

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

Marie Vivian Yankey was born October 12, 1912 in Vail, Crawford County, Iowa the second child of Sylvia Stehlik and William Oscar Yankey.

William Oscar Yankey was born April 6, 1885 in El Dorado Springs, Missouri, the son of Noah Adopheus and Sarah Catherine Sites Yankey. Oscar, as he was called, was the last son living in West Virginia with his parents when he became dissatisfied and hired a man to care for his parents and the farm. In 1905, Oscar left for Iowa.

When Oscar arrived in Crawford County, Iowa he worked for Henry Wulf near Deloit, Iowa. The man in West Virginia hired to care for his parents did not work out too well. In the summer of 1908 Ira John Yankey, father of Opal Yankey Whiteing, returned from Cissna Park, Illinois, where he had gone to work, to care for his parents in West Virginia. In 1909, Arthur Aldine Yankey, Ira John and Oscar's brother, returned from Cissna Park. The living situation was not good in West Virginia so at Oscar's urging Noah and Sarah Yankey decided to come to Iowa and live with Oscar who had been living alone at the time. Noah and Sarah had a farm sale then rented their land before leaving West Virginia for Iowa. Noah and Sarah Sites Yankey lived with Oscar until his marriage to Sylvia Stehlik in 1910 after which Ira John Yankey, who had come from Cissna Park, Illinois moved in and lived with his parents until his marriage to Mabel Shives of Deloit, Iowa in 1912.

In 1912 Noah and Sarah sold their farm which had been deeded to them by Magdaline Wise Sites for their care of her and her invalid son, George, in her declining years. Magdaline Wise Sites was the widow of Joseph Sites, a brother of Sarah Catherine Sites Yankey.

Oscar Yankey, his wife Sylvia, his children Lloyd who was born on December 22, 1910 and Marie Vivian who was born on October 14, 1912 moved with Noah and Sarah Yankey to Ink, Polk County, Arkansas in 1912 where they lived for about three years. A fire caused by a Warm Morning Stove destroyed their home. Noah and Sarah Crites Yankey returned to Crawford County, Iowa. Then Oscar, Sylvia, and family moved to Sayre, Beckham County, Oklahoma which is located in the far southwest corner of the state. On Christmas morning their home was again destroyed by a Warm Morning Stove.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



Yankey Cousins
 L/R: Irma Judy, Marie Yankey, Lloyd Yankey,
 Thelma Judy, Opal Yankey
 Photos taken at:
 Ferguson Studio
 Denison, Iowa

Photo taken upon
 return from
 Sayre, Oklahoma

c. 1919



Marie Vivian and Lloyd Yankey
 Vail, Iowa
 c. 1917



Marie Vivian Yankey
 Crawford County Iowa
 Spelling Contest
 Second Place, Fifth grade
 April 27, 1923

Marie, age four, was allowed to attend school when Lloyd began because she wanted to go to school. She always was a very good student. The author always thought she could have been a physician but the Great Depression and lack of money precluded her from attempting this career path.

The family moved back to Vail, Crawford County, Iowa in 1915 when Lloyd was five and Marie was three years of age and the family lived on a farm located at 2220 350th Street south of Vail in Hayes Township. Marie Yankey attended grade school in a one room school house, Hayes # 3, located about one-half mile from their home. This school was on the southwest corner of 350th St. and N Avenue and Marie rode a horse to school each day. Lloyd and Marie graduated from this grade school.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

The family moved to a farm located at 2145 370th Street, south of Vail, Westside Township, Crawford County, Iowa in March of 1926 the spring before Marie began high school.

Marie was a champion speller and maintained this ability to the end of her life and she was also a very good letter writer. She attended high school in Vail, Iowa graduating in the class of 1930. She was called "Maria" by her classmates but never used this name after graduating from high school. Marie wanted to be a teacher according to a note she wrote in the commencement book of Leonard Baker. Her penmanship was excellent in school and remained the same throughout her life.



