

# Recall English Immigrant Boy Who Became a Great American

Edward Dickinson Baker Held High Office in Three States of the Union, Became Known as "One of the Greatest Orators of Modern Times," Served Gallantly in Three Wars and Finally Gave His Life in Defense of the Country of His Adoption.

© Western Newspaper Union.



Rescuing the body of Colonel Baker at the Battle of Ball's Bluff. (From the painting by F. O. C. Darley.)

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

FEBRUARY 24 is the anniversary of the birth of a great American who, paradoxically, was not an American at all—at least, not by birth. He was born in England, but he held high office in three states of the Union, wore the American uniform in three of our wars and finally gave his life in defense of the country of his adoption.

They called him "A Modern Knight Errant," for he was a very gallant and courageous soldier. They called him "The Gray Eagle" because of his long, gray hair, eyes of fire, noble forehead and finely chiseled features." He has been described as "one of the greatest public speakers of modern times" and they said of one of his speeches that it was "the most eloquent delivered by an American since Patrick Henry closed with his immortal 'Give me Liberty or give me death!'"

His name was Edward Dickinson Baker.

Baker was the son of an English Quaker and his wife who lived on the Isle of Wight. Later the family moved to London and there a son was born on February 24, 1811. He was named Edward Dickinson Baker in honor of one of his uncles, a British naval officer who fought at the Battle of Trafalgar. Another of his uncles was Lord Somerville.

When the boy was five years old the Baker family moved to Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love" founded by the Quaker, William Penn. There the father died while Edward was still a boy and he supported himself and his younger brother by working as a weaver. When they grew to young manhood, the two brothers emigrated to Illinois where Edward Baker began the study of law in the little town of Springfield on the Sangamon.

There the 20-year-old lawyer met Southern-born Mary Ann Lee, a 23-year-old widow with two children. They married in 1831. The next year Baker left his bride to march away to war—as a volunteer in the Illinois troops raised to resist the "invasion" by Chief Black Hawk and his Sac and Foxe warriors. Although he had no opportunity to distinguish himself in that brief and inglorious "war," Baker did form a friendship which was to be an important factor in his later career. It was with a tall, gangling militia captain from New Salem named Abraham Lincoln.

"Abe" and "Ned." Five years later these two friends—"Abe" and "Ned" they called each other—were both serving in the Illinois legislature at Vandalia as Whig representatives and from that time on their careers were closely linked. With Stephen Logan, they were leaders in a little group, known as the "Springfield Junta," which dominated Whig party councils in Illinois.

After serving one term in the legislature, Lincoln retired to his law practice in Springfield, but Baker rose a step higher by being elected to the state senate in 1836. Four years later the two friends were rivals for the Whig nomination for representative in congress and Baker was the successful candidate. He defeated his Democratic opponent in the election, thereby becoming the only Whig congressman from Illi-

nois. Two years later "Abe" Lincoln took his seat beside "Ned" Baker in the lower house of congress. When Lincoln's second son was born in 1846, he named him Edward Baker Lincoln in honor of his friend.

By this time the United States was on the verge of a war with Mexico. Baker immediately returned to Illinois, making the trip in the record time of six days, raised a regiment of volunteers and marched to the Rio Grande. When congress assembled, Colonel Baker obtained a leave of absence, hastened to Washington



COL. E. D. BAKER

and appeared on the floor of congress in full uniform (the only case on record up to that time) where he made a plea for money and men.

Baker Goes to War.

He entreated the partisans in congress to cease their "mutual criminations and recriminations." "What matters differences of opinion about the origin of the war?" he pleaded. "Send our soldiers aid, comfort, succor and support. Action! Action! ACTION!!!!" He secured action, resigned from congress two days later, overtook his regiment on the march from Vera Cruz and fought with distinction in every engagement on the route to Mexico City. When Gen. James Shields, leader of the Illinois troops, was wounded at the Battle of Cerro Gordo, Baker became commander of the brigade and led it during the remainder of the war.

Returning to Illinois at the close of the conflict, Baker moved to Galena. According to one story, he did this so he would not be a candidate for re-election to congress against his old friend, "Abe" Lincoln. If that is true, it was an unnecessary gesture, for Lincoln realized that his constituents were dissatisfied with his record in congress and declined to make the race again. Baker was re-elected in 1848, but, becoming interested in the project of a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama, he declined a renomination in 1850.

