

- Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon -



September 2021

Houston

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

-The Battle of San Jacinto has left many interesting questions to puzzle students of Texas History.

-No conflict on the American continent has called forth more conflicting testimony from the victorious army.

E. C. Barker, T.H. Quarterly

-To find such a mass of material one feature of the battle upon which all agree the success of the battle depended on is noteworthy.

-This one feature was the artillery of the Texan army known to old Texans and every schoolboy and girl of Texas by the name of the "Twin Sisters" cannon.

-These historic guns performed service at that critical time, which entitles them to a careful consideration and history.

-While all testimony as to their value in a time of need is unanimous, the sketches that have appeared from time to time relative to them are so fragmented, and often so unreliable, that it was deemed a fitting tribute to carefully narrate their history as far as documents and testimony extant would permit.

Dr. Alex Dienst-1913

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

-To Ed Jones, long term Friendswood resident, my many thanks for your continual support throughout the years since 2014 when we pursued the location of the Clear Creek cannon discovered by the dredgboat in 1909, and still to be recovered. I could not have had a better field search partner for the Twin Sisters cannon, you were there at every wrong conclusion, rising as you have always said to “enter the breach” once again, you were then and still are a “game rooster”, even into your 90’s.

-To my wife, who has been the greatest supporter and “red pen” editor since embarking on this journey in 2008, and has remained so through the rise and fall of historical pursuits. What can I say, but that you are the best of the best.

Kirk Clark

September 20, 2021

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APPENDIX 1-4

COLLATERAL ADDENDUM

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Introduction

The Twin Sisters cannon “generally accepted” origin has long been founded in Texas history, set in 1855 by Henderson Yoakum*, and virtually unchallenged or unchanged since. Recent investigations [1] have shed new light on the cannons origin and the events which occurred in Cincinnati in late 1835 and early 1836, including as well with specific regards to Francis Smith, the agent from Texas, and others who played key roles in their evolution. The investigation also reveals issues with the cannon’s delivery, the nature of the original manufactured “roundshot”, the actual “grapeshot” used in the Battle of San Jacinto which rendered such “terrible effect” on the Mexican forces, the naming and description of the Twin Sisters cannon.

*Henderson Yoakum, in his 1855 “History of Texas”, provided the first brief history of the Twin Sisters Cannon. Yoakum was an 1832 graduate of West Point, and later a member of the Tennessee Senate. Relocating to Huntsville Texas in 1845, he served during the Mexican War, and upon completing his enlistment period, returned to his law practice at Huntsville where he was close friends with Sam Houston. In 1855 he completed his two volume History of Texas from Its First Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation to the United States in 1855, relying on Sam Houston for much of the information. Henderson unfortunately passed away shortly after in 1856.

[1] These investigations were a continuation of a 10 year investigation into the final disposition of the Twin Sisters cannon, and the pertinent history therein. Deriving the origin of the cannon became a central focus starting in 2019.

1855 - Henderson Yoakum and the Twin Sisters

Henderson Yoakum provided the first “glimpse” of generally accepted recorded history for the Twin Sisters Cannon:

*As the Texans were crossing the Brazos, they were reinforced by two six pounders, known as the “Twin-Sisters.” These notable pieces of artillery, for the good they did in the cause of Texan independence, deserve some further notice. A meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1835, for the purpose of aiding Texas in her struggle. On the suggestion of Robert F. Lytle (sp), it was concluded to furnish these two pieces of “hollow ware.” A committee was chosen to carry out the resolution; and through the instrumentality of William Corry, Willis Tatan**, Pulaski Smith, David Bolles, and others***, the cannon were manufactured, mounted, supplied with shot at the foundry of Messrs. Greenwood and Webb, and dispatched to New Orleans; thence by the Texan agents, to Brazoria.[2]*

***This has now been confirmed as Tatem*

*** President Burnet’s official letter of thanks, dated Velasco, July 22, 1836, included Daniel Drake, M. D., William Corry, Pulaski Smith, Nathan Leamans, and W. Chase. (Note Leamans is in actuality Seaman, a committee member assigned to Ward II)

[2] Yoakum, *History of Texas, II*, 123.

The Winkler & Bate Updates

In his 1917 article, The Twin Sisters Cannon, 1836-1865., [3] E. W. Winkler included additional content regarding early events of the cannon in Cincinnati, providing key details of *one* specific meeting held in Cincinnati on Nov. 17, 1835. [4] The committee as referenced by Yoakum were in fact five committees comprised of five representatives each, one committee assigned to each of the five Wards in the city.

[3] Winkler, E. W., "THE “TWIN SISTERS” CANNON, 1836-1865 ", Volume 021, Number 1, Southwestern Historical Quarterly Online, Page 61 - 68. http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/publications/journals/shq/online/v021/n1/article_6.html

[4] Note that for this section, Winkler references the *Cincinnati Evening Post* as quoted by the *Texean and Emigrants' Guide* (Nacogdoches), December 19, 1835. Winkler did not source the Cincinnati newspaper, he sourced the Texan and Emigrants guide which was in existence out of Nacogdoches for two months only, December 1835 – January 1836.

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But this was not the first meeting or the first announcement in regards to Friends of Texas meetings in Cincinnati.

W. N. Bate [6] provided further details of the Cincinnati 1835 meetings and records in his 1974 biography “General Sidney Sherman” quoting as reference Huson’s Historical Notes [7] Daagwood Library Refugio Texas, [8] an important source which requires further clarification.

[6] Walter Nathaniel Bate lived in Corpus Christi from the 1950’s through the 1970’s, drive time was less than an hour to Refugio. It is assumed that Bate made multiple trips to Refugio in cooperation with Hobart Huson. Bate was a member of the Texas Historical Association, the Nueces County Historical Society, and The South Texas Historical Association. He was a tax auditor for the State Comptroller’s office. During WWII he worked in the purchasing department for the Bureau of Reclamation and was purchasing agent in the Army Air Forces. Mr. Bate completed draft cards for both WWI and WWII. He was 81 when his biography on General Sidney Sherman was published in 1974.

[7] The complete title for Huson’s work: *Notes, and Excerpts from Various Authors Relating to Historical Subjects Gathered By The Hon. Hobart Huson*. Presented to William H. Oberste. Refugio, Texas. 1938

[8] The library that Bate referenced is in fact (and corrected) the “Dawgwood” Library of 20,000 volumes which was located in the Huson home. (See Appendix-1 for 1986 Victoria Advocate Cover of the Dawgwood Collection)

The Rare Hobart Huson Manuscript

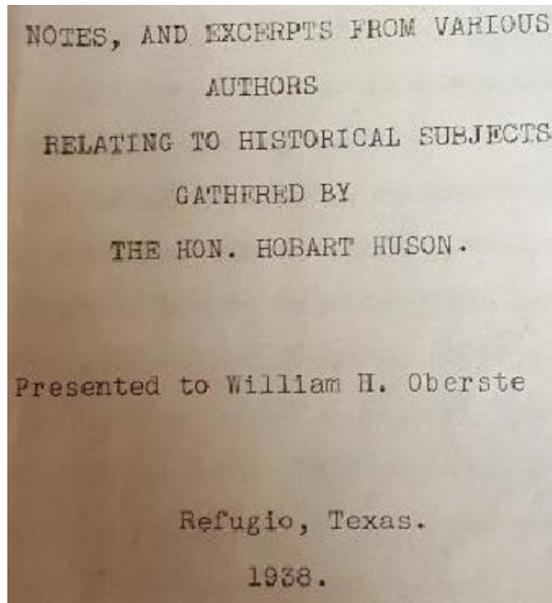
The information gained from the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette & Cincinnati Republican for 1835 and 1836 was recorded in a rare bound manuscript by Hobart Huson Jr. (1893-1983) [8]

The rare manuscript, which exists in three volumes and which are the only known copies to exist, resides at the Dennis M. O'Connor Public Library in Refugio. [9]

[8] After studying law at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, Huson settled at Refugio, from where his practice extended to San Antonio, Houston, Corpus Christi, and other cities. Historical research and writing were Huson's abiding interest. At Dawgwood, his home in Refugio, he assembled one of the most extensive Texana libraries in the state. His collection, which included records of general Texas history, Refugio County data, law books, and maps, comprised around 20,000 volumes. He wrote several books, including *El Copano, the Ancient Port of Bexar and La Bahia* (1935), *Refugio: A Comprehensive History of Refugio County from Aboriginal Times to 1953* (two volumes, 1953–55), and *Captain Phillip Dimmitt's Commandancy of Goliad, 1835–1836* (1974)

[9] In pursuit of this project, W. N. Bate’s General Sidney Sherman biography was reviewed, the Cincinnati News reporting for November 1835 (Chapter 2, page 17) referenced Hobart Huson’s Historical Notes, Daagwood Library, Refugio, Texas. When this volume could not be located in major repositories, the library in Refugio was contacted, with efforts aided by the Library Director Ms. Tina McGill. Ms. McGill noted that they had several bound works of Huson’s, and immediately retrieved the large single volume. In a short time by jointly reviewing the pages referenced by Bate, the manuscript was confirmed as the referenced work. Ms. McGill then provided photo copies of the required pages.

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PARTIAL TITLE PAGE HUSON'S "EXERPTS"

The title page also includes a hand written note in ink from Hobart Huson to the Rev. William Oberste, summarizing the content of the manuscript:

These excerpts are in our
main taken from newspapers
published in Kentucky, Ohio and
other States in 1835-1836-1837
and were made by me in Summer
of 1835. It is with great pleasure
that I have the privilege of presenting
a copy to Rev. Wm H. Oberste, who
has done more than any in gathering
materials in Refugio History.

"These excerpts are in our main room taken from newspapers published in Kentucky, Ohio and our State in 1835-1836-1837 and was made by me in summer of 1935. It is with great pleasure that I have the privilege of presenting a copy to Rev. Wm. H. Oberste, who has done more than any in gathering materials in Refugio History."

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Thus in effect, Huson went on a road trip to various libraries and repositories in 1935 with a typewriter and recorded sections from newspapers from 1835-1837 which had notable Texas content and confirmed where newspapers *did not* include articles by documenting as such. In terms of Cincinnati, this brought confirmation in regards to their decision following their legal interpretation for the possible violation of the U.S. Neutrality Law in November of 1835.

Francis Smith and the Cincinnati Speech

On November 11, 1835, the Cincinnati Republican listed the following article: [10]

TEXAS! TEXAS!

Mr. Francis Smith, now in this city who has resided in Texas about 13 years, respectfully proposes to the citizens of Cincinnati to hold a meeting at the Court House on THURSDAY EVENING, 12 inst. At 7 o'clock for the purpose of hearing such further information respecting Texas as he can communicate-and then, if the meeting should be disposed to assist their brethren in Texas-such measures may be digested as may seem proper in so good a cause.

[10] Huson, "Excerpts", page 650.

The weekly newspaper of November 19th recorded the meeting of the 12th, including and especially the entirety of Francis Smith's prepared speech: [11]

[11] Huson, "Excerpts", pages 568-562. (Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette)

PUBLIC MEETING TEXAS- Pursuant to public notice, a large meeting of the citizens of Cincinnati was held at the Court House on the evening of Thursday, 12 November, 1835. Calvin Fletcher was called to the Chair and J. W. Piatt appointed Secretary. The Rev. Dr. Slack explained that the object of the meeting was to take into consideration the situation of the people of Texas; and introduced Mr. Francis Smith, a gentleman from that country who, being requested to address the meeting, delivered the following remarks:

Gentlemen:

I appear before you this evening, for the purpose of calling your attention to the present situation of your brethren in Texas, with the expectation that you will assist me in raising funds to purchase a pair of field pieces to take to Texas to assist in maintaining the rights and privileges you here enjoy.

The well known enterprise and perseverance of Americans, has, in about 14 years, changed Texas from a hostile wilderness into flourishing villages and beautiful farms.

We immigrated to Texas when a free republican government invited us to take the then wilderness for our homes. That government guaranteeing to each individual emigrant, one league of land. A small premium for the hardships that had to be braved by the first settlers. Yet no hardships, privations, or danger, have we thought too great to undergo for Texas. Tho' we have often been under the necessity of living on horseflesh, panthers and alligators; and eating the bloodshot quille of wild turkeys without bread.

Myself for one, when water could not be had, have had to drink the blood of animals, as it flowed after my knife.

For years in settling and driving the savages from Texas, we have had to sleep on the naked earth, open to the doors of Heaven; with our horse tied to our arm, our shot bag and powder horn for our pillow, and in our arms our rifles.

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We have but just removed our families from camps and shady oaks into our new dwellings to enjoy the fruits of our labor and the comforts the excellent soil and serene climate affords—Our prosperity has excited the jealousy of the Mexican government, many obstacles have been thrown in our way to prevent our advancement.

We have by indefatigable perseverance made Texas what it now is, and what the fate of Texas is to be, is ours.

While we were peaceable at home at our daily avocations, comparing our present comforts with our formen (sic?) privations and hardships, the scene suddenly changes.

That Republican Government which sole cited us to our chosed spots is no more.

A Tyrant now reigns: a tyrant who many of our best citizens fell in fighting battles to raise; and who, when ruined, deserted their cause.

He has joined the priests against us.

He has armed the savages, and sent them against us—they have already commenced scalping our neighbors.

He has sent his troops against us, to take our arms from us and subject us to his will, or drive us from our homes. O what a harassing thought for freemen! Will we give up our arms, that hard necessity has taught us to use so well, that we have so long supported ourselves and families with, and have driven the savage out of Texas with; and our shot bag and powder horn, our old pillow? No! thrice no! Not as long as we can see an object through their sights.

Will we be subject to a tyrant's will? No, the blood in our veins of our fathers of '76 boils high at the thought.

Will we go leave our hard earned homes, when the tyrant's troops approach us? No, No, No: before we will go and leave them, our blood shall enrich the soil of Texas. Then our children will have a fruitful foundation to build their independence upon; and the tryant [sic] shall see, feel and know, that we are worthy of the land of our birth, and that we are at home.

The light of freedom has been extinguished by him in all the Mexican states, with the exception of Texas; and a cloud of his sooty troops has begun to pass over that bright star, and darkness begins to prevail so much that the Tyrant's own owls risk out in quest of prey into the American settlements. But the freemen of Texas are determined that the light of freedom shall emerge from the present darkness, and enlighten the whole Mexican nation. The light of freedom that now shines in Texas carries conviction of success with it.

The bright flash of rifles now dazzles the eye like fire-flies in a warm summer's evening. O that I were ready to embark with a pair of six pounders to increase that light!

For one moment think of the Mexican character—think of Cortes, their old standard. Think of the sufferings of Montezuma.

And think of the fair ladies of Texas, who are mothers, sisters and daughters from your own firesides. What insults and abuse they will have to endure, if the Americans should not prove victorious. What would be your feelings to hear that the Texians lost all for want of arms and ammunition to keep up the contest, and their wives and daughters are forcibly embraced in the arms of ruffian soldiery?

Texas stands alone and fights for a constitution. She goes for liberty alone and will have it or sink in the contest.

O fair and beautiful Texas may I soon be with you!

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After which a motion by Edward Woodruff was carried to establish a committee for each of the five wards, with the following individuals appointed:

1st Ward-David T. Disney, Wm. M Corry, James Saffin, Col. Chas. Hale, James Wise

2nd Ward-Nathan Seaman, Benjamin Chase, Henry L. Tatum, Joshua A. Perry, Dr. A.G. Smith

3rd Ward-Wm. Homes, Robert Reily, E.S. Naines, Septimus Hazen, John Armor.

4th Ward- David Griffin, Theodore Scowden, Andrew Patterson, Dr. Wm. Price, A. Higbee

5th Ward-Edward Woodruff, Col. E. Perry, Samuel Fosdick, S. J. Kellogg, Puloski Smith

The following resolution was offered by E. Woodruff, Esq. and unanimously adopted:

-Resolved that this meeting, in common with their fellow citizens of the other states fully appreciate the motives of their countrymen of Texas, in their struggle for liberty; and will cheerfully assist them with all the means in our power: and that they will have our most heartfelt hopes and fervent prayers for their final success. Wm. M. Corry, Esq., being called on to address the meeting, made some very appropriate remarks, which were well received.

On motion it was resolved, that the papers of the city be requested to publish the proceedings of the meeting.

On motion of Dr. Daniel Drake, prefaced by some very interesting remarks of the situation in Texas, it was RESOLVED; that the meeting adjourn to meet at the same place on Tuesday (17th) evening next, at 7 o'clock, P.M. instant, at which time the committees are expected to report, and several gentlemen to address the meeting.

Calvin Fletcher, Chairman – J. W. Piatt, Sec.

But who was Francis Smith? Could he possibly written this lengthy and eloquent speech? If not, then who drafted the speech and commissioned him to represent the State of Texas in their dire need for cannon?

Introducing William Francis “Picayune” Smith.

