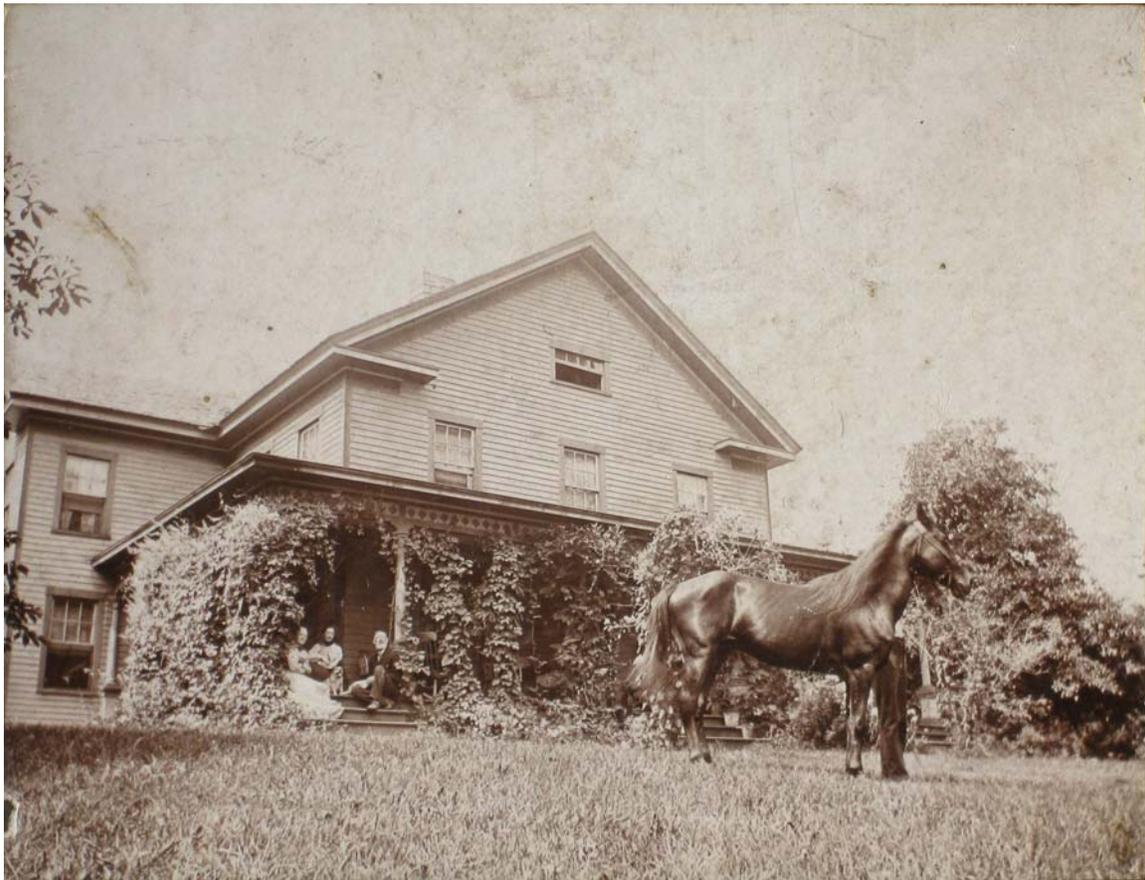


Pictures from Cy Fowler's Collection

Conrad Terrill, January 2009

These are copies that Judy and I made of some of Cy Fowler's pictures. Our time with Cy was very limited, so we had to make-do with a quick copy job. We plan to visit Cy again when the weather is warmer, and do a better job (and Cy has offered to show us around Middlefield). The pictures we chose to copy this time were those related to the Albert & Almira Skinner family, plus a couple related to the Terrill family.

Russell ("Cy") Fowler is a great-grandson of Maria (Skinner) Cornwell, the eldest daughter of Albert & Almira (Bailey) Skinner. Cy grew up in the house that Albert Skinner built around 1860, which Albert's sons Henry and Pascal later converted into a duplex. The Skinner wood-turning shop (later a carriage shop) was in back of the house, powered by water from the Beseck River, which is now called Ellen Doyle Creek. Albert Skinner passed this wood-turning business on to his sons—a business he himself had inherited from his half-brother (I'm fairly sure that's the correct relationship) Horace Skinner, when Horace died in 1848. Cy Fowler and his sons continue the business tradition, in a way, with their metal-working shop in Middlefield, about two-thirds of a mile from the site where the wood-turning shop once stood.



c2009-01-03-044

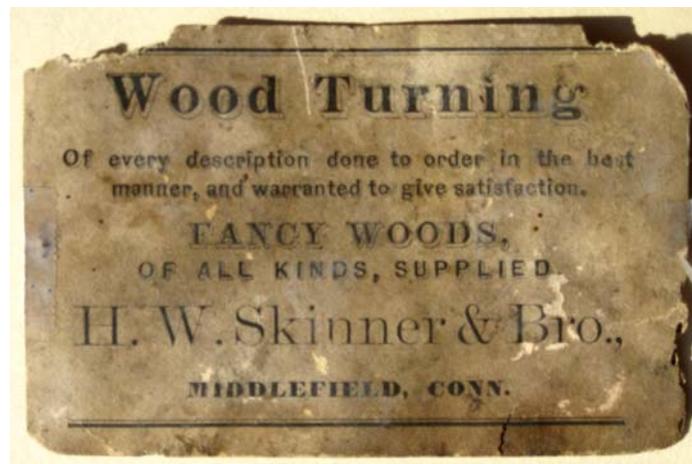
A picture taken long ago of the duplex which Henry Skinner built. (An original photograph)



A picture of the duplex taken in 1985, with a barn in the back. The old wood-turning shop (which was leaning to one side) had been taken down by this time. Cy's mother, when Cy and his siblings were little, forbade thier playing in the old shop, but they did so anyways.



