Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 12)

In 1833, before Michigan became a state, Kinsley Scott Bingham, a native of New York, and his brother-in-law Robert Warden, purchasing 320 acres in Section 12 of Green Oak Township, Bingham and Warden (who emigrated from Scotland only a year earlier) were both law students.

Bingham married Margaret Warden and Warden married Caroline Bingham. The two couples, along with other family members, built a log house on Silver Lake Road. Stables and barns were built, fences erected, and wild soil planted. Margaret died in 1834, only four days after giving birth to Kinsley Warden Bingham. About a year later sister Mary became Kinsley's wife. In 1840 James Warden Bingham was born. Although several other children were born to Mary, all died in infancy.

Kinsley Warden Bingham married Frances Woodruff, a nearby neighbor, and made the family farm a successful enterprise. His younger half brother, James, helped with chores in the often long absences of their father, Kinsley Scott Bingham, who served in township, state and national government positions.

James was educated to be a teacher, attending a Seminary in Ypsilanti. He had taught in Plymouth a short while. Evidence indicates he was also enrolled at Michigan Normal School (today known as Eastern Michigan University).

With the onset of the Civil War, James enlisted May 14, 1861, shortly before his father's death, October 5, 1861. James, a lieutenant in Co. H, 16th Infantry Regiment, was stationed in Peoria, Illinois, serving as a recruiter.

Letters between mother (Mary) and son, detail his movements, and her continual concerns about his well-being. In one letter she encourages him to get his coat 'wadded' for extra warmth. James's duties included defense against "despicable guerrilla parties" and "pursuit of the rebel Morgan". His unit would also be "present at county elections at Busby Mills and see that no violence was offered Union citizens exercising their right of free suffrage."

James's continual movements often delayed letters and caused much concern for each other's well-being. His mother Mary's grief over the death of her husband (Kinsley Scott Bingham) evokes much sympathy in today's reader. Controlling her feelings, she also writes of Kinsley Warden Bingham selling wood and grain, and of a good potato and apple crop.

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You will find the names of prominent and ordinary folks from Brighton's earliest days who endured hardships which can only be imagined as they settled these frontier villages.

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This annual event always proves to be day of fellowship and community service for all while experiencing the beauty of Old Village Cemetery. Everyone will leave with a good feeling, knowing their donation of four hours is a small thank you to our veterans for serving our great nation.

Please contact us to sign up so that work can be planned accordingly. Everyone is needed for this community event! Thank you in advance.

Jim Víchick, BAHS President

Points of Interest:
Read about the 30 year history of the BAHS. See page 1
The story of Civil War veterans buried in Old Village Cemetery continues in this issue's historical perspective. See page 4

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How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales:
Email ___ Us mail ___

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Compiled by Maryann Baur from Old Village Cemetery Supplement by Bill Mess. 1880 History of Livingston County; Old Village Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field; Yester Years of Green Oak, 1830-1930, and Marilyn Harrington of Green Oak Township Historical Society archives. Corrections 810 229 6402.

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Volume XXXI No. 4 | April 2012

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