



American Legion Post 269
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The History of the Cannons

In the Harry T. Hanson Veterans Memorial Park outside the American Legion hall are two WWI era Field Guns. These two guns are actually M1902 3" Field Guns designed by the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet NY for the US Army. There were three models of this gun: M1902, M1904, and M1905. In total, only 663 of these field guns were made. According to documentation found on Wikipedia, only 37 or 38 are still in existence. Most of these guns were kept in the United States for training purposes during WWI. The US Army primarily used the French 75mm version in combat in Europe, although some of these guns were sent to the European theater and used in combat. These guns were phased out of service in the 1920's. So how did it happen that these two field guns reside in the park? After a lot of research, we have been able to track down the history of their arrival in Patchogue. The handwritten images are from the actual Village Board meetings.

On December 13, 1921, The Board of Trustees Village of Patchogue met in regular session at 8 Pm. During that meeting a resolution was proposed and approved to make an application to the War Department for the loan of two guns mounted on carriages to be used for ornamental purposes at the Memorial Park at Ocean Ave and Baker Street.

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Regular meeting of Board of Trustees
Village of Patchogue was held Tues.
Dec. 13/21 - 8. PM.

Trustee Woodford offered the following
resolution which was duly recorded
and adopted: Resolved, That the
Village of Patchogue make application
to the War Department for the loan of
two guns mounted on carriages to
be used for ornamental purposes
at the Memorial Park at Ocean Ave.
and Baker Street.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 6, 1922 the Village Clerk was instructed to advise the Ordinance Department that the Village of Patchogue wished to accept the two guns offered for ornamental purposes and to ask said department to issue shipping instructions.

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Special meeting of Board of Trustees of
Village of Patchogue was held Friday of
Jan 6, 1922. 8 P.M.
members present:

an-
Clerk was instructed to advise Ordnance
Department that the Village of Patchogue
wished to accept the two guns offered
for ornamental purposes and to
ask said department to issue shipping
instructions for same.

On March 7, 1922 at 8 PM the Board of Trustees held a special meeting in which they read a communication from the Watervliet Arsenal advising the Village that 2 75 m/m Mountain guns with carriages had been shipped to the Village on February 24, 1922.

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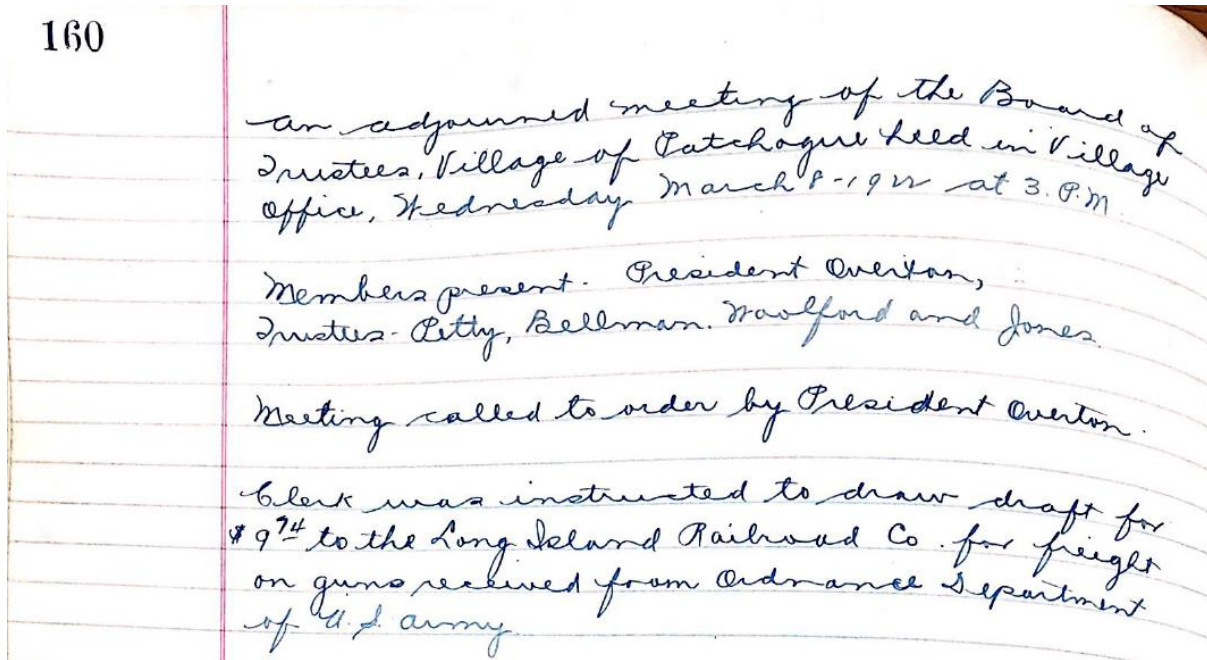
an adjourned meeting of the Board of Trustees
Village of Patchogue held in Village office
March 7th 1922 at 8 P.M.

Communication from Watervliet Arsenal advising
that 2- 75 m/m. Mountain guns with carriages
had been shipped to Village Feb 24-1922.
On motion ordered placed on file.

Note that these are referred to at 75 m/m Mountain Guns. This is probably due to the fact that the French 75 mm version of this gun was the one primarily used in combat during WWI. One of the French versions was also called a Mountain Gun.

On Wednesday March 8, 1922 the Board of Trustees met at 3 PM for a special meeting where the Clerk was instructed to draw a draft for \$9.74 to the Long Island Railroad Co. for freight on guns received from Ordinance Department of the U.S. Army.

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Note that the meeting was called to order by Board of Trustee President Overton. This has historical significance because Dr. Frank Overton was the 1st Commander of American Legion Patchogue Post 269 when it was formed on August 15, 1919. Dr Overton served as Commander of the Post from August 15 1919 to June 1 1920.

That is the history of how the two field guns came to be located in the Harry T. Hanson Veterans Memorial Park. They have been a part of Patchogue and the Veterans Memorial Park ever since.

References:

Watervliet Arsenal - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watervliet_Arsenal

M1902 Field Guns - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3-inch_M1902_field_gun

Research:

Mr. Brian Egan, Village Attorney

Ms. Patricia Seal, Village Clerk

Mr. Jonathon Ralph, American Legion – Commander

Mr. John Matuszak, American Legion – Past Commander

Mr. Jose Bou, American Legion – Historian

Jonathon Ralph - Commander

American Legion

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