

Kate Baker's Ladies Silver Cornet Band

Gavin Holman, 18 July 2026

This band, which started life at Gallatin, Missouri, performed throughout Missouri and neighbouring states from late 1886 to 1891. Its leader was Kate Baker, the drum major of the band, which had been organised by herself and her husband, Alvis Baker. Similar to many of the 'ladies' bands that were active in the latter half of the nineteenth century, it was not exclusively composed of women and girls. There were the occasional male players as well. Indeed, many such bands were led by a man – usually their tutor or manager.



Kate Baker's Ladies' Silver Cornet Band, 1888

Alvis M. Baker was born in 1853 in Millville, Missouri. He married Mary E. Connor in 1876, but they divorced in 1882 (probably due to his affair with Kate, her being pregnant with his son), allowing him to marry Kate.

Kate was born Mary Catherine Bennet, on 23 May 1862 in Lone Jack, Missouri. She married Alvis Baker on 26 Dec 1882 at Chillicothe, Missouri.

Alvis was a barber by trade, to begin with, and was also a founding member of the Breckenridge Cornet Band when it was established in April 1883. The other band members were: Joe Bucher, F. Higgins, Byron McKinly, J.E. Johnson, Ernest Maupin, Jacob Johnson, Frank Neff, and Henry Gunn.

BAKER'S

Tonsorial Parlor.

South of Post Office, Breckenridge, Mo.

Al. M. Baker, Master Mechanic.

An easy chair, clean towel, sharp razor, almanac leaf and chromo to gaze upon, for every customer. Step right in. You are always next.

Over the next three years the Breckenridge Cornet Band performed at various events and concerts in and around the town, going from strength to strength.

Our cornet band has received four elegant new musical instruments, beautiful silver-plated gold-nounted Eb cornets, by J.H. Bucher and Charles Halstead, a clarionet by Jackie Johnson, and a Bb baritone by Henry Gunn. Our band is composed of first-class business men entirely, who are ambitious and excellent musicians. This insures the permanency of the institution. They are attaining a fine reputation and making steady improvement. There is probably no band of eleven pieces in the State that can down the B.C.B.¹



Bandstand in City Park, Breckenridge

During his time with the Breckenridge Cornet Band, Alvis became involved with other amusement and entertainment activities. Together with his father, George Washington Baker, he built a roller-skating rink on the corner of his property on Broadway in Breckenridge. It was 40 by 90 feet with a 16 foot ceiling. It was constructed in 'opera house style' with a stage and galleries. A tornado tore through the town, on 20 June 1885, doing an immense amount of damage. The skating rink was lifted from its foundation and moved several feet, but without other material damage. Thankfully it did not take long to remedy any issues with its unusual

¹ The Breckenridge Bulletin, 6 August 1885

relocation. It opened to the public on 4 July 1885 and immediately became a favourite place to go – for exercise, entertainment and staged events, often hired by groups to raise funds.

By early 1886 Alvis Baker, together with his wife Kate, had established the Breckenridge Ladies Cornet Band, which rapidly achieved a good standard of playing, to the extent that they gained second prize in the band contest at Cameron, Missouri, on Monday 5 July 1886.

The band travelled to Laclede on Friday 9 July via the ‘Hurricane’ train, to perform at Laclede’s ‘Celebration Saturday’. They played some pieces on the streets on the Friday when they arrived and won the great appreciation of Laclede’s citizens with their performances on the Saturday. The members of the band were:

J.A. Johnson (leader, Eb cornet)
H.C. Webster (solo Bb cornet)
J.E. Johnson (first Bb cornet)
Mrs Kate Baker (solo alto)
Miss Minnie McKinley (first alto)
Miss Flora Vanbeber (second alto)
Mrs Harry Webster (first tenor)
Miss Lillie McKinley (baritone)
Al. M. Baker (tuba)
C.E. Hart (bass drum)

The band received offers to play at the Shelbina and Cunningham fairs during the summer of 1886, but had to turn them down due to prior existing engagements at the Brookfield and Montgomery City fairs.

In the early autumn of 1886, Alvis and Kate Baker moved to Gallatin, Missouri, only about 20 miles from Breckenridge. Almost immediately they began to establish a new ladies cornet band, which was called ‘Kate Baker’s Ladies Silver Cornet Band’. The first members, reported on 16 December 1886 were:

Mrs Kate Baker (drum major)
W.C. (Bud) Nadeau (Eb cornet)
Prof. R.A. Armstrong (solo Bb cornet)
John Parshall (second Bb cornet)
Miss Lucy Keene (first alto)
Miss Ova Weaver (second alto)
Miss Cordie Lewis (Bb trombone)
Miss Jessie A. Sullivan (baritone)
Al M. Baker (Eb tuba)
Carl Brosins (bass drum)



Alvis M. Baker

A subsequent report, on 18 December, gave a slightly different lineup, with Kate Baker replacing John Parshall on second cornet; H.A. Stout on solo alto; and the following alternate spelling of names: Lucie Keene, Corda Lewis, Carl Brosius. It was noted that they could play three or four pieces ‘passably well’ and had performed at the Marquee

entertainment on Tuesday 14 December.² They went on to play for the Adams theatrical company in the town for their performances during Christmas week, having enjoyed a 'band' Christmas dinner together at the Windsor Hotel.

One of Alvis Baker's initiatives was to set up the Home Dramatic Company in Gallatin, which put on various staged entertainments and plays. On 21 January 1887, the Company gave a drama – *"The Reward of Crime or the Love of Gold"* at Miller's Opera House, with Kate Baker's Band providing musical support. The evening concluded with the Irish farce *"That Rascal Pat"*. Proceeds went to the benefit of the band. [See Appendix 2 for a playbill for this evening].

On Saturday 29 January Kate Baker's Band played at the Gallatin City Hall for the Miss Leonora Murray entertainment.

