

FRONTIER
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News
 SINCE 2021
 RICHARD F. BAKER, REPORTER & EDITOR

Vol. 2 No. 6, December 18 2023

The *Frontier Citizen* wishes
 all its readers a
Merry Christmas!
 and a
Happy New Year!



Ho, Ho, Ho!

Event Reports

End of the Trail, Penkridge Sports & Recreation Centre - Monckton, Pinfold Lane, Penkridge, ST19 5QP

Fri. 3rd – Sat. 4th November.

After reports of blustery weather and flooding to come over the weekend, we were pleasantly surprised to see so many attendees at End of the Trail 23. We kicked off the weekend with the fantastic Adam Harding entertaining us on the Friday night and boy oh boy what an entrance he made! Fantastic artist with a phenomenal voice and presence. Dancers were continually on the floor all night and remarked that they liked hearing a different set of songs to dance to. The high light of the night was our very own 'Baloo' getting on the dance floor to shake his booty! This never happens. Shoot out was held on the night with Big D winning and Lefty coming second. We also had a few youngsters on Friday taking part in some shooting challenges which was really encouraging to see. In fact, it was such a fantastic night that a few of us didn't get into bed until 3.30am and I must say I woke up worse for wear the Saturday morning ha ha. Then we move onto Saturday, 6 hours of live country music and boy did it fly. We had the fantastic Trey Jackson and again the phenomenal Adam Harding stepped back in to entertain us as the Country Strong Band had to cancel due to family sickness. We wish them a speedy recovery. The room was full and buzzing on Saturday night with dancers, reenactors and westerners all partying the night away together. Throw in a shoot-out, a whiskey roll, cowboy bingo and a special 'meal for 2' raffle (if you know, you know lol, Jake!) then you have the fantastic night that is End Of The Trail. The dance floor was again full all night and there were many bargains had at the second-hand corral. The shoot-out tonight was our big one, honoring our founder member 'Trooper' who sadly passed away. Tank was the winner of Troopers Trophy with Angel Eyes coming second. All in all, a very good weekend was had and it was amazing seeing so many different areas of the western scene come together to enjoy a family friendly country gathering, ensuring all areas were represented. Here's to the next one... Wagons Roll (and I'm booking the sunshine for this one).

[Marie Evans]





Once again SoToW (formally FDUK) hit another home run with their end of year event which welcomes all comers from each of the 4 western sections across the country. The Living History section was extremely well represented with nearly everyone either in full kit or trying to make an effort over the 2 days. Even the Gunfighters not only kitted up but Wow! the form of some of these guys and gals was something to behold; this really was a case of if you blinked you missed it. The room continued to fill with some fantastic Old West Barn Dancing on show and then came some line dancing and did they dance! All new country music as well; it was a couple of nights to remember.

With two great Artists on show, who absolutely dominated the stage and what a presence they were.... Adam Harding & Trey Jackson in absolute blistering form. Come the end of the night, we could not get them off stage due to popular demand: "More, More, More", the crowd cried even after each of them had left the stage, they were surrounded, just like a stagecoach robbery they were ordered to hand over their voices, just so that last track could be sung. Even the New Country Music Lovers who attended and had never been before said they would definitely be back, and thought it was such a great event, asking when's the next one like this.... To which SoToW were able to reply "Well that would be our WAGONS ROLL 3 - DAY EVENT, right here from the 3rd to 5th MAY 2024 @ Monkton's Sports Ground in Penkridge. See you 'all then!"

The Chairman Big D (Dan Luczak) said this is a team effort. People see the front of stage only sometimes and don't realize what goes on in the background. All the hard work that goes in from all the team to make these nights a success is surprising. We have a team of 10, all of whom work full time and somehow get this organized for every member of the western scene, making sure the western scene continues. We're hoping people see this as an opportunity to see each other one more time before Christmas. It's nice to see Bookings coming in for WAGONS ROLL 2024, which is a phenomenal event and again all welcome, those booking forms seem to be disappearing fast.

WAGONS ROLL FESTIVAL 2024 – 3rd/4th/5th May – Stalls, Music (Day & Evening), Games, Fast Draw, Cowboy Boot Sale which Books up Fast on Sunday.

