

The fashion that came with our first parents, and will remain unchanged until our race has run its course and the wide firmament be rolled up like a scroll. The old, old fashion—Death! Oh, thank God, for the older fashion still of Immortality! And look upon us, angels of young children, with regards not quite estranged when the swift river bears us to the ocean."

JAMES SKIFF.

James Skiff, private of Co. F, 154th N. Y. V. I., 1st Brig., 2d Div., 11th A. C., is a son of James and Lovina (Smith) Skiff. He was born March 6, 1823, in the town of Arkwright, N. Y. His early days were spent in farming, and on reaching manhood he united his fortunes for life with Elmina Chase, a daughter of Stephen and Clarinda (Holebrook) Chase. Six children were given to this union, Mason J., Ellen L., Charles G., Philla, Electa and Edson. When the war of the Rebellion began to assume most threatening proportions, Comrade Skiff tendered his valued services to aid the North. He was enrolled in August, 1862, in Charlotte township, N. Y., and was one of the best soldiers of his regiment. He was in the following battles: Chancellorsville, Fairfax C. H., Throughfare Gap and Falmouth. Our hero was wounded in hand at Chancellorsville, captured by the rebel forces under Jackson and taken to Libby prison, where he remained until paroled October, 1863. Having rejoined his regiment, he participated in the battle of Wauhatchie; here he was again wounded, in the leg, and taken to hospital. Being a faithful and trusted soldier he was detailed into the Ordnance Dept. for ten months. When peace was again assured to the Union, Corp. Skiff was given his honorable discharge, June, 1865, at Elmira, N. Y. His record as a soldier is a fitting example of a true, courageous man fighting valiantly for country, friends and home. He is now an honored resident of Cassadaga, N. Y.

ELIAL SKINNER.

Eliel Skinner, a son of David and Mary (Williams) Skinner, was born Sept. 30, 1838, in Portland, N. Y. He was engaged in farming when the Civil war began. Leaving the peaceful scenes of his home, he enlisted Aug. 22, 1862, at Portland, in Co. E, 154th N. Y. V. I., which was assigned to the 1st Brig., 2d Div., 11th A. C. The company went out under the able leadership of Capt. Joseph Fay. It was in many bloody battles, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. At Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, our comrade was captured and endured all the horrors of Belle Isle from July 24 to Feb. 7, 1864; Andersonville from Feb. 7 to Oct. 10; at Savannah for six weeks and at Milan until Dec. 21, 1864. On his parole and return to the Union lines, he was

given a thirty days' furlough, and being unable to return at that time he was granted an extension of sixteen days, and in February, 1865, went to parole camp at Alexandria, thence to Raleigh, N. C. He was discharged at Elmira, N. Y., June 21, 1865. All through those years of terrible suffering he had proven himself a true and brave soldier. Feb. 9, 1870, at Brocton, N. Y., he was united in marriage to Betsey J. Haight, the daughter of Luke and Mary (Rorapaugh) Haight. She was born March 1, 1842, in Smithville, N. Y. Two children have blessed this union, Lillian A., born Oct. 15, 1873, and William, born Dec. 31, 1876. William Haight, a brother of Mrs. Skinner, was in Co. E, 154th N. Y. V. I. Comrade Skinner is a member of James R. Hall Post, No. 292, and his wife is a member of the W. R. C.; they live on a beautiful grape farm near Portland, N. Y.

LESTER SKINNER.

Lester Skinner, a son of David and Betsey (Hill) Skinner, was born May 12, 1831, in Portland, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. When only a boy of fourteen, he entered the ranks of Co. A, 2d U. S. L. Art., of the Regular Army, Jan. 4, 1846, at Syracuse, N. Y., as a private and in the course of his youthful military life was promoted to Sergeant, being too young for further promotions. Under Brevet Colonel Duncan this gallant command left the U. S. and joined the forces of Gen. Taylor at Point Isabelle, Texas, near Fort Brown, then besieged by the Mexicans. On May 8, 1846, they met in battle at Palo Alto, defeating the Mexicans; directly following was the signal victory at Resaca de La Palma on May 9. After these glorious achievements his command was sent to Vera Cruz, under Gen. W. Scott, and he was detailed on board the frigate "Vandalia" about four months, returning to his command before the bombardment of Vera Cruz. He participated in every battle on the inland and march to the City of Mexico, receiving his well-earned discharge November, 1847, at the City of Mexico. On returning home he immediately re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, and once more landed at Vera Cruz. Peace having been declared he came back to Fortress Monroe, and in 1851-2 was on the scientific board, and was transferred in Co. C, 2d U. S. H. Art. In 1853 he was sent to Florida; the Seminoles had revolted, and skirmishes and surveying occupied his time until the year 1858. We next find him at Boston Harbor, and on the memorable Jan. 9, 1861, his command was ordered to Dry Tortugas, Fla. It was the first company of the North to move at beginning of the Civil war. Under Brevet Major Lewis G. Arnold, the command fortified Dry Tortugas, and remained until February, then came to reinforce

Gen. Slemmer at Ft. Pickand, Fla., garrisoning this until April 17, 1861. He accompanied Co. A, U. S. L. Art. to Washington, and rejoined his command at Dry Tortugas. In November, 1861, he participated in the bombardment of Ft. Pickand, Fla. Ship Island next witnessed the operations of his command in March, 1862, and in April, on the frigate "Mississippi," he passed the howling guns of the rebel forts near New Orleans, as his regiment was ordered up the river. On the surrender of New Orleans, in April, 1862, he was placed on ordnance and guard duty until discharged Nov. 4, 1862, but again re-enlisted in the Ordnance Corps for three years, and served faithfully until Nov. 3, 1865. On Jan. 3, 1866, he enlisted for the last time, in Co. H, 15th U. S. Reg. Inf., and during the reconstruction of the South, this regiment was directly instrumental in breaking up the famous "Klu-Klux-Klan." Jan. 3, 1869, witnessed the discharge of our worn, heroic veteran at Huntsville, Ala. For over twenty-two years he had endured the hardships of the army with that courage known only by the bravest of men. In the camp, hospital, or field, he showed the greatness of his manhood. Two scars show the suffering of our comrade, one received before Richmond, was a gunshot in the head; the other, a gunshot received in the side during the Seminole revolt. Comrade Skinner takes great pleasure in relating the stirring scenes and battles of his early manhood. He is now spending the declining years of his life in sight of the "billowy old Erie" and the home of his early childhood at Portland, N. Y.

MARVIN M. SKINNER.

Marvin M. Skinner, Corp. of Co. F, 154th N. Y. V. I., entered the ranks of the great Union army when only 19 years of age, Aug. 15, 1862, in the town of Arkwright, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. This command was assigned to the 1st Brig., 2d Div., 11th A. C.; afterwards transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, and became a part of the 1st Brig., 2d Div., 20th A. C. He shared in the glories of this valiant regiment on many hard fought fields, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Mt., Knoxville, Buzzards Roost, Mill Creek Ridge, Resaca, Dallas and Pine Knob. June 15, 1864 at Pine Knob, Ga., our comrade was wounded in the left leg by a gunshot, sent to Jeffersonville, Ind., for three months on account of wound and typhoid fever. In September, 1864, he was furloughed for thirty days, rejoining his regiment in May, 1865, at Goldsboro, N. C. On the 11th day of June, 1865, he was granted his honorable discharge at Bladensburg, Md. For his valued services "Uncle Sam" has given him a pension. He now resides on a well kept farm near Charlotte Center, N. Y.