

Charles Bruckner Civil War Years

On September 6, 1861 Charles Bruckner enlisted in Company K, 5th Michigan Infantry in Detroit, Michigan, and his services are given in the “State Record of the Fifth Michigan Infantry” under the name of “Brickner or Bruckner, John Charles (veteran)”. Charles is mentioned in the military records as “Companion Bruckner”.

Companion Bruckner was mustered in at Saginaw, Michigan on September 28, 1861 and was appointed sergeant December 15, 1863, made 1st sergeant in 1864; mustered out for re-enlistment as a “veteran” in 1864, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, Company 1 on October 9, 1864 and finally honorably discharged (mustered out) of service at Jeffersonville, Indiana on July 5, 1865.

John Charles Bruckner participated in the following battles of the Civil War:

- The siege of Corktown, Virginia, April 4 to May 4, 1862
- Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5, 1862
- Fair Oaks, Virginia, May 31, 1862; 7 days before Richmond, Virginia, March 1, 1864
- Manassas, Virginia
- Fredricksburg, Virginia, December 11-14, 1862;
- Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 1-6, 1863
- Gerrysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1-4, 1863
- Kelly’s Ford, Virginia, September 13, 1863, June 9, 1863, November 7, 1863
- Locust Grove, Virginia November 27, 1863
- The Battle of the Wilderness May 5-7, 1864 in which Charles was wounded in the eye
- Deep Bottom, Virginia, July 27-28, 1864
- Petersburg, Virginia, including the siege of from June 17-1864 to April 3, 1865
- The capture of Petersburg, Virginia, April 3, 1865
- Boydton Plank Rd, Virginia October 8-27, 1864; and Boydton Plank Rd, Virginia, April 2, 1865.
- He also served in other engagements with the Army of the Potomac, such as Auburn Heights, Peach Orchard, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, Battle of the Second Bull Run, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and Hatcher Run.

Charles Company, Company K is the Saginaw City Light Infantry. Company K was part of the 5th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. The 5th Michigan Infantry was scarcely ever out of the range of enemy fire before Petersburg for nine months, and when that City fell it was one of the first regiments to plant its battle flag on the Confederate’s breastworks. The 5th Infantry then followed the retreating army to the Appomatox Court House.

After Companion Bruckner was mustered out, he returned to Detroit and 24 days after being out of service he went to the court house in Detroit and on the 29th of July, 1865 he

promptly became a citizen of the United States, a country for whom he has so proudly fought during the last 4 years. His citizenship papers state:

State of Michigan, County of Wayne.

Charles Bruckner, an alien, being of the age of about twenty two years, desirous of becoming a citizen of the United States of America, in conformity to the laws of the United States relative to the naturalization of aliens, comes into the court aforesaid, now in session, and makes the following declaration, to viz.

That he was born in Schwarzburg in Hanover, Germany, in allegiance to the King of Hanover, that he emigrated from Germany, sailing from the port of Hamburg, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty four and arrived in the United States in the same year; and that he arrived in the State of Michigan in the same year, and that he intends to settle and remain in the County of Wayne, in said State, and that for the past 3 years it has been his bonafide intention to become a citizen of the United States.

**Done at Detroit this 29th
day of July, A.D. 1865**

(signed) Charles Bruckner

I, Charles Bruckner, above named, do solemnly swear that the facts set forth in the above declaration are true, and that it is bona-fide my intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to each and every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly the King of Hanover of whom I have been a subject.

**Sworn and Subscribed in Open Court before
Me this 29th day of July,
A.D. 1865
Henry Chucking
Deputy Clerk**

(signed) Charles Bruckner

Charles Bruckner married Miss Catherine Hilsendagen of Detroit in 1861, by whom he had 3 children, Rosa, Edward, and Henrietta. Catherine died February 16, 1894. After the death of Catherine Charles married Theresa who was born in January, 1862 in Michigan, and they had one child, Louisa, born May, 1887, whom Charles had named after his mother Louisa, and also his sister who was also named Louisa. Grandmother Louisa was very pleased that her granddaughter was named after her.

The 1900 census shows that Charles Bruckner was a baggage man and was employed 12 months out of the year. He was able to read and write English and he owned his own home free and clear. Both his wife and daughter could read, write and speak English. His daughter attended school 9 months out of the year.

Charles Bruckner began his working career as a patternmaker prior to the Civil War. After the Civil War Charles worked first as a policeman while living at 184 Lafayette E. In Detroit, then as a brakeman for the MCRR, starting in 1871. He was then living side by side with his brother Edward at 206 Alfred in Detroit. In 1877 Charles became a baggage man for the MCRR, and in 1888 became a baggage master. His nephew, Charles F, son of Edward, became a watchman for the MCRR about this time. Around 1906 Charles moved to 448 Bagg St. in Detroit and was both a watchman and a policeman for the MCRR. In 1909 he became a special policeman for the MCRR and moved to a house at 369 Chene St. in Detroit. Charles retired from the MCRR around 1913 after having served this company faithfully for about 50 years. Charles briefly came out of retirement to become a chauffeur in 1918. Charles moved in with his ailing sister Louisa Bruckner Schonau Herbertz around 1921, and she died shortly afterwards at the age of 76 years, after having had her last year made considerably more comfortable by her considerate brother Charles.

