

THE HOOSIER PACKET - DECEMBER 2015

ANDREW H.L. BAKER & JAMES MUSHETT

AND THEIR WABASH & ERIE CANAL CONNECTIONS

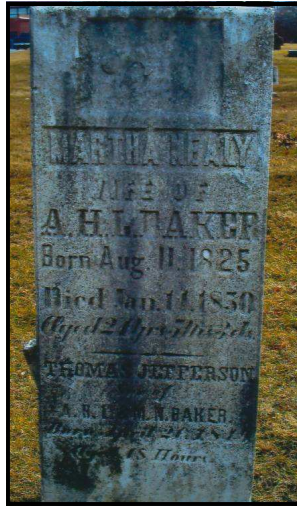
By Charles Davis

Andrew H. L. Baker was born in 1817 in Pennsylvania. Before coming to Indiana, he once lived in the town of Bellaire (Bel Air today), Harford county, Maryland. What is known about him is found in census records, deeds, marriage records, newspapers and cemetery stones.

Andrew and his wife Martha (Nealy Cunningham) Baker came to Parke county, Indiana around 1844 when construction began on the Wabash and Erie Canal. He was hired as one of the canal contractors. What his trade was is not known, but he had to have had some kind of education.

Andrew's first wife, Martha, died on January 11, 1850. She had been born August 11, 1825. They had one child, Thomas Jefferson Baker, who lived only 48 hours. She is buried in the Old Montezuma Cemetery.

The Parke county census of 1850 lists him as a "Miller" worth \$7,000. The mill he operated was Morlan's



Martha Nealy
Cunningham
Wife of A.H.L. Baker

Thomas Jefferson Baker, their son who lived only 48 hours. Andrew's stone was destroyed but he lies next to Martha in Old Montezuma Cemetery.

