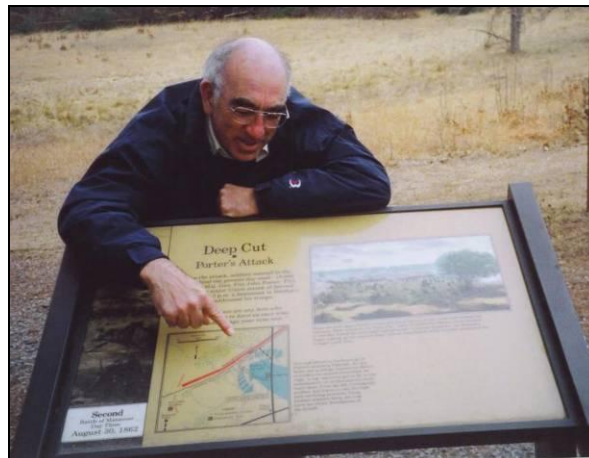




**Three Oswego County Brothers in the Civil War and After: A Review of
the Scriber Family and the 24th, 110th, and 184th NYSV Infantries**



**By Kent Scriber
Ithaca, New York**

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November 24, 2012

Danby Press
Ithaca, New York

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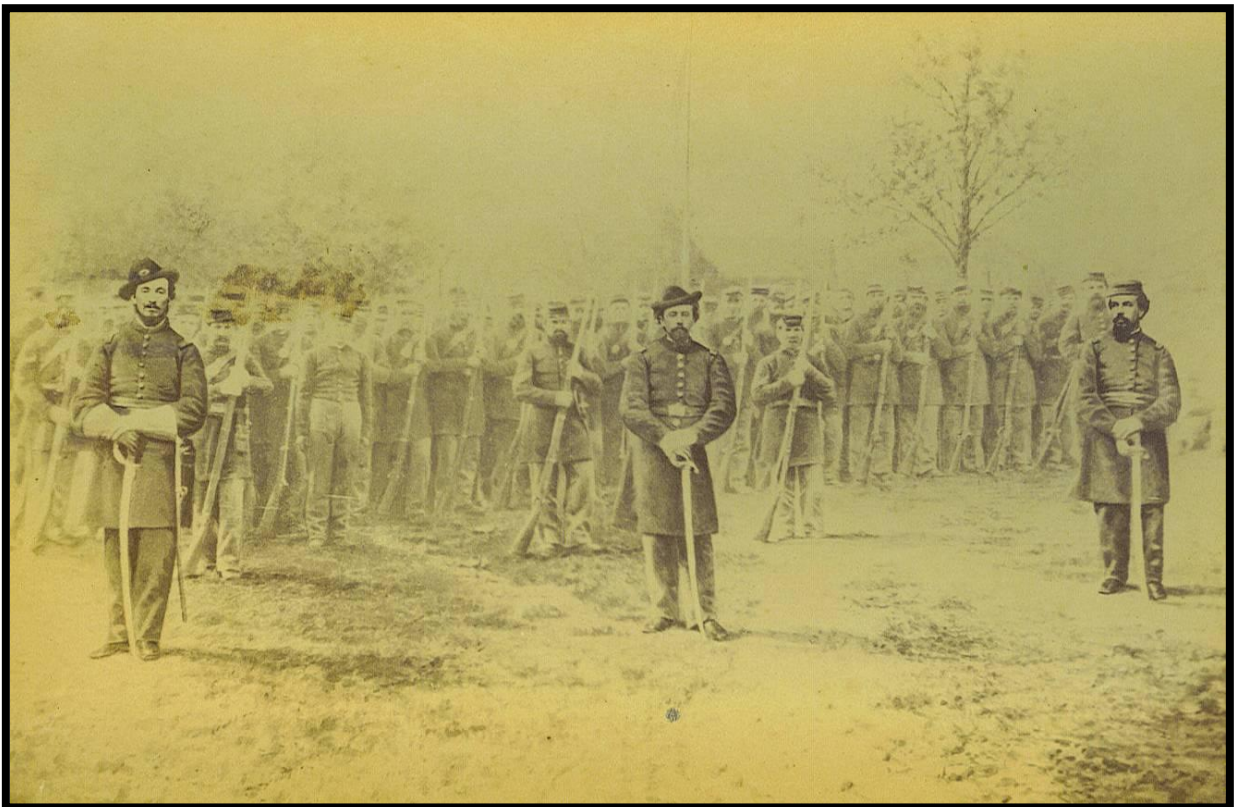
By Kent Scriber

