

The identification of unlabelled Terrill family pictures

by Conrad W. Terrill

Section I

Introduction

Many of our Terrill family pictures contain no identity information. The people who could have identified these pictures for us departed this world long ago. We are now reduced to the state where we have to figure out for ourselves who the people in these pictures are. The task is not completely hopeless, though. We can do it, to some degree. But we have to make detectives of ourselves. We have to approach the task from every angle we can imagine. And it will help if we can bring in other people who have old Terrill family pictures in their picture collections. It is partly for this reason that I am making public all the old Terrill family pictures that I have copied so far—with the hope that other people will examine them and perhaps recognize faces from their own old pictures. The main reason I am making these pictures public, though, is that I want to share these pictures with all interested parties. I have wanted to do this for a long time, and now it has become easy for me to do so.

The custodians of these old Terrill family pictures have done a remarkable job of keeping and preserving their collections, and we should thank them for this. I thank them also for allowing me to view and copy their collections, and for permitting me to make them public. And they would like their pictures identified as much as I want it.

So how can we do it? Let's look at some angles:

1. The collections themselves

The custodians of these collections well know how they came to inherit the various pictures in their collections. They generally have inherited them from their parents, or from aunts and uncles. And they have seen these pictures earlier in their lives, before they themselves came to possess them. And they were told about them, or they were present when others were looking at them and talking about them. They may not remember everything that they have heard, but they may remember which pictures are Terrill family, and which are Skinner family, and which are Nadow family, etc., based upon who was interested in which pictures.

2. The history of photography

Our Terrill family pictures begin from the beginning of photography. The first photographers and photographic studios used whatever products and techniques were available to them, and it was a very competitive market. To stay abreast, and to sell pictures, they had to keep up with the latest developments. And we know the timeline of these developments. We can study our pictures, determine what kinds of pictures they are, and use this information to help date them—a big step towards identifying them. I present herein what I have learned about this subject.

3. Association of collections

Copies of some pictures show up in multiple collections. If a certain picture shows up in the collections of two Terrill-descended families, two families which are not related in any other way, then it is very likely a Terrill family picture.

4. Studio identification

Many old pictures had photographic studio information printed on the front, or on the back, or both. Sometimes this was printed in very elaborate form. Often it would provide the address of the studio, since studios used this as a form of advertising. Most often, most people did not go far to have their pictures taken. So if the studio was in Bridgeport, CT, and if we know of no Terrill family who lived in Bridgeport other than that of John Terrill, then of course we should focus our attention on this family. Also, people often went together to have their pictures taken, and so the studio labeling would be identical on their pictures. And studios changed their labeling formats from year to year. Because the studio information provides such important clues I now scan the entire fronts of pictures, and the backs too whenever such labeling is present.

5. Careful study of the pictures

Suppose we notice that a person in an unidentified picture strongly resembles a person in an identified picture. And although we may not be experts in recognition, we know that this is a resemblance which commands our attention. And suppose we find other like pictures, some identified, some not, some of the person at an earlier stage in his or her life, and some at a later stage. Now we can focus on facial features, and general appearance. It may be hard to say what it is that makes us think that the pictures are of the same person, but we think so nevertheless. And everything about these pictures, based on the other angles I've mentioned, is consistent with this possibility. Then we can consider the degree to which we're certain, and estimate a degree-of-confidence in our identification. This is what I have done in what follows.

There are other angles besides these that I've mentioned, some of which you will notice when you review my work. And I'm sure that there are others yet, that I have not thought of. I'd like you to inform me of any new angles that you can think of. And I'd like you to feel free to critique my identification. If some of it strikes you as weak, or just plain wrong, let me know. I welcome your comments. Here's my contact information:

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email: cwterrill@comcast.net

The Collections

The old Terrill family pictures which we have copied to date are mainly from the following collections:

The collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee: Barbara Parmelee is the daughter of Marie Ward (Terrill) Cummings Gray, who was the youngest daughter of Fred W. and Mary I. L. (Skinner) Terrill. Barbara has inherited most of the collection of her mother and also that of her aunt, Lily May Terrill. Much of these collections, in turn, were inherited from Marie and Lily's parents, and perhaps from their mother's sister, Rose Abigail (Skinner) Coe, who was living alone in an apartment upstairs at the Fred Terrill house at the time she died. Finally, Fred W. and Mary I. L. Terrill (and Rose Coe) must have inherited some of their pictures from their parents, Moses W. and Almira O. (Ferrin) Terrill, and Albert & Almira W. (Bailey) Skinner. These pictures are all loose (none are in albums), and Barbara has done a wonderful job of maintaining and organizing them, and identifying those she can.

The collection of Michael Ayn Gray: Michael Gray is a daughter of Donald Weld Gray, who is the son of Marie Ward (Terrill) Gray. Michael has inherited an album, given to her by her father some time ago, which appears to have been at one time that of her great-grandmother Mary I. L. (Skinner) Terrill. It contains only 19th century pictures (Mary I. L. Terrill died in 1904). Many of the pictures are identified underneath, in handwriting which Michael has identified as that of her grandmother Marie. Marie Terrill was born in 1896, however; so many of the pictures were much before her time, and were therefore left unidentified. Michael also has inherited two very old tintypes, in the types of cases which were first used for daguerreotypes. One was identified on the back and the other was not. But that second one is identified herein. And Michael has also inherited two paintings by Mary I. L. Terrill. You will find all of these items documented in "The Michael Ayn Gray Collection" on my web page.

The collection of Eleanor Marie Terrill: Eleanor Terrill was the youngest daughter of Whitman Earl Terrill, a son of Fred W. and Mary I. L. (Skinner) Terrill. She had inherited an album which I presume was put together by her mother, Flora Harriet (Nadow) Terrill, containing numerous pictures of "Earl" and his brothers and sisters, from the early 1900's, with just a few dating from before 1900. There were very few of Fred, and none of Mary I. L. Many of the pictures were unidentified.

A Short History of Photography

I'm not a historian of photography, but I've read up on the subject. It's very complex. There were many developments, and some processes came and went, without long-lasting impact. By and large, though, only a few processes were extremely popular. I think the following short history of these particular processes will serve our present purpose.

The first dominant photographic process was announced in France in 1839 by L. J. M. Daguerre. This process was used in America from 1840 to about 1860. A "daguerreotype" is a silver-mercury image on a thin sheet of mirror-finished silver-plated copper. After the image was "fixed" it was toned gold, which gave it more contrast, along with a rich, warm look. Color was sometimes added by various "secret" methods. The daguerreotype is distinguished from other types of photograph by its mirror quality—the dark parts of the image are more mirror-like. Unless you look at it straight-on you will see a reflection off its surface. If what is reflected is dark then the image will appear to have more contrast. A daguerreotype was covered with a glass plate, separated from the image plate by a brass "cut-out mat." This assemblage was sealed with paper tape and decorative brass edging, and placed in a hinged decorated case secured by a brass clasp. The cases were available in several standard sizes. A good daguerreotype image appears bright and clear, with fine detail.

A second popular process was the ambrotype, made in the U.S. from 1854 to about 1881, and at the height of its popularity in 1856 and 1857. In an ambrotype a negative image on a glass plate (with the image side usually facing forward) replaced the daguerreotype image plate. It was sold in the same cases used for daguerreotypes, and it required dull black paper, or black cloth, or black metal behind it in the case, to make the image appear positive instead of negative. The image side of the glass negative usually faced forward because this made the image appear brighter and more detailed, although it also reversed the image right-to-left. As the ambrotype is viewed at more and more of an angle the image turns from positive to negative. The image is characterized by grayish tones and muddy whites.

Tintypes, which were originally called ferrotypes by photographers, became popular about 1856, and were sold through to the end of the 19th century. The tintype is basically an ambrotype except that the glass plate has been dispensed with, and the image is put directly on a black japanned sheet of iron. Early tintypes were sometimes mounted in cases like those used for daguerreotypes and ambrotypes. Later they were slipped into sleeves with oval image openings. These paper sleeves have seldom survived, and you will usually find tintypes loose. If a tintype is covered with a glass plate it is hard to distinguish it from an ambrotype. Otherwise, unlike an ambrotype, it is difficult to see a negative image at any viewing angle, particularly if the tintype image was protected with a coat of varnish. As with ambrotypes, the image is characterized by grayish tones and muddy whites.

The last development important for us is that of albumen paper, which was introduced about 1855, and which was generally used in America from 1860 to 1890 (when it lost favor to "printing-out paper"). The photographic image was transferred from a glass negative to light-sensitized albumen paper by placing the one in contact with the other in a frame, and exposing it in sunlight. (This is called "contact-printing.") The very thin albumen paper, with a positive image on it, was mounted

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on thin cardboard, and sold in the following standard (U.S.) sizes:

Carte-de-visite	4 ¼ x 2 ½
Cabinet	4 ½ x 6 ½
Victoria	3 ¼ x 5
Promenade	4 x 7
Boudoir	5 ¼ x 8 ½
Imperial	6 7/8 x 9 7/8
panel	8 ¼ x 4

The carte-de-visite size was immensely popular. It was presented by visitors with, or in lieu of, a calling card.

A stamp on the back of a picture dates the picture. From 1 August 1864 to 1 August 1866 the U.S. government imposed a taxation system to help pay for the war against the Confederacy. Photographs, ambrotypes, daguerreotypes or any “sun” pictures (contact prints made from glass negatives using the sun as the light source) were required to have a tax stamp affixed to the back of the image. The act required that the seller of the photograph cancel the stamp by initializing or marking the stamp and dating it. Stamps specifically for photos were never produced, so general stamps were used. The amount of the tax (from 1 to 3 cents) depended on the price of the photograph.

