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Skinner, Abner B. (1843 -)

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SKINNER, ABNER B.

File No. B-1240

Abner B. Skinner was born in Susquehanna County Pennsylvania in 1843. He was the son of Benniah and Adeline (Debre) Skinner natives of this country; his father was born in New York state in 1808 and his mother also in New York state, the year is not known. In all there were seven children four boys, Frank, Andrew, Isac and Abner and three girls, Adeline, Phoebe Ann and Lucinda.

Abner received what schooling he had in the school of his community. He attended what now equals the eight grades.

When he was a small boy his parents moved to Illinois because his father thought that there would be more demand for a good carpenter there, that being his trade. The journey was made by train and boat. They stayed a short time in Illinois and then moved to Wisconsin, where they lived when the Civil War started. Abner was twenty years old at that time.

Abner enlisted in the Thirty Seventh Wisconsin Regiment. He held the rank of Corpral when they drove Lee out of Petersburg. He received a shoulder wound which tore a piece of his shoulder blade away and the bullet glanced down and was deflected by a rib, otherwise it might have been fatal. Abner was in the Army for one year and ten months. At the end of the war he went back to Wisconsin where he was employed in a saw mill.

In 1869 he met and married Emma Netta Jaslin, a native of Wisconsin, who lived near Richland Center.

In 1871 he moved with his wife and one child, Jess, to Minnesota traveling by ox cart and settled on a homestead in Buckman township. He added to this until he had two hundred and forty acres of land.

Here four more children were born, George, Homer, Ralph, and Laura, Laura died when a child. Later they moved to St. Cloud where Nellie was born. Jess lives in Bemidji, and is a farmer; Nellie, is a retired teacher

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in Royalton; George, of St. Cloud, is a retired farmer; Homer, of Minneapolis, is a bookkeeper; Ralph, of New York Mills, is a mail carrier.

While living on the farm, Abner came to Saint Cloud by ox cart for supplies, the trip took two days.

Mr. Skinner remembers the coming of the railroad. He says that the Indians were friendly. Saint Cloud celebrated the Fourth of July with log rolling contests and horse races. Abner worked nine years in the woods loading logs on sleds.

Interviewed: Abner Skinner
Date: June 23, 1936
By: Virgil Chirhart