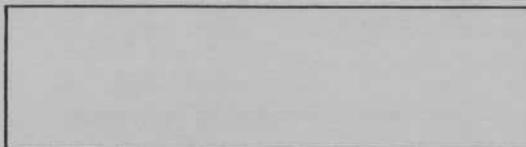


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### THE CIVIL WAR HITS THE BRIGHTON AREA

One of the major ways we are still affected by the Civil War, 1861/1865, a war that threatened to divide the nation, is in our commemoration of Memorial Day. In the period immediately following the end of that war, women and children were observed placing spring flowers on soldiers' graves; Confederate and Union. The grieving love of the widowed and fatherless never-the-less moved them also to forgive. By 1868, General John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the GAR designated May 30 as Decoration Day. The first national recognition was in 1868. One hundred years later, the date was officially set at May 30, and it became Memorial Day. In 1971, the date was set at the Monday in May.

In Livingston County, hundreds of families felt the pain. Some had more than one of its sons volunteer to keep the United States as one country. As examples, we provide the Crippen and Paddock families.

Already related by marriage in New York, they came in the mid 1930s to the Brighton area. Henry Paddock had served in Dutchess County, New York, Militia during the Revolutionary War. His 47-year-old son, George W., and wife Lydia, came with their family of seven, of which one daughter, Marilla, had married Ansel Crippen. Ansel also brought his young family of two boys. Five more children would be born to Ansel in Michigan. His five boys, Millard F., Henry L., Isaac, Harrison and Ernest M., all served in Co.I, 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry Regiment. Along with them was their sister Emma's husband, Peter Ackerman, Jr.

Of the George W. Paddock family, son-in-law Alanson P. Dickinson served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the same unit of the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. Killed was George Rose, daughter Orzilla's husband. As Capt. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, he was killed in the Wilderness, 1861. George's grandson, Henry C., is also a veteran. Wanting only to be able to work and care for their families, they still put aside this responsibility to answer the call of their nation.

Thirty-three veterans from Brighton are buried in the Old Village Cemetery by the Mill Pond, including Millard and Ernest Crippen, Alanson Dickinson and George Rose. The flags fluttering there, as in all cemeteries, serve as a grim reminder of those who served and are serving. Dare we not gratefully remember?

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless' writings; Field's transcription of the Old Village Cemetery; census records and the 1880 History of Livingston County. Additions/corrections requested, 810/229-6402.).