[Dan Luczak]



A Visit from St. Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through
the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their
heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by
name:
"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!*
now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*
On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the
sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too;
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a
bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and
soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedlar just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how
merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of
jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
"*Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*"

(Clement Clarke Moore, 1823)



Forthcoming SoToW Events

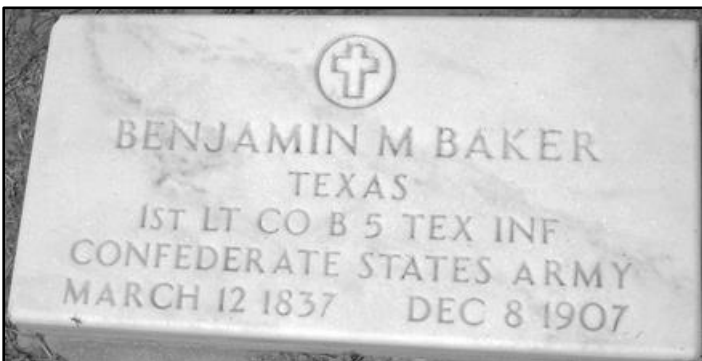
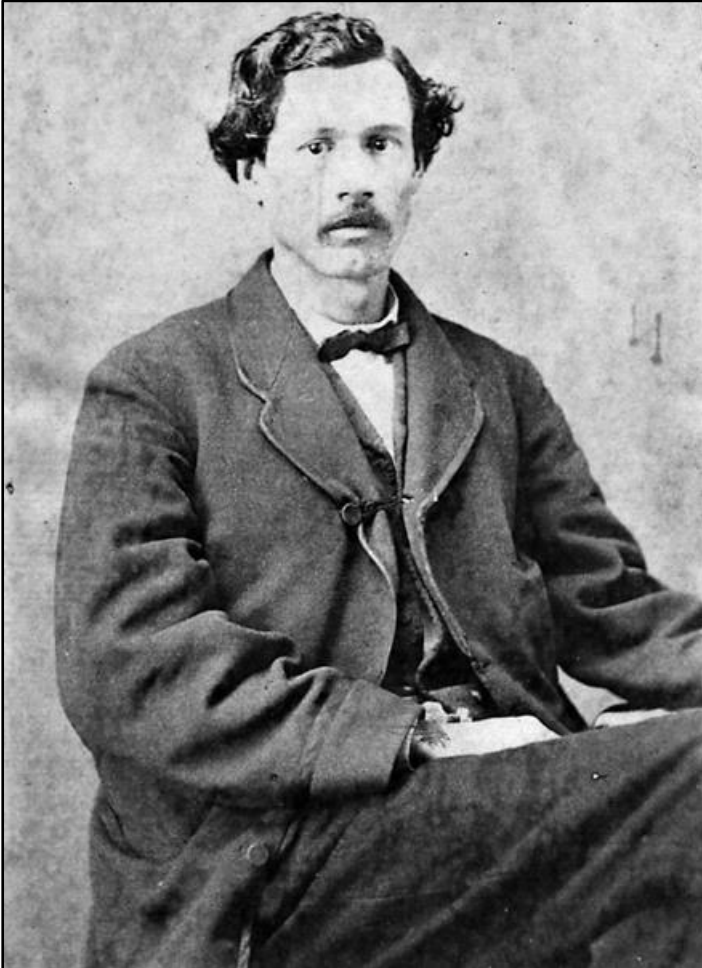
In Memoriam

This month saw the 116th anniversary of the death of Benjamin Marshall Baker.

He was one of the founders and, later, the owner of the Colorado Citizen (now the Colorado County Citizen) in Columbus, Colorado County, Texas.

During the War Between the States, he served with Company B, 5th Texas Infantry, Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A., finishing as a 1st Lieutenant.

He is the main inspiration behind your reporter's reenactment impression as a newspaper man.



[R.B., Ed.]

Country Music and Fast Draw Gigs, 2024:

The Royal British Legion, 5 Windsor Road, Oldbury, B68 8NY:

6th January – Warren Dewitt

2nd March – Peter Barlow

6th April – Micky Page

1st June – Jeff Gallant

6th July – Cole Jackson

3rd August – Dave Montana

12th October – Adam Harding

7th December – Rootin' Tootin'

Special Events:

Penkridge Sports & Recreation Centre - Monckton, Pinfold Lane, Penkridge, ST19 5QP

Wagons Roll,

Fri. 3rd – Sun. 5th May.

End of the Trail,

Fri. 1st – Sat. 2nd November.

Living History / Reenactment Events:

Welshpool Country Music Festival

Powis Castle Showground,

Welshpool, SY21 7NS

Fri. 19th – Sun. 21st July.

Rebel Rising Country Music Festival

Alveley Sports & Social Club,

Kidderminster Road, Alveley, WV15 6LN

(Indian dance group)

Fri. 19th – Sun. 21st July.

