



This one-of-a-kind cannon on an aluminum carriage overlooks Little Traverse Bay from atop Arlington Park. To the left of the cannon is a plaque & further to the left is the W.R.C. plaque.

The Plaque at the side of the Cannon reads:

**This rare Confederate cannon marks the  
site of the 1899 Grand Army of the  
Republic Encampment**

This cast iron Napoleon howitzer was manufactured at the Augusta, Georgia (CSA) Arsenal during the Civil War. Until its discovery, only the Tredegar foundry in Richmond, Virginia was known to have made iron Napoleon cannons. How or when the Augusta Arsenal cannon came to Petoskey remains a mystery.

From June 28 to July 5, 1899, three thousand former Union veterans and their families arrived in Petoskey to attend the 21st Department of Michigan Grand Army of the Republic Encampment in this park. The keynote speaker was Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, late commander of the victorious US forces in Cuba. Gen. Wheeler had been a famous Confederate cavalry commander during the Civil War. Also in attendance was the U.S. Secretary of War Russell Alger who had also served as a Michigan Senator and Governor of Michigan as well as the first presiding Commander of the Michigan Department of the SUVCW. During the festivities a cannon fired salutes over Little Traverse Bay; it is possible that this was the cannon.

In 1996 Department of Public Works employees installing a new sewer line on Rose Street near Stafford's Perry Hotel uncovered what they initially believed was one of the original sewer pipes. After they washed away the mud, they discovered this cannon but with 12 inches of muzzle missing. In 2003, the damaged cannon was adopted by the Robert Finch Camp No. 14 with the goal of restoring it to its original condition.

**The restoration was made possible by the following contributors:**

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Robert Finch Camp No. 14, SUVCW

2014 Robert Finch Camp #14 SUVCW

**12 POUND CONFEDERATE IRON NAPOLEON CANNON**  
**Dedication – Arlington Park**  
**June 21, 2008**