Charles had one weakness which caused some hardship for his family members in the last years of his life, he was rather fond of alcohol and could imbibe a little too much for the comfort of his family on occasion. Other than that he was a steady worker, and a loving faithful husband and father. His sister Louisa was quite attached to him and was glad to have him in her extremity.

Charles was proud of the fact that his son Edward W. Bruckner was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and that his grandson, Lieutenant Charles Russell Bruckner served in the 120th Machine Gun Battalion During World War 1.

When Charles Bruckner passed away he was also survived by his daughter, Henrietta Ingabrand. His other daughter by this first marriage passed away before him.

Charles Bruckner passed away on the 1st of November, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan. He was buried in Woodmere Cemetary on the near west side of Detroit next to his first wife Catherine, who died 2-20-1894, his daughter Rose Bruckner who passed away on 5-15-1923. He was later joined in eternal repose by his son Edward W. Bruckner on 7-3-1928 and a great grandchild Lucy Bruckner, on 2-9-1959. Charles Bruckner and his son Edward have headstones.

Charles' family plot is located on Lot No. 810 N3/4 of NE ¼, Section A5 & 809 S1/2 of SE ¼ (180 sq. ft) (12 x 15). This lot was originally purchased by Charles Bruckner on March 5th, 1894, deed No. 3766, later 14489. On November 5, 1923 Mrs. Henrietta Ingabrand and Edward W. Bruckner stated that they are the children and the only living heirs of Charles Bruckner, deceased. Mrs. Henrietta Ingabrand assigned her interest in this lot to Edward W. Bruckner this date.

**Military Order of the Loyal Legion
Of the
United States
Commandery of the State of Michigan**

In Memoriam

Companion

Lieutenant Charles Bruckner
2nd Lieutenant 5th Michigan Infantry
Insignia No. 10276

Died at Detroit, Michigan November 1, 1923

Circular No. 8
Series of 1923
Whole No. 641

Headquarters,
Detroit, Michigan

Lieutenant Charles Bruckner
5th Michigan Infantry

Born Saxony, Germany October 1, 1842
Died Detroit, Michigan November 1, 1923

Companion Charles Bruckner was born in Germany in 1842, and came with father and mother to Detroit, Michigan in 1849. He received an education in the public school and before the Civil War became a patternmaker.

Companion Bruckner enlisted in Company K, 5th Michigan Infantry on September 6, 1861, at Detroit, Michigan and his services are given in the State "Record of the Fifth Michigan Infantry" under the name of "Brickner or Bruckner, John Charles (veteran)."

Companion Bruckner was mustered in at Saginaw September 28, 1861 and was appointed Sergeant December 15, 1863, made 1st Sergeant in 1864; mustered out for re-enlistment as a "veteran" in 1864, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, Company I, October 9, 1864, and finally honorably discharged (mustered out) of service at Jeffersonville, Indiana July 5, 1865.

Companion Bruckner was wounded in Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, on May 1, 1864, in the right eye. He participated in the battles of the regiment, including Williamsburg, Virginia, Fair Oaks, Peach Orchard, Malvern Hill, and the second Bull Run, 1862; Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862; Chancellorsville, 1863; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania July 2 & 3, 1863; Auburn Heights and Kelly's Ford, Virginia 1863; The Wilderness, May 5, 6, & 7, 1864; Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, Virginia 1864; Hatcher Run and the capture of Petersburg, Virginia, April, 1865, and other engagements with the Army of the Potomac.

The 5th Michigan Infantry was scarcely ever out of the range of enemy guns before Petersburg for nine months, and when that city fell it was one of the first regiments to plant its battle flag on the Confederates' breastworks, and followed the retreating army to Appomatox Court House.

After Companion Bruckner was mustered out, he returned to Detroit, where he entered the employment of the Michigan Central Rail Road (MCRR) and subsequently was employed on the Detroit Police Force, and attached to No. 9 Volunteer Fire Company.

He married Miss Catherine Hilsendagen of Detroit, in 1861, by whom he had three children- Rosa, Edward, and Henrietta. She died February 16, 1894.

He is survived by a son, Edward W. Bruckner, a veteran of the Spanish-American War; a daughter Mrs. Henrietta Ingabrand, and a grandson, Lieutenant Charles Russell Bruckner, who served in the 120th Machine Gun Battalion during the World War.

The Loyal Legion are justly proud of the fact that three generations of the family have served under the American Flag: in the Civil War, the war with Spain, and the late World War.

While the inevitable departure of Companion Bruckner is a loss to his family and our Order, his records are a proud inheritance and the Commandery extend their sympathy to the family at his death.

Charles A. Coolidge,
Recorder

G.B. Green
Commander