

CIVIL WAR CONFEDERATE CANNON
(FOUND BEHIND STAFFORD'S PERRY HOTEL)

“IRON NAPOLEON HOWITZER”

RESTORED

PLACED AT ARLINGTON PARK

WORKERS UNCOVER AUGUSTA CANNON {Confederate Cannon}

Augusta Chronicle
Thursday, November 28, 2002
By Robert Pavey

Utility workers in Petoskey, Mich., weren't too impressed with the rusted iron cylinder they hoisted from a construction site six years ago.

In fact, they dumped it in a field behind the Department of Public Works, where it sat unappreciated until a few months ago, when the relic was identified as a Confederate artillery piece made in Augusta.

"They said they had an old cannon, and did we want it," said Fred Knoodle, a Harbor Springs, Mich., member of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War - a northern equivalent of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

After examining the 1,000-pound artillery piece, he discovered an unusual inscription in the cast-iron trunnion: "*Govert. Foundry & Machine Works, Augusta.*"

The rest of the story

After further research, and discussions with Pennsylvania-based Civil War artillery expert Wayne Stark, it was affirmed that the 12-pound Napoleon style cannon was indeed cast in Augusta.

"It's major," said Gordon Blaker, the curator of the Augusta Museum of History, which until now could not confirm that any iron cannons were made at Augusta's foundry, which typically cast bronze artillery pieces.

During the Civil War, Augusta was a hub for Confederate munitions, with a major Powderworks and other facilities. The cannon foundry was located where Dyess Park sits today, near Eighth and D'Antignac streets.

"They made cannons - and artillery shells were the main thing - and other types of metal parts and machinery," Mr. Blaker said. "Bronze was the preferred metal for cannons, and iron is unusual, as it's a weaker metal."

The discovery of the Augusta-made cannon in Petoskey - 1,117 miles from its birthplace - is as much of a mystery as it is a significant historical find.

"Nobody can figure out how it ended up way up here," Mr. Knoodle said.

It was found by sewer line workers 6 feet underground behind the Perry Hotel, a century-old luxury overlooking scenic Little Traverse Bay.

"They said if we want it, to go ahead and take it, so they delivered it to my house back in October," he said. "They brought it out here in a big dump truck."

The barrel tip is broken off the cannon, which - according to Mr. Blaker - could forever cloud efforts to trace the details of its origins, which likely date between 1862 and 1865.