References

1. All of this abbreviated history is from the book *Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs*, by Robert A. Weinstein and Larry Booth, of the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN, and published by that association in 1977.
2. Elucidation of the last paragraph, on tax stamps, is from the online catalog of Frohne & Son Historic Military (<http://modoc1873.com>), essentially verbatim.

My identifications

The rest of this document presents labeled and unlabeled pictures from the various collections. I have identified and dated all the Terrill family pictures that I can. I use the first person singular voice a lot because I mean to accept full blame for any misidentifications I may have made. Otherwise I would use first person plural throughout, with “we” referring to you and I, with the hope that you would consider yourselves part of this adventurous project. If you discover any misidentifications please bring them to my attention. If you convince me that I have erred then I will rectify the problem by updating this document and all dependent documents on my web site.

In 1983 four people looked at Barbara Parmelee’s old Terrill family picture collection for me, and they were able to identify many of the pictures. You will see the names of these people mentioned numerous times throughout the rest of this document. I’ve already mentioned that Barbara herself is the daughter of Marie Ward Terrill, and granddaughter of Fred W. Terrill. Barbara was born in 1919. My father, Ferrin Ward Terrill, who was born in 1905 and died in 1990, was a son of W. Earl Terrill, and grandson of Fred W. Terrill. Thomas Cheney Johnson, who was born in 1912 and died in 2004, was a son of Ivy Laura Terrill, and grandson of Fred W. Terrill. And Kenneth L. Fowler, who was born in 1908 and died in 1990, and who lived in Middlefield his whole life, was a grandson of Benjamin F. Terrill (half-brother of Moses W. Terrill).

We will often be presenting pictures of a single individual, with an assemblage of all the pictures of that person collected on a single page so that all can easily be compared against each other. This will allow us to become “acquainted” with this individual. Most of the pictures have been reduced in size somewhat to save space, but they are still large enough for identification purposes.

The number in red alongside a picture gives the file name that I have assigned to that picture in my database—a database which is (or soon will be) available on-line, on my web page, in the section called “Archives.”

As yet I have not much studied the handwriting used in the labeling of the pictures, even though we have samples of the handwriting of a number of people who may have labeled these pictures. What little handwriting comparison I have tried so far has led me to the realization that I’m not yet very good at this.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

All but No. 4 are from the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



c2008-04-17-056

2-1. **Unlabeled** (See text below).



c2008-04-17-062

2-2. Identified as Moses Weld Terrill in an 1891 biographical sketch.

II

**Moses
Weld
Terrill**

My identifications:

All of these are pictures of Moses Weld Terrill.

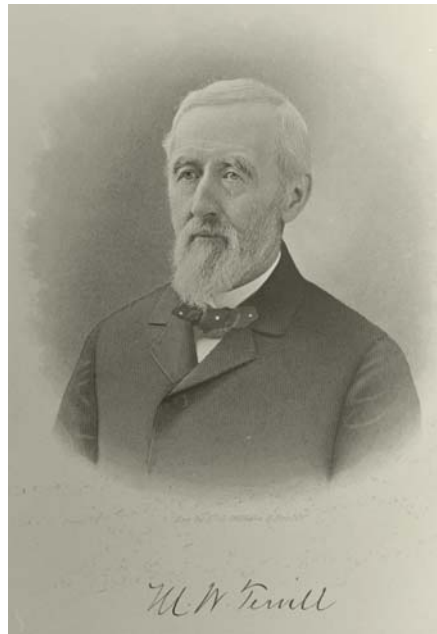
My date & age estimations:

- 2-1. Early 1860's, in mid 30's.
- 2-2. Circa 1889, about 63.
- 2-3. Circa 1890, early or mid 60's.
- 2-4. Circa 1900, mid 70's.
- 2-5. Circa 1904/1905, late 70's.



c2008-04-16-002

2-3. **Unlabeled.**



c2008-03-06-097

2-4. A picture of Moses Weld Terrill in a 1903 biographical sketch.

2-5. **Unlabeled.**



c2008-04-17-046

Moses Weld Terrill was born in 1826 and died in 1905. Here are all of the images that we currently have which I believe to be of him. You'll find further explanation concerning each on the next few pages. The two at top were not labeled "William Terrill" when I first saw them in 1983. You'll find an explanation for this misidentification on the next page. I don't think it's hard to recognize these as five pictures of the same person. If you have trouble, you should focus first on the aquiline nose, apparent in 1, 2, 4 and 5 (it's hard to notice this in 3 because of the more full-face view). In addition to the nose you can compare the eyes, the eyebrows and the ears. In general you cannot depend on hair, beard and

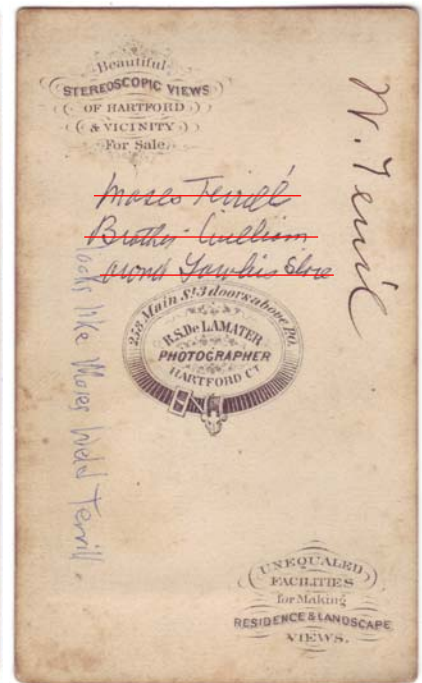
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moustache style, since these can easily be changed; however, Moses W. Terrill appears to have maintained a nearly constant appearance throughout his adult life.

At right is the front (again) and the back of 2-1. From the fact that the studio was in Hartford we can assume that this picture was taken after M.W.T. moved down to Connecticut from Vermont, which he did in 1861. (The fact that the picture is printed on albumen paper dates it to 1860 or later.) There is one label on the front and two labels and a comment on the back. I myself added “looks like Moses Weld Terrill” in 1983. “William Terrill,” on the front, and “Moses Terrill’s / Brother – William / owned Fowler’s Store,” on the back, were added by someone else (not Barbara) sometime after I first copied this picture of hers in 1983 (I explain below why this identifica-



c2008-04-17-056



c2008-04-17-056-back

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

2-1.

tion is in error). The remaining label on the back, “W. Terril,” is probably very old—perhaps written soon after the picture was printed. This “W. Terril” is a mystery. The first initial certainly looks more like a “W” than an “M.” It might be a picture which belonged to M.W.T.’s son Willis, who was 10 years old in 1861. I myself wonder, though, if M.W.T. might have been known as “Weld” in Vermont, in order to distinguish him from his father, Moses. (My own brother, Ferrin Ward Terrill Jr. has always been known as “Ward,” to distinguish him from our father, who was always known as “Ferrin.”) Whatever the case may be, this apparent “W,” along with an erroneous statement in print (see below), is in my opinion what has resulted in the misidentification of this picture as “William Terrill.” And I don’t mean to criticize whoever did this for making this error. I’m sure he (or she) thought he was right. I always encourage people to identify their pictures. And I encourage you to label yours! Be careful, though.

The History and Architecture of Middlefield, by Janice P. Cunningham, Survey Director of The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, of Middletown, Connecticut, in 1981, has a sentence on page 23 which reads:

“A store, built by [Moses] Terrill’s brother William, was also needed to serve the growing community.”

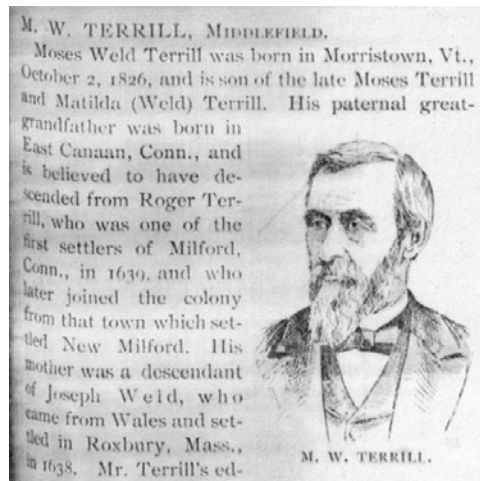
The store mentioned here is a grocery store in an area of Middlefield known locally as “Baileyville,” a store which in 1983 was called “Village Market,” and owned by Lester Fowler. Now I don’t mean to condemn this book, or any of the staff of Janice Cunningham’s survey team, or any of the many Middlefield residents who provided information to the survey team. I mean only to correct the misidentification of the picture of M.W.T. I actually think very highly of the book, and I feel obliged to all who participated in the survey. A great deal of Middlefield history that likely would have been lost is now preserved. To get back to the sentence, though, the store was not built by Moses W. Terrill’s brother William. Moses W. Terrill did not have a brother named William. He had a full brother named Newton Alonzo and three half-brothers named Lester Horatio, Benjamin F., and Carlos B. It was M.W.T.’s son Willis E., known as “Will,” who started the store. In a 1911 biographical sketch (*Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut*, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., New York, 1911, [Willis E.] Terrill, pp. 513-516), Willis himself (presumably) informs us that, “In 1874 he left the company [the Metropolitan Manufacturing Company] and engaged in business on his own account, and for eight years conducted a general store at Middlefield.” My father told me in 1983 that Fowler’s store was once Will’s, and that his (my father’s) grandparents, Fred and Mary Ida-Louise Terrill, once lived in the apartment above it, early in their marriage. Picture 1, by the way, is definitely not of Willis, whom you will soon learn to recognize.

