

AMATEUR THESPIANS OF CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY



Famous Collection Of Relics of Battle

An interesting object lesson of the invariable success of American arms in every conflict in which they have been engaged is afforded by the fine display of trophies at the big granite building occupied by the State, War and Navy departments, relates the Washington Star. The collection of these trophies includes over twenty specimens of ancient and modern ordnance captured in various critical stages of our history from the days of the revolution down to the recent war with Spain. These guns have been mounted in good taste and to the best advantage at the north front of the War department and at the east front of the Navy department. The work of placing them was performed by Captain Baird, chief engineer of the navy, who is superintendent of the State, War and Navy departments, with the valuable assistance of Foreman Jim Campbell and a gang of laborers. "Jim" is a typical man-o-war's-man and managed the difficult work of mounting the heavy and unwieldy guns with as few appliances as possible, relying mainly on tackle, handspikes and wedges. Being, he says, "an old rope-yarn snifter," he believes in "squaring" everything "with the lifts and braces."

There are several real works of art among the old bronze guns which now decorate the front of the big building and stand as silent monuments of the military prowess of the United States.

Among the most interesting of the collection are two bronze guns named "St. Matthew" and "St. Mark" ("San Mateo" and "San Marco"), captured in Mexico. They belonged to a battery of four guns. Of the other two one named St. Luke is at Governor's Island, New York, and the other, named St. John, is at the Burchard library in Fremont, O. It was the custom of the Spaniards to name their guns, some for saints, some for warriors, etc. These two guns are on mounts made in the superintendent's shops in the building. The guns are but 2 3/4 inches in caliber.

Relic of the Revolution.
Another gun is a revolutionary trophy surrendered at Yorktown in 1775. It is a handsome casting and a veritable work of art. Cast on it is the British crown and the monogram of George II. It has the stamp of the maker's name, "Schalch, 1747." Its caliber is three and seven-eighths inches.

A Mexican war trophy is a six-pounder bronze gun named "Cerbero," which has the Spanish crown and monogram of Carlos

IV on it. It is marked, "Cast in Seville 3d July, 1789," but the maker's name does not appear. Cerbero, in mythology, was the three-headed dog which guarded the gates of Hades. The caliber of the gun is three and three-eighths inches. It is a beautiful casting.

The collection includes a relic of the civil war which is of interest. It was originally a forty-two-pounder United States army cast iron "Columbiad," and is one of the guns used in the defense of Fort Sumter. After its capture by the confederates it was carried, with its mate, to the Tredegar Iron works, in Richmond, where it was rifled and reinforced by a wrought iron band. From the notes of Mr. E. R. Archer, chief engineer of the Tredegar Iron works, and who was formerly an engineer in the United States navy, it appears that these two guns, after being rifled, "were re-shipped to Lieutenant Colonel Waddy at Charleston, S. C., 27th April, 1864." As there is the impression of a shot on the reinforce, there is left no doubt that the gun was used by the confederates. Its

great preponderance, due to the wrought iron band, made the gun very hard to handle.

Captured at Santiago.

The gun located immediately behind the Sumter relic is a bronze Spanish piece captured at Santiago de Cuba in 1898 by the army. It is a beautiful piece of work in bronze. It was cast at Douay, in France, 1693, by Kellerituguro, a Helvetian, according to the legend on the gun. Its caliber is six inches, its weight 6,500 pounds. The inscriptions "Ultima Ratio Regum" (The Last Argument of the Kings), "Le Marechal, Duc de Humieres" (Field Marshal, Duke of Humieres), are upon it. It also bears a crown, a blazing sun and the motto of Louis XIV, "Nec pluribus impar." It was taken from the mouth of the harbor, either from the Morro or Secapa.

Near by is a modern gun in bronze, polished, fitted for a Krupp breech block. It was made in Seville in 1895 and was captured by our army at Santiago. It is rifled, three and one-half inches caliber and weighs 1,922 pounds. There is no record of the breech block. It is believed the enemy threw it away to disable the gun.

A three and three-fourth-inch bronze Mexican trophy is named "El Despejador" (The Remover of Obstacles). It was cast by Bernardo Antonio Guerrero at Manila in 1788 and is beautifully designed and exe-

cuted. The motto "Violati Fulmina Rexis" (Thunderbolts of the Offended King) appears on it; also the Spanish crown and monogram of "Carlos III, King of Spain and India." Another inscription translated reads:

"In the year 1789 these Philippine Islands were governed by the high lord, Don J. P. H. Basco y Vargas, knight master of the corporation of the City of Ronda, of the Order of St. James, captain of the navy and of the Royal Armada, governor and captain general, president of the court, etc." Stamped on the breech of the gun there appears, "Me hizo en Manila, Bernardo Antonio Guerrero" (Bernardo Antonio Guerrero made me in Manila). The bronze is of a rich yellow color. There is no record of the field carriage on which this gun rests.

Another Spanish Gun.

A beautiful bronze gun, four and one-fourth-inch caliber, captured at Santiago in 1898, is named "Le Fourbe" (The Knave), with the motto, "Ultima Ratio Regum." It has "Louis Charles de Bourbon, Comte d'Eu, Duc d'Aumale," also cast on it. Below this is a blazing sun, the French crown and the motto, "Nec pluribus impar." Further inscriptions show it was made by Berenger Doncourt, at Douay, in France, 16th September, 1749. The English and French guns usually have the founder's name, but the guns made in Spain have not.

In the collection is a 4.62-inch bronze twelve-pounder, surrendered by the Saratoga convention. It was made by Bowen in 1769. The mottoes, "Tria iuncta in Uno," "A Rege et Victoria," "Honi soit qui mal y pense," and "Dieu et mon droit," are cast upon it.