In a rare autobiography of which only parts remain, the daughter of Francis Smith, Emeline D. Smith, provides a unique perspective of her father as recorded by her granddaughter Nettie Sterns: [12]

...to continue, my father, pioneer of Texas... I shall charge my memory as far back as 1826, when he layed in prison in Victoria, Texas. He was ironed down on the ground by his ankles, and his head was between two great huge logs, for what time, I do not know. But I used to carry his meals to him that mother sent him while in confinement. The Mexicans then took him away, I was told, to the mines. He was absent for several years.[a] In his absence his only son, Augustus, died and I was left his only heir. My mother, being left with two small children and no protector, remarried.

About 1830 my father was carrying on a trading business with the Indians and Mexicans at the Falls of the Brazos River. He had purchased several leagues of land lying {torn out} of the river from SM Williams who {torn out} seldom seen my father. At this trading post, there was but few whites. He principally traded with the Indians and Mexicans. He bought furs and buffalo rugs, beautiful dress painted and beaded, and would swap, as the Indians would say, bed blankets, looking glass, beads of all colors and shapes and sizes, brass earrings, red handkerchiefs, buttons. And here my father built him a large stone store opposite the town of Viesca, which has long since been burnt.

In the year 1831, the County of Washington had some ten families lived in the neighborhood of Independence, and had a small school taught by a Frenchman by the name of Saul. Here my father became acquainted with John P Coles, who at that time was acting as alcalde or advisor. This man had a fine lady for his wife and several little girls, and where I was, Mrs Monson had three very bad boys. I was anxious to get away from the boys, so father made arrangements for me to live with this family of Coles. I remained with them seven years.

In 1835, while father remained here entirely alone, only as anyone would come to trade with him, he and the Indians was friends. At this place, father had some ground cleared off and with a wheel with large wooden pegs around it, when made to roll around, it would make holes in the ground and the Indians would plant corn. In this way, father

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made his bread and corn to sell; having no plows in the country, this necessity was the Mother of Invention. In those days, his corn on the cob he sold for six and a fourth cents, for which the Mexicans gave him title of "Picayune" Smith.

Father continued in this trading business up to his death, before and at the time of the invasion of the country. He was deeply interested in behalf of his country. He aided in furnishing clothing, provisions and ammunitions for the great conquest with Mexico and Texas.

In January, 1836, he had for some time before had a running ulcer, which broke out at the pit of his stomach, and no doctor could cure him. He came down to the country of Washington, where I was staying [b], bringing a large trunk, and presented it to me and about a peck of papers, handing and saying at the same time "Here, my daughter, take these papers and keep them. If you lose them, you will lose all you have." Yes, he spoke right.

*The next day he went to a friend of his by the name of PB Chance, and employed, or had him go, to the Falls of the Brazos to attend his store. He expected to go to Cincinnati to be cured. Although sick as he was, **he was attended to some secret service for his country.** He went his journey and was examined by the doctor, and to his great surprise, they told him he had best return and settle up his business for he could not live longer than six weeks.*

He, still hoping to have a hand in the fight, came back well equipped, with a fine, two hundred dollar horse, fine rifle, holster and pistols, and water-proof clothing from head to foot. Before leaving Cincinnati, the ladies of the town raised money and bought two brass cannon, and they was sent by my father. These pieces just arrived in time to win the Battle of San Jacinto.

March 12, 1836, father got back to Independence. [c] The day he arrived, it was very cold, and wind was blowing from the north, and traveling on facing the north wind, he took a severe chill, coming into the house with the chill. Father lingered until the 20 of March. On Friday night he died. I awoke several times during the night and heard him dying. So before day he was taken away from me and I hope to a better land. On Saturday father was buried.

On Sunday after, being 22 of March 1836, Coles family had to evacuate their home, fearing that the Indians would follow up the Mexican army. That year, Coles made a fine crop of corn, had plenty of meat, and in fact everything in abundance, but had to leave all behind just as if he calculated to return in a day or two. We started in the afternoon, and got within one or two miles of the Brazos River, and on the 23, we all crossed over on the east side. On the 24 night, it commenced raining until every slough and creek was bank full, so it was with great difficulty that we had to reach the high lands. In two or three days, we got to the sulphur spring. At this place families camped.

Coles and several came down to Harrisburg for flour, as it had been ordered that the town and all stores should be destroyed. Coles returned in two or three days. Next day, after he left, the place was burnt, so reported. So when Coles returned, the family all started east. We had awful bad road going as far as the Sabine. We stayed there until we heard that Sam Houston had been victorious.

[12] Emeline D Smith Sterns autobiography. Story told to Nettie Sterns by her grandmother, Emeline D Smith Sterns, provided courtesy of Jennifer Sterns Smith in 2021. Only part of the recorded history remains intact.

[a] In 1826, Francis Smith was arrested by the Mexicans and charged with being antagonistic to the Mexican government. (from an article titled [Francis Picayune Smith](#))

[b] Emeline was staying at that time in Coles Settlement

[c] It is unknown whether Francis Smith reconnoitered with any of the convention delegates during the signing and accepting of the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington on the Brazos which continued until March 16th. If Stephen F. Austin was not present, then this may not have been possible.

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Francis Smith's Secret Service

So this now begs the question of “who” enlisted Francis in his secret service, “when”, and “why”. The Texans just after the skirmish or Battle of Gonzales on October 1st were indeed in a dire situation, with only one small cannon as armament. Cos's forces were on the move to San Antonio with 400 men, the Texans forces mustered in or around Gonzales, needing resupply with arms and ammunition.

Stephen F. Austin, from his command post at San Felipe on the Brazos, began issuing communiqués. On October 4th a letter was sent to the Committee of Safety at Nacogdoches and San Augustine (to be ultimately communicated to San Jacinto, Trinity and Bevils Settlement) confirming 300 men which was expected to grow to 500, stipulating that *“Arms and ammunition are needed; we have more men than guns,” and asked the question, “Could not some muskets be procured from the other side of the Sabine? This is all important—a few wagon loads of muskets and fixed ammunition would be of the utmost service at this time.”* [13]

Continuing on the 8th, he wrote to the Permanent Council:

“I recommend most particularly, that you send a confidential person up to Tenoxtitlan [d]after the Cannon at that place and have brought down to Washington or San Felipe so as to be ready mounted for the Nacogdoches troops to bring on—they must not leave it—write in my name to T. F. McKinney to send up at any cost, all the lead and powder he can— If the cannon at Harrisburg can be got over, it would be well to do so it ought to be done— Every one must be active now.” [14]

R. R. Royal replied on the 10th, denoting a feeble position in terms of armament:

“The cannon at Tinoxtitlan we are pretty well assured was bursted by the men out on the Indian Campaign. Early this morning Mr. Bartleson left for the cannon at Harrisburg [e]and assures us it shall be on the way before tomorrow night. I would have written to the Committee at Columbia for one piece of Artillery but I am opposed upon the plea of the insecure situation of that Country. If however you direct it they will send it.” [15]

Austin continued on the 11th from his relocated headquarters on the West Bank of the Guadeloupe, presenting the dire situation with greater emphasis:

Gentlemen: On this day the volunteer troops of Texas will take up the line of march for Bejar. The whole number of the force does not exceed 300 men. We have hopes to be joined by a part of the detachment at Goliad...Let me request you further to send on, without delay, wagons, with what ammunitions you can procure for cannon and small arms, -powder, lead etc., also provisions.... [16]

[13] Digital Austin Papers. <https://digitalaustinpapers.org/>

[14] Ibid

[15] Ibid

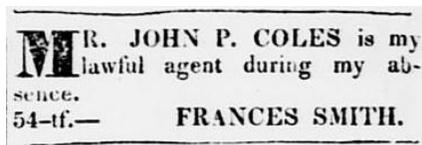
[16] Telegraph and Texas Register (San Felipe de Austin [i.e. San Felipe], Tex.), Vol. 1, No. 2, Ed. 1, Saturday, October 17, 1835

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But what did he hope to gain by sending an emissary to Cincinnati, typically a 28-30 day journey, [17] raising funds, forging and mounting cannon, and then having the cannon delivered to Texas? Surely even under the best of circumstances, even if funds were raised and support gained, a minimum of a three month venture? For Francis Smith to have arrived in Cincinnati prior to November 11th, his journey from the District of Washington would have to have begun on or about October 10th, especially for one carrying a severe ulcer.

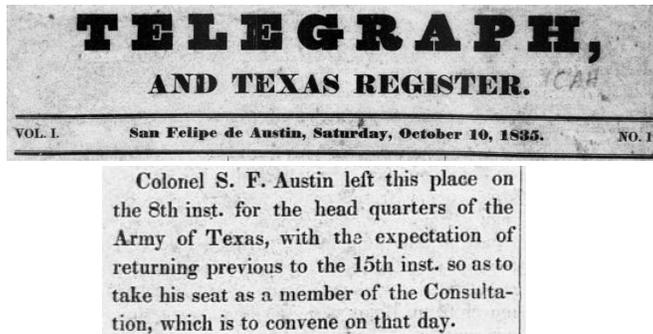
[17] Partially based on duration of travel by Sidney Sherman from Cincinnati to Washington on the Brazos, as documented by W.N. Bate and additionally from Natchitoches from the Diary of William Fairfax Gray.

The following ad was posted in The Texas Republican of October 10th:



MR. JOHN P. COLES is my
lawful agent during my ab-
sence.
54-tf.— FRANCES SMITH.

But Stephen F. Austin had embarked for Gonzales on the 8th from San Felipe...



TELEGRAPH,
AND TEXAS REGISTER. CAH

VOL. I. San Felipe de Austin, Saturday, October 10, 1835. NO. 1.

Colonel S. F. Austin left this place on the 8th inst. for the head quarters of the Army of Texas, with the expectation of returning previous to the 15th inst. so as to take his seat as a member of the Consultation, which is to convene on that day.

Does this mean that by October 8th the “secret service” deal was done, the speech written and in Francis Smith’s hands, thus by the 10th or thereabouts, he was in route to Cincinnati? While no records exist to confirm, the highest probable candidate for seeking his service was Stephen F. Austin, located at San Felipe on the Brazos. Francis Smith was either located on the Falls of the Brazos or at Independence (Coles Settlement), some 45-50 miles northward. Austin had the experience and “eloquence” of speech writing and lengthy communiqués, he and Frances Smith knew each other certainly back to 1832. [18]

[18] In August of 1832, Francis Smith wrote a letter to Stephen F. Austin in regards to the murder of H. Reed, noting the need for a civil officer. Two days later John P. Cole wrote to Austin stipulating, “That Frances Smith would make the best Civil officer because he is more interested and would do more to sustain the place and to keep order. A line from you saying that Smith shall be the Civil officer among them wood be all sufficient.” *Source: Eugene Barker, ed., Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1919: The Austin Papers, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924), 3 vols., Vol 1, Part 2, pp. 848-849*

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Further, a letter (partial only) written in March of 1832 by Smith to his agents on the Brazos at Velasco, A.G. & R. Mills clearly indicates his level of education via the grammar, spelling and punctuation. [19]

I have \$450 on hand. the money is about done here untill more comes on I sell some for Bolets [bullets?].

I have learned that the common strouding is not good for those beaver hunters that they will not wear but tolerable good broad-cloth. I wrote before for brass kettles & beaver traps I think I could sell 100 next fall & summer 3 or 4 dozen rifles would not come amiss between now and fall.

I want a carpenter to help build a skin press and a cistern to keep peltry in to save the cost of beating I want a baker, make out my load with flower, molasses I want.

If R has gone to Orleas please write to him to send to Cincinnati for a first rate large ox waggon for the road with an English bed well turned up before tire not less than 2 inches wide but more will do

I can not do without it I am willing to pay the price but I want one that will please me I have the money laid by to pay for it

French or Me a Knaw blankets is all the sort that will sell here I think that 40 thousand dollars worth of Indian produce can be taken in here between now and the first of next Feby perhaps much more [for] the Cherokees, Shawnees, Delawares & Kickapoos have been very successfull at beaver this winter they say that they will all go and sweep them the next.

As I have in all my letters mixed every thing up together please hunt through them & understand if you can

I know not how to get my money to you I can not shut up and go down for I am the only one that has any thing to sell of consequence

Some American hunters will be here in a few days with about 200 beef hides let we know soon if I had better pay part money to get them and what they are worth.

Francis Smith

[19] A Glimpse of the Fur Trade in Texas. Eugene C. Barker. The Southwest Historical Quarterly. Vol 19, no. 3 (Jan., 1916), pp. 279-282

What is not known is whether Austin enlisted Francis for the mission after discovering that he was travelling to doctors in Cincinnati, or if Francis Smith chose to seek medical attention in Cincinnati after agreeing to represent the Texian cause and to deliver the speech to “sympathetic ears”. The sympathetic ears were certainly bolstered by the inherent support of David Burnet’s brothers Isaac and Jacob Burnet, and their key positions as mayor and judge in the City respectively. Nicholas Clopper, landowner on Galveston Bay, was also a prominent Cincinnati resident.

From Austin’s perspective, this endeavor appeared to be a long term plan facing an uncertain future and possible drawn out conflict. Indeed the successes at Goliad and San Antonio in 1835 were short lived with the fall of the Alamo and the Goliad massacre. With Sam Houston “dumping” the two four pounder

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cannon in the Guadeloupe during his advance ahead of Santa Anna's forces, the future "Cincinnati Cannon" were indeed the critical right path for the future of the Texian forces.

The Cincinnati Newspapers and the Termination of News

Continuing with the committee's news coverage, the newspaper of November 19th provided the record of the meeting on the 17th:

At an adjourned meeting on the condition in Texas, numerously attended, held at the Court House on the evening of Tuesday, November 17, 1835, the Chairman Calvin Fletcher being absent, Nicholas Clopper, Esq., was called to preside. The report of the Ward Committees being called for, reports from four of the Wards were had and further time given for the business at hand. Edward Woodruff, Esq., chairman of the 5th Ward committee, in making his report gave some very interesting reasons upon the propriety of cheering on the Texans in their struggle for Liberty. After Mr. Woodruff had closed, there were many and repeated calls for Robert T. Lytle, Esq., who finally appeared. Mr. Lytle offered the following resolutions, prefaced by some most thrilling and eloquent appeals in the cause of Human Liberty. He was repeatedly and enthusiastically cheered by one of the largest meetings held in our city for some time. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved that this meeting cooperate in sentiment and feeling with the Independent citizens of Texas, in their many efforts now making in that Territory by the late citizens of these United States, in maintaining their rights and resisting the aggressions upon them by an unprincipled usurper.

Resolved. That as American Citizens, we can do no less than encourage the Spirit of Freedom, wherever or by whatever people it may be displayed.

Resolved. That the violation of the natural and conventional rights of our Friends and brethren the State of Texas, is regarded by this meeting with abhorrence and just indignation; and that they do especially commend, in this instance, the measures of resistance that have been resorted to, and confidently hope and believe, that as sons of the United] America, the lessons of their Fathers will not be lost upon their descendants.

Resolved, That, as in the case of the Patriotic Greeks, the South Americans and the Poles, we have a right to cheer them by our sympathies, and to aid them in the supplies of clothes and provisions.

Resolved, That we approve of and recommend to the citizen of this meeting a plan by which the citizens of Texas shall be supplied through their agent, Mr. Smith, by our contributions, with such an amount of HOLLOW WARE as he may deem sufficient, to contain other provisions by which they shall be filled according to his judgment and sound discretion.

Resolved, That this meeting have every confidence in the integrity and patriotism of Mr. Smith, and no wish or intention to violate any law of their own government.

Dr. Daniel Drake, being called on, entertained the meeting by some very appropriate remarks;, after which Wm. M. Corry, Esq., on being called for, interested the meeting in some pertinent observations on the course taken by those who opposed the exercise of sympathy toward the Texans in their struggle for liberty.

On motion of Robert. T. Lytle, Esq., a central committee was appointed to correspond with the New Orleans committee in relation to Texas. The committee was filled by appointing Dr. Daniel Drake, William M. Corry, Esq., Nathan Seaman, Colonel Charles Hales, and Israel Ludlow, Esq., the following resolution was adopted by the meeting:

Resolved, That the respective committees heretofore appointed for the purpose of assisting our fellow citizens in Texas, be requested to meet at the Court House on Monday next (23rd), at half past 7 o'clock, and confer with Mr. Smith, agent from Texas, on result of their efforts.

