

[*Ellicottville News*, September 16, 1897, 1894, page 3.]

A Union Spy. Among the many old soldiers who have visited Ellicottville since the G.A.R. Encampment, there were none who had made the record of Thomas Spikins [sic]; first a private soldier and then a spy and later, one of the leading spirits in the little band known as "Sherman's Bummers." Without those men, Sherman could never had made his famous "trip to the sea."

Mr. Spikins went to Randolph this week to see his sister, Mrs. Rathbone; from there he goes to Chautauqua County to spend a few days amid the dreamy scenes of childhood; then he will go to his home in Missouri where he has lived many years.

While here he was the guest of E. D. Northrup.

Mr. Spikins has a wonderful memory of the past and he can fairly talk your arm off in a few minutes. His army record is a wonderful one; full of hair breadth escapes and thrilling incidents where nothing but tact, nerve and will power could possibly win out.

Nearly everybody knew the little black mare ridden by Sq. Walker; well, Spikins captured her from a rebel general. The fight he put up to get her would fill a book. He gave her to Gen. Pat Jones, who let Mr. Walker have her.

Scouting and foraging, harrassing the enemy with sudden and bold attacks, was his delight and the more danger there was in an expedition the better he liked it. He had connected with him a little band of dare devils, whose expeditions would put to shame the operations of the famous Quantrill under the famous black flag.

While here Mr. Spikins was helping E. D. Northrup in putting on some finishing touches to his history of the 154th N.Y. Volunteers.

*Thomas D. Spiking, Jr. Co. F*