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 units, including mounted support units, and to sponsor the U.S.
Cavalry Museum and U.S. Cavalry Memorial Research library for
education's purposes and to preserve literature used by the United
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Since the publication of the last Rasp, the Second Dragoons have been carrying on, giving demonstrations in connection with the instruction of student officers at the Cavalry School, attending fairs and other celebrations in nearby towns, conducting tests in training and equipment for the Cavalry Board, and carrying out the prescribed regimental training. This makes up a rather complete and busy schedule and the degree of proficiency attained, the cheerfulness with which the many demands are met, the large number of re-enlistments and the small number of desertions, testify to the high morale and quality of the enlisted men composing the regiment.

Mingled with the work outlined above, are the many recreations in which the regiment participated with gratifying results. In the post baseball league, Troop B won the pennant. In a very close exciting game Troop G won the post football championship from Company A, 9th engineers. Basketball followed football, and Troop C lost the championship to the Air Corps in a play-off of a tie for first place.

Headquarters Troop won first place in the three-man team bowling league, while Troop G lead in the five-man league. Championships in the rifle, saber and pistol were won by Troops E, F and G, respectively.

One of the outstanding events of the year was the second contest for the Draper Trophy, which is an individual and collective test of a platoon under service conditions. A platoon from Troop C, under the leadership of Lieut. Daniel DeBardeleben was adjudged the winner.

During the present school year the regiment has acquitted itself very creditably in the horse shows held at the Cavalry School. In the open events, members of the regiment have won or placed many times. The regiment has held several horse shows and the appearance and performance of the enlisted men have merited very favorable comment.

Although polo has always been a great favorite sport, this spring it is receiving special attention and we hope to give an excellent account of ourselves.

Racing and steeplechase made their debut at the Cavalry School last fall, and great credit is due Major E.M. Whiting of our regiment for the organization of the meetings and the training of the horses. The regiment had a very creditable entry list in the fall event and expects to do even better this spring.

The program for Regimental Day, held May 24, consisted of an address by the regimental commander, a baseball game, field events, and in the evening, a dance. In the afternoon, a reception and tea were given the officer and ladies of the regiment by Colonel and Mrs. Oliver.

Before passing to the trips and exhibitions of the various organizations, it is desired to mention the achievement of Lieutenant Paul M. Martin, 2nd Cavalry, in qualifying as high man in the try-outs at Quantico, Va., for the American Rifle Team to compete in Rome, Italy, this summer. Lieutenant Martin has an excellent record as a rifleman. He has twice been Distinguished Marksman; twice a member of the Cavalry Team; and once a member of the American Rifle Team which competed in Canada.
Last June, Troop A marched to Manhattan to act as escort for Major General Hubbard upon the occasion of his visit to the Agricultural College, which he had once attended. Other trips made during the summer were one by the band to Hays, Kansas, in connection with an American Legion celebration, one by Troop G to Manhattan to participate in a Colonial Pageant staged there, and one by Troop F to Ellsworth, Kansas, also in connection with an American Legion celebration.

On July 19th, Troop E left for Fort Leavenworth for duty in connection with the C.M.T.C. The success of its efforts may in a measure be judged by the fact that enrollment of the applicants for the cavalry had to be stopped at 103, owing to the limited number of horses available. Their candidates won more than their share of the final athletic contests as well as the indoor contests in debating and essay writing, and all were successful in securing commissions in the O.R.C. The troop returned to the Post on September 8th.

During the fall, trips were made by the band and troops F, C, B and A to Riley Center, Marysville, Herrington, Blue Rapids, and Abilene, respectively.

On January 28th, Troop G went by rail to Topeka to take part in a pageant celebrating the opening of the new Union Pacific depot at that place.

The regiment has participated in numerous field and command Post exercises in conjunction with other school troops. For the first time troops are being used in the terrain exercises given students at The Cavalry School.

SECOND DRAGOONS
1836-1929
Fort Riley, Kansas
Reprint from May 23, 1929 booklet

SECOND UNITED STATES CAVALRY
Organized by Act of Congress,
May 23, 1836
as the
“Second Regiment of the Dragoons”
Converted to “Regiment of Riflemen” by Act of April 4, 1884
Designated Changed by Act of August 3, 1861, to
“Second Regiment of Cavalry”

Address of the Regimental Commander delivered to the Officers and Men of the 2nd Dragoons On Organization Day, 1929

We live full lives in the present in preparation for the future, and the daily tasks of the cavalry soldier in peace and in war, in garrison and in the field, leave little time for reflection on the past.