On motion - Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published. After which, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

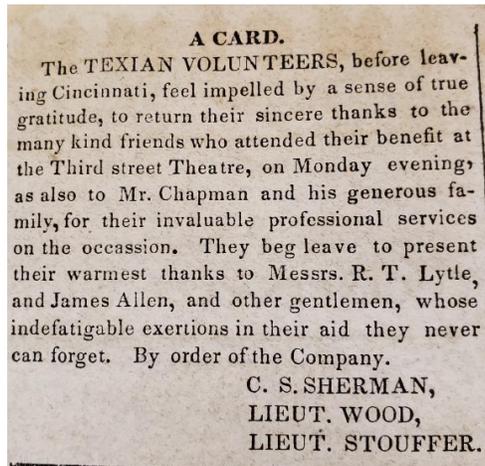
Nicholas Clopper, Chairman – J. W. Piatt, Sec.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

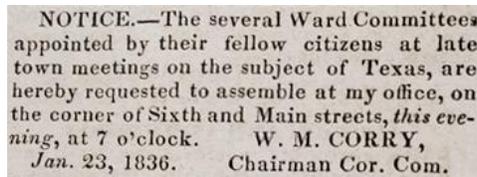
Huson continued to record the major events related to Texas in the Cincinnati newspapers, yet no further reports were available past November 26th, (which included the 26th, this date had no newspaper issued due to Thanksgiving). Hence:

<u>December 3, 1835</u>	<i>Late News From Mexico (preparations for war in Texas)</i>
<u>December 10, 1835</u>	<i>Nothing</i>
<u>December 17, 1835</u>	<i>Nothing</i>
<u>December 24, 1835</u>	<i>No Texas News</i>
<u>December 31, 1835</u>	<i>Great New York Fire</i>

The January 4th 1836 newspaper included the send off for Sidney Sherman and the “Texian Volunteers”:



On January 26, 1836, there was a simple notice for a meeting by William Corry, but no further reports detailing minutes of the meeting*:



* Cincinnati Daily Gazette

But why? What happened to the news reporting of the meetings that initiated a sudden “cease and desist” for any and all information and activity regarding the Cincinnati Committees?

The Legal Question – Violation of the U.S. Neutrality Laws.

As during the meeting of November 12th, the meeting of the 17th included a resolution to publish the proceedings in the newspaper, but the weekly edition issued on the 19th was indeed the last edition to publish the records of the meetings. The concern was violating U.S. neutrality laws established by the 15th Congress in 1818”. [20] A citizen of Cincinnati had contacted the U.S Government in this regard; the Liberty Hall on the 19th presented the legal situation in its entirety along with the Grand Jury’s opinion.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Gideon Tucker, foreman of the U.S. Grand Jury for the Southern District of New York, asked for an opinion whether:

“Is it, or not, a violation of the 6th section of the Act of Congress passed on the 20th of April, 1818, entitled an act in addition to an act for the punishment of crimes against the United States therein mentioned, that meetings should be held in this district, and committees appointed to provide means and make collections for the purpose of enabling the inhabitants of Texas to engage in a civil war with the sovereignty of Mexico, now at peace with the United States?”

Asking the court to confine itself to the facts stated, the 6th Section Act was listed:

“Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, that if any person shall within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begin, or set on foot, or provide, or prepare the means for any military expedition or enterprise, to be carried on from thence against the territories or dominions of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people, with whom the United States are at peace, every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of high misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisoned not more than three years.”

[20] Acts of the Fifteenth Congress of the United States, Statute I, Chapter 88, Section 6, page 449. Approved April 20, 1818. (See also Appendix-1)

The Grand Jury’s narrow interpretation was that the section applied only to “military expeditions and enterprises” and focused on the actions that “no person shall begin or set foot, or provide or prepare means” for said “military expeditions”, thus concluding that donations in money or anything else to the inhabitants of Texas did not constitute the actions noted, and so does not amount to an offence with regards to Section 6th.

The Liberty Hall and Gazette took issue with the conclusion, noting on the 19th, *“We doubt the soundness of the foregoing legal opinion, etc.”* The manufacture and supply of cannon and roundshot to Texas may have been a cause for concern, hence as an action to “provide the means”, thus in violation with the section.

The summary and complete response by the Cincinnati newspapers was to cease and desist from continuing coverage any news of the committee’s actions regarding supply of cannon, arms, ammunition, or volunteers to fight in the war.

(The Friend of Texas meetings did continue later in 1836, in an effort to petition the Ohio State representatives in Congress to support a government level action and committees began a collection of funds for the Republic of Texas. Ohio State Prosecuting Attorney Nathaniel C. Read, pro Texas, “crossed swords” with Liberty Hall & Cincinnati Gazette editor E. C. Hammond, Hammond not in favor of support to the Texian cause, calling Texas patriots “land brawlers.” See Appendix-2)

The committees however were in disagreement with the newspapers, and must have considered the legal opinions as valid basis, or were committed regardless, for they were unwavering in the mission to deliver cannon to the fledgling Republic of Texas in her dire need.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Piecing Together the Origin of the Cannon

With the termination of news reporting early in the cannons development, the origin of the cannon must be “discovered from other sources”, and then rationalized with the selected adequacy of information. Various articles in later years emanating from Cincinnati often had incorrect, imprecise or conflicting information, but applied with other specific sources yield an adequate measure of veracity.

In 1884, a local Cincinnati news article entitled the “Twin Sisters”, included information which appears to have resulted at least in part from an interview or input from Miles Greenwood. [21] The article appears to confirm that Miles Greenwood did not manufacture the cannon, which aligns to the limited capability due early stages of his foundry in 1835 which was founded only four years earlier:

The two cannon were manufactured by Chase & Seymour, at their foundry on the north side of Fifth street between Elm and Plum. Miles Greenwood, who made the balls, about three hundred pounds, for these cannon, is still living and is one of the trustees of the great Cincinnati Southern railroad. Mr. Greenwood does not remember who cast the cannon.*

[21] The Austin American Statesman, April 24, 1884 (also multiple other newspapers)

* See 1886 Discussion item, #2.

An 1882 article reported on the celebration of his 75th birthday, and that he was the founder of the fire organization of the city. Miles Greenwood passed away on November 19, 1885, in his home.

At the 50 year anniversary of the Battle Of San Jacinto, a local Cincinnati newspaper in 1886 [22] collected the “memories” of the cannons origin, and after an introduction of pertinent history, noted:

The committee of citizens had given orders (at the foundry of Tatum and Hawkins (1)) to have two four-pounders cast and delivered as soon as it was possible to furnish them. Six hundred dollars was the price agreed upon.

The committee had consulted Miles Greenwood as to what kind of shot would be provided. Everybody remembers the man who was the first Chief of the Fire Department... “Gentlemen, I will furnish you a can of shot for your guns.”

And so it happened that Miles Greenwood, at his foundry, cast six barrels of eight ounce iron balls and presented them as his donation, and was on hand to see them shipped to Texas. (7)

And so the “Twin Sisters” were cast by Hawkins & Tatum, on Fourth (1) Street in Cincinnati. The “grape” were cast by Miles Greenwood.

The guns being cast and cooled were sent to Chase and Seymour (2) on Fifth street, between Elm and Plum, and then were returned to the Fourth street foundry.

Disney, Curry, and Lytle had not forgotten the guns must have carriages. Bruncia (sp.? Cassat (3), a well known and established blacksmith and carriagemaker, had been called upon to make carriages for the two guns. His orders were to move quick, and to his credit be it said that the carriages, rough but substantial, and well ironed, were on hand the morning of December 30, 1835. He painted the carriages a bright red, but gave the wheels a stroke of blue.

He brought them down to the foundry of Hawkins and Tatum (1), and with the help of the foundry boys mounted the guns upon them. The six barrels of grape were waiting impatiently at the door. Two drays were mustered into service and the two gun carriages were pinned to the tail of the drays and the

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

procession moved along Fourth and Main street and down Main street to the river where by previous arrangement, the guns and grape were received and shipped on the steamer Splendid (8) to "Samuel Ellis New Orleans (4)".

Ellis was agent for U.S. subscriptions, and when he received the consignment of "two pieces of hollow ware and contents" as shown by the bill of lading signed "William B. Keys. Clerk" (5), he knew well the heart of the North had been moved...he (Samuel Ellis) was forwarding and general agent for Texas when he received them about January 14, 1836 (6)...

[22] San Jacinto and "Twin Sisters". How Texan Independence Was Aided by Cincinnati Fifty Years Ago. Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. April 17, 1886.

Discussion regarding the 1886 article

1) Charles Tatem and Josiah Hawkins had a short lived partnership, their Phoenix Foundry was established in 1819 and the partnership active per Cincinnati Directory between 1819-1825, but had dissolved by 1829. The Phoenix Foundry listed ownership as Tatem and Sons (Charles Sr., Willis, Henry L.) that year through 1834. The Phoenix Foundry was located on the west side of Plumb between 3rd and 4th. In 1835 ownership changed to Willis Tatem & Co. (including brother Henry L.), Charles moved on to a separate facility as a "Cooper" and iron worker by 1836. (Cincinnati Directories-1819 to 1836). In 1836, the Phoenix Foundry had a cupola and air furnace driven by steam power and employed thirty foundrymen.

2) This refers to Benjamin Chase and Jeffrey Seymour; Seymour became the city's leading fire engineer. This partnership, while short lived, was successful in manufacturing fire engines for city use and for sale in the region (See Appendix-3). Fire engines required the technique of boring blocks with precise tolerances and engineering pistons, so Chase & Seymour certainly was the primary choice for the precise boring of the cannon barrel.

3) The name misspelled here is "Francis" Cassat, a long term blacksmith in Cincinnati, his brother David was a "tanner and currier", which means he had the ability to cure hides and to produce specialty leathers.

4) Samuel Ellis refers to Major Samuel Ellis, agent and secretary for the Bryan and Hall Agency, of New Orleans.

5) William B. Keys was listed as a clerk in the 1834 Cincinnati Directory

6) It is unclear what January 14th means as listed here, this is more likely the shipment date from Cincinnati after the involvement of Thomas Stansbury. With a 7-10 day steamboat transit time from Cincinnati to New Orleans, if Bryan's letter truly listed the actual date received in New Orleans, the cargo should have arrived late January, thus languishing for nearly 6 weeks somewhere:

Under date of March 16, 1836, Mr. William Bryan, general agent for Texas at New Orleans, reported to the Governor and Council of Texas the arrival at that place of "two iron field pieces":

I have rec'd a letter from Cincinnati Ohio, and with it two Iron field pieces complete excepting harness, presented by the Citizens of Cincinnati, (through W M Corry Chn of Texas Committee Edward Woodruff and Pulaski Smith Esquires) to the government of Texas. I have in the name of the government acknowledged their receipt, and presented them with your thanks for their noble and acceptable donation. .
(See also Appendix-4)

(7) This confirms two situations,

- Miles Greenwood did not forge the cannon, his foundry was in the early stages in 1835, having a start in 1831, and advertised small products like butt hinges
- His foundry provided small grapeshot, a much simpler product than the precise dimension single 4 or 6 pounder cannon ball.

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(8) The steamboat Splendid plied trade for more than 15 years in 1830's and 1840's, including in 1833 taking aboard the President of the United States Andrew Jackson and several members of his cabinet (New Haven Daily Herald, June 20, 1833). The steamboat was operated at that time by Captain Stone.

The serious delay between the cannons manufacture/wharf date and receipt date as noted by Bryan is still much of a mystery.

1895-Julia Lee Sinks and the Casting of the Twin Sisters

Julia Lee Sinks, a well known pioneer settler, author, and avid Texas historian, was born and raised in Cincinnati. She and her family relocated to Texas in 1840, when she was 23 years old. In 1895 at the request of the Galveston Daily News, Mrs. Sinks provided an account of her trip to Texas, which was published on October 13th:

In moving to Texas our party consisted of my sister, myself, and two brothers, the younger one having lived here a short time. We left our home in May, 1840, and from there took steamer for New Orleans. We had taken great interest in the progress of Texas, and the name of the "Twin Sisters" was familiar to us from their having been cast at Tatum's factory in Cincinnati, the money for their purchase being mostly raised by subscription from the young men, solicited by Mr. William Correy**, a young lawyer of that place. Mr. Sinks was one of the subscribers to those important factors at the Battle of San Jacinto. But coming to Texas the fall following the battle, he did not follow their fortunes. In the summer of 18XX*** we were coming from Austin by private conveyance. And on the pine hills between Bastrop and Cunningham's we met two teams, each loaded with a cannon. We stopped to inquire about them and were told they were the "Twin Sisters" to be deposited in the Capital yard. Of course we examined them with great interest.*

* Lydia, John C., & Abraham, the youngest was Joseph E. Their father, George Robert Lee, died in Cincinnati in 1853.

** William Corry. Note this is a similar content to The Passing of the Frontier, 1825-1850 (See Reference 27, page 432). Hence, "A committee was appointed to receive funds for equipping and defraying the expenses of volunteers in the Texas Cause. Several young men enrolled, and two cannon were forwarded as a gift of Cincinnatians." (Reference to this statement was given as Columbus Ohio State Journal, May 21, 1836; Columbus Ohio People's Press, May 25, 1836, Cincinnati Gazette, Sept. 13, 1836.)

*** Last two digits of the date cannot be read from the scanned newspaper

The 1936 Cincinnati Enquirer Centennial Article, the Old Letter, & the Tatem Corroboration

Many articles appeared in 1936 newspapers celebrating the centennial of Texas's victorious struggle for freedom. The 1936 Cincinnati Enquirer paper however included specific content in regards to the cannon's origin:

The cannon were made and mounted by the Tatum Brothers Foundry, Cincinnati. Under the terms of the contract between the people of Cincinnati and the foundrymen, the "Twin Sisters" were placed on the wharf, consigned to Texas. Then the trouble began.

According to the story *disclosed in an old letter* which is among the precious documents in *archives at Austin, Texas*, one of the supporters of the move to grant aid to the "Texans" was Mr. Thomas Stansbury.

While strolling along the wharf several days after the cannon were supposed to have been started on their down the Ohio River, Mr. Stansbury made inquiries of the wharfmaster about the delay. He learned a steamship captain refused to take cannon since he realized they were contraband.

While Mr. Stansbury and the wharfmaster discussed ways and means of getting the field pieces to Texas, a steamer from Pittsburg bound for New Orleans, tied up at the dock. Quickly taking cognizance of his opportunity, Stansbury approached the captain about taking on some "hollow ware" as cargo. When the

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latter readily agreed, Stansbury obtained two drays and the "Twin Sisters" were soon ready for their long journey- a journey which was eventually to lead them into a place in the history of the great Southwestern state. The boat traveled only as far as New Orleans. Because of this, William Bryant, Texas agent, received the twin guns at Crescent City. They were unloaded on March 16, 1936.

Texas Celebrates Freedom

Cincinnatians And Northern Kentuckians Played Part In The Lone Star State's Struggle For Independence 100 Years Ago.

By Giles F. Wright.

THIS year Texas is celebrating 100 years of independence as a republic and state.

And the Lone Star State has not forgotten the part Cincinnatians and Northern Kentuckians played in its struggle for freedom.

Old newspapers, histories, and stories passed down through the generations serve to jog the memory of descendants celebrating Texas's freedom.

They recall the two six-pound cannons, affectionately dubbed the "Twin Sisters," the only artillery General Sam Houston had at the decisive battle of San Jacinto. The "Twin Sisters" were made possible through contributions and efforts of Cincinnatians.

Nor have they forgotten the Newport Kentucky Volunteers. This group of 28 Ohioans and Kentuckians fought bravely that Texas might throw off the yoke of foreign supremacy. A flag presented to the volunteers shortly before their departure now is displayed on the speaker's platform in the Texas House of Representatives.

A certain common bond between Ohio and Kentucky and Texas that came into existence during that period has grown into a binding tie despite the remoteness in the geography of Texas and the other two states.

Francis Smith, an agent of Texas, came to Cincinnati in November, 1835, with the hope of soliciting its support and its sympathetic people to aid Texas carry on to a successful end its revolt against foreign supremacy.

A public meeting was called at the courthouse on November 12, 1835. A front-page column of the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette, edited by C. Hammond, reported the meeting in the issue of November 23, 1835, on file in the Cincinnati Public Library.

After Calvin Fletcher was appointed chairman and J. W. Pratt, Secretary, the account related, Rev. Dr. Shack explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the situation of the people in Texas. He then introduced Smith.

Dr. William Price, and A. Higbee; Fifth Ward, Edward Wandruff, Colonel F. Perry, L. J. Kellogg, Palaski Smith, and Samuel Foshick.

REALIZING the difficulty there would be in shipping the cannons, they were referred to as "hollowware." The committee was directed to report at another meeting Tuesday, November 17.

The second public meeting began with Nicholas Clapper, Esq., in the chair, according to the November 26 issue of the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette. The meeting was "numerously attended," the account states.

Following a resolution offered by Robert T. Lytle that the meeting cooperate with the Texans, the following resolution was adopted:

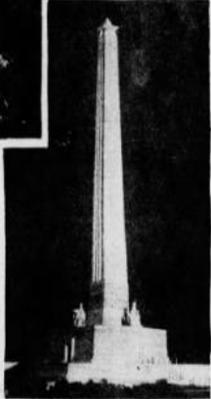
"That we approve of, and recommend to the citizens of this meeting, a plan by which the citizens of Texas shall be supplied through their agent, Mr. Smith, by our contributions, with such an amount of 'hollowware' as he may deem sufficient, to contain 'other provisions' by which they shall be fitted according to his judgment and



Above: This flag ripped in the breeze as General Sam Houston's small army moved forward to a crushing victory over the superior forces of Santa Anna, Commander-in-Chief of the Mexican Army at San Jacinto. Santa Anna was captured the following day, disguised as a peon.



Left: David Crockett, one of heroes of the Alamo, in buck-and-leather garb. This is a reproduction from a painting by W. H. Huddle, in the Capitol at Austin.



Above: Ground has been broken for the erection of the San Jacinto Shofti, which will be built at the cost of \$500,000, provided by state and Federal funds. The monument to Texas heroes will be erected on the site of the Battle of San Jacinto.



