Happy Birthday U.S. Cavalry!

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Vermont Frontier Cavalry
The United States Cavalry Association
Organized February 20, 1976
The aim and purpose of the Association shall be to preserve the history, traditions, uniforms, and equipment of the United States Cavalry, including mounted support units; to sponsor the U.S. Cavalry Association’s Museum and Memorial Research Library for educational purposes; and to preserve the literature used by the United States Cavalry throughout its history.

Article IV, USCA Constitution

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The Cavalry Journal is dedicated to the memory of all Cavalrymen.

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In 1982, at the request of the U.S. Horse Cavalry Association, the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, designated 12 December 1776 as the official birthday of the U.S. Cavalry. That is the date the first Cavalry regiment was organized in the Continental Army.
In February, 1976, the United States Horse Cavalry Association (USHCA) was organized at El Paso, Texas, to preserve the history, traditions, heritage, uniforms, weapons, and equipment of the Cavalry. During the next 40 years, key events shaped what is today the United States Cavalry Association (USCA).

1976 – Colonel James R. Spurrier, USA (Ret), elected first chairman. Major General William H. Nutter, USA (Ret), became the first official member by being the first to pay the annual dues.

1977 – USHCA published the first Cross Saber Newsletter.

1978 – Paso del Norte Chapter of El Paso is organized as the first USHCA chapter.

1979 – Members to be called “Trooper”, which means Cavalryman.

1981 – In January, the Cross Saber Newsletter became the Crossed Sabers Newsletter.

1981 – USHCA members and the U.S. Army approved USHCA sponsorship of the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley.

1982 – In March, President Ronald Reagan became the Honorary Chairman of the USHCA.

1982 – In June, the Crossed Sabers Newsletter became a quarterly publication.

1982 – At the request of USHCA, the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, designated 12 December 1776 as the official birthday of the U.S. Cavalry. That is the date the first Cavalry regiment was organized in the Continental Army.

1983 – The first Fort Riley USHCA annual reunion was held.

1983 – The U.S. Cavalry Museum was accredited by the Army Museum Association. This was attributed to USHCA sponsorship.

1984 – USHCA purchased its first computer and started the BIOCAV program to collect biographical sketches of all Cavalrymen.

1984 – Fort Riley Commanding General informs USHCA that Building 6, next to the Cavalry Museum, will expand the Fort Riley Museum complex with the 1st Infantry Division on the first floor and the Cavalry Memorial Research Library on the second floor.
1986 – In December, the USHCA Headquarters moved into Building 612, Fort Bliss, Texas.

1989 – USHCA passed its 3000 membership goal!

1991 – In April, the USHCA moves from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Fort Riley, the former home of the Cavalry School and the home of the Cavalry Museum.

1991 – The Horsemanship and Horsemastership Manual, Volumes I and II, reprinted by USHCA from the original Cavalry School instructional manuals, are for sale in the Cavalry Museum Gift Shop.

1992 – In December, the Association’s video Crossed Sabers, the History of the Cavalry, was completed and became available for purchase.

1993 – In March, by the overwhelming vote of its members, USHCA became the United States Cavalry Association. This action was taken to attract all Cavalrymen because Cavalry is an operational concept. It is a mobile arm as demonstrated by horses, armored vehicles, and helicopters. Additionally, horse Cavalrymen were riding to Fiddler’s Green at an accelerated rate. The Army approved the name change.

1993 – In June, USCA ceased publishing Crossed Sabers and began publishing The Cavalry Journal as a quarterly publication. It continued to be both a newsletter and a professional journal.

1996 – The limited edition book U.S. Cavalry Association was published. It tells the story of the establishment and growth of the Association during its first twenty years.

1999 – In April, the U.S. Cavalry Memorial Research Library officially opened at Fort Riley.

2000 – In January, the USCA resumed publishing Crossed Sabers as a newsletter to make The Cavalry Journal a more professional publication.

2002 – First National Cavalry Competition, held at Fort Sill, OK.


2007 – USCA began placing advertisements in The Cavalry Journal and Crossed Sabers to help pay the expenses to publish them.

2015 – In April, the USCA moved from Fort Riley to Fort Reno, Oklahoma, and established a permanent home for the annual Bivouac and National Cavalry Competition.

2016 – In February, USCA celebrated its 40th anniversary.

2016 – In April, First Regional Cavalry Competition at Fort Concho, TX.