Vail Public High School
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
1928

**L to R: Ferne Brockelsby, Sevilla Slechta, Loretta Lane, Florence Chamberlin,
Florence Hansen, Bernice Pieper, Bernice Algoe, Delia Bea Evans,
LaVinia North, LaVerne Crane, Helen McGinnis**

**2nd: Alice Brockelsby, Myrna Hagge, Gladys Morse, Louise Byrnes,
Evelyn Quaintance, ___ Crampton, ____, Dorothy North, Jeanette Farley,
Helen Strathman, Marie Vivian Yankey, Elsie Mason**

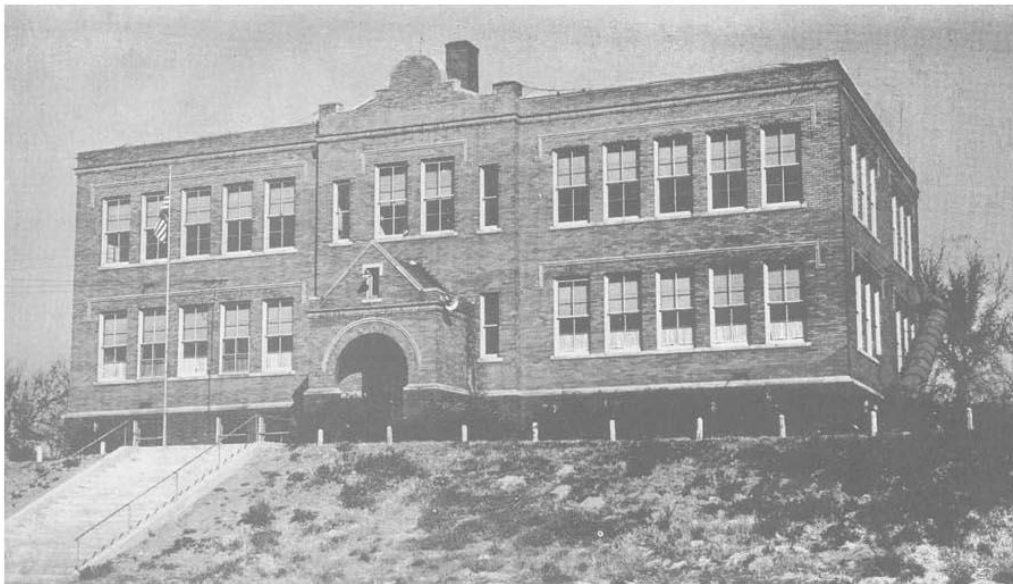
**3rd: ____, ____, ____, Clem Byrnes, James North,
Lawrence Whiteing, Warren Chamberlin, Bill Beck, William Schlecta**

**4th: Virgil Dozark, Mearl Osterlund, Leon Brockelsby, Les Crane, Clair Watson,
Joe Stone, Robert Evans, Lloyd Yankey, Leonard Albert Baker**

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



**Vail Public School
Vail, Iowa
Built in 1877 for \$3000**



**Vail Public School
Vail, Iowa
Built in 1910 for \$19000
Destroyed by fire in 1959**

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

A
High School

This is to
Certify that



Marie V. Yankey

having completed the Course of Study, prescribed by the Board of Education, declared Graduate of the High School and therefore awarded the

DIPLOMA



In Testimony Whereof, our signatures are herewith affixed
Given at Vail Iowa, this 23rd day of May 1930

J. Edwards PRESIDENT
M. Mason SECRETARY
A. H. Hagan SUPERINTENDENT
W. M. Miller

Marie Vivian Yankey
High School Graduation
Vail High School
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
May 23, 1930



CLASS OF 1930

- Clair B. Watson
- La Verne A. Crane
- Elsie Marie Mason
- Marie V. Yankey
- Evelyn N. Quaintance
- F. Earl Whiteing
- Alice F. Brockelsby
- Dorothy E. North
- Joseph N. Stone
- Robert W. Evans
- Leonard A. Baker
- L. F. Yankey

