Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 17)

In 1870, John W. Hutchings, from England via Illinois, was a laborer for farmer Lyman Judson. Judson owned 150 acres in Section 19 of Brighton Township, about a mile north of town in 1859.

While in Illinois John enlisted, at 18, in Co. A. 69th Illinois Infantry, serving from June 9, 1861 until August 26, 1861, 2.5 months. He was perhaps discharged because of his youth. December 14, 1863, at 20, he enlisted in Co. A. 8th Illinois Cavalry. He was mustered out, July 12, 1865, the result of a skull fracture suffered following his horse's fall.

In Brighton he met and married Sarah A. Pentlin c. 1877. Daughter, Mable, died at one year. A son, Arthur, was born in 1881. John received a soldier's pension of six dollars per month. He and Sarah lived at 315 West North Street all their lives. He was a member of the D.C. Russell GAR Post #179. John died July 13, 1902, of an unknown illness. He, Sarah and Mable are resting in the Old Village Cemetery.

At the age of 37, Ransome M. Fillmore arrived in the Brighton area in 1882, with his parents Weller (a farmer) and Abigail, from Genesee County, New York. Two years later, September 3, 1884, he enlisted as a private in Co. A. Michigan Infantry. Nine months later, he was mustered out in Nashville, TN. The 9th Michigan Infantry had also served in Atlanta, GA.

Ransome married Viola Case November 10, 1867, when she was 21. Viola was a granddaughter of Samuel Case, who settled in Hamburg in 1837. She was a cousin of Wallace Case, noted in the June 2012 issue of the "Trail Tales". Censuses records indicated Ransome was a carpenter when they married. By 1870, he was a barber. In 1875, Ransome helped organize and was a charter member of the Brighton Cornet Band, in time for the Centennial. The Sinal Tent #44 ETON of Brighton included him on the membership roll as did the Masonic Lodge #824 and the D.C. Russell Post #179 of the GAR.

In 1879, Ransome leased, and was proprietor of the Western Hotel (500 West Main) built in 1873. At that time the hotel was owned by R.D. Skillbeck.

When the State Militia started training at Island Lake beginning in 1882, Ransome had a branch barbershop on the grounds.

Not long after their son, Rollo was born, 1871, the couple purchased lot 41 and 42 of Noble's Flat on Grand River in Brighton. It is likely the family built a residence which might have included a barbershop at that location, 225 West Grand River. After the family moved to Lansing in 1901, it appears the home eventually housed a restaurant before burning in 1952. Not long after, Tom and Virginia Dissipate built a residence and a beauty shop on the site. In 2012, this site was cleared for development.

While in Lansing, Ransome was prominent in the organization of Michigan State Board of Barber Examiners serving in executive positions. At the time of his death, February 20, 1908, he was serving as treasurer. Ransome's parents and Viola are also interred in the Village Cemetery. Son Rollo died November 15, 1941. There is no marker for him but research indicates he is also buried there.

(Compiled by Marianna Bair from; 1880 History of Livingston County; "Form Settlement to City-Brighton" by Carol McMacken; Case family genealogy by Steven Leith; census records; Old Village Cemetery transcriptions by John and Janice Field; obituaries compiled by M. Charbonneau.

Corrections/Additions, requested. 810-320-6403.)

Trail Tales

Brighton Mills, West Street c.1910

Trail Tales Trivia Test Number 1

1. The location of Mt. Brighton Ski facility was formerly a (n) ?
   (Answers in right hand column)
2. What year did Brighton become a village?
3. Which Brighton school is named after the first settler of Brighton?
4. What is the name of the famous Brighton restaurant that was located on Grand River Ave.
   and had a green awning over the entrance?
5. Name the stream that meanders through Brighton's Millpond Park?
6. Name the car company that owned the Brighton Mills on West Street for a short period during the 1940's?
7. What is the name of the company that started in Brighton making tee-tops for production model cars in the 1970's?
8. The 1873 red brick hotel located adjacent to the railroad tracks on Main Street was known in the 1960/1970's as the ________ Hotel.
9. Last name of the Brighton resident who was in the Civil War and was a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School?
10. What was the original name of Brighton when first settled?
11. What was the name of the first saw mill in Brighton located just east of Third Street and Franklin?
12. What year was the Old Town Hall built, now the location of CoBACH Center?
13. Name the Michigan governor buried in Fairview Cemetery?
14. What Street was previously named Fifth Street?
15. What is the current name of the building that housed Brighton High School in 1935?
16. Correctly spell Brighton's first modern hospital?
17. Name the former bank that housed the Brighton telephone exchange on its second floor in 1915?
18. What local lake had the 'Blue Lantern Dance Hall' in the 1940's?
19. What was the name of the type of road built in the 1850s that went from Detroit to Lansing and was made of three inch thick boards?
20. What is the name of the current business located in the building that housed the former Lawson Bank?