2016 – The 2016 National Cavalry Competition was the largest, both in the number of competitors and in the number of visitors in USCA’s 40 year history.
On 3 June 1916, as a result of the National Defense Act (NDA) of 1916, the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was established to train future officers for the newly created Officers Reserve Corps. There would be Junior ROTC (JROTC) in high schools and Senior ROTC (SROTC) in colleges and universities. In the fall of 1916, SROTC units were organized at 37 colleges and 9 military and other schools. Included in the ROTC program were Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry branches. In 1920, the NDA of 1916 was amended to provide Federal aid in the form of uniforms, equipment, and instructor personnel to the schools and colleges with ROTC. Horses were issued to those SROTC schools that had Cavalry and Artillery programs.

While there were many colleges and schools with Cavalry SROTC, I have thus far identified Culver Military Academy (a privately owned high school); Norwich University; Universities of Arizona, North Georgia, and Illinois; Massachusetts Agricultural College; Michigan State College; Oklahoma Military College (4 years high school and 2 years junior college); Oregon State College; Pennsylvania Military College; Texas A&M; New Mexico Military Institute; and Virginia Military Institute. Several of these schools (Culver, Norwich, and Pennsylvania,) had Cavalry training for a number of years prior to 1916, actively promoted the establishment of Cavalry ROTC, and were the models for Cavalry ROTC.
Some of these schools were strictly military schools with all of their students belonging to their respective corps of cadets, required to wear uniforms in a strict military environment, and required to complete all four years of ROTC even if they chose not at accept a commission on graduation. The other schools and colleges included ROTC within their curriculum where it was mandatory for freshmen and sophomores and voluntary for juniors and seniors who would be commissioned on graduation as Army Reserve officers.

At these schools, ROTC training was based on leadership, horsemanship, and combat principals. At VMI, for example, freshman Cavalry cadets received extensive training in equitation, Cavalry drill, scouting and patrolling, first aid and hygiene, musketry, and minor tactics. Each cadet also received opportunities to command at squad, platoon, and troop levels. This was all in addition to their academic studies, daily cadet duties such as guard detail, unit drill (dismounted, with and without rifles), theoretical instruction, and evening parade.

During their sophomore, junior, and senior years, Cavalry ROTC students received extensive instruction and training in all facets of Cavalry service. These included leadership, Cavalry weapons and drills, small unit tactics, marches and camps, military sketching and map reading/problems, scouting and patrolling, defense against chemical weapons, aerial photograph reading, camouflage, air defense, communications, mechanized and armored units, equitation and care of animals, stable work and management, history, military law, hippology (study of the horse), and general military topics such as estimate of the situation and combat orders. Additionally they enhanced their riding skills through polo, fox hunting, jumping,
dressage, gymkhana (games on horseback), and monkey drills (trick riding).

Cadets at the beginning of their junior year signed contracts to be commissioned on graduation. They attended six weeks of summer camp at the end of their junior year. This training was to give them confidence in themselves and their horses. It focused on field and tactical Cavalry training. Included were day and night back country road marches over several hundred miles distance and cross country marches over rough terrain, principles and techniques of reconnaissance, concealed bivouacs, river crossings, outposts, living with and caring for their horses in the field, and weapons firing.

U.S. Cavalry Association Trooper J.C. Estes entered Cavalry ROTC training in May 1944 when he enrolled in Oklahoma Military Academy. He left in January 1946 and enlisted in the Army. He had completed high school and 3 semesters of junior college. He said he had never been around horses and that he wanted the experience as it was a romantic part of the military—an old tradition. He knew he was living the end of an era. He further said a very memorable part of the experience was the cross country ride from Claremore, OK to Tulsa, OK, around 50 miles.

Trooper Niven Baird enrolled in 1946 at the New Mexico Military Institute. He said “he remembers very well the weekly rides with his troop across the New Mexico prairie. All aspects of horsemanship were stressed, with great emphasis on the stirrups being 12 inches apart and the distance from nose to tail never to exceed 36 inches while in a column of fours. The day’s training always culminated in platoons on line, proceeding by bugle call from walk to trot, to canter, and finally a full charge!”

