

The identification of unlabelled Terrill family pictures, part 2

by Conrad W. Terrill

This part contains the sections pertaining to Mary Ida-Louise Skinner and to the Albert Skinner family. Part 1 contains the introduction and the sections pertaining to the Moses Weld Terrill family and to those of each of his children. Part 3 contains the sections pertaining to the children of Fred Weld and Mary Ida-Louise (Skinner) Terrill and to other pictures of that same era.

From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-011



11-2F. Unlabeled. This tintype, from Cy Fowler's collection, is one of eight in what appears to be a custom-made wooden frame. I identify it on page XI-2 as a picture of Mary Ida-Louise Skinner taken about 1861, when she was eight years old. This is the earliest picture of her that we have, excluding the 1853 daguerreotype shown on p. XI-1, taken when she was perhaps two months old.

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.

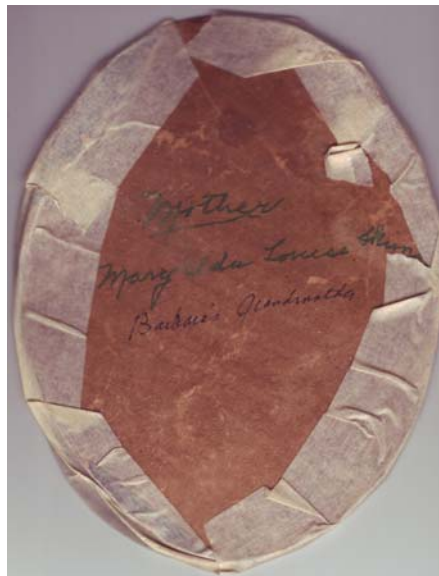
10-2. Labeled. A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's old Terrill family photo album, labeled "Mother" by Marie Terrill Gray on the page below the picture. The back, reduced in size, is shown below. I estimate Mary I. L.'s age here to be about 19, and date the picture to circa 1872.



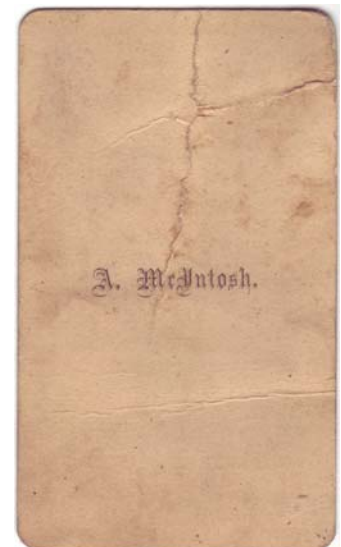
From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-022

From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee



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



10-1. Labeled. This tintype of Mary Ida-Louise Skinner, 5.6 inches high, is from Barbara Parmelee's collection. There is other, older, identification on the back ("Mother" / "Mary Ida-Louise Skinner" / "Terrill") which is nearly invisible. The 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 her age as about 16 years, and thus date the picture to circa 1869.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

A chronological progression of all our pictures of Mary Ida-Louise Skinner (excepting the 1853 baby picture). (From 11-2F, 10-1 (reversed, since tintypes show a mirrored image), 10-2, 10-3 and 10-4.)



At age ~8



~16



~19

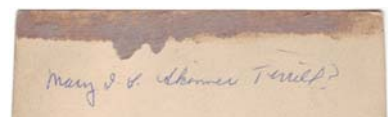
The three pictures below are ones that I chose, among all the pictures in Barbara's and Michael's collections, which I thought worthy of consideration for identification as pictures of Mary Ida-Louise. The one at right is in fact marked "Mary I. L. Skinner Terrill?" on the back, so someone else too thought 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.



~25 to 30



~45 to 51



Unlabeled. (Not Mary I. L.)



Unlabeled. (Not Mary I. L.)

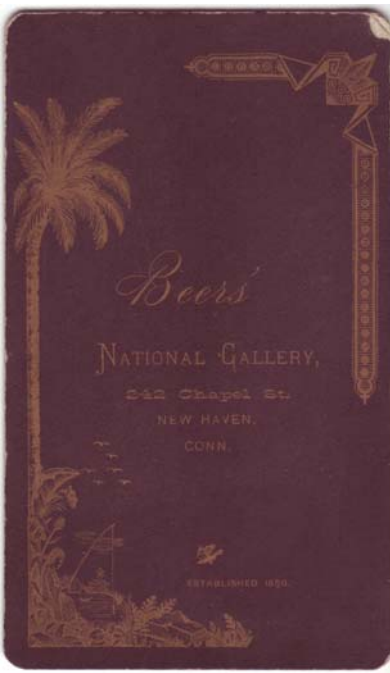


Unlabeled. (Not Mary I. L.)

