

# Endymion Baker Hilton

## “James Baker”

Endymion “James Baker” Hilton was born 16 January 1844 in Blountville, Sullivan, Tennessee. He was the fifth of ten children of James Andrew Hilton and Frances Elizabeth Spurgeon. He also had a younger half-sister. In 1850<sup>1</sup>, the family was farming in Sullivan but by 1860 had moved to Des Moines Township, Jasper, Iowa.<sup>2</sup>

Endymion and his brother William were Union soldiers during the Civil War. At age 18, Endymion enlisted as a private on 25 July 1862 in Company A, 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Iowa Infantry, and mustered into service on 21 August 1862. He deserted 9 March 1863 at Knob Hill, Missouri.<sup>3</sup> One of his concerns may have been the possibility of being sent to Tennessee to fight his own Confederate family. There is a gap in his history between 1863 and 1876 when he moved to Beaver, Utah Territory. By this time, he had changed his name to James Baker, using his father’s name and his own middle name.<sup>4</sup>

James married Sarah Isabella Sherratt in 1876 in Cedar City, Iron, Utah Territory.<sup>5</sup> They made their first home in Circleville, Piute, Utah Territory. They had four children together. It took two days by ox team to travel from Circleville to Cedar City to see family members and obtain supplies.<sup>6</sup> In 1880, they were living in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah, where James was a teamster.<sup>7</sup> They moved to Circleville, Piute, Utah Territory, then to Kingston, Piute, Utah Territory.<sup>8</sup>

Sarah’s health was very poor, and James thought that living elsewhere would improve her health, so they moved Montrose, Colorado, then Mexico, and back to Cortez, Colorado. In 1886, they moved to Monticello, San Juan, Utah Territory. Sarah sought a church blessing for her health, so James and a neighbor carried her to church in a chair. She soon felt better.<sup>9</sup> By 1900, they were farming in Moab, Grand, Utah.<sup>10</sup>

James was very efficient with machinery and worked at a sawmill, then constructed a shingle mill of his own. Sarah went live with her daughters and granddaughters in the Blue Mountains of Monticello for the summer to make butter and cheese. She was expert and won many awards and operated a dairy. She was among the first to operate a boarding house. Her profit was very little as many people took advantage of her goodhearted nature and ate without paying. However, she never turned anyone away. Sarah was a mother to everyone she was one who never had a bad word to say about anyone. She always told her children if you can't say something good don't say anything.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census, 1850.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 1860.

<sup>3</sup> Iowa, Grand Army of the Republic Membership Records, 1861-1949; US Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865; US Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865.

<sup>4</sup> A family divided, by Mary Carpenter, at Familysearch; Findagrave.

<sup>5</sup> US Western States Marriage Index.

<sup>6</sup> Sherratt Patterns, by daughter Alice Baker Jones, at Familysearch.

<sup>7</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>8</sup> Familysearch.

<sup>9</sup> Brief autobiography of Alice Jones, at Familysearch.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>11</sup> Sherratt Patterns, by daughter Alice Baker Jones, at Familysearch; Brief autobiography of Alice Jones, at Familysearch.

James was involved with the Blue Mountain Irrigation Company<sup>12</sup> in Monticello and was elected as a director in 1909.<sup>13</sup> That year, he and Sarah went up to the shingle mill to spend the summer. The mill had been overhauled and operated that summer.<sup>14</sup>

On 1910 census, James was listed as farming in Monticello, San Juan, Utah.<sup>15</sup> That summer they moved to their homestead west of town.<sup>16</sup> James died 29 September 1919 in Monticello of senility and was buried in the city cemetery.<sup>17</sup> He was one of the oldest residents of Monticello and one of the best-known citizens of southeastern Utah. He had lived in Monticello since the town was founded.<sup>18</sup>

Sarah went to live with her youngest daughter.<sup>19</sup> She continued living when they moved to Price, Carbon, Utah<sup>20</sup>, until her death from a broken hip and pelvis from a fall on 7 October 1941 in Cedar City. She was buried in the city cemetery.<sup>21</sup>



Sarah, James, Alice, Maybelle, Alice Baker (image from Familysearch)

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<sup>12</sup> The Blue Mountain Irrigation and manufacturing Company was organized in 1888 (Walton Pioneer Heritage, at Familysearch).

<sup>13</sup> *Times-Independent*, 7 May 1909, p. 8.

<sup>14</sup> *Times-Independent*, 4 June 1909, p. 8.

<sup>15</sup> United States Census, 1910.

<sup>16</sup> *Times-Independent*, 17 June 1910, p. 8

<sup>17</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; BillionGraves.

<sup>18</sup> *Times-Independent*, 2 October 1919, p. 1.

<sup>19</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>20</sup> United States Census, 1930, 1940.

<sup>21</sup> Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; Utah Cemetery Abstracts; Iron County Record, 16 October 1941, p. 1; Findagrave.



James Baker (image from Familysearch)

Research by Elaine Young, Silver Reef Foundation historian, December 2019

Please email [eyoung@youngzones.org](mailto:eyoung@youngzones.org) for additions and corrections