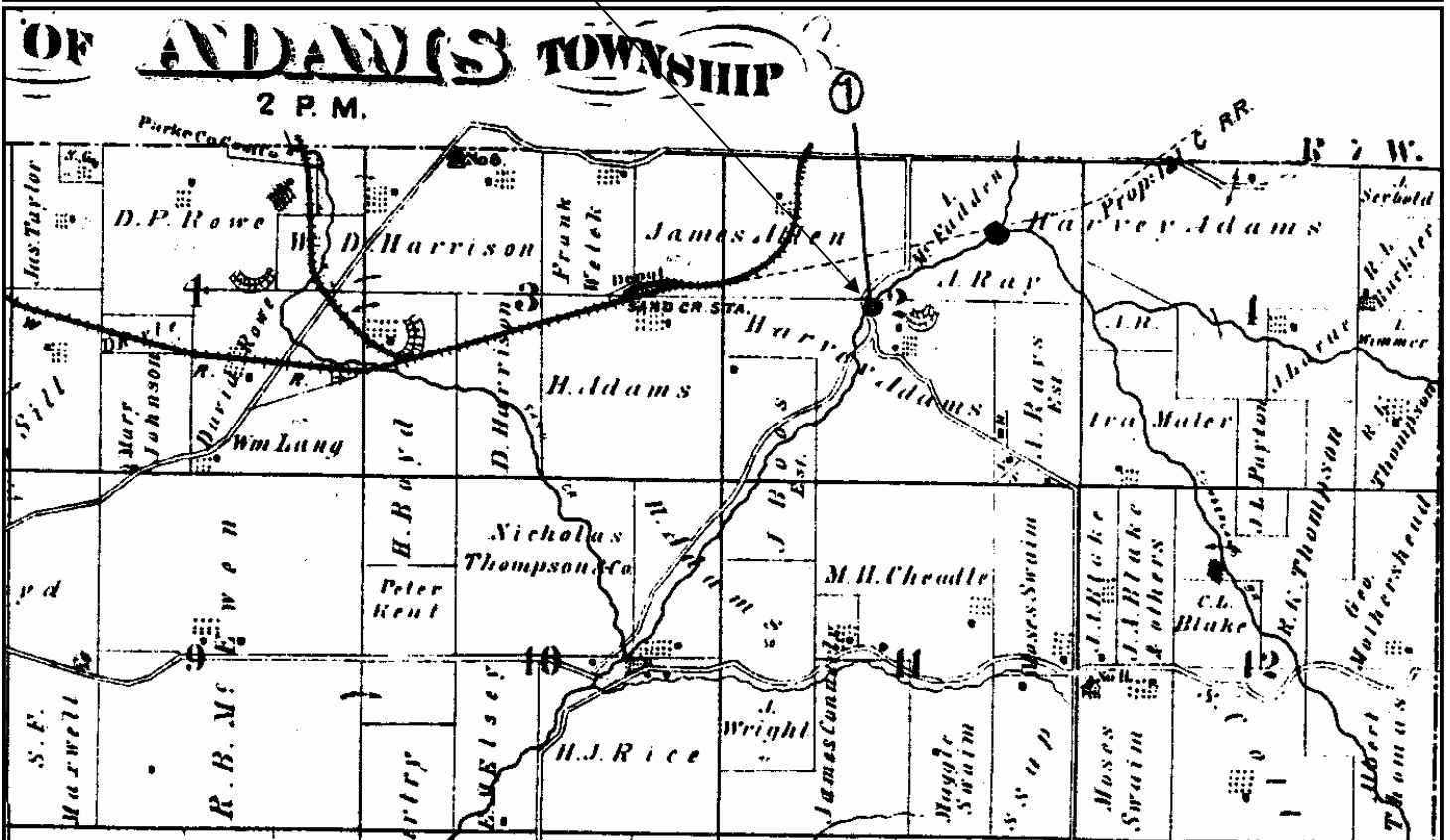
Photo by Charles Davis

Mill, built by Israel Morlan in 1840 on the east half of the south-west quarter of section 7, Adams township on Little Raccoon Creek. It was a three-story frame building with a hollow dam on the sandy creek bed.

Andrew was the second owner of the mill and residence. There he and his second wife, Isabella, lived.

Around this time Andrew took notice of the canal. Still owning the mill, he traveled down to Clay county in Green township. The following sketch is quoted: "After the opening of navigation, A.H.L. Baker, who had real estate interests at the bend of the (Eel) river, three miles south of Bowling Green, at the mouth of Six Mile, conceived the idea of build-

1874 Map of Adams township showing Morlan's Mill on Little Raccoon Creek that was run by Andrew H. L. Baker.



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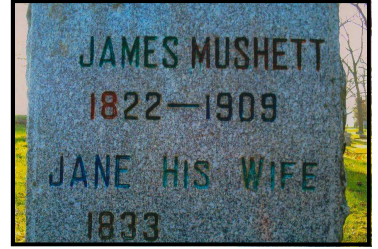
ANDREW H. L. BAKER'S FAMILY

Compiled by Charles and Mary J. Davis

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Place</u>
Baker, Andrew H. L.	1817	PA	10-26-1862	Old Montezuma	Montezuma IN		Parke Co IN
m1 Cunningham, Martha Nealy	8-11-1825		1-14-1850	Old Montezuma	Montezuma IN	5-03-1848	Parke Co IN
Baker, Thomas Jefferson	4-24-1849		48 hrs, Old Montezuma	Old Montezuma	Montezuma IN		
m2 Bratton, Isabella	11-30-1826		9-10-1859	Old Montezuma	Morian's Mill	8-23-1851	Parke Co IN
Baker, Bradshaw			9-29-1858	Old Montezuma	Montezuma IN		
m3 Lewis, Virginia Jane*	8-10-1832	VA	10-05-1898	Mt Moriah	Union Twp	5-28-1860	Parke Co IN
Lewis, Jesse (Virginia's son)	12-03-1853	VA	8-25-1940	Rockville	Rockville IN	6-30-1892	Vigo Co IN
m. Jordan, Ella	2-15-1864		8-12-1912			6-30-1892	Vigo Co IN
Baker, Drucilla	1862		3-10-1939	Rockville	Rockville IN	9-07-1881	Parke Co IN
m. Hatfield, Wesley	2-22-1859		8-06-1940			9-07-1881	Parke Co IN
Hatfield, Brooks	1891		12-14-1946	Memory Garden	Rockville IN		
Hatfield, Jesse Marie	1-13-1883		12-??-1946	Bethany	Wash. twp	9-29-1902	Parke Co IN
m. Craig, William Otto	1881		1-03-1951	Bethany	Wash. twp	9-29-1902	Parke Co IN
Craig, Archie Hatfield	2-27-1908	Paris IL	6-21-1974	Bethany	Wash. twp		
m1. McKee, Viola V	4-15-1908		7-31-1950	Oak Ridge	Lansing IL	3-02-1940	
m2 Riddler, Jennie			8-22-1950			10-29-1949	
Infant							
m3 Devries, Gertrude	12-13-1910		9-30-2000	Oak Ridge	Lansing IL	6-18-1954	Parke Co IN
Craig, Homer	1913		5-??-1952	St Margaret	Menasha WI		
m. Mottel, Clara	3-08-1912	WI					
Craig, Bill							
Craig, Carol Marie							
Craig, Lima Odetta	2-06-1905	Judson	9-05-1967	Memory Garden	Rockville IN	4-17-1928	Parke Co IN
m. Cottrell, Cyril C	1-10-1906		8-12-1972	Memory Garden	Rockville IN	4-17-1928	Parke Co IN
Cottrell, Earl Paul	9-09-1929		1-29-1984	Memory Garden	Rockville IN	1958	
m. Nevins, Lois Ann							
Cottrell, Chadwick M	1961						
Cottrell, Bradley	1964						
Cottrell, Paula Ann	1976						
*Lewis, Virginia J(after Andrew died)	1832		1898				
m3.. Jessup, John	4-20-1812	OH	8-15-1882	Miller	Adams twp	12-21-1863	Parke Co IN
Jessup, George Washington	11-10-1864		9-03-1948	Mt Moriah		9-08-1892	Parke Co IN
m. Swaim, Alice E	2-23-1866		1944	Mt Moriah		9-08-1892	Parke Co IN

