

Leonard Albert Baker



Guy Baker
Father



Frederick Baker
Grandfather



Phoebe Leonard Huckstep
Grandmother



William Thomas Huckstep
Grandfather



Guy Leonard Baker
Chief Clerk, Car Department
Southern Pacific Company
Sparks, Washoe County, Nevada
1913



Guy Leonard Baker
c. 1910



Ethel Huckstep
c. 1899



**Leonard Baker
c. 1918**



**Leonard Albert Baker
c. 1918**



**Ethel Huckstep Baker
Tracy North
Wedding Photo
1917**



**Original Home
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
Ethel Huckstep North and Tracy North
(Two miles west of Vail)**



**Rundlett ice pond
Vail, Iowa
Ethel Huckstep Baker North home in distance
c. 1930**



**Vail Presbyterian Church
1938-1969
Leonard Baker Family attended**



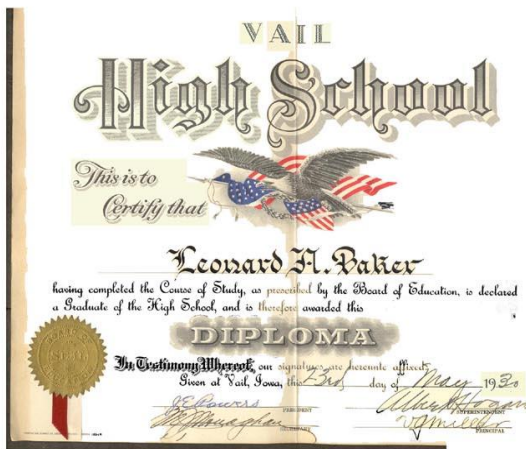
**Front: Wayne Beck, Joseph Stone, Clarence Corbett,
Leonard Baker, Robert Evans, Earl Whiteing
Vail Public High School, Vail, Iowa
1930**

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

**Graduation Class
Vail Public High School
Vail, Iowa
1930**

**Leonard Baker Diploma
Vail Public High School
Vail, Iowa
1930**



**Fr: Merle Osterlund, Bill Beck
2nd: Wayne Beck, Leonard Baker, Clarence Corbett
3rd: Joe Rheinhart, Robert Evans, Less Starek,
Earl Whiteing, Les Crane
Vail Public High School
1930**



**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, ___, Dorthy 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**



**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.**



**L/R: Leonard Baker
Earl North
Allen North
Grace North
Jewell North
c 1930**

**Leonard Baker
Vail, Iowa
c 1950**

**Marie Vivian Yankey Baker
Lake Okoboji, Iowa
c 1940**





James Mathias Clark and Celinda Eleanor Chapman North Family

**L/R: Evelyn Bingham and John Foster North
Olive Mae Dowling and Sears Robert North
Mary Eleanor Slater and Lacey Craig North
(Celinda Frances North, deceased) and John Robert Algoe
Ethel Amelia Huckstep Baker and Tracy Thomas North
Anna Catherine Dobler and Frank Leslie North
Mildred Pearl Dingman and Rodney James North**

**Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
c. 1950**

**Tracy Thomas North was the step-grandfather of the author.
Tracy Thomas and Ethel Amelia Huckstep Baker North lived east of Vail, Iowa
on the Rundlett Farm. The author would walk from his home to his grandparents home.
Grandmother Baker North would always welcome him with
a smile and a snack of freshly baked bread, jam or jelly, and milk.
This was true "comfort food."**



