

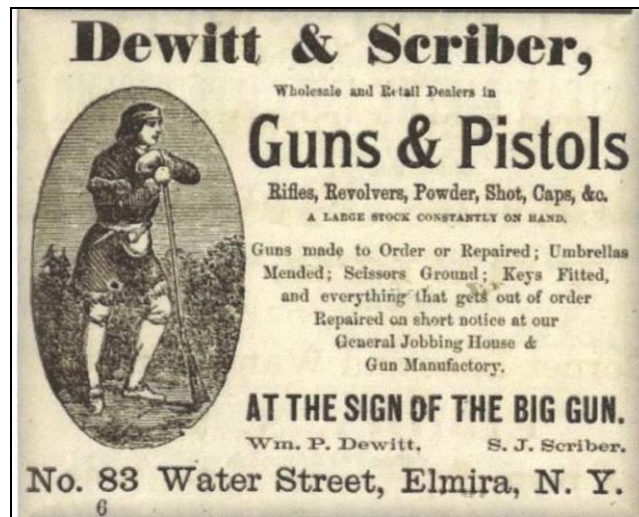
CHAPTER 9

After the War: Westward Bound

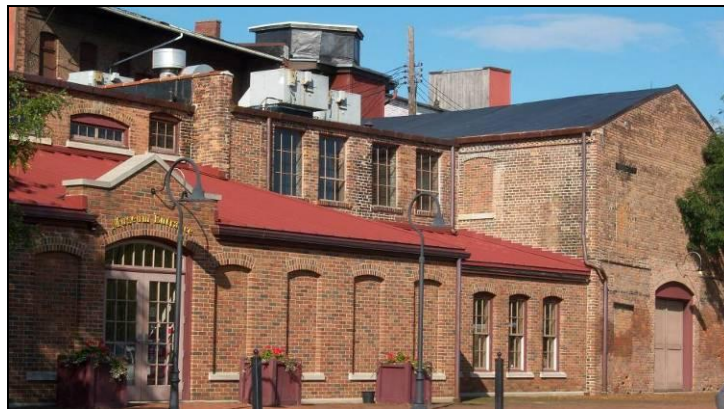
At the present time, documented records have filled in many of the “puzzle pieces” of Stephen Scriber’s adventurous, difficult, and interesting life, but some aspects are still incomplete. After two enlistments in the Civil War he followed up with a life in the “wild west” where he was a contemporary of notable western characters such as General George Custer, Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Wyatt Earp, and Annie Tallent, first white pioneer woman in the Black Hills. Although seemingly an exciting American historical time to live, he suffered with a number of personal, financial, and medical problems during the post-Civil War time period. According to his pension files, Stephen suffered from catarrh, rheumatism, and diseased lungs. He lived in several locations after being discharged from the war.⁴⁴ These locations included Elmira, NY through 1867, briefly to Syracuse, NY and Omaha, Nebraska, and then to Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1868 until 1877. He removed to the Rochford/Deadwood region of the Dakota Territory’s Black Hills, until 1880, then, after a 3 year return to New York, moved back to Rochford, then to Rapid City, in 1884. In 1910 he moved again to St. Cloud, Florida until his death on January 21st, 1917. During his time out west, Stephen lost two young sons to disease while in South Dakota, was divorced and remarried, tried and apparently failed at, numerous “careers”, and had foreclosure on his property in Rapid City. Yet, somehow, he survived all these setbacks and died as a proud G.A.R. leader in St. Cloud, Florida.

After being discharged from the war, Stephen and his young wife “Nettie” (Maria A. Dewitt) took up residence in Elmira, New York. They lived with Nettie’s parents (the Dewitts) home at the corner of Cross Street (now Market St.) and Conongue Street (now

Madison St.).^{44,60} In Elmira he went into business partnership on Water Street selling guns with his father-in-law William P. Dewitt and was listed with him in the Business Directory of Chemung County.^{44,67} According to William Dewitt, Stephen continued his trade as a gunsmith after a year and a half in Elmira, but moved and set up his own business on James Street in Syracuse, New York.^{17,44} His office was on the second floor of Building No. 17 and it was destroyed by fire as reported in the Syracuse Daily



Advertising Clipping (1866-1867 Elmira Business Directory)⁶⁸



2007 Picture of Water Street, Elmira, NY (Near site of Dewitt and Scriber Gun Shop)

Courier on August 16, 1867. His losses were reported at \$6,000 on stock and tools. He had applied for insurance, but the papers had not been drawn.¹⁷

Shortly after the Syracuse fire, which had to have nearly destroyed him financially, Stephen and his family left Syracuse and moved West to set out on a new life together. They were pioneers in the truest sense. With the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha, Nebraska to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, there was significant and rapid growth in this “boom town”.⁵⁷ Early records (1868 Cheyenne City Directory) simply listed Stephen as a merchant located at 16th Street. However, during that spring he became the teacher for the Cheyenne Public School. An 1870 Wyoming Territory census (federal) lists 32 year old Stephen J. Scriber as a school teacher who was married to Nettie Scriber, a house keeper who was born in New York.⁶⁷ Their children were George C. (age 4, born in NY and “at school”) and Charles Ed Scriber (age 1 and born in Wyoming). Based upon this 1870 census information⁶⁷, Stephen and Nettie Dewitt Scriber had their first child (George) around 1866 while living in Elmira and their second son Charles was born in 1869 while in Wyoming. Daughter Ada Estelle was also born in Wyoming in 1872.⁴⁴



Cheyenne's 16th Street 1868 (Courtesy of UPRR Museum Collection)
Stephen was a merchant on this street in 1868.

An article published in the *Annals of Wyoming*⁵⁷ described the birth of a “boom town”, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Many settlers (including Stephen after a brief residence in Omaha, NE)⁴⁴ came west in the late 1860s intending to make their fortunes by finding gold or opening new agricultural regions. In the early years, Cheyenne had many gambling halls, dance houses, wild partying, murders, and other lawlessness. Crofutt remarked that this lasted until the business men and quiet citizens grew tired of such doings, and formed an impromptu vigilante committee. After several of the more desperate characters were hung, some mended their ways, and others took the hint and quietly exited the city. By 1872, Crofutt considered Cheyenne to be an “orderly and well-governed town”.¹³

Within a short period of time after the city was founded in 1867, there were more than 100 children eligible for school in this Laramie County town. A school was built and first opened in February of 1868 with a total enrollment of 114 students. All of these students were crowded into one small room and there was no grade separation for these students. Different teachers were dismissed or resigned and discipline problems were cited. S.J. Scriber was the next teacher later in 1868 and had less disciplinary problems, “perhaps because he was reported to be a member of the vigilantes”.⁴⁸ Upon closer inspection of the original source for this particular statement¹², the writer was referring to the “vigilante” teacher in Laramie City, not Cheyenne.

