Of the early settlers to the Brighton Area, many were of a moral caliber who assumed a responsibility to the community and the young state. Among them was John Gilluly, son of Irish-born parents, Thomas and Ann. John was born in Massachusetts. Research indicates John taught in the Brighton School District in 1845, '46, '57, '59. Earlier, 1852, he had been appointed as a Livingston County Surveyor. It appears he attended Michigan Normal College (EMU) to become a better teacher and an attorney. After graduation he taught and practiced law in Brighton. He met Alvira Frances Carpenter while both were in Ypsilanti attending college. Alvira was born 1831 in New York.

In referring to early census records we find John and Alvira had several other children besides the one, Carolline, who is buried with them in the Old Village Cemetery. A son, Henry, of whom no later record is found, was born in 1846. Three daughters are born: Lucy F., 1855, (married C. A. Willet and moved to Read City); one married LeBaron (and lived in Fenton), and Caroline, the youngest born 1860 and died March 2, 1866.

Armed with a degree in law, John was elected and served in the 20th Michigan State Legislature which convened January 5, 1859. Two years later he received his commission as Captain in the U.S. Army. After the rebel south fired on Ft. Sumpter (opening the Civil War) April 12, 1861, President Lincoln requested troops from the states. Following a mass meeting in Howell, April 30, 1861, John recruited Livingston County men to serve in Company 1 in the 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. In less than one month this company was raised. After several months' training at Ft. Wayne in Detroit, the troops were mustered into service August 11, 1861. A month later they received their flag and shipped out to Cleveland; then the train to Pittsburgh and Washington in September.

Those serving at this time are convinced of the validity of the Society's mission and are doing an outstanding job. Join them in a responsible capacity to secure the Society's continued effectiveness.

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting November 5, contact a board member with your desire to work; be a part of the success of the mission. With your involvement, whether of time, energy or financial, the Society will continue.

The Fowlerville Post of the DAR (Grand Army of the Republic) was named for this valiant man by his comrades. To commemorate the 130th anniversary of John Gilluly's death the George W. Lee Civil War Roundtable placed a new marker by the deteriorating grave marker. A number of other veterans sites, which either did not have a marker, or it was damaged, are now properly identified by the recent efforts of John and Janice Field. (Compiled by Marleena Bair from 1880 History of Livingston County; Wm. Fles's supplement to the Village Cemetery records; obituaries compiled by Milton Champaign and conversation with George Allen. Add/Correct, welcome. 810/229-6402.)