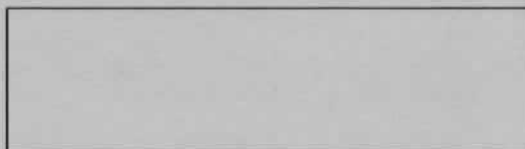


**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery

As today's American Legion, formed in 1918, is composed of American veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. By 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the GAR, designated May 30 as Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day).

After the rebel southern states fired on Fort Sumter (opening the Civil War) on April 12th, 1861, President Lincoln called for troops from the northern states to preserve the Union.

On January 1st, 1861, John Gilluly, a teacher of Brighton schools, an attorney at law in Brighton, and member of the 20th Michigan State Legislature which convened January 5, 1859, was commissioned a Captain in the U.S. Army.

Answering the national call, he immediately began recruiting men to form what became known as the "Livingston Volunteers", Company I, the 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. Among them and interred in the Old Village Cemetery were William H. Bigham, \*Charles H. Dennison, \*John Gilbert, John Jones, Aaron L. Newman, \*George W. Rose and \*DeWitt Clinton Russell.

Records compiled by William Pless (a history of Co. I, 5th Michigan) reveal during the first year of battles: "The Regiment arrived in Washington in September 1861 and was greeted by Senator Kinsley S. Bingham of Green Oak Township and by President Lincoln. In April 1862, they were engaged in battles at Yorktown and Williamsburg, VA, and following that at Fair Oaks, Seven Day's Battle, Charles City, Malvern Hill, 2nd Manassas, Chentilly, and in the battle at Fredericksburg, VA. Here, Lt. Col. John Gilluly was killed in action while leading troops in his command, December 13, 1862, at 38 years of age."

Another 30 Civil War veterans are interred, or memorialized, in the Old Village Cemetery. They are Nathaniel Allison, George A. Bidwell, \*James Warden Bingham, Peter Butler, Wallace H. Case, B.T.O. Clark, Ernest M. and Millard Fillmore Crippen,

Charles E. Cushing, \*Hiram Dennison, A.P. Dickinson, George P. Dudley, Ransom E. Fillmore, \*Charles and \*Homer Goucher, Josiah Hayner, Benjamin Hogan, John W. Hutchings, August F. Miller, \*Henry C. Norton, \*Charles H. Pease, J.E. Placeway, \*John A. Platt, E. A. Pratt, Francis D. and George W. Rogers, W. H. H. Russell, \*J.G. Spencer, and Nelson Clark Thomas.

These men served in various companies, throughout many infantry and cavalry regiments. As original companies were depleted, the remaining members were reassigned to other companies. A majority of these young men were descendants of early area settlers.

The families of all these veterans also served. Their support gave the men the courage to fulfill their enlistment promise. The widows and fatherless children determined they would continue in a manner the husband and father would wish. Widows who were teachers went back to teaching. Farmers' and shopkeepers' widows depended on their families to keep the various enterprises flourishing. These, along with the veterans, are examples of sacrifice to be emulated today.

\*Killed in battle

*Compiled by Marieanna Bair from records assembled by George Allen, John and Janice Field, William Pless, 1880 History of Livingston County. Corrections requested. 810/229-6402.*



### In Memoriam

The BAHS would like to extend sympathies to the families of:

**Merrill Herbst**

and

**Joe Mike**

Merrill Herbst was a Brighton native and Joe Mike was a long time area resident. Both were loyal supporters of the BAHS.