BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 7)

Ansel Crippen and wife Marilla (Paddock) came to the area from Penfield, New York in 1836. They settled along the (Indian) Grand River Trail in Brighton Township, Section 18, and one half mile north of Hilton Road on Ore Creek (now the site of Woodland Lake).

With them were two young children. Millard F. was three years old and Henry L. was one year old. Several more children were born in Brighton Township; Isaac, Harrison, Ernest and Emily (called Emma).

Marilla Crippen, was a daughter of George W. Paddock who accompanied Ansel and Marilla to Michigan. The Paddock and Crippen families continued to live in close proximity to each other and also the Rose and Dickinson families, of whom have already been written in this series. Ansel was a farmer, carpenter and cabinet maker.

Co. I, 9th Michigan Infantry Regiment, all Livingston County men, was recruited by Capt., John A. Tanner. The five Crippen brothers all enlisted in the 9th, along with their sister Emily's husband, Peter Ackerman Jr. The group enlisted August 15, 1861, their respective ages being: Peter, 21; Isaac, 24; Harrison, 25; and Henry, 29. Harrison was discharged because of disability November 1, 1862, Ernst (22 years old) and Millard (31 years old) enlisted on September 12, 1864. Peter was mustered out October 14, 1864 due to poor health.

By October 27, 1861, the 9th Michigan was at Salt River, Kentucky, for the winter. From there, they went to Nashville, Tennessee. The summer saw heavy fighting in the Battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. It also saw service in 1864 with the Army of the Cumberland in Georgia and Tennessee.

After the fall of Atlanta in September, 1864, the regiment returned to Chattanooga, until March 27, 1865. It was on duty at the military prison until September 15, 1865, when the remaining members of the 9th were "...mustered out of the service,

and on the following day left for Michigan. It arrived at Jackson September 19, 1865, and one week later the men were paid off and disbanded, when they returned to their homes and the avocations of peace."

By 1880, Henry Crippen, his wife Cora, and their three children were living in Section 19, Brighton Township. Henry, died in 1923, and is buried in Fairview Cemetery. Isaac, his wife Elizabeth, and their three children were in Green Oak Township. Isaac died in 1923, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Harrison had a farm on E. Grand River, Section 34, Brighton Township, bordering the old Woodruff Mill. He died in 1915 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery. Peter Ackerman died not long after the Civil War. His burial site may be on his parents' lot or the Crippen lot in the Old Village Cemetery. His is another of the markers which still needs to be located. Emily's two children are also in the Old Village Cemetery, as are her parents and brothers, Millard (died 1905) and Ernest (died 1920).

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Bill Pless' "Supplement to the Old Village Cemetery"; census records; cemetery transcriptions; atlases; 1880 History of Livingston County; "From Settlement to City 1832-1945, Brighton Michigan" by Carol McMacken. Corrections/additions, requested. 810-229-6402.

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