

raised in Hancock county. They established a camp at the county fair grounds, located then at the southeast corner of Blanchard avenue and S. Blanchard street. The camp was named in honor of Col. Neibling.

On April 27 another mass meeting was held at the court house, with Col. Neibling presiding. A county-wide organization for war purposes was set up. Meetings were later held in each township and groups formed to help the cause.

The three companies at Camp Neibling were finally notified to prepare for active duty and on May 6, one company left for Carey and later went to Cleveland. Five days later the other two companies departed for Cleveland. They became part of the 21st Regiment, of Ohio Volunteers.

Return and Re-Enlist

The Hancock county soldiers moved into West Virginia and engaged in battle there. They had only enlisted for three months and returned home in August. It had originally been thought that

number served the greater portion of the war. Nearly 500 of the 3,000 who joined the colors never returned.

Gen. Walker Denies Birch Society Tie

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, who has denied at Augsburg, Germany, that his division information program is connected with the John Birch Society, was the top soldier at Little Rock during the 1957 school integration crisis.

He was over-all commander of paratroopers from Ft. Campbell, Ky., and federalized Arkansas National Guardsmen who protect nine Negro children attending Central High School.

As the commander, he was sometimes criticized by Gov. Orval E. Faubus and others who took the segregationist side in the controversy.

Faubus originally used the Na-

1947. There were still two widows of veterans of this war on the pension rolls last June 20.

On that date there were 3,164 Civil War widows on the rolls, 665 widows of veterans of the Indian wars, 76,530 widows of Spanish-American War veterans, 399,933 widows of World War I veterans and 32,232 widows of World War II veterans.

tional Guardsmen to prevent Negroes from entering the school, but later, in federal service, they joined paratroopers in seeing that the pupils were permitted to attend.

Walker assumed command of the Arkansas Military District on Aug. 1, 1957, and less than two months later, on Sept. 24, the paratroopers and federalized Guard were assigned to him.

First the paratroopers and eventually the Guard were withdrawn.

Walker's tour of duty here ended in the fall of 1959 and he was sent to Germany to command the 24th Infantry Division.

I had to do something about it and do it quickly."

After telephone calls to the president of Sertoma and to the club treasurer, Mr. Mertz was permitted to purchase the cannon ahead of the actual sale at scrap metal price. The cannon, with the foundation on which it rested, weighed more than 800 pounds. Until he could decide on its final resting place Mr. Mertz found a temporary spot for it at the corner of Broad and College St., near the shop of a friend, Don Hummell. The cannon, with the foundation on which it rested, weighed nearly 800 pounds. Mr. Mertz hired an auto wrecker to move it to the location where it remained for more than eight years until it was brought to the attention of Adjutant Earl Keplar, of the reactivated Toledo OVI last March.

But even Mr. Mertz did not know, until a short time ago, the full and long life Old Betsy had lived. He thought, as did the Toledoans, that she was merely a relic of the Civil War.

Before he loaned it to the Toledo outfit Mr. Mertz inscribed his name and address on the hub of the cannon's swivel so the identity of the rightful owner would not be lost. Close by are the figures 1847. Until recently when additional facts were learned about Old Betsy he did not know the significance of these figures. Now he is certain it is the date that the cannon became the property of Hancock County.

History Related

In a Findlay Jeffersonian newspaper issue of 1910 a history of the cannon as written by a former owner, Mr. Walters, was published. The history starts:

"One interesting pioneer relic, which was well known to the citizens, when it and they were not so old, may be seen on the lawn in the front of the residence of Mr. George W. Walters, in North Findlay, in a condition truly melancholy. "It is the old smooth bore, six-pounder cannon, which since 1847, has belched forth its thunderous applause, when great events called for boisterous enthusiasm. According to the late Captain James Wilson's statements, the old gun must have had a history in active warfare. It was probably used in the War of 1812, as well as in the Indian wars of General Harrison before it was invalidated like many an old soldier comrade, and relegated to peaceful Fourth of July occasions or to jollifications over successful political campaigns.

"The old veteran gun, with the lower half of its wheels gone, rests with its axles prone upon the ground, with head elevated to the west, like an old soldier-hermit, at his orisons in the cloister after a life amidst the alarms of war in the devout crusading age. "Whatever the history of the old gun may have been prior to its having been sent here, by the governor of Ohio in 1847,

The history is such as Colonel Mungen, William Duddit, Oliver Mungen, Isajah Keltmer, Fred Worsley and other old time gunners, who would take the old gun down to the Blanchard River bank and make her talk until the woods would ring again and again." At least one mishap resulted. On one occasion the cannon went off prematurely, tattooing Mr. Duddit's face to such an extent that he carried the powder marks the rest of his life.

It was on the river bank that Old Betsy fired its first cannon ball for the Civil War. It was five days after the firing on Fort Sumter. The news of this event, which precipitated the War Between the States, had just reached Findlay.

Main St. Incident Recalled

It is said that a short time later, when the volunteers of the 21st Regiment were assembling at Findlay and camping on the old fair ground which was located in the northeast corner of Blanchard Ave. and Blanchard St., the old cannon became the object of admiration for the young soldiers. Early one morning, according to legend, a group of them hitched themselves to the old gun by drag rope and drew it down Sandusky St. onto Main and stopped in front of Langworthy's drug store, where the Penney store is now located. In a spirit of fun they fired one blank cartridge. Not a whole pane of glass was left in store fronts for a distance of two blocks.

At that time Main St., from the bridge to Lima St. was lined with flags on poles made from either ash or hickory. Dr. Albert Langworthy, unperturbed by his shattered window, immediately hauled down his American flag and, in token of surrender ran up a white one. Later, history reveals, Dr. Langworthy became a colonel of the 49th OVI.