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.



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

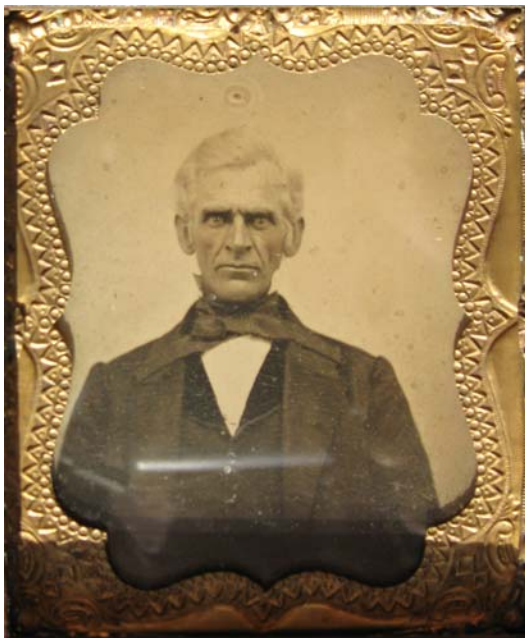
XI

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)

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 41 and Almira was 38.3. 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.



Both from the collection of Cy Fowler



Albert and Almira,
in another
unlabeled picture
(see next page)
circa 1861.



From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-039

11-2. Unlabeled. This is an unlabeled frame of unlabeled tintypes from Cy Fowler's collection (I've added the letter-labels to the image). As a boy Cy had been told by his mother who was who in this picture, but as would any boy, he forgot. Still he knew that it was the Albert Skinner family. My wife Judy and I had very little time to study these tintypes at Cy's since he had an appointment scheduled, and we were not able to photograph them as well as we would have liked (our camera apparently auto-focussed on the casing for some); but this would have made little difference for the present identification purposes. We plan to re-visit Cy soon and do a better job. The frame is of outside dimension 17.9 by 12.4 inches, and the tintypes are 3.2 by 2.7 inches, encased in daguerreotype-style casings. All but "D" had a cover glass. Since "D" was easy to remove, we did so, and saw that it was indeed a tintype (and images in tintypes, by the way, are reversed left-to-right). It seems likely that all the pictures were taken at the same time (although we will argue that in one case this wasn't true), and we can safely assume that each member of the family is represented; so Mary Ida-Louise, the youngest, would be "H". Estimating her age as eight years we can date the picture to circa 1861, which is compatible with the daguerreotype-style casings since they went out-of-style later in the 1860's. In May of 1861 (to pick a time) Mary I-L was 8.2, Sylvia was 11.0, Pascal was 16.4, Rose was 19.2, Maria was 21.1, and Henry was 23.1; and Almira was 46.3 and Albert was ~49. So Sylvia would be "G". As we will show by comparing these pictures to other pictures, "E" is Rose; so Maria would be "F". I find Henry and Pascal very difficult to identify. Neither of the men in "C" and "D" appears to be 16.4 years old, and Pascal did not marry until September of 1867 (at age 22.8), so we assume that Pascal's circa-1861 picture has been replaced by another taken in the late 1860's. I have identified, with a degree of confidence of the order of 75% as explained on page XI-6, "D" as Henry and his wife Clementine (nee Miller), who were married in October of 1860. Thus "C" would be Pascal and his wife Mary R. (also nee Miller), with the same degree of confidence. The fact that Rose married Frank B. Coe on 13 Oct. 1861 helps to date this frame to before that, since otherwise her husband would almost certainly be in the picture with her.