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

Mile Posts

Name *Leonard Baker*
 Address *Vail, Iowa*
 Born at *Omaha, Neb* 1913

Entered school at *Sunny Side* 1918 Age 6
 My first teacher was *Marie Gallagher*

Graduated from Grammar School *"Sunny Side"* 1926
 Apr 13

Entered High School at *Vail Public* 1926
 Graduated *Vail Public* 1930 Apr 17

My hopes and plans for the future
 WHAT YOU ARE TOMORROW WILL BE
 THE RESULT OF YOUR PLANS TODAY

My Class
 Officers Colors Motto

President *Clair Watson*
 Vice-President *Robert Evans*
 Secretary *Alice Brockelsby*
 Treasurer *Alice Brockelsby*

Sergeant-at-Arms
 Colors *Maroon & white*
 Flower *American beauty rose*
 Motto *"Not failure but low aim is crime"*
 Yell

"Commencement Memories"
 Leonard Baker
 Vail Public School
 May 30 1930

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GO-
 ING, HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO GET THERE!

Photo and Memories:
 Files of the author



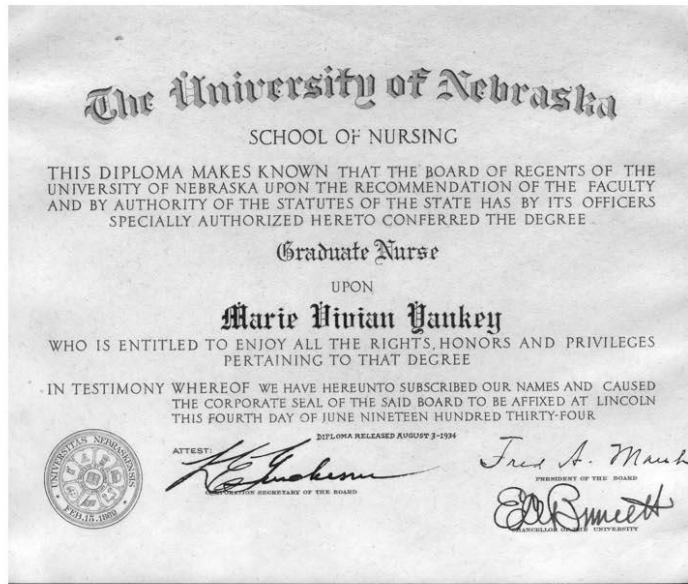
1930 High School Class
 Vail Public School

L/R: Lloyd F. Yankey, F. Earl Whiteing, Elsie Marie Mason, Leonard A. Baker, Alice F. Brockelsby,
 Marie V. Yankey, Dorothy E. North, La Verne A. Crane, Joseph N. Stone, Evelyn N. Quaintance
 (Robert Evans and Clair Watson absent. Maiden names of women.)
 c. 1980

Marie saw the "Roaring Twenties" develop and loved to dance especially the "Charleston", the waltz, and the two-step but unfortunately the Great Depression of the 1930's followed.

Social events of that time included dances in homes or school houses to music which was provided by an accordion or banjo player. The house furniture or school desks would be pushed against the walls or moved out of the rooms for the dancing. Entire families would come to the dances as this was an opportunity for the young people to meet and the parents to socialize. ¹

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



**Marie Vivian Yankey
University of Nebraska
School of Nursing
June 4, 1934**



MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



The Ferguson Studio, Denison, Ia.

**Leonard and Marie Yankey Baker
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
September 27, 1935**

OFFICE OF CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

County of
Crawford
The State of Iowa, ss.



No. 2791

Marriage License

License is hereby granted to any person authorized to solemnize Marriages according to the laws of said State,

To Join in Marriage

Leonard Baker and **Marie Yankey**.