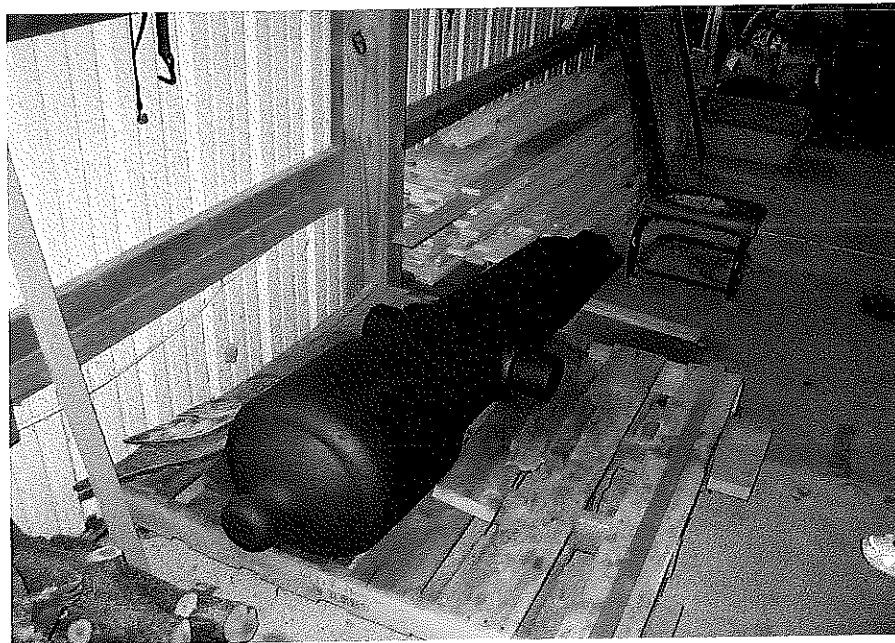
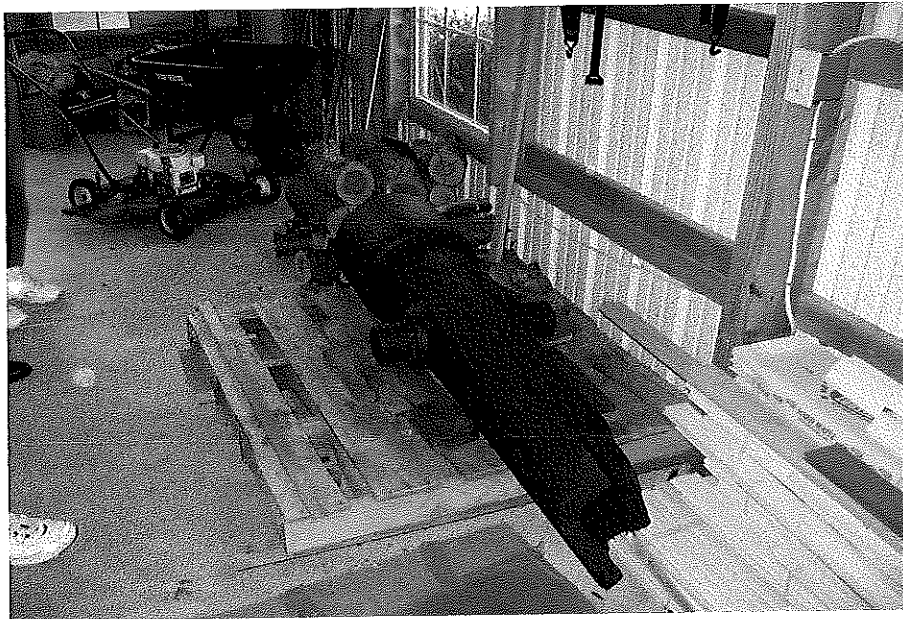
"A lot of the vital information would have been inscribed on the missing portion," Mr. Blaker said. "The serial number, date and weight all would be on the muzzle, so with that gone, there's not much more we're likely to find out unless someone finds other information."

The cannon could have been hauled north as a war prize or souvenir, but it is unlikely anyone will know for sure, Mr. Knoodle said.

Augusta Museum officials would welcome a chance to examine or perhaps acquire the cannon. But for now, Michigan historians plan to keep it in the town where it was found.

"It was donated to our group with thoughts we could restore it and put it in a suitable location in Petoskey," Mr. Knoodle said.

Reach Robert Pavey at (706) 868-1222, Ext. 119, or rpavey@augustachronicle.com.



**Pictures taken in Fred Knoodle's garage
2004 by Ryan Bentley
Petoskey News-Review Staff Writer**

WE'RE FIRED UP BY CANNON PROJECT

Petoskey News-Review
July 13, 2006

Now here's the kind of cannon fodder we can all be proud to provide greenbacks.

A piece of history, found buried some six feet underground in Petoskey, now waits to be brought back to its former glory.

A confederate Civil War Cannon dug up in 1996 behind Stafford's Perry Hotel, and donated to the Sons of Union Veterans of the civil War Robert Finch Camp 14 of Traverse City by the city of Petoskey, is now awaiting its restoration.

