

of one of the loyal sons whom, in the dark days of the Civil War, she sent to represent her on the battlefield and who laid down his life in the service of his country. The other name is familiar to three generations of the county's citizens as that of one who spent his life among them, always maintaining a reputation which insured him the sincere esteem and cordial liking of his neighbors and associates.

Gardner D. Walker was born in 1831, in Charlotte township, N. Y., and was a son of Jesse and Sarah (Hooker) Walker, both of whom were representatives of old agricultural families of the county. Gardner D. Walker was reared on the home farm, acquiring his education in local schools, and on reaching manhood was associated with his father in the management of the homestead until the echo of the guns bombarding Fort Sumter resounded through the land and the call of President Lincoln for volunteers thrilled the heart of every patriot. On Sept. 25, 1862, Mr. Walker enlisted, in Jamestown, for a term of three years' service, as corporal in Company F, 154th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Thomas Donley, and later Captain John G. Griswold, and Colonel A. G. Rice and later Colonel R. H. Jones. The regiment was assigned to the First Brigade and Division Corps, Army of the Potomac, and participated in the battle of Warrentown, after which it was ordered to German town, and thence to Falmouth. It saw service in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and it was in the last-named engagement, fought on the first three days of July, 1863, that Corporal Walker was taken prisoner. He was confined at Belle Island from July 3 until the advent of cold weather, when he was transferred to Libby Prison.

Meanwhile in his faraway home in the North, his young wife was anxiously waiting for news of her soldier husband. Corporal Walker had married Sophia C. Wright, born in Gerry township, N. Y., daughter of Alexis and Martha (Patty) (Dingman) Wright, residents of that township and members of two of its old families. Two children had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Walker: Emma J., now the wife of Frank Bushey, of Jamestown; and Gardner J., a farmer of Carroll township.

But never was the gallant young patriot to return to his waiting wife and their infant children. All too soon came the sad news that, on Jan. 31, 1864, he had breathed his last in captivity, a victim of starvation and exposure. All to whom he had ever been known mourned for him, for he was a young man of noble character and firm principles. He had been successively allied with the Whigs and Republicans, and of patriotism he gave the ultimate proof and made to it the supreme sacrifice.

David Rider was born in Livingston county, N. Y., in 1829, and was a son of Silas and Mahala (Dean) Rider. On reaching manhood he made farming his occupation, becoming, in the course of time, one of the leading agriculturists of Ellicott township. He was also highly esteemed as a citizen, being always one of the men to be counted on for aid in any project tending toward improvement of community conditions. He was a member of Ross Grange.

Mr. Rider married, Nov. 14, 1868, Sophia C. (Wright) Walker, widow of Gardner D. Walker, and

they became the parents of the following children: Alton A., of Falconer, N. Y.; Guernsey, of Erie, Pa.; Floyd, of Portville, N. Y.; and Leon, of Falconer, N. Y. Like her husband, Mrs. Rider belongs to Ross Grange, having served for six years as chaplain of that body. Since becoming a widow she has resided in Falconer, and despite her more than fourscore years takes an active interest in family and neighborhood affairs. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The death of Mr. Rider, which occurred Jan. 6, 1906, deprived his community of one of its best and most public-spirited citizens whose record is eminently worthy of perusal and preservation.



From: Mrs. Gardner Walker Raistrick



Sophia C. Rider

1st Page

History of Chautaugus County - Sinclairville Library
Gardner D. Walker - David Rider 3 Vol's.

Many of the older residents of Chautaugus Co. will un-
doubtedly remember and recognize the first of these names
as that — continued next page —

154th Co. D.

Thurs. 4th

Dear Mr. Winey,

enclosed is the picture of Sophia Catharine Walker Rider. Her husband was Corp. Gardner Darwin Walker, who was captured & was put on Belle Isle until "cold weather" & then to Libby Prison where he died of "privation"

The article I spoke to Mr. Dunklomen abt. was "Memory of Charlotte Civil War Soldier is Resurrected at Reunion". He wrote it so I'm sure has a copy. Gardner Darwin Walker was made Corp. & put in charge of that Volunteer 154th on the train East. It was the story of John W. Irwin

The other article that I'm sure you have was of John Irwin's coin saved in his belongings from Civil War.

Hope this will add to your scrapbook.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Gardner Walker Raistrick

you have his picture