There is also another revolutionary relic, which came to us through the Saratoga convention. It was made by W. Bowen in 1759. The inscription "Aut nunquam tentes aut perlice" appears on it. Also, "The Right Hon. Lord George Sackville, Lt. Gen'l, and the rest of the principal officers of his Maj. Ordnance." Following this is "Honi soit qui mal y pense" and "Dieu et mon droit."

Another mount is one of a pair of nine-inch bronze mortars, captured by our army at Santiago de Cuba in 1898. They were cast at Seville in 1789. The Spanish crown, the monogram of Carlos III and the above date and place of casting are cast on them. They are works of art and weigh 1,260 pounds each.

Another new trophy is a bronze gun of French make, captured by our army at Santiago in 1898. It was cast at Douay, France, 27th July, 1748, by Jean Maritz. It is a gem of bronze work. Its name is "Le Farouche" (The Fierce); its motto, "Ultima Ratio Regum." The fleur de lis (the emblem of the house of the Bourbons)

appears on it, as it does on all guns of French make. There also appear "Louis Charles de Bourbon, Comte d'Eu, Duc d'Aumale," the French crown, coat of arms, the motto of Louis XIV, "Nec pluribus impar," and a blazing sun.

A beautifully polished and engraved mountain howitzer, 4 1/2 inches caliber, is marked "Val Verde, No. 6." The name of "Lt. McCormick" and the date, 21st February, 1862, are engraved on it.

There is another cast-iron howitzer, 5 1/2-inch caliber, which was presented to the republic of Texas by Major General T. I. Chambers.

It has the single star of Texas cast on it.

Surrendered by the British.

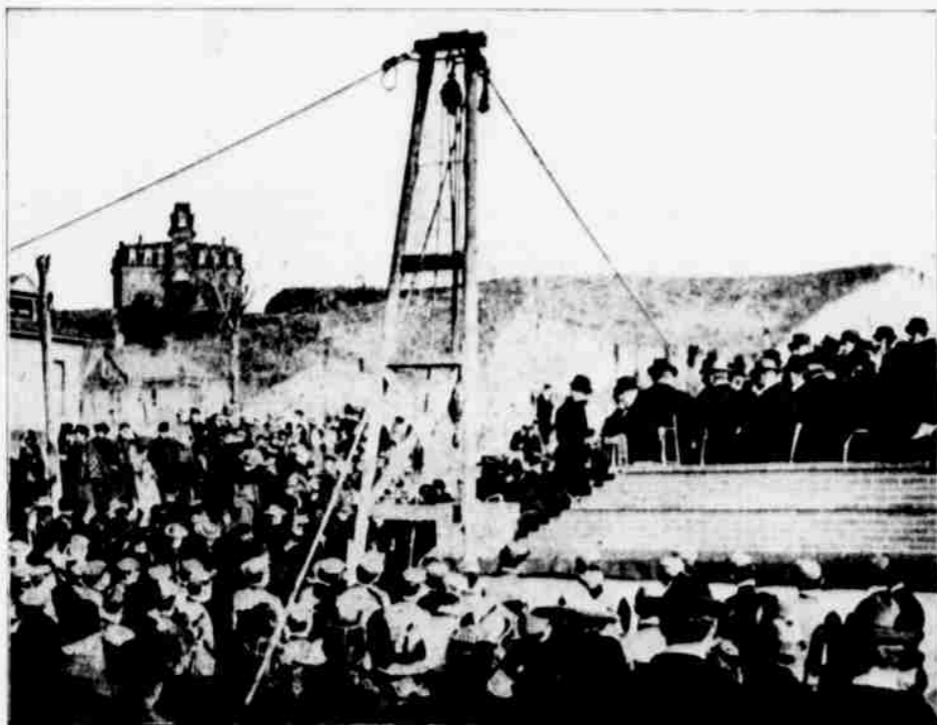
A five and three-quarter inch bronze howitzer is a revolutionary trophy. The monogram of George II, and the name of R. Gilpin, 1760, are cast on it. It is a particularly handsome bronze casting. It was surrendered by the Saratoga convention October 17, 1777.

In another group are two ship's guns, carronades, of cast iron, four and five-eighths-inch caliber, made by W. Bowen in 1759 and 1760, which also came to us through the Saratoga convention. They are without embellishments or records. They are well proportioned for the powder and projectiles used in the last century.

There is a peculiar three and one-half-inch bronze rifle. A transverse section of the gun shows the bore as hexagonal, instead of having the ordinary bands and grooves. It shows the Spanish crown, and "F. de S., 1861, No. 9122," cast on it. No further record can be found of the gun.

A six and one-half-inch bronze sea-coast rifle, captured by the army at Santiago in 1898, is a handsome casting. Its name, "Fanatico," appears on it, also the Spanish crown, the monogram of Carlos III and "Seville, 29 May, 1779," but not the founder's name.

On the east side of the building, at the entrance of the Navy department, the secretary of the navy has placed two very beautiful bronze guns, captured by the fleet under Dewey at Manila, May 1, 1898. They are crossed with large anchors. One has the monogram of Carlos III, and was cast at Seville, February 21, 1777; the other the monogram of Carlos IV, was cast at Manila October 23, 1789. One is named "El Belicoso" (The Warlike), and the other "Garduna" (The Martin). The names of the founders do not appear. All the guns brought from Manila by the navy, excepting these two, have been given to the states, national cemeteries, etc. There are, however, two steel breech-loading rifles now on the way from Manila which will also be mounted in front of the Navy department.



LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF COUNCIL BLUFFS HIGH SCHOOL