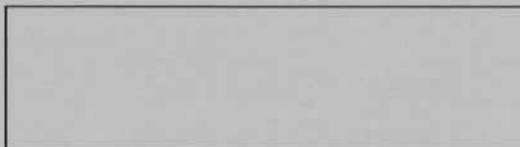


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 5)

Joseph Placeway (b. 1804), of Vermont with wife, Ann Maria (b. 1814) of New Jersey, arrived in Livingston County in 1836. They had purchased 200 acres in Section 2 of Genoa Township, sight unseen as was not unusual for the time. This was about one mile northeast of Lake Chemung.

With them came their two daughters, Mary, 17 and Matilda, 15. Their sons Joseph Edward, George, and John, were all born in Genoa Township, between 1837 and 1843. In 1846, they purchased property in Brighton Village, in the Gales Addition B-9, lots 1 and 2, (currently the southeast corner of Grand River and Church Street). Joseph Placeway died in 1853.

At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, their son Joseph Edward Placeway, with his wife Emily Jane (Smith) and son Charles (b. 1861) were living in Hamburg Township, not far from his uncle, William Placeway. They later had two children; Jennie born in 1863, and William born in 1865.

Joseph Edward enlisted February 16, 1864, in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry, Co. G, joining them at their winter quarters in La-Grange, Tennessee. Before leaving there, his regiment did two months provost duty waiting for horses and equipment. Still dismounted, the regiment went to Arkansas under General Frederick Steele on May 18, 1864. Having been issued horse and gear, they began scouting and outpost duty on August 1, 1864 until moving to winter quarters at Brownsville Station, Arkansas, later that year.

On March 14, 1865, they transferred from Arkansas to the Military Division of West Mississippi under General E. R. S. Canby, to move against Mobile, Alabama. After the fall of Mobile, the regiment was on outpost duty until the surrender of General Richard Taylor and the Army of Tennessee on May 8, 1865. Leaving Mobile, they arrived in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on May 23, 1865. Under General Phil Sheridan, they joined troops in

Texas, leaving June 10, 1865, for San Antonio on garrison and scouting duty until February 15, 1866. James Edward was mustered out of service on September 20, 1866, returning to his home in Brighton.

In 1870, the Placeway family was living in Brighton Village just before the coming of the railroad. Having been brought up as a farmer, he found plenty of opportunity working in town. The town was growing; carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, millers, and coopers were all busy. And the railroad was coming!

Joseph Edward did not neglect his civic responsibilities after his return from serving his country. In 1868-69 and 1872-73, Placeway served as Brighton Township Treasurer. Following the organization of the Village of Brighton in 1867, he took part in its governing as Village Marshall in 1868 and as Deputy Marshall in 1882. In 1879 he is noted as Village Assessor. Joseph Edward Placeway died in 1899. At a reunion of Civil War veterans in 1905, he is memorialized with a photo placed alongside other members of the Grand Army of the Republic veterans' organization.

Of Placeway's children, his son Charles became owner and publisher of the Brighton Argus. Charles died February 8, 1919. His daughter Jennie was a teacher, and died in 1945. She and Charles are buried at Calvary Cemetery. His son William died young at in 1881. Joseph Edward, along with his wife Emily (d. January 29, 1914), son William and his father Joseph, are interred at Old Village Cemetery. Eleven other Placeways can be found in the Placeway Cemetery in Putnam Township.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; 1880 History of Livingston County; writings of Bill Pless; "Early Landowners of Livingston County" by Milt Charboneau; "From Settlement to City" by Carol McMacken. Additions, corrections requested. 810-229-6402.