewell dear mother, farewell!  
 The one looked for story is less,  
 The "is" of that morn, who can tell,  
 "And Jesus, our Lord, shall appear."  
 When the sorrows of Heaven descend,  
 Our loved one, we hope soon to meet her  
 Or Eden's fair beautiful shore.  
 The glorious thought, how consoling  
 To know the time is so short.  
 "When Jesus shall the world controlling,  
 Permit us to meet her on high."  
**Card of Thanks.**  
 We take this means to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to the many dear friends who so kindly assisted us during the sickness and death of our darling wife and mother.  
 ED. BAKER AND FAMILY.

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**Ethel Devonne Baker and Roy Barcroft Ankeny Family**  
**Back: Morris Edgar and Harold Alvin**  
**Fr: Harlow Taylor, Ethel Devonne, Phyllis Mae, Roy Barcroft**  
**c. 1946**



**Betty Orkney and Harold Ankeny Family**  
**L/R: Timothy John, Vicki Anne, Betty Jean, Mark Elroy, and Harold Alvin**  
**c. 1970**

## JOHN W. BAKER



**Chester Lawren and Phyllis Mae Ankeny Roberts Family**  
L/R: Duane Lawren, Delores Mae, Chester Lawren,  
David Ray, Phyllis Mae, Denise Joy, and Bobby Dean Roberts  
c. 1974



**Larry Chilson and Delores Mae Roberts Choate Family**  
L/R: Larry, Jr., Cathy Mae, Candy Ann, Larry, Delores, and Lonny Ray Choate  
c. 1982

**John W. Baker** is recorded as having been born about 1820 in Virginia and was listed as the father of Fred Baker on the death certificate of Fred Baker.<sup>1</sup> He is listed as being born in 1820 on the 1850 Iowa Census and in 1819 on the 1870 Missouri Census. The

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wife of John Baker was listed on the same death certificate of Fred Baker with the maiden name, M. List, and was recorded as having been born in Ohio. The Register of Marriages of Madison County, Iowa for Fred Baker and Corda Cooley records Margaret as List.<sup>2</sup> The Record of Marriages of Butler County, Ohio lists her name as Margaret Lyst born on March 15, 1822 in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio.<sup>3</sup> John W. and Margaret Lyst Baker were early settlers in Iowa. Their marriage by Reverend Arza was on May 11, 1847 in Butler County, Ohio and recorded on May 14, 1847.<sup>4</sup>

The middle name of John Baker is not known. It was common to use Washington as a middle name in honor of George Washington. The obituary of Margaret Lyst Baker uses the surname "Woods" instead of Lyst. This could be the correct middle name of John W. Baker.

In 1833 John Baker moved to Butler County, Ohio with his parents, George, Jr. and Margaret Reager Baker, and the other children.<sup>5</sup>

The obituary<sup>6</sup> of Margaret Lyst Baker states that she married John W. Baker "*of that place*" on May 11, 1847 in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. She joined the Methodist Church at age seventeen and was a church member for her entire life. Margaret Lyst Baker died in 1909 of cancer of the stomach in Laurel, Cedar County, Nebraska and she was listed as eighty-seven years of age at the time of her death. She had been living with her son, Edgar W. Baker, for several years before her death. Her husband, John W. Baker, had died "*thirty years before her death*". The obituary further states that Cordelia Cooley Baker, wife of Frederick Baker, "*has been here the past three weeks caring for Grandma*". It is not known if Frederick Baker and Cordelia Cooley Baker are living in Denver, Colorado at this time or if they are separated. Frederick Baker and Florence Baker were the twin brother and sister of Edgar W. Baker. Florence Baker Skelton was living in Cromwell, Iowa and Albert Baker was living in Agra, Oklahoma at the time of the death of Margaret Lyst Baker.

