

**THE PINE TREE HYMN**  
 Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College  
 Karle Wilson Baker Texas Ida Pritchett

How tall the pines are stand-ing, How tall they brush the sky!  
 How deep beneath the grasses Their rooted anchors lie!  
 So may we in our springtime Lay hold on verity;  
 So may we seek at morning-break The truth that maketh free.

How proud the pines are standing, How proud their plumed heads!  
 How unashamed and lordly Each crest of power spreads!  
 So may we in their shadows In linked freedom stand,  
 Each soul alone to seek its own, Each comrade hand-in-hand.

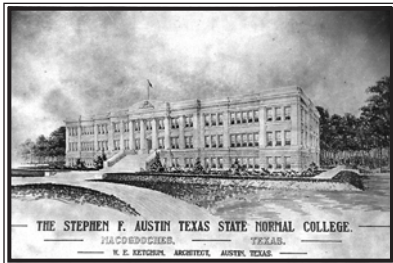
How still the pines are standing, How sure they are, and still!  
 How each in steadfast gladness Works out a hidden will!  
 So may our loves and labors, In wise allegiance free,  
 Turn loss and gain and sun and rain To beauty, like a tree.

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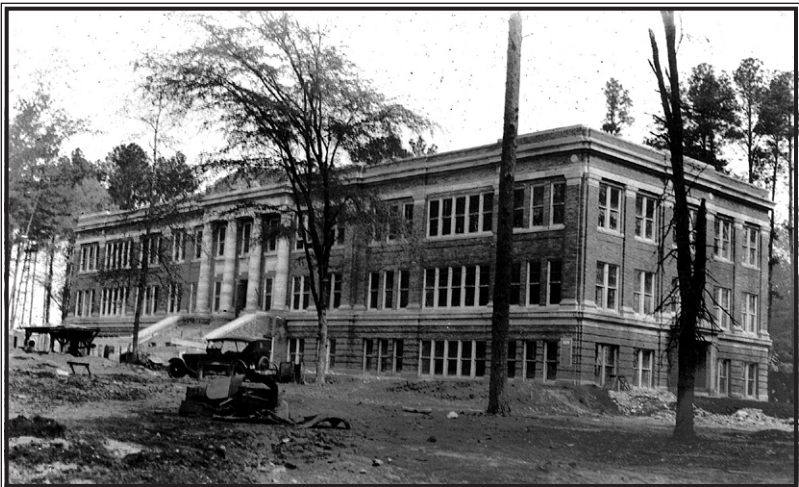
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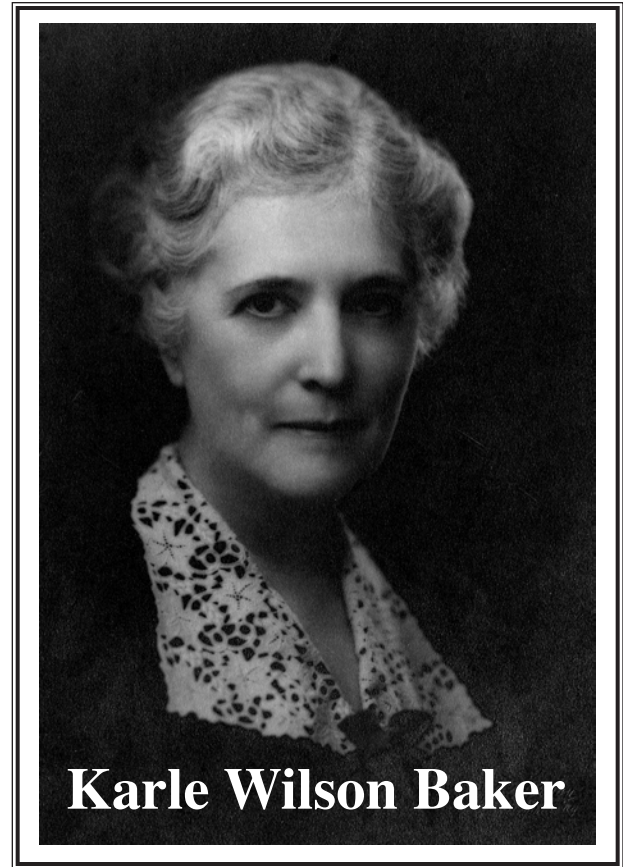