Baker moved to California in 1851 and soon became a leader of the bar in that state. One of his most famous cases was the defense of Charles Cora, an Ital-

ian gambler who had killed General Richardson, United States marshal. Baker's address to the jury, "brilliant, eloquent, impassioned," won an acclatful for his client, but it also led to Baker's social ostracism for a time by some of the "better citizens."

When the new Republican party was organized Baker became a member and candidate for the Republican nomination for United States senator. He won the nomination but lost the election, partly because of the prejudice against him as a result of the Cora case. Then word came from Oregon that a Republican leader was needed there and he moved to that new state.

Elected to Senate.

In the campaign of 1860 he was elected to the senate by a coalition of Republican and Douglas Democrats. But his greatest victory during this campaign was to carry Oregon and California for his old friend "Abe" Lincoln, candidate for President. In Oregon Lincoln won by only 300 votes, in California by only 614 and the fact that he won at all was a tribute to the eloquence of Baker.

When Lincoln was inaugurated, it was Baker who introduced him to the throng of people gathered in front of the capital—an honor which no one else sought at a time when sedition filled the air and there was even danger of assassination. Taking his seat in the senate, Baker became the most effective orator and leader in supporting Lincoln's administration in dealing with the problem of secession of the southern states.

When Fort Sumter was fired upon, he went to New York to deliver an address in Union square on April 20, 1861, and thrilled the immense crowd there with his appeal for the preservation of the Union.

He did not remain in the senate long, however. For the "Gray Eagle," old war-horse that he was, wanted action. Lincoln offered him a commission as brigadier-general but he declined it and asked only to be made colonel of a regiment which he would raise. Although the men were recruited in New York and Philadelphia, it was called the First California, in honor of the state of his adoption. During the time he was raising this outfit, he again appeared on the floor of congress in his uniform, thus giving him the distinction of being "the only man ever to address both houses of congress in uniform."

"Father" Baker.

Finally his regiment was ready for service and he led it to Fortress Monroe. His paternal appearance and kindness to his men, although he remained a good disciplinarian, won for him another nickname by his men—"Father" Baker. His career in the army was almost as short as had been his service in the senate. At the Battle of Ball's Bluff on October 21, 1861, he was in command of a brigade and, exposing himself to the hottest fire, fell mortally wounded while leading a charge.

They took his body back to his adopted state of California and buried it in the famous Lone Mountain cemetery. Years later it was moved to the Presidio burial ground near San Francisco's Golden Gate and his grave will be a shrine for thousands of Americans who attend the exposition there this year.

Among the many eloquent speeches made by Baker there are three which are outstanding. One, known as the "American theater speech," was delivered in San Francisco in 1860 and is credited with swinging California for Lincoln in the crucial election in that year. In it he said in part: "We live in a day of light. We live in an advancing generation. We live in the presence of the whole world. We are like a city set on a hill, that cannot be hid. The prayers and tears and hopes and sighs of all good men are with us, of us, for us."

"As for me, I dare not, I will not, be false to freedom. Here, many years long gone, I took my stand, and where in youth my feet were planted, there my manhood and my age shall march. I am not ashamed of freedom. I know her power. I glory in her strength. I rejoice in her majesty. I will walk beneath her banner."

"I have seen her again and again struck down on a hundred chosen fields of battle. I have seen her friends fly from her. I have seen her foes gather around her. I have seen them bind her to the stake. I have seen them give her ashes to the winds, re-gathering them that they might scatter them yet more widely. But when they turned to exult I have seen her again meet them face to face, clad in complete steel and brandishing in her strong right hand a flaming sword red with insufferable light."

"Talking Like a God."

Of the demonstration which followed, a historian writes:

"Cheer after cheer rolled from side to side, from pit to dome. Even the reporters were swept away in the frenzy and left their desks and tables to fall in with the shouting multitude. A young fellow just come of age—afterward famous as Bret Harle—leaped upon the stage and frantically waved an American flag."

"Another reporter ran out into the street gesticulating wildly and cried: 'Come in! Come in! The old man is talking like a god!'"

Almost as famous as this California speech that "left its imprint upon the history of the West," was the speech which he delivered in Union square, New York, on April 20, 1861. It began:

"The majesty of the people is here today to sustain the majesty of the constitution, and I come, a wanderer from the far Pacific, to record my oath along with yours of the great Empire state."