The John Baker family moved to Butler Township, Harrison County, Missouri between 1860 and the 1870 Census. On October 15, 1876 in Bethany,<sup>7</sup> Harrison County, Missouri Edgar Baker married Martha Dowl from Gentry County, Missouri which is located immediately west of Harrison County. Edgar and Martha Dowl Baker moved to Adams County, Iowa in 1879. It is believed that John Baker had died by that time but the location is not known<sup>8</sup> as he does not appear on the 1880 Missouri Census with Margaret Baker and her sons, Alvin and Frederic (sp).<sup>9</sup>

In 1891 Edgar and Martha Dowl Baker moved to Ida County, Iowa.<sup>10</sup> Martha Dowl Baker died at their home in Ida Grove in 1899. In June of 1900 Margaret Lyst Baker was living with Edgar Baker and his children.<sup>11</sup> In 1906 or the spring of 1907 Edgar moved to Cedar County, Nebraska and lived on the farm with his son, Clarence. At the same time his mother Margaret Lyst Baker, wife of John Baker, was living with Clarence Baker and family. Edgar lived with several of his children in Iowa and Nebraska from 1915 to 1922. Edgar Baker provided the information for the death certificate of his brother, Frederick Baker<sup>12</sup> who died in Casper, Natrona County, Wyoming on April 17,

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1919. From 1921 to 1930 Edgar was living with Roy and Ethel Devonne Baker Ankeny. He went to visit his sister, Florence Baker Skelton, in Cromwell, Iowa when he died suddenly.

Edgar W. Baker, son of John W. Baker, died on January 5, 1931 while visiting in the home of his sister, Florence Baker Skelton, (wife of John Skelton) in Cromwell, Union County, Iowa. Edgar W. Baker lived in Laurel, Cedar County, Nebraska at the time of his death. His obituary notes that Edgar Baker was “*the father of Mrs. Roy Ankeny (Ethel Devonne Baker--Author) and A.J. Baker (Avery J. Baker—Author) of Laurel*”. Edgar and Martha Dowl Baker, his wife, who died in Blaine Township, Ida County, Iowa on November 28, 1899, had lived near Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa for many years. Martha Dowl Baker was born on July 30, 1856 in Gentry County, Missouri and was married on October 15, 1876. The funeral services for Edgar Baker were held in the John and Florence Baker Skelton home, at Cromwell, Iowa. Edgar W. and Martha Dowl Baker are buried in Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa.

John W. Baker was born in Virginia and in an area that originally was Ohio County, Virginia. Other information further defines this area of Ohio County, Virginia as Marshall County, West Virginia after the Civil War. Marshall County is in the northwestern tip of West Virginia and adjacent to Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Madison County, Iowa was created in 1846 and organized in 1849 from the Mahaska Territory. This area of Iowa was part of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, the Missouri Territory in 1820 and 1830, the Iowa Territory in 1840, and the State of Iowa in the 1850 Census.

In 1833 the George, Jr. and Margaret Reager Baker and family moved from Marshall County, West Virginia to Butler County, Ohio. <sup>13</sup> Leonard Reager, Sr. (Ragar) was granted his Revolutionary War pension application, S. 40315, which was executed on August 20, 1818 when he was seventy-two years of age when he lived in Lemon Township, Butler County, Ohio. Leonard was reported by Bethuel Potter to be “*crippled and in reduced circumstances and stands in need of assistance for his support*”. Leonard Reager, Sr. died in Tippecanoe County, Indiana on April 20, 1833. <sup>14</sup> Burkett Reager, his son, appeared before the Court in Jefferson County, Kentucky on February 29, 1856 for “*the purpose of obtaining the amount which may be due from the U.S. Government for the services of his father the aforesaid Leonard Rager, and offers the muster rolls for proof of said services, and the pay rolls for proof that said Leonard Rager never received pay for the services aforesaid.*” <sup>15</sup>

On May 11, 1847 John W. Baker married Margaret Lyst in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. <sup>16</sup> Margaret Lyst was born on March 15, 1822 in Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio. <sup>17</sup>

In 1847 Isaac Reager, son of Leonard Reager, emigrated from Indiana to Iowa where he married Mary Sutherland in Burlington, Iowa. <sup>18</sup> George, Jr. and Margaret Reager Baker and family had moved to Burlington, Iowa by wagon in 1848 <sup>19</sup> and the John W. Baker family came by wagon to Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa in 1848 or 1849 <sup>20</sup> and



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initially lived with George and Margaret Baker Jr., parents of John Baker.<sup>21 22</sup> On November 17, 1848 a John Baker was listed in the *Burlington Hawk Eye* paper as obtaining a wagon license for three dollars. The John Baker family was living with the George Baker, Jr. during the 1850 Iowa Census but the family was in their own dwelling by the 1852 Iowa Census.<sup>23</sup> As of June 1, 1849 John Baker and Leonard Rager were listed in the *Burlington Hawk Eye* as each having a letter to be claimed from the Burlington, Iowa Post Office.