Beginning as Captain of the courageous 30 recruits of the Newjort (Ky.) volunteers, Sidney Sherman, Coalington, rose rapidly in the Republic of Texas army.



COME AND TAKE IT

The spirit that proved able to suffer setbacks and come again strong—battles imposing odds without flinching, and go on to a glorious victory, is expressed on the Texas's battle flag, carried in the battle of Gonzales.

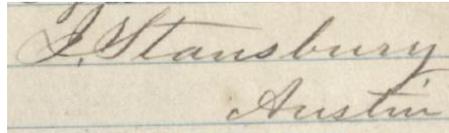
Top Section of the 1936 Cincinnati Centennial Article

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

The Thomas Stansbury Letter

The “old letter” denoted in the 1936 article was located in the repository of the Texas State Library and Archives. The letter had no date, but was hand written on stationary from the George D. Barnard Company of St. Louis, George Barnard died in May of 1915 following complications due to surgery. The letter was part of two items in a collection where the second item was a letter from William Crozier Brigadier General Chief of Ordnance, War Department, Washington D.C. to the Honorable Morris Sheppard, United States Senate dated May 17, 1916. The letter was a reply to an inquiry regarding confederate soldier John E. Cosgrove and his Civil War military record, confirming in Van Buren’s Company, Light Artillery, mustering in Galveston in 1861. (See Appendix-1)

While the Texas State Library had interpreted the signature as “I. Stansbury, an investigation into Thomas Stansbury’s (sr.) children indicated the most probable was the youngest Joseph Stansbury, who has born in 1828, resided in Fort Bend County in 1870 and 1880, and appears to have been a hide buyer in Austin in 1889.[23] The signature is interpreted to be J. Stansbury, Austin.

A photograph of a handwritten signature on aged paper. The signature is written in cursive and reads "J. Stansbury" on the top line and "Austin" on the bottom line. The paper has a horizontal crease or line across it.

[23] From multiple Ancestry.com sources including census, public member trees, and the 1889 Austin City Directory

The handwritten letter [24] is provided below:

The correct History of the Twin Sisters two Cannon that were used at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836.

I believe that I am the only man living (at least in Texas) that is knowing to these facts. The cannon Twin Sisters were made and mounted by Tatum Bro. Foundry men in Cincinnati Ohio. The Cannon were placed on the wharf at Cincinnati by them for Texas. They told my father (Thomas Stansbury sr.) if Texas was ever able to pay for them it would be all right. I believe they were never paid for, or anything demanded. After the cannon had lain on the wharf at Cincinnati for some time, my father asked Mr. Coffin who was at that time wharfmaster why they had not been shipped to Texas. Mr. Coffin told him steamboat Captains would not take them as they were Contraband. While talking to Mr. Coffin a steamboat put in from Pittsburgh. My father went to the Captain and asked him how far he was going down the river. The Captain said to New Orleans, he asked him if he would take some hollow ware, he consented. With two drays my father soon had them on board and in a few minutes they were on the way. The result is known by any veteran that was at the Battle of San Jacinto.

In all the accounts I have seen states that the Ladies of Cincinnati presented the Cannon which is a mistake. There were I think three Companies made up in Cincinnati that the Ladies took great interest in.

*J. Stansbury
Austin*

(See also Appendix-1 for a copy of original letter)

[24] Based on guidance received by Brett Derbis, TSHA, the author submitted an inquiry to the Texas State Library & Archives, the Library subsequently furnished a scanned copy of the letter, the actual date of the letter however cannot be confirmed.

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The Report of Col. John Wade and the Improvised Grapeshot

While it is not perfectly clear from Col. Wade's report, it does appear that the canisters of grapeshot provided by the Miles Greenwood foundry were left on the bank of the Brazos river near Groce's plantation, thus requiring the need to produce a substitute, hence an "improvised" or "home made" grapeshot, this implemented from the burned out ruins of Harrisburg.

Col. John Wade, who manned the Twin Sisters Cannon during the Battle of San Jacinto, filed this report in 1878:[25]

On the 11th of April, 1836, the steamer Yellowstone arrived at Groce's plantation on the Brazos River, and brought with her the two pieces of artillery and a few supplies for the Texan army. The boxes containing the guns, carriages, caissons, and about 80 rounds of round shot were marked hollow ware. They were landed on the east side of the river per Gen. Houston, who selected sixteen young men to man them.

When the pieces were un-boxed we found them to contain a pair of iron medium six-pounders, with all parts of the carriages, caissons, ramrods, etc., complete. Col. John A Wharton, who was adjutant general of the army, informed Col. Neil in the presence of the artillerists, that they were a present from the ladies of Cincinnati Ohio, and had been shipped to the Texas army by a brother of the Hon. David G. Burnet.

Upon arrival at Harrisburg, we found the place reduced to ashes, but finding some old tin and debris at a mill which had been burnt down, we improvised grape and canister shot by filling ten cases with screw nuts and other small pieces of iron, and by cutting bar lead into pieces about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length and sewing them together into small bags of bed ticking.

On the 20th of April, when Santa Anna made a demonstration on our camp with about 100 well-mounted, finely equipped lancers, the first shot was fired from the Twin Sisters, loaded with our home made grape shot. Shortly after the Mexicans opened up on our camp with a brass nine pounder, loaded with copper grape shot, one of which took effect on the thigh of our brave Col. Neil, who had to return from the field dangerously wounded.

When we went into action on the 21st, we found the brave and chivalrous Col. G. W. Hockley at our head. We were not engaged more than twenty minutes. We fired eleven shots in that time, six from one piece and five from the other, but everyone told. The last shot was fired seventy yards from the enemy's works, when we had to cease fire for fear of striking our own men, who were commingling with the enemy.

In 1879, Major Moses Austin Bryan dropped some words of tribute to the memory of his old comrades in arms in the Texas revolution. "Col. Wade was one of the eighteen young men who manned the Twin Sisters at San Jacinto. So far as I know, there is but one left of the eighteen men, nine to each piece, who charged the Mexican cannon and breastworks, hauling the Twin Sisters cannon by hand with rawhide ropes, and that is Mr. John Ferril of Hempstead, who was then a 16 year old boy." [26]

[25] The Galveston Daily News. Vol. 36, No. 293, Ed. 1 Thursday, February 28, 1878

[26] The Galveston Daily News, October 18, 1879

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Naming of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Dr. Alex Dienst pursued the history and disposition of the Twin Sisters cannon for more than two decades. During this time he accumulated much in the way of source material and letters. In 1913, the San Antonio Light published a compendium of Dr. Dienst comments and original letters which were brought forward under the article *Famous "Twin Sisters" Mystery After Years of Research Still Not Solved*. The article emphasized publishing for the first time "a true and exhaustive account."

He emphasized further that "no conflict on the American continent has called forth more conflicting testimony from the victorious army." "To find in such a mass of material one feature of the battle upon which all agree the success of the battle largely depended is noteworthy."

The below is verbatim from the 1913 article.

How the Cannon Came to be Called "The Twin Sisters"

The circumstances of the naming of the Twin Sisters, while known to a few, have never been fully made known to the public. A few years I had a lengthy and interesting correspondence with the principal party to the christening, and I will give such parts as pertain to the cannon. The lady, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Stapp, is a Daughter of the Republic of Texas, her membership at that time, 1905, and if she is living now, is with the Adina Zavala Chapter of San Antonio. Her letters were written to me from VanVleck, Texas, where she was on a visit. Her home was then at Matagorda.

*Van Vleck, Tex.
June 22, 1905*

Dr. Alex Dienst, Temple, Tex.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter and in reply to it, will tell you that I am a Daughter of the Republic of Texas, and I will try to do the best that I can. Well, to begin with, my father was Dr. Charles Rice. In 1826 my father married, and in 1827 my twin sister and I were born (a). When we twin sisters were 3 years old my father moved to New Orleans and opened up a private hospital at Lake Pontchartrain. He lived there until 1835, when we went to Cincinnati, where he went to take a post-graduate in medicine. He took lectures at the old college under professors Cross, Elberly, Stone, and other great medical lights of the day.*

Well, my father had a friend like himself, and he lived with us (b), and at the same time my father was taking a course of lectures Lewis Allan took one course, too.

Well, the war (Texas) broke out, and Lewis Allan was made captain of a company by the young men of Cincinnati. And the ladies of Cincinnati bought the cannon and presented them to the company. And Captain Allan named them for myself and twin sister Eleanor M. Rice, and myself, Elizabeth M. Rice.

** Elberle*

To assess whether or not Mrs. Stapp's memory "faded" over time, the professors Cross and Elberly were confirmed as Dr. James C. Cross, Professor of Materia and Medica, and Dr. John Eberle, Professor of Theory and Practice. Both were faculty at the Medical College of Ohio. Incorporated in 1819, and endowed by the Legislature in 1825-1826, the College edifice was on 6th street, between Vine and Race. (1836 Cincinnati Directory, page 229)

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Mrs. Stapp does not provide “when” and where” that Captain Allan named the cannon; nor does she mention the presentation. In his 1917 article on the Twin Sisters, Winkler references that the first use of the term “Twin Sisters of Cincinnati” was by David Burnet in a letter of thanks to the Cincinnati committee members on July 22, 1836. He then provides as a reference (199):

This is the earliest use of the term “Twin Sisters of Cincinnati” that has come to my notice. In his speech in the United States Senate, February 28, 1859, Sam Houston told of the receipt, while encamped on the Brazos, of “two small six-pounders, presented by the magnanimity of the people of Cincinnati, and subsequently called the “Twin Sisters.” (The Quarterly, IV, 320.)

The tendency to adorn a tale has given rise to a story which relates that they were called “Twin Sisters” in honor of two little girls, the twin daughters of Dr. Rice, a physician in the Texas navy, who stood sponsors at the presentation. (Houston Post, August 30, 1909.)

a) Born December 30, 1827, died 1909, thus 8 years old in 1836

b) Charles W. Rice resided on Gano between Main and Walnut (1836 Cincinnati Directory, page 143)

Mrs. Stapp wrote her letter in 1905 to Alex Dienst, who published in the San Antonio Light in 1913. It is not clear on when Winkler investigated the naming origin or if he knew about the Dienst publication, but he chose to instead to reference the August 30, 1909 letter from C. S. Mitchell, the grandson of Elizabeth Rice, published in the Houston Post, to wit:

“The TWIN SISTERS”

More Light on the Historic Artillery Pieces

To the Editor:

After reading an article entitled “Twin Sisters” in last Sundays Post, I decided to write you and give a short sketch of the history of the naming of the guns and also in the hopes that what I do know will be in assistance in their recovery.*

The guns which were of iron with brass inscription plates, were presented by the ladies of Cincinnati to the Republic of Texas in 1836. They were called the “Twin Sisters” in honor of two little girls, the twin daughters of Dr. Rice, a physician in the Texas Navy, who stood as sponsors for the presentation. One of the sisters was Eleanor Rice, afterward a Mrs. Harrison, who dies shortly after the close of the civil war; the other was Elizabeth Rice, afterwards Mrs. H. S. Stapp of Brazoria county and who died on August 6 of the present year, in her eighty-second year, having been born in 1827. The latter lady was the grandmother of the writer of this article, and I have often heard her speak of the “Twin Sisters.”

* This refers to the response by Houston attorney W. P. Hamblen to previous posting of the Twin Sisters by Dr. S. O. Young.

Description of the Twin Sisters Cannon

The description of the Twin Sisters cannon is “wanting” due to the fading of time and the short close contact manned intervals, these intervals are mainly defined as A) forging and outfitting in late 1835, and B) manning of the guns from April 11 to April 21, 1836. All other periods garnished “ride by” looks only, a cannon is a cannon, not something of criticality (typically) for the retainage in long term memory. Such was the rare case of Judge William P. Hamblen, who also described in the same article in 1909 the Mirabeau B. Lamar brass cannon, held at the Lubbock warehouse in the 1850’s, the same which prematurely fired in 1857 mortally wounding George Stansbury, the son of Thomas Stansbury.*

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

The noted Judge W. P. Hamblen, one of the longest practicing attorneys in the City of Houston, on August 22, 1909 (Houston Post) responded to a series of articles on the Twin Sisters, (in this particular scenario to a previous Twin Sisters article by Dr. S. O. Young), thus providing his knowledge, and the rarest of actual description of the cannon barrels forged in Cincinnati:

As to the "Twin Sisters", this is all I know. In 1850, if I remember rightly, on the block of ground where the courthouse of Galveston now stands the two cannon called the "Twin Sisters" stood. I have understood that that they were at Austin; they never were in Houston except one time.

They were iron cannon, not the present pattern sloping from breech to the muzzle, but large beyond the trunnion suddenly becoming small to the muzzle. On the side was a plaque, I believe of brass, but I am not sure of that, upon which was an inscription stated by Dr. Young Presented by the ladies of Cincinnati, Ohio, to the Republic of Texas.

* Fifty two years later Judge Hamblen's memory proved to be accurate, George Stansbury died in February 1857. (See Appendix-1)

For the initial forging of the cannon barrels in Cincinnati, there are no descriptions, but of the carriage in 1886 it was noted that *the carriages were rough but substantial, and well ironed*, and that the blacksmith Cassat *painted the carriages a bright red, but gave the wheels a stroke of blue.*

In regards to the question of 4 pounder or 6 pounder, which refers to the weight of a single cannonball, the question also applies to the initial forging, or if the cannon was bored during the Civil War.

The diameter of the barrel is not something of note, and most would have difficulty in its classification from any distance unless well trained and very familiar. The bore of a 4 pounder is 3.2 inches, a 6 pounder 3.67 inches, or in simple terms, less than ½ inch difference relative to an approximate dimension of 3.5 inches.

After the Battle of San Jacinto, the monitoring and information regarding the Twin Sisters were only available in a few "snapshots" over the years, the most significant in terms of cannon barrel bore occurred in 1843, when they were sent to the Houston Arsenal for repairs, noted as required in 1842:

-The Telegraph (of Houston) of August 18, 1838 noted that the "two pieces of hollow ware" styled the "twin sisters of San Jacinto" were brought into this city Monday last, adding that "they are still in excellent condition.

-In 1840 the Twins were moved, along with other military stores, to Austin, where on April 21, 1841, they were fired in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the battle of San Jacinto. When Sam Houston was inaugurated as president of the republic that year, the Twins were fired as Houston kissed the Bible after taking the oath of office.

-In 1842, Secretary of War G. W. Hockley ordered the two brass cannon, along with the Twin Sisters, ammunition for them, and small arms which remained at Austin to be relocated to San Felipe. He noted, "The carriages and trains for these pieces will require some repairs, which could not be completed at Austin for want of means..."[9] The Twins were placed on the summit of President's Hill in Austin to defend the river crossing against an attack by Mexican troops that occupied San Antonio.

-However, in March of 1843 the Twin Sisters arrived at the Houston Arsenal for the repairs to be undertaken by the Ordinance Department. The invoice of repair items and costs completed in

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

July of 1843 included painting the gun carriages, and amongst other line items, “to fabricate two 4 pdr. Tompions”, and “to fabricate the repairs of guns and wood parts of the Twin Sisters, the appointment complete.”

4 POUNDER TWIN SISTERS CANNON REPAIR INVOICE – HOUSTON July 2, 1843

Contingent Fund of the Ordnance Department
of the Republic of Texas

Dr To Friedrich Schimmelpfennig

1843	To fabricate two 4 Pdr Tompions	Tompions	2	..	
March 24	fabricate	two Gun Carriage Tongues	5	..	
"	"	two Brass Hammer Bolts	2	..	
"	"	two Iron bands for Artillery	2.25		
"	"	two Bronze Washer Nos 10	.50		
"	"	one Sympson	.25		
"	"	one Iron Handspike	.75		
"	"	repairs of Guns & 2			
"	"	wooden parts of the Twin Sisters			
"	"	& their appointments complete	2.25		
"	"	Paint the Gun Carriages	30		
			35.00		
					\$58.33 1/2

Houston Arsenal
Remittance Received
July 2 1843
July 2, 1843

I hereby certify on honor that the above account is correct & just
Benjamin C. Poyas
Captain of Ordnance

(TX)

An arsenal would have the knowledge and capability of assessing accurately the size of the cannon barrels in terms of poundage, in this case, classified from the “4 pounder” tompion description, a tompion is a wooden plug placed in the muzzle of the cannon to protect the contents from rain.

The Twin Sisters were referred to equally over time as 4 and 6 pounders, and often misidentified as “brass”. Since the prior knowledge and experience from those close to the cannon during the forging and assembly, or during the short stint in the Texas revolution, had all but faded away due to time or death by 1861, there was not much to rely on during the Civil War. Certainly the entrance of the “Louisiana Twin Sisters” in Texas, a gift from the State of Louisiana made from standard 6 pounders, confused the issue, many believed these were in fact the Cincinnati Twin Sisters, and the cannon arrived in Galveston on April 9th, 1861.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Even the Chambers 24 pounder howitzers were mistaken for the Twin Sisters, as well as it appears virtually any two 6 pounder cannon, hence then the various claims as to their disposition at the end of the Civil War.