On Thursday 17 February the band held an oyster festival at Miller's hall (the Opera House), providing brass music and accompanied by Miss Irma Osborn and Miss Mittie Irving on the piano. They raised around \$13.

The members of the band, as recorded on 31 March 1887, were:

Miss Lucy Keene (drum major)
Mrs Clark Long (Eb clarinet)
H.A. Stout (Eb cornet)
Mrs Kate Baker (solo Bb cornet and leader)
John Parshal (first Bb cornet)
Miss Alice Baker (solo alto) [*Alvis Baker's sister*]
Miss Jessie Sullivan (first alto)
Miss Kate Keene (second alto)
Miss Corda Lewis (Bb trombone)
Miss Freddie Cobb (baritone)
Al M. Baker (Eb tuba and manager)
C.M. Brosius (bass drum)
Master D. Baker (snare drum)

Alvis Baker noted in a letter:

*"We are well organized and equipped, and have given two entertainments with good success. We use Squire's music almost exclusively – Overture "Casket of Gems" is a daisy."*³

On Tuesday 5 April 1887 the band played at the bonfire which celebrated the results of the Gallatin city election, and was taken in the omnibus to the residences of the winning candidates to serenade them.

Friday 15 April 1887 saw the Pattonsburg Cornet Band visit Gallatin, to have their picture taken by the Gallatin photographic artist. After playing some 'fine music' on the streets, they were joined by Kate Baker's band and played several pieces together. The Pattonsburg band had a neat grey steel uniform coat which 'set the members off in good taste'.

² The Gallatin North Missourian, 16 December 1886 + The Gallatin Democrat, 18 December 1886

³ Gallatin North Missourian, 31 March 1887

Thursday 21 April was the opening of Miss Anna Sorge's Gallatin emporium's spring sale of millinery goods and notions. Kate Baker's band was engaged to entertain the crowds of ladies keen to see the good on offer, and performed several pieces for them.

The band give a street parade and an open-air concert in Chillicothe, on 30 April 1887, for the G.A.R. post, before putting on the "*Reward of Crime*" and "*That Rascal Pat*" dramas. This event was repeated for the G.A.R. at Maysville on 17 May. Lillie McKinley was playing with the band again at this time.

On Monday 30 May 1887, the band took part in the Gallatin Memorial Day celebrations,

On Friday 3 June 1887, Al Baker visited Chillicothe with an offer:

"Mr Baker informs us that he would like to move to Chillicothe and bring the lady band with him, and will do so if our citizens will raise a pony purse for him. In return for the money thus subscribed he proposes to give open air concerts in the park two or three evenings each week and guarantees to keep up the concerts two years."⁴

Saturday 2 July saw the band (with 15 members) attend the Grand Musical Jubilee at Cameron, Missouri. [See Appendix 3 for an advertisement for this event, which included solos by a young Arthur Pryor on trombone]. The following day the band serenaded the offices of "*The Vindicator*", Cameron's local newspaper. The band members at this event were reported as:

Al M. Baker, Kate Baker, Henry E. Zimmerman, Ed Marshal, Hugh Stout, Miss Jessie Sullivan, Miss Lucy Kane, Miss Edna Irvin, Miss Maud Irvin, Miss Lillie Baker, Fred Cobb, Henry Grunn, Carl Brosius, Robert McFarlane, Clark Long.

This was followed by Princeton on 4 July for their Independence Day celebrations, providing music and their dramatic show.

The band was engaged to perform at the Boone District Fair at Columbia from 16 to 20 August. One of the fair directors was quite enamoured with the ladies - he was the *'happy possessor of a photograph of the drum major and takes great delight in showing it to his friends.'*

A similar issue arose with the secretary of the Marshall fair in Seline County, who *'received a photograph of the lady drum major, dressed in her gorgeous costume; but, being a discreet married man and having the fear of his wife before his eyes, he*



Kate Baker

⁴ The Gallatin Democrat, 4 June 1887

*has given it to the president, Mr J.T. Weller, who has it on exhibition at his drug store.*⁵

The picture of the gallant drum major of the Kate Baker's ladies' band, which will play here at the fair, looms up at Weller's in the most stunning guise. Her regimentals are most dashing becoming, and the sang froid of her appearance is only equalled by the jaunty sauciness of her costume. The band, being composed of five of the sterner and seven of the softer sex, will drill and execute music for us at the fair. To kill ladies with a brilliant uniform and dazzling buttons has long been the custom of the amateur brass bands. That the ladies will begin to retaliate is perhaps not surprising, nor have we the slightest doubt of their success. The sight of a gentle lady in flashing buttons and radiant regimentals blowing her fair brains out through a brass horn will make the susceptible hearts of our heroic six-footers tingle "like your foot when it's asleep." ⁶

Other fair appearances of the band during that season were: Saline County, Marshall (3-6 August), Tipton (9-13 August), Lafayette County, Higginsville (23-27 August), Memphis (6-9 September), Monroe County, Madison (13-16 September), and Lineville, Iowa (27-30 September).

On 8 August the band visited Boonville and gave their usual performance at the Thespian Opera House – which included a parade, concert and their drama. Sadly, although their music was much appreciated, the same cannot be said for their dramatic efforts. They were *'hissed from the stage'* and reportedly the play was *'miserably rendered, a perfect farce made out of a tragedy.... as actors its members are first class frauds.'*⁷

At the Monroe County fair in Madison it was commented that there were not as many females in the band as expected – only four and two of them children.⁸

En route to their Lineville fair engagement the band stopped at Jamesport on 26 September and presented their musical and dramatic performances at Callison's Hall – to much greater appreciation and acclaim than was received at Boonville!