But today, set aside by the commander in chief for the purpose, the opportunity is given us to pause in our work, to look back through the years and review the past of our regiment; its background; the structure built of the efforts, the suffering and the glory, and cemented by the sweat and blood of those men of the Second Dragoons who have followed its standards in the past as we do in the present.

More than ninety three years ago, the regiment was organized to reinforce the troops then in the field in Florida operating against the Seminole Indians; and there for six years campaigned in the jungle until resistance was finally overcome in 1842.

In the war with Mexico from 1846 to 1848 the Second Dragoons shed the first blood and struck the last blow in the closing campaign. Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Matamoros, Monterey, Buena Vista, Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco,
Molina Del Rey, Chapultepec, are some of the battle honors won by the regiment. D and E troops under Captain Charles A. May of E Troop launched the famous charge against the enemy’s guns at Resaca de la Palma which broke his resistance, decided the day and is commemorated on our coat of arms.

Until the Civil War the regiment served in California, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska and Utah on the old frontier, engaged in campaigns against hostile Indians and in preventing Civil strife among the settlers in Utah and Kansas. During the Civil War from Bull Run to Cedar Creek the regiment participated in fifty-four battles and engagements; Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Beverly Ford, Gettysburg, Brandy Station, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Winchester are names of some of the battles familiar to us in history and in which the regiment took part.

After the Civil War the regiment again saw service in the far west in Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Dakota, Washington, Montana, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado against hostile Cheyenne, Sioux, Apache, Nez Perce and Bannock Indians and in 1898, in the Spanish-American War, one squadron was with the fifth corps throughout the Santiago campaign and one troop went to Puerto Rico with General Miles.

Garrison duty at home and in the Philippine Islands varied with field operations against outlaws and Moros filled the period up to April, 1917, when the regiment arrived in France remaining until June, 1919, having participated in battles in the Toul Sector, Aisne-Marne Offensive, St. Mhiel Offensive and the Meuse-Argonne offensive which terminated the war.

This, in briefest outline, summarizes the past service of the regiment, distinguished by hard campaigning, gallantry in action and hard work and earnest effort in time of peace to maintain a high standard of readiness for war. The blood of some 800 officers and men of the regiment killed or wounded in action over a period of nearly 100 years calls to us from the past today to sustain its high reputation and to bear our standard with fortitude, honor and distinction wherever duty may call us.

Those young soldiers who have joined our standards during the past year, more than 300 strong, are reminded that it is a high honor to follow standards with their streamers bearing battle honors won during nearly a century’s service in four major wars and numerous minor ones, from the Philippines to France, from Montana to Cuba and Mexico. Correct conduct, soldierly bearing and strict attention to duty on the part of every soldier will never fail to sustain the reputation of your regiment.

Knowledge of our profession backed by physical fitness, determination, boldness, valor and dash must be our aim that the Second Dragoons may remain “Toujours Prêt” in the present as it has been in the past.
As the armored cavalry troop left the thick canopy of the Ho Bo Woods, the M-113s pulled into the open area and “circled the wagons” into a defensive posture. The troop had been working in the densely wooded area for several days, and all the men looked forward to cleaning their weapons and allowing their uniforms to dry out. The dampness under the heavy canopy, with the leeches falling from all the trees, left everyone longing for some sunshine!

The Vietnamese 1st Armored Cavalry Squadron, with its three troops of armored personnel carriers (M-113s) and one troop of M-8 armored cars, was dedicated to taking the war to the Viet Cong in the areas north, northwest and northeast of the capital region surrounding Saigon. In 1964, the squadron was being “advised” by an American major who spent many of his days and nights with one or the other of the M-113 troops. This gave the troop adviser, a captain, a few days of badly needed rest back in “civilization”.

