

Saturnino Baca, Beloved Pioneer Of N. M., Is Dead

Carrizozo, N. M., March 18 (SP).—Word has been received here of the death of Saturnino Baca, one of Lincoln county's most loved citizens. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Salazar at Lincoln, at the age of 94 years.

Mr. Baca may be called the father



SATURNINO BACA

of Lincoln county. As a member of the territorial legislature from Socorro county in 1869 he introduced the bill which created Lincoln county.

The new county included all the territory which now forms Lincoln, Chaves, Eddy, Roosevelt, Lea and part of Otero counties. Mr. Baca's friends wanted the county named Baca county, but Mr. Baca insisted upon the name Lincoln in honor of the martyred president.

Native of the State.

Mr. Baca was a native of New Mexico, born in Valencia county in 1830. In the early days he was sent to California with a party of government surveyors who were to survey a road from Arizona to California. Mr. Baca's work was to keep account of the miles traveled each day.

When the Civil war broke out Mr. Baca offered his services to Gov. Henry Connelly, and was made first lieutenant in company E, 1st New Mexico cavalry, which was a part of the regiment commanded by the government scout and Indian fighter, Kit Carson.

This was in 1861.

Promoted To Captaincy.

Before the war was over Mr. Baca was made captain of this company and remained at its head until his discharge in 1867. He took part in the battle of Val Verde on the Rio Grande. Following the war Capt. Baca served in all the important posts in New Mexico, including Fort Stanton, Fort Wingate, Fort Bascom and Fort Defiance in Arizona.

Capt. Baca was the first probate judge in Lincoln county, in 1875 he was elected sheriff, serving in this capacity for three years. Later he served as county commissioner, and in 1897 he was appointed a member of the New Mexico penitentiary commission.

Lost Arm By Bullet.

Capt. Baca was in the midst of the Indian fighting in the early days and was also active in the Lincoln county war during the days of "Billy the Kid." He lost his arm during the summer of 1889 as a result of a bullet wound in his elbow in a dispute over cattle and sheep range.

Capt. Baca's wife died in 1914. Had she lived a few months longer they would have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. Of 11 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Baca only two survive him. They are Mrs. Salazar of Lincoln, and Mrs. James Brent of Silver City.

Mr. Baca's funeral was one of the largest gatherings ever held in the Lincoln section, and burial was made in the Lincoln cemetery.