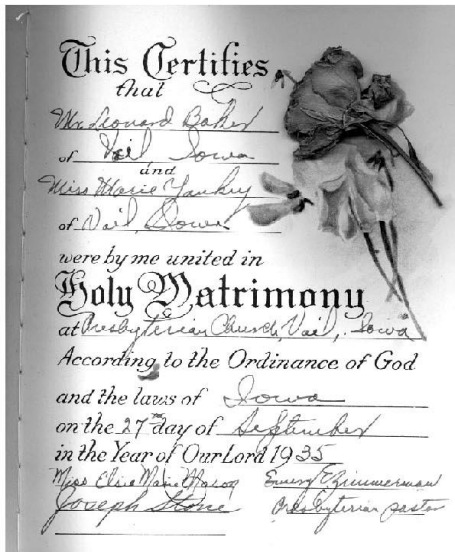
This license is valid in **Crawford** County, only, and the person joining them in Marriage is also required to make due return of the Certificate thereof, to the Clerk of the District Court, within fifteen days, of the names of the parties, time and place of Marriage, and by whom solemnized.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at my office in **Denison**, Iowa, in said County this **25th** day of **September**, 19**35**.

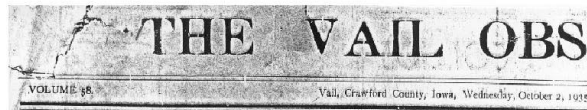
[Signature]
Clerk of the District Court.

Deputy.

Marriage License



**Leonard and Marie Yankey Baker
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
Marriage Certificate**



A PRETTY CHURCH WEDDING
Mr. Leonard Baker and Miss Marie Yankey Wed Friday Evening

Friday evening, Sept. 27, at seven o'clock at the Presbyterian church, was solemnized the marriage of Miss Marie V. Yankey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Yankey, to Mr. Leonard Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tracy North. Rev. E. E. Zimmerman performing the ceremony.

The bride was beautifully gowned in white. Her dress was over satin crepe, made on long graceful lines with a cowl neck, blue and fitted sleeves. Her veil fell from a lace cap edged with pearls. She carried a bouquet of Tallman roses.

The bride's attendants were Miss Elsie Marie Mason of Omaha, maid of honor, who was gowned in a long length dress of dark blue. Miss Carol Cain of Hastings, Neb., and Miss Ina Mae Wixon of Omaha, were bridesmaids, both wearing sky-blue floor length dresses. The attendants wore saranges of Tallman roses. The bride's attendants were her former classmates.

Ruth Algee was ring bearer, wearing a green organdie dress and carried the ring in a rose. Mr. Joseph Stoen acted as best man. The groom and best man wore suits of grey.

Mrs. Lloyd Stanton, teacher of the bride, and Mr. Van Whiting were ushers.

Presiding at the ceremony "I Love You True" was sung by Misses Jewell North and Doris Chapman. Mrs. Joseph Sieble, singing solo, presided at the altar.

The bride was attended by her father.

Following the ceremony a reception for the immediate families and the bridal party was given at the home of the bride. The bride's cake, decorated in green and white, formed the centerpiece. After the reception a dance was given to their friends at the Woodmen hall. Vance Gallagher and his orchestra furnished the music.

Both of these young people are well known in this community, having resided here practically all of their lives, completing their education in the Vail high school.

The bride is a graduate nurse at the University hospital in Omaha and has been employed there since her graduation.

The groom is engaged in business here in Vail with his step-father. He is a steady, reliable young man, respected and beloved by the entire community.

After a short trip they will be at home to their friends in the former Adam Street residence, where they have prepared a cozy home.

The Groomer joins with their many friends in extending hearty congratulations and well wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Yankey
request the honor of your presence at the
marriage of their daughter
Marie Vivian
to
Leonard Baker
son of Mr. and Mrs. Tracy North
at seven p. m.
on Friday September twenty-seventh
at the Presbyterian Church
Vail, Iowa.