The 1850 Iowa Census, Flint River Township, Des Moines County, dwelling # 747, page 420, lists the following:

George Baker(Jr.)	54	M	Farmer	\$2500	Virginia
Margaret	57	F			Virginia
Sidney	25	M (really female)			Virginia
Daniel	23	M			Virginia
Minerva <sup>24</sup>	22	F			Virginia
Andrew	18	M			Virginia
John Baker	30	M			Ohio (Virginia)
Margaret Baker	27	F			Ohio
Luna	1	F			(Iowa)
	14	M	Household help		England

The 1852 Iowa Census, Danville Township, Des Moines County lists the following:

	No. of Males	No. of Females	No. Voters	No. of Militia
John W. Baker	2	2	1	1

In 1853 John W. and Margaret Lyst Baker came to Madison County, Iowa from Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa arriving in Madison County with Daniel Baker and his wife, Fanny Moore Baker.<sup>25</sup> Both families were early settlers of Madison County, Iowa and settled on land that became known as the “*Baker Estate*” in Walnut Township. Isaac Reager and his wife, Mary Sutherland Reager, accompanied the Baker families. The *Winterset Madisonian* in May 25, 1876 reported that Daniel Baker of Walnut Township died leaving a wife and thirteen children and was buried in the Peru Cemetery at Peru, Iowa on May 17, 1876.<sup>26</sup>

The 1856 Iowa Census, Center Township, Madison County, dwelling # 55, page 126 and 128 lists the following:

	Age	Sex	Read/Write	Years in State	Occupation	Birthplace
John W. Baker	31	M	yes	7	Teamster	Virginia
Margaret Baker	30	F	yes	7		Ohio
L. B. (Lora)	5	F		5		Iowa
Emily	3	F		3		Iowa
E.W. (Edgar)	1	M		1		Iowa

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A.J.<sup>27</sup>                      22        M            yes            7                      Lawyer        Virginia

Andrew Jackson Baker came by covered wagon to Iowa with his parents in 1848<sup>28</sup> or 1849.<sup>29</sup> It is not known why Andrew Jackson Baker was living with John W. Baker, his brother, at the time of the 1860 Census but more likely than not it was because John W. Baker lived in Center Township<sup>30</sup> and the town would have provided Andrew an opportunity to study and practice law. Andrew’s parents, George W. Jr. and Margaret Baker, lived in the rural area of Madison County. In 1855 Andrew Jackson Baker opened his law practice in Winterset, Iowa.

Also living the same dwelling with the John W. Baker family was N.A. Washburn of New York, Marcellus Stump of Ohio, and Davis Miles of Ohio.

In 1855 Andrew Jackson Baker was admitted to the bar. On April 5, 1862 in Keokuk, Iowa he enlisted in Company E of the Seventeenth Iowa Infantry and achieved the rank of Lieutenant. After the Civil War he settled in Lancaster, Schuyler County, Missouri and later became Attorney General of the State of Missouri in 1870.<sup>31</sup> While in Missouri he was referred to as General Andrew Jackson and this name remained for the rest of his life. In 1875 he moved to Centerville, Iowa and in 1884 he was elected and later re-elected the Attorney General of the State of Iowa from 1883 to 1889.<sup>32</sup> He was the author of the Injunction and Abatement Laws in Iowa and of Baker’s Annotated Constitution of the United States.<sup>33</sup> In 1892 he returned to Centerville and died there in 1911.