Attendance at the school quickly reached 120 students and the room was extended another 30 feet and a moveable partition was added to divide the room. Stephen taught and was the principal of the Cheyenne Public School until he was obliged to resign because of ill health.⁴⁴ On May 5, 1868 he reported as follows:

“Our Public Schools. In Accordance with the expressed wish of the taxpayers and others, I herewith submit the following statistics of Public School No. 1, Laramie County, Dakota Territory. The school is finely and pleasantly located in the City of Cheyenne, between Ferguson and Eddy Streets on the east and west, and Nineteenth and Eighteenth Streets on the north and south. It is seventy by twenty-four feet, and divided into two rooms by a partition of folding doors, so that the whole building can be used for large gatherings. The ceiling is twelve feet high. The furniture consists of the necessary number of seats, well arranged, two stoves, two large blackboards, two tables and desks, four chandeliers, three headlamps, two fine, large maps, chairs, brooms, etc. with good cloth curtains at the windows. It has not only been used for school purposes, but for church, Sabbath – school, literary and educational purposes, without regard for sect or any other distinction other than respectability. The school contains at present about one hundred twenty average attendance, in good weather – there being over two hundred different names on the register. The studies pursued are reading, writing, physical and descriptive geography, mental and written arithmetic, algebra, grammar, composition, and declamation, intersped with lectures on prominent and useful topics, and map exercises. Any further information will be cheerfully and promptly rendered. S.J. Scriber.”¹⁶

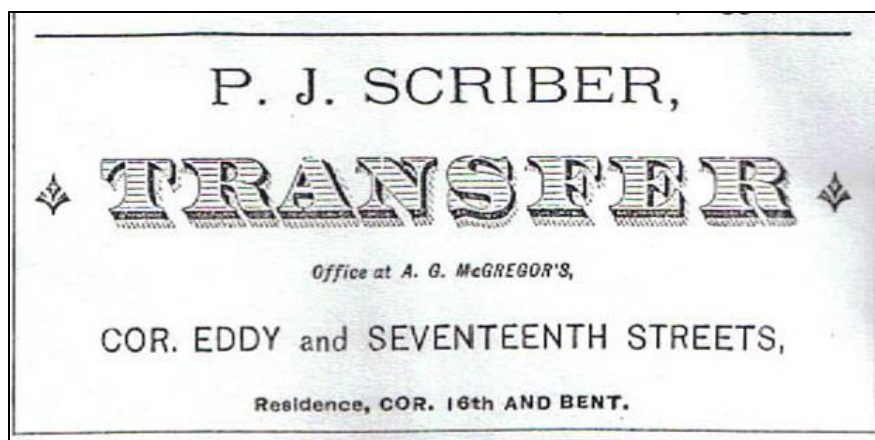
According to Triggs⁶³, Stephen taught at the school with credit for more than two years, until at that time he was forced to resign because of ill health.⁴⁴

It is likely that Stephen may have continued in some capacity as a merchant while teaching. A warranty deed record from August 1868 (Laramie County Clerk Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming) listed S. J. Scriber along with W. D. Pease and W. J. O’Brien as owners of property on the corner of 20th and Eddy Street (now Pioneer Street). W. Pease was listed as a grocer in the 1868 Cheyenne City Directory, so Stephen may have been in the grocery business as well. Additionally, he was the Superintendent of Sabbath School for the Presbyterian Church as well as an officer of Cheyenne Lodge 31, I.O.G.T. (Independent Order of Good Templars)⁶³ In May of 1869, Stephen and his wife were among 9 people who signed a petition to establish a Presbyterian Church in Cheyenne. The organization of the church was not completed until February of 1871 when two

ruling elders, William Thompson and Stephen J. Scriber were elected.¹⁶ Stephen was listed in the 1875 Cheyenne City Census as a merchant, running a second hand store.

By the mid-1870s, Stephen's sister Delia Scriber Dewitt, her husband, Dr. Edgar Dewitt and children (Newton and Willie) had also taken up residence in Cheyenne (1875 Cheyenne local census). Delia was listed as a dressmaker and Edgar a physician. They had been married in Schroepel in May of 1867 and resided in Clay, NY.¹ The 1878 local Cheyenne census listed Delia and her children, but not her husband. City of Cheyenne Cemetery records show that they had a 3rd son, Harry, who died as an infant in 1877. It appears they both moved back east shortly after. Edgar eventually back to Elmira, and Delia to Schroepel. An 1888 Palladium Times clip mentions their divorce decree.¹⁷

