

Louis J. Bruner, the military claim attorney of Portland, established his business in December, 1884, and is the only exclusive military claim attorney the town has had. Before engaging in this business, no work in his line had been done by the attorneys of the place. Mr. Bruner is very successful in pressing the claims of the old soldiers, and in 1886, including arrearages he recovered about 200 pensions. Mr. Bruner is a native of Indiana, born in Monroe County, October 6, 1838, his father, Elias Bruner, being one of the first pioneers of Monroe County, where he located as early as 1819. Elias Bruner was a native of Pennsylvania, and in early childhood was taken by his parents to Virginia, thence to East Tennessee, coming to Indiana when a young man. He was a local minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For his wife, he married Jency Tyrant, who died at the birth of our subject. They were the parents of six sons and two daughters, all of the sons but Louis who united with the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of seven years, becoming Methodist ministers, four of whom are still living. In 1852, Elias Bruner removed with his family to Texas, where he lived until 1869. Then moved to Arkansas and died in 1870.

Louis J. Bruner, the subject of this sketch was reared in his native county and in his youth had common school and collegiate advantages, being a student at Indiana Asbury University for three years. In 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Fifth Indiana Cavalry, in which he served three years, and had previously served a short time in Company E, Seventy-Sixth Indiana Infantry. He was a gallant and faithful soldier, and was constantly with his regiment, participating in all its operations. The regiment, of which Mr. Bruner was a member, did very effective serving during the war, almost constantly marching and fighting, principally in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. It participated in twenty-two battles, and every day during the month of June, 1864, it was engaged in skirmishing with the enemy. During its term of service, it marched 2800 miles and was transported by water 1,000. It captured 640 prisoners. Thirty-four members of this regiment were killed in battle, thirteen died from wounds, 115 died in rebel prisons, seventy-four died in hospital, seventy-two were wounded in action, 497 were taken prisoners by the enemy, officers killed, one, and officers wounded, seventeen, the total casualties of the regiment being 829.

At the close of the war, Mr. Bruner returned to Indiana and engaged in teaching school, which he successfully followed until 1881. In November of that year, he came to Portland and engaged in the grocery business which he followed until December, 1884, when he established his present business. Mr. Bruner, in his political views is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and a comrade of the Grand Army Post at Portland.

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Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served as a Sergeant in the Union Army. He was awarded the Medal of Honor as a Private in Company H, 5th Indiana Cavalry for action on December 2, 1863 at Walker's Ford, Tennessee. His citation reads "Voluntarily passed through the enemy's lines under fire and conveyed to a battalion, then in a perilous position and liable to capture, information which enabled it to reach a point of safety." (bio by: Don Morfe)