The 1860 Iowa Census, Madison County, Walnut Township, Household # 832, page 121 (767):

	Age	Occupation	R. Est. Value	Per.Prop. Value	Place Birth
George Baker(Jr.)	63	Farmer	800	200	Virginia
Margaret Baker	60				Ohio
Melvinia Baker	25				Virginia
Hellen (sic) R. Baker	12				Ohio

Andrew Rager and his second wife, Orphah, and family lived in household # 827. Andrew Reager was previously married to Elizabeth Baker, the daughter of George W. Baker, Sr. Joseph Reager and his wife, Rachael Jane Dawsey Baker, and family lived in household # 828. Isaac Rager and his wife, Mary Sutherland Baker, and family lived in household # 829.

Isaac Reager and Fanny Moore Baker, wife of Daniel Baker, were founding members of the Methodism in Madison County forming the “*Reager Society*” in 1855. The Reagers settled in Section 5 of Walnut Township.

John W. and Margaret Lyst Baker were in Iowa by 1849<sup>34</sup> as their child, Lora B., was listed as being age 10 and was born in Iowa according to the 1860 Iowa Census.<sup>35</sup> John



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W. Baker purchased several lots in Winterset, Iowa and one early purchase was Lot 7, No. 33, Original Town for Fifty dollars from William and Mary Ann Bowsby on January 24, 1856. <sup>36</sup>

The 1860 Iowa Census, Madison County, Winterset, page 179, dwelling # 1242, family 1242, line 29-36 lists the following:

	Age	Sex	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Property	Birthplace
John Baker	41	M	Carpenter	500	25	Virginia
Margaret	38	F				Ohio
Lora B.	10	F				Iowa
Emma	8	F				Iowa
Edgar W.	6	M				Iowa
Albion	3	M				Iowa
Frederick	4/12	M				Iowa
Florance(sic)	4/12	F				Iowa

The Census lists three as having attended school that year and John W. and Margaret Lyst Baker could read and write. Carpenters did the rough work in building homes and “joiners” did the windows and doors. Hanson and Rachael Ragar live in dwelling 1243. He was also a carpenter born in Virginia and his wife as born in Ohio.

The 1870 Missouri Census, Harrison County, Butler Township, page 35, dwelling # 54, family 54, line 26 lists the following:

	Age	Sex	Occupation	PerProp	Birthplace
John Baker	51	M	Farmer		Virginia
Margaret Baker	47	F	Housekeeper	400	Ohio
Emma Baker	17	F			Iowa
Edgar Baker	15	M			Iowa
Albin Baker	12	M			Iowa
Frideric(sic) Baker	10	M			Iowa
Florence Baker	10	F			Iowa

John and Margaret could read and write and all of the children attended school that year. They were not listed as owning any real estate but had four hundred dollars of personal property.

The 1880 Missouri Census, Daviess County, Benton Township, page 135, dwelling 256, family 269 and 270 lists:

Baker, Margaret	58	keeping house	Ohio	NY	Ohio
Albion	22	laborer	Iowa	VA	Ohio
Frederic	20	laborer	Iowa	VA	Ohio

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Cooley, Moses J.	29	teamster	III		
Ellen	29	keeping house	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Claudius	8		III	III	Ohio
Weston	5		III	III	Ohio
Avery	2		III	III	Ohio

Margaret Baker is living in Daviess County, Benton Township with Albion (sp) and Frederic (sp) Baker. They are living with Moses J. and Ellen Cooley and their sons, Claudius, Weston, and Avery. Moses Jackson Cooley was the brother of Cordelia Cooley that married Frederick Baker. It is thought that this Moses J. Cooley is the same individual.<sup>37</sup> As noted before the author believes that John Baker died in Missouri before the 1880 Census. It is not known where Florence Baker is living at the time of this Census but it is believed that it was in Missouri. There may have been an earlier marriage but this is not known from records or from the family files.<sup>38</sup>

In 1900 Margaret is living with Edgar Baker and his family in Ida County, Iowa. The wife of Edgar Baker, Martha Dowl Baker, died in 1899 and Margaret Lyst Baker and Myrtle Skelton, age 19, niece, were living in the household that included two daughters of Edgar Baker, Edith and Ethel and sons Earnest, Avery, and Frederick.<sup>39</sup> Clarence Baker, son of Edgar and Martha Dowl Baker, lived in the adjacent house. Myrtle Skelton was the daughter Florence Baker Skelton but her father is not known.