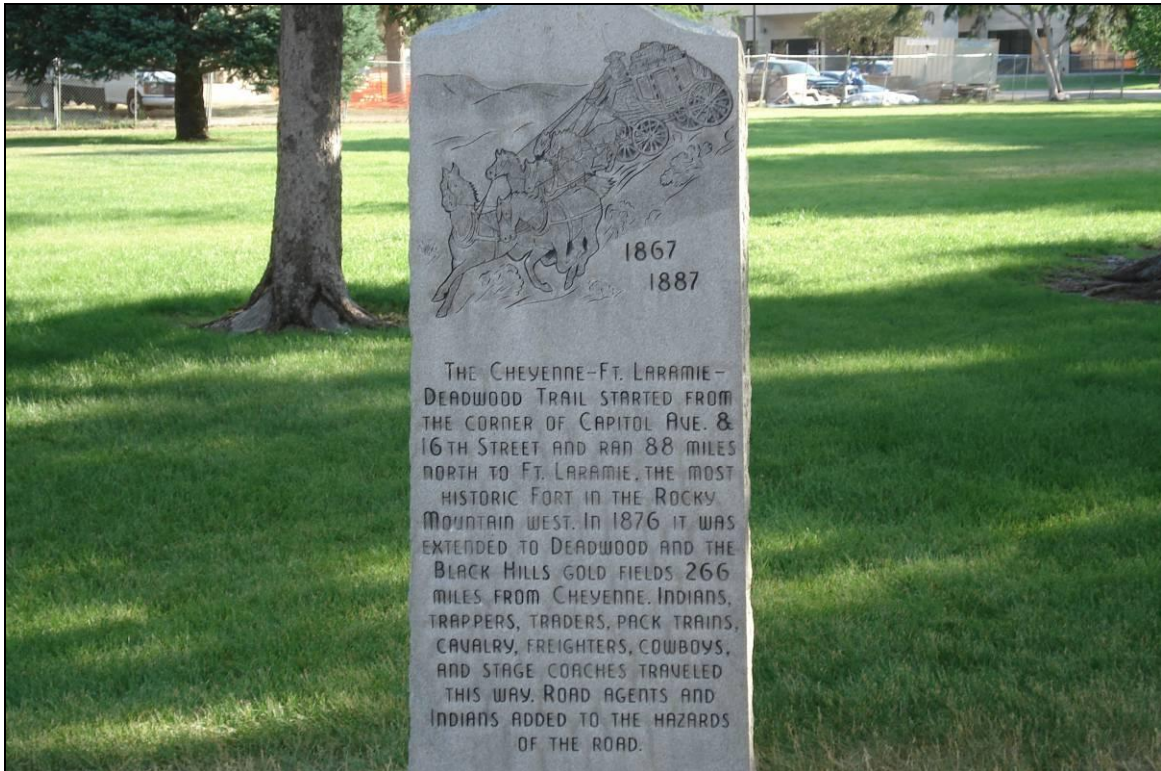
Stephen's younger brother Phillip Henry Scriber, also moved to Cheyenne in the early 1870s. Phillip's business was listed as "Transfer" in the City of Cheyenne Business Directories from 1884-85, 1887, and 1902 and his occupation as was a listed as a teamster (wagon or coach driver) in the census (1875) and Pension (1903) reports. One of his business advertisements follows. Unfortunately, his second wife Katie



Phillip Henry Scriber's Business Listing
(From 1887 Cheyenne City Business Directory)



A Black Hills Stagecoach (Cowboy Hall of Fame, Fort Worth, Texas)
Perhaps Phillip H. Scriber drove coaches on the Cheyenne to Deadwood Trail



Cheyenne Historical Marker
(regarding the Cheyenne-Deadwood Trail)

died in 1887 at the age of 28. Phillip married his third wife, Christina Nelson, in 1889. They had a young son, William P., who died in 1892 of cholera. Tragedies continued to occur in the Scriber family as Phillip's third wife, Christina died in childbirth a year or two later. Phillip applied for a pension at this time and the physician affidavit (National Archives)⁴² mentioned his chronic rheumatism and deafness made him "1/2" disabled. This request was rejected. In 1903, he reapplied (rheumatism, weak heart, chronic nephritis, and general disability). He was approved for a private's pension of \$6 a month. He continued to list his occupation as a teamster (driver of horse or mule drawn wagons) "when he could work".⁴²



Grave Markers for P.H. Scriber's 2nd and 3rd Wives
(note that young William's name is under Christina's - City of Cheyenne Cemetery)



Harry Dewitt's (Infant son of Edgar and Delia) Grave Marker
(City of Cheyenne Cemetery photos courtesy of Wanda Wade)

During this same time period, other notable characters of Western lore were in the same areas Stephen lived. After the Civil War, Indian tribes wanted to put an end to white encroachment of their land. In 1868, General George Custer had come west to help protect those who were building the railroads. In 1869 President Ulysses S. Grant supported the forceful military policy against Native Americans and in the 1870s Custer was waging war against the Sioux Indians. Custer found gold in the Black Hills and this discovery led to an influx of people and, in 1875, Deadwood was born. The fast growing mining town quickly gained a reputation as one of the West's wildest outposts. In June of 1876 at Little Big Horn, General Custer and his entire forces were killed by Sioux Indians (Lakota and Northern Cheyenne), led by legendary chiefs Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse,

in this famous battle (Custer's Last Stand). The Battle of Little Big Horn became a rallying point for both sides and Custer's legend has lived on.²⁸

James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok came further west to Cheyenne after working as a detective, scouting for the US Army, and serving as Marshall in Abilene, Kansas. In 1876, he was married in Cheyenne then moved to Deadwood and was a noted gambler and gunfighter. A few weeks later, while playing cards in Deadwood's Saloon Number 10, he was shot in the back of the head by Jack McCall.²⁶ Martha Jane Cannary (aka "Calamity Jane") was another contemporary. This rugged pioneer woman was said to have been employed as a bullwhacker and also as a laborer in various area houses of ill repute. Although often drunk, she was also said to be a good-hearted woman who helped care for children during Deadwood's epidemics in the late 1870s. Lore has it that her dying wish was to be buried next to Wild Bill, which she was.⁵

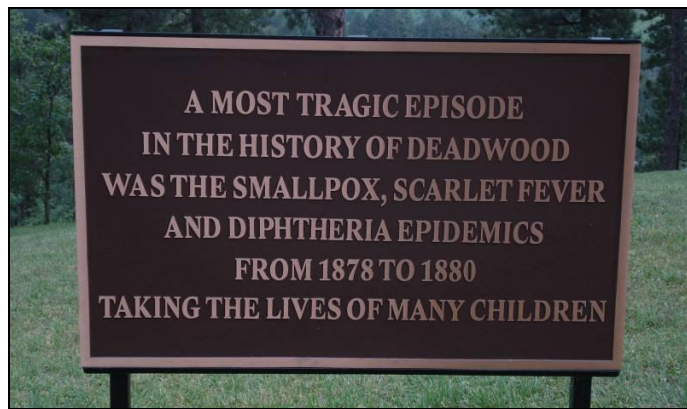
In 1877 Stephen's family moved up into the Black Hills, Dakota Territory (Rochford). Also moving to Deadwood in the spring of 1877 was Wyatt and his brother, Morgan Earp.²⁸ While there Mr. Earp picked up various jobs including his signing on as a driver for the Cheyenne-Deadwood stage line. Later the Earp brothers were involved in the legendary "shootout at the OK corral" in Tombstone, Arizona. While residing in Rochford, Stephen bought property in Deadwood and began various business ventures in this quickly developing gold mining city. He is listed on an 1879 Indenture along with David G. Tallent (Annie's husband) and Daniel F. Potter (Lawrence County Clerk Office, Deadwood, SD) but, for a quartz mining property in the Bear Butte mining district. As it turned out, most quartz mining ventures during that time ended as major financial failures.⁶¹ However, in his earliest Deadwood days, he had a business called the