**Leonard Baker
(Vail in Background)
Vail, Iowa
c. 1950**

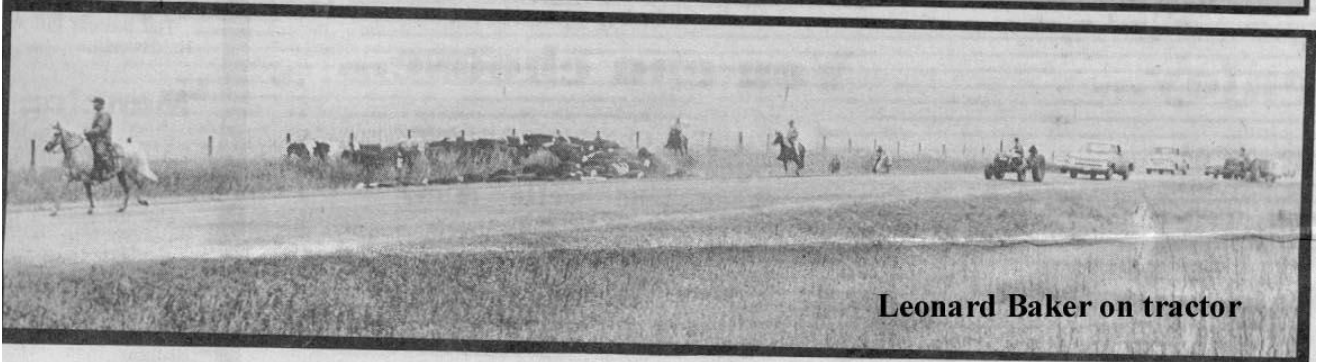
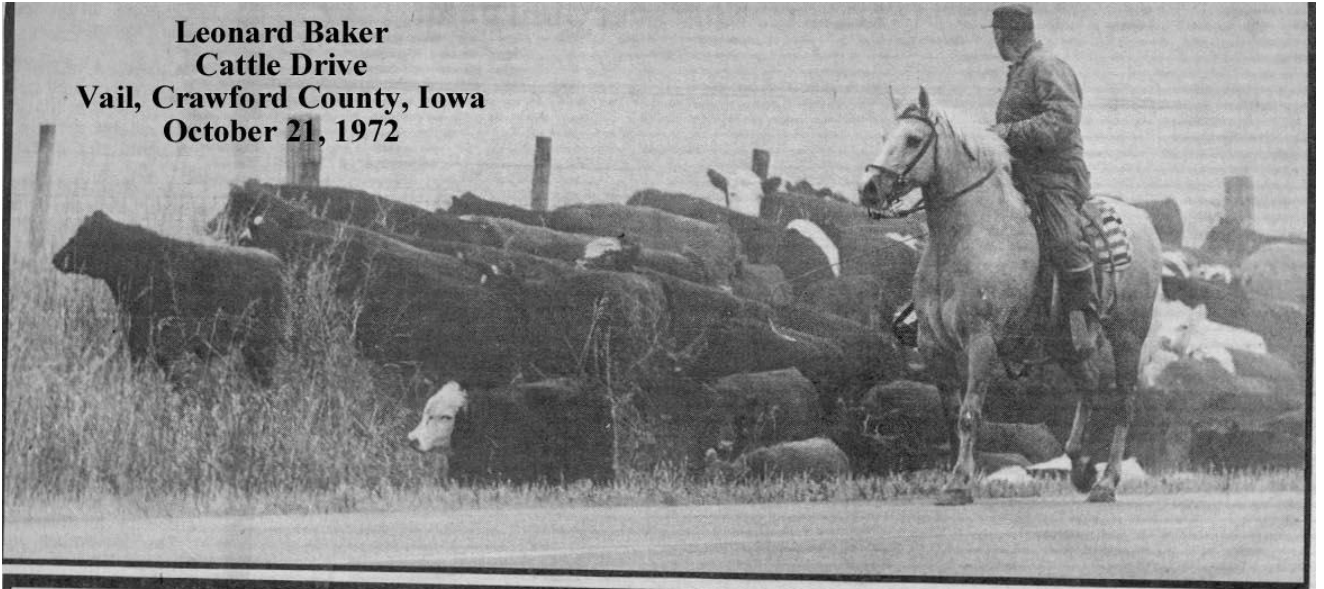


**Leonard and Marie Baker Home
(North Edge of Vail)
Vail, Crawford Co., Iowa
c. 1945**



**Leonard and Marie Baker Home
(East Edge of Vail)
Vail, Crawford Co., Iowa
c. 1970**

**Leonard Baker
Cattle Drive
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa
October 21, 1972**



Leonard Baker on tractor

Cattle Drive!

Movement of about 175 head of cattle owned by Leonard Baker of Vail brought back prairie scenes from the days before fences

Photos by Bruce A. Binning

early this morning. The cattle were being moved from a pasture about five miles northwest of Vail to one at the edge of Vail.