The Cincinnati Cannon Manufacturing Due Process

There is a sign which hangs above the pool tables at an ice house in Webster Texas. The sign reads, “If you must fight, we must call the police. The police station is across the street.”

A similar situation applies similarly for these cannon.

If you are a foundry with no previous cannon forging experience, you need a casting mold made from a real cannon. Real cannons were available at the U.S. Arsenal just across the Ohio River.

(See also 1838 Cincinnati Map)

One might say that there is no proof that anyone ventured across the river to the U. S. Arsenal.

Enter David T. Disney, that is, sitting Ohio State Senator and future U.S. Senator David T. Disney, along with his conspirators Israel Ludlow and Joseph Graham, who helped themselves liberally and with no cash flow to 66 muskets and “accoutrements” taken from said arsenal which were readily dispatched to Texas in support of her cause.[27].

(Note, per this same reference, that David T. Disney, a leading Cincinnati politician and banker, was chairman of all the Ohio groups acting in behalf of Texas.)

This did not sit well with those from the U.S. Arsenal and certainly not with the Quartermaster General of Ohio, who levied a suit which rendered a judgment against Disney and Co. in the Superior Court of Cincinnati in 1839 for the sum of \$1072.60*. This suit was “lightly pursued” based on the “situationals and politics at hand” and was dismissed nine years later in 1848 when the State of Texas delivered an equal number of arms and “accoutrements” to the Ordnance Department at Washington. [28]

* This is app. \$16.25 per musket + accoutrements

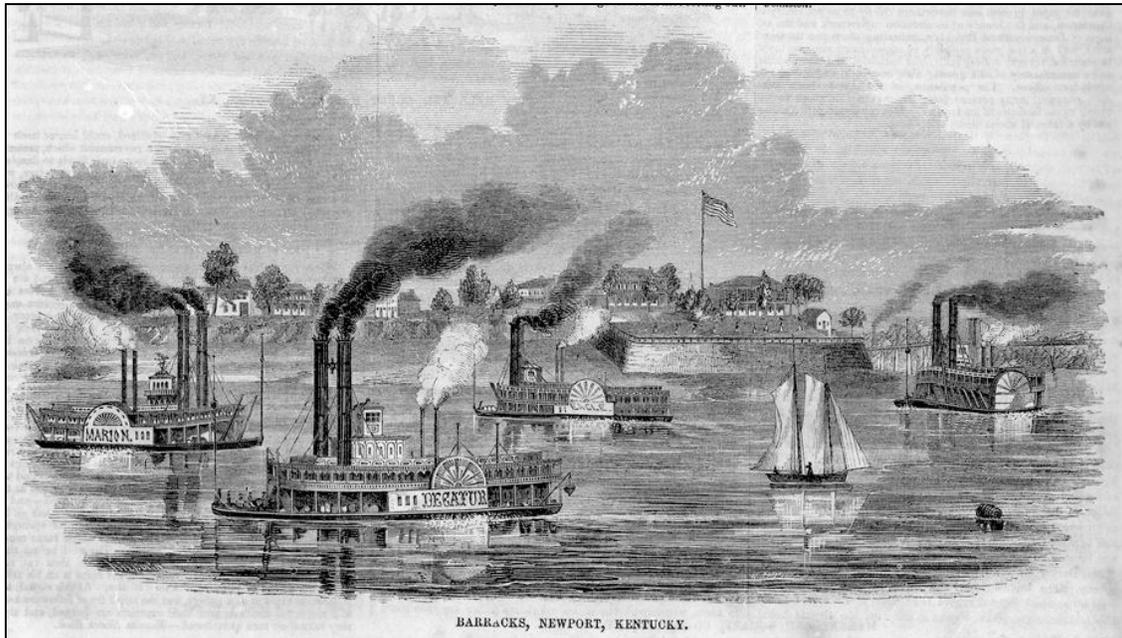
Borrowing on short loan an actual cannon from the Arsenal is the most probable and practical action with the time pressures and lack of experience. One can imagine the foundrymen of the Tatem Brothers stripping down the cannon to make the casting mold, Chase & Seymour and their key workers with calipers to measure bore, measuring depth and nature of the bore, even Francis Cassat would have been on hand to take measurements and note detail of the wood and iron pieces required. More than likely, there were a considerable audience of the “who’s who” of Cincinnati present, including and especially the members of the committee, as well as the brothers of David Burnet hence Isaac and Jacob Burnet, and Nicholas Clopper**. This again, while speculative, appears to be the highest in probability due to the nature of how the cannons manufacture and assembly came together by December 30, 1835.

** Nicholas Clopper and David Burnet married sisters, so were at least somewhat related

[27] History of the State of Ohio, edited by Carl Wittke. Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society. 1941. Volume 3, The Passing of the Frontier, 1825-1850. Francis P. Weisenberger. p. 433.

[28] Journal of the Senate of the State of Ohio; Being the First Session of the Forty-Sixth General Assembly. Monday December, 1847. Vol. XVI. Columbus. Chas. Scott’s Steam Press. 1848. Monday January 3, 1848, p. 148.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon



This illustration from Ballou's Pictorial of December 1856 depicts the U.S. Arsenal/Newport Barracks in the background, at the confluence of the Licking River with the Ohio River.

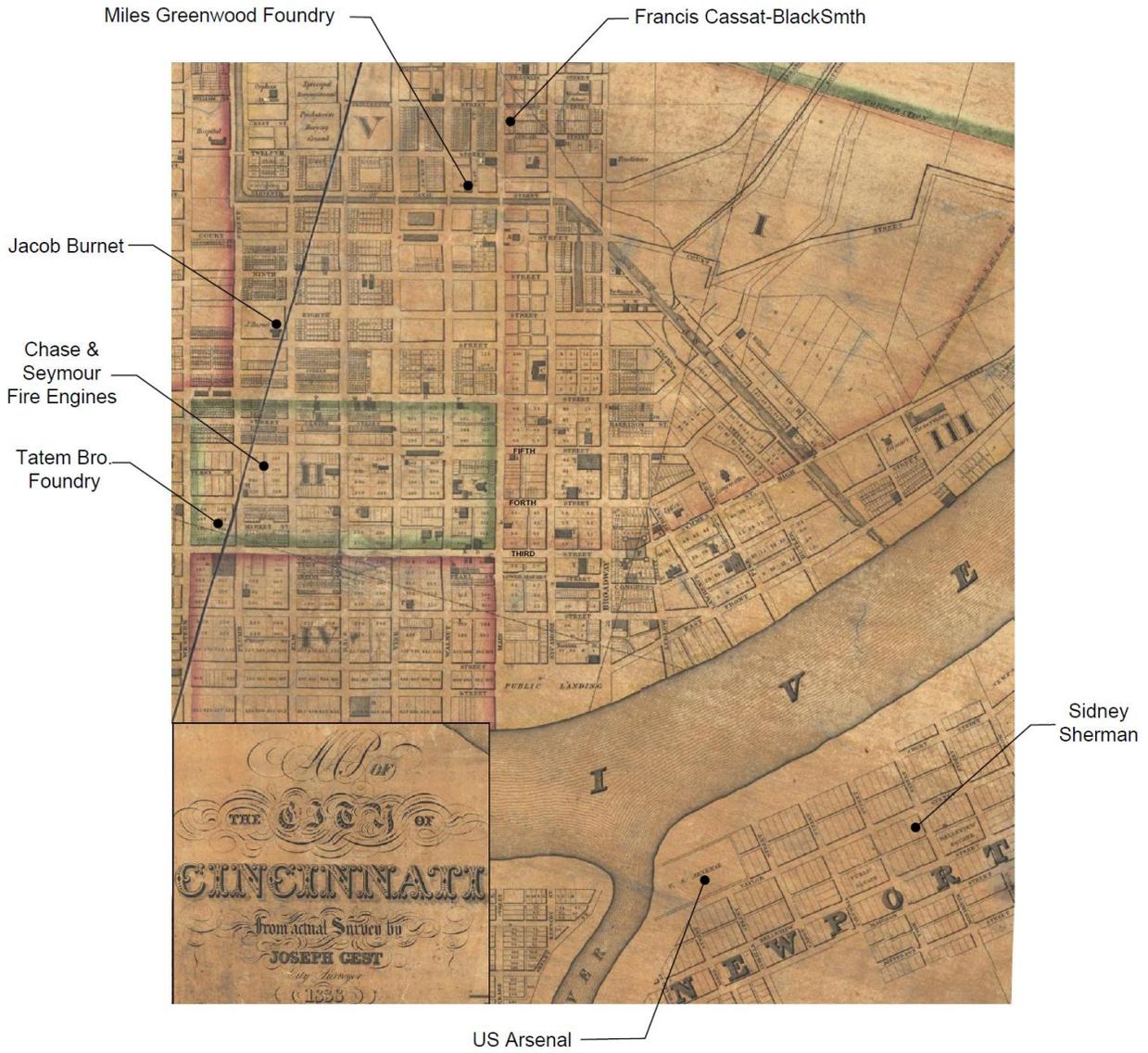
Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon



1838 Gest Map of Cincinnati Showing Newport with U.S. Arsenal and Location of Sidney Sherman's home

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

1838 Cincinnati Map with Key Locations (Joseph Gest)



Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon – A Closing Summary

The words that Dr. Dienst wrote in 1913 still ring true today... “to find in such a mass of material one feature of the battle upon which all agree the success of the battle depended on is noteworthy.” Further, that “these historic guns performed service at that critical time entitles them to a careful consideration and history.”

The origin of the Twin Sisters cannon does not simply refer to the manufacture and due process in Cincinnati; it encompasses the very spark that initiated the entire cannon chain of events, hence the idea and committed purpose of the few in a desperate situation against very long odds. While no absolute corroboration exists, the most likely “few” were Stephen F. Austin, reconnoitering with Francis Smith, a known and trusted individual who had incredible strength of a united purpose to carry forth the fiery and passionate message, which ultimately won the hearts and minds of those in Cincinnati looking for every reason to support the fledging Republic of Texas in her cause.

Who could have foreseen that this process would take six months, and that the cannon would then arrive at the Texian army barely ten days ahead of the unleashing their “terrible effect” of home made grapeshot on the Mexican forces.

Yoakum’s comprehensive History of Texas published in 1855 captured the essence of Texas history for all time, yet embarked many on the quest to resolve “finite details”. This includes specifically the manifestations and actions in Cincinnati; from the committees that acted upon a need against possible violation of neutrality laws, to those who engaged in the forging, boring, carriage making, grape shot casting and assembly of the cannon from a faraway place and from a land they had never seen, or for people they had never met. Should Yoakum have had the opportunity of modern knowledge, his short “glimpse” of Twin Sisters history may have looked like this:

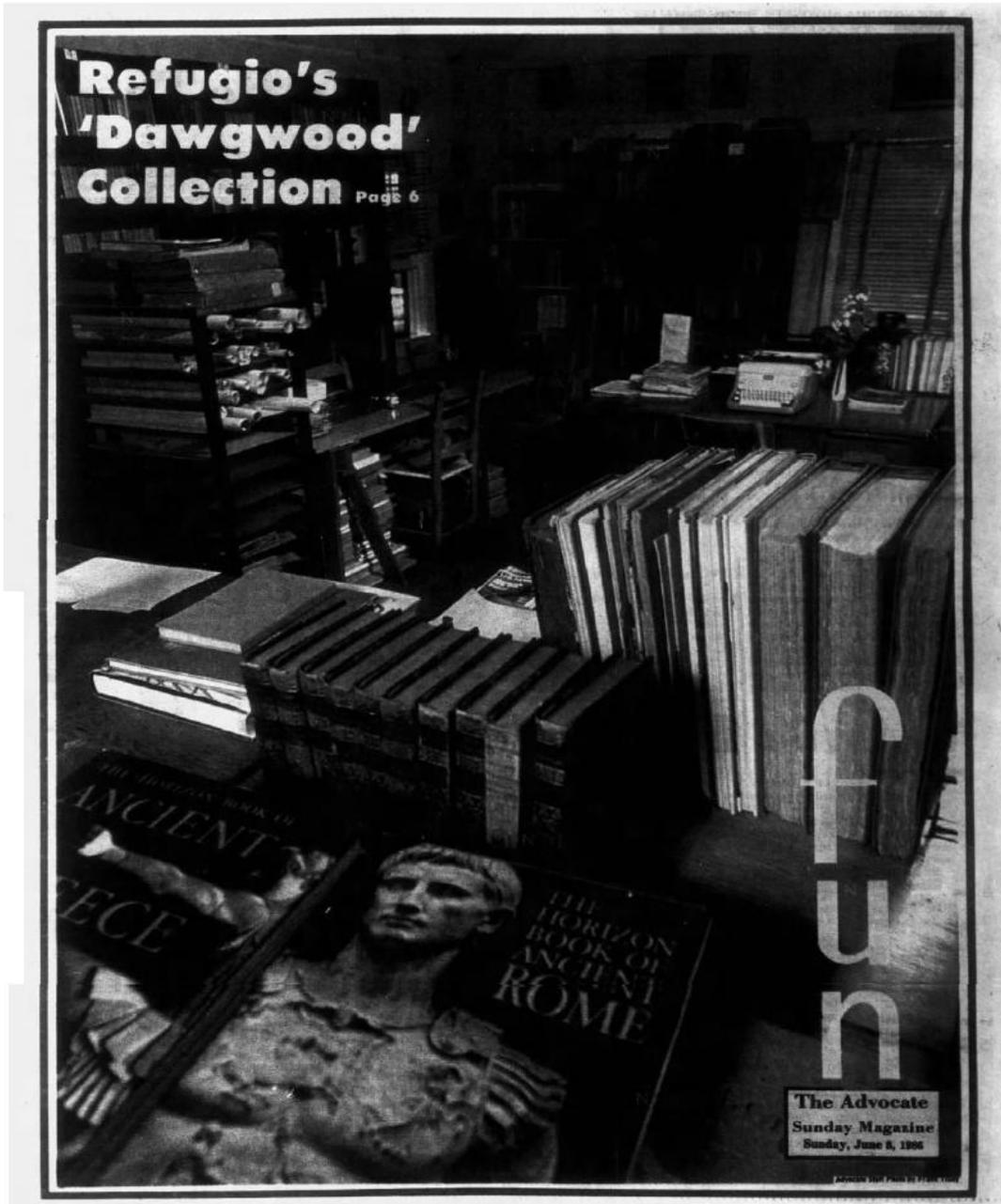
As the Texans were crossing the Brazos, they were reinforced by two six pounders, known as the “Twin-Sisters.” These notable pieces of artillery, for the good they did in the cause of Texan independence, deserve some further notice. Meetings were held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in November and December 1835, for the purpose of aiding Texas in her struggle at the behest of Francis Smith, the agent from Texas, who delivered a plea for the furnishing of two six pounder field pieces amidst a fiery and passionate speech.

On the suggestion of Robert F. Lytle, it was concluded to furnish these two pieces of “hollow ware”, termed such as not to violate the US Neutrality laws. A committee was chosen to carry out the resolution which consisted of twenty five members across the five wards; and through the instrumentality of Robert T. Lytle, William Corry, Willis Tatem, David T. Disney, Nicholas Clopper, Dr. Daniel Drake, Benjamin Chase, Jeffrey Seymour, Edward Woodruff, Pulaski Smith, David Bolles, and others, the cannon were forged by the Tatem Brothers foundry, bored by the fire engine builders of Chase & Seymour, carriages and iron work built by the blacksmith Francis Cassat, mounted, supplied with grape shot from the foundry of Miles Greenwood, then dispatched to New Orleans with the aid of Thomas Stansbury; thence by the Texan agent William Bryan in New Orleans to Brazoria.

The “Twin Sisters”...may they one day be recovered and returned to the Battlefield of San Jacinto. Understanding the nature of their origin and description allows for more precise identification. Too much has transpired to simply relegate these noteworthy cannon to “just a memory.” It is a matter of history, a matter of pride, and a matter of conscience that commensurate efforts be exercised to recover these cannon.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

APPENDIX-1



Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Cover of the June 1986 "Dawgwood Collection" Article

THE 1818 NEUTRALITY ACT

ACTS OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

Passed at the first session, which was begun and held at the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Monday the first day of December, 1817, and ended on the twentieth day of April, 1818.

JAMES MONROE, President; DANIEL D. TOMPKINS, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate; JOHN GAILLARD, President of the Senate pro tempore, from December 1, 1817, to March 9, 1818, and from April 3, to April 20, 1818; HENRY CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

STATUTE I.

88

STATUTE I.

CHAP. LXXXVIII.—*An Act in addition to the "Act for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States," and to repeal the acts therein mentioned.* (a) April 20, 1818.
P. 447

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begin or set on foot, or provide or prepare the means for, any military expedition or enterprise, to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominions of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people, with whom the United States are [at] peace, every person, so offending, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisoned not more than three years.

P. 449

APPROVED, April 20, 1818.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Twin Sisters

(COPY)

Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

May 17, 1916.

Hon. Morris Sheppard,

United States Senate.

