

ALLEN S. BAKER CALLED HOME BY DEATH ANGEL

A pall of gloom settled over the community last Sunday when it was learned that the death angel had called Honorable Allen S. Baker to his eternal home, death coming at 12:15 after a brief illness from la grippe and heart trouble.

Mr. Baker, who was founder of the well-known Baker Manufacturing company, whose products are sold throughout the world, and who was the only remaining member of a company of five who first organized the great industry, was born near Evansville, January 12, 1842. Coming from an old West Virginia family, his ancestry on the paternal side runs back to England, and on the maternal side to Germany.

Daniel Baker, the grandfather of Allen S. Baker, was born in West Virginia, but in early life removed to the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he and his wife spent their lives. They had a numerous family, of whom John T. (the father of Allen S.) and Aaron were the only ones to come to Wisconsin. The former became a resident of Rock county in 1837, and the latter was also a resident of this county, but lived only a few years after coming to this state.

John T. Baker was born in Cincinnati, in October, 1806. In 1836 he came to Rock county, residing in the town of Avon until 1840, when he moved to the town of Union. He died in Evansville in April, 1876. Of his seven sons and two daughters but two brothers survive Allen S. Baker—E. J. Baker, of Maryville, Mo., and S. J. Baker, of Evansville.

In his early years Allen S. Baker served an apprenticeship to the trade of blacksmith, and that trade was his occupation for several years. When the Civil war broke out he was one of the first to respond to his country's call for troops to crush out the rebellion. On April 20, 1861, he became a member of Company H, Second Wis-

Brandywine, Del., Oct. 1844, and was a daughter of John and Sarah (Reed) Sayers. Three children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Baker, all of whom survive: Mrs. Elsie Hartley, John S. Baker, both of this city, and Mrs. Bessie Biglow, of Rockford. Mrs. Baker died about two years ago.

Mr. Baker was one of the representative business men of Rock county, and an enterprising and progressive citizen of Evansville, in the welfare of which he had taken the greatest interest.

He was a republican and as such was twice elected as assemblyman for this district in 1904 and 1906. He was a strong temperance man, holding that the liquor traffic should be suppressed by the strong arm of law.

He was a member of the Congregational church and always took a very active interest in church affairs, and as deacon always lived up to the principles of the church. He was also a member of the National Congregational council and was president of the Farmers and Merchants State bank of this city. Mr. Baker was also president of the village board of trustees, and has served several terms on the county board. He acted as school treasurer of District No. 6, which includes the city of Evansville and a portion of the adjacent country, and was a member of the library board.

He was one of the organizers of the Evansville telephone exchange and at one time was its president. He was a man of rare business acumen, it being chiefly due to his ability and executive force that the Baker Manufacturing company has grown to be one of the largest manufacturers of pumps, windmills, tanks, grinders, wood saws and other goods and appliances, maintaining numerous branch offices throughout the country, and a staff of traveling salesmen. He was beloved by his employes, in whose welfare he always took exceptional interest, and no citizen of Evansville was more highly respected and numbered more warm friends than did Mr. Baker.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 yesterday afternoon at the Congregational church. Rev. D. Q. Grabill and Rev. Edwin A. Ralph, both former pastors of the church, spoke tenderly of the deceased and extolled his many virtues in fitting language. A con-

of blacksmith, and that trade was his occupation for several years. When the Civil war broke out he was one of the first to respond to his country's call for troops to crush out the rebellion. On April 20, 1861, he became a member of Company H, Second Wisconsin V. I., which regiment formed a part of the famous Iron Brigade, and in that gallant command he served in several of the most important battles of the war. He was at Gainesville, Fitzhugh Crossing, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. At Gainesville he was severely wounded in the right shoulder and was sent to a hospital at Philadelphia, where he remained until February, 1863. By that time he had recovered his health and he rejoined his regiment, only to be again severely wounded on the first day of the great battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. The facts concerning this wound were remarkable. Mr. Baker was struck in the abdomen by a minie ball, which instead of passing straight through his body, took a circular direction, striking his thigh bone, was deflected and lodged in the fleshy part of the spinal column, where it became deeply imbedded. The surgeons feared to attempt the removal of the ball from very great danger of severing an

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The following acted as pallbearers: Charles Powles, C. W. Babcock, F. G. Wilder, Charles Jenkins, John Bly and A. R. Blunt. The shop men and office force of the Baker shops attended the funeral, a part of the church being reserved for them. The shop men marched with the funeral cortege to Main and Madison streets, where with bared heads they paid homage to their departed master. All business houses and the public library were closed during the time of the funeral. Interment was in Maple Hill cemetery.

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

his home here, he engaged in carriage making.

In 1873 the Baker Manufacturing company was organized under the firm name of A. S. Baker and company. They began with a capital stock of \$6,000, which has been increased to the present capitalization of one million dollars. Mr. Baker has had the management of the company's business until recent years, when he was succeeded by his son, J. S. Baker, A. S. Baker being president of the company.

Mr. Baker conceived the profit-sharing plan that has been in vogue at the Baker plant for several years and under which the business has flourished. The plan attracted world-wide attention, for he was the first man to employ the plan in so large a business. On February 15, he was to have given an address before the Wisconsin commercial and industrial congress at the University of Wisconsin, explaining the profit-sharing plan of the Baker company.

Mr. Baker and Miss Margaret Sayrs were married March 23, 1865. She was born in the historic battlefield of

natural born mechanic or takes the pains to get fully acquainted with them, may become sources of considerable annoyance.

A special course in the operation of gas engines and gas tractors to be given at the University of Wisconsin, during the Wisconsin farm and home week, Feb. 7-12, will aid him in gaining this intimate acquaintance. Farmers who register for this course will not sit in class rooms and listen to lectures, but will put on overalls and do practical work with the oil can and monkey wrench, working with some of the latest and best models of machines which manufacturers have agreed to loan for the purpose.

Special attention will be given to gas engine ignition, carburetion, general "troubles," babbiting boxes, engine repairs, and the actual operation of farm tractors and automobiles. No charge, except a small incidental fee to cover breakage and loss will be made. As only a limited number can be accommodated in the course, F. M. White, who is in charge of the course, wishes to hear in advance from farmers who would like to take the work.