Further along in the speech he uttered these often-quoted words: "Fellow citizens, what is this country? Is it the soil on which we tread? Is it the gathering of familiar faces? Is it our luxury, and pomp, and pride? Nay, more than these, is it power, and might and majesty alone?"

"No, our country is more, far more than all these. The country which demands our love, our courage, our devotion, our heart's blood, is more than all these. Our country is the history of our fathers—our country is the tradition of our mothers—our country is past renown—our country is present pride and power—our country is future hope and destiny—our country is greatness, glory, truth, constitutional liberty—above all, freedom forever! These are the watchwords under which we fight; and we will about them out till the stars appear in the sky, in the stormiest hour of battle."

A Pledge to Fight.

The address closed thus: "And if from the far Pacific a voice feeble than the feeblest murmur upon its shore may be heard, to give you courage and hope in the contest, that voice is yours today. And if a man whose hair is gray, who is well-nigh worn out in the battle and toil of life, may pledge himself on such an occasion and in such an audience, let me say, as my last word, that when amid sheeted fire and flame I saw and led the hosts of New York as they charged in contest on a foreign soil for the honor of the flag, so again, if Providence shall will it, this feeble hand shall draw a sword never yet dishonored, not to fight for honor on a foreign soil, but for country, for home, for law, for government, for constitution, for right, for freedom, for humanity—and in the hope that the banner of my country may advance, and wheresoever that banner waves there glory may pursue and freedom be established."

The third of Baker's greatest speeches was delivered in the United States senate in reply to Senator Judah P. Benjamin of Louisiana (who, like Baker, was English-born and an American by adoption), who claimed that the southern states had the right to secede from the Union. To this claim Baker hurled defiance in these words: "I deny that this union is a compact between sovereign states at all. . . . There is but one sovereign and that is the people. The state government is its creation; the federal government is its creation; each supreme in its sphere; each sovereign for its purpose; but each limited in its authority, and each dependent upon delegated power."

## Tells Horrors Of Chinese War

Major Chin, American Born, Relates Confusion at Fall of Canton.

HONGKONG.—There are things about this war that must be termed fantastic.

You can meet and talk to war refugees, and when you see a ragged Chinese peasant who has carried his wounded wife for miles to find sanctuary, you stare at first and then fight the desire to run away from it. And you can meet some one like Maj. George B. Chin, of Boston, who is also a refugee, in a sense, and, talking to him, you find yourself staring at him.

Here you have a young man who was born in San Jose, Calif., who played on the streets of Boston, and who still has his home there.

He talks about the fall of Canton, and his voice is quick, impatient, with bits of American slang:

"It was one for the books. Here I was with 500 men, ordered into third-line position, and finding myself in front-line position instead. That shows how fast the Japanese came through. I had my men on both sides of the highway, in rough, hilly country. No equipment to speak of, but we did have a couple of anti-tank guns and a lot of hand grenades."

"The Japanese showed up with five tanks. We let go at them with the anti-tank guns and got two of the tanks. Then the Japanese came back with 15 tanks and about 30 airplanes. They bombed us, and how. All I could see for a time was men bouncing into the air as the bombs hit all around us. There was nothing we could do against that. I got back to Canton with about 275 of my men."

"In Canton it was all confusion, with troops moving out. Things were all washed up. There was nothing to do but get out. I made it."

In Dirty Prison.

Without realizing it, he gives you a perfect word picture of that strange and awful imprisonment. How they were unable to identify themselves, as a group of fleeing Chinese officers, and how they were arrested by the troops of another district on suspicion of being spies. "It was a wet, dirty hole of a place where you wouldn't keep a dog. (He is an educated Chinese-American.) They chained us to a wall. I got loose and managed to get my comrades loose. Then we heard some one coming and we had to run. There was just one old man left."

"What happened to the old man?" you ask.

"I told him, 'Here, perhaps they won't kill you because you're an old man.' And I managed to find a piece of iron that he could use in getting himself free. Then we had to run for it."

You start to say, "sort of tough on the old man, wasn't it?" but he doesn't give you a chance. He talks on, as youth, and it is so apparent that he sees old age as being close to death anyway, so what difference does it make.

And it is, after all, war in China.

