

## William Hosking Gets a Gravestone



On February 8, 2022, a special delivery arrived at the Masonic/American Legion Hall on Main Street, Butler. Civil War Veteran William J. Hosking's gravestone had finally arrived. Ever since Tom Riley, Alan Bird and Bob Meier finished restoring the Manning Avenue Cemetery in 2018, two important jobs remained undone. Of all the unmarked graves in the cemetery and there are many, it didn't seem right that two veterans' graves remained unmarked. William Hosking and Thomas Carman deserved recognition for their contributions to the defense of our county.

In early December, 2021, Tom and Alan started the process of acquiring a stone for William from the Department of Veterans Affairs. All veterans are entitled to a gravestone from the Federal Government at no cost. Official proof of service and proof of burial location are required; the more documentation submitted the better the chance of qualifying for a stone. Fortunately, the research on Mr. Hosking had been completed for inclusion in Tom's book, *Historic Manning Avenue Cemetery*. Alan completed the paperwork and, with the backing of Butler American Legion Post 154 and Post Adjutant Elmer Bott, a packet of information was submitted. In early January, Alan got a call, answered a few more questions, and in February, the stone was delivered.

Because the burial information for Revolutionary War Veteran Thomas Carman could not be verified, he was denied a government gravestone. Tom Riley bought a headstone for him.

Born on July 24, 1837 in Red Ruth, Cornwall, England, William Hosking emigrated to the United States in 1847 when he was ten years old. His family originally settled in the mining community of Hazel Green, Wisconsin. He enlisted in Company I, 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry on October 2, 1861. The 16<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin saw extensive action in the Civil War, fighting in some of its most infamous battles, including Vicksburg, Shiloh, the Battle for Atlanta, Sherman's March to the Sea, and the Carolina Campaign.

Some regiments mustered in for a period of nine months, others for three years, Mr. Hosking and the 16<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin served for almost the entire war. They marched in the Grand Review of the Army in Washington D.C. at its conclusion and mustered out of service on July 12, 1865.

The Hosking family came to New Jersey after the war so John could work at the Dodge Iron Mine, which was located about three miles west of the Milton section of Jefferson Township. When he moved his family to Butler, he worked for the White family at the Pequannock Valley Paper Mill.

William and his first wife, Mary Jane Chappell, were married around 1860 in Wisconsin and had five sons and five daughters. She is buried with their 3-year-old daughter Bertha in Plot 96. He married his second wife, Wilhelmina Luther, on April 4, 1883. They had two sons and a daughter. Wilhelmina's father, John Luther, was also a Civil War veteran who served in Battery B 1<sup>st</sup> NJ Artillery. John and his wife Anna are buried in Plot 84.



(L) William Hosking standing with friend at the 50th Anniversary Reunion at Gettysburg PA.



Plot 85 in the Manning Cemetery, where William, his son John, daughter Annie, and probably Wilhelmina are buried, is set off by six cement posts. William's new headstone will be the only marker in the plot.



His obituary reflects that "he was respected by all who knew him, and Mr. Hosking smoothed the path for many with his cheerful disposition and positive outlook on life." He died at the age of 77 on April 20, 1915. William was given a Military Funeral by his fellow Civil War veterans from the John E. Beam GAR Post 92.