**Board
of
Education**

LEONARD BAKER
President



WAYNE JANS

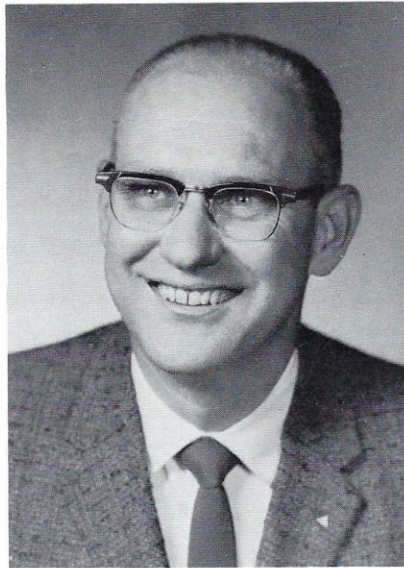
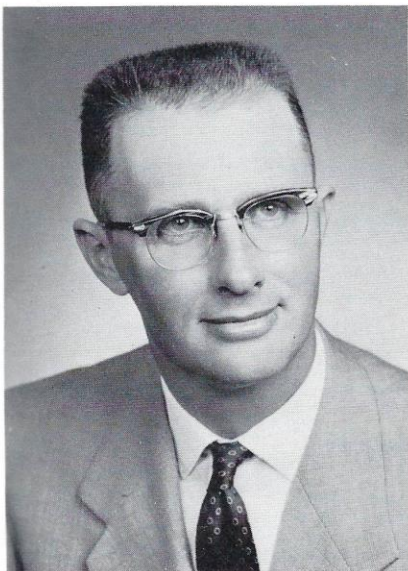


LEONARD PETERSON
Secretary

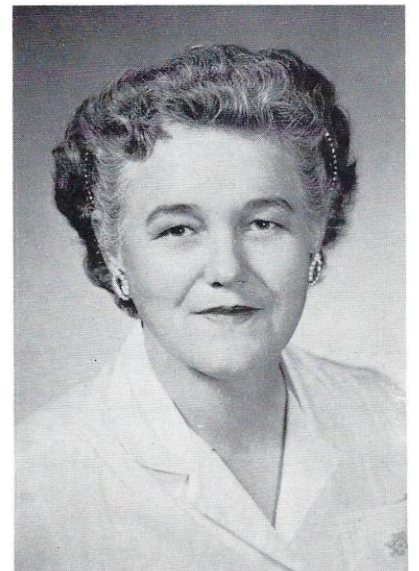


ELMER STOFFERS

WILLIS PETERSON



MRS. HELEN STAREK



AR-WE-VA School Board 1961



Family photo from 1955 of the family Marie, Leonard, Phil, and Sylvia.
Taken family home Vail, Iowa



.Leonard Baker Ethel Huckstep Baker North
1950

Dad was born February 27, 1913 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.¹ The family moved to Sparks, Nevada and Guy Leonard Baker, where his father, died on January 6, 1914.² After Guy's death Ethel Amelia Huckstep Baker and son moved back to Vail, Crawford County, Iowa in January 1914 they lived with her parents near Deloit, Iowa. Ethel later kept house for Tracy North and another man on a farm two miles west of Vail. Ethel Huckstep Baker married Tracy North on June 28, 1917.³ Family tradition states that Dad sat in his chair the night they were married because "*mother said she would be back*". Tracy North was the maternal grandson of Tracy Chapman. In 1856 Tracy Chapman was an early settler in the Mason's Grove area, Deloit, Crawford County, Iowa along with John Benjamin Huckstep, the grandfather of Ethel Amelia Huckstep Baker.

The Tracy North family lived in the Vail region except for a brief time about 1918 when the family lived in Colby, Thomas County, Kansas. The family moved to Colby on a train taking a large steam tractor but the tractor broke down in the field and the farming conditions were very difficult. Tracy left the tractor in the field and moved the family back to Iowa. Dad attended school for part of a year in Colby, Thomas County, Kansas.

The family lived in a farmhouse built by Dick Kenny⁴ two miles west of Vail, Iowa where the rest of the children were born. (Evelyn Grace North Abbott, b. Aug. 18, 1921; Jewell Marie North Van Dusen, b. Sept. 27, 1919; Earl Franklin North, b. May 23, 1918; Allen Thomas North, b. May 2, 1924) At that time houses had few closets because the taxes were higher for each closet in the house. In about 1928 the family moved into Vail but spent the summers on the farm.

In 1930 the family moved to the “Rundlett” farm immediately west of Vail on U.S. Highway 30. There was an icehouse and pond for ice making and storage on the farm. The family sold ice to the people of Vail which was cut during the winter and packed in layers in a large building. Sawdust was placed between and on top of the layers of ice to prevent melting.⁵

The 1920 Iowa Census, Crawford County, Milford Township, page 798 lists the following:

		Age	Bir.Pl.	Fr.Pl.	Bir.	Mo.Pl.	Bir.
North, Tracy	Head	27	Iowa	England		England	
Ethel	Wife	31	Iowa	Illinois		Michigan	
Leonard	Son	6	Iowa	Iowa		Iowa	
Earl	Son	2	Iowa	Iowa		Iowa	
Jewell M.	Dau	7/12	Iowa	Iowa		Iowa	
Huckstep, Earl*	Hired Man	17	Iowa	Iowa		Iowa	

Dad was never adopted by Tracy North even though this 1920 Census lists his name as North.