Exchange Corral on Sherman Street.⁶ In 1878 he was listed in the first City Directory as running this second hand store and also as a grocer.^{26a} The September 1879 Deadwood fire which started in a Sherman Street bakery, destroyed many businesses (more than 200 buildings including Stephen's).⁶ Until the fall of 1880 he was involved in many ventures including mining, sale of mining supplies, possibly a coffee roasting business, and selling groceries. One of his business advertisements for houses, land and mines from an 1880 Black Hills Daily Times follows.⁶



An interesting statement is found in an 1871 pension affidavit from Stephen's mother Margaret, stated that at that time Stephen was living in Cheyenne, Wyoming with his wife and 3 children. This statement is interesting, since Stephen's daughter, Estella Thomas, was not born until 1872. Stephen went back to visit "his old home in NY State in 1880-1883".^{6,44} This was probably after his 11 year old son Charles' death, possibly to help at home before his ailing father's (George) death in 1882, and secure a business loan, most likely from Elmira's Chemung Canal Bank. An 1880 Federal Census Mortality Schedule Index¹ listed youngest son Charles as dying at age 11 from "brain congestion". Stephen and Nettie's oldest boy, George, had also died of diphtheria two

years earlier⁵ and was among the first to be buried (unmarked grave) in the Civil War Veteran section at Deadwood, SD's Mount Moriah Cemetery (Black Hills Daily Times and Cemetery records). He died November 11, 1878, also at age 11 or 12 (Lawrence County Death records). A sign at the cemetery notes between 1878 and 1880 many children from that area died from small pox, scarlet fever, and diphtheria epidemics. Other notable characters of the "wild west", and contemporaries of Stephen's, who were also buried in the Mount Moriah Cemetery include "Wild Bill" Hickok,

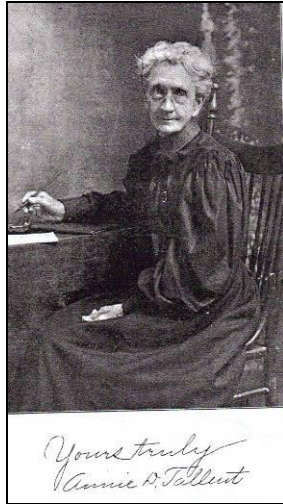


Mount Moriah Cemetery (Deadwood, SD) sign

"Calamity Jane", and Preacher Smith who was mysteriously murdered on his way to give a sermon at Crook City.^{5,26}

The 1880 census list only "Ellen" Scriber (Nettie) and her daughter Ada E. (Estelle) living in Rochford, SD in Pennington County a few miles south of Deadwood and west from Rapid City. Of note, two other men, including Dan McDonald were listed as boarders. Mr. McDonald and neighbors Annie Tallent and her son, John were among those who came to Rochford in 1874 during the first gold seeking expedition into that section of the Black Hills. This disregarded the treaty with the Sioux Indians and was in defiance of the US Government. Stephen later went into business with Annie's husband, David George Tallent (initially a Corning, NY lawyer) in Deadwood. Ms. Tallent became

a noted teacher and writer and was the first white pioneer woman to reside in the Black Hills.⁶¹ Around this time Stephen had gone back to his old home in Elmira, NY for about 3 years.⁵² According to a newspaper account (Black Hills Daily Times, September 10th, 1880) he went in the interest of the Deadwood and Centennial Valley toll and mining interests.⁶ Ironically, this newspaper account stated he would be gone for about 4 weeks.

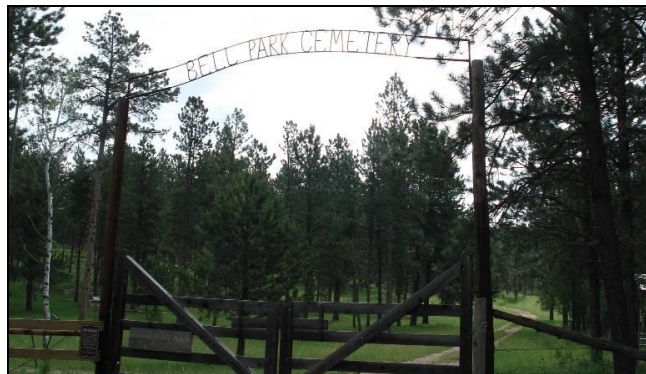


From Annie Tallent's Book (The Black Hills, 1899)⁶¹

After returning to Rochford, late in 1883, it appears that Stephen, soon after his return from NY was selected as the School Commissioner for Rapid City. At that time he applied for a Land Patent through the US government and eventually obtained 80 acres of land west of Rapid City in 1886. In May of 1886 Stephen was on a Pennington County indenture with H.W. Somers, W.C. Burton, and David G. Tallent, most likely as business associates (Pennington County Clerk Office records, Rapid City, SD). In September of 1886, Stephen and Nettie were divorced.⁴⁴ After his divorce from Nettie, Stephen was remarried to Jennie Young (Sister of John R. Young, childhood neighbor and member of the 24th NYS Infantry) on September 27, 1887 in Shell Rock, Iowa. Jennie was a school teacher in Iowa¹ and had previously taught in Fulton, NY at the Falley Seminary.¹⁰

According to Land Patent Records³⁵ after moving to South Dakota, Stephen purchased 80 acres of land near Rapid City, SD. (Pennington County Courthouse). Shortly afterwards he sold the east 10 acres then sold other parcels of this property. Stephen had taken out a business loan from a New York Bank and used his remaining 70 acres of property as collateral. He also sold a large portion of the remaining acreage. Apparently, continuing to have financial difficulties with his business(es), he defaulted on the loan from a NY Bank (1890), he received a foreclosure notice, and the land was sold at a sheriff's auction where a neighbor of Stephen's bought the property. Then a portion of the land (probably original 10 acres) was sold back in 1892 to his second wife, Jennie for the sum of \$1.00 (Pennington County Courthouse records, Rapid City, SD).⁴⁴ Ironically, the 1900 Federal Census (Rapid City) lists Stephen as a real estate agent.¹

An 1890 South Dakota census listing for Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows¹, etc. reports Nettie M. Scriber as the divorced widow of Stephen J. Scriber. Nettie continued to live in Rochford and eventually she remarried in 1896. Her second husband was Albert Amerman, a physician^{1,6} (June 11, 1896). She died in 1902 and is buried with her second husband in the rural Bell Park Cemetery, near Rochford. (Bell Park Cemetery records, Rochford, SD).



