

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #303
Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 12)

In 1833, before Michigan became a state, Kinsley Scott Bingham, a native of New York, and his brother-in-law Robert Warden, purchasing 320 acres in Section 12 of Green Oak Township. Bingham and Warden (who emigrated from Scotland only a year earlier) were both law students.

Bingham married Margaret Warden and Warden married Caroline Bingham. The two couples, along with other family members, built a log house on Silver Lake Road. Stables and barns were built, fences erected, and virgin soil planted. Margaret died in 1834, only four days after giving birth to Kinsley Warden Bingham. About a year later sister Mary became Kinsley's wife. In 1840 James Warden Bingham was born. Although several other children were born to Mary, all died in infancy.

Kinsley Warden Bingham married Frances Woodruff, a nearby neighbor, and made the family farm a successful enterprise. His younger half brother, James, helped with chores in the often long absences of their father, Kinsley Scott Bingham, who served in township, state and national government positions.

James was educated to be a teacher, attending a Seminary in Ypsilanti. He had taught in Plymouth a short while. Evidence indicates he was also enrolled at Michigan Normal School (today known as Eastern Michigan University).

With the onset of the Civil War, James enlisted May 14, 1861, shortly before his father's death, October 5, 1861. James, a lieutenant in Co. H, 16th Infantry Regiment, was stationed in Peoria, Illinois, serving as a recruiter.

Letters between mother (Mary) and son, detail his movements, and her continual concerns about his well-being. In one letter she encourages him to get his coat 'wadded' for extra warmth.

James's duties included defense against "...despicable guerilla parties" and "...pursuit of the rebel Morgan". His unit would also be "...present at county elections at Busby Mills and see

that no violence was offered Union citizens exercising their right of free suffrage."

James's continual movements often delayed letters and caused much concern for each other's well-being. His mother Mary's grief over the death of her husband (Kinsley Scott Bingham) evokes much sympathy in today's reader. Controlling her feelings, she also writes of Kinsley Warden Bingham selling wool and grain, and of a good potato and apple crop.

As often occurs when conditions are poor, lonely, tired and hungry, ragged troops may consider mutiny. While in Tennessee, James writes of the necessity of "...keeping small mutinies down." The death toll from disease was astronomical.

On November 9, 1862, at 22, Lt. James W. Bingham died of typhoid dysentery at Bardstown, Kentucky. His mother brought him home to be buried with his father, his brother's twin baby boys, her own babies and her sister, in the family cemetery on a knoll south of the house.

At the time of Mary's death in 1872, and the sale of the farm, Kinsley Warden Bingham transferred all those interred in the family cemetery to the Old Village Cemetery.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Old Village Cemetery Supplement by Bill Pless; 1880 History of Livingston County; Old Village Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field; "Yesteryears of Green Oak, 1830-1930"; and Marilyn Harrington of Green Oak Township Historical Society archives. Corrections 810.229.6402.

Help Needed

Can you volunteer a few hours a month to serve in some capacity within the BAHS? We are in need people with professional skills willing to pitch and do their part in order to shoulder to burden of running our organization. We currently are seeking a treasurer, web site administrator, and editor for this newsletter. Please contact us for more details.