My Dear Senator:-

(TX)

1. In reply to your letter of the 6th instant addressed to the Secretary of War and referred to this office with its inclosures, a letter from Mr. John E. Cosgrove of the Confederate Home, Austin, Texas, (O.O. file 472/2 Cosgrove) I have the honor to inform you that the following information has been obtained from the records of the Adjutant General's Office;

"1. It is shown by records in this office that Lieutenant (Henry) Van Buren's Company, Texas Light Artillery, Confederate States Army, was mustered into the service of the Confederate States November 25, 1861; that for some time prior to that date it had been in the service of the State of Texas under the command of Captain (Henry) Van Buren, and that it was mustered out of the Confederate States service April 30, 1862, in pursuance of Special Orders No. 624. Department of Texas dated April 25, 1862 (no copy on file).

"2. Apparently there is only one master roll of the company on file in this office, a roll dated April 30, 1862. This roll shows that in addition to the first lieutenant (Van Buren) commanding the company, there was in it also a First Lieutenant Henry Clark, and that John E. Cosgrove was a private in the company.

"3. It appears that this company went from Galveston to Brazos Santiago by sea in February, 1861 (Printed Official Records Series 1, Volume 53, page 651, 662.) and that it was at Houston on April 30, 1862.

"4. Nothing has been found in this office relative to the 'Twin Sisters' cannon referred to.

2. During the years 1909 and 1910, a very thorough search was made by this office by calling upon commanding officers of all the arsenals where captured cannon, etc. had been sent after the close of the Civil War, for information concerning the cannon called 'Twin Sisters'. Nothing whatever could be learned regarding these guns and this fact was communicated at different times to Mr. W. C. Day, Supt. of Public Buildings and Grounds, Austin, Texas, Hon. Albert Burleson, then a representative in Congress from the State of Texas, and Mr. C.B. Mitchell of LeWard, Texas.

3. It is regretted that no definite information can be furnished you with regards to the within inquiry concerning the "Twin Sisters".

Sincerely yours,

William Crozier,

Brig. Gen. Chief of Ordnance.

Reproduced from the holdings of the Texas State Archives

JULY SUN & MURDAY STILL HUNTING FOR TWIN GUNS

Famed "Twin Sisters" Thought Buried Near Harrisburg

The famed "Twin Sisters," that the City of Cincinnati has been hunting for since the war, are still in the hands of the State of Texas, according to Col. John Cosgrove of Austin, who is visiting his daughter, Mrs. George Everett, of 413 West Col. in street, this city.

Col. Cosgrove, being a Confederate veteran, has interested himself in an effort to locate the little cannons that gave valiant service to Texas in two wars. The exact location of the "Twin Sisters" remains unknown at present. The only survivors of the cannons, Dr. J. K. DeLoach of Dallas, Texas, and five other Confederate soldiers buried the guns near the railroad station at Harrisburg in 1865. Others say that the "Twin Sisters" were included in a collection of junk shipped from Austin to a north-ern gun works in 1872 by Federal soldiers.

Col. Cosgrove has interested a number of prominent Texans in the project to locate the two relics, among these being Senator Morris Sheppard, Governor W. P. Hobby, State Senator Lou A. Smith, and others.

The next session of the Legislature to appropriate funds to locate and unearth the "Twin Sisters" in order that they may be cherished and preserved as sacred relics of Texas, Col. Cosgrove says. The cannon were sent by the City of Cincinnati to the Republic of Texas in 1836 to aid in winning independence from Mexico, and for the service rendered by them during that war as well as during the Civil War.

Historical interest in the "Twin Sisters" has been revived recently through the efforts of Mrs. R. W. W. Cosgrove, who was recently honored by being made "honorary" daughter of the State of Texas. Her grandfather, Mr. R. W. Cosgrove, accompanied him on his visit to

(TX)

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

The Thomas Stansbury Letter

The correct History of the Twin Sisters
two Cannon that were used at the Battle
of San Jacinto in 1836 (TX)
I believe that I am the only man
living (at least in Texas) that is knowing
to these facts. The cannon Twin Sisters
were made and mounted by Tatum Bro's
Foundry men in Cincinnati Ohio. The
Cannon were placed on the wharf at
Cincinnati by them for Texas. They
told my Father (Thomas Stansbury sr)
if Texas was ever able to pay for them
it would be all right. I believe they
were never paid for, or anything dem-
anded. After the cannon had lain
on the wharf at Cincinnati for some
time, My Father asked Mr Coffin who
was at that time Wharf Master why
they had not been shipped to Texas
Mr Coffin told him Steamboat Captains
would not take them as they were
Contraband. While talking to Mr
Coffin a Steamboat put in from Pitts-
burgh. My Father went to the Captain
and asked him how far he was going
down the river. The Captain said
to New Orleans. he asked him if he
would take some Hollow Ware, he
Consented. With two drays My Father
soon had them on board and in a
few minutes they were on the way

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

The Joseph Stansbury Letter – cont.

LEHIGH ABSTRACT
FROM
GEO. D. BARNARD & CO
ST. LOUIS.

The result is known by any veteran
that was at the Battle of San Jacinto.
In all the accounts I have seen,
state that the Ladies of Cincinnati
presented the Cannon which is a
mistake, (TX) there were I think three
Companies made up in Cincinnati
that the Ladies took great interest in
J. Stansbury
Austin

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Deaths of the Sons of Thomas Stansbury

Captain Thomas Stansbury (Jr.)

Democratic Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 14,
No. 11, Ed. 1, Thursday, March 15, 1849 Page: 2 of 4

Thomas Stansbury Jr.

CHOLERA AT BROWNSVILLE.—We regret to learn that a fatal disease has broken out at Brownsville, resembling the Cholera, and that forty or fifty persons had fallen victims to its ravages at the last accounts. Among those are Capt. Thomas Stansbury and Col. Lewis P. Cooke. Fears are entertained that many of the California emigrants who have lately sailed from New Orleans for the Brazos Santiago will be attacked by this disease.

George Stansbury

The Weekly Telegraph (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 22, No. 49, Ed. 1
Wednesday, February 25, 1857

SAD ACCIDENT.—Whilst Geo. Stansbury and Mr. Ewing were firing the salute at noon to-day, by the railroad bridge, near Lubbock's Warehouse, the second charge prematurely exploded, injuring both the above named persons seriously, and Stansbury it is supposed mortally. The cause of the accident was the vent not being properly stopped whilst the charge was being rammed down. At the hour of going to press, Stansbury is not expected to live from minute to minute. He has every attention possible.—This sad calamity has cast a sudden gloom upon our community.

Mr. Stansbury died on the same evening at 6 o'clock. Mr. S. leaves a wife and two children and a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

APPENDIX-2

Friends of Texas Meetings – Cincinnati – 1836

Summary

The Friends of Texas meetings continued into the year 1836. The meeting of April 16th, held at the courthouse was numerously attended; Alexander Gibson was appointed president, Miles Greenwood Vice President, and J. W. Platt Secretary. Doctor Daniel Drake explained the object of the meeting and initial resolutions, followed by Ohio State Prosecutor N. C. Read, the resolutions supporting the cause of Texas. William Corry was also called to address the meeting, C. Ramsey, editor of the Cincinnati Republican, noted the support of Texas from a Baltimore paper.

Other meetings and commentary are noted as follows:

-On May 7th a very large Friends of Texas meeting was held in the Hall of the Cincinnati College. Dr. Daniel Drake was appointed President, Griffin Yeatman and Isaac G. Burnet Vice Presidents, and Charles Fox, Secretary. Col. J. R. Lewis addressed the meeting. A committee of the persons consisting of David T. Disney, N. C. Read, and Henry Vallete was appointed to report resolutions, these resolutions positioning the involvement of the Ohio State government through its representatives for the Texas cause and calling for support for all Ohioans. Books were opened by a committee of five to collect and records contributed funds.

-September 8th. N. C. Read responded to the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette editor, E. C. Hammond, who had posted comments in regards to a Fulton Township Friends of Texas meeting, referring to these committee members as “Land Brawlers”, and targeted comments towards Mr. N. C. Read. Mr. Hammond had evidently charged them with a crime, with Read responding:

And what would you inform the Circuit Court of the United States? That a Texas meeting was held in Fulton Township, a suburb of Cincinnati? And have not the people of Fulton Township, the right peaceably to assemble-to hear a lecture upon the history and prospects of Texas?

Mr. Read continued with a lengthy and impassioned response.

-September 9th-Lengthy response by C. Hammond to N. C. Reads commentary from the 8th.

(Note: News articles are provided, but some are only partials due to length)

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

The Liberty Bell and Cincinnati Gazette.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. HORNSHIRE & CO. AT NO. 115, MAIN STREET.

EDITED BY C. HANCOCK.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS FIFTY CENTS IN ADVANCE. THREE DOLLARS WITHIN THE YEAR. ADVERTISING—SEE BILLBOARD FOR TERMS.

VOLUME XXXI. CINCINNATI, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 21, 1856. NUMBER 1658.

TEXAS MEETING.

At a numerously attended meeting of the Citizens of Cincinnati, held at the Court house, on the evening of the 16th inst. Alexander Gibson was appointed President, Miles Greenwood, Vice President, and J. W. Piatt Secretary. When Doctor Daniel Drake, after explaining the object of the meeting, offered the following resolutions, accompanied by an appeal which was enthusiastically received.

Resolved, That from the best information we can obtain, the people of the State of Texas are justifiable in a Political and Religious point of view, in the resistance they have made to the usurpations of the despot Santa Anna.

N. C. Reed, Esq. Spoke on the subject and offered the following resolutions.

Resolved, That we regard the mode of warfare adopted by the Tyrant Santa Anna, as unparalleled for fiendish barbarity. Outraging every feeling of humanity, and every law of warfare recognised by civilized nations.

Resolved, That we regard the heroes of San Antonio de Bexar, as kindred spirits with the heroes of Thermopolee—of Lexington—of Bunker's Hill—heroism and devotion that has scarce a parallel in the annals of the world.

Resolved, That we regard the cause of the Texans as holy and just, and that we will give them all the aid in our power, without violating any established and well known principle of international Law.

The following preamble and resolution was submitted to the meeting, by J. W. Piatt:

Whereas, the citizens of Texas having declared themselves a free and independent Republic, and shown to the world by their valor and devotedness, the power and determination to sustain themselves as such. Therefore,

Resolved, That viewing with heart felt satisfaction the noble and gallant defence of the people of Texas, on making, in establishing and sustaining their rights as freemen. We hail them as an independent nation; and respectfully suggest to the American Congress, now in session, that the time has arrived for the United States of America to recognise Texas as a free and independent Republic.

Resolved, That copies of the foregoing preamble and resolution be signed by the officers of this meeting, and forwarded to our Representatives in Congress, with a request that the same be laid before that body.

Before the vote was taken on the resolution offered by Messrs. Drake, Reed, and Piatt, there was a call for Wm. M. Corry, Esq., who then addressed the meeting. C. Ramsay, editor of the Republican, afterwards made an extract from a Baltimore paper, shewing the feeling in favor of Texas, in that city. The question was then taken on the several resolutions as above offered, which was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. D. Johnson, it was resolved that the proceedings of the meeting be published in the City papers.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

A. GIBSON, Pres't.
M. GREENWOOD, Vice Pres't.
J. W. PIATT, Sec'y.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon



Texas Meeting.

At a very large meeting of the friends of Texas, held pursuant to public notice in the Hall of the Cincinnati College, on Saturday evening, May 7th 1836, on motion of N. C. Read, Esq., Dr. Daniel Drake was appointed President, and Griffin Yeatman, and Isaac G. Burnet, Esqrs., Vice Presidents, and Charles Fox, Esq., Secretary.

The object of the meeting being explained by the President, Col. J. R. Lewis was called for, and addressed the meeting, setting forth the origin of the controversy between the Texians and Mexicans, the situation and prospects of the Texians and their means for continuing the struggle for independence.

On motion—A Committee of three persons, consisting of David T. Dinsey, N. C. Read and Henry Valette, Esqrs. was appointed to report resolutions for the action of the meeting—who reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That, as citizens of these free United States, we believe that the time has arrived when it becomes a duty to express our opinion, with regard to the cause and conduct of the inhabitants of Texas.

Resolved, That in our opinion the cause of the inhabitants of Texas, is the cause of civil liberty throughout the world, and that as such it is our duty to sustain them by every means legitimately within our power.

Resolved, That the brutal and inhuman course of Santa Anna, in devoting to massacre every age and sex, is worthy the butcher of the Alamo, and is just cause for declaring him and his compeers without the pale of civil society, while it appeals to every freeman to compel him to such an account as may hereafter stand as a warning to tyrants of every age, and every clime.

Resolved, That it would be unwise and impolitic in our government to remain idle until the flame of savage warfare has actually lit up our southern border; but that it is their duty to anticipate it by a punishment, speedy, and terrible enough to teach the Mexican Government that a second effort of the kind will involve their own destruction.

Resolved, That we believe that our government, in at once arresting the barbarities of the war now raging in Texas, by an immediate and armed interference, would be rendering a service to humanity.

Resolved, That in order to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect, we hereby instruct our Representative in Congress to use his utmost exertions in order to cause our government to interfere immediately and directly in the war now raging in Texas.

Resolved, That we hereby make a solemn and direct appeal to every city, village and neighborhood in the nation, to respond to these declarations.

On motion—

Resolved, That a Committee of five citizens be appointed to open and superintend books, for contributions for the aid of Texas, whereupon, David T. Disney, Wm. Greene, John T. Martin, Paul Anderson and Henry Valette, Esqrs. were appointed.—Ordered that said books be opened at the Office of the Ohio Insurance Company.

On motion it was,

Resolved, That the thanks of the meeting be returned to Col. Lewis, for his instructive and interesting address, and that a committee of three be appointed, to solicit a copy of the same for publication and distribution, whereupon, N. C. Read, Joseph Graham and L. M. Gwynne, Esqrs, were appointed that Committee.

On motion, adjourned.

DANIEL DRAKE, *Pres.*

Griffin Yeatman, }
Isaac G. Burnet, } *Vice Pres.*
Charles Fox, *Sec'y.*

Remarks.

We had intended to say much more on Texas affairs, this week, than we shall be able to do. The above resolutions are, we would hope, the last effort that will be made in this city in favor of the insurgents of a foreign government. It is not to be controverted, that the struggle to tear away from Mexico her most valuable territory, has greatly interested the feelings of many, even of our fellow citizens, who, on other subjects, are judicious and considerate. They do not, we are convinced, look to the probable results of their course, should it be successful. Should the General Government be impelled by the fiery spirits who are striving to stir up a popular sympathy in favor of the Texians, the consequences must be tremendous to the South. We think it not only probable, but altogether certain, should we be brought into warlike conflict with Mexico—that a general servile insurrection in the south must be the result. Would Santa Anna fail to stir up the slaves of Louisiana, where they are now, doubtless, almost double the white population! There is no policy which would restrain him—for in his government all men are free—there are now no slaves to be affected by such an attempt. Suppose Santa Anna was to publish to the people of Mexico some of the foregoing resolutions, changing them only so far as is necessary to make them applicable to our country and to the condition of the southern slaves; what would we say, were he to re-resolve—that as citizens of the free Republic of Mexico, the time has arrived when it becomes our duty to express our opinion with regard to the cause and conduct of the enslaved inhabitants of the neighboring States of North America, and that in our opinion the cause of the oppressed in those States, is the cause of civil liberty throughout the world, and that as such it is our duty to maintain them by every means legitimately within our power.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon



THURSDAY MORNING, SEPT. 8, 1836.

MR. HAMMOND:—In your paper of the 5th inst., you state that although you 'do not admire the office of an informer,' 'very little would induce you to demand of the District Judge or Grand Jury to inquire into the conduct of certain persons, whom you charge with the commission of crime, and name, as one of them, the Prosecuting Attorney—the Criminal Law Officer of Hamilton county.' I am specifically designated; and others, who have passed between the wind and your nobility, are pointed out generally, as persons who attended a 'Texas meeting in Fulton Township. The balance of the friends of Texas are, courteously styled 'Land Brawlers.' Being specifically designated and charged with crime, and the resolutions which so much offended you, having been penned and offered by myself, and my official character being drawn in question, it becomes me to reply.

And of what would you inform the Circuit Court of the United States? That a 'Texas meeting was held in Fulton Township, a suburb of Cincinnati?' And have not the people of Fulton Township, the right peaceably to assemble—to hear a lecture upon the history and prospects of Texas? Is it wrong for a people to meet together to hear a lecture upon the ancient history of Greece or Assyria, or the modern history of France, or England, or even of Texas? And yet, this very thing was done at the Fulton Texas Meeting. And have not the people of Fulton the right, quietly and peaceably to assemble to hear me or any other person whom they choose to hear. And have not I the right, or any one else, to address them? Is it for this, that you have so charitably charged us with crime, and so courteously denominated us 'land brawlers,' and have threatened us with a criminal prosecution? I had supposed, that the right peaceably to assemble, and the liberty of speech still existed—if not, then have we offended.