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Jessup, Morris K.	1900		1959	Mt. Moriah			
Jessup, Majorie	11-22-1902		5-15-1987	Mt Moriah			10-06-1925 Parke Co IN
m. Case, Max E	12-04-1900	Brazil IN	7-09-1950	Mt. Olivet			10-06-1925 Parke Co IN
Case, Seba H	7-03-1926						3-??-1947
m. Hartman, Blanche							3-??-1947 Parke Co IN
Case, Celia Marie							
Case, Max Stuart							
Case, Susan Elizabeth							
Case, George Hiram	9-18-1929		12-11-1975				6-??-1953
m. Lowe, Arletta							6-??-1953
Case, Brenda Ann							
Case, Jerome							
Case, Carla Jean							
Case, Lisa Gay							
Case, Cora Collen	12-27-1932						
m. Roberts, Richard E							
Father, Lewis Charles	1802		8-20-1877	Barnes	Wash. twp		
Mother, Lewis, Martha Ann	3-10-1805		4-24-1897	Barnes	Wash. twp		
JAMES MUSHETT'S FAMILY							
Compiled by Charles and Mary J. Davis							
Mushett, James	1822	Wash. Co NY	6-11-1909	Oakland	Montezuma IN	8-14-1862	Parke Co IN
m. Smith, Arvilla Jane*	7-26-1833	NewCastle IN	4-12-1916	Oakland	Montezuma IN	8-14-1862	Parke Co IN
*Father, Frederick Slagle	1810		1869			1-16-1831	Bethel OH
Mother, Reeder, Susannah	1812		1850			1-16-1831	Bethel OH
Arvilla's 1st husband Smith, Amos Asi	1821		1899			8-03-1851	Grant IN
m. and divorced before 1860							
Smith, Amos Ashby Jr4.	1852		1881	Riverside	Cass Co IN		
Smith, Peter	1853						



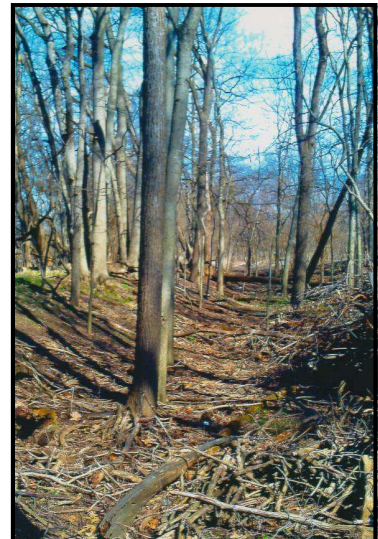
Headstone for
James Mushett
1822-1909
and
Arvilla Jane Mushett 1833

in Montezuma's
Oakland Cemetery.

This marker faces the
Wabash & Erie Canal
that runs along
the west side
of the cemetery.