Wedding Announcement

**Leonard and Marie Yankey Baker
Marriage Story, Vail Observer
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa**

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



**R: Marie Yankey Baker, Director of Nursing
L: Mrs. Robert Ray, wife Governor of Iowa
Crawford County Memorial Hospital
Denison, Iowa
c. 1972**

Photo from files:
Denison Bulletin
Denison, Iowa
1972



**Marie Yankey Baker
Home made ice cream
basement of her home
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa**



**Marie Yankey Baker
A favorite hobby--fishing
Lake Okoboji, Iowa
c. 1940**

Marie attended the University of Nebraska School of Nursing in Omaha, Nebraska where she graduated in 1934 with a Degree in Nursing. Money was scarce in the Great Depression Era and Marie told of walking four miles each way from the School of Nursing to downtown Omaha to purchase the required white hose for one dollar as the price of a pair of hose was much higher near the Medical Center. Marie told the story that one evening she went back to the dinning hall and hid several oranges under her apron to take back to the dorm room. The director of nursing at the University stopped her and during the conversation all of the oranges fell to the floor! She

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

had to take the oranges back to the dining room. Marie worked at the University of Nebraska hospitals after her graduation until her marriage in 1935.

Alice Hamblen Yankey, sister-in-law of Marie Yankey, wrote in a letter to Grace North, half-sister of Leonard Baker, on May 22, 1935 when Grace was in St. Joseph Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska. The letter ² included the following:

“I suppose you have heard of Marie’s and Leonard’s engagement. She gave a dinner Tuesday evening and the announcements were written on cards under a piece of cake at each one’s plate. For dessert we had ice cream with nuts and strawberries. Afterwards we played cards. Marie’s ring is so pretty. It’s yellow gold with the diamond enclosed in silver mounting. I think it is similar to mine only the style is different.”

--“Oh I forgot to tell you all who were guests at Marie’s dinner. They were Opal Y. and Earl W. (Opal Yankey, a cousin of Marie’s, and Earl Whiteing, a classmate of Marie and Leonard--Author), , Robert W and Ruth Rollins, Elsie Mason (Best friend and classmate of Marie Yankey--Author), Joe Stone (Best friend, classmate, and future best man of Leonard Baker--Author), Lloyd and I (Lloyd Yankey, Marie’s brother, and his wife, Alice Hamblen Yankey--Author) and of course Marie and Leonard made up the ten at the long table. There were four pink candles two at either end and a little green potted plant in the center. There were little pink baskets filled pepper mints and peanuts with our names written on a little place card attached to the basket.” ³

On September 27, 1935 Marie Yankey married Leonard Albert Baker in the Presbyterian Church, Vail, Iowa as the Reverend Emery E. Zimmerman officiated at the ceremony with Elsie Mason as Maid of Honor and Joseph Stone as Best Man. The attendants were classmates of Marie and Leonard. They went on their honeymoon with Joseph Stone as he had a car and Leonard did not.

The wedding reception for the family was in their home and later that evening a dance was held in the Woodman Hall of Vail, Iowa. Their first home was the “*former residence of Adam Short*”. Vince Gallagher and his Orchestra played for the dance. ⁴

Marie and Leonard moved to near Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon to work in the orchards and fields. Their son, Phillip Leonard Baker, was born in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. In May 1937 the family moved back to Vail, Iowa where Marie and Leonard made their home until their deaths. After returning they lived in two different houses in the town of Vail. The first home was two blocks south of the Leonard Dieter house that they later purchased. Initially Leonard worked for his step-father, Tracy North, in the grain elevator and on the North farm. Leonard and Marie Baker purchased a farm on the north and east edge of Vail from Leonard Dieter and began farming and feeding cattle.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



**Leonard Albert Baker
Holding a jar of jam
Gold Hill, Oregon
c.1936**



**The home of the "Day" Family
for whom Leonard and Marie Baker
worked while in Gold Hill, Oregon
during 1936-37.**



**The house where Leonard
and Marie Baker lived
while in Gold Hill, Oregon
during 1936-37.**

Sylvia Stehlik, Marie's mother, died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage on December 24, 1938. Sylvia Stehlik is buried in the cemetery in Vail, Iowa.⁵