Bell Park Cemetery Entrance (near Rochford, SD)

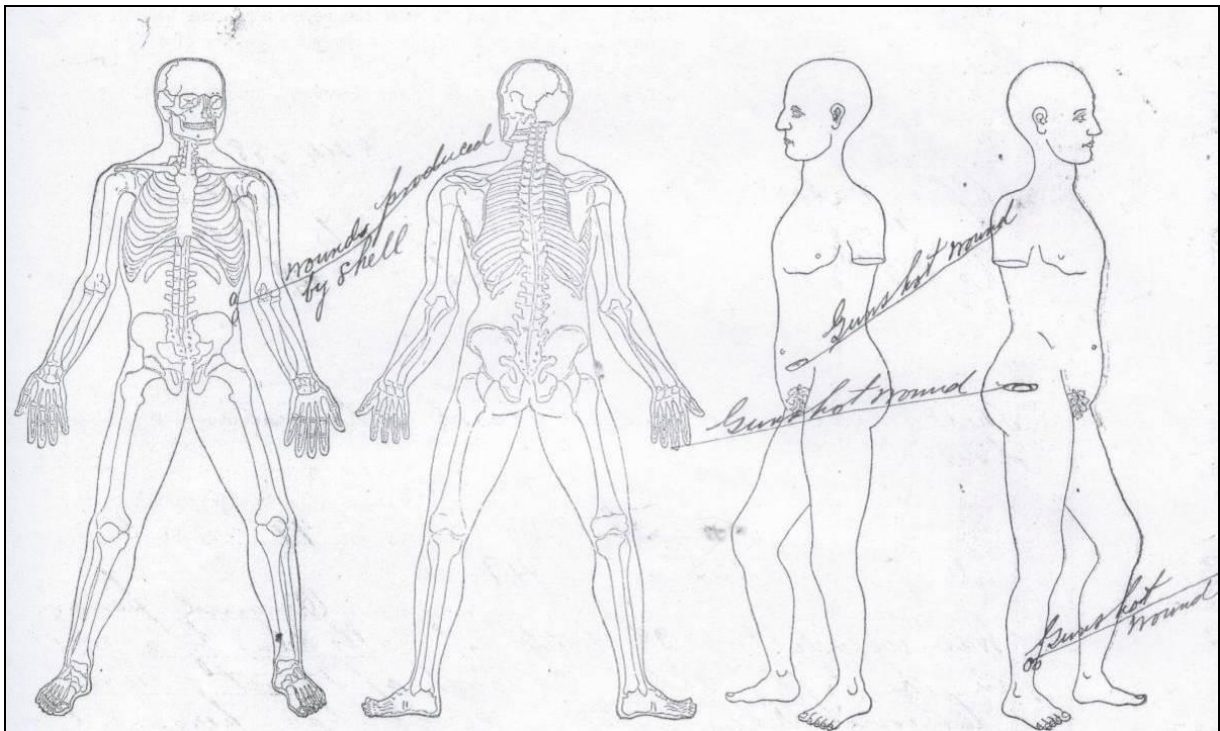


Bell Park Cemetery

Gravesite of Nettie Scriber Amerman and husband Dr. A. Amerman

Twenty years after the war ended Stephen⁴⁴ initially filed for a pension where he mentioned (in a letter dated August 11, 1885) that he had been slightly wounded multiple times and this was verified in a surgeon's report sent to the United States Pension Office a couple years later. He also spoke of disabling problems of rheumatism, catarrh, and diseased lungs that resulted from initial exposure during the winter of 1862-63 (Burnside's "mud march" a month after the Battle of Fredericksburg). Stephen stated in a follow-up letter⁴⁴ that he recovered quite well during the year he was between terms in the war, but had recurrences when exposed to a heavy rain and sleet storm in January 1865 while on picket duty near Harrison's Landing, Va. His letters were followed up and supported by affidavits filed in the Pension Office by Chauncey Woliver, a private with

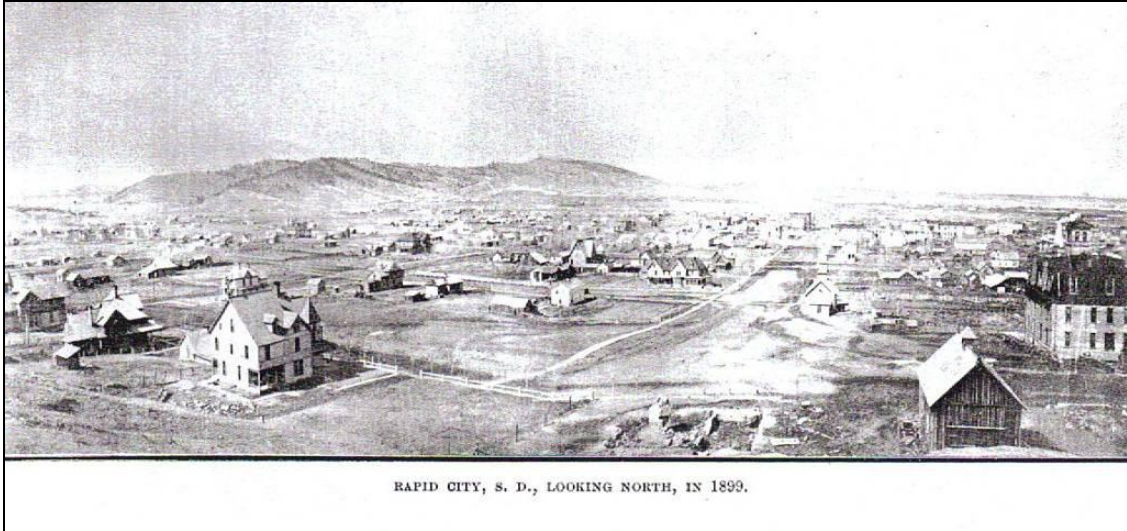
Co. H of the 24th NY, Ebenezer Millis of the 184th NY (Co. K), and Jerome Coe, also of Co. K of the 184th.⁴⁴



