



Oliver J. Burnham House – 361 North Park Street – 1894.



Oliver J. Burnham - second from left, back row. Sixth Wisconsin Battery reunion 1897.

The popularity of the Queen Anne style in the nineteenth century coincided with Richland Center's economic boom period that began in the late 1870s and continued through the 1880's into the 1890s. This brick two story house is characterized by a three story conical roofed tower and a wrap-around spindle porch with turned post topped by bracket capitals and gabled entrance. Stained glass and elaborate interior woodwork further ornament the house. Featuring a stone lintel above the door inscribed "1894," this exceptional house was built of local brick by contractor Thomas Cholerton for the prominent local merchant and Civil War veteran, O.J. Burnham.

In 1876, Oliver J. Burnham and William A. Burnham purchased the J.L. Brown building near the northwest corner of Church and Court Streets for their drug store business which they had begun in 1874. John W. Burnham arrived in Richland Center in 1877 and became a partner in the business in 1889. Drugstores during this time commonly sold not only prescribed and patented medicines but also oils, paints, perfumes, fruit, notions and jewelry. In 1906, O.J. Burnham retired and John W. Burnham and his son Robert ran the business. The drugstore ultimately closed in 1962.

(Keep in mind the homes listed are private residences which are not open to the public. Please respect the occupants' privacy when viewing their homes from the sidewalk).

Oliver J. Burnham served in the Civil War as part of the 6th Wisconsin Battery Light Artillery. He is listed in the roster as O.J. Burnham, private, bugler.



Memorial to 6th Wisconsin Battery at Lone Rock.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Lone Rock tailor, Henry Dillon organized the Sixth Wisconsin, mainly due to his military experience gained serving in Bragg's Battery of the Third Artillery under Captain William T. Sherman in the Mexican War. The Sixth was nicknamed "The Buena Vista Artillery," which was made up of men from Spring Green, Lone Rock, Bear Valley, Clyde and the surrounding area.

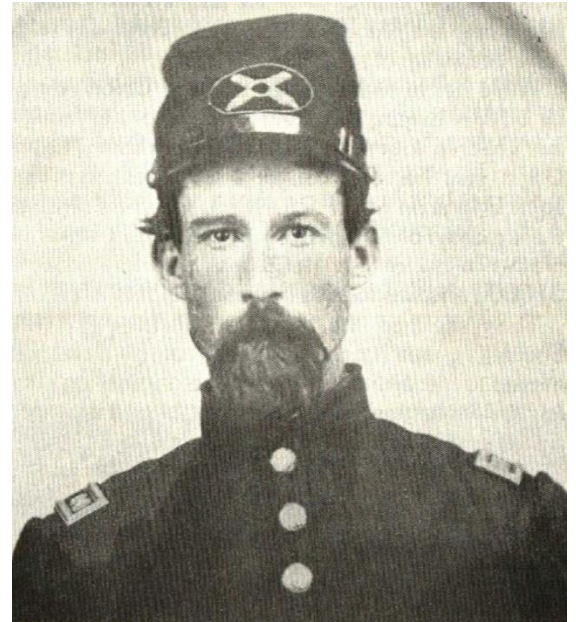
Captain Dillon was promoted to the position of chief of Artillery, and served the full three years of his enlistment term. He was said to have a deep, booming voice, so much so he could be heard over the din of battle. He earned the nickname "Bell Dillon." The Captain had red hair and a red beard and looked the part befitting his rank.

When his enlistment was up, he returned home to his 40 acre farm at Lone Rock. His demise was a great tragedy, when, in 1882 the Captain thinking himself immune, went to care for a neighbor family suffering with smallpox. He contracted the disease and brought it home to his family. Captain Dillon, his son Bruce, and his daughter Josephine died of the disease along with his two-year-old grandson. He is buried in the

Button Cemetery in Buena Vista Township.

