

[Blanchard, Harriet Maria Skinner]

DEATH OF MRS. H. M. BLANCHARD
A Woman Prominent in Hospital Work During the War

Mrs. Harriet Maria Blanchard, widow of the late James M. Blanchard and mother of Mrs. Charles M. Skinner of this city, died early yesterday morning at her home in Proctorsville, Vt., at the age of 73 years. Mrs. Blanchard was born in Brownville, N.Y., on May 9, 1818. Her father, Rev. Warren Skinner [Universalist], moved to Proctorsville when the deceased was but a child. She was married to Mr. Blanchard in 1839. Thereafter Mrs. Blanchard resided with her husband in Rochester, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Springfield, Mass., Peru, Ill., Portsmouth, Va., Washington and New York. During the civil war she played a prominent part in the care of the wounded at Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria. She had lost two sons in the service, one [Lucien] of fever on board a war ship and the other [Asa] on the field at Gettysburg, and her time was spent in constant ministrations to the sick and dying soldiers.

In spite of her self imposed duties in the hospitals, Mrs. Blanchard still found time to devote to her philanthropic work. She was president of the Colored Orphans' Home, vice president of the woman's department of the United States Sanitary Commission, a director and charter member of the Women's Christian Association Home, vice president of the Hospital Board of the Soldiers' Aid Society, and an organizer of the First Universalist Society of Washington.

With the exception of the two sons who died on the field of battle, and a daughter who died in infancy, Mrs. Blanchard's children are all now living. They are George R. Blanchard, commissioner of the Joint Traffic Association, Clarence Blanchard, Mrs. Charles [Ada] Blanchard Skinner, Mrs. George B. Hoyt and Mrs. Edward J. [Hattie] Fuller.

Mr. G. R. Blanchard a few years ago bought the old Skinner homestead in Proctorsville for his mother, and there, among the hills she had known so well in girlhood, she passed the closing years of her busy life.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York NY, Tue. 24 Aug 1897

Transcribed on 5 Feb 2024 by Karen E. Dau of East Rochester, NY