

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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DAVID HARDIE 1821-1896

On Saturday evening, March 2, members and friends of the Cobblestone Museum enjoyed a fascinating talk given by Mr. Michael McFarland of Victor on Capt. David Hardie. Mr. McFarland who grew up in Albion is currently President of the Rochester Civil War Round Table and has therefore, taken great interest in Capt. Hardie of his native village. Since this recent event was promoted through the local news media, it only seems logical that more people would like to know who Capt. Hardie was.

David Hardie was born in Edinburgh, Scotland Sept. 16, 1821, and in 1839 entered the British Army as a gunner in the Royal Artillery serving in England and Ireland. In 1846 he was sent to Canada, being stationed in Quebec. It was there that he met and married Catharine E. Leonard in 1847. He soon after left the army and embarked in the newspaper and book trade. For four years he was connected with the "London Spectator" and then for three years with the "Hamilton Star".

In 1856 he and his wife moved to Albion, NY where he immediately opened a book-bindery and shortly thereafter, a newsroom and stationery business, which was conducted out of the Post Office lobby. This was located on East Bank Street when it was known as Canal Street.

When the Civil War broke out, he was the first man to raise a company of volunteers which became known as Co. G of the 28th Regiment. This organization was made on April 13, 1861 and on May 22, 1861 the regiment was mustered into service at Albany. Mr. Hardie was Captain for thirteen months before returning home.

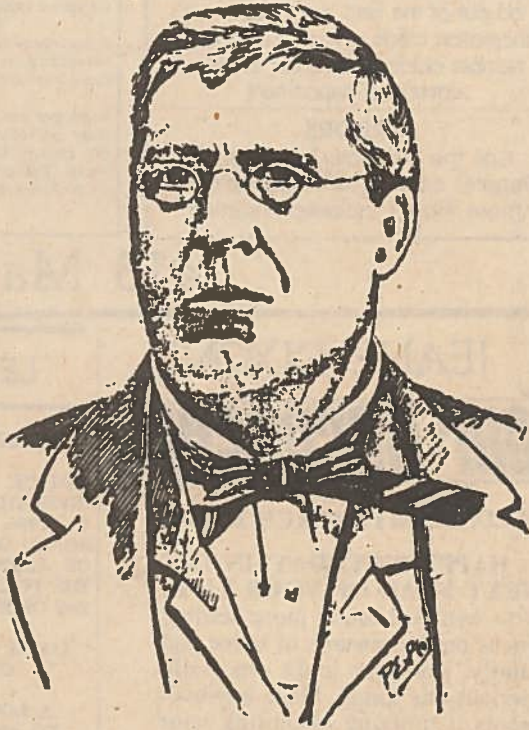
Obviously, he was forty years of age when he volunteered to serve his adopted country. Many called him an old man at the time. He was the father of three daughters and a son at the time of the Civil War. This indeed, put a great strain on his wife who was left to care for the family and oversee the business.

During his time of actual duty from July 1861-June 1862, he was involved in the campaigns of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

Here are some excerpts from a letter dated Strasburgh, Virginia March 27, 1862 addressed to his wife and children.

"I write to inform you that I am in good health and in good spirits. We had a fight at Winchester and it was a hard one. We had about 60 killed and about 300 wounded and the Rebels had about 500 killed and 250 wounded besides 200 taken prisoner. General Jackson made a mistake this time...."

"Now Dear wife keep up good spirits. Give my love to the children and don't think of coming along as you could not find me for the day we are one place and the next day another and every village and town is deserted and no conveniences at all. We are only 90 miles from Richmond now and I think that will be our destination. But you know more about that than we



do. We march sometimes at night and we don't know where we are going to. Give a kiss to Lizzie, Maggie, Mary and Phillip then kiss you for me...."

"Have you sent me that \$3 that I wrote if not send me \$5 as I have not a cent of money and our payroll is in Washington but we can't get to us. You would be sorry to see so much desolation and destruction of property. There is nothing in the women and children's countenance but grief."

Upon returning home following his involvement in the War, Capt. Hardie resumed his business. He also served as a village trustee, village treasurer and town supervisor and was an excise commissioner at the time of his death. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Renovation Lodge No. 97, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the G.A.R. Mrs. Hardie died in 1872. When he died in August of 1896, his immediate survivors were his daughters: Mrs. Mary Blake, Mrs. Margaret Cobb, Mrs. Lizzie Hardie and a son Phillip Hardie.

In the early 1960's a large stained glass window entitled "The Good Shepherd" was placed in Christ Episcopal Church in Memory of the Hardie-Blake Family.

"For this reason My Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order that I may take it up again. No one snatches it from Me, but I voluntarily lay it down."

John 10:17-18