*Earl Huckstep, cousin of Ethel Huckstep Baker North, was the son of James Bertram and Helen Elizabeth Crampton Huckstep and grandson of John Benjamin and Martha Ann Bryant Huckstep. John Benjamin and Martha Huckstep were the grandparents of Ethel Huckstep Baker North.

Dad was five to eleven years older than the rest of the children and had to work very hard on the farm. They milked many cows plus they did an extensive amount of field work on the farm. There were always extra hired men living in the family home and occasionally the men would bring pests into the house. Ethel would have to throw the bedding out of the windows and burn it. Ethel would cook for the hired men and her family.



Leonard driving tractor cutting grain

When Tracy North died he did not will any of his estate to Dad. Before his marriage Dad

was expected to do the major portion of the children's work for the family. Tracy North and his son, Allen North, were in government legal difficulties ⁶ with the Vail Elevator grain storage contracts and Dad borrowed money against his farm to cover their misuse of funds. This money was never fully repaid and in the end was lost by Dad and Mom. This event caused life-long family distress for them.

Dad attended grade school, District. 7, Milford Township, in a one room school west of Vail called "*Sunnyside*" and graduated in 1926. He received an award that year for perfect attendance. His grades were 90-95. He then attended the Vail Public High School in Vail, Iowa graduating in 1930 at the age of seventeen.

Dad was a very good athlete in high school. In 1930 the Vail High School team won the Crawford County Track and Field meet that year with Denison coming in second. The Vail Observer May 21, 1930 reported that "*Baker won the 120 yard tall hurdles, the 100 yard dash, the 220 yard dash and was the anchor on the winning one mile relay*". In winning the mile relay the Observer reported that "*Baker did his segment beautifully.*" ⁷ The Observer further stated:

"It was a fine win; the boys wear their honors gracefully, with a little justifiable pride but no boasting and no conceit. It was a matter of work, earnestness and the will to win. The boys felt that the Vail businessmen were back of them for a long time. Every patron of our school affairs played a part in the winning of the meet; every business man who said an encouraging word, every cheer from the side line---they all helped lots. True, certain cows in the community waited of an evening for her pailing--but what's time to a bovine and what's milk to a winning track meet." ⁸

Vail won the meet with 52 points, Denison 47, Manilla 23, Dow City 18, Kiron 3, and Schleswig 1. Vail High School won this Coon Valley Conference track and field meet in Carroll, Iowa over several schools including Marshalltown. Leonard competed in the District track meet in Council Bluffs, Iowa and was second in the 220, fourth in the 100, and anchored the third place mile relay team. He competed at Ames, Iowa for the State track meet.



Dad was the center on the basketball team that also included Earl Whiteing, Joseph Stone, and Robert Evans of their senior class.

The Vail High School Baccalaureate service was May 18, 1930 in the Presbyterian Church. The sermon, entitled “*Work*”, was given by Rev. J.G. Reinhardt.⁹

On May 23, 1930 the graduation ceremonies were held in the Woodman opera house in Vail with Prof. Charles Bongardt of Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska delivering the address in the Woodman Hall, Vail, Iowa. Six boys and six girls were in the Vail High School graduating class of 1930. The class members were Leonard Baker, Alice Brockelsby, Robert Evans, Laverne Crane, Joseph Stone, Elsie Mason, Earl Whiteing, Dorothy North, Clair Watson, Evelyn Quaintance, Lloyd Yankey, and Marie Vivian Yankey.¹⁰

“*Work*” was the theme of the times. The Great Depression of the 1930’s was just beginning. Dad worked for Tracy North on the farm, the grain elevator and in the Conoco service station. He dated Marie Vivian Yankey while she was enrolled in the Nursing School at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska graduating on June 4, 1934.

Dad attended Iowa State Teachers College for one summer but continued working for Tracy North and then began farming. He also drove a truck to and from Vail to Boone, Iowa to haul coal from the mines near Boone. The coal was delivered to the Vail lumberyard. Dad drove the truck in the daytime and Tracy North drove at night.

Dad wrote a letter to his half-sister, Grace North, on May 29, 1935. The letter includes the following:

“Say you have not told me how you are going to like your new sister-in-law. I think you are going to like her ok. She is a pretty good girl don’t you think so. Anyway I am satisfied and I don’t care what you think.

