

JOSEPH BANDEL

By Marian Ruhland Burmester

Joseph Bandel was born on September 21, 1830 in Württemberg, Germany. As a young man Joseph received an academic education, later attended a medical college at Heidelberg in his birth state of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and graduated at the end of five years. He was then appointed a surgeon in the military service of Germany, a position he filled for nearly three years. Joseph arrived in this country in 1852. During this time period, Joseph, along with many other German people, were disappointed that the German states weren't able to unite. After the revolution they decided to emigrate and start a new life in a new world. Many of these people were well-educated and not the typical immigrants. Joseph settled first in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he married Christina Phillip. A year later in 1853 Joseph and his wife Christina moved to Madison, Wisconsin. In 1861 they moved to the Franklin Township in Sauk County, Wisconsin and settled on the farm which is presently owned by Joseph and Marjorie Prem.



Bandel's Civil War canteen

On Nov. 20, 1863, during the Civil War, Joseph was drafted into the US military at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin as a Sergeant in Company H, 37th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers for a period of 3 years. His description is listed as: Height: 5' 11", Complexion: Fair, Eyes: Blue, Hair: Brown, Born: Germany, Occupation: Farmer.

Other members of Company H that were from Franklin Township are as follows:

Gasser, George – Oct. 29, 1864 – Drafted; Mustered Out July 27, 1865

Gelhaus, Arnold – Oct. 29, 1864 – Drafted; Mustered Out July 27, 1865

Lamb, William A. – Nov. 15, 1863 – Drafted; Mustered Out July 27, 1865

Luther, Paul – Oct. 3, 1864 – Drafted; Mustered Out July 27, 1865

Scoville, Levi – Nov. 19, 1863 – Drafted; wnd. June 17, 1864,

Petersburg, Va.; transferred to V. R. C., Apr. 25, 1865

Wintermantle, Jacob – Oct. 29, 1864 – Drafted; Mustered Out July 27, 1865

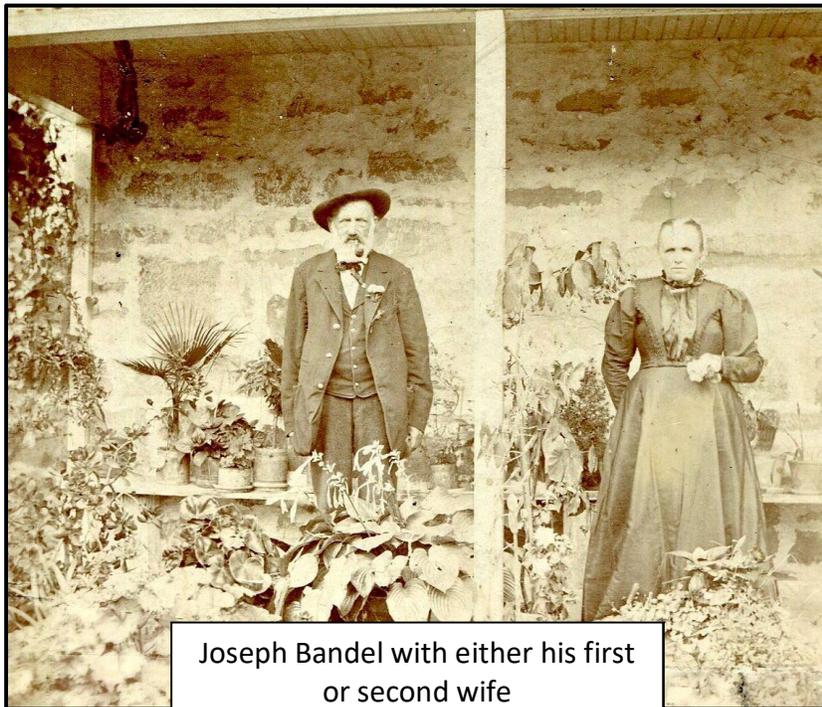
The obituary for Joseph says that he was promoted to Second Lieutenant for bravery on the field of battle, but his military file says that he accepted a promotion on January 8, 1863 to fill a vacancy by the discharge of 2nd Lieutenant J. H. Brightman.

According to Joseph's military file on February 16, 1865, he writes a letter asking for a leave of absence for 20 days, "Firstly – Sickness in my family. Secondly – My wife and six children are in destitute circumstances, and I desire to make the necessary arrangements for their proper support. Thirdly – I have been in the service of the United States, and I never missed doing duty a day, for one year. Fourthly – I have never had a furlough or leave of absence." On February 18, 1865, Joseph is listed as absent, so he must have gotten his leave of absence that he had requested. From March to May 1865, Joseph is listed as present. Finally on May 27, 1865, Joseph writes a letter of resignation as 2nd Lieutenant in Company H, 37th Regiment Wis. Volunteers Infantry, because of sickness in his family. "My wife and young children are in such circumstances as to be in a helpless condition, she has for some time past been sick with six

small children to care for and justice to them demands of me to return to their protecting care as soon as practicable.” On June 2, 1865, his resignation was approved and on June 7, 1865, Joseph was discharged. In reading through his military file I found no mention of Joseph using his medical education during his time of service to the United States during the Civil War.