He also said “as much time was spent grooming the mounts both before and after the drill as was spent in the field! A detail of 11 regular Army soldiers from the 104th Cavalry out of Fort Bliss, Texas, was stationed at the school, and provided training for the care and maintenance of the horses and tack. The saddle was, of course, the McClellan.”
As 1940 rolled into 1941, SROTC cadets and students saw additional time allotted to military training as National Guard and Reserve units were called to active duty for training. These projected future Cavalry officers also volunteered their own free time to enhance their equitation and weapons skills. With the declaration of war, SROTC training experienced numerous changes. Increased emphasis was placed on physical fitness, marksmanship, horsemanship training. Unfortunately, redirection of military personnel and resources for the war caused the suspension of summer field training. While Cavalry SROTC continued through World War II emphasis was shifting from horses to mechanized Cavalry and Armor. In 1947, the Army changed Cavalry SROTC to Armored Cavalry SROTC and the government issued horses were withdrawn.

Reference:
The M1894 bugle, in B flat, is 10 inches in length without the mouthpiece. The bell diameter is 3 ½ inches. These bugles are brass, triple twist without tuning slides. Thus they cannot be tuned to the same pitch. On this bugle can be played 5-note bugle calls and marches, whereas most bugles are only capable of 4-note calls and marches. For example, Call to Quarters and Tattoo are 5-note calls while calls such as Reveille, Mess Call, Drill Call, Recall, Guard Mount, Assembly, Adjutant’s Call, Retreat and To the Colors, Taps, and Charge are 4-note calls.

These bugles were originally issued to the Infantry, but were also used by the other branches, including the Cavalry. They are frequently called “trench bugles”, but no official Army record exists showing them ever named “trench bugles”, and bugle use in the front line trenches of World War I was restricted as bugle calls could disclose critical information to the enemy.

There are two types of M1894 Bugles. Those manufactured for the military under the specification #1152 dated April 25th, 1912, are identified by the writing on the bell which marks the manufacturer specification number (Spec. 1152) and date of production. The military versions were issued with a leather carrying strap (approximately 50 inches) and sometimes a wool cord with tassels. Military issues prior to 1912 have been found without markings like those manufactured for civilian use, and can be distinguished from subsequent issues by the thinness of the cord rings and the shiny brass finish.

These small bugles, which are no longer manufactured, had many makers, including Wurlitzer, R&H, J.W. York and others, and at least one foreign maker. As much used as these bugles were during World War I, they were overshadowed by the more popular M1892 field trumpet. Today M1894 bugles can be found on Internet auction sites and at antique or relic shows. I found mine in an antique store which identified it as a Civil War bugle! It is an early version of the M1894, without markings, and it is fun to play.

Reference:
Bugle Museum of America
In the spring of 1937 General of the Armies John J. Pershing performed one of his last official acts. He visited West Point to review the United States Corps of Cadets. His next and last station would be Walter Reed Hospital.

Stationed at West Point was the Second Squadron of the 10th Cavalry, the regiment he served with for many years.

Sgt. Major Springs requested Superintendent General William Conner’s permission to provide the escort to the review. A platoon of the Buffalo soldiers met General Pershing at the West Shore Railroad Station. They wore blues with a yellow stripe down the leg. This uniform had not been authorized since 1918. However, somehow the old troopers had retained them. In column of fours, they proceeded at a trot up the hill to the plains. They formed right into line.

General Pershing dismounted from the open sedan, and he returned the salute of Sgt. Major Springs. The two of them walked down the line. The two veteran cavalrmen walked slightly bent forward with their weight on the balls of their feet. They seemed to sense the pressure of stirrups. They walked slowly—the General looked at each trooper. He noted the adjustment of the bits and the clean, flexible leather of the bridles. The two men then walked to the rear of the line. He observed the even shoeing of their mounts. He noted the tails of their mounts—each tail hand plucked and falling just to the hocks.

General Pershing returned to the front of the line. He stood silently looking at the black troopers. Perhaps he remembered the blizzards of Montana, the northerners of Texas, the heat of Arizona, the assault of San Juan Hill, the Moros of Mindanao, the Sirocco of Chihuahua and the mud of the Argonne.

We know the 10th Cavalry had given him their best tribute—an organization turned out with perfection.

“Black Jack” finally said, “Well done 10th”. He then walked over to review the Corps of Cadets for his last parade.
Colonel Young:

I just (finished) reading "A Brief History of the Missouri State Militia Cavalry in the Civil War" by (Trooper) M. George Eichenberg, (Ph.D.), (Cavalry Journal, September 2016).

On page 4, Dr. Eichenberg writes that Lincoln declared martial law in Missouri and named Hannibal Hamlin to serve as governor.

That is incorrect. Hannibal Hamlin served as vice president from 1861 to 1865, and did not have anything to do with Missouri during the war.