I can tell you some news. Robert Whiting is going to get married Sat. He is another young man that has played his last tune. I am not a bit jealous of him for I know I am getting the best girl.” Signed: Your Onery Brother, “guess which one”¹¹

A letter from Alice Yankey married to Lloyd Yankey, Marie’s brother, to Grace North on May 22, 1935 told of Dad and Mom’s engagement party. The letter reports:

“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 ones plate. For dessert we had ice cream and 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.”¹²

“Oh, I forgot to tell you all who were guests at Marie’s dinner. They were Opal Y. & Earl W., Robert W. and Ruth Rollins, Elsie Mason, Joe Stone, Lloyd & I, and of course Marie & Leonard made up the ten at the long table. There were four pink candles two on either end and a little green potted plant in the center. There were little pink baskets filled with peppermints & peanuts with our names written on a little place card attached to the basket.”¹³

On September 27, 1935 Dad and Mom were married in the Presbyterian Church, Vail, Iowa. Reverend Emery E. Zimmerman officiated at the ceremony with Elsie Marie Mason maid of honor and Joseph Stone as best man. Both of the attendants were high school classmates of Dad and Mom. They went on their honeymoon with Joseph Stone as Leonard did not have a car. Vivian Kelly, Dad’s geography and physiology teacher, writing in his commencement book suggested that Leonard should “*sell your car*”.

A reception was held in their home after the wedding for the immediate families of the couple. The home was described as “*the former Adam Short residence*”.¹⁴ That evening a wedding dance was held in the Woodman Hall of Vail, Iowa with Vince Gallagher and his Orchestra furnishing the music.

In 1936 during the Great Depression and Midwest drought Mom and Dad moved to near Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon to work in the orchards and fields of the Rogue River valley. I was born February 16, 1937 in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. A discussion of their reasons for going to Oregon are discussed in the biography of Marie Baker.

In May of 1937 the family returned to Vail, Iowa. They lived in two different houses in the town of Vail while Dad worked for his stepfather, Tracy North, in the grain elevator, on the farm and in the Conoco Service Station. In 1940 Dad and Mom purchased a farm on the north and east edge of Vail owned by Leonard Dieter and they began farming and feeding beef cattle. The original farm was purchased on contract from the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, Nebraska in 1940 and deeded to Leonard and Marie Yankey Baker on February 2, 1945.¹⁵ An additional adjacent farm was purchased from Angela Henkenius on February 27, 1953.¹⁶

The my parent's farm on the north edge of the town of Vail was the site of a brick yard that began about 1885. The bricks were said to be "*as fine as any ever made in this part of the state, they are of the best shape and quality, doing great credit to the proprietors, Messrs. Mosher and Britton.*"¹⁷ The brick yard was visible at the time that the farm was purchased by Dad. The site was covered over and is now farmland.

On March 24, 1942 Sylvia Ann Baker Lochmiller was born in Denison, Crawford County, Iowa.

The total farm was 320 acres in the South 1/2 of Section 19, Township 84, Range 37 West adjacent to Vail, Crawford County, Iowa. The large two-story brick farm home had all hard-wood floors and a coal fired hot water heating system. Dad tilled about ninety acres of farmland adjacent to U.S. Highway 30 which became very productive farmland and he was one of the first to use commercial liquid nitrogen fertilizer on corn. Leonard feed many cattle that were bought as calves in Nebraska and Wyoming and the fat cattle were shipped to Omaha, Nebraska by truck or to Chicago, Illinois via the railroad to the stock yards. Dad would travel with the cattle to be present at the time of the sale.

Initially grain was put up in shocks and hauled by horses to the threshing machine. Large groups of neighbors would gather and assist each other in this process of loading the grain shocks on wagons and then driving the horse teams to the threshing machine but with the introduction of the combine the threshing machine was no longer used. I remember working in the straw pile created by the threshing machine. It was very dusty and dirty work to stack the straw.

Mom and Dad enjoyed following the athletic teams attending every basketball game in which Sylvia and I were involved. In the summer the family would vacation at Lake Okoboji, Iowa where they would fish. Mom enjoyed fishing and was a very good fisherwoman.

Mom and Dad were members and regular attendees of the United Presbyterian Church, Vail, Iowa and held many positions in the church. The April 6, 1947 Easter church bulletin¹⁸ 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 Lay Delegates to the National Presbyterian Conference in New York City. This trip took three weeks as they traveled via Canada to New York. Dad was also a member and officer in the Men's Council of the

Presbyterian Church. He was also a member to the Building Finance Committee when the new Vail Presbyterian Church was built in 1970.