As the men cooked some hot rice, the first they had enjoyed for three days, two unusually large aircraft, flying very low and side-by-side, suddenly appeared directly overhead from over the wooded area. Each had what appeared to be a framework of pipes protruding from the center line of the belly, and from the pipes a mist was being emitted. Everyone stopped whatever they were doing to watch the airplanes as they circled and came back. The mist soon became recognized as a watery spray, and as it hit the upturned faces, the men could taste the liquid and all agreed it had an oily and strange taste. By this time, the men’s clothing and the vehicles were coated. A sudden screeching noise caught everyone’s attention, and the small, pet monkey belonging to the 3d platoon, was jumping around, and pulling at its hair. The monkey was not on its normal perch, the breech block of the .50 cal. machine gun. The soldiers quickly subdued the animal and washed it with water from the 5 gallon cans carried on the M-113. Then everyone washed his own hair and all exposed skin. The uniforms dried quickly in the Asian sun, and after the two passes, the aircraft could be heard moving away from the troop.

The Vietnamese officers and their advisor wondered among themselves what the aircraft were doing? They had never observed activity of this sort before. The only thought which occurred to the major came from his memory of smaller airplanes dusting the cotton against boll weavils near his home in New Mexico. But why would they be “dusting” the Ho Bo Woods?

Later, the in-country American newspaper, The Stars and Stripes, would have an article about an operation named Ranchhand, which had the mission of attempting to defoliate the worst of the extensive areas of concealment for the Viet Cong.

The defoliation worked reasonably well, but it had some very unfortunate side effects which became known only many years later. By that time, Agent Orange was a curse word among most Americans, and particularly among those who had worked in the area of the defoliation.
Guest Author
“Indian War Period”
The Cavalry Saddler
By Trooper Samuel R. Young

(Saddler Sergeant chevron style authorized in 1872 was worn on uniforms from 1873-1899. Centered above the sergeant's stripes is a saddler’s knife which designates the duty position of the wearer. There was no Saddler Sergeant chevron prior to 1872 or after 1899. The saddler’s knife without the sergeant's stripes was worn by the company saddlers.)

What could you do if you had needles, thread, awl, and knife, and you knew how to use them?

Those were your basic tools if you were a cavalry saddler in the Army during the Indian wars, or, if you were a civilian, contracted by the Army as a saddler. Either way, there was never an end to the work you would be doing when you consider that the Army’s survival and duty performance depended on leather. Without the saddler’s tools and skills, cavalrymen would lack the means to properly repair their saddles and bridles as well as leather harness for the horses, mules, and/or oxen needed to pull wagons for the large quantities of food, forage, ammunition, clothing, equipment, medicine, and other requirements for them to accomplish their mission.

A cavalryman, when he joined the Army, was issued uniforms, boots/shoes, underclothes, leather equipment, and weapons that enabled him to perform his duties. He was also issued a horse. It was each cavalryman’s responsibility to maintain what he was issued. Most of them had a “house wife”, a small pouch containing thread, needles, and buttons for basic uniform repairs which they did themselves or had repaired by another cavalryman. But when the leather items needed repair, it was the saddler who received the work.

In the garrison environment, cavalrymen had access to saddle soap, neatsfoot oil, rags, and water with which to maintain their leather equipment that was basically kept out of the weather. Saddle repairs were easier to perform because the saddler had most of the necessary tools as well as scrap leather to make the repairs. Sewing was done by hand as sewing machines were not available at the western forts. If necessary, the item to be repaired could be replaced with a new one from the quartermaster.

However, the cavalry spent days, weeks, and even months in the field where the effects of sun, rain, mud, dust, smoke, ice, heat, and cold could rapidly deteriorate leather and the thread used in sewing the leather, making it unserviceable. Cavalrymen, due to a lack of space in their saddlebags, did not carry the items to maintain their leather equipment. The saddler was also limited on what he could carry in the way of tools to make repairs. At a minimum, he carried needles, thread, awl, and a knife. Most repairs were quick fixes, for example, using a stirrup strap to replace a girth or cutting a piece of leather from a saddle skirt or fender to splice torn leather back together. Since frequently horses would die or have to be abandoned and the tack left behind, the saddler would strip off what was useable that he could carry to make repairs. Typical duties of a cavalry saddler included repairs to saddles, bridles, halters, and other leather equipment found on the cavalryman’s horse; harness used by horses and mules when pulling wagons; pack saddles used by horses and mules to transport supplies and equipment; and leather belts, holsters, rifle slings, boots, and shoes. Additionally, he would repair the canvas of tents and wagon covers, leather on the blacksmith shop’s big billows, and anything else made of cloth or leather. He also made items such as looped
cartridge belts, dispatch cases, and items which either he designed or others requested, based on need or want.