To sum up, I date seven of the pictures to circa 1861, and that of Pascal and Mary to circa late-1860s, and identify them as follows:

Albert	Almira	Probably Pascal & wife Mary	Probably Henry & wife Clementine
Rose	Maria	Sylvia	Mary Ida-Louise

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

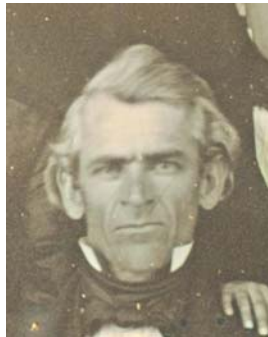
11-3. Labeled. This tintype from Barbara Parmelee's collection, labeled "Grandma Skinner" on its back, has to be Almira (Bailey) Skinner, the grandmother of Mary I. L.'s children. It cannot be Mary I. L.'s own grandmother, Abigail Skinner, since Abigail would have been much older-looking (if she was 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



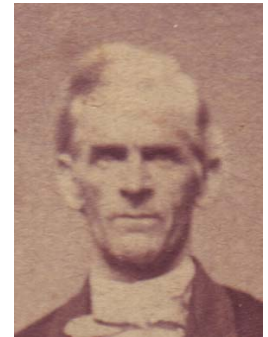
Progression for Albert Skinner
(from 11-1, 11-2A [reversed
because it is a tintype],
and 11-4).



at age ~41



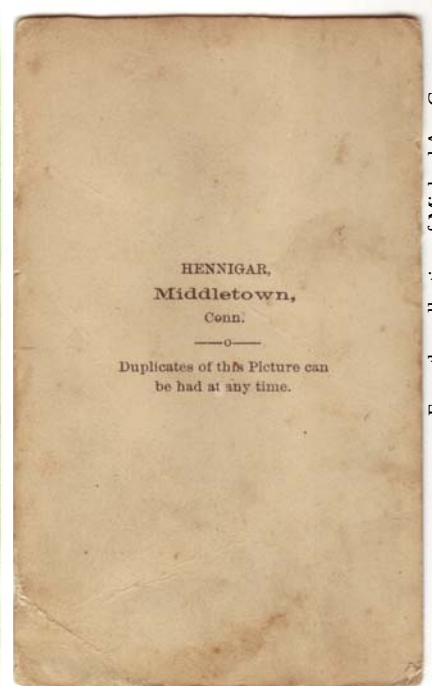
~49



~58

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 own 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



11-5. **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 then the date would be circa 1880.

Progression for Almira Skinner
(from 11-1, 11-2B [reversed],
11-3 [reversed], 11-4 and 11-5).



at age 38



~46



~55



~55



Almira?, ~65

From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-021



11-2G. (From p. XI-2, ID'd there as Sylvia Skinner.)

Progression for Sylvia Skinner
(from 11-1 and 11-2G [reversed])



at age 3



~11

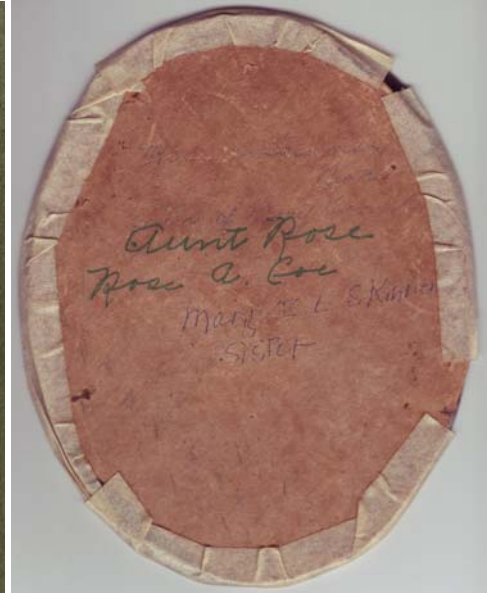
Sylvia married John M. Paddock in 1868. We have no pictures (that we know of) of John.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

11-6. 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.)

c2008-03-06-010

c2008-04-17-055-back



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-008



11-2E (left, from p. XI-2) I am identifying this person as Rose Skinner based on similarity to 11-6 (above), an identified picture. The date would be c. 1861 (see 11-2).

11-7. **Unlabeled** (right). A carte-de-visite from Barbara Parmelee's collection. I am identifying this person too as Rose (Skinner) Coe based on similarity to 11-6. Assuming that she appears about 45 years old the date would be circa 1887. We have no pictures (that we know of) of Rose's husband Frank B. Coe, who died in 1883. Rose died in 1919.