To finish my explanation of the identification error, someone assumed from the sentence in the book that M.W.T. indeed had a brother named William, and because of the “W Terril” on the back of the picture, he assumed further that this must be a picture of him. But it is actually a picture of Moses Weld Terrill, at about age 35 or so, not long after he arrived in Middlefield.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-17-062



c2008-04-17-060-back



2-2.

2-2. Neither this picture (above left) nor the deteriorating duplicate of it (below right) was identified by labeling prior to 1983, except for a cryptic "G.H.T." (so it appears) at the top right corner of the back of the duplicate (above right). These initials also appear on the back of a picture that I've identified as Moses Weld Terrill's wife, Almira (Ferrin) Terrill, with identical studio labeling, front and back. So the initials do not appear to identify the subject. The identification is not in question, however, since this is the image of Moses Weld Terrill which was used in an 1891 biographical sketch ("M. W. Terrill, Middlefield," from *Illustrated Popular Biography of Connecticut*, compiled and published by John A. Spalding, Hartford, Conn., 1891; p. 223). Assuming that M.W.T. provided this picture to the compiler about two years before the publication date, since it must take about that amount of time to compile such a comprehensive book, and assuming that the picture was then recent, we can date it to circa 1889, when M.W.T. was about 63 years old. Birmingham, Conn., the location of the studio, was the name of a section of Derby, about 10 miles west of New Haven.

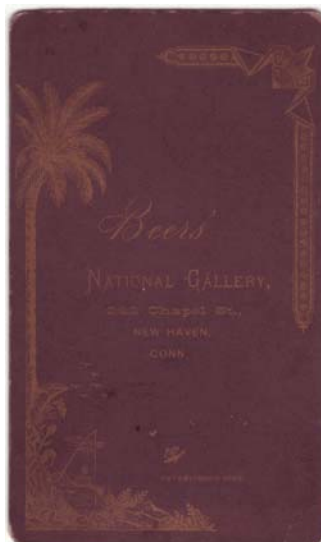
From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



c2008-04-17-060

2-3. The picture below too was not identified by labeling. It certainly appears to be another picture of Moses Weld Terrill, though, at an age not much different from that in 2-2. I'm estimating the date and his age to be about the same as in 2-2: Circa 1890, early or mid 60's.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



2-3.

c2008-04-16-002 and c2008-04-16-002-back

2-4. (on p. II-1) This is an identified image of Moses Weld Terrill in a 1903 biographical sketch (*Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut*, Chicago, J. H. Beers & Co., 1903; "Moses Weld Terrill," pp. 27-30). Assuming as before that he submitted the picture two years prior to the publication date, we can date this picture to circa 1901, when M.W.T. was 75 years old.

2-5. (on p. II-1) This picture was not identified by labeling. The back is blank. But the viewpoint is nearly the same as that of 2-4, and the features are basically identical. It is obviously another picture of Moses Weld Terrill. He appears a few years older than he does in no. 2-4, and I think it appears that his health was in decline. Since he died in 1905, a month short of age 79, and since I've dated 2-4 to 1901, I'll date this one to circa 1904 or 1905, and his age would be "late 70's."

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray



3-1. Tintype in a daguerreotype case, labelled on the back, "Twins / Grandma Terrill – on right + Aunt Alvira". Circa 1856-1860.

c2008-04-15-006

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



3-2. Labelled "Mrs. Elmira Terrill, Middlefield, Conn." on back. Circa 1860's.

c2008-03-06-029

III

Almira O.
(Ferrin)
Terrill

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray



3-3. Unlabelled. Perhaps ~1880.

c2008-04-15-016

c2008-04-14-025



3-4. Unlabelled, but very likely Almira circa 1889 (see next page).

c2008-04-17-044



3-5. Unlabelled. This appears to be another shot from the same photo session as 3-4. Almira is wearing the same dress, but not the neck pin.

The left two are from the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

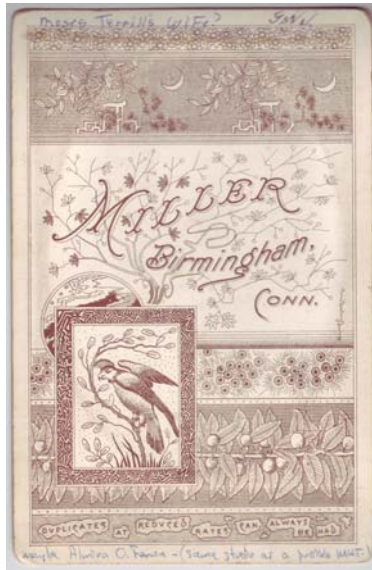
Two of these pictures are labelled and three are not, but I contend that Almira Ortensia (Ferrin) Terrill is in all five. Almira was born in 1826 and died in 1895. Picture 3-1, a tintype in a daguerreotype case, is of Almira, on the right, and her twin sister Alvira P. (Ferrin) Parker. It dates to a period from 1856, when the tintype process was introduced, to about 1860, when the popularity of putting them in such cases faded. In 3-2, a picture printed on albumen paper (introduced in 1860), Almira still looks much the same. My explanation for why I believe that 3-4 and 3-5 are of Almira circa 1889 is on the next page. The woman in 3-3 has the same features as the woman in 3-4 and 3-5, as evident particularly in the ears and eyebrows. She also has much of the look of Almira in 3-1 and 3-2. Picture 3-3 actually helps us to accept the age-progression from 3-1 and 3-2 to 3-4 and 3-5.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

c2008-04-14-025



3-4.



All are from the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

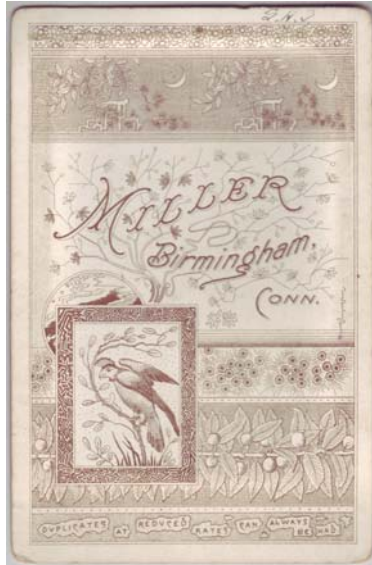
I believe that 3-4 and 3-5, are of Almira (Ferrin) Terrill because 2-2, shown previously, is of Moses Weld Terrill, her husband (as before—ignore the label “William Terrill”), and these photographs, based on the studio signatures, front and back, appear to be a matched set. There are no other pictures (except the duplicate of M.W.T.) in Barbara Parmelee’s collection which have this identical studio signature. Since I have dated 2-2 to c. 1889 I date 3-4 and 3-5 to c. 1889 also.

The backs of 3-4 and 2-2 (actually the back of the deteriorated duplicate of 2-2) show the cryptic “G.H.T.” at the top of each, which I’ve mentioned previously.

c2008-04-17-062



2-2.



From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

3-3.

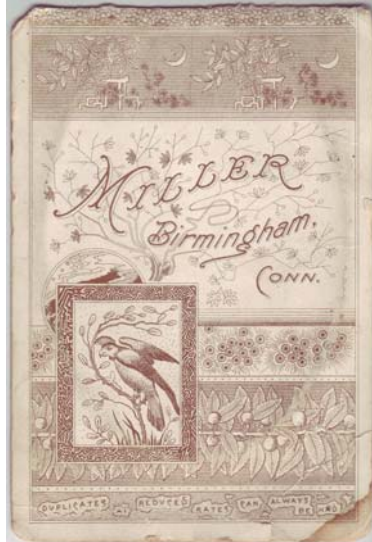


c2008-04-15-016

c2008-04-17-044



3-5.



Back of 3-3.

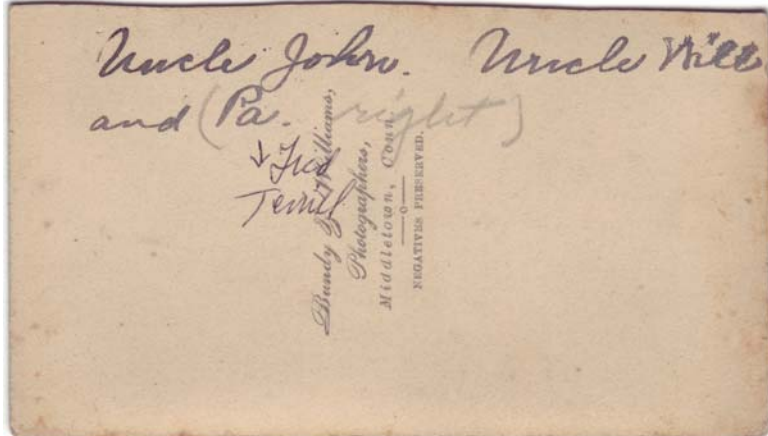


The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



c2008-04-16-098



4-2. A labeled picture from Barbara Parmelee's collection: (left-to-right) Will, John and Fred (you'll learn to recognize all three soon). The identification information on the back may have been written by Lily May Terrill, Fred's daughter. Assuming the ages to be about 12, 14, and 10, then this picture can be dated to circa 1863.

