

# The Cannon

The 1857 Civil War Napoleon Twelve Pounder Cannon (Number 316), manufactured by the Henry N. Hooper Co. of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1864, was possibly used by the Union Army during the Civil War at one of the many battles fought in Tennessee. This cannon was probably left by the US Army and declared surplus.

During the WAR OF THE ROSES, Bob Taylor who was a democrat ran against his brother Alf who was a republican. The brothers often traveled together and wore roses in their lapels. The Kenton election went almost unanimously for Bob. After his election as Governor, Gov. Bob shipped the cannon to Kenton as an appreciation gift.

The cannon was located between Main Street and the Depot for many years until the wheels and most of the wood rotted. Mr. Mike Rosson mounted it on a concrete base in 1925. In 1962, the Kenton JC Club members along with Mr. Carmen Tilghman restored it and placed it in the front of the post office. It was later put in front of what is now Plastech. When the plant closed (Vulcan), the cannon was moved to its present location in front of City Hall.

In 1976, Daniel Sharp along with the Kenton Fire Department made major repairs replacing the wheels and any wood that had deteriorated. In 1996, the City of Kenton along with the Tennessee 200 Bicentennial Celebration contracted with Baton Rouge Arsenal in Louisiana to restore the cannon to its original condition. The Kenton board voted to have a canopy built to cover and preserve it.