No, you have something more you would charge. What? That this Texas meeting did resolve: 'that no law, either human or divine, forbade assisting Texas.' Is it then a crime to 'assist' the Texans? When the great fire lately occurred in New York, Congress assisted them. And our Representative eloquently urged it; and we, as Cincinnatians, would have

he had not pledged our approbation. The people of London and Paris, strangers in every respect, except their humane, generous brotherly aid, assisted them?

(Posted by N. C. Read)

Is it wrong to feed a starved, famished child, because a monster seeks its destruction? The laws of God teach no such doctrine, but beautifully sum up a man's duty thus—'cease to do evil, learn to do well—seek judgment, relieve the oppressed—judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.' Where is the human law, which contradicts these things, which is not the work of wickedness and of tyranny? Where is the human law, which forbids feeding your neighbor when he is hungry, or clothing him when he is naked, or protecting him from the assassin, when you are able? And why let a nation of women and children starve, because a tyrant has devoted them to destruction? No, all this may do, but it is a crime, to assist Texas—devoted and bleeding Texas. Are they not a portion of the human family? Are they not struggling for liberty? Yes, for life, and the lives of their wives and their children—dearer than life! And is this wrong? Have the Texans no claim upon the sympathies of this people—upon the sympathies of the civilized world? Have their oppressors in this war, been governed by principles of humanity, and the rules of civilized warfare? Sir, a war of extermination was declared against Texas—Her inhabitants, without distinction of age, sex or condition, were doomed to be slaughtered.—The strong and the weak—the mother with her infant, was to be murdered. The Indian was invited to participate in this work of blood and cruelty. Did they execute these threats?—Let the Alamo tell—let the murder of Fannin's corps, who were induced to lay down their arms, upon the most solemn pledges of safety and protection—speak upon this point. Did any cruelty on the part of the Texans, invite this unheard of deed of blood and brutality—on the principle of retaliation? When Coe was captured, he was permitted to go home on parole—his men, prisoners of war, were released; not a hair of their heads was injured. Could we behold these things without admiration on the one hand, and horror and detestation on the other? Could we behold a cruel, dastardly foe, led by a blood-thirsty tyrant commanding the resources of a great nation—hunting down a weak and defenceless, yet noble, humane and brave people, with the avowed and openly declared object of extermination, without feeling that the tyrant who could take such a course, had placed himself without the pale of civilization, and had put himself beyond the protection of all law, either human or divine.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon



THURSDAY MORNING, SEPT. 8, 1836.

Continued

To see him thus attacking a people who had neither money, nor arms, nor fleets, nor men—composed of fathers and their families, and devote them indiscriminately to death—did as it ought to do, awake a deep feeling of indignation in the United States. And as we beheld them rallying for hearth and altar, for life and liberty, amounting to but a few hundred, to make head against thousands, led by a cruel, vain, yet heretofore victorious General, in defence of their wives and children, who were flying homeless and houseless, without food, without clothing, with the savage snuffing their trail and hot for their blood—we did, in the U. States, send them money, food and clothing—and I for one slept the better after it was done. And some of our young men, sir, emigrated and cast their lot in that land—and, sir, many of them indeed, I think all entered the army; and how they behaved, let the battle of San Jacinto tell. Some were murdered in Fannin's corps—and their bones have been collected, and a little mound raised over them, upon which may the last, sweetest, warmest ray at nightfall linger, an emblem of the warm and bright affection with which we will cherish their memories. What law, sir, forbids such sympathies; and what law forbids us to emigrate—and what law forbids us to aid the distressed, and feed the hungry? Is it, sir, for entertaining and expressing these views, that we are styled a mob, and threatened with criminal prosecution. Have we laid ourselves liable, for contending for human liberty, and for sending perchance some flour to feed some who have much more need of it than we have;—can you make out your charge, Mr. Hammond, on this point.

No; something more—we are to be arraigned for *pronouncing* any such law as forbids giving such assistance, the enactment of tyrants.— This is the question Mr. Hammond would 'test.' And then have we not the right to call such a law, if any exists, tyrannical—a stigma upon human nature—opposed to the laws of God and humanity. I had supposed, Mr. Hammond, we had the right to speak in this country. But you say you wish to test the question, whether these Texas land brawlers shall pronounce our laws the enactment of tyrants. No law of ours forbids us to do what we did at the Fulton meeting—it is our liberty of speech you oppose. It is that, you would 'test.' Suppose we should call a law, even of our own, the enactment of tyrants, what would you do with us—would you have us gagged, hung, or imprisoned? How often have you, sir, called Andrew Jackson a 'tyrant?' How often have you called the laws of the General Government, not meeting exactly your views, 'tyrannical?' And are you punishable for it? If you are not punishable, are we? Or has Mr. Hammond a privilege which we have not? You have been most earnestly contending for the liberty of speech and the press—even where it might be employed in advancing a measure calculated to put the Union in a blaze, producing civil war, private murder, and domestic ruin. You have contended that the abolitionist should have the right to print his incendiary articles and circulate them. No man has gone further in this matter than you have. Now you denounce me as a criminal, and abolitionist should have the right to print his incendiary articles and circulate them. No man has gone further in this matter than you have. Now you denounce me as a criminal, and threaten, that you yourself will become the informant, because I have said no law, either human or divine, except such as are formed by tyrants, and for their sole benefit, forbids our assisting the Texians, and such law, if any exists, we do not, as Americans, choose to obey. I did not say that the laws of 1794 and 1800, were the enactments of tyrants. Nor have I violated them—they have been repeated; nor have I violated any other law, unless there is some law which forbids the liberty of speech.

N. C. READ.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon



FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 9, 1836.

PROSECUTOR READ AND TEXAS.

We published yesterday, without comment, a communication from N. C. Read, Esq., on matters and things connected with Texas. Mr. Read has devoted himself very considerably, for the last eight or ten months, to Texan affairs. He has speechified often and again—has concocted resolutions, and has got up meetings to adopt them, and has otherwise been active in procuring that to be done, which has been effected, in aid of Texas, in this vicinity. In noticing certain proceedings in Fulton, in Monday's Gazette, the presence of Mr. Read was mentioned, not for the purpose of singling him out for distinction, but simply to note the extraordinary fact, that the Prosecuting Attorney should make himself conspicuous in denouncing the law of the land, and declaring a determination to disregard it. This fact occurred to me as evidencing too much of the prevalent spirit, to substitute the present dispositions of a supposed majority, right or wrong, for the established and permanent laws of the country: a spirit, which, I apprehend, ever has been the great active agent, in subverting regular governments, in every age of the world. Nothing in Mr. Read's communication changes my views of this subject.

Since early last winter, a series of transactions have passed before us, in open day, the undisguised object of which has been to enlist troops and procure arms to aid the Texans in their war with Mexico. Troops have been enlisted—arms have been obtained. Their military parades have been exhibited in our streets, they have embarked at our wharf, have proceeded to Texas, united themselves with her troops and joined with them in battle against Mexico. In effecting all this many individuals have taken a prominent part. Public speaking has been one mode of operating upon the citizens, and when it so operates to induce action, the speaker and the actor become associated, in the consequences of the act, whether for commendation or crime.

(Response by E. C. Hammond-Editor)

Is it an offence against any known law, thus to furnish, men and arms, to aid Texas, in her war with Mexico? Let Texas and Mexico be regarded as equally independent States, engaged in war with each other, the United States is neutral in this war. As a neutral, what are her duties, as one of the community of nations. Independent of the law of Congress, which will be given in its place, the law of nations defines the duty of the United States, in her present position.

According to the law, as laid down by Mr. Jefferson, the Texas movements, in Cincinnati, are no better than combinations to murder and rob. Does this jar upon the feelings of Mr. Read and others who have acted with him?—Let them recollect from whence and from whom the definition comes:—it is not mere editorial vituperation. Congress, however, has not treated these doings as of a grade of crime equal to robbery or murder; it has constituted them misdemeanors. The act of April 20, 1818, sections one, two and six, provides:

Sections one and two not applicable, Section six listed previously

Here is the law of nations, the law of Congress, and the judicial opinion of a most eminent judge of the U. S. Supreme Court. All concur, in regarding as criminal, the doings that have passed before us, for some time by-gone, in regard to Texas. A very plain proposition is involved. Have military supplies, arms and ammunition been procured, for Texas, in Cincinnati? If they have, then has the law been violated; then are the individuals concerned obnoxious to legal punishment.

Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 9, 1836.

PROSECUTOR READ AND TEXAS.

Continued

In the report of the doings of the identical Fulton Texas meeting, about which Mr. Read has written his communication, we find the following:

'The meeting was then addressed by N. C. Read and Captain Lawrence.'

Again:

'It was moved and seconded, That a committee of five be appointed to assist Capt. Lawrence in raising Recruits and funds for the cause of Texas, which being put to vote, the following gentlemen were elected:—

'B. Hazen, L. Fagin, A. Gordon, E. Townsend, and E. Anderson.'

Now, this very self same Captain Lawrence has opened and advertised a rendezvous, on Front street, for engaging emigrants: in other words, enlisting recruits. He proclaims that he acts under a Captain's commission from Texas. Mr. Read acts in concert with him, in declaring,

'That no law, either human or divine, except such as are formed by tyrants and for their sole benefit, forbids our assisting the Texans; and such law, if any exist, we do not as Americans choose to obey.'

And this, in direct contradiction to the public and statute law above published, Mr. Read represents as merely using the liberty of speech!! Mr. Read's speeches, and the acts of Captain Lawrence, go hand in hand. It is an insult to common sense to assume, that so gross a violation of law can be evaded, upon the grounds put forth by Mr. Read.

I have called our Texan patriots '*land brawlers*.' I cannot take it back. Has not a whole Kentucky corps come home, in dudgeon, because of some difficulty about land? Are not the Texans themselves disputing to the knife, upon the same subject? And why do our patriot volunteers prefer to be soldiers in Texas, to soldiers at home, in defence of our own citizens, beleagured by a savage foe? It is land!—speculation! Any thing, rather than a generous disinterested love of the liberty that good government and wise laws secure and make permanent.

land brawlers

By C. Hammond-Editor

APPENDIX-3

**AMERICAN
RAILROAD JOURNAL,**

AND

ADVOCATE OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

JANUARY TO JULY, 1834.

ADVOCATE OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

807

A steam fire engine factory, owned and conducted by Messrs. Chase and Seymour. The engines manufactured by them are equal for power, beauty, and workmanship, to any manufactured east of the mountains.

