

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 13)

Charles E. Cushing's grandparents, John (b. 1786, Nova Scotia) and Elizabeth (b. 1789, Maine) arrived in Michigan in 1815. Elizabeth located land in Section 30 of Brighton Township, 160 acres (north of Main Street to Cross Street and from 7th Street to approximately East Street). John, in Section 23, Genoa Township, directly west of Elizabeth's purchased 240 acres.

Their children, Benjamin (b. 1814), William (b. 1819) and Lucy (b. 1822), all born in Canada following the War of 1812, were with them (this war reasserted the border between Canada and the U.S. as set in the Treaty of Paris, 1782, following the Revolutionary War).

The children all pitched in and a log cabin was built on Elizabeth's property on the west side of Ore Creek. John, a farmer, (d. 3-13-1856) and Elizabeth (d. 6-30-1863) are both buried in the Old Village Cemetery.

Son Benjamin was a hotel keeper for Robert D. Power, who had a tavern on the southeast corner of Grand River and Spencer. In 1850, Benjamin built the Brighton House, (northeast corner of Grand River and Main), prospering on the newly planked road between Detroit and Lansing, site of the new Michigan State Capitol. He married Louisa. They had William b. 1839 (who moved to Nebraska and died in Colorado February, 1921); Frances b. 1843 (she died at 12 years); Charles E. b. 1846, and George b. 1850.

Charles E. became an apprentice harness maker. Following the death of his father, Benjamin in 1860, we find Charles with his mother until her death in 1886. At age 19, Charles E. began his service in the Civil War March 17, 1865, as a Private in Co. F., 11th Michigan Cavalry, serving until September 22, 1865. What he hadn't learned earlier about horses, harnesses, etc., he surely learned while in the cavalry. Following his discharge, he ran a store supplying local owners of horses. Charles' shop was lo-

cated approximately at 307 W. Main. He made, repaired and sold harnesses, horse blankets, whips, saddles, bridles, bits, etc. Sporting goods: guns, fishing tackles, shot, powder, shells, etc., were also available. He was a member of the Brighton Gun Club; the Brighton Fire Department and served as a Village trustee in 1877.

Charles married Sarah E. Case September 28, 1868, daughter of M.C. Case, a local merchant. He built their home on the west side of Ann Arbor Road (Whitmore Lake Road) about ¾ miles south of Maltby Road. An infant son died in 1872. Daughter Carrie (b. 6-19-1880) an 1896 Brighton High School graduate, married Frank P. Hacker August 2, 1902. Frank owned a service station on the corner of W. Grand River and Flint Road.

Charles E. (d. 11-11-1910) and Sarah (d. 3-22-1909) and ten others by the name of Cushing are buried at the Old Village Cemetery.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless writings; "From Settlement to City - 1832-1945 - Brighton" by Carol McMacken; census records; S. Leith genealogy; 1880 History of Livingston County; Old Village Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field. Corrections/additions, requested. 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 of people with professional skills willing to pitch in 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.