

**John Adams Baker**, (15 Jun 1815 – 2 Dec 1895), Newport News, Thursday, December 5, 1895

Honorable **John Adams Baker** died at his residence in Bloomfield about 8:30 o'clock on Monday evening having been ill several years. The death of his wife occurred one month ago, and his death was anticipated since last Thursday evening, when he experienced a severe congestive chill.

**Mr. Baker** was born at Markelsville, then Smith's Mills, June 5, 1815. When a boy not yet out of his teens he clerked for a man named Allison, a leading contractor in the construction of the Juniata division of the Pennsylvania canal, who appreciated the youth's budding ability, volunteered to educate him. The latter was unable to accept this proffered beneficence by reason of taking sick.

He attended school at Bloomfield in 1835 and 1836. His teacher was the late General Samuel Ramsey. Mr. Baker was the first teacher at the county seat under the present free school system. He also taught in Saville Township and Liverpool.

He began his newspaper career in 1839, when he came into possession of the Perry Forester, and proprietor of which was then Allen M. Gangawehr, of Carlisle, June 13, 1839, he issued the first number of the Perry County Freeman, the control of which he relinquished one year ago by reason of infirmities of age. The Freeman was the organ of the Whig party until 1855. From that year, owing to internal dissensions which split the Whig party, he advocated the principles of the American party until 1860. Since that time he was a firm supporter of the Republican Party. In 1848, upon the death of Prothonotary Peter Orwin, Governor William F. Johnson appointed **Mr. Baker** to fill the unexpired term. He was elevated to the position of associate judge in 1849, 1867 and 1872. He was married to **Miss Margaret Wilson**, March 15, 1854. They had three children, all sons, only one of whom, **Clarence W. Baker**, survived him. One brother is yet alive; he resides at Fort Scott, Kansas. The funeral will be held at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

**Mr Baker** was the oldest editor in the state in point of continuous service. Before advancing years and ill health diminished his vitality he was one of the ablest and most forceful writers on the rural press. In both public and unofficial life his duties were all faithfully performed and he goes to his eternal sleep bearing the esteem of all who knew him.