

(Handwritten date: Monday, September 9, 1940)

DAVID BAKER, LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN IN COUNTY IS DEAD
Adams County's Final Veteran of War of States Died Last Sunday Night
RITES WEDNESDAY

Taps were sounded last night for Adams county's last member in the rapidly diminishing ranks of the veterans of the Civil War, when David Baker, 93, succumbed at his home in Blue Creek township.

Mr. Baker, who until a short time ago was unusually spry considering his advanced age, lived more than a year after the names of all other Civil War veterans of the county had been inscribed on the honorary roll of the dead.

During the last decade, the county had boasted four living Civil War veterans. They were Silas Hale of Geneva, R. A. Drummond of Root township, William Parr of near Berne and Mr. Baker. Then Father Time began taking his toll and they died in that order, Parr's death occurring little more than a year ago.

Mr. Baker had not been seriously ill and his death came rather suddenly, although he had not been in good health since last November. On April 6, of this year, he posed for a photograph with French Quinn, local honorary member of the G.A.R.

Sunday morning he arose early as was his custom and chatted with his son, Curtis B. Baker, with whom he made his home. Before noon, however, he complained of feeling ill and a physician was summoned. The physician left medicine, which the son administered until his father's death about 10 p.m. (CDT)

Mr. Baker, a staunch-hearted patriotic youth of 16, enlisted in the ranks of the Union army in February, 1863. His enlistment was made with Company G, 54th Ohio infantry - with the Ohio infantry since his home was in Willshire, Ohio at that time. For 18 months he served with the "Boys in Blue," before receiving an honorable discharge.

He returned to his native Wabash township, Adams county residence and had resided there most of the time after the war, living for a short time again in Willshire.

Mr. Baker was born on September 5, 1847, the son of Henry and Mary Frank-Baker, pioneer mid-west settlers. He was married to Sarah Weimer, who preceded him in death 17 years ago. He was the last of a large family of brothers and sisters.

Surviving besides the son, Curtis B., is another son, Charles F., who lives near Roanoke in Allen county. Mr. Baker was an active member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and the G.A.R., until his age and health forced him to retire. He also attended church at the Willshire Methodist church as long as his health permitted.

FUNERAL WEDNESDAY

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock (CDT) at the home, (cut off) ...south of Pleasant Mills, and 2:30 o'clock at the Willshire Methodist church. Burial will be in the Willshire cemetery.

Military funeral rites are to be held at the grave. Officers of Adams Post No. 43, American Legion are to meet tonight to arrange for these services.

The body was taken to the Buchanan funeral home at Willshire and was to be returned to the residence late this afternoon. The body may be viewed until time for the services on Wednesday.

Adams County Historical Museum

1940 Scrapbook, image 150

Transcribed by Karin King

OLD SOLDIER DIES

Decatur, Sept. 9 -

David Baker, 93, died unexpectedly Sunday night at his home near Pleasant Mills. He was Adams County's last surviving Civil War veteran.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 pm (CDT) at the residence and at 2:30 pm at the Methodist Church at Willshire, O.

The Decatur American Legion Post will conduct military rights.

Journal-Gazette, Fort Wayne, IN; September 10, 1940

CIVIL WAR VET DIES SUDDENLY

David Baker, 93, Last Survivor in Adams County, Expires

Decatur, Sept. 9 -

David Baker, 93, Adams County's last surviving Civil War veteran, died at 10 o'clock Sunday night at his home in Blue Creek Township, three miles south of Pleasant Mills.

The veteran had not been seriously ill and his death was unexpected. He arose early as usual Sunday morning but about noon complained of feeling ill. A physician was summoned and administered medicine, but the veteran died last night.

Surviving are two sons, Curtis B. with whom he lived and Charles F. near Roanoke. Baker was a member of the Willshire, O., Methodist Church and the Knights of Pythias.

Funeral services will be held at the home at 2 pm (CDT) Wednesday and at 2:30 at the church. Burial will be in the Willshire Cemetery. Military services will be conducted by Adams Post No 43, American Legion of Decatur.

David Baker was born September 5, 1847, in Wabash Township. He enlisted in the Union Army on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1864, by misrepresenting his age, as he was only 16 at the time. He was detailed to Company G, 54th Ohio Regiment, and took part in Gen. Sherman's March through Georgia. He was on picket duty at Atlanta when the Confederate forces blew up their arsenal before surrendering. He was mustered out at Camp Dennison, O., August 15, 1865.

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Both contributed by Jim Cox