Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 16)


Of the men placed in Co. D. 102 were from Livingston County. The 15th Regiment was organized in the fall of 1861, with its rendezvous at Monroe, Michigan. Norton enlisted February 6, 1862.

March 27, 1862, Co. D. left for Pittsburg Landing, MS. arriving April 5, 1862. April 6, the battle began. Co. D. lost 33 killed, 64 wounded, seven missing. Corinthis, MS was its next destination but by then Henry C. Norton was no longer with Co. D. He had died in the hospital on May 29, 1862.

Henry’s parents were Charles S. and Electa Norton of MA. Charles S. died in 1858 at age 52. Electa lived until her 72nd year in 1889. With his parents and a presumed uncle and aunt, Henry C. lies buried at Old Village Cemetery. From Bill Pless’ writings we learn “Erastus A. Pratt Jr. was 26 when he came to Brighton with his father in 1844, where Erastus A. Pratt Sr. had a blacksmith shop in the middle of the block on the south side of E. North Street. There he worked at his trade for 22 years, and made most of the plow iron used in the surrounding country.”

When the Michigan 15th Infantry Regiment was organized October 22, 1861, Erastus A. Pratt, Jr., was made 1st Lt. of Co. D. He was promoted to Captain October 1, 1862. The 15th served through the siege of Corinth, MS, June 1863. It was ordered to Vicksburg, MS, participating in the siege of that city. October found it with the Army of the Cumberland. After veterans’ furlough it took part in Sherman’s Georgia campaign, and the ‘march to the sea’.

Mustered out December 24, 1864, Erastus Jr. returned home to wife Minerva Wodden (daughter of Truman Wodden) and 16 year old daughter Florence. (She later married Leslie J. Steels.) Erastus’ brother Luther Croydon married Lucy C. Norton (whose brother was Henry C.). Their daughter, Kate V., married B.T.O. Clark whose obituary states he “served in Co. E. 11th Michigan Infantry, mustered out at Detroit, 1865.” All of the above named are buried in the Old Village Cemetery. Erastus had a sister, Mary, who taught in Brighton for a time then moved back to New York where she died, 1849.

After his return from service Erastus A. Jr. bought a farm in Green Oak township, Section 21 and 22 near Silver Lake. Minerva died in 1884, Erastus in 1891.

(Compiled by Marianne Bar from writings of Bill Pless; 1880 History of Livingston County; census records; transcription of Old Village Cemetery by John and Janice Field; Early Land Owners of Livingston County and obituary compiled by Milton Charboneau. Corrections/Additions, requested. 810-229-6402.)

Did you know?

The new “Brighton Area” pictorial history book that consists of 198 photos 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 Lynn’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.

Brighton’s New Downtown Museum Needs Volunteers

The City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center will soon start its fourth year of operation this fall. Located in the 1879 classic two-story red brick building adjacent to Brighton’s beautiful Millpond (also known as the Old Town Hall), one will find historical displays. The Brighton Area Historical Society is one of three non-profits that operates and maintains the museum. You will also find art that has been created by the talented artisans of the Brighton Art Guild and experience drama performances by Brighton’s own The Livingston Players.

The society needs your help to create those personal displays that reflect earlier days of our Brighton community. Many of you have your experiences in visiting museums across the country, it matters little, whether a museum visit occurs in a large city or small town. Frequently those scenes release sounds of the past that resonate in your head as your mind instantly travels back to earlier days.

Do you have personal items to loan that reflect the earlier days of Brighton? How about the “Brighton” sign from the old Peri Marquette Depot Station? Have you seen in your parents’ garage the wooden “Western House” signs that once resided at the top of the building next to the railroad tracks? Did one of your grandparents pass down their old menu from the Eastern House or the Canopy Restaurant? The society needs your help to retrieve those mementos from the past.

The City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center needs your help to work the welcome desk. You do not need to leave the first floor. You can read a book or surf the web with your laptop in-between visiting with guests. Do you have ability to volunteer for a three hour period one or more days per month? The historical society needs assistance for early evening operations from 5-8 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Call me with suggestions as to how you may help. Volunteers are needed for various roles. The sharing of knowledge, time, or items to loan will be a benefit to our community and will help preserve the past for the future!

Jim Vichich (810) 250-7276

Points of Interest:

Read about a Request for Volunteers

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The Story of Civil War Veterans Buried in Old Village Cemetery

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Question:

In Carol McMacken’s book titled “From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1832-1945”, (available from the Brighton Historical Society), the Brighton Hotel at the corner of Main and Grand River was the location of the election that officially gave Brighton the status of an incorporated village. What was the date of that election?

(See page 2 for the answer)