

IMAGES

. . . *then and now*

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Remembering C. Bart Chapman, Ranger and Resident

At the beginning of the 20th century, Indian Hill was rural farmland, and local crimes included burglary of tomatoes, theft of chickens from their roosts, and cemetery vandalism. To combat neighborhood crime, the Indian Hill Horse Rangers were established in 1903. One of the early Rangers was C. Bart Chapman, known for his devotion to duty and longevity of service.

The son of a pharmacist, Bart Chapman was born in 1849. He often accompanied his father to Camp Dennison where it was a Civil War training ground and general hospital for Union soldiers. As a fourteen-year old witness to Morgan's Raid of 1863, Chapman saw history being made. After graduation from college he got 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 Assn., superintendent of the Fine Arts Hall of the Carthage Fair, and a member of the first volunteer fire department of Elmwood Place.



Chapman served with the militia forces during the Cincinnati Courthouse Riots of 1884. This 3-day event resulted after a manslaughter conviction was given to a murderer. For some time Cincinnatians had witnessed political corruption and jury tampering, and this conviction was believed by many to be proof of the miscarriage of justice. A mob of 10,000 stormed the jail and burned the Courthouse, resulting in 50 deaths and hundreds of injuries. The local militia and Ohio National Guard units put down the civil insurrection, and order was reinstated.

In 1892 the Chapmans and their only son, Walter, moved to a small farm on Grave Road in Indian Hill. There they managed 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 in a neighbor's car, he took it. Also he sold handmade crafts. His oval bread platters were whittled and inscribed: *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread*, and his woven baskets were constructed from willows on his property. The fruits of the farm and handiwork provided a livelihood for the family.

Banding together in 1903 for mutual protection, Indian Hill 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, we 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 stopped the theft of chickens, horses, and harnesses from area farms.

In 1910 when their name was changed to the Indian Hill Rangers, the force was given constable powers (the power to make arrests). Patrolling the area on foot and on horseback, the volunteer Rangers did not have a conveyance (car) until 1926 or a salaried officer until 1929. These men protected the property of those who belonged to their organization. Records show they spent \$6 for handcuffs and \$23 for leasing bloodhounds from Loveland. When the 1920's estates were constructed, newcomers became members of the organization and increased its success. 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 Farmer's 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 even then, and had a long history of commitment to civic duty. When he died at age 83 in 1934, fellow Rangers were pallbearers at the Armstrong Chapel funeral. C. Bart Chapman was an old-timer to many on the hill, and his dedicated service of providing protection made him worthy of gratitude and respect.