Taken from Surgeon's Report re: Stephen J. Scriber's wounds

(Dr. Kinne, Pennington Co, Dakota, April 11th, 1887)⁴⁴

When he was living in Elmira, NY he stated he was “treated for Rheumatism, Lung Trouble, and Catarrh by Dr. Stanchfield”.⁴⁴ In Cheyenne he was treated by a Dr. Russell for the same previously mentioned maladies. When he moved again to Rapid City, South Dakota he was elected as the Superintendent of Schools for Pennington County, SD (see letterhead from letter sent in 1885). Before that he was involved in teaching school and dealing in general merchandise. Additionally, on letterhead from another letter he sent in 1886 he was listed with a man named Burton listed as Real Estate and Mining Brokers. He was listed as a Notary Public and W.C. Burton was listed as a Conveyancer who gave “Special Attention Given to the Business of Non Residents”.⁴⁴



Stephen and Jennie's Rapid City Property

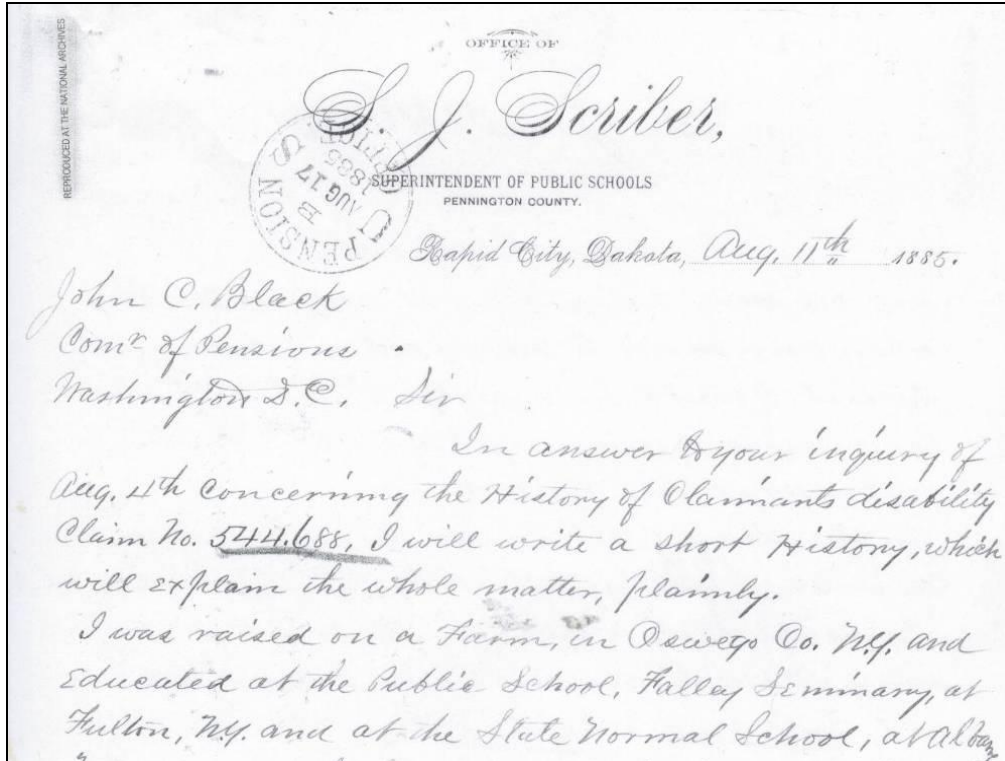
(would likely have been somewhere in the left side of picture – from Tallent, 1899)⁶¹



Current Home of Loren and Suzanne Pederson (Nordby Lane)

Possibly on foundation (with cistern) from Stephen's original home

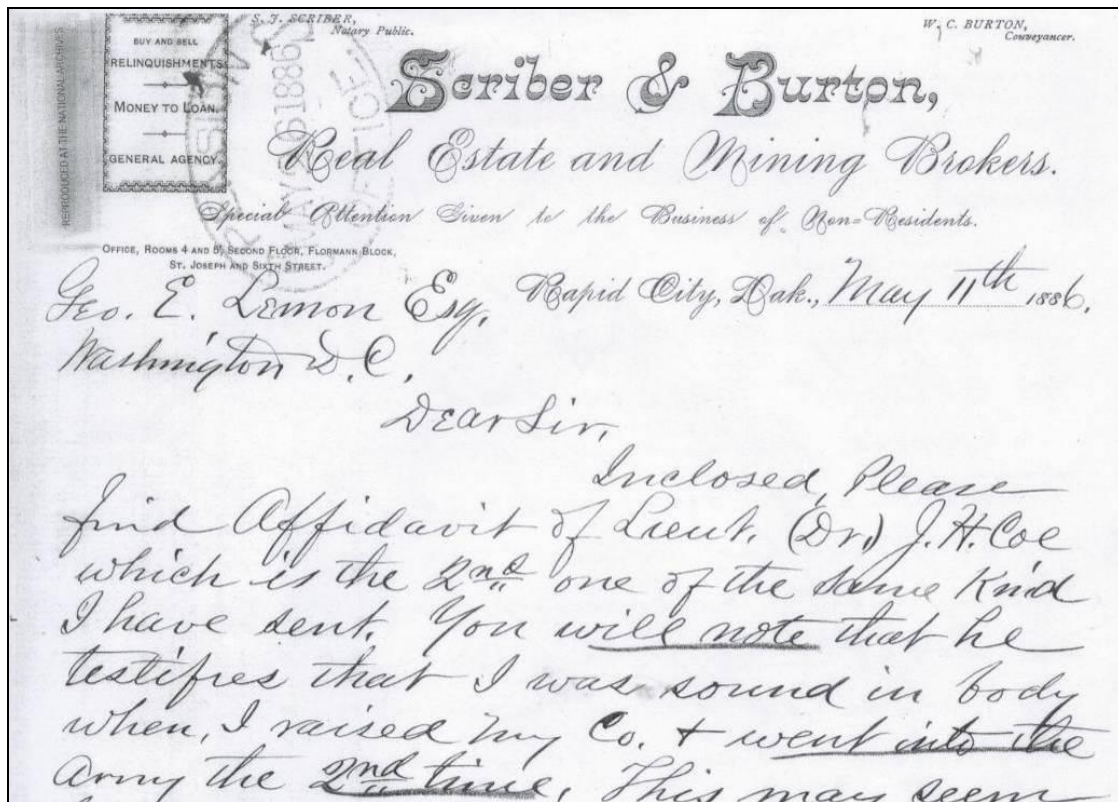
In another letter (dated November 25th, 1887) to the Pension Office, Stephen stated that he had recently been granted a pension.⁴⁴ He questioned the fact that he was not rated as a captain, but a 2nd lieutenant. In the same letter he asked if he qualified for 3 extra months of pay due to the fact he was not actually discharged and paid until August 12, 1865. Other records indicated in 1887 his pension increased from \$7.50 to \$15.00 per month and, that as of September 12, 1912 he was receiving a monthly pension of \$17.00.