Elizabeth Custer, wife of Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer, in her book Boots and Saddles, wrote of their move to a new duty station: “The saddler appeared, and all our old traps (luggage) that had been taken around with us so many years were once more tied and sewed up.” Mrs. Custer also talked about the saddler sewing carpets together in the officer’s garrison quarters. In the field, whether moving to a new duty station or accompanying her husband with the 7th Cavalry, their quarters was usually a tent. She said one very cold day the saddler cut a hole in the canvas roof of their tent and lined it with zinc to keep the canvas from catching on fire from their Sibley stove pipe that was inserted through the hole.

There were two types of saddlers in the cavalry: the saddler sergeant and the saddler, according to The 1865 Customs of Service for Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers – A Handbook for the Rank and File of the Army, by August V. Kautz,

“243. SADDLER SERGEANT: Each regiment of cavalry is allowed a saddler sergeant, with the pay and emoluments of a regimental commissary sergeant, seventeen dollars per month. His duties are not defined by law or regulation. He would naturally, however, have charge of the company saddlers of the regiment, and act as master saddler or foreman when the company saddlers are united in one shop for the repair of the equipments of the companies.”

“244. He takes his instructions from the commanding officer of the regiment, and should attend to the repairs of the horse-equipments of the field, staff and band, and see that the company saddlers perform properly their duties in the companies.”

“245. SADDLERS: Each company of cavalry is allowed an enlisted man as saddler, whose duty it is to keep the horse-equipments of the company in repair, under the direction of the company commander and the saddler sergeant. The pay of saddler is fourteen dollars per month, the same as a corporal of cavalry, with the same allowance of clothing and rations. Military duty ordinarily is not required of either saddler sergeants or saddlers; but they should be instructed in a knowledge of the ordinary duties, and should at all times be available in case of necessity.”

Saddler sergeants and saddlers, when in the field, carried the same weapons as their fellow cavalrymen - pistol, carbine, and saber – as they were often in the thick of whatever fighting occurred. Two such saddlers are Saddler Otto E. Voit, Company H, 7th U.S. Cavalry, and Saddler Julius H. Stickoffer, Company L, 8th U.S. Cavalry. They earned the Medal of Honor. Saddler Voit was wounded in the Reno-Benteen hilltop action at the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. He had volunteered with George Geiger, Charles Windolph, and Henry Mechlin to hold an exposed position on the brow of the hill facing the Little Big Horn River on which they stood erect. They fired constantly in this manner for more than 20 minutes diverting fire and attention from another group of cavalrymen filling canteens with water desperately needed for the wounded.

Saddler Stickoffer participated in the Utah campaigns against the Ute, Paiute, and Navajo Indians. On November 11, 1868, he and members of the 8th U.S. Cavalry battled the Indians at Cienaga Springs, Utah. For gallantry in action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. In the seven year’s Indian war in Utah, he was the only soldier to receive the Medal of Honor.
Indeed, Captain Charles Blackford, 2nd Virginia cavalry wrote home in late 1862: My company is becoming smaller and smaller through sickness, wounds and lack of horses, chiefly the latter. It is, as you well know, difficult for a city company like ours to keep up in mounts. My men do not have farms, or relatives and neighbors with farms from whom they can draw when their horses get killed or disabled, but have to purchase their horses at prices even I hesitate to pay. I believe this is the only army in history where the men have to furnish their own horses and it is the main weakness of our cavalry. To me to lose a horse is to lose a man, as they cannot afford a remount and new recruits with horses of their own are almost nil.

The horse replacement problem was never properly solved. In fact, John Casler, 11th Virginia Cavalry, reported that his “brigade was disbanded for the winter, and sent to different portions of the country to get provisions for their horses.”

The men themselves remained eager to join the cavalry, even if they needed their own horses. They felt that they were defending their homes against Northern aggression and needed no great sums of money (which was good, since they often went unpaid for long periods of time) or harsh discipline to fight. Moreover, they generally joined local units in which they knew most other members, and they were further motivated to fight well just to keep face, or to “maintain their honor,” as they would have said.