## Ruins in France Yield Vases of Fifth Century

NANCY, FRANCE.—Fifteen glass vases dating from the Fifth century were discovered in the village of Haut-de-Tombeaux on the banks of the Moselle when a cemetery of 72 tombs dating from the Middle ages was excavated.

Modern spectrographic analysis at the Paris Optical institute established the age of the vases, which were made in the region, but from materials which could only have come from the Far East and probably peddled by wandering nomad traders of that period.

Systematic excavations have been started to find further medieval objects.

## Australia Laments Lack of 'Housemaid's Knee'

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.—What has been described by the Country Women's association of Victoria as the "national tragedy of Australia" is the lack of "housemaid's knee."

The lack of housemaid's knee, they have pointed out is due to almost the acute shortage of housemaids. They have launched a scheme for group nomination of migrants from Great Britain who will work in country homes.

## Blast It, You Know, It Isn't Being Done

LONDON.—Forty-five unemployed persons, including three women, marched into the grill room of the fashionable Ritz hotel in Piccadilly, sat down and demanded that they be served tea. All the men politely removed their caps.

The staff of the hotel was in consternation. The management conferred and refused to serve the demonstrators, who offered to pay for the tea.

The grill room was closed and police called in. Before police persuaded the demonstrators to depart, their leaders made speeches demanding winter relief.

## Lights of New York

by L. L. STEVENSON

There is many a story among the uniformed men who stand at the doors of various New York establishments, night clubs and apartment houses. Though their attire is often glittering, the job is a menial one, bowing and scraping and opening and closing doors of imported cars or mere taxicabs. But in the ranks at the moment are a former star of the silent screen, a former boxing champion, a one-time big contractor, several members of Russian nobility as well as men who have held positions of trust and responsibility. Then there is Elmer Szemzo, guardian of the portals of Zimmerman's Hungaria. He seldom plays cards. When he does, it is never for more than a penny a point. Yet Szemzo, a member of a noble family of Hungary, is a doorman because of gambling.

Szemzo's uncle was known throughout Europe as the man who played cards with gloves on. Naturally there was a reason for such action. When a young man, he had promised his distressed mother that he would never touch a card. The gloves enabled him to keep that promise. But luck was against him and his fortune went over the gaming tables. Then there was Szemzo's father, also a well-known but more conservative gambler. For years his lucky streak continued and finally he became known as one of the richest men in Hungary. But the turn came and the fortune he had amassed went back over the gaming tables. Now he lives on the Riviera, his sole income a small pension which he receives as a retired Hungarian general.

When the family estate shrank from 30,000 acres to a small plot near Budapest, Szemzo came to this country to study agriculture, intending to cultivate that last bit of land. But word came that his father had lost it in a card game. So he looked about for a job. As that was just after the World war, jobs were scarce. But he finally obtained a position as a restaurant. He worked his way up quickly and became manager of that restaurant. He held other similar positions, then married a young American girl, a physician. She preferred to practice in the Mid-West and they separated. Then bad breaks came. When Zimmerman opened his new restaurant, Szemzo applied for the doorman's post. Zimmerman knew his father in the old country and put him to work. And he has no taste for gambling.

Daniel E. Eisenberg is president of an organization which in the last 15 years has found more than 162,000 missing persons. Well, Mr. Eisenberg recently turned over to the police the job of finding a missing person. When he returned to his Brooklyn home the other evening, he found that a burglar had been there ahead of him and had stolen a number of valuables. It was a bit embarrassing for him to call up the Seventieth precinct station and give his name and occupation but there was nothing else to do. And that embarrassment hasn't been lessened by telephone calls and letters, as well as telegrams, advising him how to go about finding the culprit.

There's something appealing in this homely bit of philosophy expressed by Gertrude Berg, whose radio serial, "The Goldbergs," has been running for the last nine years: "When your clothes are soiled, you soak them thoroughly, wash them and then iron them out. The same should apply to your worries, your opinions of others, your general viewpoint on life itself. Take stock once in awhile, rinse your mind of bad opinions and you'll find it easy to iron out most of your troubles."

The old publicity stunt of rushing a star from one show to another with a police escort failed to materialize when Mary Martin did a piece on the Eddie Cantor broadcast. Plans were all made to hurry Miss Martin from "Leave It to Me," in which she is featured, when it was learned that "Leave It to Me" was playing next door to the theater from which Cantor was to broadcast.

© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

## Native's Death Blamed To 'Pointing the Bone'

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.—"Pointing the bone," which corresponds among Australian aborigines with the "evil eye," caused the death of at least one native recently, according to Mount Isa police.

During a dispute one of the adversaries "pointed the bone" at his fellow tribesman, a man of about 40. The latter fled from the sinister omen and a little later was found dying. An autopsy report gave as the cause of death "obscuration and persecution complex."

In "pointing the bone" the natives use the thigh bone of a turkey, topped with beeswax, which is said to be capable of scaring the victim to death.

'Rod' Turns Into Snake COOKSTOWN, AUSTRALIA.—Bitten on the foot by a snake, William Howard reached down for a stick with which to kill it, but the "stick" turned out to be another snake, which bit him on the arm. Prompt medical attention saved Howard.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

### FARMS FOR SALE

FORECLOSED FARMS at bargain prices—50 to 200 acres cultivated land in each tract—sound shore and paved highway frontage. FIRST AND CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK, ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

### POULTRY

BRED FOR PRODUCTION! Ducks RAISED FOR PROFIT! Chickens SOLD BY QUALITY! TURKEYS! WILDOR HATCHERY, Rockdale, Md. Pikesville P. O.

## TIPS to Gardeners

MANY hobbyists get pleasure from special gardens. Some have been successful with all-marigold, or all-petunia gardens. Marigolds are available in a wide variety of sizes and shapes and provide a golden-brown garden scene of unusual richness.

Petunias have a wide range of color, and more and more they are being used for cut flowers as well as for garden color and beauty.

Some have grown gardens primarily for fragrance. The best flowers for such a garden, according to Harry A. Joy, flower expert, are: Alyssum, carnation, pinks, mignonette, nicotiana, sweet pea and sweet William.

For a garden of plants without actual flowers but with showy foliage, interesting results have been obtained with the following: Joseph's coat, coleus, dusty miller, snow-on-the-mountain, a n n u a l poinsetta, kochia and castor oil bean.

The following will fit well into a typical wildflower garden; Annual lupin, bachelor button, rudbeckia (cone flower), columbine, perennial aster, heuchera (coral bells), and perennial lupin.

## SAFETY TALKS

IT'S an art, this walking along the highway, and not everybody who does it lives to tell about it afterward. At least a third of the pedestrians fatally injured in rural districts are struck while walking along the roadway, according to figures of the National Safety Council. And about two-thirds of these were walking with their backs to approaching traffic.

In many places, sidewalks are being built parallel to the highways to segregate motor and pedestrian traffic, but in places where they aren't yet built, the council has these four suggestions to offer:

- 1—Walk on the left side of the road.
- 2—At night, carry a light.
- 3—Wear light clothing or at least some article of clothing that's white, to make it easier for the motorist to see you.
- 4—Walk on the shoulder of the road instead of the pavement, where possible, to keep from forcing cars into the path of oncoming traffic.

## YES!

"Luden's are a natural choice, because they contribute to your alkaline reserve when you have a cold."

M. SOUTHARD, Registered Nurse, New York

## LUDEN'S MENTHOL COUGH DROPS 5¢

Humane and Just One cannot be just if one is not humane.—Vauvenargues.

## 666 COLDS

relieves Colds, Headaches and Fever. LIQUID TABLETS, SALVE, NOSE DROPS. In 30 minutes. Try "Rob-Ny-Tam"—a Wonderful Remedy.

WNU—4 7-39

## Sentinels of Health

Don't Neglect Them! Nature designed the kidneys to do a tremendous job. Their task is to keep the flowing blood streams free of an excess of toxic impurities. The act of living—life itself—is constantly producing waste matter the kidneys must remove from the blood if good health is to ensue. When the kidneys fail to function as Nature intended, there is retention of waste that may cause body-ache, dizziness, one may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel tired, nervous, all were out.

Prompt, steady or burning passage may be further evidence of kidney or bladder disturbance. The recognized and proper treatment is a diuretic medicine to help the kidneys get rid of excess poisonous body waste. Doan's Pills. They have had more than forty years of public approval. Are endorsed by the country over. Insist on Doan's. Sold at all drug stores.

## DOAN'S PILLS