

2/26/87

BLENDON SHIPBUILDING 1861

THE SCHOONER MAJOR ANDERSON

Many of our readers will recollect, that, on the occasion of one of the Union meetings recently held at Luce's Hall, a flag was stretched across the wall in the rear of the stage, upon which was painted the words, "Major Anderson." The flag belonged to a new vessel which is to be launched tomorrow afternoon (Saturday) at Blendon, Ottawa County. Persons desirous of witnessing the launch can do so by going on a trip aboard the steamer *Olive Branch*, which makes the trip expressly for the accommodation of those who may desire to see the launch and enjoy the excursion.

[Grand Rapids Weekly Enquirer 15 May 1861, p. 4, col. 1.]

We regret that previous engagements prevented our acceptance of an invitation to proceed to Blendon on Saturday last, and witness the launch of the Messrs A. C. Litchfield's new schooner, the "Major Anderson." We understand that the vessel was safely launched, at the time appointed and that the ceremonies were performed with all the honors, and to the complete satisfaction of all concerned, whether owners, workmen or visitors.

The *Maj. Anderson* is 112 feet in length, on deck; 26 feet beam; depth of hold 9 1/2 feet, and measures 250 tons. Built of first quality Michigan White Oak and Lake Superior iron. A. C. Litchfield was the architect; Ira Carver, master builder; Adolph Leitelt, blacksmith; Keep & Sampson, caulkers. Sails and rigging by Gilbert, Hubbard & Co. The proprietors of the Blendon shipyard propose to construct other vessels if there should be any demand. [Grand Rapids Weekly Enquirer 15 May 1861, p. 3, col. 1].