Captain William McDonald, ordnance officer of the Army of Northern Virginia’s Laurel Brigade of cavalry, noted that recruiting was easy since, “This service was exacting but attractive on account of its comparative freedom from restraint, and the opportunities it afforded for personal adventure.” Indeed, in the west virtually nobody walked, due to the long distances between destinations, and infantry units were hard to recruit, while cavalry units filled up quickly.

Texas, for example, raised 2.4 cavalry units for every one infantry unit raised. In the Trans-Mississippi Department alone, Texas organized 39 mounted regiments and another ten separate battalions. “The people of Texas live on horseback,” the state’s governor explained to the central government in Richmond, “and it is with great aversion they enlist in the infantry. Cavalry, efficient cavalry, can be obtained from this State almost to the extent of the male population, but infantry is difficult to furnish.”

The average strength in each Texas cavalry regiment was 947 officers and men, with 440 officers and men in each battalion. “At the outbreak of the war it was found very difficult to raise infantry in Texas,” observed visiting English officer Arthur Fremantle, “as no Texan walks a yard if he can help it. Many mounted regiments were therefore organized and afterwards dismounted.”

The make-up of cavalry units was, like the South itself, basically agrarian. In, for example, the 1st Texas Cavalry just over half (55 per cent) came from farming or stock raising backgrounds. Another 11 per cent
were professionals, such as store clerks and mechanics, while eight per cent were skilled laborers, and five per cent were unskilled laborers. Recruits from miscellaneous or unknown professions made up 21 per cent of the unit. Only two out of 1,083 members of the regiment over the years 1861-65 called themselves “planters,” giving lie to the idea that the Southern Army was basically drawn from plantation owners (although 17 per cent of the 3d Texas Cavalry came from the planter or professional class). One man in the 1st Texas gave his profession as “buffalo hunter.”

It would be wrong, however, to assume that cavalrymen came from the same agrarian, poor class from which most infantrymen were drawn. Generally speaking, the cavalry drew men from the better-off sections of society, since each man had to provide a horse and equipment to serve. For example, the average household worth of each officer and man in the 3d Texas Cavalry was $12,812, twice the household worth of the average Texas resident. Some 40 per cent came from households that owned as many as 19 slaves. The average member of the regiment came from a household that owned eight slaves. Around a third of the regiment’s men came from households owning more than 80 acres of land.

Most of the men in the 1st Texas were also native Southerners, with 58 per cent coming from Southern states and another eight per cent were from slave-owning border states. In the 3d Texas, 60 per cent of men came from the lower South, while 30 per cent came from slave-owning border states. Texas was home to a larger than average number of German immigrants, and those born overseas or in Mexico made up 21 per cent (103 were Germans out of 175 born overseas). Only 14 per cent were born in Northern, free states. The men ranged in age from a bottom limit of 13 and upper limit of 58, and in size from 4 ft 10 in. to 6 ft 4 in. (the latter soldier was born in Rhode Island; so much for “tall Texas tales”). One regimental member later recalled that, “Almost every existing condition of existing society was represented upon our muster—rolls the moral and the immoral the Christian

The 1st Virginia Cavalry as drawn during the 1862 Maryland Campaign by an artist for Harper’s Weekly who was captured during the campaign, although he was later released to publish this drawing. The officers and men still wear jackets with black trim, issued in 1861, but they would later wear the usual plain gray jackets and trousers. (Military Images magazine)

Deist the scholar and the illiterate, shoulder to shoulder without distinction of nationality or creed bound together by a tie of mutual interest and patriotism.”

Officers were generally somewhat older than their men. Three-quarters of the enlisted men of the 9th Texas Cavalry, for example, were between 18 and 27, while the average age of the regiment’s officers was 34. The youngest officer was 19, while the oldest was 53. Usually such older men resigned after a fairly short time in the field, due to exhaustion, and, in this case, the older officer went home after less than a year of service.

In the spring of 1862 the army was basically dissolved as one-year enlistments came to an end. The Confederate Congress essentially drafted those who did not volunteer for the duration of the war, but this draft could be avoided by re-enlisting. However, men did not have to re-enlist in their old units. Indeed, a number of infantrymen, seeing better duty in the other two branches, especially the cavalry, chose to switch. An infantry private from the 1st Maryland Infantry Regiment of 1861, on the end of his enlistment, went to Staunton, Virginia, where he bought a horse. He then joined Co. A, Maryland Cavalry, which, he
reported “was composed chiefly of men who had been in the infantry for a year ...” The unit was merged into the 2d Virginia Cavalry.