Unfortunately it appears that all was not sweetness and light in the band, as it was reported that it broke up in Unionville, Missouri on Thursday 6 October. *'there was some grabbing for horns, etc., and our informant came out with a bass drum'* ⁹ *'... recently got into a quarrel about a piece of music, and after pulling hair a while, took a horn apiece and returned home.'*¹⁰

Their problems did not stop there, as Al Baker found himself in hot water:

Al. Baker, the manager and treasurer of the celebrated (?) Kate Baker's Ladies Cornet Band and Comedy Co., had a leading part in an engagement not down on the bills. He had persuaded a daughter of Mrs. S.E. Keene, proprietress of the Western House, to leave home and go with his company against her mother's

⁵ Miami Weekly News, 7 July 1887

⁶ Saline County Progress, 13 July 1887

⁷ Boonville Daily News and Advertiser, 12 August 1887

⁸ Madison County Appeal, 16 September 1887

⁹ The Daily Vindicator, Cameron, 11 October 1887

¹⁰ Albany Ledger, 21 October 1887

wishes, and is reported to have deserted her at Laclede without giving her money enough to get home. Mrs. Keene met Baker on the street last Saturday and as he would give her no satisfaction she proceeded to demolish an umbrella over his head and would have succeeded if Baker hadn't concluded that a change of scene was in order. Her action is universally commended and the prevailing opinion is that he deserved a great deal more than he got. He has left Gallatin and a number of his creditors have sundry reasons to remember his stay here, If he will remain away we will cheerfully donate the amount he owes this office. ¹¹

It is assumed that Al and Kate Baker, relocated to Laclede, Missouri, following these upsets, as their next appearance is at the re-organisation of Kate's band at Laclede in April 1888.

The newly-established Kate Baker's Ladies Silver Cornet Band played at the G.A.R. post in Milan, Missouri for their Decoration Day, on 30 May 1888, where they were greatly appreciated. On their return journey to Laclede they passed through Linneus, Missouri, and played some music from the rear car of the train when it pulled into the town.

The band was engaged by the Sweet Springs Hotel in Boonville to furnish music for the season in Summer 1888.

En route, eastwards, on the Hamilton & St Joseph Railroad, at a stop in Cameron, the band played music to the crowds at the depot there.

In August 1888 the band provided music before and after performances at the Grand Opera House in Mexico, Missouri.

At the beginning of September 1888 Kate Baker's Band travelled to Lawrence, Kansas to perform at their Bismark county fair, also taking part in the grand parade if all the local democratic clubs. They seemed to have made a good impression:

"The Kate Baker female cornet band serenaded the Lawrence Press club and the visiting journalists one day this week and not a single intelligent report has gone out about the Bismark fair since that time." ¹²

They moved on to perform at Washington Park, Kansas City, Kansas, on Sunday 9 September, before travelling to Trenton, Missouri for a week's engagement at the county fair there. Leaving Kansas City, at the Union depot, they gave some farewell music. The lady members were dressed in their epauletted shoulders and uniform dresses, with Kate Baker distinguished from the others by a flaming red silk waist.¹³

One the band's most prestigious engagements was the Kansas State Fair, at Topeka from 17-22 September 1888, giving street parades and drills every morning and concerts in the evenings, with 21 female musicians. During this season the band also featured Al and Kate's son, Dan Baker, who at three years old was the darling of the audiences for his cymbal playing with the band.

¹¹ Gallatin Democrat, 13 October 1887

¹² The Wichita Star, 7 September 1888

¹³ Kansas City Journal, 11 September 1888

1888.	≡THE≡ KANSAS - STATE - FAIR AT TOPEKA,	1888.
September 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22d. \$25,000 IN PREMIUMS. \$25,000. The Great Annual Event! :-: A Gala Week of Recreation and Profitable Enjoyment! Splendid Racing and a Grand Programme of Other Special Attractions Provided Each Day of the Fair. MUSIC BY THE CELEBRATED KATE BAKER'S LADIES' SILVER CORNET BAND, Headed by the Only LADY DRUM MAJOR in the World, who will give a Grand Street Parade and Drill Every Morning. EXCURSION - RATES - ON - ALL - RAILROADS. Harvest Excursions from the Eastern and Middle States, Commencing September 17. Write your friends to avail themselves of this Grand Opportunity to visit the Empire State and the Wonderful Fair of 1888. FOR ALL INFORMATION ADDRESS THE SECRETARY. E. G. MOON, Secretary.		

It was during their stay in Topeka that the band encountered Dr George B. McLellan, otherwise known as “Diamond Dick”, who was, severally, a physician, peddler of potions and drugs, showman, and a dead-shot with a pistol and rifle. He persuaded the Kate Baker band to accompany him on his tour, which was also advertising his infirmary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

The band and Diamond Dick spent a week at the Corn Palace in Sioux City, Iowa, after playing at the Falls City fair in early October 1888. Then they travelled to Leavenworth, Kansas and other points in that state, via Wayne, Nebraska. During their stay in Wayne, Diamond Dick demonstrated his shooting skills when holding a rifle at arm's length in one hand, he shot a potato from off a man's head.¹⁴ Diamond Dick stated that they intended to return to Sioux City in November in a special car he was building.

¹⁵

Around this time, in October 1888, Anna Burroughs, of Marysville, Kansas, a gifted cornet soloist, joined up with Kate Baker's band after they visited that town with Diamond Dick. Part of Dick's medical fame came from his use of roots and herbs gained from his investigating medical science among various Indian tribes – he was also known as the ‘patent medicine fiend’. The band continued with Diamond Dick tour until early November 1888.

¹⁴ The Sun, Wayne, 26 October 1888

¹⁵ Sioux City Journal, 6 October 1888

Leonore Boyd, from Aledo, Illinois, played in Kate Baker's Band during this season. In Wayne, Nebraska, on October 11, 1888, Lenore wrote to her future husband. She returned home in mid-November when the show season ended.

Once again on their own, the band took part in the parade and celebrations in Beatrice, Nebraska, on the election of Benjamin Harrison to president-elect on 13 November 1888.

