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. 1821), 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 Spen- cer. 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. 1841 (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 1880, 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 located approximately at 307 W. Maile. He made, repaired and sold harnesses, horse blankets, whips, saddles, bridles, bits, etc. Sporting goods: guns, fishing tackle, 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 ½ miles south of Maltby Road. An infant son died in 1872. Daughter Carrie (b. 6-19-1886) 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 Marieanne Bair from Bill Plass writings; “From Settlement to City – 1832-1945 – Brighton” by Carol McKee; census records; S. Leith genealogy, 1890 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 the 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.

30 Year Anniversary of BAHS

From 2007, the second edition of “From Settlement to City – 1832-1945 – Brighton” was printed. Thanks to volunteers, the BAHS is represented regularly at local events, such as the Farmers’ Market, the Art Fair, Summerfest, etc.

The donation in 2008, of a new computer, high resolution scanner and flat screen monitor plus software, training and memory backup, contributed immeasurably to the accessibility of our archives. Volunteers are scanning the BAHS ephemeral collection.

The continued preservation of the Old Village Cemetery has also become an ongoing annual project. The City of Brighton responded with major improvements to the east side of the cemetery. The BAHS installed a new cemetery gate in 2009 making the cemetery accessible to visitors. A concrete walk was also constructed encouraging visitors. In May 2010, a rededication of the Old Village Cemetery took place and regular guided tours conducted (cont’d next page)

Points of Interest:
- Read about the 30-year History of the BAHS
- The Story of Civil War Veterans buried in Old Village Cemetery continues in this issue’s historical perspective

The strongest reason for the people to retain their right to keep and bear arms is as a last resort to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

Thomas Jefferson

(1743-1826)
Draft Constitution for Virginia (June 1776)

Inside This Issue:
- Events to Remember
- Thrift and Recreation
- BAHS Cut Shop
- BAHS Leadership
- Cemetery Rents
- Historical Preservation

Preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.