Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 14)

The 11th Michigan Cavalry was organized in March 1865. Wallace Henry Case enlisted as a private in Co. A, March 17, 1865, serving until September 22, 1865. His father, Rodman, was the fourth child born to Samuel and Katie who came to Michigan c. 1838. Wallace was the second of six children.

Upon his return from the service, he married Emma Acker in 1866. He bought property in Brighton Township on Brighton Lake Road (SW4 of the NW4, Section 31, Brighton Township) on January 28, 1867.

The 1870 census finds them in a two-story store, the second door west of 401 W. Main St., with Wallace's occupation noted as a butcher. They lived upstairs with children Frank, Bessie (who died at 19 months) and Celestia. The first telephone company organized in Brighton was located there with Emma and Celestia serving as operators.

Wallace died December, 1915. He and Emma are two of 15 members of the Case family buried in the Old Village Cemetery. Not only did soldiers die on the battlefield of the Civil War, they often were discharged because of disability and died later at home. Charles H. Pease (born 1838 in Michigan) was one of these. His parents, Charles W. (born 1812 in New York) and Sarah (born 1813 in New York), came to Brighton in 1834 purchasing property in Section 9.

Both Charles's parents died by 1859. He continued farming until enlisting November 7, 1863, in Co. F, 27th Michigan Cavalry, with 20 others from Livingston County, seeing action in Tennessee and Alabama. Discharged for disability (disease), he died October 9, 1864 and joined his parents in the Old Village Cemetery. Research indicates of the 20 who enlisted with Charles, only 15 survived. The five others died of disease or wounds, a 25% fatality rate.

The 6th Michigan Cavalry was organized August 12, 1862. Of the 1200 men, 50 were from Livingston County. Among them was John A. Platt. The 6th saw much active service in Georgia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, including Gettysburg. John Platt was assigned to Co. B on February 9, 1864, and later died in Richmond Prison June 11, 1864. Eight other Livingston County men died in Confederate prisons in 1864; four in Richmond Prison and four in Andersonville Prison. Of the original 50, a total of 17 died in the service of the 6th Cavalry.

John's parents, William and Mary Ellen Platt arrived in Michigan around 1835. John and two brothers, Thomas and George, who died at a young age, are buried in the Old Village Cemetery. Their parents and siblings moved on to Nebraska around 1872, and their descendants to California.

Compiled by Marianna Blair from census records; 1880 History of Livingston County; Old Village Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Fields; writings of Bill Pless; Case genealogy by S. Leith and Balwell records from Jane Tomlinson.

Corrections/additions, requested. 810-229-6402.

Did you know—the new "Brighton Area" pictorial history book that consists of 198 photo's and 128 pages is available at the Brighton Farmers' market every Saturday from 8 am—1 pm. The Society's booth is located in front of Lyn's cafe. The book cost is $20.00. The book can also be purchased at the Cobach Center, Lawrence Autobody, Parent Teacher Tech Center and by calling Jim Vichich at 810-250-7276.

Due to a change of Editors this issue is a few days late. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

30 Year Anniversary for BAHS

Well into its 31st year of existence, the BAHS continues promoting our mission: preservation and dissemination of area history. This provides an excellent opportunity for all to learn the early history of our local area. We continue our effort to encourage the preservation and reuse of early local structures.

The acquisition of knowledge related to the history of our area helps all to find where and how we fit into the scheme of life. The BAHS works to preserve the irreplaceable—local memory of the area—and make it available to others.

Financial support of our mission from individuals and area businesses is recognized and applauded. (cont'd page 2)