Sylvia Ann Baker was born in Denison, Crawford County, Iowa.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



**Sylvia, Leonard, Phillip Baker
"Teddy" sitting in background
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
c. 1944**



**Tracy North, Leonard, Marie, Phil Baker
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
c. 1939**



**Phil and Sylvia Baker
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
c. 1944**



**Phillip Leonard Baker
c. 1944**

Leonard and Phillip Baker would travel by car in the fall to western Nebraska and northeast Wyoming to purchase calves from the ranchers. These calves would then be shipped by truck to Vail where the calves were then feed until they were about two years old to become very fat. The cattle were then shipped by truck to Omaha, Nebraska or by railroad to Chicago, Illinois for sale. Leonard would accompany the cattle by truck or train to attend the sale.

Marie was an outstanding cook and would can and freeze produce for the family. Sweet corn by the bushel was made freezer ready every year and fourteen-day pickles were also a specialty. A room in the basement of the home held the countless jars of tomatoes, peaches, pears, and pickles. Marie could bake any type of bread and her sweet rolls were enjoyed by everyone. Marie was known to always be experimenting with new recipes. This was very unusual for that time.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



Leonard and Marie Baker
25th Anniversary
1980

Fr: Leonard and Marie Baker
Phillip Leonard, Sylvia Ann
c. 1955



Board
of
Education
LEONARD BAKER
President



School Board
Ar-We-Va
Westside, Iowa
c. 1960

Leonard and Marie Baker
50th Anniversary
1985



MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

Walter R. Shultz, F.A.C.H.A.
Administrator

Phone 712-263-5021

CRAWFORD COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

DENISON, IOWA 51442



September 28, 1972

Marie Baker, R.N.
Director of Nurses
Crawford County Memorial Hospital
Denison, Iowa 51442

Dear Mrs. Baker:

As I contemplate your resignation as Director of Nurses, my emotions are divided two ways. I know how abundantly you have contributed to CCMH in elevating and maintaining the highest standards of nursing care for the past fourteen years. You have been so dedicated and loyal to this institution. For all that, you have my deepest appreciation and gratitude.

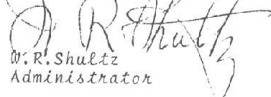
As I think of CCMH without your strong leadership, there comes a feeling of great loss, and I hoped you could always be here in your office, ready as you have in the past to help our Nursing Personnel in their needs and distresses, or to share in the joy of their good deeds.

Knowing the modesty of your personality, I doubt if you realize how much our nurses have benefited from your leadership, counsel and moral support, and the personal interest you have shown to them. You may be sure, Marie, that your name has been written too deeply in their hearts to ever be erased by the passing years.

I do not know of the plans, or what the future holds for you. I only know that I wish you a period of great happiness, and perhaps the opportunity to do some of the things you have been denied under the pressure of work obligations. I can think, too, of no greater pleasure than to pause at the end of these fourteen years to review your accomplishments - and to take inventory of your many friends.

And so, my dear friend and colleague, I salute you! May God bring you many more years and a good reward for all the good things you have done for others.

Most Sincerely,


W. R. Shultz
Administrator

Letter from files:
Author

WRS/rs

MEMBER—AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION . . . ACCREDITED BY J. C. A. H.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY



Dear Mrs. Baker,

We are all sad to see you leaving the hospital family for the domestic life. CCMH will not be the same without you.

Some of us can remember when you started back on July 2, 1958. You were a part time R.N. at that time. We also remember when you started working full time in the fall of 1959. Then on January 25, 1962 you were appointed the Director of Nursing Service.