The Thirty-seventh Infantry was organized at Camp Randall, Madison, Wisconsin in the spring of 1864. With the urgent need of men, the first six companies left Wisconsin to join the army of the Potomac on April 28. Company L and Joseph’s Company H joined the first six companies on May 17. They participated in the first assaults on Petersburg in Virginia at the battle of Reams Station, and were in action at Hatcher’s Run. They spent the winter in and around Petersburg, often under fire. The Thirty-seventh also participated in the Grand Review at Washington on May 23 and May 24, 1865, following the close of the Civil War. The Regiment was mustered out at Tenleytown in the District of Columbia on July 26, 1865.

After the Civil War, Joseph lived a very active life in the community serving as Chairman for the Franklin Town Board, the Town Assessor of Franklin for three terms and President of the Franklin Farmers Fire Insurance Company.



Joseph Bandel with either his first or second wife

Even though Joseph resigned the military to care for his sick wife, Christina didn’t die until November 29, 1884. Her obituary in the Weekly Home News of Thursday, December 4, 1884 stated; “Mrs. Bandel who had been insane for several years died last Sunday and was buried in the White Mound Cemetery.” The obituary for Joseph says they had twelve children at the time of her death, but “The History of Sauk County, Wisconsin, 1880” stated that they had ten children and owned 300 acres of well improved land.

On February 17, 1886, Joseph, married Theresia Hutter Weishan widow of John Weishan. John was also a veteran of the Civil War serving at the age of 41 as a private in Company K, 18th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry. He passed away on September 18, 1878 leaving Theresia with three children. Together Joseph and Theresia farmed around 300 acres until 1900 when they moved in with Theresia Bandel’s daughter and son-in-law, Bertha (Weishan) and Robert Nachreiner near White Mound.



Bandel's rocking chair

For several years, Joseph had been in poor health and finally died of pneumonia on January 3, 1913. Reverend Dahns of Prairie du Sac conducted the funeral on January 6th. He was a member of the T. J. Hungerford Post, G. A. R. and his lifelong friend Thomas Claridge of Reedsburg read the service of the Post.



Tooth extractor used by Bandel

After being ill for several years, Theresia died on October 18, 1915. Her funeral was held at St. Luke's with Reverend George Pesch officiating, and her body was laid to rest in St. Luke's Old Cemetery in the family plot with her first husband John Weishan.

Sources of this article are as follows:

- The History of Sauk County, Wisconsin - 1880 by Western Historical Company - Biographical Sketches - pages 823 & 824
- Weekly Home News, Thursday, January 9, 1913 (Died January 6, 1913) (Joseph Bandel obituary)
- Weekly Home News, Thursday, December 4, 1884 (Christina Phillip Bandel obituary)
- Weekly Home News, Thursday, October 28, 1915 (Theresia Hutter Weishan Bandel obituary)
- National Archives – Master Number: 1338616 SOP Number: OFF0000000361932 Order Date: 06/10/2005 Site ID: NWCTB
- Sauk County Register of Deeds Death Certificate Volume 8 Page 268
- Jos. Nachreiner Funeral Record #96
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forty-Eighters>
- <http://genealogytrails.com/wis/37thWIIInfReg.html>
- Photo on page 2 from Janet Sherwood Alcamo
- Rocking chair, Civil War canteen, and tooth extractor donated to the OFTHS by Ray Nachreiner DVM, PhD



How Confusing Research Can Be!



In researching to write the Bandel story, it started to get a little bit confusing. I found the obituary stated that Joseph died in 1913. Yet everywhere on the internet the year was listed as 1912 including interment.net, findagrave.com and Ancestry.com. I decided to make another trip back to the Spring Green Library to check the index and microfilm for the Weekly Home News again. Yup, it listed the day he died as January 3, 1913 and the publish date of the newspaper was January 9, 1913. My first thought was delayed publishing of the obituary. Even in those days publishing was only delayed a month or two. This would have been an entire year. The next step was a trip to the Sauk County Courthouse in Baraboo to see what year was listed on the death certificate, but I again found 1913. In looking at the death certificate I noticed that Jos M. Nachreiner was the undertaker. Thanks to the work of Gary Haas, we have the complete book digitized of Mr. Nachreiner's undertaking business. That was the first thing I checked out on my computer after I got home and found the year of 1913.

The stone in the White Mound Cemetery has “Joseph Bandel 1830 – 1912” inscribed. It is only natural that when people see the stone, they figure that must be correct, so they proceed to post their research on the internet. Why is the year listed as 1912 on the cemetery stone? There must be some story behind that.

After finding the obituary, death certificate and undertaker evidence, my conclusion is that the year 1913 is correct.

Most of my research was done in 2015; since that time “findagrave.com” has updated the year of death.



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