What did happen, as Dr. Eichenberg wrote, is that incumbent Governor Claiborne Jackson conspired with the Confederate leadership. After that, Union Army Officer Nathaniel Lyon led pro-Union militia from Missouri and Illinois against pro-Confederate militia in Missouri, and pro-Confederate members of the state government fled the state, including Jackson.

A pro-Union state convention then declared the governorship vacant and selected Hamilton Gamble, a former Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, to serve as provisional governor. Gamble died in 1864, and his provisional lieutenant governor, Willard Hall, succeeded to the governorship.

I presume that Dr. Eichenberg mistakenly used Hannibal Hamlin's name because it sounds a little like Hamilton Gamble's.

I thought this small correction was worth noting, but I believe it should not detract from Dr. Eichenberg's excellent and interesting article.

(Trooper) William R. McKern
Barre, VT

Trooper Eichenberg's reply:

Colonel Young,

LTC McKern is quite correct and I thank him for the his very gentle and tactful correction. My sincere apologies for not checking this, but at the time I wrote the article, I was firmly wedded to Hamlin when at some level I am sure I knew I meant Gamble. My only excuse is an aging brain and too many hits upside the head during my policing days. Thank you for sending this on, Colonel Young.

Sincerely,
M. George Eichenberg, Ph.D.
A Confederate attack on a small town in Vermont during the closing days of the Civil War led to the creation of a unique Cavalry regiment designed to protect against similar attacks in the future.

On October 19, 1864, the Civil War’s northern-most action took place when a group of about twenty Confederate soldiers attacked the town of St. Albans, Vermont. St. Albans is about five miles from the Canadian border, and the Confederates who took part planned and organized their operation in Canada. Intending to demonstrate that robberies of northern banks could help replenish the Confederate treasury, the raiders led by Lieutenant Bennett H. Young stole from the St. Albans banks a total of $208,000, equal to $3.1 million in 2016. One resident of the town was killed, and after an unsuccessful effort to burn the town, Young and his men fled north to Canada, closely pursued by residents of St. Albans. The St. Albans raid was Young’s “proof of concept” – in addition to robbing banks, he had developed plans for raids from Canada to free Confederate soldiers from northern prisoner of war camps. After the war, Bennett Young was a successful businessman, philanthropist, author, and lecturer. He gave frequent speeches about the St. Albans raid, and served as President of the United Confederate Veterans.

As an immediate response to the St. Albans raid, Vermont Governor J. Gregory Smith issued a call for the state militia, veterans, and those convalescing from wounds to take part in rapidly defending the Vermont-Canada border. Troops led by then-Brigadier General George J. Stannard answered the call and conducted patrols along the boundary between Vermont and Canada, then a British dominion. This contingent also included the Norwich University Corps of Cadets, led by faculty member and militia Brigadier General Alonzo Jackman.
Smith was a resident of St. Albans. He was not home at the time of the raid, but his wife Ann was. As the raiders passed the Smith home, Ann appeared at the front door carrying a pistol, the only weapon she had been able to find. The raiders had intended to ransack the house; instead, they decided to bypass it, unaware that Mrs. Smith’s firearm was not loaded. Peter T. Washburn, who was adjutant general of the state militia during the war, later became governor. He issued Ann Smith a commission as a brevet lieutenant colonel on the governor’s military staff in recognition of her defense of the Smith home and her efforts to organize the pursuit of the fleeing raiders.

As a sustained response to protect against the possibility of further Confederate attacks from Canada, Vermont’s state government reorganized the militia and created the 1st Division, commanded by Union Army veteran William Y. W. Ripley. In 1893, Ripley received the Medal of Honor for actions at the 1862 Battle of Malvern Hill while he was assigned to the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters. The 1st Division of Vermont Militia included three brigades, and Civil War veterans were named to command all three with the rank of brigadier general. John L. Barslow commanded the 1st Brigade; he later served as Governor of Vermont. The 2nd Brigade commander was William W. Grout, later a longtime member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The commander of the 3rd Brigade was Thomas O. Seaver. In 1892 he received the Medal of Honor for heroism at the May 1864 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House while commanding the 3rd Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Another unit created to take part in the defense of the border with Canada was unique in that it was authorized by the federal government, but was intended to conduct operations for one year only on the border with Canada, and in only two states. It was also unique because it was authorized to organize companies from multiple states into a single regiment. Originally called the 1st Frontier Cavalry Regiment, the unit was officially organized as the 26th New York Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, and routinely referred to as the Frontier Cavalry or the Vermont Frontier Cavalry.