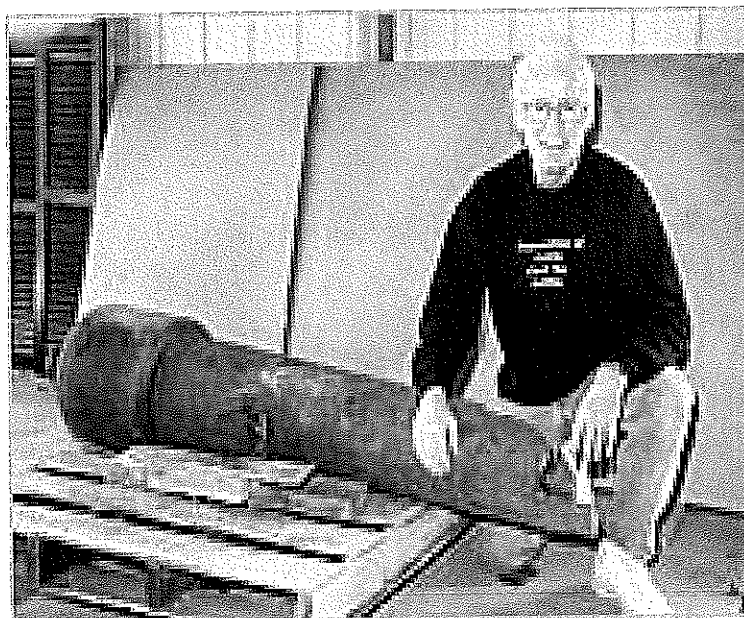
Fred Knoodle, a member of the organization that is storing the cannon in his barn in Harbor Springs, said through some investigation it was learned the 1,000-pound cannon was indeed a Confederate piece of artillery that had been built at the Augusta Arsenal in Augusta, Ga. It is one of only 143 Cannons in Michigan.

The goal of the veterans group is to restore the cannon and present it to the city of Petoskey with hopes the cannon will be on prominent display within the city.

Knoodle noted that estimates to restore the cannon are between \$20,000 and \$25,000, of which \$6,000 has already been collected. The work is to be done by Karkadoulis Bronze Art of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Preserving local and even national history is something many of us in Northern Michigan cherish. We need only look around us at the reminders of where we've come from to tell that a sense of history is important. That's why this cannon project, even though a symbol of a tragic saga in our past, is worthy of pursuit. We encourage support of this endeavor.

To donate to the restoration of the Civil War Cannon, send donations to: Petoskey Cannon Fund, 1023 E. San Remo, Traverse City, Mich. 49684. For more information, call Knoodle at 526-0637.



**Fred Knoodle of Harbor Springs, Mich.
with Confederate Cannon found by utility workers
in Petoskey, Mich.**

ROBERT FINCH
Camp No. 14
SUVCW

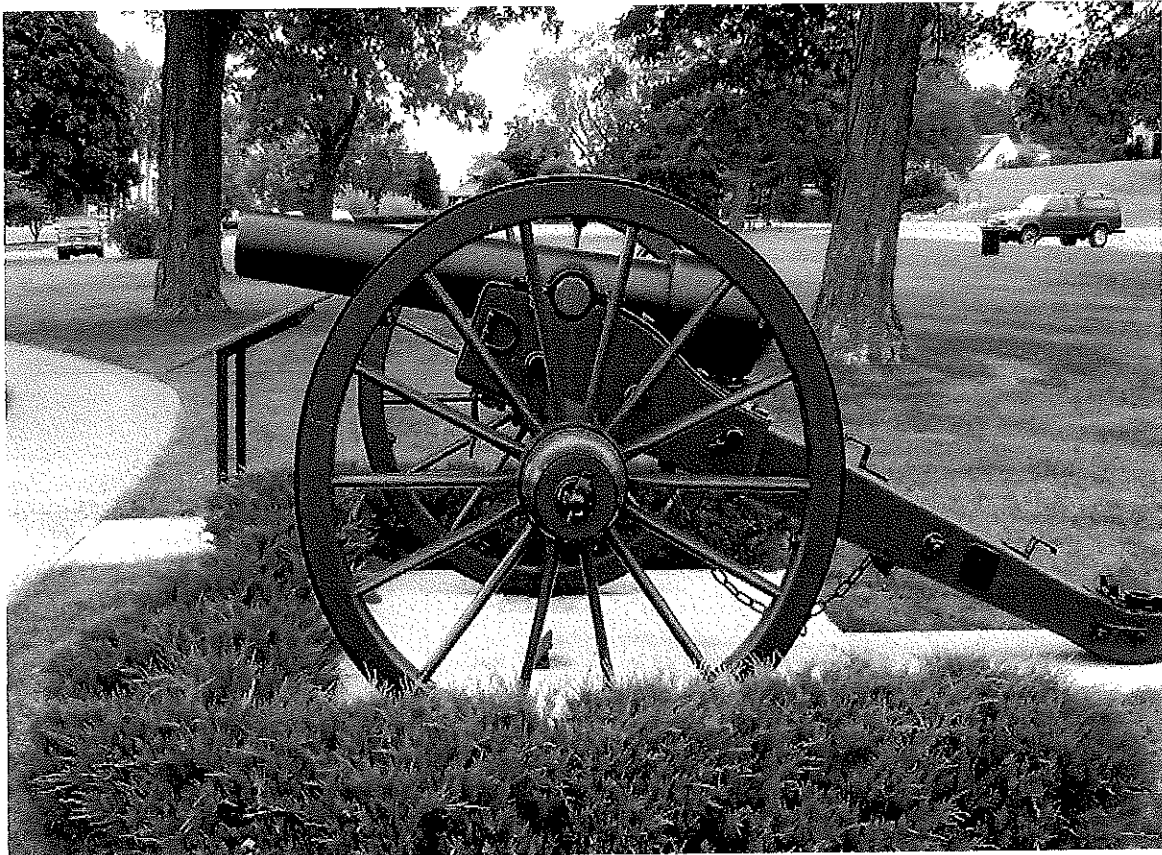
12 Pound Confederate Iron Napoleon Cannon Arlington Park Petoskey, Michigan

