

FRANCIS BAKER

Francis Baker, son of John and Grace Bone Baker, was born in North Petherwin Parish, Devonshire, England, December, 1845. He was the fifth of a family of nine and at the age of three was brought to America where the family settled in the town of Troy, Walworth county. His childhood and youth were spent in the normal round of pioneer activities. In early manhood he attended Milton academy, now Milton college, two winter sessions, and for a few years subsequently, taught the winter term in various schools in the southern part of the state.

On October 14, 1879, he married Lydia Ann Duffin and established a home on Section 33 of Eagle township where his active life has been spent. To this union were born five children: John Earl, adviser to the Chinese government; Sarah Alice, teacher of biology in Eau Claire high school; Lenna Grace (Mrs. Ray Hulce); Aurel (Mrs. Harold Pardee), who as a Red cross nurse was in service on the Russian, Belgian and American fronts during the World War; and a son who died at birth. His wife, the four named children and together with four grandchildren and three younger brothers, James, Richard and Alfred survive. Some nine years ago he purchased the home within the village of Eagle where he lived a nominally retired life until his death, September 26.

In politics Mr. Baker was an independent and never was a candidate for public office. From early manhood he was a member of the Methodist church in whose work he took an active part. Industrious, cautious and thrifty, he was able to participate in the general improvement of the times and to acquire a modest competence. His life was one of the constructive forces of the neighborhood in which he lived and his achievements were of the substantial kind necessary to progressive communities. Of him it may truly be said that he had

The splendid strength of hearts

That he must have who plays

A common, toilsome part

Emeticed by the great, yet does it

With the brave wish in his breast,

That he may serve mankind

Where he may serve the best."