IV

Fred
Weld
Terrill



c2008-04-15-007

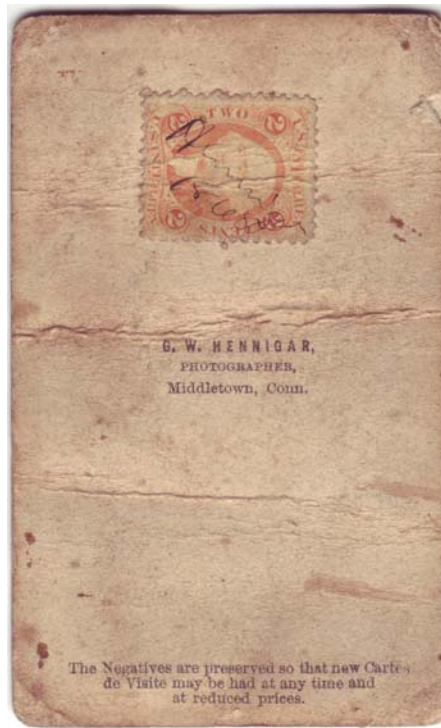
From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

4-1. **Unlabeled.** A tintype in a daguerreotype case, from the collection of Michael Gray. Comparing the image to that of Fred in 4-2 we can identify this as an earlier picture of him, at perhaps about seven years old—so circa 1860.

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray



c2008-04-15-046



4-3. **Unlabeled.** A print from a glass negative on albumen paper, from the collection of Michael Gray. The tax stamp on the back of this picture dates it. The photographer appears to have cancelled the stamp with "Hennigar 1868." Although 1868 is two years beyond the end of the period when tax stamps were required (as I understand), the year is consistent with what appears to be the image of a 15-year-old Fred W. Terrill. And so I identify it as such: Fred Weld Terrill, 1868.

Fred Weld Terrill was born in 1853 and died in 1927.

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Here's a chronological progression of enlarged images of Fred W. Terrill to better able you to recognize him. Only 4-1 and 4-3 were unlabeled. The biggest gap in our sequence is between 4-6 and 4-7.



4-1. Unlabeled.



4-2. Labeled.



4-3. Unlabeled.



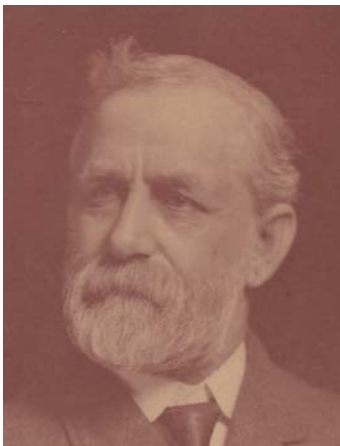
4-4. Labeled.



4-5. Labeled.



4-6. Labeled.



4-7. Labeled.



4-8. Labeled.

For me, the resemblance in the progression from 4-1 to 4-5 is easy to see. In 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8 it's harder, because of the moustache and beard, and because of the age difference. Fortunately, though, these pictures were identified by Fred's children, and we accept that they knew a picture of their father when they saw one.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-011



4-4. A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's album, labeled "Dad" by Fred's daughter Marie on the page underneath the picture. Assuming his age to be about 18 I date this to circa 1871.

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

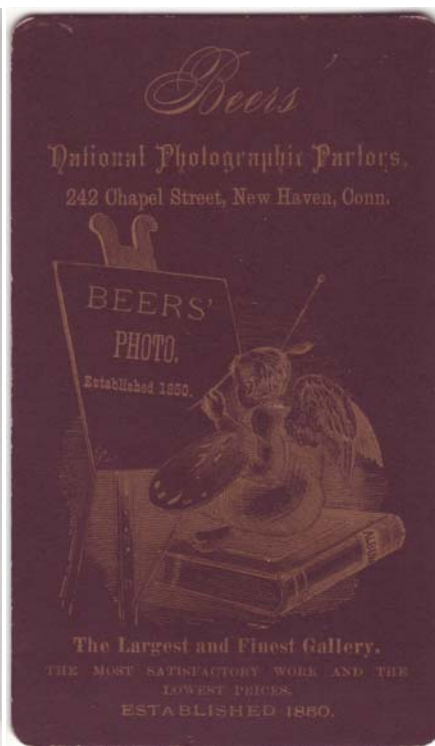
c2008-04-15-023



4-5. A tintype from Michael Gray's album, labeled "Father" by Fred's daughter Marie on the page underneath the picture. The back was blank (plain varnished iron). I've brightened up this image. Assuming his age to be about 20 I date this picture to circa 1873.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-16-001



4-6. A carte-de-visite from Barbara Parmelee's collection, labeled "Fred W. Terrill" at the bottom of the front. Guessing his age to be about 30, more or less, I date this to "early 1880's."

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

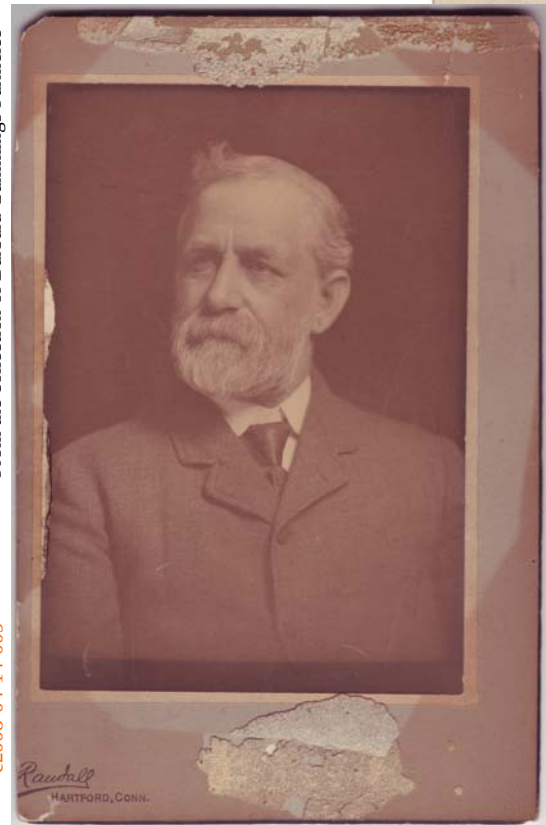
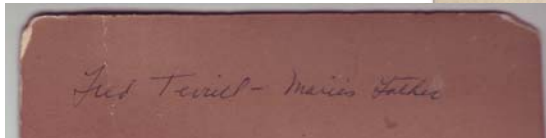
4-7. This picture was identified by Barbara Cummings Parmelee, who knew the names of only the people on the left. Her grandfather, Fred Terrill is standing; Alfred Beck is seated in front of him; Barbara Cummings herself is on the tricycle to his right; Moses W. Terrill (Fred's son—"Uncle Bo" to Barbara) is seated to the left behind Barbara; Lily Terrill (Fred's daughter) is directly behind Barbara; and Marguerite (Beck) Terrill (Fred's son Paul's wife) is to the right behind Barbara. Marguerite was "Aunt Tete" to Barbara. Assuming Barbara's age to be six, we can date this picture to circa 1925, about two years before Fred died. So Fred was about 72 years old here.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



c2008-04-17-005

Left side of Westbrook Cottage
 Fred Terrill, Lily, Aunt Tete
 Alfred Beck (Aunt Tete's Father)
 Barbara & Uncle Bo
 Don't remember names of people
 on rt. hand side



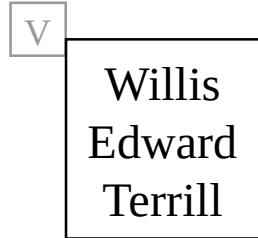
From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-14-009

4-8. This picture from Barbara Parmelee's collection is labeled at the top on the back. I will guess that Fred is about sixty years old here, and date this picture to circa early 1910's.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

Willis Edward Terrill was born in 1851 and died in 1919. The earliest picture of Will that we have is no. 4-2, of Will, John and Fred, which we've presented with the Fred W. Terrill pictures. The only unlabeled pictures we have of Will are from near the end of his life. My father was born in 1905, so he was 14 when his great-uncle died, and he knew him. And he and Barbara Parmelee have seen pictures of "Uncle Will" over the years, and so they were able to tell me, in 1983 when I questioned them, that this or that picture is "Uncle Will." So even the unlabeled pictures are well identified now, in my opinion.



From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-010

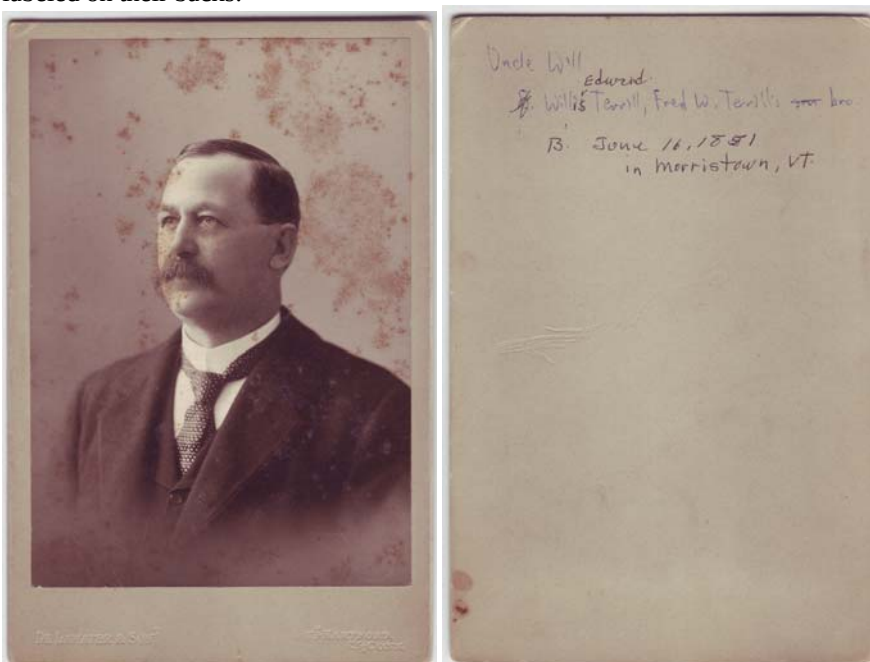


5-2. (Above) A labeled carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's 19th century photo album, labeled "Uncle Will" underneath by Marie Terrill Gray. We don't yet know who labeled the back, but I believe the labeling probably dates from the time the picture was made, since I don't believe the picture had ever before been removed since it was first put in this album. No other pictures in the album were labeled on their backs.