A sign and a business card which were found in the old wood-turning shop. The letters are cut out through the sheet-metal sign (the warped shadows on the white paper which we laid underneath are due to the angle of the sun and the warpage of the sign itself). The dimensions of the sign are 15.5 by 9.3 inches. The name and address of the manufacturer (T. N. Hickox, 380 Pearl St., N.Y.) are stamped into the sign at the top.



The business card by itself, approximately actual size (the actual size is 3.5 by 2.3 inches).

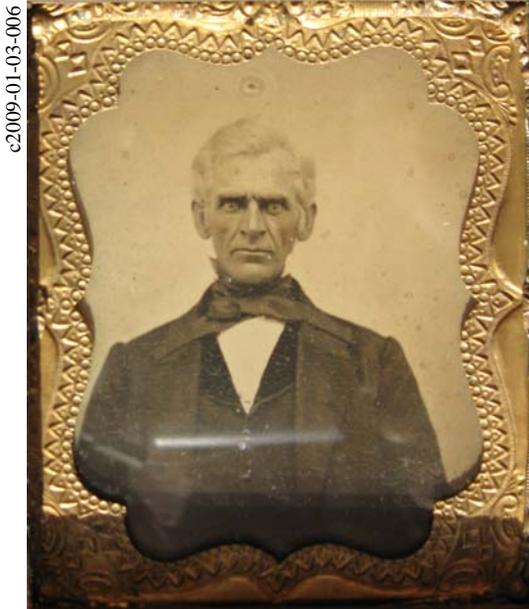


c2009-01-03-039

The Skinner family, circa 1861—a collection of tintypes in a wooden frame measuring 17.9 by 12.4 inches. The tintypes, of dimension 3.2 by 2.7 inches, are on thin black-japanned copper sheet (but I'm not positive it was copper), folded back on the sides and back to fit in daguerreotype casings. The practice of mounting the tintypes in daguerreotype casings was discontinued in the early 1860's, I think. Based on that, it appears that all the pictures (except that of Pascal & Mary) were likely taken at about the same time. The pictures are not labeled, but we think we can identify them correctly:

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

The picture of Pascal & Mary (married in 1867), which undoubtedly replace the 1861 picture of Pascal, dates to circa late 1860's. It's likely, by the way, that Henry or Albert or Pascal made the frame in the wood-turning shop. The pictures are reproduced full-size on the following pages.



c2009-01-03-006

Albert Skinner, at age ~49.



c2009-01-03-016

Almira Wilcox (Bailey) Skinner, at age ~46.



c2009-01-03-008

Rose Skinner, at age ~19. Rose married Frank B. Coe on 13 Oct. 1861, which is one very good reason why we think this picture dates from earlier than that.



c2009-01-03-018

Maria Skinner, at age ~21. It seems odd that Maria's picture is out-of-order with respect to age.



c2009-01-03-014

Pascal & Mary Skinner. Pascal married Mary R. Miller (sister of Henry's wife) on 17 Sept. 1867, so this picture likely dates to after that, perhaps ~1868, in which case their ages would have been ~22 & ~20. Parts of the tintype in the area of Pascal's face appear delaminated from the metal sheet, and stuck to the cover glass.



c2009-01-03-010

Henry W. & Clementine Skinner, at ages ~23 & ~22. Henry married Clementine A. Miller on 11 Oct. 1860. This picture was the only one for which the cover glass was missing.



c2009-01-03-021

Sylvia Skinner, at age ~11.



c2009-01-03-011

Mary Ida-Louise Skinner, at age ~8.

c2009-01-03-026



Maria (Cornwell) Tucker

Maria Cornwell, born in 1879, daughter of Isaac & Maria (Skinner) Cornwell, was Cy Fowler's grandmother. She married Myron H. Tucker. These three pictures were in the same frame.

Maria and children Pearl and Russell.

c2009-01-03-028



c2009-01-03-030

c2009-01-03-040



c2009-01-03-041

Cy did not know who this person was, but it's obvious, I'd say, from the size of the frame (I failed to measure it, but I think it was perhaps ten inches high) and from its extravagance that this person was a member of a family in Cy's ancestry. I will guess that it dates from between 1865 and 1895. When I first saw it I thought it was a man, but Cy thought it was a woman, based on the style of dress no doubt. Now, though, I again think it was a man, wearing some sort of fancy cravat. I'm wondering if it might be Isaac Cornwell, who married Maria Skinner before 1872.

c2009-01-03-050

c2009-01-03-052



The Moses W. Terrill house, on Mack Road, near the 7th tee [of the golf course there]. On the back was written "Burned 1909." This picture (and perhaps the one at left too) was a copy of a picture from the collection of Raymond Hubbard, of Middletown.

Cy told me that the picture at left is of the old Rockfall railroad station. I copied it because I believe that my grandfather, Earl Terrill, was the station agent there from about 1902 to about 1905. My father, Ferrin Terrill, was born in Rockfall in 1905.