At the time of the 1880 Iowa Census William and Ann Skelton and their son, John Skelton, lived in Adams County, Colony Township, Iowa. Frederick Baker, brother of Edgar and twin of Florence, and his family lived in Sac County, Corwin Township, Iowa at the time of the 1900 Iowa Census.

The Edgar Baker family moved to Laurel, Cedar County, Nebraska about 1906 or 1907.<sup>40</sup>

A letter written by Margaret Lyst Baker to Lavina Elizabeth Yorty Baker, wife of Ernest Baker on August 29, 1907 is as follows:

*Dear Lizzie,*

*I just got my dress today and have got it on. It fits as though it had been made for me. Thank you very much for it and also Georgia for the aprons. I was just needing a dress. I won't need any more for two or three years. I know you have been real busy and I did not look for it very soon. We have been very busy here. Have got our threshing done, had the men here for five meals.*

*Your pa and Avery are on the go all of the time. I think this is a hard place for work. The girls have been wanting to go to Omaha before school commences, but I don't think they will get to go. Ethel's school commences Monday. Edith would have commenced the same day, but the principal is sick so they put it off another week if he is no better they will get someone else in his place.*

*Avery went to town yesterday and got a bushel of crab apples and two bushel of other apples. We've been canning some and making jelly. We got out of sugar and to stop til (sic) we get some more. I want to can some tomatoes next week. There is not much*

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*fruit here this year. I think we would have had some if it had not been so cold. Our oats did not turn out very well. I don't know how the corn will yield. I know there is a fine crop of weeds.*

*We have been having some very hot weather and a good deal of rain. I will be glad when it gets cooler. I will have a good deal to do when they are off to school it will keep me busy all the time. I don't get much time to write anymore. I wrote to Georgia some time ago, perhaps I did not direct it right. I would be glad indeed to see you all. I think Iowa is a good enough country to live in. I am not in love with Nebraska. Your pa is plowing ground to sow wheat, they are going to plant forty acres.*

*Well it is getting toward night and I have some work to do. The girls are not at home. I soon give out writing, my head is shaking. I would dearly love to see your boys. I wish you could make us a little visit. Well I must stop or you will not be able to read this. Love to all and Leston and Georgia when you see them. Goodbye*

*Grandma* <sup>41</sup>

Leston and Ernest Baker were living in Ida County, Iowa about this time. In 1899 Leston was married to Georgia Heitman in Ida County and in 1904 Ernest was married to Lavina Elizabeth Yorty in Ida County.

The *Winterset Madisonian*, Vol. I, newspaper on May 25, 1876 reported that “*John Baker's team ran away last Monday. They came down Court Avenue from the west at a lively pace, made straight for the Hatch House and knocked out two of the fine columns supporting the portico, demolished the wagon generally and badly injured one of the horses. The inmates of the Hatch House take consolation over a nice pile of kindling wood.*” It not known if this John Baker was of this family because it is believed that the John Baker family was living in Harrison County, Missouri in 1876.<sup>42 43</sup> A John M. Baker,<sup>44</sup> early pastor of the Methodist Church, may have been the driver of the team.

The obituary of Margaret Lyst Baker reports that John W. Baker died “*thirty years ago*”.<sup>45</sup> Margaret Lyst Baker was living with her son, Edgar W. Baker, at the time of her death in 1909 and she is buried in Laurel, Cedar County, Nebraska.

The obituary of Margaret Lyst Baker from an unknown newspaper source is as follows:

*Grandma Baker, mother of E. W. Baker five miles southeast, died Thursday of last week from cancer of the stomach. She had been ailing about a year but only confined to her bed the past three weeks. The funeral was conducted from the M.E. Church at three o'clock Sunday afternoon, the pastor Rev. H. Trezona, officiating, and the interment being made in the Laurel cemetery.*

*Margaret Woods* <sup>46</sup> was born at Hamilton, Ohio, march 15, 1822, <sup>47</sup> and May 11, 1847 was married to John W. Baker of that place, who died thirty years ago. Three sons and a daughter survive, E.W. Baker of Laurel, (with whom Grandma has made her home the past years), Albert of Agra, Oklahoma, Frederick of Denver, and Mrs. John Skelton of Cromwell, Iowa. Mrs. Frederick Baker <sup>48</sup> has