The Vermont Frontier Cavalry consisted of companies raised in three states – New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The War Department authorized the Governor of New York to appoint the commander and field grade officers; New York’s governor also appointed company officers with the advice of the field grade officers and the governors of the states where the companies were raised. The company commanders in turn appointed their sergeants and corporals.

Companies A through E were raised in Massachusetts; they were organized as a battalion (1st Battalion, Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry) and initially commanded by Major Burr Porter, a veteran of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry. Companies G through L were from New York, and Companies F and M were raised in Vermont.

Colonel Burr Porter

In February 1865, Porter was promoted to colonel and appointed to command the regiment; he did not remain in the position long, because he was soon appointed to command of the 3rd Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. He was succeeded by Ferris Jacobs, Jr., who had been the Vermont Frontier Cavalry’s first
lieutenant colonel. Jacobs was a veteran of the 3rd New York Cavalry, and later served as a member of Congress from New York.

Jacobs was succeeded as lieutenant colonel by William E. Beardsley, who had been one of the regiment’s first majors; Beardsley was a veteran of the 6th New York Cavalry. The regiment’s other majors were Charles E. Rice (Massachusetts), Josiah Grout (Vermont), and Edward T. Bouvé (Massachusetts). Rice was a veteran of both the 1st and 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry Regiments. He became a businessman and theatrical producer in Boston, and served on the Boston City Council. Josiah Grout was the brother of William W. Grout; he had served in the 1st Vermont Cavalry, and was commander of the Vermont Frontier Cavalry’s Company M at the time he was promoted to major. He later served as Governor of Vermont. Bouvé was a veteran of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry; an author and historian, he later compiled *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War*.

Companies A through E were mustered in at Camp Meigs in Readville, Massachusetts between December 30, 1864 and January 2, 1865. They performed duty in New York, including patrols near the border towns of Champlain, Malone, and Ogdensburg. They were mustered out at Camp Meigs on June 30, 1865.

The New York companies were organized as follows:

Company G was organized in Plattsburgh, mustered in on February 11, 1865, and mustered out on July 6, 1865.

Company H was based in Watertown, mustered in on February 22, 1865, and mustered out in Madison Barracks in Sackets Harbor on July 7, 1865.

Company I formed in Malone, mustered in on February 22, 1865, and mustered out in Ogdensburg on July 3, 1865.

Company K was organized in Buffalo, mustered in on February 24, 1865, and mustered out at Fort Porter in Buffalo on June 29, 1865.

Company L was organized in Malone, mustered in on February 24, 1865, and mustered out in Ogdensburg on July 1, 1865.

In Vermont, Companies F and M (also called the 1st and 2nd Companies) were organized in Burlington; they were mustered in on January 10, 1865. These units subsequently relocated to St. Albans, which was their base as they patrolled the Vermont border with Canada. Companies F and M were mustered out in Burlington on June 27, 1865.

The Vermont Frontier Cavalry never operated as a unified regiment. Instead, companies were deployed to locations along the border with Canada and patrolled a frontier that stretched from Canaan, Vermont in the east to Buffalo, New York in the west. The length of the US-Canada border in New York and Vermont -- is about 530 miles (90 in Vermont and 445 in New York).

There were no engagements or battles during the service of the Vermont Frontier Cavalry, but there were casualties; three enlisted men from Company G died of disease in Plattsburgh. In addition, one officer from Company F resigned, and one Company F enlisted soldier deserted.

The federal government’s response worked, and the service of the unique regiment known as the Vermont Frontier Cavalry was a success. The Canadian government, embarrassed that Confederates had used their country as a staging area for raids into Union states, and concerned that the Union might retaliate, reimbursed the St. Albans banks for the funds that had been stolen. Public sentiment in Canada was against the raiders because officially neutral Canadians felt they were being forced to choose the side of the Confederacy. This anti-Confederate sentiment reduced the likelihood of future raid attempts being staged in Canada. Most importantly, despite Confederate plans to raid towns near New York’s and Vermont’s northern borders, to carry out additional bank robberies, or to free Confederates from prisoner of war camps, the Confederates decided not to risk confrontation with the Vermont Frontier Cavalry and the other units defending the border by executing additional forays from Canada.

The companies of the Vermont Frontier Cavalry remained on duty until it was clear that there was no further danger; the war ended in April 1865, and by July all the units of the Vermont Frontier Cavalry had been mustered out and discharged from the Army.
Area Defended by the Vermont Frontier Cavalry

Reference:

Benjamin, L. N. “The St. Albans Raid, or, Investigation into the Charges against Lieut. Bennett H. Young and Command.” John Lovell (Montreal, Canada), publisher. 1865. https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=aeu.ark:/13960/t7br9m46z;view=1up;seq=6.