On the occasion of their first appearance in the street, a man jeered at them with some slighting remark whereupon the drum-major hit him a couple of blows on the head with her wand which laid him flat. It was rather a noisy crowd which had gathered, for the streets were full of men who had been witnessing the payment of "wheelbarrow election bets," yet a spirit of profound gravity swept over the multitude as the plucky little major stepped forward and thus summarily vindicated the right of her sex to do even this thing, when she can do it modestly and well as did this band. ¹⁶



Dan Baker, aged 3

Then to Fairbury, Nebraska, on Saturday 17 November for a week or so, after which they disbanded for Christmas, until meeting up on 2 January 1889 to travel to Detroit, Michigan, playing for the Opera Company until warm weather, when they were engaged for the boating excursions on the lakes. ¹⁷ However, they only stayed for a week before returning to Kansas to take up with the Clair Patee Company on their tour.

Alice and Nellie Richolson, together with Lillie Baker, joined the band at this time, Nellie Richolson being considered 'the finest lady tuba player in the United States'.

The members of the band in January 1889 included Kate Baker (drum major), Mina Hallett (solo cornet), Alice Baker (trombone), Lillie Baker (alto), Anna Burroughs (cornet), Lenora Boyd (baritone), Lotta de Rose (alto), Alice Richolson (cornet), Nellie Richolson (tuba), Bertha Boyd (tuba), and Dan Baker ("smallest boy musician in the world"). Their uniform was a blue suit trimmed in gilt, with helmet and plume.

Tour locations included the Wichita Museum and Family Theatre, in January, Herington Opera House in February, Moore's Opera House, Manhattan, Kansas, in March.

¹⁶ The Woman's Tribune, Beatrice, Nebraska, 24 November 1888

¹⁷ The Star, Beattie, Kansas, 4 January 1889

CLAIR PATEE CO.

THREE NIGHTS. COMMENCING JANUARY 31. THREE NIGHTS.

Including the Accomplished Young Actress,

EDITH ARNOLD.

And "Just the Plain Comedian,"

WILLARD SIMMS.

Presenting the great Laughing Success which has been justly
Pronounced the Funniest Comedy Written.

AN EVENING OUT

The Following FUN MAKERS in the Cast:

J. Monsignor Skip	EDWARD M. KIMBALL
Dick Balderby	Manager of the "Rocket Dramatic Company, (Limited)."
A "Supposed" actor masquerading under name of Montgomery	HEBERT B. CHESLEY
Doctor Watson	O. C. GARVIN
Zachariah Balderby	Who never had an adventure in his life.
	WALTER P. DEMPSEY
Mrs Xantippi Busby	A persistent vintor, who is always in the way.
Cecil Watson	Professor of the household Busby, whose word is law.
Polly	PAULINE MADDERN
	The married daughter—believer in the author Balzac.
That Awful Parrot	OLLIE EVANS
	"I'm no Jay." And
EDITH ARNOLD	BY HIMSELF.
	The Lup of the family of Busby.
WILLARD SIMMS	TISBY
	as PROF. LEANDER BUSBY
	Professor of Ancient History of Hurricane College.

A Grand Potpourri of Fun, Laughter, Music and Songs.

KATE BAKER'S

CELEBRATED

LADIES'

SILVER CORNET UNIFORMED

BAND & ORCHESTRA.

This exceptional attraction consists of Twelve Lady Musicians, clad in elegant uniforms.

Miss KATE BAKER

The Only Lady Drum Major in the World, and the Following
First-class Musical Artists:

MISS MINA HALLETT	The finest lady cornetist in the world
MISS ALICE BAKER	Slide Trombone Soloist
MISS LILLIE BAKER	Slide Alto Soloist
MISS ANNA BURROUGHS	Cornet Soloist
MISS LENORA BOYD	Baritone Soloist
MISS LOTTA DE ROSE	Solo Alto
MISS ALICE RICHOLSON	B Flat Cornet Soloist
MISS NELLIE RICHOLSON	Tuba Soloist
MISS BERTHA BOYD	Tenor Soloist
MASTER DAN BAKER	The Smallest Boy Musician in the World.

Acknowledged by Press and Public to be the
Sensation of The Day.
Will appear on your Streets in one of their
GRAND - EXHIBITION - DRILLS!
(Weather permitting), each day at 11 a. m., and will give open air Concerts each evening before the performance of the CLAIR PATEE COMPANY. All lovers of music should see the Greatest Novelty that has ever visited the West.

Mina Hallett, the band's lead cornet, resigned from the band in early March at Salina, Kansas, to become married to Charles. Pearsall of Mendota, Illinois. Sadly this union did not last long, as Charles Pearsall was arrested on 5 April 1889 in Salina for 'fleecing the county farmers on the confidence watch racket game'. Pearsall subsequently jumped his bail, his board bill and left his wife shortly thereafter. Mina Hallett managed to secure an engagement with the Miller specialty company which was in Salina later that month, and left with them for Sioux City on their tour.

Meanwhile, Kate Baker's band completed their tour engagement with Clair Patee and joined up again with Diamond Dick on his next set of excursions, from May 1889. The band at this time, at Leavenworth before setting out, was reported to be:

Miss Gladys Crockett (solo Bb cornet), Miss Lizzie V. Ott (first cornet), Miss Mary Weber (solo alto), Miss Mollie Espy (first alto), Miss Stella Baker (slide alto), Miss Alice Bennett (slide trombone), Miss Celia Bake (baritone), Miss Lana Lamont (tuba), Miss Blanche Andrews (bass drum), Miss Pearl Rosenberg (snare drum), Master Dan Baker (cymbals).¹⁸

Diamond Dick and the band spent five days in Paola, Kansas from 10 May 1889, followed by four days at Louisburg, Kansas from 17 May. The most popular tune of the band's repertoire at this time was said to be "*Chippie Get Your Hair Cut.*" [See Appendix 4 for an advertisement for their stay in Louisburg].