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*been here the past three weeks caring for Grandma.*

*The deceased united with the Methodist church at the age of seventeen and throughout her long life held consistently the faith of that body.*

*She fought a good fight; she kept the faith; beyond a doubt a glorious reward awaited for her. The sympathy of all goes out to those who loved her and will miss her dear presence. It is given to few to keep "Mother" with them so long, and their sadness must be tempered by thankfulness.*

*"Her life is done; her tolls are past;  
And she is truly blest;  
She fought the fight; the victory won;  
And entered into rest."<sup>49</sup>*

A John Baker is listed in the Harrison County, Missouri probate records in the month of March 1880 between two individuals that were known to have died in March of 1880.<sup>50</sup> It is probable that John W. Baker was buried in the McFall Cemetery, Gentry County, Missouri but the early records of this cemetery have been lost.<sup>51</sup> Hamilton Reager and his wife, Martha E. Reager, are buried there.<sup>52</sup> Hamilton Reager was a nephew of John W. Baker. The McFall cemetery is close to Butler Township, Harrison County, Missouri and Benton Township, Daviess County, Missouri.

Hamilton Reager was the son of Leonard Reager, Jr. and his first wife who is unknown. Leonard Reager, Jr. was the brother of Margaret Reager Baker, wife of George Baker, Jr. Margaret Reager Baker was the mother of John W. Baker. Before the 1870 Census the John W. Baker family moved to Butler Township, Harrison County, Missouri. At the time of the 1880 Census Hamilton and Martha Reager and family lived nearby in Benton Township, Daviess County, Missouri which is adjacent to Butler Township, Harrison County on the south.<sup>53</sup>

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Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D.  
Topeka, Kansas  
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<sup>1</sup> Death Certificate, Fred Baker, No. 490, Natrona, Casper, Wyoming, 1919

<sup>2</sup> Marriage Fred Baker and Corda (Cordelia) Cooley, Register of Marriages, Madison County, Iowa, Marriage Book 1, page 13, 1882

<sup>3</sup> The 1900 Iowa Census, Sac County, Cedar Township, page 193 lists the parents of Margaret Lyst as having been born in France

<sup>4</sup> Record of Marriages, John Baker to Margaret Lyst, May 11, 1847, Butler County, Ohio Archives, Vol. 3, page 5, No. 54. Marriage recorded on May 14, 1847

<sup>5</sup> *Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of early Iowa Belonging to the First and Second Generations*, Edward Holcomb Stiles, Iowa Volume 1878, page 409, Homestead Publishing, Des Moines, Iowa, 1916. copy provided by Marvin W. Baker, Jr., from files of Harold Ankeny, 2003