On 13 September 1923, Richard P. Hanley, the night watchman for the Savoy Hotel in New York City passed away. He was 78 years old.

Richard P. Hanley was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1845 to Patrick and Margaret O’Brien Hanley.

On 11 August 1861, he enlisted in the Union Army, Company K, 7th Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry. On 25 June 1864, he was captured at Marietta, Georgia, and confined at the Confederate military prison at Andersonville, Georgia. On 25 April 1865 he was paroled at Jacksonville, Florida, and subsequently mustered out of the U.S. Army at Camp Chase, Ohio, on 16 June 1865 with the rank of sergeant. He was 20 years old.

Three years later on 27 August 1868, Hanley enlisted as a sergeant with Company L, 2nd U.S. Cavalry. In November of that same year he was part of the U.S. Army engagement with the Southern Cheyenne at the Washita.

On 18 September 1873, Sergeant Hanley re-enlisted at Cincinnati, Ohio, with the 7th U.S. Cavalry. On 13 December 1874, Sergeant Hanley was with Captain Tom Custer on Ration Day at the Sutler Store at the Standing Rock Agency, North Dakota. He helped capture Sioux Hunkpapa Chief Rain-in-the-Face and helped transport him to Fort Lincoln, ND.

On a blistering hot day in June 1876, Sergeant Hanley was detached from Company C, to assist the 7th Cavalry’s supply train making its way to a place called the Little Big Horn in Montana. It is on the way that he linked-up with Major Marcus Reno’s retreating troops. While engaged in the hilltop fighting on what would become known as Reno Hill, an ammo supply mule name ‘Old Barnum’ bolted towards Indian lines, potentially depriving the troops of needed ammunition. With total disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Hanley pursued the mule for 30 minutes under a hail of Indian rifle fire and returned it safely back to friendly lines. For this action, Sergeant Hanley received the Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Hanley re-enlisted three more times, in 1878, 1883, and 1888. He retired from the U.S. Army on 20 April 1891, a sergeant of good character. He was 46 years old.

Hanley spent the next 32 years traveling between Boston, Massachusetts, where he visited with family and friends, and New York City, where he worked with fellow Reno Hill brother-in-arms, Lieutenant Francis Marion Gibson (Deputy Commissioner NYC).

Besides an interview he gave Indian wars researcher Walter Mason Camp in 1910, there is little to note about Hanley’s activities other than his getting on with his life and surviving the best he could on a night watchman’s salary and a soldier’s pension. Having never married and living alone, when Hanley passed away in 1923, he was all but forgotten by the nation he so faithfully served. It was not until April 2015 that New Jersey historian Karl Jensen found his final resting place at the Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden, Massachusetts.
President Reagan on Riding
(From the 1 March 1984
Crossed Sabers Newsletter
“The Adjutant’s Column”)

In the December 4, 1983 Parade newspaper supplement, there was an article on President Reagan’s physical fitness program. In it, he stressed his enjoyment of riding. Quotes from the article bear repeating.

“A lot of people also don’t realize what good exercise horseback riding is. You don’t just get on the horse and sit there as if you are in a deck chair. When that horse takes its first step, every muscle in your body reacts and moves with it. And the faster the horse moves, the more your muscles react. It is great for flexibility and anyone who has cantered even around a small riding ring knows that cardiovascular work is involved as well.”

“Now the other advantage of riding is that, once you are up on that horse, you get a different perspective on life itself. It is a tonic, really, refreshing both the body and the mind. I have often quoted the old cavalry saying, ‘There’s nothing as good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse.’ I believe that whole heartedly, and I ride as much as I can, although my time now is limited, as you might imagine.”

A Cavalryman’s Battle Buddy
By Trooper Sam Young

In twenty-first century wars involving U.S. soldiers we have become accustomed to the phrase “battle buddy”. While there are many definitions to this phrase, let’s use partners assigned by the Army as battle buddies who together train for and serve in combat. But when the U.S. Cavalry was horse-mounted, each cavalryman had another cavalryman as his battle buddy as well as his horse who was also his battle buddy. Let’s focus on his horse.

While there are many examples, let’s look at only one cavalry battle buddy team: Sergeant Felipe Fernandez and his horse Mike, Troop E 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts).

