

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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Conclusion — “Sham Battle”

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

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

“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.”

“Following these ceremonies, the troops marched to the range on U.S. 23, established camp while flag and flower details were sent to outlying cemeteries. In the afternoon, the soldiers had a little freedom to attend a baseball game, which was a good one, between Hamburg and Pinckney, the former winning by a two to one score. About 400 people were in attendance.

Saturday morning, the troops prepared for the sham battle which occurred in the afternoon, featuring automatic rifles, machine guns, 327’s and howitzers. Three planes also took part in the battle. The troops were formed into two opposing groups, the “reds” and “blues”—two of the planes being with the blues and one with the reds. The reds made a charge, drawing the blues from their positions and taking some prisoners. The air-planes demonstrated the feature of locating the enemy by dropping signals also messages to their group and also diving down and cutting loose at the enemy with machine guns. After the reds had advanced to a certain position and set up their guns they put up a smoke screen to conceal their position. The blues also used a smoke screen to cover their retreat. The objective reached, the troops were called together and stood for review.

In the evening there was a pyro-technical display, including one shell star, which was very spectacular.

The Sunday Morning services which were held at the hill on the range were conducted by the Rev. Fr. Schulte, Chaplain ranking also as Captain of the 125th Inf. Reg. M.N.G. They were participated in by the troops, the bands and a goodly number of citizens. Father Schulte spoke on preparedness. The Methodist Episcopal Church dismissed services to attend. Afternoon mess troopers escorted the members of Cooley Post, No. 2335, American Legion, to the station in appreciation of the hospitality shown and the soldiers then entrained for Detroit.

Over Saturday there were many reserve officers out watching the maneuvers of the troops. Brighton appreciated the presence of the soldiers and assures them of a hearty welcome when they come again.”

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

TO OUR READERS:

If you or your family have been residents of Brighton for a long time, we would like you to consider submitting a story for publication on Page 4 of our newsletter.

Please send your story to BAHS, P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116. Thank you.