Driffield Steam Fair

East Yorks. Showground, Driffield, YO25 9DN.

Sat. 10th – Sun. 11th August.

There are also some invitation events in Hereford and other reenactment events that are in the process of being confirmed. These will be detailed to members in due course.

For more information:

email: events@sotow.co.uk; phone 07399 882242;

follow Spirit of the Old West on Facebook;

look out for the forthcoming website.

[Craig Evans]

Look out for other events to attend either as day visitors or as guests of other groups (ask them first!). Use any excuse to wear your period clothing and spread the old west word! I know I do! [R.B., Ed.]

TRICO'S CHUCK - WAGON RECIPES

Step Back in Time: Recreating an 1860's Old American West Christmas Dinner.

Travel back to the 1800s with a festive Old American West Christmas Dinner. Immerse yourself in the flavors and traditions of the time as we bring you a step-by-step guide to creating an authentic 1860's holiday feast.

Setting the Ambience

Decorate your table with rustic charm, using natural materials such as burlap table runners, dried flowers, and pine cones. Traditional candles and oil lamps will provide warm and flickering light reminiscent of the era. Do not forget to add some rustic touches, such as vintage silverware, cast-iron serving dishes, and wooden platters.

Roast Turkey

Start the meal with a classic centerpiece – a tender, golden-roasted turkey. Begin by brining the bird overnight in a mixture of salt and water to enhance its flavor and juiciness. Stuff the turkey with a bread-based stuffing infused with aromatic herbs such as sage, thyme, and rosemary. Roast it in a wood-fired or traditional oven until the skin is crispy and the meat is cooked through. Recipe: Roast Turkey with Herb Stuffing.

Mashed Potatoes

No Christmas dinner is complete without creamy mashed potatoes. Peel and boil potatoes until tender, then mash them with butter and whole milk. For authenticity, you can even consider using a handheld potato masher instead of modern appliances. Recipe: Classic Mashed Potatoes.

Succotash

Succotash is a hearty and flavorful side dish that perfectly reflects Old American West cuisine. Simply combine freshly shucked sweet corn, lima beans, onion and bacon in a cast-iron skillet. Cook until the vegetables are tender and the flavors have melded together. Recipe: Succotash.

Cornbread

Whip up a batch of golden, crumbly cornbread to accompany your feast. Prepare a simple batter using cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, milk and eggs. Bake it in a hot cast-iron skillet to achieve a crisp exterior and tender interior. Recipe: Classic Cornbread.

Cranberry Sauce

Add a burst of tangy sweetness to your table with homemade cranberry sauce. Simmer fresh cranberries, sugar, orange zest and a touch of cinnamon in a saucepan until the berries burst and the flavors meld together. Allow it to cool before serving. Recipe: Homemade Cranberry Sauce.

Roasted Root Vegetables

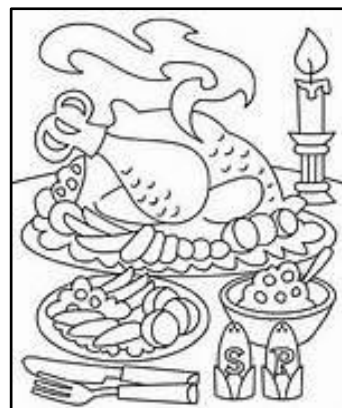
Create a colorful medley of roasted root vegetables to add depth and warmth to your meal. Toss peeled and cubed potatoes, carrots, parsnips and turnips with olive oil, salt and pepper. Roast them in the oven until they are caramelized and tender. Recipe: Roasted Root Vegetables.