From the collection of Barbara Cummings Parmelee

c2008-04-14-013

Progression for
Rose Skinner
(from 11-1,
11-2E [reversed],
11-6 [reversed],
and 11-7).



at age 11



~19



~27



~45

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-014



11-2C (from p. XI-2).

From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-010



11-2D (from p. XI-2).

These two pictures are the most difficult to identify. Both of the men are obviously older than 16, so neither one can be Pascal in 1861. As reasoned on page XI-2, one of these pictures must be of Pascal sometime after he was married (in 1867). Picture 11-2C unfortunately suffers in the area of the man's face. Two parts of the tintype image appear to have delaminated, and glued themselves to the cover glass, apparently shifting laterally in the process, giving the face somewhat of a disjointed look. Also, this tintype appears darker than any of the others (tintypes tend to darken with age—some more so than others). The man's features look relatively sharp in the glued areas, but not so sharp elsewhere, and the woman's features are not sharp at all. In all, we currently have only two pictures each of Henry and Pascal. The short progressions on the next page illustrate how difficult it is to identify the 1853 likenesses with the later ones. We have pictures of their wives (Clementine and Mary R. Miller, below) from much later in the 1900's, but these do not help enormously since the two women, who were sisters, looked much alike. The progressions for them too are shown on the next page. As explained there, I am identifying 11-2D (above right) as Henry and Clementine, circa 1861, and 11-2C as Pascal and Mary R. My degree of confidence is of the order of 75%.

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-031



11-8. Labeled. A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's collection, labeled "Aunt May Skinner" by Michael's grandmother Marie Terrill (a daughter of Mary Ida-Louise). Since Marie did not have an "Aunt May Skinner," we assume she meant "Aunt Mary Skinner" (or perhaps Mary was also called "May"), in which case this would be Mary R. (Miller) Skinner, Pascal's wife (and Clementine's sister), born in 1846.

From the collection of Michael Ayn Gray

c2008-04-15-029



11-9. Labeled. A carte-de-visite from Michael Gray's collection, labeled "Aunt Clementine" by Marie Terrill. So this is a picture of Clementine A. (Miller) Skinner, Henry's wife, born in 1839.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

Progressions for Henry and Pascal Skinner
(from 11-1 and 11-2C&D [both reversed]).

It is hard to find anything worth mentioning as a particular feature to distinguish between the two brothers; except the ear lobes: Henry's appear to curve down a bit as they leave the head, whereas Pascal's appear to leave more nearly horizontal. This helps to identify the image at top right as that of Henry.

Henry died in 1901, and Pascal died in 1905.



Henry at age 15



Henry?, at age 23



Pascal at age 8



Pascal?, at age ~23

Progressions for Clementine and Mary
(from 11-2C&D [reversed]), 11-8 and 11-9).

Clementine A. Miller was born in September of 1838; her sister Mary R. was born in May of 1846. The women in all four of these pictures have the same somewhat sad look (although both Clementine and Mary are known to have been very dynamic, very energetic, very helpful people). Again, it is difficult to find any feature to distinguish between the two. In my opinion, though, the faces in the top two pictures have a longer, narrower look, with a more similarly formed chin-and-mouth.

Clementine and Mary both died in 1933.



Clementine?, at age 22



Clementine, at perhaps 45



Mary?, at age ~21



Believed to be Mary,
at perhaps 50

All considered, I identify 11-2D as a picture of Henry and Clementine, circa 1861, and estimate my degree of confidence as of the order of 75%. Thus 11-2C would be Pascal and Mary, circa late 1860's, with the same degree of confidence.

The identification of unlabeled Terrill family pictures

From the collection of Cy Fowler

c2009-01-03-018



11-2F (From p. XI-2). I identify this person as Maria Skinner because the other three daughters in 11-2 have been identified otherwise, so this cannot be anyone but Maria. And there's certainly a lot of similarity in the two pictures below.

Progression for Maria Skinner
(from 11-1 and 11-2F [reversed])



at age 13



~21

Maria married Isaac Cornwell sometime before 1872, and she died in 1901. Isaac, for whom we have no pictures (that we know of) died in 1899.

The picture of Mary Ida-Louise Skinner from 11-2 may be found in section X, with other pictures of her.