

John Waq

Tipp City O 1/10-47

(46) a

Dear Friend Kinney and old ladies Pioneer Society

It has been some time since I wrote anything for you a few weeks ago I noticed in Dayton Herald a piece regarding the history of the old Iron Dog that stands in front yard of what is known now as the Harve Wilson farm on Turnpike 25 south of Tipp the picture in paper showed besides the dog two young ladies who tried to give its history this iron dog as it appears today is the very image of the animal as it looked when it was alive but the young ladies would have had to be very old girls to have remembered the dog when living as this iron dog was placed on the little masters grave 70 years ago in Maple Hill Cemetery in sight of CH & D Ry now B&O I knew the little boy he was about 6 yrs old when he died and I was just a coukle yeas rs older I have seen that little boy astride of that dog's back kusing him as a horse riding back and forth in that yard and where you saw the dog the boy was sure to be some where close and the boy died when this little master was but 6 yrs old and last words this boy ever uttered was the dog's name so the story was given out at the time

Van Crane was our Ed Crane's uncle and he at that time lived on Broadway south side of street where Catholic Parsonage and Church stands between 2nd & 3rd st Van left Tipp shortly after Civil War and went I think to Port Huron Mich where he engaged in foundry biz he being a sculpter he drafted and moulded this dog in iron and had it set on his little boys grave it was there 50 or more years that I know of and as you know I was a telegraph operator on CH&D Ry about 70 yrs ago this same irion dog caused me to write quite a number of letters and in some caess return money to writers that they would send to help pay for a shelter and food and care for this dog that had been standing on his master's grave in all kinds of weather with out shelter only leaving long enough to get water and food

The dog stood brodside in Cemetary facing CH&D Ry so passengers could see it plainly and from that distance it looked exactly like a live animal and it became quite a nuisance to us Ry men having to answer questions this thing started as a joke by a joker traveling salesman from Tipp by name of Simon Lindsley some one asked him knowing he lived in Tippecanoe so Sime made up this story about that faithful animal who stood and was still standing on his master's grave day after day & night year after year no shelter and in all kinds weather it got around and became a nuisance to all passenger conductors not only tolus but to Mayor and Post Masters passengers going north out of Dayton and same South out Troy passengers would crowd over from east side to west side to get a peep of that wonderful dog and conductors could not get by to collect his tickets so E O Thomas who was the 1st conductor of the old CH&D put one over on me they would want to know all about it from him as to what they had herd about it as you know he had no time to explain it so he used to give them a note giving my name and told them Smithy had plenty of time and would answer every one and believe me I certainly did get plent y and lots of them were pretty tough on us people of Tippecanoe many would call us people having a hard heart or none at all to leave an animal out in all kinds of weather some of them would enclose maney to pay for a shelter food and for care this would cause me to write a letter to return same & a 2¢ stamp and one woman in particular wrote me several years after I was railroading west of Rocky Mts enclosing a \$5 bill to help build a shelter for food and care taken for that poor dog that thought so much of his master

1/10-47
Iron dog
Page 2

47

A.W. Miles was P.M this letter came to Tipp for me A.W.M. got my address from my mother & forwarded to me the answer I wrote this lady was that there was no danger of dog suffering that he had been standing there for 20 years and was just as sleek and fat as when he was placed there and strange to say he was just as heavy as he ever was he being molded out of iron I think the reason the iron dog was removed from Maple Hill was that it got to be a nuisance and Mr. Crane was asked to remove it as from a distance it would fool anyone it looked so life like.

Yrs truly

Samuel Stuart Smith

I am now in my 87 year

P.S. If you don't wish to show this to the other ladies put it in waste basket I think Mrs. Harry Ritter Mrs. Kitty Hatshbarger Miss Katy Born Miss Anna McConnahey Mrs Anna Wardel Eickhoff they would probably remember parts of it