Some men resorted to illegal methods of transfer. Stonewall Brigade Veteran John O. Casler, in the hospital in late 1864, recalled:

In a few days we had orders to move the hospital to Staunton, and as I was fit for duty I got my discharge to report to Company A, 33d Virginia Infantry. But, as I was familiar with the hospital office, I got some blank discharges and filled one out to suit myself, which was to report to Company D, 11th Virginia Cavalry, Rossers’s Brigade.

Men in other branches of the service were disdainful of the cavalry. Private O.P. Hargis, 1st Georgia Cavalry, later wrote, “The infantry didn’t like the cavalry and as we passed along by them a little fellow with his knapsack on his back looked up at me and said you humped-back cavalry, you think you are very fine. Show me some of your sort and I will show you some of mine.” Visiting Coldstream Guards Lieutenant-colonel Arthur Fremantle recorded that in 1863, “The infantry and artillery of this army [of Northern Virginia] don’t seem to respect the cavalry very much, and often jeer at them.” Cavalrymen generally ignored those jeers, feeling delighted to avoid walking. One Texas Ranger wrote home, on learning of a friend who had recently received an infantry commission, “I wood [sic] rather be corporal in company F of the Texas Rangers than to be a first Lieu in a flat foot company.”

Corporal Windsor B. Smith, Co. K, 1st Maine Cavalry Regiment. Photo Taken December 1863. (Authors collection)

Background was generally rural, and about half of all Union Army recruits were farmers. Since the cavalry was seen as more glamorous than other branches of service it appealed to the higher social classes, and attracted a higher proportion of men from non-farming backgrounds than other branches. The typical Union cavalry regiment contained men from virtually every walk of life. The 156 enlisted men of Co., C., and 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry included representatives of 36 occupations, including an artist, blacksmith, boatbuilder, brickmaker, chairmaker, chemist, cigar maker, engineer, engraver, farrier, gunsmith, labourer, machinist, mason, merchant, miller, miner, painter, physician, plasterer, printer, railroad, saddler, tailor, teacher, teamster, and weaver. In all, over 60 percent of the company’s men had a profession, while only 20 percent said they were farmers.

The recruits of the 1st Ohio Cavalry, by contrast, were said to have been mostly farmers’ sons who were also accustomed to riding and to handling horse equipment. The 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, formed in late 1862, was made up, according to the regimental historian, mostly of farmers, lumbermen and mechanics. ‘Fortunately,’ he noted, ‘most of them were good horsemen.’

Not everyone, however, was impressed with the quality of Union cavalry recruits. One bitter New York cavalry officer commented: ‘No one can have been with our cavalry long, and observed carefully the material of which these regiments are made up, without being struck with their great inferiority, mentally and physically, when compared with either the infantry or artillery.’

After the first volunteer units had been enlisted, company-grade officers were elected; it was generally the case that local civic leaders received these posts. Some
The dress jacket was to be worn, as here by private of the 16th New York Cavalry Regiment, with brass shoulder scales and the dress hat, often called the 'Hardee' or 'Jeff Davis' hat. The gloves were not an issue item, although most men tried to get a pair, especially in cold weather. (Richard Carlile Collection)

regiments were fortunate enough to recruit veterans of the Mexican War or the 1848 revolutions in Europe, and these men were natural choices for officers, however, had to learn their trade alongside their men. Colonels were usually appointed by state governors, and were often professionals technically 'on leave' from their regular army assignments in order to serve in a volunteer regiment. When experienced soldiers or professionals were not available, however, officers were simply chosen from among men who were seen to have a flair for command or were respected members of society, though some most unlikely-sounding candidates were chosen. ‘We elected out own officers,’ wrote a 3rd Colorado Cavalry Regiment veteran. ‘Hal Sayre, a mining superintendent, was elected to be captain. H.B. Orahood, a druggist at Central City, was elected first lieutenant; and Harry Richmond, a tragedian with Languish and Atwater’s theatrical troupe, second lieutenant. Late that fall, just before we were ready to start from Bijou Basin, Hal Sayre was promoted to major and Orahood was made captain.’ Eventually the army had to set up panels to screen its volunteer officers, and remove the worst of them from their commissions.

