

Please, return June 6, 55
 J. H. Friedman



CHURCH'S MYSTERY—An expert declared this piece of a rifle, lock plate, bayonet and fork date back to Civil War Baltimore.

Relics Under Canton Church Are Not 1812 But Civil War

It is nothing unusual beneath an old church, recently demolished, to find an ancient graveyard.

But it is a story when, beneath that same church, there is discovered a cache of rifles, bayonets, a flag and a fork—conjuring visions of some forgotten battle or bastion of the War of 1812—which turn out to be:

Merely, a Civil War "dump heap." How's that for anti-climax?

But there was a lot of logic in the quashed supposition that these relics dated to the War of 1812, for the United Evangelical Church, at East avenue and Dillon street, in Canton, was near Rodger's Bastion and the defense line of that era.

83-Year-Old Church Torn Down
 The 83-year-old church was torn down to make way for a new church building.

According to William F. Mayer, chairman of Boy Scout Troop 19, one night last week he saw some boys digging. He said they found about twenty bayonets, a disintegrated American flag and even some bones.

"We imagined they were from the War of 1812," he declared. "And there's no telling how many more were carted to the dump by the contractors."

their tale to Harry D. Berry, Jr., who collects and sells old weapons at a store in the 200 block West Read street. He took one look and announced they came from "a trash dump for Patterson Park."

Mr. Berry meant the big Civil War training camp located in Patterson Park and used, "I think, by outfits from Vermont and Massachusetts."

The rifle, he noticed, was marked by C. D. Schubarth, of Providence, R.I., a Civil War contractor who patterned his product after the Springfield models of 1861. The bayonets were easily dated by the catches for attaching them.

Three-Cornered Bayonets
 Although the three-cornered bayonets were very similar during both wars, there could be no doubt of their age.

Mrs. Titus Lehmann, of the 400 block South East avenue, wife of the pastor of the church, said the original church was built without a basement and the relics appeared in the process of excavating the new church's basement.

"The police finally stopped the boys from playing with the bayonets before they got hurt," she reported. But, at least, they will make fine souvenirs for a young man's shelf.

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