Their next stop was La Cygne, Kansas, for its Decoration Day on 30 May. At Mound City, Kansas, later in June, Diamond Dick was giving two exhibitions a day and Kate Baker's band was providing free concerts in the afternoons and evenings. Moving on to Fort Scott, Kansas, for two weeks from 26 June, the band gave their lightning drill exercises and concerts, and Diamond Dick opened an office where he dispensed his medicines and "knowledge of the healing art." The band were housed at the Huntington Hotel, and were listed as:

¹⁸ The Sun, Leavenworth, 1 May 1889

Al M. Baker, Master Dan Baker, Misses Alice Baker, Stella Baker, Mollie Espy, Gloethie Crockett, Mary Webber, Blanche Edwards, Lena Lamont, Cecil Loan, Bettie Johnson, Lottie Hurley, McDonald.¹⁹

Lottie Hurley and Bettie Johnson had joined the band in Mound City, where they were from. At the end of Diamond Dick's two-week stay in Fort Scott, Kate Baker's band severed their connection with him and remained in the town for a couple of days, putting on benefit concerts at the opera house to support themselves. The two Mound City girls decided to return home and not stay with the band.



Diamond Dick

It is assumed that the band returned to Laclede for the next few weeks, until they left for Chicago on 10 August 1889, to fulfil an engagement for the coming winter.²⁰ In the shorter term the band took up with the Theade & Cooper Company providing musical entertainment for their shows – in Indianapolis on 21-23 August, and Beloit, Wisconsin in the following week.

The band then took a break from performing and spent some time rehearsing in Dubuque, Iowa, in September 1889, before setting out on their own once more – starting with two shows at Platteville, Wisconsin, on 20 and 21 September.

Their solo shows did not last long, as they soon took up with Lovenberg's Equine Paradox Show on tour, performing in DeKalb, Illinois at the end of October, Sterling, Illinois in November, and Moline, Illinois in early December 1889.

After Christmas the band joined Edwin Barbour, the actor-comedian, in his show "*A Legal Document*". They performed in Dallas, Illinois on Monday 2 January 1890, and at the Burnett Opera House in Louisiana, Missouri, on 6 January.

By March 1890 the band was travelling on its own again, and returned to Tipton, Missouri for a concert on Monday 10 March. The cavalier nature of Al Baker showed itself once again, according to the following report:

Kate Baker's female band, who will be remembered as furnishing the music at our fair two years ago struck town Monday, and attempted to give a concert. Our people did not bite readily, and Al Baker the manager found himself stranded. With a heartlessness that would do discredit to a Digger Indian he left next day leaving three young ladies of the party penniless and among strangers. One of the ladies received a remittance yesterday and left for her home in Arkansas. The other two are orphan sisters named Higgins, whose home is at Stranberry, Mo., and they are waiting to receive money from friends. Some gentlemen proposed to raise the necessary money to pay their way home, but the young ladies thanked them for their kind offer, but did not care to accept charity. They informed a Times

¹⁹ Fort Scott Daily Monitor, 27 June 1889

²⁰ Hamilton News Graphic, Missouri, 16 August 1889

representative that they had been in Baker's employ since Thanksgiving at a salary of \$6 to \$8 per week, and had only, received \$9 each, on their salary during that time. That Baker is a dead beat and a fraud is clearly shown by his conduct. and his face bears witness to the same fact.²¹

Following this, Anna Burroughs, who was the band's cornet leader, resigned and returned home at the end of March 1890. The band itself is not heard from again until December 1890, when the Kate Baker's Concert Company performed in Sterling, Kansas.

29-31 December 1890 at the Park Theatre, Auburn, Nebraska; 2 February at Bigelow, Missouri; 25 February at Kingston, Missouri. They continued touring through Missouri until the end of March 1891. In the autumn of 1891 they appeared again on the vaudeville circuit in Kansas and Missouri, billed as the Kate Baker Comic [Concert] Company (with ladies' band and orchestra). One member of the company was Miss Mabel Lord, reportedly "*...as a vocalist and tuba soloist, has no equal in the West.*"²²

At their appearance in Phillipsburg, Kansas on 10 November 1891, mention was made of both Dan and Kate:

The Kate Baker concert company showed at the opera house Tuesday evening to a large audience. The performance of the child artist was well rendered and exceedingly remarkable for one at his age. Mrs Baker's manipulation of the black art was also a very interesting feature. Although on a small scale it was fully equal to the leading magicians of the day.²³

KATE BAKER,
And her world-famous
COMIC CONCERT CO.
Appears at Ellet's Opera House.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th.
Lady cornet band and orchestra.
Specialties, refined, amusing, delightful.
Master, Dan Baker, the boy-comedian,
Al M. Baker, prince of black-face artists,
Miss Lee Leonard, cornet, Miss Loo
Leonard, alto and Miss Mary Webber,
baritone, Miss Mable Lord, vocalist,
pianist and tuba soloists; also D. H.
Halderman, violin and cornet soloist, are
first in talent and acquirement.

THE LADY BAND
Will give a
::: Free Concert. :::
In front of the Opera House at 7 p. m.
Reserved seats, 35 cents 'at Edwards'
Jewelry store.

El Dorado, Kansas, Dec. 1891

Dan Baker, aged six at this time, was lauded for his "*...several roles of dude, female impersonator, dancer and Irishman.*"

The company and band carried on their touring through to the end of April 1892. Although they appear to have had many appreciative audiences, particularly for their musical performances, perhaps their latest 'mixed' routines were not quite as well regarded:

The Kate Baker Comedy Company gave a horrible exhibition of singing, dancing, and slight of hand, at the rink Monday night. The man who invented the class of mixed shows which have horrified this country this winter ought to be identified

²¹ The Tipton Times, 13 March 1890

²² Circleville News, Kansas, 22 October 1891

²³ Phillipsburg Dispatch, Kansas, 12 November 1891

and hanged. The company noted above as having inflicted a night of misery on a few misguided citizens of this town, escaped with their lives the next day, a fact that speaks highly in favor of the advanced civilization of this progressive city. ²⁴

The Kate Baker Company returned on tour in August 1892 (after the birth of Kate's son Tony Pastor Baker in June 1892) starting in their old home town of Gallatin, Missouri. In October 1892, Miss Emma Fussman, of Humbolt, Kansas, returned home after performing as a musician with Kate Baker for the previous two months. She intended to return to the band in January 1893. At the end of January 1893, Miss Bertha Casad joined the band as their leader. They played at several events over the next month or two, but nothing thereafter.