## JOHN W. BAKER

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- <sup>6</sup> Obituary, Margaret Lyst Baker, Cedar County, Nebraska, 1909, copy provided by Delores Roberts Choate, Greenleaf, Idaho
- <sup>7</sup> Harold A. Ankeny, family records provided to the author
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>9</sup> 1880 Missouri Census, Daviess County, Benton Township, dwelling 256, page 135
- <sup>10</sup> Obituary, Martha Dowl Baker, October 15, 1896
- <sup>11</sup> 1900 Iowa Census, Sac County, Cedar Township, page 193
- <sup>12</sup> Death Certificate, Fred Baker, Casper, Natrona County, Wyoming, 1919
- <sup>13</sup> Leonard Reager, Sr., Margaret Reager's father, had already moved to Butler County, Ohio
- <sup>14</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Record No. 40315, Leonard Reager, executed on August 20, 1818
- <sup>15</sup> Leonard Rager Application, Court, Jefferson County, Kentucky, Affidavit, Burket Ragar, February 29, 1856
- <sup>16</sup> John Baker and Margaret Lyst, Record of Marriage, Butler County, Ohio Archives, Vol. 3, page 5, 1847
- <sup>17</sup> Obituary, Margaret Lyst Baker, 1909, copy provided by Delores Roberts Choate, Greenleaf, Idaho
- <sup>18</sup> *History of Madison County and Its People*, Herman A. Mueller, Volume I, 1915, page 307-308
- <sup>19</sup> Obituary, Andrew Jackson Baker, source unknown, found in papers of his daughter, Ethel, copy provided to the author by Anne Rast. Census records of 1856 Iowa list the family as having lived in the state for seven years arriving in 1849
- <sup>20</sup> 1856 Iowa Census, Center Township, Madison County, page 126 and 128
- <sup>21</sup> *History of Madison County and Its People*, Herman A. Mueller, Volume I, page 307-308, Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, 1915
- <sup>22</sup> 1850 Iowa Census, Flint River Township, Des Moines County, page 420
- <sup>23</sup> 1852 Iowa Census, Danville Township, Des Moines County
- <sup>24</sup> Andrew Jackson Baker referred to his sister as Malvina in his letter of 1907
- <sup>25</sup> *History of Madison County and Its People*, Herman A. Mueller, Volume I, page 307-308, Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, 1915
- <sup>26</sup> Winterset Madisionian, page 6, May 25, 1876
- <sup>27</sup> A. J. was Andrew Jackson Baker, son of George W., Jr. and Margaret Reager Baker, and brother of John W. Baker
- <sup>28</sup> Obituary of Andrew Jackson Baker from papers of Ethel Baker Lehnhard, daughter, reported in *Descendants of Captain John Baker*, Valerie Jean Kramer, 1999
- <sup>29</sup> 1856 Iowa Census, Madison County, Center Township, page 126 and 128
- <sup>30</sup> Center Township, Madison County, Iowa contained Winterset the county seat
- <sup>31</sup> *Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa Belonging to the First and Second Generations*, Edward Holcomb Stiles, Homestead Publishing, Des Moines, 1916
- <sup>32</sup> *General Andrew J. Baker, Centerville*, The United States Biographical Dictionary, Iowa Volume 1878, page 409, Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Co., copy provided by Marvin W. Baker, Salem, Oregon, June 2003
- <sup>33</sup> *Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of early Iowa Belonging to the First and Second Generations*
- <sup>34</sup> 1856 Iowa Census, Center Township, Madison County, Iowa, page 104
- <sup>35</sup> 1860 Iowa Census, Center Township, Madison County, Iowa, page 179
- <sup>36</sup> Madison County, Iowa, Deed Land Records Book D, page 393
- <sup>37</sup> 1880 Missouri Census, Daviess County, Benton Township, dwelling 256, family 270, page 135
- <sup>38</sup> Pat Butcher, personal correspondence, 2005
- <sup>39</sup> 1900 Iowa Census, Sac County, Cedar Township, family 216, dwelling 217, page 194
- <sup>40</sup> Harold Ankeny, personal communication, 2003
- <sup>41</sup> Harold Ankeny, transcribed in 2003, personal communication, 2003
- <sup>42</sup> *Winterset Madisionian*, page 6, May 25, 1876
- <sup>43</sup> Harold Ankeny, personal communication, 2003
- <sup>44</sup> *History of Madison County Iowa and Its People*, page 309
- <sup>45</sup> Obituary, Margaret Lyst Baker, 1909, copy provided by Delores Roberts Choate, Greenleaf, Idaho
- <sup>46</sup> Margaret Lyst, the obituary is incorrect according to the death certificate of Frederick Baker and the Marriage Record of John Baker and Margaret Lyst. All family records also list the name as Lyst.
- <sup>47</sup> 1900 Iowa Census, Sac County, Cedar Township lists Margaret Lyst Baker's birth date as February 1824

## JOHN W. BAKER

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<sup>48</sup> Cordelia Cooley Baker, wife of Frederick Baker, was the great grandmother of the author, and a nurse

<sup>49</sup> Obituary, Margaret Lyst Baker

<sup>50</sup> Missouri Probate Records, Harrison County, from the files of Harold Ankeny

<sup>51</sup> McFall Cemetery records, Gentry County, Missouri, personal contact with Myrl Burton, 2003

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> 1880 Missouri Census, Benton Township, Daviess County, page 132