

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

C. Bart Chapman, Ranger and Resident

At the beginning of the 20th century, Indian Hill was rural farmland, and typical crimes were burglary of tomatoes, theft of chickens, and cemetery vandalism. To combat neighborhood criminal acts, the Indian Hill Horse Rangers were established in 1903. One of the first Rangers was C. Bart Chapman.

The son of a pharmacist, Bart Chapman was born in 1849. He often accompanied his father to Camp Dennison when it was a Civil War training ground and general hospital for Union soldiers. As a fourteen year old witness to Morgan's Raid in 1863, Chapman saw history being made. After graduation from college, he married on his birthday in 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman were among the first families to build a home in Elmwood Place. Active in civic affairs, Chapman was a member of the Carthage School Board, president of the Elmwood Christian Association, superintendent of the Fine Arts Hall of the Carthage Fair, and a member of the first volunteer fire department of Elmwood Place.

While in his prime, Chapman served to enforce the law. The Cincinnati Courthouse Riots of 1884 involved a mob of 10,000 storming the jail and burning the Courthouse. The participants believed that there had been a miscarriage of justice, and were opposed to what they perceived as political corruption and jury tampering. There were 56 deaths and hundreds of injuries. The local militia (in which Bart Chapman served) and the Ohio National Guard put down the insurrection and reinstated order.



In 1892 the Chapmans and their son, Walter, moved to a small farm on Graves Road in Indian Hill. There they kept livestock and tended their garden, taking produce to market weekly by horse and wagon. Cows were milked manually, and butter was hand churned. Eggs and butter were delivered to their regular customers, and when Bart could get a ride downtown in a neighbor's car, he took it. Also he sold homemade crafts. His whittled oval bread platters were inscribed: *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread*, and his woven baskets were constructed from willow on his property. Farm products and handiwork provided a livelihood for the family.

Banding together in 1903 for mutual protection, neighbors founded the Indian Hill Horse Rangers. The group acted as a posse to prevent "malicious and unlawful acts of marauders and depredators" and sought to "foster sentiments conducive to industrial progress and moral stability". Chapman himself said, "In the old days, when we wanted to get a man, he had to go after him on horseback or in a rig – but we always got him!" As a member of the force, Chapman was a law enforcement officer and caught criminals who stole chickens, horses, and harnesses from area farms.

In 1920, when their name was changed to the Indian Hill Rangers, the force was given constable power (the power to make arrests). Patrolling on foot and on horseback the volunteer Rangers did not have a car until 1926 or a salaried officer until 1929. These volunteers protected the property of those who belonged to their organization. Records show that they spent \$6 for handcuffs and \$23 to lease bloodhounds from Loveland. When the 1920s estates were constructed, newcomers became members of the Ranger organization and increased its might. Besides wearing the badge and patrolling Indian Hill, Chapman was the secretary of the organization for 26 years. He also served as Secretary of the Farmers' Institute for 33 years, and never missed a meeting of either organization.

At 80 years old, the pipe smoking Chapman was still a valued member of the Rangers. He was fit, active, and alert, and had a long history of commitment to law enforcement. When he died at age 88 in 1934, fellow Rangers were pallbearers at the Armstrong Chapel funeral. C. Bart Chapman, the old timer, was a legendary resident.