Picture 5-1 in the chronological progression on the next page is an enlargement of part of a picture from the Middlefield [CT] Historical Society's collection, reproduced with permission. I have not reproduced the whole picture here since we are only interested in identifying Will right now. The picture was labeled front and back. On the back was "E. L. Hall, West Meriden, Conn.; W. F. Page, Artist." And on the front was "Middlefield Cornet Band," and "Taken in Stoney Creek Conn., Sept 18th 1869." The 15 band members were identified, although two were absent from the picture. Member no. 4 was "W E Terrill" (no. 5 was the person behind him), and no. 15 (absent) was John Terrill." Will was 18 years old at this time.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-17-067



5-3. **Unlabeled.** The picture at left was not labeled when I first saw it in 1983. The handwriting in blue pen is my own, added at that time, based on commentary by my father and Barbara that this was "Uncle Will." The black handwriting was added by someone else after 1983.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

Here's an attempt at a chronological progression of enlarged images of Willis E. Terrill, to allow us to compare them. The most sizeable gap is between 5-2 and 5-3. I've marked two of the labeled pictures with "?" because, although it's possible that they are correctly labeled, they stand out as different in comparison with the rest, in my opinion.



4-2. Labeled (c. 1863).



5-1. Labeled (1869).



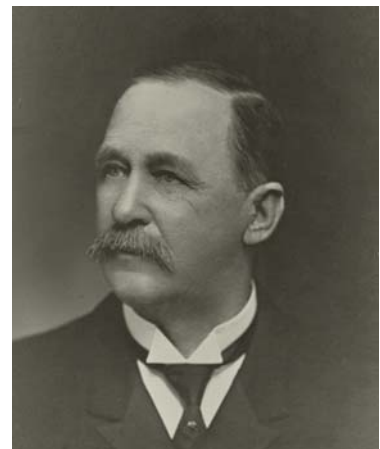
5-2. Labeled.



5-3. Unlabeled.



5-4. Labeled. ?



5-5. Unlabeled.



5-6. Labeled. ?



5-7. Unlabeled.



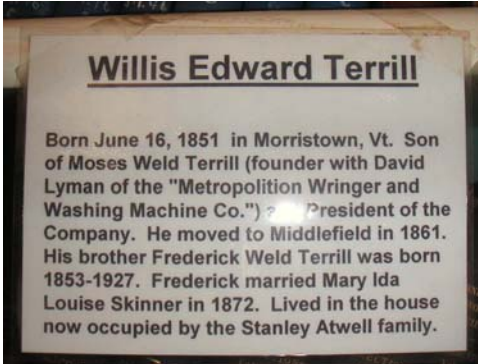
5-8. Labeled.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of the Middlefield Historical Society



c2008-04-15-006 and c2008-04-15-007 (top)



5-4. (At left) A snapshot of an enormous (about 24" high) portrait hanging up near the ceiling on a wall at the Middlefield Historical Society's museum in 2008. I corrected the distortion in the enlargement shown on the previous page. Lynnette Brayshaw, the head historian, has told me that she purchased this picture at a tag sale out in front of the old Fred Terrill house, sometime after that house left Terrill hands (when Lily Terrill died in 1960). The ID card for the picture is taped to a bookcase shelf, down below the picture, and it was written by the MHS. (In case it isn't clear, it was not Willis who was once president of the Metropolitan Mfg. Co. It was his father.)



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee
c2008-03-06-044

5-5. **Unlabeled.** The picture above was not labeled when I first saw it in 1983, when this copy was made. I don't have a copy of the back, since I did not see this picture in 2008 (or I failed to copy it). From my 1983 notes the back was studio-labeled "Hennigar, Middletown, Conn." As with 21, my father and Barbara commented in 1983 that this was "Uncle Will."

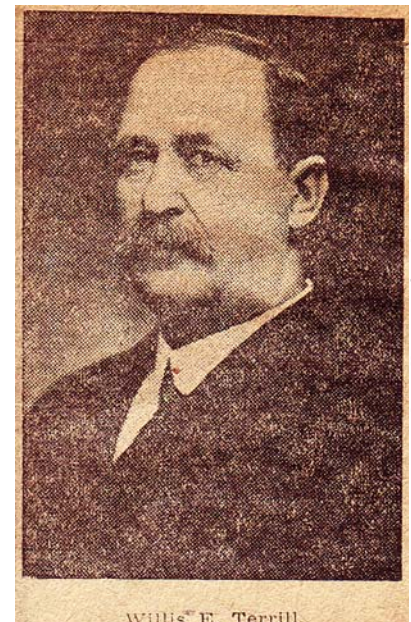
From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



c2008-04-17-068

5-7. **Unlabeled.** The picture at left too was not labeled when I first saw it in 1983. The back is blank except for my 1983 annotation "Will Terrill," based on the commentary of my father and Barbara. The labeling on the front has been added since 1983.

5-8. The labeled picture at right is from a 1919 obituary, clipped out and pasted on a page in Marie Terrill Gray's scrapbook, now in Barbara Parmelee's collection.



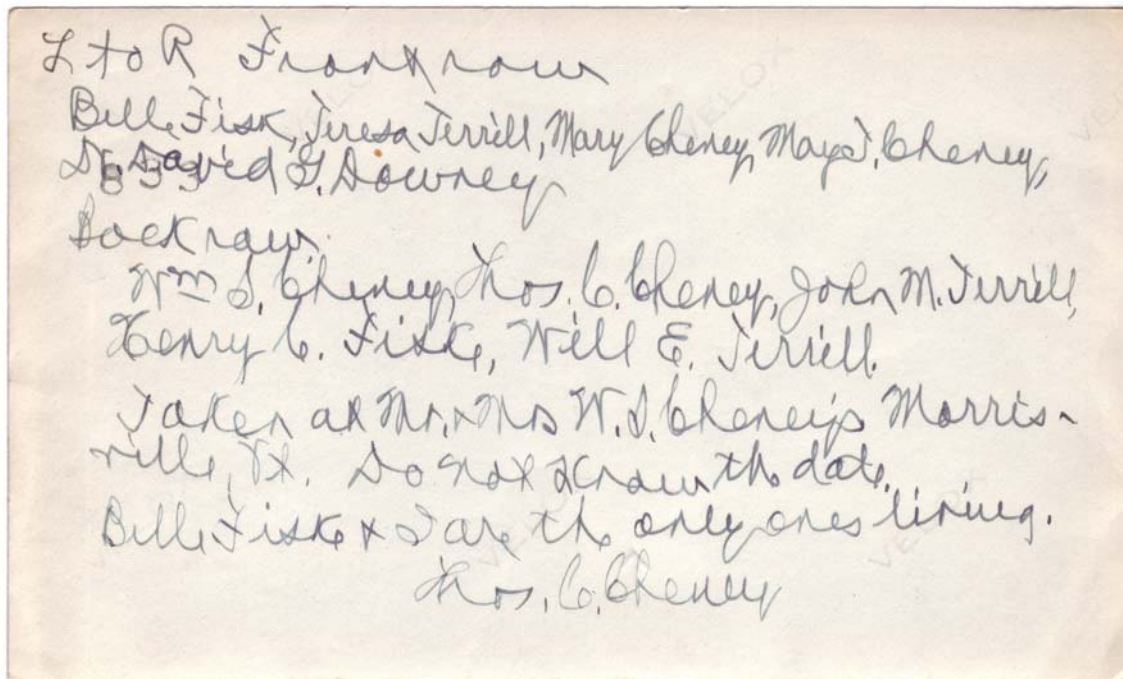
From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee
c2008-04-17-168



<u>Birth - Death</u>	
Wm. S. Cheney	~1837 - >=1920
Belle Fisk	~1856 - >=1930
Thos. C. Cheney	1868 - >=1951
Teresa Terrill	1850 - >=1930
Mary Cheney	~1848 - >=1930
John M. Terrill	1849 - >=1930
May T. Cheney	1868 - >=1946
Henry C. Fisk	1852 - 1928
David G. Downey	~1858 - >=1930
Willis E. Terrill	1851 - 1919