Your position has increased in its responsibilities since that time. You've witnessed the growing pains of the new departments (Ambulance, Coronary Care, Inhalation Therapy and Pharmacy) and the expansion of the other existing departments. It was with your cooperation that these progressive services have succeeded so greatly.

You have incorporated the knowledge and skills of the technological 60's and 70's into Nursing Service; but retained that old TLC. You've set a high standard of nursing, and, higher yet for your successor.

It is with sadness that we must say "Good-bye"; but with warm hearts we extend our "Best Wishes" for your future happiness.

Sincerely,

Letter from files:
Author

THE ENTIRE HOSPITAL FAMILY

**Crawford County Memorial Hospital
Denison, Iowa
1972**

Marie returned to full-time nursing when her children, Phillip and Sylvia, were in school. She

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

ultimately became Director of Nursing at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison, Iowa and held this position for several years. Marie was the medical care giver for the area around Vail, Iowa as the nearest physicians were several miles away in Denison, Iowa. Many local youths received their allergy shots from Marie and the refrigerator in the Baker home always contained several bottles of medicine for these injections. Marie did special duty nursing for several people in the Vail area. She and her family cared for the children of Jewell North Van Dusen and Virginia Ahrenkiel North while the mothers were in the hospital.

Eastern Star was a special organization for Marie in which she held most of the local chapter offices and was the Grand Representative from the State of Iowa to Minnesota. She was Worthy Matron and Leonard was Worthy Patron of the Olive Branch Chapter in Vail, Iowa.

Marie was a very active 4-H leader and taught sewing and helped with projects at the Crawford County Fair in Denison, Iowa. She was a leader for the Jolly Workers 4-h Club of Vail. ⁶

Piecing quilts was a hobby and Marie made several for the family that are still in the family. When Marie could not sleep at night she would sit in her recliner chair and work on her quilts. The quilts were usually quilted by the Women's Association of the Presbyterian Church in Vail, Iowa. Marie never believed in being idle and would have Leonard crack black walnuts during the winter months, which he then picked out, while she quilted.

Marie and Leonard Baker were regular attendees of the Vail Presbyterian Church in Vail, Iowa and they held many positions in the church. The April 6, 1947 Easter Sunday bulletin lists the church officers as Leonard Baker, Elder; Marie Baker, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; and Marie Baker, President, Ladies Aid. The Presbyterian Synod of Iowa sent Marie and Leonard as official delegates to the National Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in New York City, New York. This trip took three weeks as they traveled by way of Canada to New York City. Marie was a member and officer in the Gleaners Sunday School Class of the Vail Presbyterian Church. The class met in the members homes on the third Thursday of each month.

In 1978 an article in the Denison Bulletin reported "*She was an active worker in the Presbyterian Church in Vail serving as president of the woman's organization, taught Sunday school for ten years, daily vacation Bible school for five years, and was a leader for Young Fellowship Camp Nurses at Lake Okoboji for four years.*" She was also worthy matron of the Eastern Star as well as grand representative. She was also a 4-H leader for many years. ⁷

On January 11, 2007 the author received a letter from Mrs. Ellen Turnbull of Berea, Kentucky. Mrs. Turnbull was the wife of a Presbyterian minister called to serve the Vail Presbyterian Church in Vail, Iowa. Mrs. Turnbull wrote "*What I remember about our coming to Vail was the generosity of the people. Your folks took us in that first night. We arrived awfully late. And the congregation had filled the shelf in our basement with canned goods and a drawer in the locker of Marvin's Market with half a beef! It was just unbelievable! The next Christmas they saved Betty Crocker® coupons and gave us a whole chest of silver tableware. What a church! And what a church to work on projects. Leonard and Marie Baker were leaders. Good wishes, Ellen*"

⁸ This comment reminded the author of how much his parents worked in and for the church.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

Marie was a leader in the Vail Presbyterian church by providing Sunday School lessons, food for Bazaars, painting and cleaning, a Presbyterian Church camp nurse, and women's society leadership.

