

# Civil War's Start Saw Early Enlistment Of Recruits In Co.

## Three Companies Of Soldiers Leave For Front In Few Weeks

Findlay and Hancock county heard with excitement the news of just 100 years ago that Civil War had broken out in the United States.

Fort Sumter, at Charleston, South Carolina, had been fired upon on April 12 by the South. The fort, held by federal troops, fell under the southern attack the next day. On April 15, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers. It meant the start of the war which was to last four years.

The news did not reach the local community right away. By April 17 the town had heard the news, probably through the railroad which then ran between Findlay and Carey.

### Town Conducts Rally

Immediately the townspeople and many who came in from the villages and rural districts responded with a demonstration

In the weekly historical column on the editorial page on Saturdays will appear more information in the next few weeks about the Hancock county participation in the Civil War.

which included the raising of flags, a parade by a band and the firing of a cannon which had become a local fixture.

A call was issued for a public meeting at the court house on April 18. The program for the gathering included patriotic talks and the adoption of a resolution pledging the community's support to the cause of the North.

Edson Goit, Findlay's first lawyer, presided at the public meeting. The committee which drafted the resolution consisted of Aaron F. Blackford, J. M. Palmer, A. P. Byal, W. W. Siddal and Israel Green.

A trio consisting of N. Y. Meford, D. M. Stoughton and William Mungen, sang the national anthem with the audience joining in on the later stanzas.

### Speakers Heard

Among the speakers were James A. Bope, Mr. Mungen, J. M. Palmer, William Gribben and others. Col. James M. Neibling who had served in the Mexican War a few years earlier, also

## History Contains Complete List Of Hancock Soldiers

The history of Hancock county, written by Jacob A. Spaythe in 1903, contains a complete record of all the Hancock county soldiers who participated in the Civil War.

They are listed by companies and regiments. A brief description of the engagements in which the various units participated also is provided by Mr. Spaythe, who was a deputy county auditor for a number of years here.

the war would only last for a very brief time and for this reason the enlistments were for only three months.

Immediately upon the return of the three companies, recruitment of volunteers for a longer period of service started. A military depot known as Camp Vance was established along the Blanchard river east of the city. The name of Vance was given to the area in honor of Wilson Vance, who had originally laid out the town of Findlay. He was still living at the time.

Here the 21st regiment was reorganized and was mustered into federal service for three years on Sept. 18, 1861. Col. Neibling retained his rank in the new organization. Four companies were raised in Hancock county. Others came from surrounding counties. The regiment left Findlay for Camp Dennison in Eastern Ohio Sept. 26. Early in October, the unit moved into Kentucky. The regiment went through the war and was honored for its bravery and courage.

### In Other Units, Too

Many Findlay and Hancock county men also served in various other Civil War units. It was the 21st which was the first to be recruited and enter service. Another regiment which was largely recruited in Hancock and nearby counties was the 57th Infantry which was partially organized at Camp Vance. Col. William Mungen, a Findlay attorney, who in 1867 went to Congress from this district, was its commander. This regiment left Findlay Jan. 22, 1862.

Separate Findlay companies were included in a number of other regiments during the war.

## Pensions Linger From Civil War

### Widows, Children Still On V.A. Rolls

WASHINGTON, (AP) — The Civil War has been over for almost 100 years, but the Veterans Administration reports that it is still paying pensions to more than 3,070 widows and 650 children of veterans of that conflict.

The last veteran of the war died only a little more than a year ago, on Dec. 19, 1959. He was a Confederate veteran, Walter W. Williams of Houston, Tex. The last Union veteran, Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minn., died Aug. 2, 1956.

Confederate veterans and widows and children of deceased Confederate veterans were not eligible for Federal pensions until July 1, 1958.

The V. A. does not have up-to-date figures on the age and place of residence of the surviving widows. But apparently, based on data of September, 1959, the youngest must be more than 61 years old and the oldest could be around 110.

### Widows' Ages Tallied

In September, 1959, the youngest Civil War widow on the rolls was 60 years old. One was 61, two were 62, and four were 63. The oldest was 109; two were 106 and four were 104.

Records of widows of Union veterans as of June, 1959, showed 2,810 on the pension rolls. The largest number residing in any state at that time was 221, in California.

Other states with more than 100 in each included: Ohio 207, Indiana 169, Missouri 178, Illinois 159, New York 149, Kentucky 139, Pennsylvania 137 and Tennessee 115. None were listed for Alaska or Nevada.

There were 1,175 Confederate widows on the rolls as of January, 1960. The most in any one state was 168 in Texas.

### Pensioners Linger On

The V. A. records show that even though a war may last only a relatively short time, a century or more passes before the last beneficiary of Federal pensions dies.

The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783. The last de-

# Old Betsy, Cannon Which Helped Community Salute War's Beginning In 1861, Is Now Prized Relic Here

## Artillery Piece With Long History To Aid Celebration

By MARGARET DENNIS

Old Betsy is being rejuvenated. Those who know her will tell you she has needed it for many years. For she is venerable. But Merton Mertz, 422 Third St., and the Toledo "surgeons" who are "operating" on her say that, although she is venerable she will once again be made valuable.

Old Betsy has been silent for more than 60 years. But before that her voice was a forceful one. Just 100 years ago Monday she proclaimed to the Hancock County citizens that the Civil War had begun.

In September, 1862, she was rushed, with a group of men who called themselves the Squirrel Hunters, to northern Kentucky to defend Cincinnati from the Rebels.

