

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**Part 1 — “Sham Battle”**

**Part of M.N.G. Program—Memorial Day 1930**

**Three Day Memorial Observance Drew Many Visitors: Band Gives Fine Concert**

“Extending her hospitality to the 320 men and officers of the Michigan National Guard and bidding them a hearty welcome both by spoken word and an unusual display of the national colors along her streets and over the fronts and windows of her places of business, Brighton observed Memorial Day in fitting and impressive manner. The Memorial Day observances were followed by a number of interesting exhibitions by the visiting soldiers and a military memorial service which was held Sunday morning on a high hill within the military encampment.

The Pere Marquette train bringing the city’s guests, arrived an hour late. The soldiers formed and marched down Main Street and assembled in squad formation in front of the city hall, where they listened to a brief impressive, address of welcome which was delivered by C. A. Kelley.”

*Mr. Kelley said: “Officers and Men of the 125th Inf. M.N.G.: It is indeed a great pleasure for me to accept the invitation of the commander of the American Legion Post of this city to extend to you the address of welcome upon this most solemn occasion.”*

*“You have come today to be our guests and to help us honor our brave dead, our men who lie sleeping beneath their laurels of victory within our quiet church yards. And it is fitting and right that you, their comrades (for all soldiers are comrades) should assist in this sad rite, and although we cannot consecrate we cannot dedicate the memory of the brave men who freely gave the last full measure of devotion, we can at least perpetrate their memory in the heart of a grateful Republic.”*

*“They are the dead, you are the living, guard well their noble tradition. Keep bright the bayonets that in your hands constitute a living wall between a hostile world and our beloved Republic.*

*Let us never become so wedded in our own selfish interest that we will forget those who have made our present happiness possible.”*

*“Soldiers, in the name of the businessmen of the City of Brighton and in the name of her citizens and the Jessie B. Cooley Post of the American Legion, I welcome you—heartily and cordially. I welcome you.”*

“The troops then made a short march up Grand River to the old cemetery, where the customary ceremonies were conducted in charge of Commander Singer of the local Legion Post, assisted by Ray Baldwin, as chaplain, and Peter J. Leitz as sergeant in arms. The firing squad and bugler were furnished by the National Guard.

Of Brighton’s seven survivors of the Civil War, three only were able to be present at this ceremony, Col. Henry B. Appleton, Wesley E. Rogers and W. H. Seger. The others were physically unable to attend.”

*(To be continued...)*

*(The above was submitted by Mindy Kinsey and is reprinted from the June 4, 1930 Brighton Argus.)*