Another member of the Sixth was a private named Jenkin Lloyd Jones. He is the third man from the right in the second row of the reunion photograph. Jones enlisted in 1862 and served in the battles of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Atlanta. He suffered a broken foot at Missionary Ridge that required him to walk with a cane the remainder of his life. His experiences during the Civil War convinced him of the folly of war. After his military service, Jones became an outspoken pacifist.

After he returned to his farm in the Wyoming Valley near Spring Green after the war, he told his family he had experienced an epiphany and had decided to study for the ministry. Jones became a minister of the Liberal Christian Church in Winnetka, Illinois. He resigned and returned to Wisconsin to become a traveling missionary.



Captain Henry Dillon.

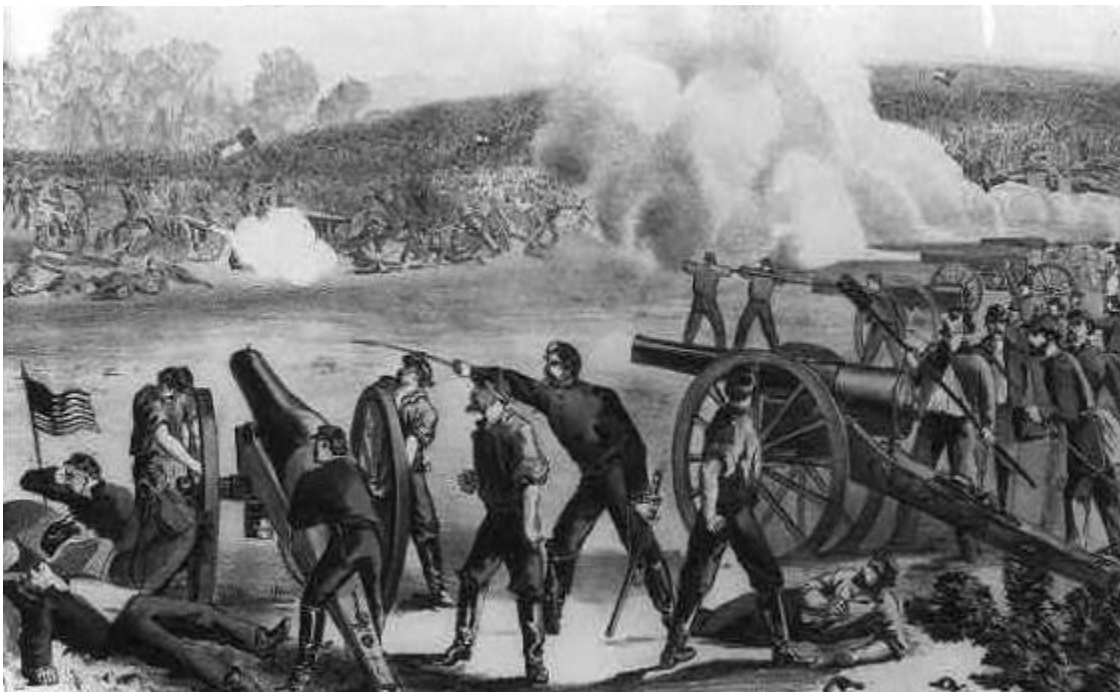
His sister, Anna Lloyd Jones, was the mother of Frank Lloyd Wright. Uncle Jenk and the Lloyd Jones family members were a pronounced influence on the young Wright's view of life and values.



A young Jenkin Lloyd Jones.

There is a monument dedicated to the 6th Wisconsin located in Battery Park in Lone Rock. On it are listed the major battles in which the 6th Battery took part: Vicksburg, Jackson, Corinth, Missionary Ridge and operated in northern Georgia in connection with General Sherman's Atlanta campaign. The monument also lists the names of the enlisted men and the officers of the Battery. Captain Dillon's tailor shop is also located at the park.

Each June the Lone Rock Historical Society hosts "Thunder in the River Valley," reenacting events of the Civil War at Battery Park. The event features all branches of service, including Cavalry, Infantry and Artillery demonstrations, as well as a parade, Ladies' Tea, period music and much more.



The Battle of Corinth, Mississippi, October 3-4, 1862 - Union Victory.