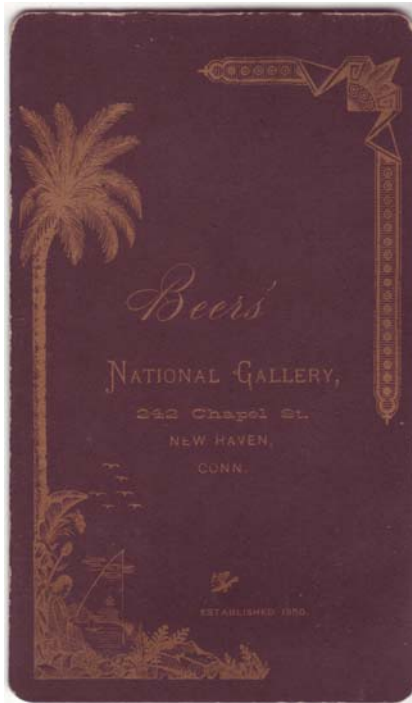


5-6. This picture is important for us because there are a number of people in it who were seldom identified in other pictures of this period, and because it is so well identified, by a person who knew all these people. In the front row are (L to R): Isabelle ("Belle") Fisk, Teresa Terrill, Mary Cheney, May T. Cheney, and Dr. David G. Downey. In the back row are: William S. Cheney, Thomas C. Cheney, John M. Terrill, Henry C. Fisk, and Willis E. Terrill. Thomas C. Cheney informs us, at a time when he and Belle Fisk were the only ones still living, that the picture was taken at Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Cheney's house, but that he does not know the date. The labeling on the front is slightly amiss. May Terrill Cheney would one day come to look very much like her mother-in-law at the time of this picture, but May is actually one person to the right. William and Mary Cheney were Thomas C. Cheney's parents, and May was his wife. Teresa Terrill was John M.'s wife. Henry C. Fisk (Belle's husband) was first cousin to John, Will, and May (his mother Rebecca was sister to their mother Almira). Dr. David G. Downey, a Methodist Episcopal minister, was the husband of Lily, who was sister to John, Will and May. Thomas C. Cheney wrote to Lily Terrill (Fred's daughter) as late as 1951, when he was 83, so this is probably a picture that he sent to Lily sometime after 1946 (May was still alive in 1946). I will guess that this picture dates to about 1910, give or take five years.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-008



VI

Sarah
Wilson
(Clapp)
Terrill

Sarah Wilson (Clapp) Terrill was born in 1849 and died in 1934.

6-1. Labeled. The carte-de-visite at left is from Michael Gray's old Terrill photo album. It was labeled "Aunt Sarah" on the album page beneath the photo, by Marie Terrill Gray. Will and Sarah were married in September of 1872, when Will was 21 and Sarah was 23. I date this picture to "mid 1870's," when Sarah was in her mid 20's.

6-2. **Unlabeled.** The picture at right from Barbara Parmelee's collection was unlabeled on the back prior to 1983. At that time I added annotation based on commentary by my father and Barbara that this "looks like Aunt Sarah, Uncle Will's wife". I think this one can be considered "labeled" now. To me, Sarah appears to be in her late 50's or early 60's, so I date the picture to circa 1910.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-17-066



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

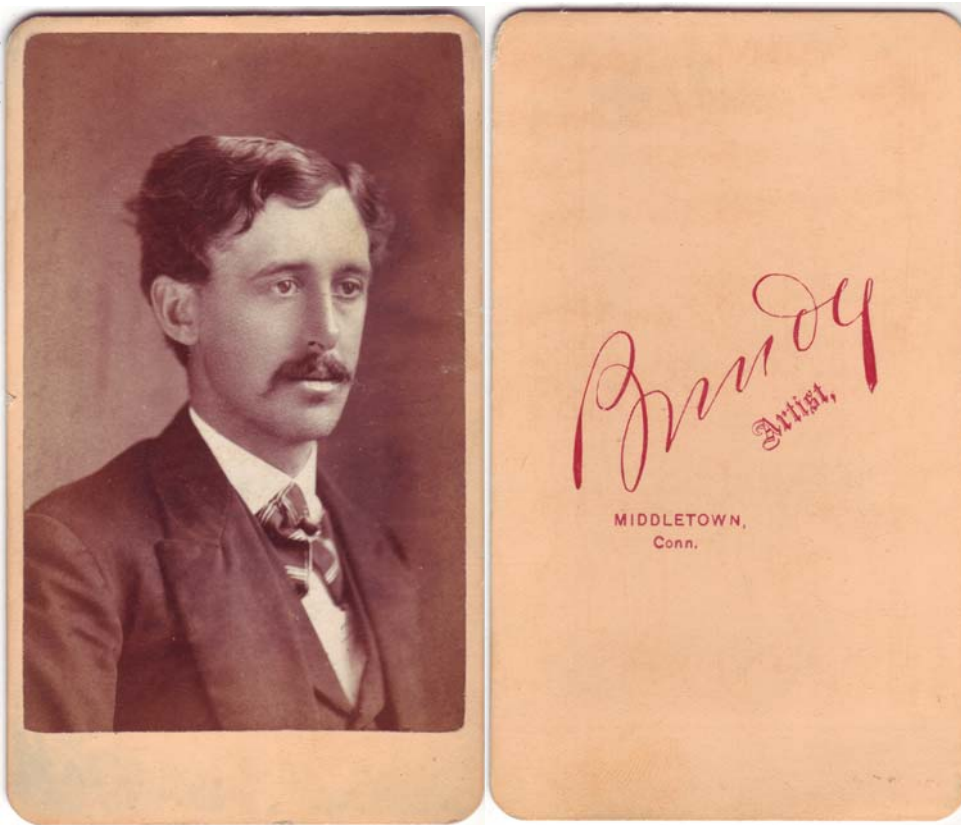
c2008-04-14-012

6-3. **Unlabeled.** The picture at left from Barbara Parmelee's collection was unlabeled front and back prior to 1983. At that time I added annotation based on commentary by my father and Barbara that this was "Aunt Sarah, Uncle Will's wife," as they remembered her. The labeling on the front was added since 1983. This picture too can be considered "labeled" now. I date the picture to the 1920's, when Sarah was in her 70's.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-049



VII

John
Martin
Terrill
&
Teresa
Maria
(Wetherill)
Terrill

John M. Terrill was born in 1849, Teresa M. Wetherill in 1850. They were married in 1869, and they both died after 1935.

7-1. **Unlabeled** (above), and 7-2 **Unlabeled** (below). These two cartes-de-visite (actual size) from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album were unlabeled. Michael and I assume that this means that Michael's grandmother Marie Terrill Gray was not sure about their identification. She certainly may have suspected, though, they these were old pictures of her uncle John M. Terrill. I estimate the age of the person in 7-1 to be about 20 to 22, and that of the person in 7-2 to be about 25 to 30. On the next page you can see in the chronological progression the strong resemblance of the person in these pictures to John at about 14 and John at about 50 to 55. Adding to this the fact that the pictures were taken in studios near Middlefield, and the fact that the pictures were in Michael's album, we have a strong case that they are of John. So I'm identifying them as such. Michael too considers them to be of John. I date 7-1 to circa 1870, and 7-2 to mid to late 1870's.

7-2. **Unlabeled.**

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-038



The picture labeled 4-2 on the next page is a blow-up of part of the circa 1863 picture of Will, John and Fred, which has been presented with the Fred Terrill pictures.

The picture labeled 5-6 on the next page is a blow-up of part of a labeled picture which has been presented with the Will Terrill pictures.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

This chronological progression of enlarged images of John M. Terrill includes what we have of Teresa too. We don't have any pictures (that we know of) of a younger Teresa, and we have a large time gap for John between nos. 7-2 and 7-3.



4-2. Labeled (c. 1863).



7-1. Unlabeled.



7-2. Unlabeled.



7-3. Unlabeled but ID'd.



7-4. Unlabeled but ID'd.



5-6. Labeled (John at top right, Teresa at bottom left). Dated this to circa 1905-1915.



7-5. Labeled.

The two unlabeled pictures here are 7-1 and 7-2. Comparing the first four we can see very strong resemblance, particularly in the eyebrows, nose and chin. And the ears in 7-1 and 7-3 are identical. John's hairstyle remained constant throughout his life, along with his moustache style from 7-2 to 7-3.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

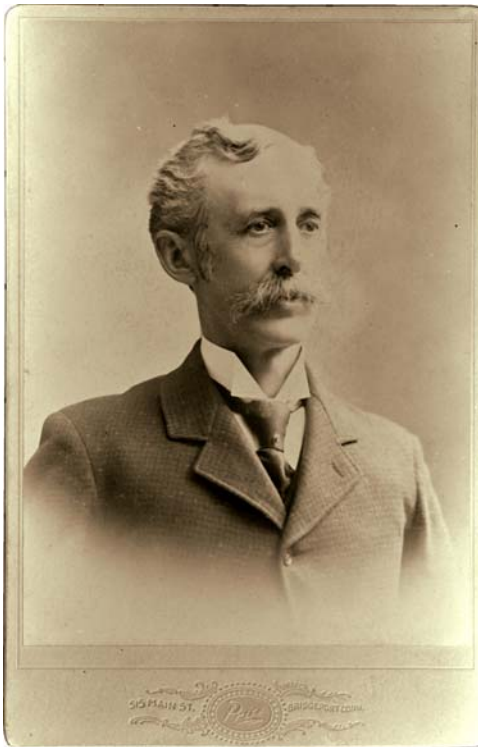
Both from the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-03-06-034



7-3. Unlabeled.

c2008-03-06-027



7-4. Unlabeled.