Dad built and operated a locker plant and purchased the adjacent grocery store in Vail. He rented both to Marvin Rehbein. Leonard had purchased this store from Don Carlberg. The locker plant adjacent to the grocery store was used for meat and frozen goods storage by members of the Vail community before the widespread use of home freezers. Dad, William Blair or I would haul cattle or hogs from local farmers to the locker plant for slaughtering. Dad later sold the grocery store and locker plant to Marvin Rehbein. This store was called Marvin's Provisions and was later purchased and operated by Dick Blair. William Blair, brother of Dick Blair, worked many years for the our family.

William (Bill) Blair was a lifelong friend of the family and was like a son to Dad and brother to me. Bill, as he was known, and I defrosted this locker two times a year. The coolant was reversed (causing heat) and the ice loosened from the pipes near the ceiling. We then scrapped the ice off the pipes and hauled it to the front gutter in bushel baskets. This was hard and cold work that took about one day to complete.

Dad was a fifty-year member of the Diamond Lodge # 422 A.F. & A.M. and was a Worthy Patron of the Olive Branch No. 205, Order of Eastern Star in Vail. In 1943 Leonard was Master of Diamond Lodge No. 422 in Vail, Iowa.¹⁹

He was a member and president of the Vail Public School Board that was instrumental in obtaining school buses for the Vail Public Schools but school buses were a very contentious topic at the time. He was also a school board member and a major supporter for consolidation of the schools of Arcadia, Westside and Vail, Iowa to form Ar-We-Va High School. He served many years on the school boards of both high schools and was president of both boards.²⁰ He was a member of the first Ar-We-Va school board.

Dad was on the Crawford County, Iowa Selective Service Board for many years. He received a Certificate of Appreciation for his uncompensated service signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. He was also on the Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison, Iowa Board of Trustees for many years.



WRITE YOUR RECIPES HERE 19

1940
 Mrs. Huckstep your Mother's
 recipe. She always had a bottle of this
 liniment that she made.

Liniment - Recipe
 Take a 2 qt. bottle
 + put in
 Oil of Origanum _____
 Chloroform _____
 Sulphuric _____ 1
 Oil of Sassafras. 1/2
 Hemlock - 1/2
 Wintergreen - 1/2
 anise - 1/2
 Spirits of turpentine 1/2
 aqua ammonia 1/2
 add last alcohol. 1 qt.

1 qt.
 keep well corked

**Ethel Huckstep Baker North
 Liniment Recipe***

Take a two quart bottle
 and put in

- Oil of Origanum 1 oz.
- Chloroform 1 oz.
- Sulphuric 1 oz.
- Oil of Sassafras 1/2 oz.
- Wintergreen 1/2 oz.
- Anise 1/2 oz.
- Spirits of Turpentine 1/2 oz.
- Aqua Ammonia 1/2 oz.
- Hemlock 1/2 oz.
- Add last alcohol 1 qt

Keep well corked

*She kept a bottle of this
 all of the time for use as
 a rubbing liniment.



**Leonard and Marie Baker
Home Vail, Iowa
Christmas
1978**

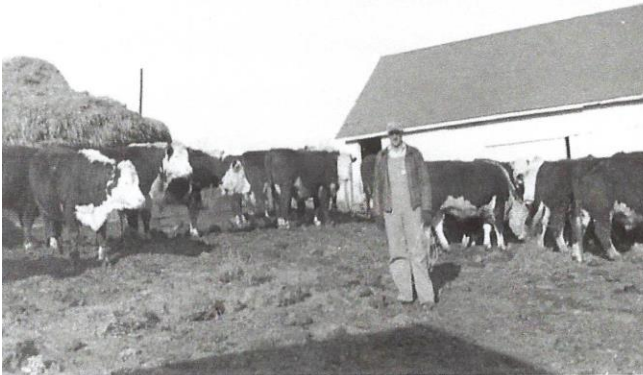
Christmas was their favorite holiday.



**Leonard and Marie Baker
Motor Home
1982**

**During their retirement
Leonard and Marie traveled extensively
by motor home.**

**Leonard Baker fed large numbers of cattle
for several decades before
the large feeding lots of
the packing plants developed.**



