Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery

As today's American Legion, formed in 1918, is composed of American veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. By 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, Commandant in Chief of the GAR, designated May 30 as Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day).

After the rebel southern states fired on Fort Sumter (opening the Civil War) on April 12th, 1861, President Lincoln called for troops from the northern states to preserve the Union. On January 31st, 1861, John Giluly, a teacher of Brighton schools, an attorney at law in Brighton, and member of the 20th Michigan State Legislature which convened January 5, 1859, was commissioned a Captain in the U.S. Army.


Records compiled by William Pless (a history of Co. I, 5th Michigan) reveal during the first year of battles: "The Regiment arrived in Washington in September 1861 and was greeted by Senator Kansas S. Bingham of Green Oak Township and by President Lincoln. In April 1862, they were engaged in battles at Yorktown and Williamsburg, VA, and following that at Fair Oaks, Seven Days' Battle, Charles City, Mahone Hill, 2nd Manassas, Chancellorsville, and in the battle at Fredericksburg, VA. Here, Lt. Col. John Giluly was killed in action while leading troops in his command, December 13, 1862, at 38 years of age."


These men served in various companies, throughout many infantry and cavalry regiments. As original companies were depleted, the remaining members were reassigned to other companies. A majority of these young men were descendants of early area settlers.

The families of all these veterans also served. Their support gave the men the courage to fulfill their enlistment promise. The widows and fatherless children determined they would continue in a manner the husband and father would wish. Widows who were teachers went back to teaching. Farmers' and shopkeepers' widows depended on their families to keep the various enterprises flourishing. These, along with the veterans, are examples of sacrifice to be emulated today.

* Killed in battle

Compiled by Marianna Blair from records assembled by George Allen, John and Janice Field, William Pless, 1880 History of Livingston County. Corrections requested. 810/229-6402.

In Memoriam

The BAHSH would like to extend sympathies to the families of:

Merrill Herbst and Joe Mike

Merrill Herbst was a Brighton native and Joe Mike was a long-time area resident. Both were loyal supporters of the BAHSH.

Cluster Meeting at Brighton District Library

On Thursday, April 21st, the Spring Cluster Meeting of local historical societies and librarians took place at the Brighton District Library (BDL). Thirteen representatives from local organizations were in attendance from 6-9 pm.

The cluster meetings allow the representatives from local libraries and neighboring historical and genealogical societies to meet and share information. Sharing of information is valuable because these organizations share their various activities and programs with their peers throughout Livingston County. Frequently, new ideas for projects and fund raising get their start at this forum.

A presentation by John Quincey Adams 1767 - 1848 Lawyer, Diplomat, Politician, President Of The United States

"Posterity: you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

John Quincey Adams 1767 - 1848 Lawyer, Diplomat, Politician, President Of The United States

Inside this issue:

- Events to Remember
- Reading and Reviews
- BAHSH Gift Shop
- BAHSH Leadership
- Contact BAHSH
- Historical Perspective

Preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area

Help Wanted Needed When Visiting Garage and Estate Sales

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The BAHSH Archiving Department is in need of these early phone books for a project. We need the early name and address information contained in them. Old area phone books are an invaluable resource for doing local historical research. The goal of this project is to assemble as much complete location information as possible for early Brighton businesses and residences. The data collected will help compile the historical resource survey for the Brighton area.

If, in your travels, you come across pre-1950 area phone books, and you're able to acquire them for us, please note that your donation will be both useful and appreciated!
The History of Memorial Day

The Civil War, the most bloody chapter in American history, left virtually no community within our growing country untouched. Among all Americans, on both sides of the conflict, served or knew someone who served. After the war, many veterans groups were formed by the veterans themselves. These were fraternal organizations whose main purpose was networking and camaraderie. Some would later form into political and advocacy groups. Arguably, the most influential of these organizations was the Grand Army of the Republic, or "GAR." The GAR was founded in April 6, 1866 based on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty." Following the war, the practice of decorating soldiers' graves was quite common throughout the north. Waterloo, New York, is generally considered to have held the first official observance. A local citizen of Waterloo, General John Murray, mentioned the event to a friend, General John A. Logan, who also happened to be the Commander-in-Chief of the GAR. Logan, liking the idea, designated May 30 as Decoration Day. Decoration Day became an official holiday in Michigan in 1871 and in every northern state by 1890.

In the South, things were different. For obvious reasons, the southern states refused to observe Decoration Day. Instead, they chose June 3rd, the birthdate of Jefferson Davis, the former president of the Confederacy.

Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become member, please visit our web site at www.brightonareahistorical.com or mail in the following form below.

BAHS Merchandise

We have many great items for sale that help us generate much needed funds to carry on our mission. These include home decor items (pewter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like.

From Settlement to City

Brighton, Michigan 1832 - 1945

by Carol McMacken

450+ pages; Over 300 pictures

$65.00

Description: This large volume hardcover book contains a beautifully detailed history of Brighton from its earliest days of wilderness settlement through to the growing community of the mid-1940s. The book also contains over 300 pictures and illustrations and is a must for any book collection of Brighton and its rich history.