7-3 and 7-4. These two unlabeled pictures were identified by Tom Johnson in 1983 as Teresa ("Aunt Tressa") and John M. Terrill, whom he knew. My father and Barbara Parmelee did not know them very well and were not able to recognize them, although they suspected that these were pictures of them from the fact that the photo studio was in Bridgeport, where John and Teresa lived their entire married lives, and from the fact that these pictures ended up in Barbara's collection. Barbara had no other pictures with Bridgeport studio labeling, and there were no other relatives that we know of who lived in Bridgeport. Consider-

ing the fact that I have dated 5-6 (see the progression on the previous page) to circa 1905-1915, and considering that John and Teresa look younger here, I date these pictures to circa 1900-1905, when they were both in their early 50's.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-17-029

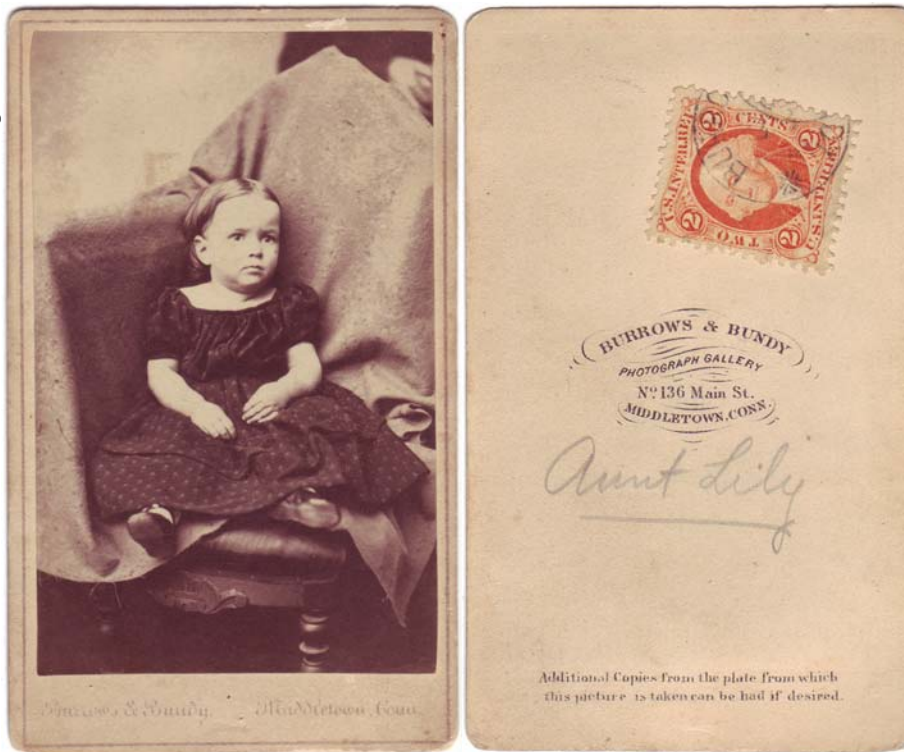


7-5. Labeled. This picture is from a newspaper clipping that was pasted in a scrapbook now in Barbara Parmelee's collection. This scrapbook was probably started by Lily Terrill, daughter of Fred. The caricature dates to 1936 since that was the year by which John and Teresa had been married for 67 years. In 1936 John was 87 years old and Teresa was 86.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-16-086



VIII

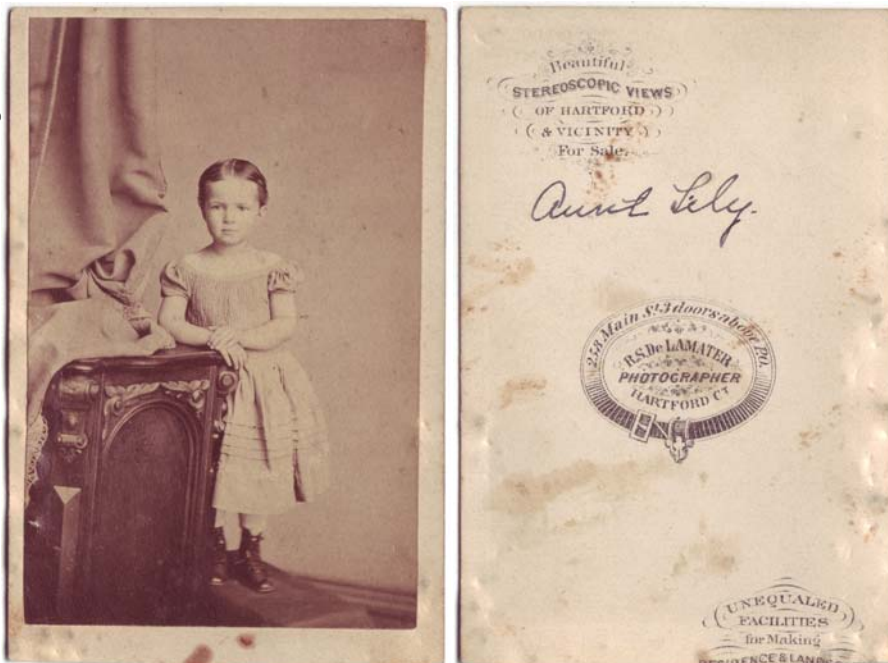
Lily
May
Terrill

Lily May Terrill (daughter of Moses W. and Almira O. Terrill) was born 8 Jan. 1864, and died sometime between 1910 and 1920 (between age 46 and 56). She married Rev. David George Downey in 1887. We have to be careful with pictures labeled "Lily" to distinguish between this Lily May and Fred W. and Mary I. L. Terrill's daughter Lily May, born 12 Feb. 1880.

8-1. Labeled. A carte-de-visite from Barbara Parmelee's collection labeled "Aunt Lily" on its back. The presence of the tax stamp dates this picture to the period 1 Aug. 1864 to 1 Aug. 1866, which is consistent with Lily's appearance. Estimating her age to be about one and a half years I date it to circa summer 1865.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-16-092



8-2. Labeled. A carte-de-visite from Barbara Parmelee's collection labeled "Aunt Lily" on its back. The handwriting looks similar to that in the picture above (which I think may be that of Lily May b. 1880), so I assume this picture too is of Lily May b. 1864 (the ears match well). Estimating her age to be about four years I date this picture to circa 1868.



5-6. Rev. David G. Downey, c. 1905-1915 (see section V).



Blow-ups of the heads in 8-1 and 8-2.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-020



9-1. Labeled. This carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album was labeled "Aunt May" by Marie Terrill Gray on the album page below the picture. The back of the picture is completely black. I estimate May's age to be about 6 or 7, and date the picture circa 1874 or 1875.

IX

May
Lily
Terrill

May Lily Terrill, the youngest child of Moses W. and Almira (Ferrin) Terrill, was born on 10 June 1868 and died sometime after 1945. She married Thomas Charles Cheney in 1896.

From the collection of Thomas Cheney Johnson, 1983

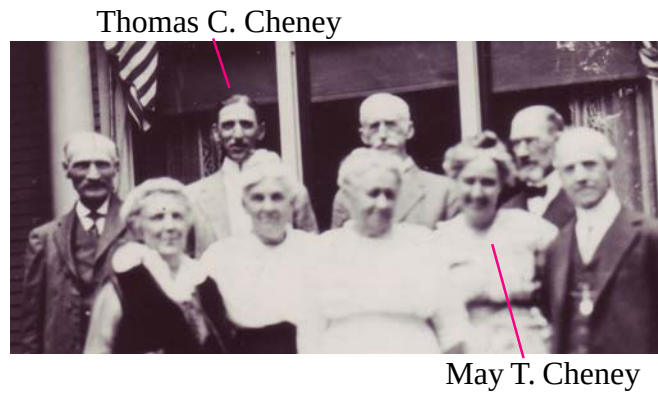
c2008-04-03-002



9-2. Unlabeled but ID'd. Tom Johnson told me in 1983 that this picture of his was of his aunt, May Terrill Cheney. Tom knew his Aunt May well (he worked for her as a chauffeur for two years), and so I believe that this identification is good. This may be a picture of May at about the time she was married, at age 28 in 1896 at Morristown, Vermont.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

5-6. This enlargement of most of the people in a labeled picture (see section V) shows Thomas and May Cheney circa 1905-1915. To the left of May is her mother-in-law, Mary Cheney, and to the left of Thomas is Mary's husband and Thomas's father, William S. Cheney.

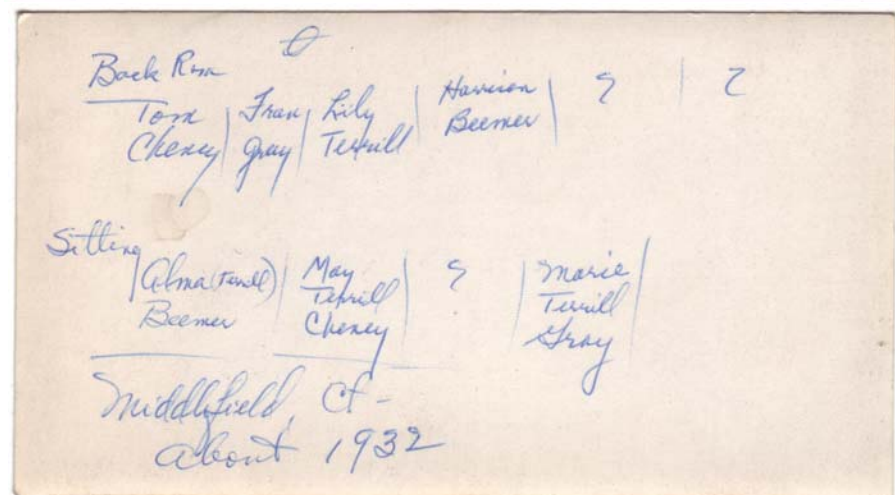


9-3. Labeled. Here is a picture from Barbara Parmelee's collection marked "Middlefield, Ct. - about 1932." Thomas C. Cheney is at top left and May Terrill Cheney is seated in a chair in front. Fred W. and Mary I. L.'s Terrill's daughters Lily Terrill, Alma (Terrill) Beemer, and Marie (Terrill) Gray are here, positioned as shown in the labeling. Francis Gray was Marie's husband and Harrison Beemer was Alma's husband.

c2008-04-17-053

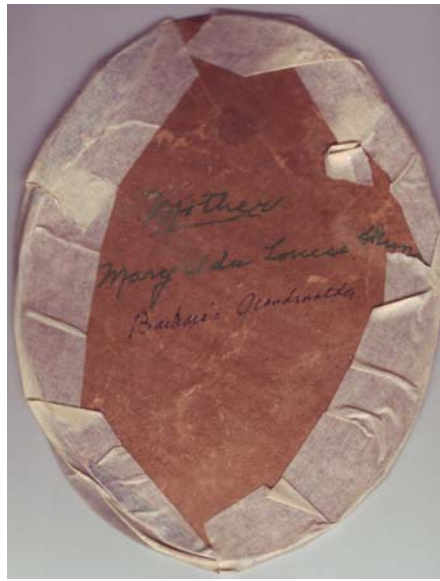


From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



c2008-03-06-007 far (left) and c2008-04-14-018

X

Mary
Ida-Louise
(Skinner)
Terrill

Mary Ida-Louise Skinner was born in 1853 and died in 1904. She married Fred W. Terrill about 1872.