Apple Pie

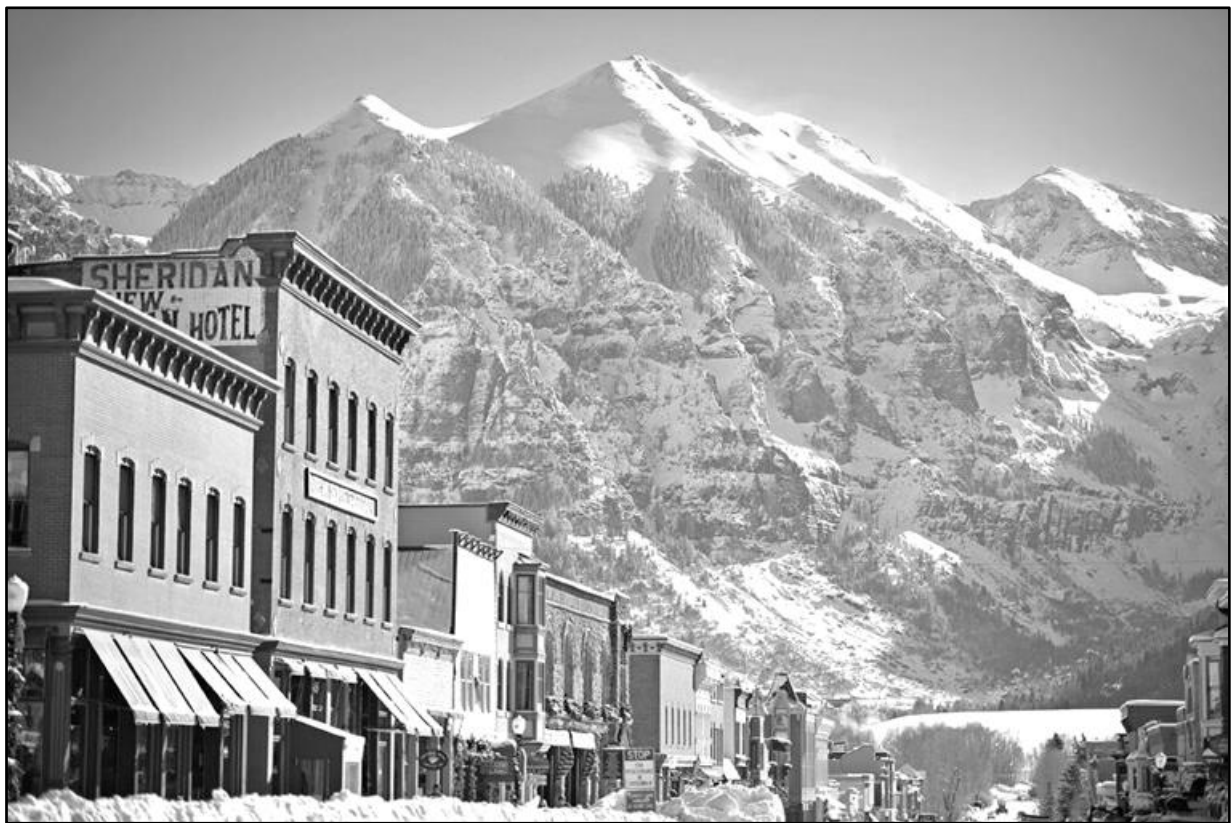
For a sweet finale, indulge in a classic American dessert – apple pie. Fill a buttery pie crust with thinly sliced apples mixed with sugar, cinnamon, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Bake it until the crust is golden and the apples are tender and bubbling. Recipe: Old-Fashioned Apple Pie.

Celebrate in Style

As you savor your nostalgic feast, why not dress the part? Encourage guests to don Old American West attire - think cowboy hats, bandanas, and leather boots. Serve beverages in mason jars or enamelware cups to enhance the rustic ambience. By recreating an 1860's Old American West Christmas dinner, you will not only enjoy a mouthwatering feast but also honor the traditions and flavors of a bygone era. So, gather your loved ones, embrace the spirit of the Old West and create lasting memories this holiday season.



[Richard Day]



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Suppliers

The occasional list of suppliers that OLS members may wish to investigate.

We hope that our readers will furnish us with details of suppliers that they believe to be worthy of patronage.

Suppliers listed in previous editions of this newspaper are:

- Civil War Sutler**, civilwarsutler.co.uk.
- River Junction Trade Co.**, riverjunction.com.
- Hats Period**, hatsperiod.co.uk and on Facebook.
- South Union Mills**, southunionmills.com.
- FLB Westernwear**, flbwesternwear.co.uk.
- 19th Century Tailoring (AKA Sutlers)**, 19th-century-tailoring.co.uk; sutlers.co.uk.
- Historical Emporium** www.historicalemporium.com.
- Sutler of Fort Scott**, sutleroffortscott.com.
- All That Glisters Coins**, allthatglisterscoins@gmail.com.

North Pole Emporium

This company does not sell anything but is capable of supplying whatever you would like. What you need to do is write to Santa Claus (or *Father Christmas* as the English call him) c/o The North Pole with details of what you wish to have. The Elf staff will check your name against Santa's list to see if you have been naughty or nice. If you are on the good side of the list, you stand a chance of receiving at least one of the things from your letter. There is no guarantee as Santa does seem to take your family's financial situation into account meaning that richer people get more (Unfair! Ed.). Also, they only deliver once each year and that is on the stroke of midnight between December 24 and 25. A good company in theory but the Terms and Conditions are a little onerous.

(R.B., Ed.)

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