Kate Baker died on Sunday 6 August 1893, in Breckenridge, Missouri.

The concert company continued to perform during the winter season of 1893/1894, but under the name of Dan Baker, Kate's young son. The ladies band did not reform after this final season.

Alvis later married Hilda May Murray (b. 1880) in 1900, with whom he had two children – Grace (1902) and Raymond (1903).

Alvis died on 27 September 1909 in Breckenridge, Missouri, together with his wife. Hilda had received three gunshots, one in front and two in the back, while Alvis lay on the bed on the other side of the room with one bullet in his brain and the revolver still in his hand and his finger on the trigger. ²⁵

²⁴ Exeter Enterprise, Nebraska, 2 April 1892

²⁵ Omaha Daily Bee, Nebraska, 30 September 1909

Appendix 1

Some performers in Kate Baker's band

Hallett, Mina – A cornet soloist who led the Clair Patee Company in variety theatres, appearing at Council Grove, Kansas in February 1889. She was also had been a member of the Kate Baker Ladies' Silver Cornet Band earlier that year, but jumped ship to go it alone. While performing at Salina, Kansas, in April 1889 she married Mr Pearsall, who shortly thereafter “jumped his bail, his board bill and his wife” – having been arrested for fleecing the farmers in the neighbourhood on the watch, shell and soap rackets. She subsequently left to take up an engagement at Sioux City, Iowa with the Miller Specialty Company.



Richolson, Alice - A cornet soloist, member of Kate Baker's Ladies' Band. She performed, together with her sisters Nellie and Helen, and Lillie Baker with the Clair Patee Company at Wichita, Kansas in January 1889

Richolson, Helen - A baritone, member of Kate Baker's Ladies' Band. She performed, together with her sisters Nellie and Alice, and Lillie Baker with the Clair Patee Company at Wichita, Kansas in January 1889

Richolson, Nellie - A tuba soloist, member of Kate Baker's Ladies' Band. She performed, together with her sisters Alice and Helen, and Lillie Baker with the Clair Patee Company at Wichita, Kansas in January 1889. In July 1889, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the Clair Patte Band included Anna Burroughs (cornet), Nellie Richolson, Alice Richolson (cornet), Lillie McKinley (alto), Helen Richolson (baritone), Lottie de Rose (alto), Minnie Rich (trombone), and Frankie Rhodes (tenor)

Appendix 2

MRS. KATE BAKER'S Ladies' Silver Cornet Band

—AND—

Home Dramatic Co.,

Will Present at Miller's Opera House, on

Friday Night, Jan. 21, '87

The Celebrated Drama Entitled

THE REWARD OF CRIME,

—OR THE LOVE OF—

GOLD!

OVERTURE. : : : : ORCHESTRA.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

TIM GLEASON, a Yankee Servant.....AL BAKER
Hazel Greene, the Yankee Farmer.....Hugh Stout
Hart Hawkins, the Lover.....F. B. Cobb
Simon Bars, the Murderer.....W. C. Runnells
Brandon Coyle, the Accomplice.....Carl Brosius
Clarenda Green, the Wife.....Miss Lucy Keene
Mabel Green, the Daughter.....Mrs. Kate Baker
Rose Cranberry, the Help.....Miss Cordie Lewis

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS.

ACT FIRST.—Scene First.—The Green family—Mrs. Green's suspicion of Simon Barrs—"Don't think me a fool, wife," reference to the murdered son—"Should that time ever come, wife, I'd kill him if I could"—Surrender of Lee—Commencement of his salute—"Whoa! old mare"—"Let her vim; I'll pay the damage."

Scene Second.—The plotters—"If we can't do it one way we must do it another"—Unexpected entrance of Tim—"Wait" Tim becomes master of ceremonies.

Scene Third.—The lovers—"Beware of Simon Barrs"—"Money, Money"—"I'll be true to you for ever"—A dish of apples and a drink of cider—A hit at the legislature of Vt.—A little unpleasantness between Tim and Rose—The pledge of love—Some of Tim's experience—"Idiot, I'll brain you"—"Don't you so much as wiggle."

ACT SECOND.—Scene First:—Three years later—"Poor husband, what a change has come over him"—Farmer Green in the toils—"He loves her to destruction"—He's rich, wife, he's rich—"Yes, father, I am that person"—Hazel, you've done a noble act—The farmer's early recollections—"If I've come to my senses I'll act like a man."

Scene Second.—The storm—The villains at work—"Here's luck."

Scene Third.—Tim's soliloquy—The fatal letter—Rose as a pickpocket—"Kill me quick"—"I will never marry you"—Home from Australia—"Have a care Hawkins, that's hard talk"—"Face your own music, Mr. Barrs"—Confronted with proof—"Men are you there?"—The response—Surrendered—Death of Simon Barrs.

Scene Fourth.—A fearful warning—"Our experience, wife, has been dearly bought"—The murderer's explanation—"In the gold mines of Ballarat"—Rescue of the Gov. General in the streets of Sydney—Plenty of money and good luck—The knot—I'll be a different man—Celebrating the Nation's birthday—The father's request—and Eppilogue.

OVERTURE, : : : : ORCHESTRA.

The Evening's Entertainment will Conclude with an
Irish Farce Entitled,

That Rascal Pat !

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

PAT McNOGGERTY, an Irish Servant... AL. BAKER
Major Puffjacket, on half pay..... R. A. Armstrong
Charles Livingstone, poor but ambitious... W. C. Nadeau
Laura Puffjacket, Neice..... Mrs. Kate Baker
Nancy, a Maid, in Love with Pat... Miss Corda Lewis

DOORS OPEN AT 7. COMMENCES AT 8.

