

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 8)

"The first date found places George P. Dudley in Brighton in April of 1861, when John Gillully, as Captain and commissioned officer, was organizing what later became known as The Livingston Company I in (the) 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. George P. Dudley volunteered and was enlisted August 27, 1861, and became a non-commissioned 5th Sergeant in Company I. September 17, 1862, he was promoted as a Sergeant-Major, as 2nd Lieutenant, July 4, 1863, the day after the battle at Gettysburg. ... The 5th Michigan Volunteers were mustered out at Detroit, July 17, 1865, and George P. Dudley returned to Brighton. Miss Anna Woodruff, a daughter of Evert Woodruff, who had built the Woodruff Mills on Pleasant Valley and Grand River Roads in 1833, taught school in the Village of Brighton that same year of 1865. So it followed that the pretty school teacher and the returning Lieutenant and war hero soon married, and lived out their lives in Brighton."

~ Quoted from William Pless's Supplement to the DAR Records of the Brighton Village Cemetery.

Further research reveals George was born in England in 1832. He came to Brighton Village by 1860 and by trade was a cabinet maker and carpenter. George was a boarder with the John Doane family. John Doane was the village grocer. He and Anna had a son, Frank, born in 1870, a daughter, Grace, born in 1872 (who died at five months of age), and another son, Percival, born 1875.

Before moving to Howell by 1890, George had served as Brighton Village Treasurer 1869-71 and 1873-74. Although Anna's family history is quite well documented, very little has been learned of George Dudley's lineage other than his location of birth and of his English parentage.

Both George and Anna Dudley are buried in the Village Cemetery, along with their daughter, Grace. George died in 1903,

and Anna followed him much later, in 1930. Their son, Percival, died in 1936. Percival and wife Julia L. (died 1956) are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Howell. The location of Frank's grave has not been determined.

Serving with Dudley was DeWitt Clinton Russell, when the 5th Michigan left for Washington, D.C. on September 11th, 1861 arriving in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on September 13th. From there they were "... numbered off and stowed away in cattle cars of the most old and dilapidated kind; in this wretched way we proceeded to Baltimore..." , writes a comrade.

The regiment arrived in Washington on September 14th. Four days later, in Arlington, Virginia, they experienced the first rebel fire directed at them. Two miles south of Arlington, the men built Ft. Lyon, where the regiment remained for the next two months. It was here that DeWitt Clinton Russell died of disease on December 12, 1861, at age 24.

DeWitt was a son of William and Jane Russell, who had purchased 169 acres in Section 3 of Green Oak Township in 1833. DeWitt, along with his parents (Jane died in 1850 and William died in 1870) and brother William (died 1895), is buried above the millpond in the Village Cemetery.

By Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; Census records, cemetery transcriptions by John & Janice Field; and Bill Pless's Supplement to the DAR Records of Old Village Cemetery. Corrections/additions requested. 810-229-6402.

In Memoriam

The Brighton Area Historical Society wishes to extend its sympathies to the family of :

Pat Brady Convery

Pat was a Brighton native and long time BAHS member.