### Dates Far Back

She is believed to have participated in the War of 1812 and the Indian Wars of General Harrison. Some even date her back to Revolutionary days.

Old Betsy, a 600-pound cannon, will be remembered by many Findlay residents as having stood in the front yard of the George W. Walters home, 1039 N. Main St., and later in the museum of the late Dr. C. W. Sheppard. It is now the property of Mr. Mertz and is being reconstructed by the reactivated 111th Ohio Volunteer Infantry of Toledo which is rebuilding many Civil War ammunition pieces to specifications obtained from War Department files.

Mr. Mertz, who rescued Old Betsy from a scrap drive of the Sertoma Club held in 1952, is a gun collector. To some people guns are fearful weapons. To Mr. Mertz, who has lethal weapons ranging in age from antiques to modern day types and in size from pistols small enough to be held in the palm of the hand to Old Betsy, they are fascinating.

After seeing the picture of the old cannon in the Republican-Courier on April 5, 1952 and reading that it had been donated by Dr. Sheppard's son, C. L. Sheppard, for the Sertoma Club scrap drive, Mr. Mertz was determined to rescue it.

"I felt that would have been an artillery piece for an artillery

## Old Cannon Has Memorable Community History



Here Merton Mertz, of Findlay, is shown with Old Betsy, the historic cannon which he now owns and which will have a role in the Civil War centennial celebration which is now getting under way.

## Loss Of Life In Civil War Higher Than World Wars

Of the approximately 3,000 Hancock county soldiers who joined the colors to fight for the northern cause in the Civil War, around 16 per cent never returned.

The toll for Hancock county was the largest of any conflict in which the United States has been engaged. In the two world wars, the loss of life from Hancock county was far below the Civil War mark.

According to Mr. Patterson between 400 and 500 men from this area responded to the call

front of the old Strother home- stead, put in a good round charge and awaited the election returns. The Republicans never fired that shot. When the returns came in they showed the election of Cleveland, and since Laney & Co. were not celebrating on that side, they left the old gun standing in the field. The Democrats, unexpectedly finding themselves in a position to jollify, went out and fired the charge in honor of Cleveland that had been loaded for Harrison."

### Long At Walters' Home

Just how Old Betsy became the property of Mr. Walters is not told except that "some arrangement was made with Mr. Walters that the old gun should be honorably cared for." It rested "in helpless decrepitude, an honored relic of a past age."

## Industrial Production Even In March

WASHINGTON (AP) — Industrial production held even in March while some other key economic indicators rose, the Federal Reserve Board reported Friday. After declining for seven consecutive months, the output of mines, mills and utilities in both February and March remained steady at January's level of 102 per cent of the 1957 average, the board announced.

In its monthly "National Summary of Business Conditions" the board said:

"Nonagricultural employment was also maintained in March and average hours of work in manufacturing rose further; the unemployment rate was about unchanged.

"Retail sales continued to recover. The seasonally adjusted money supply increased further.

"In late March and early April, common stock prices rose sharply, reaching new highs on unusually large volume of trading."

Although many had hoped the production rate would turn up in March, the three-month level period was typical of the bottoming-out phase of a recession.

The latter conclusion was bolstered by the board's report that iron and steel production, which bulks large in the index, continued its rise into early April.

Automobile assembly schedules indicate that passenger car output this month will show a rise although a decline is normal for April, the board said.

## Teen-Agers Analyze Data

EL CERRITO, Calif. (AP)—Two El Cerrito teen-agers are busy analyzing data received from an instrument balloon they say sailed to an altitude of more than 60,000 feet March 31.

"The pictures taken from 10,000, 20,000 and 60,000 feet were very good," said Dave Guidici, 18, a Contra Costa Junior College student.

"Within a month we will send up another balloon with a movie camera instead of a still camera."

Guidici and Kelly MacDonald, 17, an El Cerrito High School senior, said their goal is to send a balloon 10,000 feet or higher. The camera was found Wednesday on a farm 25 miles from the launching site. The boys said an

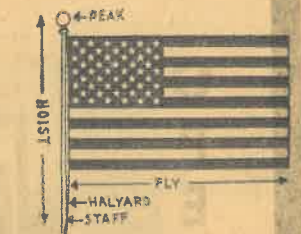
# The U.S. Flag Code



Courtesy  
Ralph D. Cole  
Post No. 3  
American  
Legion

## Description of the Flag

The Flag of the United States of America has 13 horizontal stripes—7 red and 6 white—the red and white stripes alternating, and a union which consists of white stars of five points on a blue field placed in the upper quarter next the staff and extending to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top. The number of stars is the same as the number of States in the Union.



Effective July 4, 1960 (x), the canton or union contains 50 stars arranged as indicated in the above reproduction. On the admission of a State into the Union a star will be added to the union of the Flag, and such addition will take effect on the 4th day of July next succeeding such admission. The proportions of the Flag as prescribed by Executive Order of President Taft, October 29, 1912 (x), are as follows:

- Hoist (width) of Flag ... 1.
- Fly (length) of Flag ... 1.9
- Hoist (width) of union ... 7-13
- Fly (length) of union ... 0.76
- Width of each stripe ... 1-13
- Diameter of each star ... .0616

(x) Executive Order 10834, approved on August 21, 1959, established the new design for the 50 star Flag, effective July 4, 1960; however, those proportions indicated above were left unchanged.

## Anti-Red Move On In Shanghai

HONG KONG (AP)—The British-owned South China Morning