Felipe, a new Scout, and Mike, a new Cavalry horse from an Oklahoma ranch, were partnered in January, 1937. The intense training they received and their time together developed a trusted friendship and team mates. Per Felipe, “Mike was a very intelligent horse. He remembered all the little things I normally did for him. Sometimes I forgot them, but he reminded me in his own way, turning his head towards me, as if to say I missed something, and when I did the things I’d missed, he rewarded me by turning his head, looking at me, and snorting. Mike also rewarded me by being very obedient. He never got excited and always waited for me to urge him to do what I wanted when I was in the saddle. Mike and I became inseparable.”

During the chaos of war in December, 1941, and January, 1942, with the 26th fully committed in fierce and deadly fighting to delay the Japanese, Mike remained calm and responsive to Felipe. Mike never panicked or shied as he trusted Felipe.

On 22 January 1942, due to shortage of food for the thousands of trapped American and Filipino military personnel and the 26th’s horses, and the terrain in which the 26th would have to fight, the 26th was ordered to turn over its horses to the Quartermaster to be slaughtered to supplement the meager rations even though the horses had lost much weight while fighting the Japanese.

Felipe later said “Mike seemed to know that it was the last day we (would) be together. It hurt me so much to let him go, but it was an order, so I just had to bite my tongue…and keep the good memories Mike and I had together. I would never have such a friend as Mike ever again…."

Reference:

National Archives Photo
As an amateur cavalry historian I have often wished I could speak to a cavalry soldier who had participated in an historic battle. How many questions could be resolved in just a short conversation! Sadly for those of us who are fascinated by the history of the U.S. horse cavalry, that opportunity is almost entirely past. However, happily for those of us who admire the service of the 26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts), Peter Stevens had the foresight to recognize the opportunity to obtain first-hand accounts from surviving members of the 26th Cavalry and use these accounts to write an excellent telling of the heroic service of this distinguished unit.

The book cites a long list of archive and primary sources, books and periodicals, but what truly sets this book apart is his interviews with 26th Cavalry survivors William E. Chandler, Edwin P. Ramsey, Felipe Fernandez, and Menandro Parazo. Their recollections are woven throughout the recounting. Major Chandler, as a staff officer working closely with the 26th’s commander, Colonel Clinton Pierce, had an extensive overview of the action and his eye-witness accounts appear many times. He describes numerous actions first hand, including the first engagement: “The accuracy of the Scout rifle fire and the well-handled machine guns gave the invading Japanese the first real fight they had seen.”

The famous last charge, led by Lieutenant Ramsey on January 16, 1942, receives extensive recounting in a chapter illuminated by Ramsey’s personal description. But Ramsey’s heroic service was not limited to that single remarkable event. Stevens, with Ramsey’s aid, describes several other aspects of his distinguished service which are often overshadowed by the last charge.

Sergeant Fernandez and Private Parazo provide seldom seen insight into the life and service of the Filipino troopers. Fernandez’s personal recounting of his background and enlistment, his family and his horse, in addition to his outstanding field service, bring a personal element to the story, lifting it from a military history to a full description of life in the 26th.

His description of his relationship with his horse, Mike, will leave a deep, heartfelt impression with all equestrians.

As a living historian portraying a member of the 26th Cavalry, I have found this book to be a priceless resource. In addition to providing a very readable recounting of the 26th’s field service, it also provides numerous small details important for an accurate living history portrayal. But even more important it enables us to bring to life the troopers of the 26th, recounting their deeds from eye-witness accounts and even in their own words. We are proud to portray members of the 26th and to keep alive the story of their service. The skillful research and stirring writing found in “The Twilight Riders” enable us to do so.

**Book Review**

The Twilight Riders - The Last Charge of the 26th Cavalry.
Reviewed by Jeffrey E. Jordan, USCA Trooper and member 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts) Living Historians

**Movie Review**

"Forgotten Soldiers" (DVD) 2012
Producer and Director: Donald Plata
Written by: Chris Schaefer
Reviewed by Trooper Ed Kennedy

Produced and premiered in 2012, “Forgotten Soldiers” is an outstanding documentary movie telling the story of the dedicated and brave soldiers of the Philippine Scouts. The movie gives an excellent background of who the Philippine Scouts were and how they gained their fame.

Many of the Philippine Scouts who survived WWII are passing away rapidly now, as most are in their 90s. These are the remnants of an organization that was formed as result of the Spanish-American War to combat Insurrectos and Moros in the Philippines. The “Scouts” were U.S. Army units recruited from among the Philippine population to form the foundation for the defensive forces for the Philippines. The officer corps was largely American.