So far as can be learned Old Betsy's role, after coming to Hancock County, seemed chiefly to be an entertaining one. But history records an important and serious event in the cannon's life. This was its participation in the defense of Cincinnati at the time of the Squirrel Hunters' campaign against John Morgan's invasion of Ohio. At that time weapons ranged from clubs, 22-calibre muzzle loading squirrel rifles, up to Old Betsy who emitted six-pound cannon balls.

Feverish Activities
The late C. W. Patterson in his writings of "Other Days in Findlay," describes from notes, made by his father, Joseph S. Patterson, pioneer Findlay merchant, how local residents answered a call for men sent out by Governor Tod which was received in Findlay via the United States Express Co., Carey, on Sept. 10, 1862. The message reported that Rebels, 8,000 strong, had reached the Ohio River and that fighting had broken out in Cincinnati.

"The next morning I witnessed this motley aggregation of patriots, some long, some short, some big, some little, toe the curb in front of the court house, take leave of their loved ones and entrain on the old Carey Branch Railroad for war. We had a second call to which many responded. These two troops were called 'Squirrel Hunters'."

Old Betsy went along on a flat car and almost was lost forever to Hancock County. For, when danger was passed, the Squirrel Hunters flocked home and left Old Betsy standing in a Kentucky pasture field where she had shot the last cannon ball she was to fire in the Civil War.

It was three years until the old gun was missed by the residents of the community. The war was over and the citizens were occupied in returning to peacetime life. None of the Squirrel Hunters remembered where they had last seen it. At the earnest solicitation of the citizens Col. Mungen, a former congressman, was asked to use his influence in procuring another one. But the substitute never took the place in the affections of the people which the old gun held. It met an untimely and early end by exploding when it was being fired in fun. Although it blew itself to pieces it did not injure anyone.

The search for Old Betsy was started again. One of the artillerymen who had taken it to Kentucky was appointed at a citizen's meeting to search the Columbus arsenal and, if necessary, appeal to state officials for help in recovering the cannon. This he did with such persistence that Governor Rutherford B. Hayes, in a fit of desperation wrote a note to the adjutant general which said: "For God's sake hunt this gun up for this man or he will pester me to death."

Comes Home

Asked by the adjutant general whether he could identify the gun the Findlay man, whose name was not revealed in the historical account, replied he had filed the cannon's sight and would recognize the file marks. Eventually Old Betsy was found, identified by the file marks.

After Findlay citizens "passed the hat" to raise \$7.50 for freight fare from Columbus, Old Betsy once more came back home.

From then on the cannon spent a peaceful existence, so quiet, in fact, that it passed through several ownerships without dispute and was fired only on the occasion of an election celebration or a national holiday.

Mr. Walters, in his story of Old Betsy wrote that the late Merle D. Sours claimed the old gun shot its last cannon ball in 1892.

"On the occasion of the presidential election in 1892," the account reads, "Joseph C. Laney and other Republicans, in anticipation of the election of Harrison, secured the gun and took it down to the flats in

"It is our aim to preserve not only through the restoration, but through the use of, the equipment used by our forbears in the War Between the States. For it is only through the use of this forgotten equipment that one can truly appreciate the fine craftsmanship and ingenuity of our forefathers. It is solely through the efforts of men such as yourself, with enough foresight to see the past, that these fine antiquities are preserved for the future."

The future of Old Betsy looks bright. It is possible that her roar will once again be heard. But whatever the years hold for her it is certain that she will not end her days on a scrap pile. At least not so long as Mr. Mertz is her owner.

Vote To Give Strong Support To Union Cause

The following is the full text of the resolution adopted at a public rally, held in Findlay a few days after the outbreak of the Civil War:

WHEREAS, A band of armed traitors to the Government of the United States have leagued together for the avowed purpose of overturning the Constitution and laws of our beloved country, and to insult and strike down the ensign of our nation, which has given to the American citizen ample protection at home and abroad, and to our country consideration and dignity wherever its stars and stripes have been seen and known; and

WHEREAS, in pursuance of such treasonable intent, these traitors have once struck down that glorious flag, and now threaten with myrmidon host in arms to seize our national capital, to trail our nation's honor in the dust and

transform this free government into a cruel monarchy; Therefore, RESOLVED, That in the present Civil War, so wantonly begun by traitors now in arms against our Government, the only issue presented to every American citizen is: Shall our constitutional government stand against the rebel and revolutionary force that now threatens its destruction? Or shall it yield to treason for a despotism to be erected upon its ruins? "He that is not with us is against us."

RESOLVED, That as our Revolutionary fathers, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor for the purchase of those civil and religious liberties by them transmitted to us, and that we have so long enjoyed; we, their descendants, with a firm reliance upon the same Divine and all-protecting Power, mutually make the same sacred pledge to each other for the preservation and perpetuity of that inestimable inheritance by them bequeathed to us.

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the city with posters condemning the government and complaining about the shortage of food caused by last year's crop failure.

One woman recently returned from Shanghai said there were "extensive underground reactionary activities" in the city.

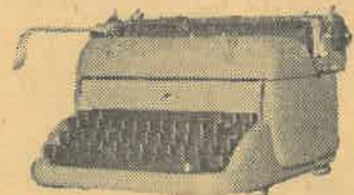
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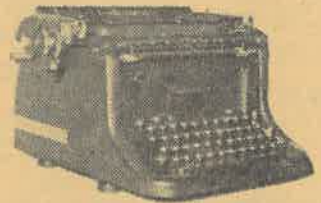
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