Portion of Scriber letter to Pension Office (August 11th, 1885)⁴⁴

George and Margaret Scriber continued to live in Hinmansville, NY, Town of Schroepfel on a piece of property on what is now Great Bear Road in a log cabin valued at \$100.^{39,44} In 1867 their property on the Schroepfel/Volney town line was taken over by their youngest son Phillip Henry Scriber who turned it over to Solomon Ostrander in 1872.³⁹ In 1869, Stephen, Phillip, and Charles' mother Lydia Margaret had filed for a pension to help support her and her husband George, who was very ill and could no longer support them.⁴⁰ Because of her husband's declining health over the previous 8 years she filed for a "Mother's Pension" that August. The justification was that had he not died in the war, their son Charles B. could have now supported the family. She mentioned only 2 times where her sons sent her money during the war. In August of 1861 Charles gave his brother Henry (who had been visiting) \$38 and in July of 1862 she

stated she received \$72.50 from Charles and the same amount from Stephen.⁴⁰ Henry Limbeck, who was mentioned earlier in a letter by Lewis Benedict as one of three



Portion of follow-up letter to Pension Office (May 11th, 1886)⁴⁴

Schroepel boys left (along with Stephen)³ stated he was a comrade of Charles' in the 24th NY in an 1870s Pension affidavit.⁴⁰

In her documentation she mentioned each of her living children, including Stephen, and gave reasons why they could not support them. Her son Henry (Phillip) was a widower with one child who farmed in Schroepel. Her oldest daughter Mary was married to Albert Spencer and resided in Clay with one child. Albert was also a farmer. Middle daughter Delia was married to Edgar Dewitt (Nettie's brother)¹ who was a "poor" country physician. They had two children. Her youngest daughter, Catherine (Kate)

married Eugene Gates who worked a farm in Clay. According to Margaret, they had one child. During the next few years several more documents were sent to the Pension Office and the paperwork was completed in 1872. On a form dated 1879 it became apparent that Charles' mother was to be paid in arrears the sum of \$940.80 from September 14, 1862 (one day after Charles' death) through July 1st, 1872. This was the private's rate of \$8.00 per month for that 10 year period.⁴⁰ It was unclear as to whether she received any pension after 1872. Apparently a veteran group from Phoenix, NY was established and called the Charles B. Scriber camp as there were numerous 1896 newspaper accounts of these men visiting other veterans in Fulton, Lysander, and Baldwinsville.¹⁷

Stephen returned from South Dakota in approximately 1880 and stayed in his old neighborhood and Elmira, NY for about 3 years.^{6,44} His father George Scriber died on August 9, 1882 and was buried in Lysander's Chase Cemetery next to his son, Charles. Late in 1883 Stephen returned to Rochford, South Dakota. At about the same time, Lydia M. Scriber moved to Volney, NY to live with her youngest daughter Kate and son in law Eugene Gates. She died at their home in February of 1907 and was also buried in the family plot at the same cemetery. In 1910 Stephen and his wife, Jennie moved to St. Cloud, Florida.⁴⁴ In 1909, the Seminole Land and Investment Company (a subsidiary of the Grand Army of the Republic, G.A.R.) and a soldiers' newspaper (National Tribune) bought 35,000 acres of land in St. Cloud, Florida.⁵⁵ Officials had searched all over Florida for a "perfect" site for a colony of Veterans of the Civil War, particularly one suited for "health, climate, and productiveness of the soil". William King was chosen by the National Tribune for the colony's planning and became the first permanent resident of St. Cloud.⁵⁵

Late in 1910, Stephen and Jennie moved from Rapid City, South Dakota to St. Cloud, Florida primarily because of Stephen's failing health. Soon after arriving, Stephen's health improved and he began two businesses (Real Estate and Pension Attorney).⁵⁶ An April 1, 1911 article in the St. Cloud Tribune highlights the fact that his health improved and his place of business (and residence) was located opposite of the First National Bank on New York Avenue (corner of 12th Street).⁵⁶

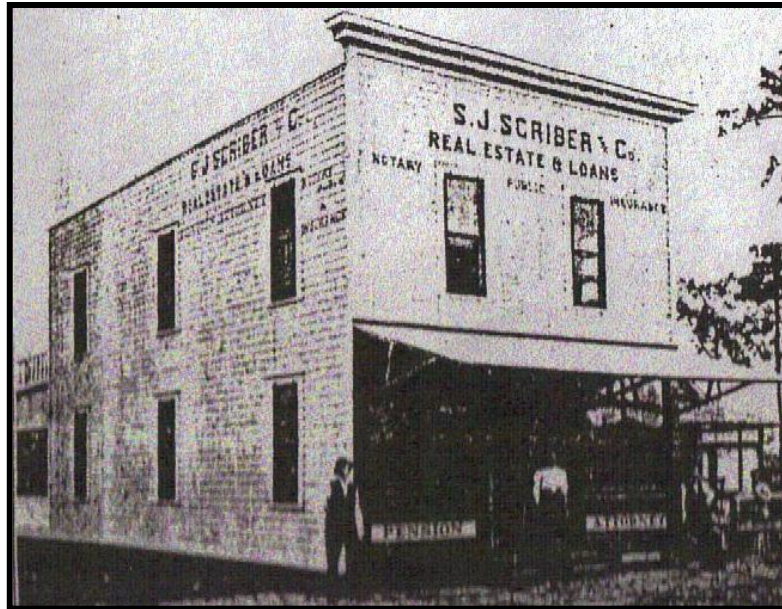
A year and a half later (November. 21, 1912), Stephen placed the following ad:

Real estate and loans.
Notary public and pension attorney. Buy and sell all kinds of property.
Lots and 5-acre tracts. Two good business propositions for sale. Office on
New York Avenue. Opposite First National Bank.

How much longer he maintained the property is unknown.