**Leonard Baker
Cattle Feeding
c.1950**



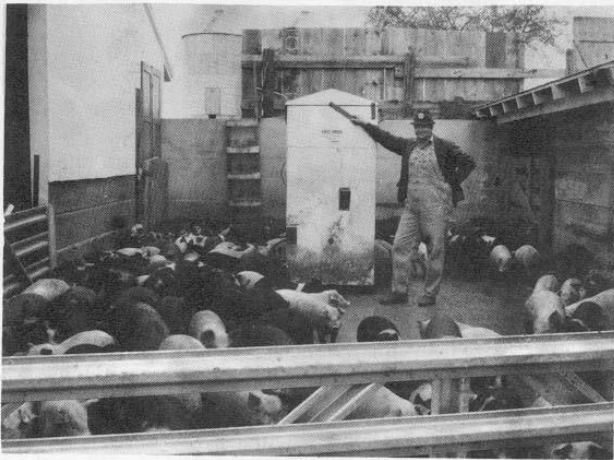
**Leonard and Marie Yankey Baker
Vail Cemetery
Vail, Crawford County, Iowa**

In 1950 Dad and Allen North, step-brother-in-law, established a confinement hog feeding operation in Vail, Iowa. This feeding operation was one of the first of its type in the area. Below Dad is standing in a feed lot of hogs for Triple "F" Feeds.

**TRIPLE "F"
FEEDS**

Allen North Grain Co.

Vail, Iowa



Leonard Baker

**Gruel-Omatic
Liquid Feeders**

**Vail, Iowa
c. 1950**

Westside Elevator Co.

Westside, Iowa

**Allen North, Les Jensen
Dewey Hargens, Leonard Baker**



During their retirement years Mom and Dad traveled extensively in a motor home and they also enjoyed visits from their families and grandchildren. Mom would always prepare huge amounts of food including several meats, salads, desserts, breads, pies, and cakes for these family meals. 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, homemade ice cream and coffee. Homemade ice cream with toppings of chocolate, butterscotch, and strawberries and cakes and cookies followed the meal. Mom and Dad liked to cook Iowa beef rare and did a good deal of barbecue grilling.

Dad had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh. Christmas was his favorite Holiday. He would often wrap small gifts and place the box inside another box and wrap that box. Dad would continue this process until there was a very large package to place under the Christmas tree. The recipient would have a wonderful time unwrapping the packages. He would often just put instructions inside the inner box as to where to find the present that might then be wrapped in a totally different box. He would crack open English walnuts, remove the nut meat, and then he would put a dollar or five-dollar bill into the walnut shell and carefully glue the shell together. These shells with the money inside would be wrapped together with other walnuts in a large box. The grand children would shake the boxes to determine what was in the box. They would have to crack all of the walnuts to find their money.

Dad was a hard-working man and was neat and tidy with his farm. The corn rows were straight and the weeds always mowed or sprayed. Initially corn was planted using planter wire with knots at regular intervals which allowed the corn seed to be dropped by the planter at exact distances. If the was done properly the corn could be cultivated with the rows and across the rows. This planting was always done by Dad to make sure that it was accurately done. This method of planting and cultivating was done for weed and grass control before the days of herbicides.

Mother died on January 26, 1986 in Clarkson Hospital, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. Leonard did not emotionally recover from her death as he loved his wife very much and continually thought about her. His children and grandchildren gave him great joy but he did not overcome the feeling of loss after Mom died. Leonard wrote in his private file on April 29, 1986 the following:

*“If one did not LOVE one so much it would not hurt so much. Marie was one special person. I realize it more every day. I do hope she knows, I am sure she does. I know that we are here but a short time, just passing through. There will be a better day when we will meet our loved ones. I am sure of this. Faith is about all there is left. I also want you to know I LOVE each and every one of my family”.*²¹

Dad died on March 30, 1988 in the Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison, Iowa.

The obituary of Leonard Baker is reported in the Vail Observer as follows.

“Leonard A. Baker was born February 27, 1913, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, the son of Guy and Ethel Huckstep Baker. He was raised on a farm near Vail and was graduated from the Vail High School with the Class of 1930. He attended Iowa Teachers College in Cedar Falls for one semester. Following his education and prior to his marriage he was employed in the Vail area.

On September 27, 1935 Leonard united in marriage with Marie Yankey at the Vail Presbyterian Church in Vail. To this union were born two children, Phillip and Sylvia. They made their home in Vail until 1936 when they moved to Oregon. In 1937, they returned to the Vail area where he farmed. The Baker’s spent their retirement years in Vail where they had the opportunity to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in the fall of 1985. Marie died on January 26, 1986, and Leonard continued to reside at this home in Vail where he maintained an active interest in his farming operation the rest of his life.

Leonard died Wednesday morning, March 30, 1988 at the Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison. At the time of his passing he had attained the age of 75 years, 1 month, and 3 days.