The marker is located
to the right
of the canal
in the
bottom picture.

Photos by Charles Davis



ing up an important commercial center and resort at this point. Though his plans were much more visionary than substantial, he proved his faith by his works in the building of a large warehouse and a commodious hotel, having a large number of rooms and numerous outlooks, a house of greater proportions and pretensions than any hotel building now in the county. This building, however, was never completed and used as originally designed. The town which he laid out at this point in 1852 was named Bellaire, from the circumstance that Mr. Baker had lived for a time at Bellaire, Harford county, Maryland. He, too, engaged in canalling, and owned and operated the boat known as the Eight O's. The Julia Dean, which was owned and run by James Mushett, did business regularly at Bellaire, and made occasional trips to Bowling Green. Mr. Baker was succeeded in business by Lewis Row, who bought and shipped a great deal of grain." Travis. *History of Clay County* Vol. 1, New York, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909, pp. 40-41.

After this venture played out, Andrew probably lacked the necessary funds to complete it and went broke. He went back to Morlan's Mill.

Isabella Baker, his wife, died on September 10, 1859 at the age of 32. Her obituary in the *Rockville Republican* calls Andrew "Col. Baker." It states that she died at her residence, Morlan's Mill and was a lady of great vigor of mind. She was a member of the M. E. Church. Her funeral was preached at the mill and her body taken to Montezuma and interred in the Old Montezuma cemetery.

Following Isabella's death Andrew sold the mill and moved to Armiesburg. There he worked as a miller in the Armiesburg Mill owned by Chambers Young Patterson. *The Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1858-1859* and the Parke county census of 1860, which lists him as "Miller."

On May 28, 1860 Andrew was married to Virginia Jane Lewis. One child, Drucilla, was born to this union.

On October 26, 1862, near the age of 45, Andrew H. L. Baker died of consumption. He was laid to rest beside his first and second wives and his children who died very young. His only offspring to survive and marry was Drucilla.

James Mushett was born at Washington county, New York in 1822. At present his parents' names are unknown. Like A.H.L. Baker he is difficult to trace. He was a subscriber to the 1874 Parke county Atlas. On page A41 it states the above nativity and that he came to Parke county in 1847. In the *Rockville Tribune* of June 16, 1909, his obitu-

ary says he "was an interesting conversationalist being a man of good learning and was a classmate of the late Senator Daniel W. Voorhees."

Senator Voorhees, born in 1827 at Butler county, Ohio, at age two moved with his family to Fountain county and lived ten miles from the town of Covington, Indiana. He lived there until 1845. He entered Asbury University (DePauw) in Greencastle, Indiana and was graduated in 1849. Whether James and Daniel attended school together or not is speculative. However, if James came to Parke county in 1847 maybe he and Voorhees attended grade school together.

James' obituary goes on, "his early manhood was spent in buying furs from the Indians and white pioneers in the territories of Indiana and Illinois, later he had charge of a line of boats that plied the canal."

Although we do not know what his trade was, it looks like the construction of the canal had something to do with it. A short time later we see he is boating on the canal in Clay county in the very early 1850s with A.H.L. Baker of Bellaire.

Wycliffe Vanlandingham came to Montezuma on March 1, 1844 when the canal was being constructed through Parke county. He recalled that James Mushett was the first man to drive a canal boat into Montezuma in 1848. "Old Time in Montezuma, Reminiscences of Dr. and Mrs. Ben J. Franklin Hudson and Wycliffe Vanlandingham," *Rockville Tribune*, April 21, 1914.

James named his packet boat the "Julia Dean." The 1860 census shows James living in Harrison township, Vigo county, Indiana. More than likely he met Arvilla Jane Smith at Terre Haute. They were married in Parke county on August 14, 1862. She was a cook on the "Julia Dean." James was the captain. This was their home while plying between Toledo, Ohio and Evansville, Indiana. The boat made regular stops at the warehouse dock on Benson's Basin in Montezuma doing business with Erastus M. Benson and John G. Davis, the owners.

By 1870 James and Arvilla had quit the canal and set up a grocery store and tavern in the canal town of Armiesburg, which they ran for fifteen years. Upon retirement they moved to Montezuma and lived there until their deaths. When James died Arvilla had him buried facing the canal that passes by the west side of Oakland Cemetery. She rests beside him. Their only living relative was Arvilla's half sister. They will spend eternity beside the canal.