The first cavalrmen found the war far rougher than they had anticipated, as indeed did all Federal troops. Losses were high, both in killed and in permanently disabled. Once news of the ugly realities of war filtered through to the civilian community it grew harder to find volunteers; eventually large cash bounties had to be offered to tempt recruits. This money succeeded in enticing some men: ‘It was in 1864 that I joined the cavalry regiment in the department of the Gulf, a raw recruit in a veteran regiment,’ wrote a member of the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. ‘It may be asked why I waited so long before enlisting, and why I enlisted at all, when the war was so near over. I know that most of the soldiers enlisted from patriotic motives, and because they wanted to help shed blood, and wind up the war. I did not. I enlisted for the bounty. I thought the war was nearly over, and that the probabilities were that the regiment I had enlisted in would be ordered home before I could get to it. In fact the recruiting officer told me as much, and he said I would get my bounty, and a few months’ pay, and it would be just like finding money.’

Some who joined for the bounty money deserted at the first chance, only to enlist elsewhere for another bounty. Many states retained the bounties, at least in part, for payment upon discharge. Yet enough money had to be paid in advanced to bring in recruits – men could often earn more in civilian jobs than the $13 a month paid in the opening stages of the war to Union privates.

Even with the bounty system in place there were not enough volunteers, and in 1863 a conscription law had to be passed. Conscripted men could still avoid service by paying a fee or hiring a substitute to take their place, but the army was from this point on largely able to maintain its forces at sufficient strength. Conscripts were, however, generally less well motivated and often less physically able to serve than the early volunteers.
Within sound of the sea at Yafford, in the Isle of Wight, was born nearly twenty-eight years ago a colt destined to fully justify the name Warrior through ordeals more intense than almost any other horse of his time.

Owned and frequently ridden by General Jack Seely (Lord Mottistone), who commanded the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, he saw more than four years of war, much of it in the front line, and by a series of almost miraculous happenings, came through unscathed.

His narrow escapes from death were many and varied. He was said to be the luckiest horse on the Western Front, and certainly must have had a charmed life. Once a great shell struck near him, and he was completely buried under the falling earth except for one foreleg. At Ferte-sous-Jouarre he was one of a few survivors when a shell fell in the midst of a bunch of horses. At another time a German shell, breaking in two instead of bursting, cut in half a horse standing near Warrior. On March 26, 1918, while General Seely and Colonel Macdonald, commanding Strathcona's Horse, were conferring, with their horses' noses practically touching, the horse of Colonel Macdonald was shot and instantly killed. A little French Villa with Warrior inside was struck by shell and knocked down, but Warrior escaped with only a slight shoulder lameness. Once when Warrior was stuck fast in the mud a German flew down and emptied his machine gun belt at him and General Seely, but without injury to either. On numerous other occasions the enemy fire came dangerously close.

He was with General Seely during the advance to the Marne; at the first battle of Ypres; at the Battle of the Somme; in the fighting of Passchendaele; when they captured Equancourt, and again at Guyencourt; he came close to the enemy fire at the first and second battles of Cambrai; and went through many other historic fights; but his greatest ordeal and most miraculous escape was in the Battle of Amiens in 1918, when he carried his master at racing speed through the danger of swift bullets to plant a flag and establish brigade headquarters at the point of the Bois de Moreuil ahead of the main attack of the Canadian Cavalry.

On all occasions when the decision was taken to advance, Warrior became a changed horse. He would quiver, not at all from fear, but from the joy of battle, and when he started to gallop, one could feel the great muscles of his body extending as he bounded forward.

Although Warrior repeatedly escaped death on the battlefield, it seems almost incredible that he was saved fatal wounds no less than five times due to the fact that General Seely had on those occasions chosen to ride another horse, leaving Warrior behind to rest or to recover from an injury. In each instance, the horse ridden in Warrior's place was killed by enemy fire.

Warrior was a bay gelding of about 15.2 hands, with a small, intelligent head and deep girth. He was an ideal charger of short-legged, thoroughbred type. He was never sick, never at a loss in an emergency, always full of life, "yet placid and as steady as a rock in the cataclysm of battle." He had an unselfish loyalty, indomitable courage, exhibited an entire disregard of danger, and always gave his best.

