

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 9)

A grave marker was placed in the Old Village Cemetery in the 1880s in memory of Hiram Dennison by the newly formed Brighton GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) chapter. Hiram, one of the sons of Isaac and Chloe Dennison (also spelled Denisan and Denison), enlisted in the Michigan 5th Infantry Regiment, Co. G on January 26, 1864.

Co. G endured many harsh conditions during the early months of 1864: wind, cold rain and snow. Many of the new recruits had not been fully equipped for winter with blankets or overcoats before leaving Detroit for Washington D.C. It was several days before they were able to construct huts for shelter. By the end of March, after experiencing severe winter weather, they were in the vicinity of Brandy Station and attached to the Army of the Potomac.

On May 3, 1864, the Michigan 5th had reached the old Chancellorsville battle field on the way to Orange Court House. "The enemy was met and a desperate battle ensued." It was during this engagement that it is assumed Hiram was captured by the rebels. He was imprisoned at infamous Andersonville Prison known for its very poor humanitarian conditions. He died June 30, 1864, and is buried there. Hiram left a widow, Eliza, whom he had married in 1859. He was farming the property his parents purchased in 1855.

Charles H. Dennison was probably an older brother of Hiram. He was among the first to volunteer in the 5th Michigan, Co. I, commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on August 27, 1861. He was later promoted to 1st Lieutenant on September 4, 1861. Dennison has the dubious distinction of being the first casualty of Co. I, being shot in the face while on scouting expedition at Pohick Church, Virginia in January, 1862. He resigned his commission March 6, 1862.

The Dennisons arrived in Michigan, settling in Oakland County, around 1838. Per the 1850 census, Isaac (born 1794) and Chloe

(born 1803) had come with sons Henry (and wife, Phebe), Luther and Hiram, all born in New York. Mary Elizabeth, Harvey and Martin were each born in Michigan. They lived on their 40 acre farm in Brighton Township (south side of McClements Road, just west of Hunter Road). The land was purchased from Samuel T. Williams of New York who bought it from the Federal government in 1835.

After Isaac's death on April 12, 1857, this property was purchased by daughter Mary Elizabeth from her siblings in 1863. Isaac, Chloe, William and Charles are each buried in the Old Village Cemetery. Mary married William Goucher, brother of Charles and Homer Goucher (also Civil War veterans) of whom have been written earlier. Both Mary and William are buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; Census records; the writings of Bill Pless; the cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field, and the Fairview Cemetery by Milton Charboneau. Corrections/additions, requested. 810-229-6402.

Lyon School Open House

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus had dozens of visitors at Lyon School December 18, 2011. Children gave Santa their requests and Mrs. Santa's helpers had cocoa, cookies and candy. Many Christmas decorations were made with the help of one of Santa's elves.

Help Wanted

Are you interested in getting involkved with the BAHS? We are currently seeking a new editor for our monthly newsletter, Trail Tales, and also a web master for the BAHS web site. Do you have skills in either area? If so, please contact us if you are interested in either position. Your help is needed!