CHAPTER 1 **Introduction**

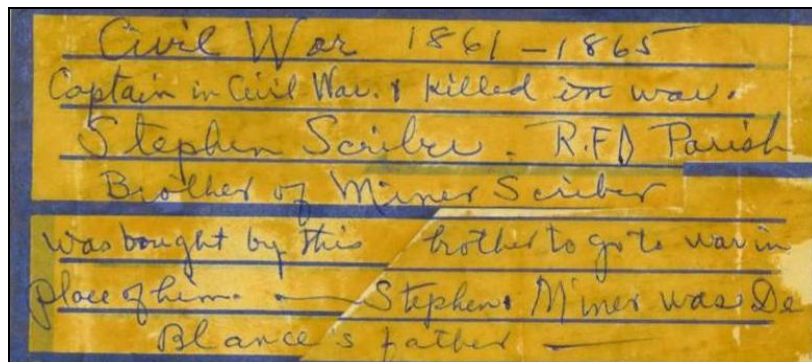
Several years ago Kent Scriber of Ithaca, New York found an old sepia toned albumin print picture and frame at Elizabeth Buscall's home in Cambridge, New York. Elizabeth, his Aunt Betty, is the sister of J Minch Scriber, who was Kent's father. Minch and Betty's parents were DeBlance and Carrie Minch Scriber. DeBlance was the son of Miner and Lucetta Scriber of Parish, NY. The print that follows was taken of a group of Civil War soldiers from a company that was formed primarily from Oswego County in September of 1864. Most likely this picture was taken at Harrison's Landing, Virginia. Attached to the frame was a label stating the following: *Civil War 1861-1865, Captain in Civil War & killed in war, Stephen Scriber. RFD Parish Brother of Miner Scriber, was bought by this brother to go to war in place of him, Stephen, Miner was DeBlance's father.* Etched on the back of the frame was: Stephen is at far left of picture. Since finding this picture, the author has been researching this long-lost relative's background as well as the history of the units in which he and his younger brothers served. As it has turned out, much of this initial written information on this label was found to be inaccurate. The following article is information on Stephen J. Scriber and other members of his family gathered as a result of his research during the past several years.

A major "trigger" for the author's continued interest in investigating Stephen J. Scriber began after a visit to Charleston, South Carolina in November of 2002. While

there visiting his daughter he went to the Fort Sumter Museum and in the museum shop there was a computer search setup for looking up relatives who participated in the Civil War (fee of \$100 to \$150). Kent passed on this offer, but realized he could start searching the internet for further information. Shortly after this he found information online relating



184th NYSV Infantry Regiment, Company K,
Captain Stephen J. Scriber (far left) Harrison's Landing, Va.