KARLE WILSON BAKER  
 1923



The Austin Building Under Construction -1924

**Dedication Ceremony**  
**Official Texas Historical Marker**  
 honoring



**Texas Historical Commission**  
**Nacogdoches County**  
 Friday, December 14, 2007

## KARLE WILSON BAKER

IN THE EARLY AND MID-20TH CENTURY, NACOGDOCHES WAS THE HOME OF A NOTABLE POET, WRITER AND WOMAN OF LETTERS. KARLE WILSON, DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND KATE (MONTGOMERY) WILSON, WAS BORN IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, IN OCTOBER 1878. HER PARENTS MOVED TO NACOGDOCHES BY 1900, AND AFTER ATTENDING COLLEGE AND TEACHING, KARLE MOVED TO NACOGDOCHES IN 1905. IN AUGUST 1907 SHE MARRIED LOCAL BANKER THOMAS E. BAKER, AND THE COUPLE HAD TWO CHILDREN.

KARLE WILSON BAKER WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1903 WITH A POEM IN HARPER'S MAGAZINE. IN THE 1910s SHE BECAME THE MOST FREQUENTLY PUBLISHED POET IN THE YALE REVIEW. YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS PUBLISHED HER FIRST COLLECTIONS OF POEMS, *BLUE SMOKE* AND *BURNING BUSH*, AND *OLD COINS*, A BOOK OF FABLES. THESE PUBLICATIONS ESTABLISHED HER NATIONAL REPUTATION. IN 1924 THE *DALLAS NEWS* LABELED BAKER "THE POET OF QUIET THINGS," AND SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY AWARDED HER AN HONORARY DOCTORATE OF LETTERS. BAKER SHOWED VERSATILITY, WRITING POEMS, ESSAYS AND NOVELS. THE STATE TEXTBOOK COMMISSION ADOPTED HER CHILDREN'S HISTORY READER, *THE TEXAS FLAG PRIMER*. HER 1931 COLLECTION OF POEMS, *DREAMERS ON HORSEBACK*, WAS NOMINATED FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY. TWO OF HER SUCCESSFUL HISTORICAL NOVELS, *FAMILY STYLE* (1937) AND *STAR OF THE WILDERNESS* (1942), WERE SET IN EAST TEXAS.

WHEN THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS FORMALLY DEDICATED STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE ON APRIL 30, 1924, BAKER READ TWO POEMS, "WITHIN THE ALAMO" AND "THE PINE TREE HYMN," AND THE LATTER BECAME THE COLLEGE'S FIRST SCHOOL SONG. SHE BEGAN TEACHING AT THE COLLEGE IN 1924 AND TAUGHT THERE TEN YEARS. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY HOUSES THE MAJORITY OF HER PAPERS. BAKER WROTE IN HER DIARY THAT "WRITING MY POEMS IS SELDOM MORE LABORIOUS THAN SKIMMING THE CREAM FROM MY THOUGHTS. IT JUST NEEDS TIME AND QUIET TO RISE."

(2007)

## Program

### Official Texas Historic Marker Dedication

honoring

## Karle Wilson Baker

### Welcome

Jere L. Jackson, Chairman  
Nacogdoches County Historical Commission

### Opening Prayer

Dr. Patsy Hallman, Professor Emeritus  
College of Education  
Stephen F. Austin State University

### Greetings and Introductions

Dr. Baker Pattillo, President  
Stephen F. Austin State University

### Speaker

Sarah Ragland Jackson  
Retired Member, Department of English

### Dedication of the Marker

Jere Jackson, Chairman  
Nacogdoches County Historical Commission

1:30 pm, Friday, 14 December 2007

in front of the Austin Building

Stephen F. Austin State University Campus

Reception following at The Pearman Alumni Building