

Horace Mann Baker 1842-1919

Ancestor of Jean Davis Baker

Horace Mann Baker, son of Hiram Baker and Caroline Eleanor Cullum, was born in the Republic of Texas, June 16, 1842, a fact of which he was inordinately proud . He attended school at Chapel Hill School, Daingerfield, Texas until he was 12 years of age.

About 1855 his mother, then a widow, fearing that a civil war was likely to happen, gathered her family, consisting of Horace, a younger son. and an infant daughter. She struck out across wild Indian country to her children's uncle in Wisconsin. Horace was living there when the great War Between the States erupted. Horace. upon the call of President Lincoln, enlisted as a private in the local state militia, which was mustered into federal service on 12 October 1861 as Co. K, 8th Wisconsin (Volunteer) Infantry. His unit saw combat in many battles on the "Western Front." He was wounded once, was captured once and paroled. He contracted a serious chronic illness, which dogged him for the rest of his life.

On the 16th of September 1864, upon completion of his term of enlistment, he was discharged at Memphis, Tennessee. (See Pension Records #276035 and #632683, National Archives). During the war, Horace corresponded with his sweetheart, Miss Caroline O. Meacham, and soon after his return from the war, they were married in nearby Lyonsdale. Wisconsin. The cold Wisconsin aggravated his illness, and he longed to return to his beloved Texas.

His brother had returned to Texas, settling in Weatherford, In 1880 Horace and his family followed. Horace was never well. Making a living for his family was almost impossible. His pension helped them to get by. However, in one terrible week in 1906, he lost both his dear wife and his mother during an influenza epidemic. For thirteen long years he lived a widower, and then on the 6th day of September, 1919 he joined them in death.

They lay buried in the old City, Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford. Before his death he ordered that his tombstone be engraved with the words, "Born in the Republic of Texas." In 1989, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas caused his grave to be marked with "Citizen of the Republic of Texas" marker.