Marie arranged for Phillip to follow Dr. Crabb, a family practitioner, of Denison, Iowa in his office, on house calls, and nursing home calls. Phillip remembers making calls with Dr. Crabb on residents in the Crawford County Home near Arion, Iowa. This was a beginning of Phillip Baker's career in Medicine and later as an Orthopedic Surgeon in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas.

During their retirement years they would travel in a motor home. Trips to Black Hawk Lake with their grandchildren, Nancy and Susan Baker, were highlights for the children. Leonard and Marie traveled across the United States in their motor home.

They also enjoyed visits from their families and grandchildren. Marie would always prepare huge amounts of food including salads, desserts, breads, rolls, pies, and cakes. A typical dinner for Christmas would include; cranberry-whipped cream salad, two or three Jell-O salads, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, ham turkey, chicken, rolls, nut breads, several kinds of cookies, cake and homemade ice cream. Homemade ice cream with toppings of chocolate, butterscotch, and strawberries followed the meal especially in the summer. Candies were available after the meals of peanut brittle, patience, divinity and fudge. Marie and Leonard liked Iowa beef, especially rib-eye steaks, and did a good deal of barbecue grilling. They liked their steaks very rare.

Marie provided large amounts of food and hand work for the Presbyterian Church bazaars to which she took fried chicken, ham, pies, candies, strawberry jam, and breads.

Marie was known for being very honest and hard working. She liked to dress well and look very fashionable as she was a very pretty woman who was about five foot eight and one-half inches tall. After her children had left home she had her hair "*done*" twice a week for her "*treat*" to herself. She was a very good dancer and Leonard and Marie Baker went to many dances. Square dancing, waltzing, and the two-step were popular dances of this time. She was also known for expressing her opinion. She was honest in all of her relationships.

Wall-to-wall carpet was a new decorating feature at that time and she saved her money to have it installed in her home. She obtained her "good" china "*Wheat*" by Lenox China one place setting at a time for birthdays and Christmas.

Leonard and Marie Yankey Baker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 27, 1985 with an Open House at the Vail Presbyterian Church, Vail, Iowa and their children attended.

Marie Yankey Baker died January 26, 1986 in the Clarkson Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska four weeks after suffering a bilateral carotid artery occlusion followed by a cerebral infarction. She was buried in the cemetery in Vail, Crawford County, Iowa.

MARIE VIVIAN YANKEY

In 2007 Jack Powers, a long-time friend of Leonard and Marie shared with the author “*Your mother was a great lady. She helped so many people. Every time I drive past your home⁹ I think of your mother.*”¹⁰

Source:

Commencement Memories, Leonard Baker

Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D., recollections of my mother and family records

Sylvia Baker Lochmiller, family records

Church records, Vail Presbyterian Church, Vail, Iowa

Opal Naomi Yankey Whiteing, family records

Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D.

Topeka, Kansas

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¹ Opal Yankey Whiteing, personal remembrances shared with the author, 2002

² Letter, Alice and Lloyd Yankey to Grace North Abbott, May 22, 1935, copy in files of the author

³ Ibid.

⁴ Wedding, Leonard and Marie Vivian Yankey Baker, Vail Observer, Vail, Iowa. September 1935

⁵ Obituary, Sylvia Stehlik Yankey, Vail Observer, Vail, Iowa, 1938

⁶ *Visions of Vail, 1867 to 1992*, History Book Committee, 1992

⁷ Saturday Scribbles, Well-known lady, Marie Baker, by Christine E. Sanders, Denison Bulletin, October 16, 1978

⁸ Letter, Mrs. Ellen Turnbull, Berea, Kentucky, January 11, 2007, to the author

⁹ The former Leonard and Marie Baker family home on Crawford County Route M 55 on the east edge of Vail, Iowa

¹⁰ Jack Powers lived in Denison, Iowa with his wife, Rita. Jack operated the sale barn in Irwin, Iowa for many years. The Power's and Leonard and Marie Baker traveled together for vacations