

# BAKER, JOHN

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- BAKER, JOHN; born at Bordeaux, France, 1838; married (1) Ramona Valenzuela (1858-1885) at Tucson, 1874; (2) Refugia Valaig at Nogales, A. T., March 27, 1900; children, Edward John, Jr., Lena B. (Mrs. Manuel F. Aguirre), Bonafacia (Mrs. John Shoenen), Marcella (Mrs. Alberto Martinez) and Cecilia (Mrs. Pedro Villegas).

Enlisted at Sacramento, California, September 27, 1861, to serve three years as Private, Captain William F. French's Company D, 5th California Infantry; went by sea with the Company to New San Diego, California and stationed there from January 25, 1862 to January 3, 1863; marched to Fort Yuma, arriving January 18, was on detached service carrying express to Tucson during February end March; deserted at Fort Yuma, April 5, 1863; eleven other soldiers deserted from the company during that month which caused the Company Clerk to make the following notation on the muster roll:

"The desertions in April, 1863 are mainly, if not wholly, attributable to the privations which the men had to endure from being fourteen months without pay and to their having been recently paid for twelve months in currency depreciated fifty per cent, in the midst of a region abounding with gold, silver and other mines, which offer great temptations to the adventurous. The additional circumstances of being ordered to march to Tucson, Arizona, distant about three hundred miles, the intense heat to be endured and the well known scarcity of water on desert portions of the route, have no doubt some influence in producing the result."

Apprehended at San Diego, California, October 14, 1863; restored to duty without trial on condition that he make good the time lost by desertion and transferred to Company C. 4th California Infantry, December 11, 1863; honorably discharged on expiration of term of service at Drum Barracks, California, April 5, 1865.

Resided in Los Angeles until 1871 when he moved to Tucson; in 1874 he had "a neat and pleasant bath house on Mesilla Street with warm and cold water baths for the low price of fifty cents"; was one of the proprietors of a French Restaurant next door to the Palace Hotel, 1878; naturalized as an American Citizen, July 15, 1878; member of the Society of Arizona Pioneers, 1888 occupation Milkman; comrade Negley Post No 1, G.A.R. Tucson 1892-94; moved to what became Santa Cruz County, A.T., where he served as Constable at Patagonia, 1899-1900; his obituary in the Tucson

Star states:

In the 37 years he spent in Arizona, he had followed almost every available line of business. He had been soldier, merchant, ranchman, barber, section boss on the railroad, second hand dealer, saloonkeeper, prospector, contractor and Indian fighter. He was always a hardworking, industrious citizen and was respected by his neighbors and associates.

At the time of his death was the owner of lots 1 and 4, Block 75, City of Tucson which the Administrator sold for \$832.76; died at his home, 309, Fourth Avenue, Tucson, Arizona, February 2, 1908, aged 70; his funeral was conducted by the Pioneers and the Grand Army Post and services were held at the Cathedral; buried Catholic Cemetary, Tucson, Arizona.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, Tucson - Membership Book, 1888

By Laws, Negley Post No. 1, G. A. R., Tucson, 1892, P. 15.

Orton, R. H. - Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion,  
Sacramento, 1890, pp. 619, 691

W. P. A. - Archives of Santa Cruz County, 1941, P. 272

U. S. Veterans Administration - Pension records, C 2, 499, 931

Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service records.

Probate Court of Pima County, A. T., Docket No. 1786.

Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, February 4, 1908 - (Obituary)

The Tucson Citizen - February 3, 1908, P. 5, Col. 4, - (Obituary)

~~See Great Register of Pima County for residence and occupations.~~