

BAKER, _____? BAKER?

William Fourn Journal, (MSS in A. P. H.S.) p.24.

(William Fourn, George Coöler, and others are on their way to Arizona from New Mexico, 1863.)

Now we got to Mimbres river, a nice little stream, one of the Butterfield deserted mail stations. There were a few California Volunteer soldiers stationed there to protect the horseback mail carried by soldiers.

There we picked up a Dutchman. We called him Baker. He used to be a baker up in the Pinos Altos Mine when that camp was lively and had a good business until the Indians killed his partner while he was coming back from New Mexico with a four-mule team loaded with flour and dried fruit for the baker's shop.. The Indians killed him and took all he had and then came up to the mine and boasted what they had done

This Dutch baker got mad at the Indians and he must have revenge. So the first hard work he did after his partner was killed was to buy strychnine and he had to send away for it. Took a week. In the meantime he sold a little whiskey to the Indians, not enough to make them drunk, just give them a taste, and was quite liberal towards the Indians , gave or sold them bread cheap.

Nor the poison has come and he fixes about 10 gallons of whiskey and also bread for the redskins. He knew about when the day was when there would be lots in camp. So he gave or sold whiskey or bread to the red devils. Well he made a totle for the day's work killing about 50 Indians and making that many more sick. Of course they were lying around the willow brush like sheep, so the doctor

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was called. He found out that they were poisoned. The baker was arrested, took to New Mexico and stuck in jail. Of course he only was kept there a day ~~xxxxxx~~ and was given a chance to break out and he skipped for old Mexico and was on his way back to California when we met him.

*also copied and
filed under
Weaver*

William Fourr's Journal, (manuscript in A. P. H. S.) p. 227-228.

The Baker and Weaver fight at **Skull Valley**:- This is the same Baker that poisoned the Indians at Pines Altos. Old man Weaver is an old trapper. Now in company with Baker from **Skull Valley to Prescott**, on the divide or mountain between the two places, into a band of Apaches. They had one gun and Baker had a pistol. In trying to get behind some rocks and running through the brush, Baker lost his pistol. Now the Indians were coming onto them. The first fire from the Indians they crippled the old pioneer, Weaver, so he had to lay down behind some rocks. Also they shot Baker in the arm. Now the Indians saw they had the best of the fight, so they kept closing in on them. Weaver kept telling Baker to just point his gun at them but not to shoot. Baker got tired of that and said he was going to kill the first one that stuck his head up. Weaver told him, "Just as soon as you shoot they will close in on us, for they will know that you have an empty gun," for this gun was a muzzle loader. Oh! If it had been a breech loader the Indians would not have had any show whatsoever. Old man Weaver made him a cigarette and went to smoking. That made Baker mad. "How can you smoke and crippled so bad and me trying to keep them red devils off of us?" "Well, I will smoke even if I was half dead. You just keep that gun pointed at them when one bobs his head above a rock, and they may leave us". "Yes", says Baker, "they will starve us out". "Oh", says Weaver, "they will go away by dark". This fight began about ten o'clock in the morning; about two o'clock the Indians pulled

out. Why did the Indians go off? Because they saw some men coming about five miles away. They were some miners coming up behind them, well armed, and the Indians had seen them, but Baker and Weaver did not know any thing about.

Now the party caught up and put old man Weaver on one of their animals and brought his to Prescott, and he died from the wound..

Baker, I saw him a few days after the fight. He showed me his arm, where the Indians had shot him with an arrow, and the arrow point shattered the bone so that he lived a month or so, but died from the effects of the shot or arrow point.

This was 28 years ago and little did I think when I saw Baker the last time that I would write his history up --- Well, Baker got many an Indians before they got him. Now so has many a good man been killed by the Apaches.

What has been written in this book I can swear to and so can others.