June 21, 2008 the Augusta Arsenal-Petoskey cannon was dedicated in Arlington Park in a public ceremony. This cannon is dedicated to the memory of all Little Traverse Region Union veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865.

Under the cannon is another small bronze plaque which reads as follows:

FRED L. KNOODLE
3-27-1940 TO 8-21-2008
DEDICATED MEMBER CAMP 14
SUVCW, LOYAL CITIZEN
LOVING HUSBAND, FATHER,
GRANDFATHER

Fred L. Knoodle was at the time of the cannons restoration the Camp 14 Memorials Officer and prime mover on the cannons restoration.



“IRON NAPOLEON HOWITZER” PETOSKEY GAINS NEW MEMORIAL TO CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Petoskey News-Review

June 24, 2008

By

Ryan Bentley, Staff Writer

With the unveiling of a freshly restored Confederate cannon Saturday, the Petoskey area gained a new memorial to its Civil War veterans.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War-Robert Finch Camp No. 14 - which arranged for the cannon's restoration a few years after it was found buried in downtown Petoskey - presented the artillery piece to the city as a gift during a ceremony in Arlington Park, near Stafford's Perry Hotel in Petoskey. A gun salute and poetry recitation were part of the program.

"I dedicate in the memory of the individuals it represents, to the memory of all Little Traverse region veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865," said Petoskey resident David Kaplan, one of Sons of Union Veterans' speakers at the ceremony.

Representatives of Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War, the National Woman's Relief Corps, the Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, the Little Traverse Historical Society, the Marine Corps League and Petoskey city government also were on hand for the ceremony.

"We're honored to have this cannon located here on this site," Petoskey mayor Dale Meyer said.

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 enlisted Karkadoulis Bronze Art of Cincinnati to handle the cannon restoration. Owner Mercene Karkadoulis, who has worked on monuments and memorials from around the United States, attended Saturday's program. One of the most challenging aspects of the project was cleaning up the cast iron cannon's finish without damaging it, she noted.

"I'm hoping that this monument here will be here for at least 500 years, and I think it would be," Karkadoulis said.

The cannon, now mounted on a replica Civil War artillery carriage and marked with an historical plaque, was unearthed in 1996 near Stafford's Perry Hotel by workers who were tending to a utility upgrade project.

The cannon was determined to be an *"Iron Napoleon Howitzer,"* which had been cast at the Augusta, Ga., arsenal. Prior to the discovery of the Petoskey example, it was believed that a Virginia foundry was the Confederacy's sole source of these howitzers.

"How a Confederate Civil War Cannon ended up in Petoskey remains a mystery," Robert Finch Camp No. 14 member Fred Knoodle said. One theory is that the cannon was featured in an 1899 reunion of Civil War veterans in Petoskey.

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 has received grants, sponsorships and donations to help pay for the \$20,000-plus restoration project, though some funds are still needed. Contributions can be made payable to Petoskey Confederate Cannon Fund and sent in care of Neal Breaugh, 10230 E. San Remo Blvd., Traverse City, Mich. 49684.

Ryan Bentley439-9342 - rbentley@petoskeynews.com