ADMISSION 10c.

RESERVED SEATS 20c.

We are here to cheer you with sweet music and
hope our efforts will be appreciated. The proceeds are
for the benefit of the band. The band will play in front
of the hall at 7 o'clock. Reserved seats at Post Office.

Music will be Furnished by Prof. Nadeau's Orchestra.

Appendix 3

Grand Musical Jubilee!

AT CAMERON, MO.

EIGHT CORNET BANDS; 800 VOICES!

And an Orchestra of 50 Pieces.

The Chorus of 800 Voices Will Include Many Vocalists of Renown, and Besides the Eight Bands, more than a hundred other band musicians have sent word that they would attend and participate in the Grand Band Concert—one of the features of the Jubilee.

Cameron will Celebrate the National Anniversary
by giving a Great Musical Jubilee on

Saturday, July 2nd.

Pryor's Celebrated Military Band, of St. Joseph,

With Master Arthur Pryor, (16 years old), Slide Trombone Soloist

Kate Baker's Ladies' Silver Cornet Band!

of Gallatin—the only Female Band in Missouri. Lady Drum Major and Fifteen Fine Musicians

THE WELL KNOWN KIDDER, EDGERTON, GARDEN PRAIRIE and CAMERON BANDS.

Besides the above bands, which have already arranged to attend, several others are being negotiated with.

Grand Gilmore Concert By All The Bands!

with Artillery and Anvil Accompaniment.

PROF. GEO. SOUTHWELL, of Kansas City, the Noted Band Music Composer, will direct the Bands in one of his greatest productions.

PROGRAMME:

MORNING EXERCISES.

At 10 o'clock Grand Parade of all the Bands.

At 10:30 An Address of Welcome in the Park by Rev. C. L. Butts.

AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

At 1 o'clock Singers and Musicians will assemble in Grand Stand in Park, erected for the occasion, when the Jubilee Concert will begin.

PART FIRST.

America—Chorus of 500 voices with full Band Accompaniment.
W. E. Steck, Conductor.

Fantasia—"Recollections of Opera,".....E. Beyer
Pryor's Military Band of St. Joseph, Mo. Prof. S. D. Pryor, Leader.

Chorus—"Red White and Blue,".....
W. F. Dieter's Juvenile Chorus Class of 100 voices.

Cornet Solo—"Prize Polka,".....Keller
Kate Baker's Ladies Band of Gallatin, Mo. Al. Baker, Manager.

March—"Famous 22nd Regiment,".....P. S. Gilmore
By all Bands in Concert—as played at St. Louis, K. T. Conclave.
Prof. S. D. Pryor, Director.

Valse—"La Chatelane,".....E. Tutterer
Kidder Cornet Band of 12 pieces. Prof. H. Burmeister, Director.

Overture—"Enchantment,".....Herman
Full Orchestra. W. E. Steck, Director.

Selection--Edgerton Cornet Band, 12 pieces. Ernest Wilson, Director.

Ladies Quartette—"Hail Happy Day,".....Benedict
Mrs. Woodward, Misses Frazier, Auten and Loutzenheiser.

Overture—"Court Square,".....Southwell
Garden Prairie Cornet Band. W. F. Dieter, Leader.

Solo—Slide Trombone—"Old Helicon," 'Air Varie',.....E. Brooks
Master Arthur Pryor, sixteen years old.

Intermission of 15 minutes.

PART SECOND.

Overture—"Sells Bros. Pavillion,".....Southwell
 By all Bands in concert. Prof. Geo. Southwell, Director.
 Chorus—"Now the Roll of the Lively Drum,".....
 Accidental Chorus Club of Cameron, Dr. E. S. McDonald, Conductor.
 Selection—"La Vestale,".....Mercadante
 Cameron Cornet Band. W. E. Steck, Leader
 Anvil Chorus.....Verdi
 500 Voices—with Full Band, Anvils and Cannon Accompaniment.
 Clarinet Solo—"Comin' Thro' the Rye,"--with variations,..E.S.Thornton
 D. K. Harper, with Orchestra accompaniment.
 Chorus—"Hail Smiling Morn,".....Spafforth
 Cameron Chorus Club. W. F. Dieter, Conductor
 Euphonium Solo—"Souvenir De Suisse,".....Sig Liberati
 C. H. Steck, with Band accompaniment.
 March—"Jolly Coppersmith,".....Ferrazzi
 With Vocal and Whistling Chorus—Cameron Cornet Band.
 Slide Trombone Solo—"Silver Star,".....O. E. Sutton
 Master Arthur Pryor
 "Nearer My God to Thee," With full Chorus and Band Accompaniment.
 Dr. E. S. McDonald, Director.
 Late in the Afternoon there will be Exhibition Military Drills by Several
 of the Bands

General Manager Jubilee—W. E. Steck.
 President of the Day—J. J. Osborn.
 Marshal of the Day—Capt. H. S. Beery.
 Treasurer and Collector—Newt. Weaver.

Committee on Railroad Rates—C. E. Flanders.
 Committee on Music—Prof. W. E. Steck, chairman, Prof. W. F. Dieter, Dr. E. S. McDonald,
 I. L. Jonas, Misses Birdie Frazier and Mary Auten.
 Committee on Grand Stand—H. M. Cooper.
 Committee on Seats and Water—W. B. Calder.
 Committee on entertainment—Prof. Job G. McVeigh, Fred Williams, Prof. N. Jordon, Wm.
 Spivey, Dr. James Franklin, Ed. Frazier, E. D. Cornish, L. S. Hurd.

Half Fare Rates on All Railroads!

No Admission Fees---Free For Everybody.

MUSICAL JUBILEE.