Philippine Scout units were recruited to fill four infantry regiments, two field artillery regiments, one coast artillery regiment, and a cavalry regiment. Additional support units were added prior to WWII. The soldiers selected to fill these ranks were tough, resourceful, and highly motivated. Some of the best Scouts received appointments to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and became commissioned officers in the Scout units.

“Forgotten Soldiers” begins in the early years of the Scouts’ formation, but the focus is WWII and...
their stand against the Japanese invasion and subsequent occupation of the Philippines. The incredible stand against the Japanese Army resulted in the slowing of the Japanese timeline for the conquering of the Philippines and Southeast Asia. The Philippine Division’s Philippine Scouts soldiers were part of this heroic effort. American cavalry Lieutenant Edwin Ramsey (26th Cavalry, Philippine Scouts) conducted the last known U.S. horse cavalry charge in history against the Japanese before American and Philippine forces capitulated. The first Medals of Honor awarded during the U.S. involvement in WWII were to Philippine Scout soldiers.

The saddest part of this movie is the horrendous treatment by the Japanese towards the prisoners and people of the Philippines after the surrender of U.S. forces. Scouts captured by the Japanese were tortured, murdered, and otherwise mistreated along with American prisoners of war, with almost 40% perishing under Japanese control. The Philippine Scouts survived the war as an organization to be reconstituted, but when the Philippines gained their independence, the Scouts were integrated into the Philippine armed forces and the Scouts were disbanded. Soldiers of the Scouts were officially U.S. servicemen. Therefore many were allowed to take U.S. citizenship and serve in the U.S. military where they continued honorably until retirement.

I was honored to meet two members of the 26th Cavalry years ago: LTC (USA Ret.) Edwin Ramsey and COL (USA Ret.) C. Cosby Kerney, who served with the regiment at Bataan and survived the war. Ramsey, a new lieutenant in 1941, ended the war with a Distinguished Service Cross and the rank of lieutenant colonel for leading Filipino guerillas for three years against the Japanese. At a recent showing of “Forgotten Soldiers” at the U.S. Veterans Museum in Huntsville, Alabama, we were honored with the attendance of two former Scouts, some of the quickly dwindling number of living Scouts.

This movie is well-worth viewing. My only criticism is the lack of subtitles for some of the veteran interviews which are difficult to understand due to the accents and loud music in the background. Otherwise, this movie chronicles heroism that people today need to remember and is a valuable addition to our historical records.

In this issue of The Cavalry Journal are two reviews: the documentary film Forgotten Soldiers, the U.S. Army’s Philippine Scouts, and the book The Twilight Riders – The Last Charge of the 26th Cavalry. They reaffirm why I have and wear the USCA T-shirt showing a horse-mounted cavalry officer clearing a jump and the words “U.S. Cavalry – An Army of Two”. Add to these the book The Doomed Horse Soldiers of Bataan, which is not reviewed at the time, and you have a vivid, as if you are there picture of the fight to delay the Japanese from seizing the Philippines. I believe you will enjoy these books and the film as they tell the story of these forgotten cavalrymen, their horses, and USCA Trooper Ed Ramsey, who led the last horse-mounted cavalry charge.

Additionally, on 13 November 2016, the documentary film Never Surrender: The Ed Ramsey Story premiered in Los Angeles.

Have you ever encountered a hurdle when working on a project that really made you stop and think? I did with this issue of The Cavalry Journal when promised articles did not appear. I was challenged to find new material or become creative. Fortunately I have been reading old Journals and Crossed Sabers, and the books referenced above. You get to meet “Mike”, Trooper Reagan, and General Pershing in ways you have not probably considered. While I still hope to receive those articles for a later Journal, I believe you will find the actual articles and the last minute substitutions very interesting.

Mike reminded me of my horse “General” who is long gone and much loved.

When I read President Reagan’s quotes on riding I knew them to be true as I have experienced the same affects, as have many of you. Trooper Reagan was one of us whose passion for riding is contagious for today’s Troopers.

And General Pershing reviewing the 10th’s Troopers reminded me of many Honor Guard Reviews I participated in as a Bandsman at The Citadel.

Enjoy your Cavalry Journal.

Please send your letters and article ideas to me at journaleditor@uscavalry.org or to my home address: Samuel Young, 712 Englewood Street, Lansing, KS 66043.
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