Label from original picture
(Probably written by Carrie Minch Scriber, Kent's grandmother)

to the NYS 184th Infantry Regiment. Muster rolls showed that Stephen J. Scriber was honorably discharged from the war on June 29th, 1865 (at City Point, Va).^{44,45} Obviously, he was not killed in the war. He was the Captain of the 184th, but his Company K did not see any actual battle action. This fact was somewhat of a disappointment to the author. The 184th NYS Infantry attached to the defenses of Bermuda Hundred, Va and later operations at Petersburg and Richmond, Va from Harrison's Landing, Va until the war was over.^{15,32} Much more searching online, reading, library, historical society, and military research center visits, and requests for information from the New York State Archives (Albany, NY) and National Archives in Washington D.C. followed. Trips to various battlefield sites, visitor centers, and cemeteries were taken as well. Pension materials received from the National Archives showed that Stephen actually was in the Civil War for two terms of service.^{29,30,36,44} He also participated during the initial 2 years of the war. He was a member of 24th NYS Infantry Regiment from May 1861 to May 1863 and this regiment was involved in several major battles that took place in Maryland and Virginia which included: Second Manassas (Bull Run), South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.^{15,36}

Little by little further pieces of information were gathered that showed the inaccuracy of the label that came with the original picture. Although several Stephen Sribers were found in his ancestry searches¹, the author's great grandfather, Miner Scriber (born 1840, son of Jacob & Lorena of Parish, NY), apparently did not have a brother named Stephen. It appears that Miner Scriber had a great grandfather, a great uncle, an uncle, and a cousin, all with the name of Stephen Scriber, but not a brother. The 1850 census indicated that Miner's uncle Stephen was born about 1818 – son of another

Stephen Scriber from Herkimer, NY. Miner's siblings included Emily (born 1842), Lovina (1843), Mary (1845), and Lorana (1847). Another Stephen Scriber (born 1837 in Parish, NY) and his brothers Charles (born 1840) and Phillip (born 1843) lived nearby in Schroepel (Hinmansville), NY, and participated in the Civil War. They were the sons of George and (Lydia) Margaret Scriber. George and Jacob Scriber (and also another Stephen) were brothers, making Miner a cousin of Stephen, Charles, and Phillip. Therefore the Stephen that went to war was not the one living in Parish and there has been no evidence found that Miner Scriber (born 1840) was ever drafted and paid him to go to war in his place. It is presently difficult to verify that the person on the far left in the picture is Stephen, although it is quite likely because the officers would be in front of the regiment for the pose. An intriguing mystery remains in that there is no known explanation as to how the picture ended up in the Buscall's belongings in Cambridge, but it is likely it was passed down through the family.

Another fascinating piece of information was uncovered by the author on a trip to Sharpsburg, Md where he was visiting the Antietam Battlefield during the summer of 2004. While speaking with one of the guides he discovered that the Brigadier General for Stephen Scriber's 24th NYSV Infantry was none other than Abner Doubleday, the supposed inventor of the game of baseball. With the author's passions for both baseball and the Civil War, this Civil War/baseball connection provided a most ironic discovery.

After the war ended Stephen and other Scriber family members (brother Phillip H. with his family, as well as sister Delia Scriber Dewitt with her family) moved westward to start new beginnings for their lives by seeking their fortunes in the "wild west". An



Abner Doubleday, Union Brigadier General at Antietam⁶⁹

initial move early in 1868 took Stephen and his family to the newly established “boom town” of Cheyenne in the Wyoming Territory, which was flourishing because of the completion of the Union Pacific railroad from Omaha to Cheyenne. Both Phillip and Delia also moved with their families to Cheyenne shortly after in the early 1870s. After a few years, around 1877, Stephen removed to the Rochford/Deadwood area of the Dakota Territory as the Cheyenne to Deadwood Trail was completed. This occurred primarily because gold had been discovered in the Black Hills. Stephen moved again around 1884 and later gained a land patent in Rapid City, SD where he lived for about 25 years. Phillip remained in Cheyenne until moving back east sometime after 1906 shortly before his ailing mother’s death. It appears that Delia moved back east around 1880. Finally, Stephen and Jennie Scriber moved to St. Cloud, Florida in 1910 to spend their final years in a Civil War “colony” that had been established through combined efforts of the Seminole Land and Investment Company (a subsidiary of the Grand Army of the Republic, G.A.R.) and the National Tribune Newspaper.⁵⁵