CAMERON, Mo., July 2.—[Special.] To-day the occasion of Cameron's long talked of musical jubilee, has been the most notable day in the history of the city—in fact, a regular red-letter day. The crowd was immense, the numerous morning trains being packed to the car steps. Four bands beside the famous Cameron band were present: Pryor's military of St. Joe; the Kate Baker female band, of Gallatin; Kidder and Garden Prairie bands. The programme this afternoon was probably the finest in the musical line ever presented in Northwest Missouri. All of the bands present took part in the exercises, which were held in Cameron's lovely park, the bands and several hundred singers occupying the large stage erected for the occasion. The weather was as near perfect as could be desired, and the solid mass of people in the park and vicinity enjoyed the music very much, each part receiving loud applause. Professor George Southwell was present and directed the various bands in one of his greatest pieces, "Sells Bros." Pavilion." Professor D. K. Harper's clarinet solo was simply grand and was highly appreciated. C. H. Steck's euphonium solo is another part worthy of special mention, it being excellently rendered. The slide trombone solos by Master Arthur Pryor, of Pryor's St. Joe Military band, were finely rendered for one so young, he being 16 years of age. The "Anvil Chorus," conducted by Professor W. E. Steck, general manager of the jubilee, and the Cameron band instructor, was one of the finest things on the programme. The most highly appreciated vocal piece was the ladies' quartette, by Mrs. F. G. Woodward, Misses Mary Auten, Birdie Frazier and Minnie Lautzenhizer. The chorus by the Accidentals was also well received. All the bands in concert played "Famous Twenty-second Regiment," one of P. S. Gilmore's greatest pieces, the music for which was presented to the bands here to-day by that distinguished gentleman. Professor W. F. Dieter's Juvenile Chorus class sang "Red, White and Blue" very nicely, the class having nearly 100 members.

The day will long be remembered by those present, as the music was well rendered and of the highest class.

Appendix 4

Consultation **Free!**

At the **LELAND HOTEL**, Friday, Saturday, Sunday (except during church hours), and Monday, May 17, 18, 19 and 20.



DR. DIAMOND DICK,

(DR. G. B. McCLELLAN.)

The Great Indian Physician may be consulted FREE at the above hotel.

This great Healer of the People cures all Chronic Diseases with his wonderful remedies, extracted from roots, leaves, barks and gums whilst in their green state.

He Prepares all his Own Medicines.

The Doctor can locate a persons ailment without the Patient speaking one word.

He has a magnificent infirmary in Leavenworth, where he has been located for three years.

Testimonials of Honest People VS. High-Spun Theories.

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, APRIL 28, 1888.

Dr. G. B. McCLELLAN, Dear Doctor:—I have been suffering for several years—have suffered death almost—but have received no benefit till I came under your treatment. My worse troubles were diseases peculiar to my sex. I know of many whom you have cured, and who refrain from sending in a testimonial; you have the liberty of publishing this.

Mrs. LOTTIE REYNOLDS.

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

Dr. G. B. McCLELLAN, Dear Sir:—My daughter has traveled throughout several states for treatment and was given up by doctors in Chicago and New York, and her system ruined by powerful medicines. In fact she was helpless, and was fast losing her faculties. Her mind was slightly impaired by times, and the sight of both her eyes were growing poorly. She is now well and does not seem like the same person. A marked improvement was apparent from the beginning of your treatment. Very Respectfully,

Mrs. MARY E. McKIBBEN, 215 Broadway.

MICHIGAN FALLS, KAN., March 2, 1889.

Dr. DIAMOND DICK, Dear Sir—Am thankful that I ever had the good fortune to meet you. Have suffered for years with a terrible sore on my leg. Tried many doctors without receiving the least benefit. Your treatment is invaluable. My leg is entirely healed, and I can go about my business with pleasure. Publish this if you think well. Yours most gratefully, A. BASIL, Deputy Sheriff Osage County, Kan.

DELPHOS, KANSAS, March 6, 1889.

DEAR DOCTOR—Am pleased to inform you that your medicine is doing me much good, and am thankful to say that I can now walk about again, which I had given up all hope of. I have caught a bad cold, have a dry cough and sore throat. Please send me some of your medicine that will cure me. Yours gratefully,

FREDOLIN HOESH.

WASHINGTON, KAN., Feb. 26, 1889.

Dr. G. B. McCLELLAN, Dear Sir—I now have pleasure in writing to say that I am feeling quite well. I began the use of your treatment in November, and am very grateful for the help and strength your medicines have given me. You will recollect your diagnosis of my case was catarrh of the head, kidney disease, dropsy, numbness of the hands and soreness round my heart, which was quite correct. Send me another consignment of medicine so that I can use it if my troubles should return. Yours thankfully,

Mrs. IRENE MARTIN.

HIAWATHA, KAN., May 10, 1887.

To the Public:—This is to certify that I have been under the treatment of Dr. G. B. McClellan, and have been improving steadily from the time he took charge of my case.

Wm. RADFORD.

Leavenworth, Kan., Nov. 2, 1887.

Dear Friend:—I have been troubled with the catarrh for some time and have tried all kinds of medicines but they did not do me any good, and then I began to take your remedy, and am improving every day. I feel so happy. I am getting better. I shall never forget you.

Miss CLARA KNOFF, 616 Kickapoo Street.

Atchison, Kan., April 16, 1888.

Dr. G. B. McCLELLAN, Dear Sir:—The medicine you sent for our little girl, four years old, removed a Tape Worm 30 to 35 feet in length, with head attached, in less than three hours after she had taken the first dose. Medicine did not make the child sick at the time, or since, and she is doing well.

J. A. EDSON,

Supt. Mo. Pacific Railway.

The Doctor is accompanied by the celebrated

KATE BAKER LADIES' SILVER CORNET BAND.

Kate Baker the only lady Drum Major in the world.

Master Dan Baker, 4 years old, is a cute little figure in the band, with his diminutive cymbals.

Walt McDonald in his comic impersonations.

The Doctor will deliver an address on Saturday afternoon and the Band will give concerts afternoon and evening. Also a grand military drill.