BAHS Leadership

President: Jim Vichich
Vice President: Marianne Bair
Secretary: Sue Garcia
Treasurer: Mindy Kinsey
Trail Tales Editor: Dave Ball

Directors: Dave Ball
Joe Collins
Nancy Furedenburg
Larry Lawrence
Thomas Relike
Dick Weare
Judy Cobby
Sue Skwarski

The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

BAHS: How to Contact Us or Find Us

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

E-Mail: bgoh@brightonareahistorical.com
Phone: (810) 250-7276
US Mail: Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Lyon School
14555 Bono Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored one-room schoolhouse and serves as our organization headquarters.

CoBACH Center
202 W. Main Street, downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. CoBACH is formally known as the City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center. It is located in the historic 1879 two story brick building also known as the Old Town Hall.

Thanks and Recognition

Member Renewals / New Members

Thanks to our existing and new members for their annual memberships:

Family
- Charles & Janice Beach
- Caren Biermann*
- Cheryl Chidester
- Mary Jo Comiskey*
- Mike Ewing
- Susan Foster, Roberto Quintana (CA)
- John & Beverly Laffelle
- Tom Leith
- Rich & Judy Parsons
- Pat J. Smith & Sally C. Bender
- Gloria Wincheff
- Henry & MaryLou Winegar

* Welcome new members
** Special thanks to these life Members

Business / Professional Members

The support of our professional members is deeply appreciated. We encourage you to support these local businesses.

- Acorn Deck Accessories Inc.
- Advance Craft Home Builders
- Anchor-Huntley Financial Services**
- Bagger Dave's Restaurant
- Dr. Bonnie Oriel & Maxfield Surgery
- Susan Doyle, Realtor
- Joe Aguirre / Burroughs Tavern
- Lawrence Autobody**

Dates to Remember

May 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 29, 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

May 5, 12, 19, 26; 9am-4pm

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

May 25: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center

May 28, Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 27; 11am

Old Village Cemetery Tour. Meet on walkway at new entrance gate above the millpond gable. Approximately 60 minutes.

May 30: 10am

Memorial Day Parade, Downtown Brighton. Parade runs along Main St from High School to Millpond, ceremony to follow.

However, Decoration Day was not completely ignored in the South. In Charleston, South Carolina, a group of black freedmen exhomed Union soldiers from a mass grave at a Confederate prison. They were reburied individually and the place dedicated as a Union graveyard. The first southern observance took place on May 1st, 1865. A group of up to 10,000 black residents held a festive gathering at this cemetery to honor the Union dead.

Another notable southern observance took place in 1868 in Columbus, Mississippi. Women visiting a cemetery to decorate Confederate graves, were disturbed by the neglected graves of Union soldiers and decorated them as well.

Decoration Day had gradually become referred to as Memorial Day during the early to mid 20th century, the first reference to the alternate name was found in 1882. It officially became Memorial Day in 1946, with a federal law designating it the last Monday in May to honor the American dead of all wars.

By 1880, the holiday assumed a nationalistic tone based on American Exceptionalism. Patriotism replaced remembrance as the dead from both sides were remembered.

Interesting Note: May 30th was chosen to remember our war dead as it was not the anniversary of any battle.

Article by Dave Ball, sources include GAR General Order No.11, Veterans Administration, Wikipedia and History.com.
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After the rebel southern states fired on Fort Sumter (opening the Civil War) on April 12th, 1861, President Lincoln called for troops from the northern states to preserve the Union. On January 1st, 1861, John Gilluly, a teacher of Brighton schools, an attorney at law in Brighton, and member of the 20th Michigan State Legislature which convened January 5, 1859, was commissioned a Captain in the U.S. Army. Answering the national call, he immediately began recruiting men to form what became known as the "Livingston Volunteers", Company I, the 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. Among them and interred in the Old Village Cemetery were William H. Bingham, Charles H. Domericon, John Gilbert, John J. Jones, Aaron L. Newman, George W. Rose and "DeWitt Clinton Russell".

Records compiled by William Pless (a history of Co. I, 5th Michigan) reveal during the first year of battles: "The Regiment arrived in Washington in September 1861 and was greeted by Senator Kinsey S. Bingham of Green Oak Township and by President Lincoln. In April 1862, they were engaged in battles at Yorktown and Williamsburg, VA, and following that at Fair Oaks, Seven Days' Battle, Charles City, Malvern Hill, 2nd Manassas, Chantilly, and in the battle at Fredericksburg, VA. Here, Lt. Col. John Gilluly was killed in action while leading troops in his command, December 13, 1862, at 38 years of age."


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The families of all these veterans also served. Their support gave the men the courage to fulfill their enlistment promise. The widows and fatherless children determined they would continue in a manner the husband and father would wish. Widows who were teachers went back to teaching. Farmers' and shopkeepers' widows depended on their families to keep the various enterprises flourishing. These, along with the veterans, are examples of sacrifice to be emulated today.

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A presentation by Mark Mullinax, genealogy and local history librarian for the BDL, examined all the newspapers that have been published in Livingston County since the early settlers arrived in the 1820-30s. The presentation included publication names and editors, publication start and end dates, different mastheads used over time, and the publication total circulation quantity.

Most of the early publications started out as weekly papers. Their titles often indicated their political leanings. There were independent, republican and democrat papers in Livingston County. Several papers shared various theological views in accordance with their church affiliation. Publication lengths were in some cases, as short as a single issue. Overall, there were about 58 papers that presented opinions and news to the local citizens.

This program was very interesting and will be available on the BDL web site in the near future. I am sure that you will enjoy this information and the accompanying pictures.

John Quincy Adams 1767 - 1848
Lawyer, Diplomat, Politician, President Of The United States

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