

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 11)

In 1836, Seth Bidwell (born 1810 in New York) came to Livingston County. He had purchased 160 acres while still in New York and 40 more acres upon arrival. These parcels were located on the north and south sides of McClements Road one mile west of U.S. 23. His first wife, Laura Hutchens, had five children of which George Alfred was the third. After her death, his father married Nancy Arms and five more children were born.

George Alfred (born in 1845) enlisted in the 24th Michigan Infantry as a messenger, serving as a corporal from March through August of 1865. His deafness limited his time in service. Later, he was a member of Brighton GAR Post #179.

George married Wealthy Jane Clark (born 1840) probably in the early 1870s. Four children, Lewis (died an infant), William, Mae Lou, and Seth were born. Following Wealthy's death in 1887, George married Mary Blain in 1891. Two sons, Bennie and Henry were born to them (Bennie later served in WWI).

George purchased property in Brighton Village in 1869, and in 1895 owned 80 acres in Section 9, Brighton Township.

George Alfred died in 1922. He, Wealthy, Mary, and Lewis are buried in Old Village Cemetery. Most of his siblings and children married and had families. William Pless writes, "There are several descendants of George Alfred scattered over the state and the U.S.A."

According to the Brighton Argus, on March 3, 1912, "A runaway attracted considerable attention here Tuesday, John Shuldts left his team standing in front of the mill without hitching. They took fright and ran across to the West side passing over George A. Bidwell and Hans Reidel who were talking in the street and did not have time to get out of the way, Mr. Bidwell sustained a severe scalp wound and Mr. Reidel received a broken rib. Little Joseph Anderson was directly in the runaway's path but he screamed and the team turned out for him. Near Hyne's

elevator they ran into a telephone pole where they left the bobs and most of the harness. One of the team was caught near the depot and M.H. Tunis stopped the other at his place."

George Alfred's sister Julia married John Henry Gilbert. John was a private in Co. A, 10th Michigan Infantry from November 1862 to January 1863. He was later promoted to sergeant with Co. B, U.S. Sharpshooters from June 1863 to June 1865. John and Julia are buried in the Old Village Cemetery.

Another Alfred sister, Frances Elizabeth, married William Henry Platt, Esq. in October 1862. He had enlisted in New York on April 23, 1861, and served three months. By 1866 the family moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, later moving to California. Their five children were born in Nebraska.

In 1879, George and his father Seth were officers of the Brighton Grange #336. "The Brighton Grange has devoted itself more especially to the discussion of agricultural topics and subjects which should interest farmers, and has aimed by frequent intercourse to develop the social qualities of its members."

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Pless Supplement to Old Village Cemetery; census records; Bidwell family genealogical references from Jane Tomlinson; Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field. Corrections/additions, requested. 810-229-6402.

In Memorium

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

**Philip E. Steinacker
and
Guinn Heotaky**

Philip was the husband of former BAHS Board Member and community activist, Susan Steinacker. Guinn was the mother of Vicki Vichich, wife of current BAHS Board Member, Jim Vichich.