10-1. Labeled. This tintype from Barbara Parmelee's collection is the earliest picture of Mary Ida-Louise that we have, other than the 1853 daguerreotype (see Albert and Almira Skinner), in which Mary I. L. is about three months or so old. This copy of the front is one I made in 1983. Since then masking tape has been added to keep the edges of the tintype from peeling any further, I presume. I've brightened (and toned) the image since tintype images tend to darken with age. I estimate Mary I. L.'s age here to be about 16, and date the picture to circa 1869.

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-022



10-2. Labeled. A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album, labeled "Mother" by Marie Terrill Gray on the page below the picture. I estimate Mary I. L.'s age here to be about 19, and date the picture to circa 1872.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

This chronological progression of enlarged images of Mary Ida-Louise Skinner includes three unlabeled possibilities, which I've rejected.



10-1. Labeled.



10-2. Labeled.



10-3. Labeled.



10-4. Labeled.

The three pictures at the bottom are ones that I chose, among all the pictures in Barbara's and Michael's collections, which I thought worthy of consideration for identification as pictures of Mary Ida-Louise. The one at right is in fact marked "Mary I. L. Skinner Terrill?" on the back, so someone else too thought it might be her. In the four labeled pictures there is one feature which by itself allows us to reject all three of these possibilities—the ears. None of the women in the three pictures below have ears which resemble Mary I. L.'s. I include these pictures here to illustrate identification technique.



Michael Gray's



Unlabeled. (Not Mary I. L.)

Michael Gray's



Unlabeled. (Not Mary I. L.)

Barbara Parmelee's



Unlabeled. (Not Mary I. L.)

c2008-04-15-044

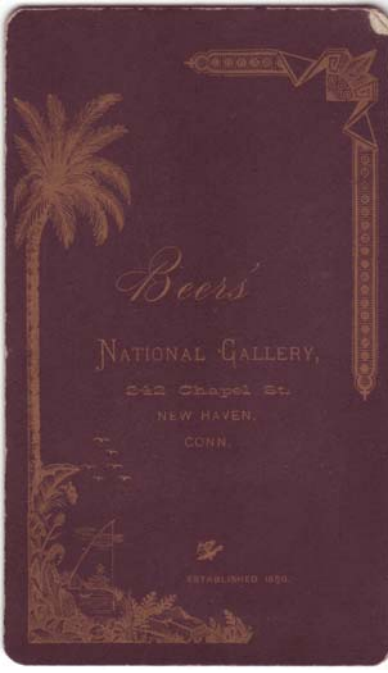
c2008-04-15-021

c2008-04-14-011

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-034



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee
c2008-04-16-016

10-3. Labeled (top left). A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album, labeled "Mother" on the page below the picture, by Marie Terrill Gray. I estimate Mary I. L.'s age to be about 25 to 30, and date the picture to circa late 1870's or early 1880's. The duplicate carte-de-visite at right, labeled "Mary S. Terrill" on the front (this is as it was in 1983 too), is from Barbara Parmelee's collection. The back of this picture is identical to the back of the other.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-16-009



10-4. Labeled. A picture from Barbara Parmelee's collection, labeled on the top of the back. I estimate Mary I. L.'s age to be about 45 to 51 here (since she died at 51), and date the picture to circa 1900.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures



c2008-04-15-005

11-1. Unlabeled. This is an unlabeled daguerreotype picture from Barbara Parmelee's collection. The fact that it is a daguerreotype dates it to the period from 1840 to 1860. So it has to be a family of that period with the right match-up. The fact that it has ended up in Barbara's collection leads us to hypothesize first that it is either the Moses Weld Terrill family or the Albert Skinner family. But since Rose Skinner Coe's pictures (and this could be one of them) may have ended up in Barbara's collection, we also have to consider Rose's husband's (Frank B. Coe's) family. We can of course rule out the Moses Weld Terrill family, with which we're now well acquainted. And Frank B. Coe's parents, Benjamin W. and Betsy, had only two children, so we can rule them out also. The match-up with the Albert Skinner family of about May 1853, however, is extremely good. At that time Albert was about 40 and Almira was 38. We can identify the children as: (clockwise, starting with the girl on the left): Rose (age 11.2), Maria (13.1), Henry (15.1), Pascal (8.4), Sylvia (3.0) and Mary I. L. (0.2). You might think that Maria looks older than 13.1, but I think she just looked older than she actually was. Besides, as you'll see, we have later pictures of Rose, Almira and Albert which firm up this identification. So I identify this as the Albert Skinner family, in the spring of 1853.

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

XI

Albert and Almira (Bailey) Skinner & family

Albert Skinner was born in 1812 or 1813 and died in 1872, at age 59. Almira Wilcox Bailey was born in 1815 and died in 1881, at age 66. They married in 1836. Their children (with birthdates):

Henry (18 Apr. 1838)
Maria (Apr. 1840)
Rose (9 Mar. 1842)
Pascal (17 Dec. 1844)
Alfred (31 Jul. 1846,
died 8 Mar. 1847)
Sylvia (May 1850)
Mary Ida-Louise (8 Mar. 1853)

c2008-03-06-010

c2008-04-17-055-back

11-2. Labeled (right). This tintype from Barbara Parmelee's collection is labeled as Rose. It matches the tintype of Mary I. L. presented as 10-1 (both are 5.6" high, with matching backs); so I believe that it was made at the same time—circa 1869, when Rose was 27. Rose here very much resembles the girl on the left in 11-1, which supports the identification of that picture. (The copy of the front was made in 1983, that of the back in 2008.)



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

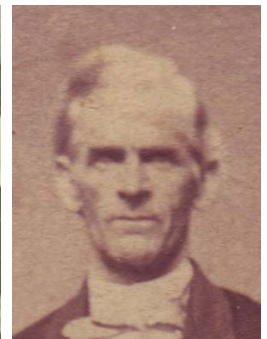
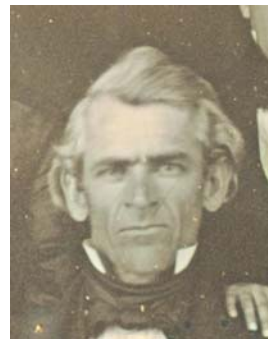
11-3. Labeled. This tintype from Barbara Parmelee's collection, labeled "Grandma Skinner," has to be Almira (Bailey) Skinner, the grandmother of Mary I. L.'s children. It cannot be Mary I. L.'s own grandmother, Abigail Skinner, since Abigail would have been much older-looking (if she was still alive) when tintypes were being made. Though older and less gaunt, the resemblance to the woman in 11-1 is unmistakable. Considering the date I give 11-4 below, and considering how much the same Almira appears here, I date this picture the same—circa 1870 .

Collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-16-099

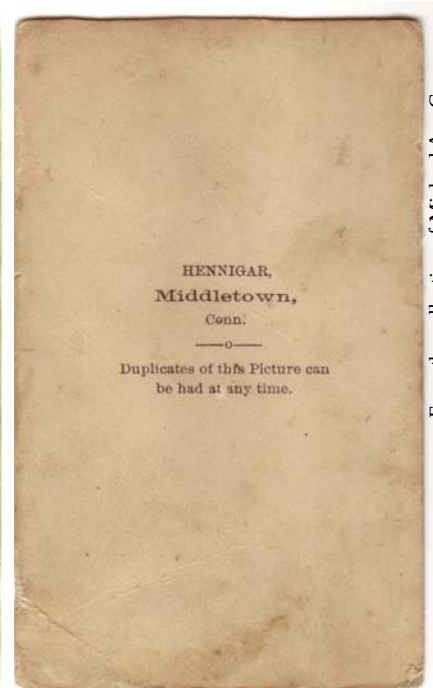


Blow-ups from
11-1 and 11-4.



11-4. **Unlabeled.** A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album. When Michael saw the daguerreotype image she knew that her picture was a later one of the same couple. Though considerably older than in 11-1 the resemblance is still unmistakable. Almira's dress is very similar to the one she was wearing in the "Grandma Skinner" picture, but the ruffling on the sleeves is different. Albert died in September of 1872 at age 59, and he does not appear to be much younger than that here. I therefore date this picture to circa 1870.

c2008-04-15-018 and c2008-04-15-018-back



From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-012



11-4. **Unlabeled.** Another carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album. Could this be a still later picture of Almira Skinner? She died in June of 1881, at age 66. If it is Almira Skinner then the date would be "late 1870's."