

Barbara L. Davis Shreves

Delavan, WI

Barbara is the Great Granddaughter of

Menzo Hone
5th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. I

Menzo Hone was born in the Town of Sharon, Schoharie County, New York on March 26, 1824, to Harmonious and Maria Hone. His grandfather was one of the early settlers of that county. Menzo came to Walworth County with his parents at 19 years old. On July 3, 1843, Menzo married Margaret DeRemer, whose family came to Walworth County from Montgomery County, New York. Margaret was the oldest of Jacob and Gertrude Runcle De Remer's 11 children. The families likely traveled together and the couple was married by Rev. Topping at Delavan's First Baptist Church in Delavan after their arrival in Walworth County.

The family lived on Section 9, town of Walworth, and after his father's death in 1845, Menzo took over the farm and his family lived there for 9 years. After a year on Turtle Prairie in the town of Darien, the family moved to the town of Albany, Green County, Wisconsin, for 14 years. The couple had twin boys in 1854; Albert died at birth and Alfred died at about two years old. The couple's son, Adelbert, born in 1857, suffered from mental illness from the age of 20 and took his own life in 1890. They had three daughters: Ann Hilton born in 1847, Alvina Odell born in 1852, and my grandmother, Cleora (Mrs. Henry) Davis born in 1860.

Menzo Hone enlisted as a private on August 30, 1861, from Green County at the age of 37 with four young children at home. He joined at Camp Randall, Madison. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society history of Green County, the Fifth Wisconsin Regiment was mustered in July 13, 1861, and left for Washington July 24. Apparently Hone joined the regiment there which was attached to Gen. Rufus King's brigade and detailed for advanced duty. In March, 1862, they marched to the Potomac and took part in the expedition against Richmond under Gen. McClellan's command. They were identified with the Army of the Peninsula and involved in a series of battles in Virginia and were in winter quarters in Virginia.

The regiment under Col. Allen performed "daring deeds" in taking the Washington battery of New Orleans and took part in the charge at Rappahannock station and were in winter quarters at Brandy station until the campaign in 1864. Over that winter of 1863-1864 over 200 reenlisted. After a Wisconsin visit, they returned for the spring campaign, engaged in destroying the Virginia Central railroad and advanced to Cold Harbor, captured entrenchments and took many prisoners. They moved on to Petersburg and were in that area until July 11. On the 12th, they assisted in the defense of Washington with the 6th Corps, but although the 3 year enlistment of non-veterans expired, they volunteered to defend the capital. They left there on July 16, arriving on the 23rd and were mustered out on August 3rd, 1864. The service of the original 5th Regiment ended, but those who re-enlisted (my grandfather among them) and new recruits were organized into an independent battalion and pursued the enemy to the Shenandoah valley. Then they went to Washington and on to Harper's Ferry joining the 6th Corps. They went to Charleston, performing picket and guard duty and fought at Cedar Creek. At Winchester, Virginia, they performed garrison duty.

The "Old Fifth" was mustered out, but Governor Lewis authorized reorganization and re-commissioned General Allen. Apparently the new recruits joined them in Virginia through the winter of 1864, at Petersburg under General Sheridan and then Grant. In the charge on the enemy's works at Petersburg, April 2, 1865, they were in the extreme front; their colors were the first planted on the enemies' works. On April 3 they joined in the pursuit of General Lee and fought until the April 9th when Lee surrendered. They were in Virginia and marched to Washington, arriving June 2 and leaving for Madison, Wisconsin, June 16th. They arrived on the 20th and were soon mustered out. Menzo Hone finished his almost four years of service at 41 years of age.

In 1868 Menzo and his family moved back to a farm in the town of Walworth near their earlier residence and farmed there again. He and his wife retired to a home next to the Delavan Baptist Church in March, 1892, and on August 7, 1892, suffering from ill health and depression, he drowned in the Mill Pond. He, his wife Margaret who died in 1894, and their son are buried in the Brick Baptist Church Cemetery, across the road from the farm where they had spent many years.