Leonard was a lifetime, active member of the United Presbyterian Church in Vail where he had served as an elder and trustee and was currently a member of the Men’s Council. In earlier years he had served as a Lay Delegate for the Sioux City Presbytery. He was a 50-year member of the Diamond Lodge #422, A.F. & A.M. in Vail, and a member of the Olive Branch No. 205, Order of Eastern Star in Vail. He had served several terms on the Vail and Ar-We-Va school boards and the Crawford County Selective Service Board. From 1973 until 1984 he was a member of the Crawford County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

Leonard was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife, Marie; and one brother, Earl.

Left to cherish his memories are his son, Dr. Phillip Baker and his wife, Betty, of Topeka, KS; his daughter, Sylvia Lochmiller, of Des Moines; four grandchildren, Barry Lochmiller and his wife Brenda of Naples, FL, Christine Lochmiller, of Storm Lake, Nancy Baker and Susan Baker of Topeka, KS; two sisters, Jewell Van Dusen of Denison and Grace Abbott and her husband Clair of Boone; one brother Allen North and his wife Emmy Lou of Vail; two sisters-in-law Mary North and Alice Yankey both of Vail; and his step-mother-in-law, Gladys Yankey of Missouri Valley. Also surviving are a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Masonic services were held at 8:00 p.m. Friday, April 1, 1988 at the Pfannebecker Funeral Home in Denison with the Diamond Lodge #422, A.F. & A.M., Vail, conducting the service.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 2, 1988 at the Presbyterian Church in Vail with the Rev. Harold McConnell of Rice Landing, PA, officiating. Music for the service was provided by Glenn Freese singing 'All The Way My Savior Leads Me' 'His Eye Is On The Sparrow' Beyond The Sunset'. Kevin Freese served as organist for the services.

Honorary pall bearers included: Wanda Truckee, Alice Hawley, Eileen Allender, Joe Stone, Clair Abbott, Dale Crane, F. Earl Whiteing, Everett Crane, Raynard Schmidt, Howard Iverson, James W. North, Irvin Slechta, Edwin Magill, Al Bauer, Jack Simonsen, and Jack Powers. Casket bearers were William Blair, Royce Noelck, Robert Hawley, Ted Hawley, Charles Ballantine, and Wesley Stoelk. Interment was in the Vail Cemetery at Vail.”²²

Sources:

History of Crawford County Iowa, A.T. Andreas, 1875

1920 Crawford County Atlas

Commencement Memories, Leonard Baker, 1930

Atlas of Crawford County, Midwest Atlas Company, 1965

Crawford County Plat Book, Farm & Home Publishers, 1966

Leonard Albert Baker, autobiographical and personal records

Phillip Leonard Baker, family records

Sylvia Ann Baker Lochmiller, family records

Grace North Abbott, family records

Iowa Census records

Crawford County, Iowa, Marriage records

Vail Observer, Vail, Iowa

Death Certificate, Guy L. Baker, Washoe County, Nevada, January 1914

Obituary, Guy L. Baker, January 1914

Death Certificate, Cordelia Cooley Baker, Douglas County, Nebraska, August 6, 1922

Crawford County History, Dick Knowles, Publisher, Denison, Iowa, 1987

Phillip Leonard Baker, M.D.

Topeka, Kansas

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¹ Birth Certificate, Leonard Albert Baker, Iowa State Department of Health, Delayed Certificate of Birth, 1964

² Death Certificate, Guy Leonard Baker, Washoe County, Nevada, January 1914

³ Iowa, Crawford County, Iowa, Marriage Book No. 9, page 461, 1917

⁴ Grace North Abbott, personal communication with the author

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Des Moines Register, Des Moines, Iowa

⁷ Vail Observer, Vail, Iowa, Wednesday, May 21, 1930

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Letter, Leonard Albert Baker to Grace North, May 29, 1935, copy in records of the author. He had previously dated Ruth Rollins, Robert Whiteing's future wife.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Wedding, Leonard and Marie Vivian Yankey Baker, Vail Observer, Vail, Iowa, September 1935

¹⁵ Real Estate Record, Crawford County, Iowa, No. 309, 1945

¹⁶ Real Estate Record, Crawford County, Iowa, Book 57, No. 242, 1953

¹⁷ *A History of Crawford County, Iowa*, Richard Knowles, Publisher, Denison, Iowa, 1987

¹⁸ First Presbyterian Church, Easter Service, April 6, 1947, Vail, Iowa

¹⁹ *History of Crawford County, Richard Knowles*, Publisher, Denison, Iowa, 1987

²⁰ Personal records of the author

²¹ Leonard Baker, personal records, 1986, copy in possession of the author

²² Obituary, Leonard Albert Baker, Vail Observer, Vail, Iowa, April 1988