Cincinnati Directory - 1851

**JEFFREY SEYMOUR,
HOSE, BELT, BOOT AND SHOE**

MANUFACTURER,

41 Walnut St., w. side, bet. Front & Columbia,

CINCINNATI, OHIO.

~~~~~  
Jeffrey Seymour, Manufactures steamboat, fire-engines, factory, and garden hose, to the value of twenty thousand dollars, annually. His hose is all copper or iron riveted, and of the best quality; also makes belts and bands for machinery, elevator belts, etc.—*Cist's Cincinnati in 1851.*

## Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

### APPENDIX-4

To His Excellency the Governor Agency of Texas New Orleans  
& Hon Council of Texas March 16<sup>th</sup> 1836

Gent<sup>m</sup>

I have rec'd a letter from Cincinnati Ohio, & with it two Iron field pieces complete excepting harness, presented by the Citizens of Cincinnati, (through W M Curry Ch<sup>m</sup> of Texas Committee Edward Woodruff & Pulaski Smith Esquire) to the Government of Texas, I have in the name of the government acknowledged their receipt, and presented them with your thanks for their noble & acceptable donation, at their request Mr W C Ogilvie has the charge of delivering the Guns to the Government, It is also Mr Ogilvie's intention to devote himself to the cause of Texas, we have no doubt he will prove a valuable acquisition to the Army,

I have the Honour to be  
Yours Respectfully  
Wm Bryan  
General Agent

To His Excellency the Governor Agency of Texas New Orleans  
& Hon Council of Texas March 16<sup>th</sup> 1836

Gent<sup>m</sup>

I have rec'd a letter from Cincinnati Ohio, & with it two Iron field pieces complete excepting harness, presented by the Citizens of Cincinnati, (through WM Curry Ch<sup>m</sup> of Texas Committee Edward Woodruff & Pulaski Smith Esquire) to the Government of Texas[.] I have in the name of the government acknowledged their receipt, and presented them with your thanks for their noble & acceptable donation[.] [A]t their request Mr WC Ogilvie has the charge of delivering the Guns to the Government. It is also Mr Ogilvie[']s intention to devote himself to the cause of Texas. [W]e have no doubt he will prove a valuable acquisition to the Army.

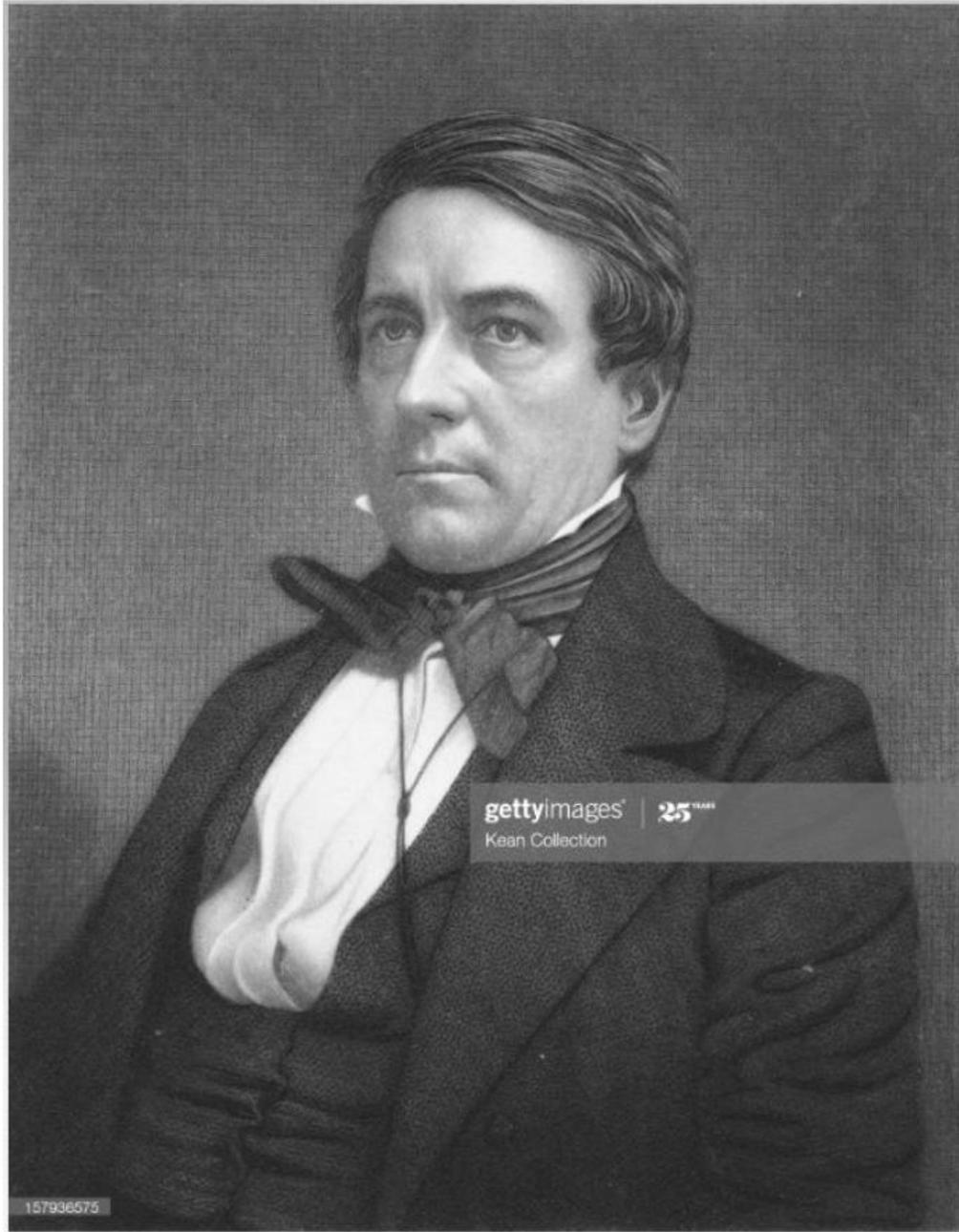
I have the Honour to be  
Yours Respectfully  
Wm Bryan  
General Agent

***COLLATERAL    ADDENDUM***

## *Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon*

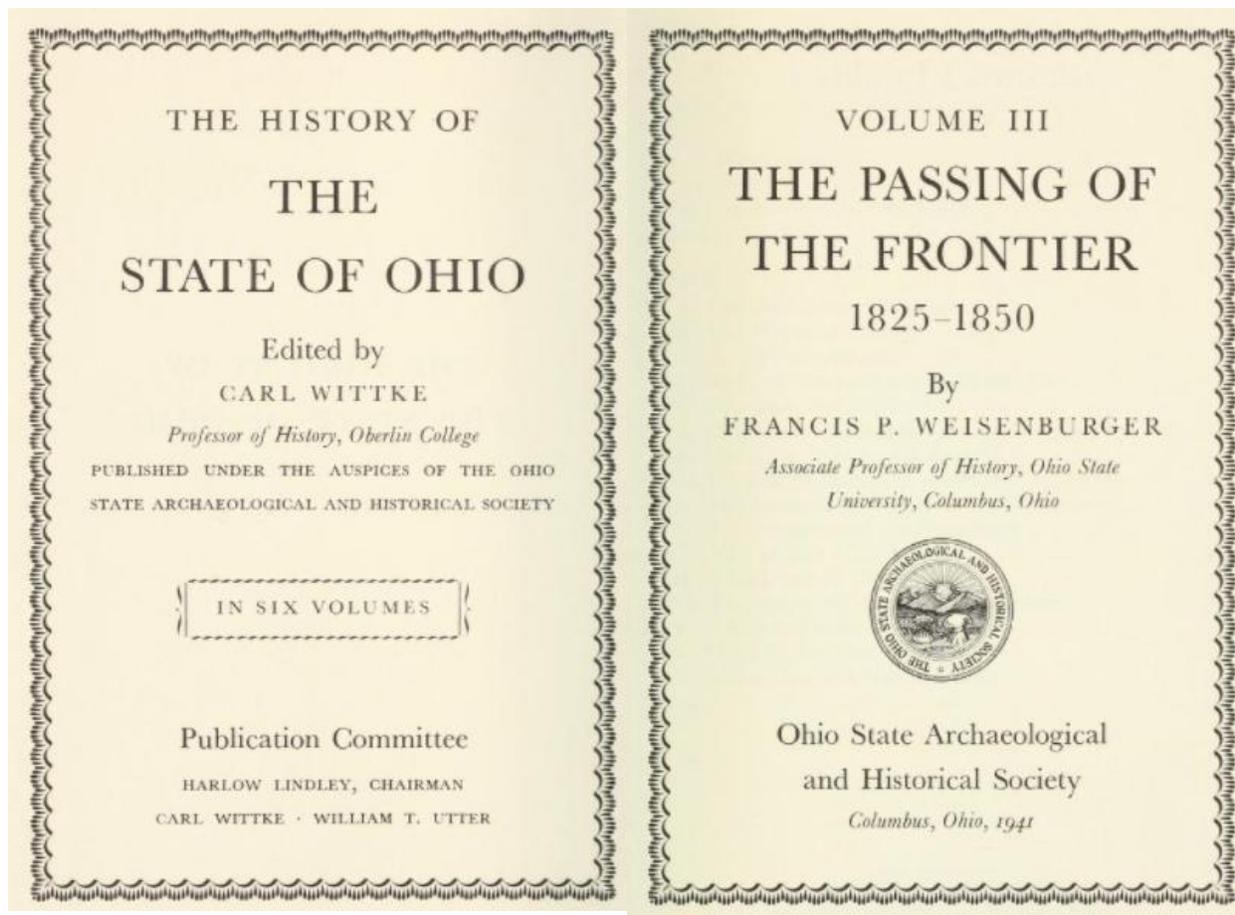
### **David Tiernan Disney**

David Tiernan Disney (1803 - 1857), the U.S. Representative from Ohio, circa 1850. Engraved for the 'Democratic Review' by H. S. Sadd, from a daguerrotype by Plumbe. (Photo by Kean Collection/Getty Images)



# *Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon*

David T. Disney Collateral



## Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

### HISTORY OF THE STATE OF OHIO, VOL III 1825-1850

Sectionalism and the problems of the war were intimately connected with the question of territorial expansion, in which Ohioans exhibited an animated interest. As early as the first year of Jackson's Presidency, when efforts were being made to purchase Texas, the *Ohio State Journal* and various other Ohio newspapers expressed the view that the policy of acquiring additional territory might in general be open to question but that the acquisition of Texas "on fair and honorable terms" would be a popular measure in Ohio. Especially was this the case since Texas might "soon pass into other hands either by treaty or conquest."<sup>31</sup> When the movement for Texan independence reached a critical stage in 1835-36, meetings were held, like those in Columbus in May, 1836, which adopted resolutions that the Texans were "but acting upon the motives of the heroes of the American Revolution." A committee was appointed to receive funds for equipping and defraying the expenses of volunteers in the Texas cause. Several young men from Columbus enrolled, and two cannon were forwarded as a gift of Cincinnatians.<sup>32</sup> Early in 1837, the "Boston Circus," which was then exhibiting in Cincinnati (with "grand pony races" as a concluding feature), gave a benefit for the cause.<sup>33</sup> David T. Disney, a leading Cincinnati politician and banker, was chair-

David T Disney

<sup>30</sup> Holt, *Party Politics in Ohio*, 147-50.

<sup>31</sup> Columbus *Ohio State Journal*, Sept. 24, 1829.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, May 21, 1836; Columbus *Ohio People's Press*, May 25, 1836; Cincinnati *Gazette*, Sept. 13, 1836.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, Feb. 10, 1837.

Page 432

man of all the Ohio groups acting in behalf of Texas. Sixty-six muskets and accouterments which were the property of the State were dispatched to Texas, a procedure which led to a judgment at law for over a thousand dollars against Disney and two associates in 1839. Andrew Jackson's cautious policy toward Texas which eventuated in recognition of it in 1837, was generally approved in the State, for by that time many Ohioans were questioning the advisability of agreeing to its annexation unless provision was made for the exclusion of slavery.<sup>34</sup> Early in 1838, resolutions presented to the Ohio legislature by Benjamin F. Wade were adopted by large majorities in both houses in opposition to the annexation of the "Lone Star Republic."<sup>35</sup> The issue was not pressed, however, until it became troublesome in the Presidential campaign of 1844.

66 muskets

Judgement against  
Disney in 1839

Page 433

*Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon*

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
SENATE,  
OF THE  
STATE OF OHIO;  
BEING THE FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
FORTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
HELD IN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, COMMENCING ON  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1847.

VOL. XLVI.  
OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLUMBUS:  
CHAS. SCOTT'S STEAM PRESS.  
1848.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1848. 143 148

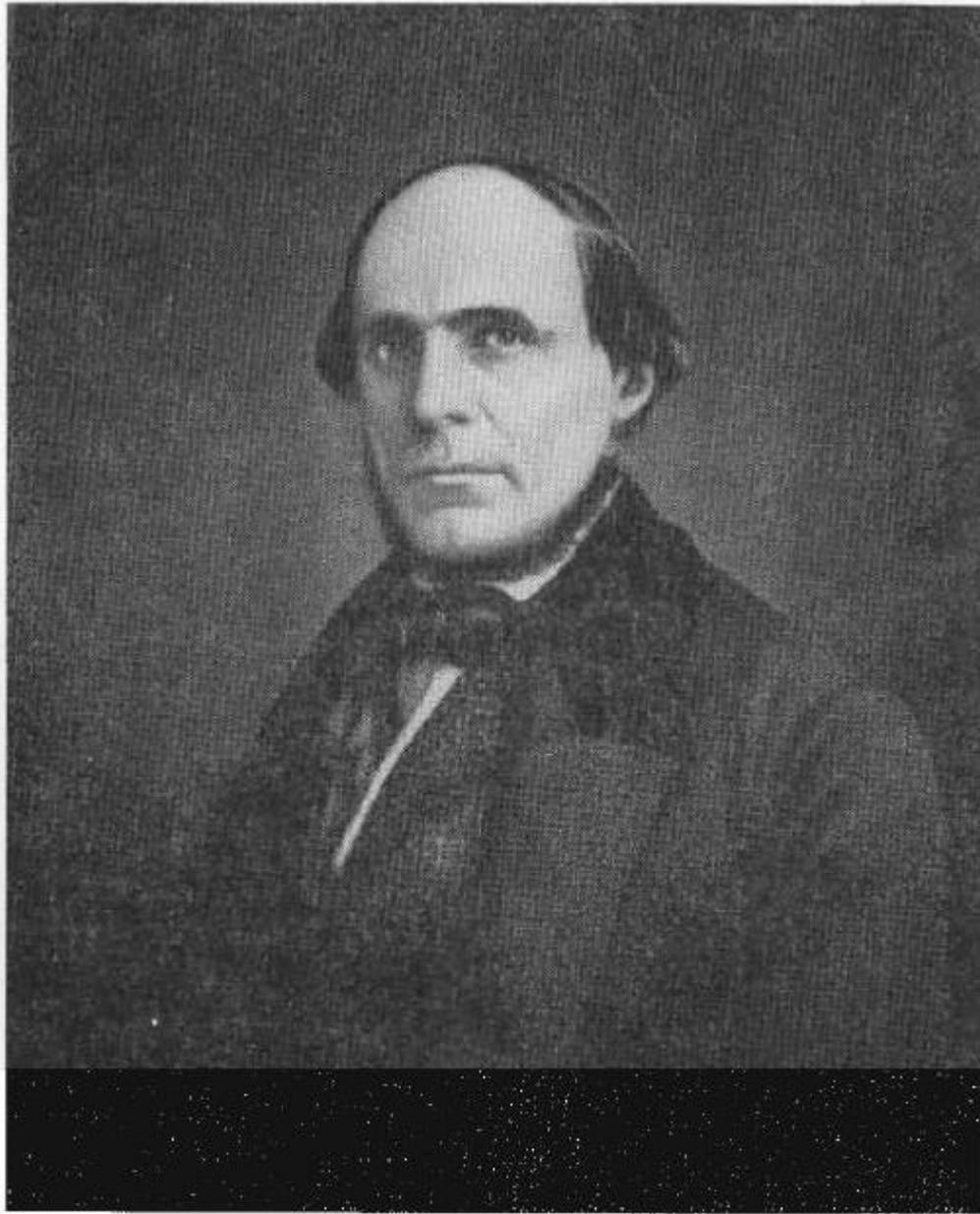
Mr. Kendall, from the standing committee on the militia, made the following report :

The standing committee on the Militia, to which was referred the resolution authorizing the Governor to receive from David T. Disney an order from the Governor of the State of Texas upon the Ordnance Department, at Washington, for certain public arms, in full satisfaction of a judgment rendered in the Superior Court of Cincinnati in favor of the State of Ohio, against said David T. Disney, Israel Ludlow and Joseph Graham, on account of certain arms belonging to the State of Ohio, report the same back, with the following amendment :

Strike out all after the resolving clause, and insert—

The Quartermaster General be and he is hereby authorized to enter satisfaction upon a judgment rendered in behalf of the State of Ohio in the Superior Court of Cincinnati, at the January term, in the year 1839, against David T. Disney, Israel Ludlow and Joseph Graham, for the sum of one thousand seventy-two dollars and sixty cents, damages, with costs, upon the delivery of an order from the Executive of the State of Texas upon the Ordnance Department at Washington for an equal number of arms and accoutrements in lieu of the arms taken from Ohio, and for which said judgment was obtained ; and upon furnishing evidence to the Quartermaster General that the costs and attorney's fees are paid.

*Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon*



Society engraving

**MILES GREENWOOD**

**One of 19th century Cincinnati's most dynamic industrial leaders**

## *Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon*

### **Francis Smith to Stephen F Austin, 08-22-1832**

Summary: Troops abandoning the place and going to Bexar. Much danger from Indians. Tenoxtitlan Aug. 22nd 1832.

Sir.

All the Spanish inhabitants left here this morning for Bexar. I met Col Ruiz two miles from this place quite sick, he requested me to write to you about his situation, of being sick and not having help enough to move on conveniently, that it was out of his power to go to Bexar in haste as you requested. Three days since a small party of Indians came here brought the horse saddle and bridle that was taken from H Reed when he was murdered they saw Reeds hat and pantaloons they had a severe battle with the murderers and killed five, they brought in the scalps of two. they say there is so much Indian sign above that they are afraid to hunt. The people here wish you to appoint a man to act as civil officer for the present, untill things can be better regulated, herewith I send you the names of the men here, and account of election.

Francis Smith [Rubric]

[Addressed:] Col Stephen F. Austin San Felipe

### Source

*Eugene Barker, ed., Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1919: The Austin Papers, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924), 3 vols., Vol 1, Part 2, pp. 848-849*

## *Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon*

**Summary: Settlers on upper Brazos organizing for protection from Indians. Need civil officer, and Coles suggest appointment by Austin**

24 August 1832

[Addressed to:] Col S F Austin

Dear Sir

I Recd. intelligence to day that the party of Indians that killed Reed has been defeated there were 8 off them they were Wacos a Hunting party on Little River Consisting of 2 Mexicans 2 Delewas Indians 2 Caddoes and 2 anadarkas were the party that defeated them Killed 5 Brot in the Scalps of 2 and says the other three were killed in Little River and Sunk. They brot in Reeds Horse and saddle and deliverd to Reeds. Farther the people above has appointed Company officers the appointment has not been as good as might have been. But to place them in a Still Better situation appoint Some civil officer among them this is what the thinking Class of men among them think Best, they are willing to be governed by any thing that you say and It is very Important to keep them together up there. I think that **Frances Smith** would make the Best civil officer Because he is more Interested and would do more to sustain the place and to keep order. A Line from you saying that Smith shall be the Civil officer among them wood be all Sufficient. If you do not think proper let the Ayuto do it. But an order from you wood be all sufficient and wood be more respected than anything the Auyto could do.

10 men starts from here this evening to join the people up there and to remain with them until other arrangements can be made or until the appearance of danger subsides It is all Important to sustain them people above for If they Break up the whole country above the Yeagua, and perhaps above the Navasotta would be abandoned

J P Coles

### Source

*Eugene Barker, ed., Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1919: The Austin Papers, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1924), 3 vols., Vol 1, Part 2, pp. 849*

# TEXAS REPUBLICAN.

Vol. II.

Brazoria, Saturday, October 10, 1835.

No. 56.

Now, if the present government of Mexico is sincere in its professions of liberal guarantees for Texas, why all this preparation for a military invasion? Why has general Cos marched with all the disposable force at Matamoras (about four hundred men) to Bexar, where he now is, according to last accounts? Can it be that the government, in its fatherly care for Texas fears that there are servile slaves in this country, who will oppose *liberal guarantees*? Or is it that the promised guarantees, are only a cover and a false show, to quiet Texas until the general government is prepared to give to it a military government.

It is well known to all that the reforms spoken of by the ministers, and now being made in Mexico, contemplate the abolition of the whole federal system, the establishment, of a central or consolidated government, which is to absorb and swallow up all the powers and authorities of the nation: military commandancies will supply the place of the state governments, and the vested rights of Texas under the constitution and law of May 7, 1824, are to be disregarded and violated.

Ought, or can, or will the people of Texas submit to all this? Let each man study the subject, and answer for himself. If he will submit, let him go to the military power and prostrate himself. If he will not submit, let him give his answer from the mouth of his rifle!

In regard to the present movements of the military, the letter from Gonzales, and extracts from other letters of unquestionable faith, [numbered 2.] will inform the public. By these letters the people of Texas are informed that their fellow-citizens at Gonzales *have been attacked—the war has commenced!* They will also perceive that general Cos has arrived with a reinforcement of troops, and is preparing for a campaign of extermination against the people of Texas.

The head quarters of THE ARMY OF THE PEOPLE for the present is at Gonzales. It is already respectable in numbers, and invincible in spirit.

This Committee exhorts every citizen who is yet at home, to march as soon as possible to the assistance of his countrymen now in the field. The campaign is opened. Texas must be freed from military despots before it is closed.

S. F. AUSTIN, CHAIRMAN of  
the Committee of the Jurisdiction of Austin.

San Felipe de Austin, October 3, 1835.

## Origin of the Twin Sisters Cannon

Telegraph and Texas Register (San Felipe de Austin [i.e. San Felipe], Tex.), Vol. 1, No. 2, Ed. 1,  
Saturday, October 17, 1835

### LETTER FROM COL. AUSTIN.

{ HEAD QUARTERS, WEST BANK OF  
{ GAUDALUPE, OCTOBER 11, 1832.

GENTLEMAN,—On this day the volunteer troops of Texas will take up the line of march for Bejar. The whole number of the force does not exceed three hundred men. We have hopes to be joined by a part of the detachment at Goliad, as an express has been sent to them to join us on the road. But some casualty may prevent this, as captain Collinsworth has been ordered not to abandon the fort at that place.

I have, therefore, to request that you will use every exertion to press on volunteers, who may come up with us in time to give us important, perhaps indispensable, aid in the attack of San Antonio.

Fail not to use every possible exertion in this respect, I beseech you. If there is any intelligence of troops coming on from Nacogdoches, let an express be despatched to them immediately, begging them to hurry on by forced marches to join us, and not to stay for the Tenoxtitlan cannon, or for any thing. Let me request you further to send on, without delay, wagons, with what ammunitions you can procure for cannon and small arms—powder, lead, &c, also provisions, meal, beans, sugar and coffee, and whatever else you may judge necessary for the troops.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have to inform you that Goliad was taken by captain Collinsworth on the 8th inst. with a force of fifty men.

Captains Smith and Alley marched from here previous to my arrival, with about one hundred and ten men, for Victoria, which, it was reported, had been attacked, and they have no doubt, formed a junction with captain Collinsworth. As many of this force only as can be spared, so as not to endanger the re-taking of Goliad, are expected by us; so that a reinforcement from that quarter is uncertain.

S. F. AUSTIN,  
*Commander-in-chief.*

To the Com. of Safety, San Felipe.