

ened to dash my brains out with his musket. At night a rebel teamster gave me a piece of corn cake and covered me with a sheep's skin. He said he would come again at daybreak and get the skin, as he would be shot if it was known he had shown kindness to me." Rufus Haskell, the father of Mrs. Spear, was a veteran of the Mexican war, and also of the Civil war, having to surrender his pension being received for service in Mexican war to be accepted in the Union cause. Comrade Haskell and his good wife are enjoying the fruits of a well spent life at Findley's Lake, N. Y. Comrade Spear is now employed in selling medicines and he resides near Findley's Lake, N. Y.

BYRON A. SPERRY.

The subject of this sketch was born June 17, 1846, in Cortland county, N. Y. His father, Orville Sperry, is still living, but his mother, Diantha (Uoward), has passed to her reward. His early training fitted him for the manly, useful life he has lived. He was born a soldier; his great-grandfather was a veteran of the Revolution; his grandfather was in the War of 1812. When the death-like pall of civil strife covered our fair land, Comrade Sperry, like Cincinnatus of old, left the farm to help fight the battles of our nation. He was enrolled as a private on Feb. 2, 1864, at Mayville, in Co. I, 9th N. Y. V. Cav., 1st Brig., 2d Div., Sheridan's Cav. C., and Nov. 1, 1864, because of gallant service at Cedar Creek, he was made corporal. Among his numerous battles may be mentioned, Wilderness, Todd's Tavern, Spottsylvania, Beaver Dam Station, North Anna, Yellow Tavern, Meadow Bridge, before Richmond, Old's Church, Cold Harbor, Travillian Station, White House Landing, Deep Bottom, before Petersburg, up the Shenandoah Valley under Sheridan, Cedar Creek, Old Toll Gate, Berryville, 1st and 2d Shepardstown, Winchester, Middleton, Fisher's Hill and Port Republic. June 12, 1864, at Travillian Station, he was captured by Hampton's Legions, held for two hours and escaped, but was recaptured by another squad of rebel cavalry, and again escaped by running. From Nov. 4, 1864, to February, 1865, Comrade Sperry was confined in the hospital near Winchester field, later in Winchester, and at last in Frederick City. When about to rejoin his company, he was detailed to command a squad of cavalry, to take those unfit for service back to hospital. Once he was sent with twelve men on a long, hard ride of ninety-six miles to carry a dispatch from Winchester to Gen. Wilson's headquarters at Stanton. The night was dark, and the rain had swelled the streams, sweeping away all bridges. They started about 10 p. m. and rode all night, delivering the dispatch at 8 p. m. It was a gallant and heroic ride against time. June 17, 1865, at Cloud's Mills, Va., Comrade Sperry was honorably discharged from the service of the U. S. On resuming

private life, he was first married to Ruelsa Miles, by whom he had two children, Kate D. and May E. His last marriage was consummated July 3, 1888, at Mayville, N. Y., to Frances Vaughan, a daughter of Maj. Daniel L. Vaughan and Mary (Pease.) This union was hallowed by the birth of one child, M. Vaughan, born March 9, 1890. Mrs. Sperry's father, Daniel Vaughan, was Capt. of Co. H, 160th N. Y. V. I., afterwards Maj. of U. S. Armies, participating in the Red River Campaign and fourteen heavy engagements of the war, among which may be mentioned Port Hudson, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Grand Cove, Kane River, Oppequan, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill. Comrade Sperry has been a member of the 3d Separate Co., 31st Brig., 8th Div., N. Y. N. G. He is the honored commander of E. F. Carpenter Post, No. 308, and his wife is a member of the W. R. C. He is by occupation a stone mason and is one of the influential and valued citizens of Mayville N. N.

WILLIAM HENRY SPRAGUE.

William Henry Sprague was born March 4, 1843, at Ripley, N. Y. His parents were Wm. S. and Catherine I. (Elwood) Sprague. When Capt. Joseph B. Fay raised his famous Co. E, 154th N. Y. V. I., 1st Brig., 2d Div., 11th A. C., our hero was among the first to tender his valued services. He was enrolled at Ripley, N. Y., Aug. 22, 1862 as a private. He underwent the suffering and terrible hardships of army life with his usual fortitude and patience. He was with the Burnside expedition against Fredericksburg. Taking a severe cold while on picket duty, resulting in inflammation of the brain, he died March 1, 1863, at Brooks Station, Va. He sacrificed his young life on the altar of his country, at less than 20 years of age. William H. Sprague was from a race of warriors; his great-great-grandfather and five sons were massacred by the Indians, and his great-grandmother was scalped, but lived for thirty years afterward; his grandfather, Peter Elwood, was a hero of the 1812 war, and his brother, Benjamin R. Elwood, also served in the war of 1812. Comrade Sprague was a true, loyal defender of his country in her hour of need. He gave his life that our nation might live. It is for us now—the living—to uphold those sacred principles for which he died.

CHARLES W. STANTON.

Charles W. Stanton was born Nov. 10, 1831, at Westfield, N. Y. His parents, David Y. and Mary (Wileox) Stanton were among the first settlers of Chautauqua county where Charles grew to manhood. Attracted to the oil fields of Pennsylvania, he spent some time and money in developements there. Nov. 15, 1863, he married Miss Maria,