After Stephen moved from the Dakota Territory to St. Cloud, Florida he stated in a 1912 letter printed in a Fulton newspaper some of his activities were with the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic).¹⁷ He was president of the St. Cloud G.A.R. (Mitchell Post with 200-300 members) and had been nominated, but turned down an offer to be Commander of the State of Florida G.A.R. He also kept busy by running a large Bible class (St. Cloud Baptist Church) as well as being a Pension Attorney with a fairly large clientele. An August 8, 1913 note in the Fulton Times mentioned that Stephen and his wife (from Florida) were in the area visiting friends and relatives before going to Dakota where they had property to dispose of.¹⁷ The G.A.R. Building in St. Cloud was completed in 1914 and named bricks, including one for S.J. Scriber, were placed at the entrance for the charter members of the Mitchell Post (see picture the follows and in Appendix II). Stephen is mentioned numerous times in the St. Cloud Tribune⁵⁶ newspaper between 1910 and 1917. His business and home were located in the same building on New York

Avenue and shown in the following picture. (St. Cloud Tribune Supplement, August 26, 1911, p.18).



1911 Scriber Property and Current (2009) Structure on Property

Stephen was elected Commander of the L.L. Mitchell Post of the GAR for a one year term in 1912. At that point a small wooden structure was used until a new brick structure was completed in 1914. GAR members and local residents were able to buy

shares to assist with the cost of the new building. Stephen purchased 5 shares in 1913 and his wife Jennie purchased 1 share in 1914 (Courtesy of St. Cloud GAR Museum).



S.J. Scriber Commemorative Brick in GAR Building Entrance



Original Stock Certificate from Seminole Land & Investment Company
(Courtesy of St. Cloud GAR Museum)

A 1912 clip describes Captain S.J. Scriber’s inspection of the local school and his positive comments.⁵⁶ Additional newspaper articles mention him as the Post Commander and the president of the Osceola County Republican Club. Another St. Cloud Tribune article⁵⁶ (March 4, 1915) describes a veteran dress parade starting at the G.A.R. Hall as a “grand and glorious event”. The article stated that 8 companies marched and S.J. Scriber was the commander of Company A. Stephen even signed a petition sent to Congress 10 days before his death requesting funding for a new Post Office in St. Cloud (1/11/1917).⁵⁶

After Stephen's passing in 1917, his obituary printed in the St. Cloud Tribune⁵⁶ (1/25/1917) stated he died on January 21st, 1917 and was survived by one daughter



1914 St. Cloud GAR Parade

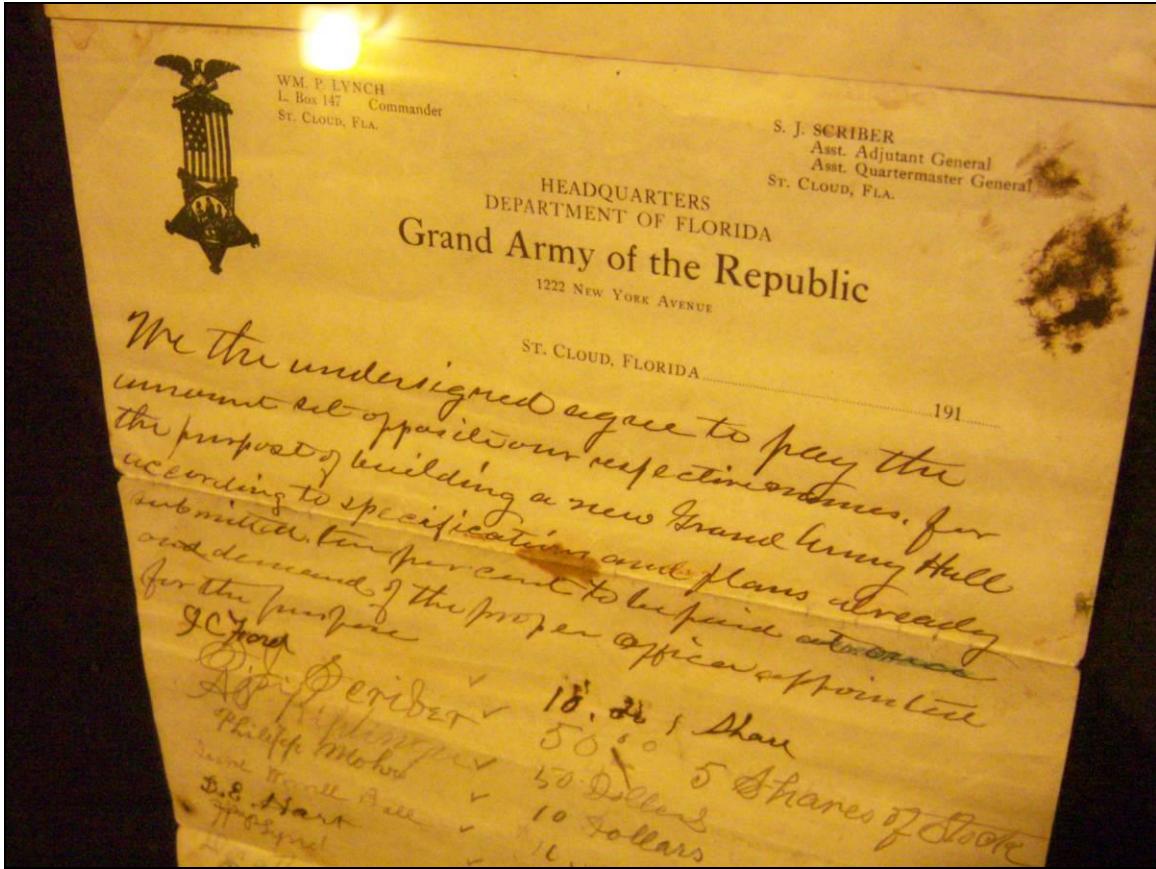
(Estelle Thomas Bunnell) and two sisters (Delia Dewitt Taylor and Mary Spencer Hunter). “For many years he was a respected citizen of South Dakota and held many public offices of trust, ever providing faithful in them. Coming to St. Cloud in its early beginning, he at once took an active part in the progress of the city”. Stephen was buried in the G.A.R. section at Mount Peace Cemetery in Saint Cloud, Florida along side of his wife Jennie.



Stephen and Jennie Scriber Grave Markers

Mt. Peace Cemetery, St. Cloud, FL

During the past few years, a number of questions have been answered regarding Stephen J. Scriber and his family during the Civil War and after. However, there are still many aspects of the “family history” that remain a mystery at the present time. Some questions will remain unanswered, but in all likelihood, the author will continue gathering information and periodically update the existing information relating to the Scriber family.



Stock Shares Letter posted in St. Cloud, FL GAR Hall

(signed by Stephen J Scriber -Asst. Adjutant General) -