General Seely, a great soldier who loved and understood horses, gives Warrior full credit for his own success. "At the crisis of
my life,” he says in his book *My Horse Warrior*, “it was my horse Warrior who carried me through from impending disaster to success…. Not only did his vivid personality help me to gain the confidence of thousands of brave men, when without him I could never have achieved it, but, by his supreme courage at a critical moment, he led me forward to victory in perhaps the greatest crisis of the War. This is a high claim to make for any creature…. As time went on, the men came to love him more and more. As I rode along, whether in rest billets, reserve, approaching the line, or in the midst of battle, men would say, not ‘Here comes the General,’ but ‘Here’s old Warrior.’”

The years have passed lightly over Warrior. He now spends most of his time in the same great grass field, within sound of the sea, in which he enjoyed his earliest years.

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**Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard at Fort Riley, Kansas**

By Natalie Frakes

Established in 1992, the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard provides a link to Fort Riley's historic past. Troopers and horses of this unit are outfitted in the uniforms, accoutrements and equipment of the Civil War period. Soldiers are detailed from the ranks of units assigned to Fort Riley and receive instruction from manuals used by Civil War cavalymen. (http://www.riley.army.mil/AboutUs/CGsMountedColorGuard.aspx)

While working only a few stables away from the beautiful horses of the mounted color guard at Fort Riley, Kansas, I do not often see them. Occasionally I will see the soldiers preparing the horses for an event or walking a wounded horse around the neighborhood, but I have never really had the opportunity to spend any time with the horses or the soldiers that care for them. So, I walked down the road to greet SGT Huddleston, who took time to answer all of my questions and was very informative. He is very proud to be on the Commanding General’s Color Guard team. There are only five U.S. Mounted Color Guards in the Nation, and it was such an honor to spend time with SGT Huddleston and learn about his duties as a color guard team member.

The stable that the horses are kept in houses twenty horses and two wash stalls. The stable was built in 1889 for $9,000 and is one of three buildings at Fort Riley that is still used for its original purpose. The other two are the Main Post Chapel and the Veterinary Clinic.

Inside of the stable.
The first horses I met were the geldings Comanche (10) and Jack (12) who were eating hay and were left behind to relax while the other 16 horses were practicing for the upcoming 4th of July Parade. The horses of the mounted color guard are used for cavalry tactic demos, ceremonies and parades. There are eighteen horses total that belong to the team, two of them are draft horses, Jenny and Joy. These two mares, as well as the molly mules, Jane and Julie, are used for pulling period wagons.

1871 military escort wagon rebuilt by the color guard.

The first two mounted color guard horses were purchased and donated by the U.S. Cavalry Association. A civilian, Ron Roller, has been in charge of training the team of horses and soldiers for 15 years. He is also in charge of the search for and purchase of the horses. Standing at 15.5 hands high, Lookout, an 8-year-old and one of three mustangs on the team, was in the stable on the day of my visit being checked by the veterinarian. Lookout was purchased from the Hutchinson Kansas correctional facility where prisoners break horses, and he was sold for only $150 to the Fort Riley Color Guard.

Soldiers with excellent references apply to join the mounted color guard team. If they are accepted, they go through a 30-day trial period. During this trial period, the soldiers are known as "the brown shirts", and their training includes testing their work ethic, showing riding abilities, working as part of the team and also handling "manure duty". There are 25 positions available and once you become a part of this elite team, it is a 7-day-a-week job. Duties include feeding and watering the horses two times daily, mowing, fixing fences and taking care of 300 acres of pasture. This honorable assignment lasts 2-3 years of a soldier's career.
Several horses of this current team have participated in many extraordinary events including Presidential Inaugurations. At the end of the horse’s duty as a color guard team member, they are adopted out to local people, donated to Rock Springs 4-H Ranch, and a few have been adopted by retired soldiers that were once on the team.

The team is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Bivouac coming up in Fort Reno, Oklahoma. Thank you to SGT Huddleston.

4th of July parade
Junction City, KS
Photo courtesy of facebook.com

PAST EVENTS:
President Barack Obama Inaugural Parade, Washington, D.C.
President George W. Bush Inaugural Parade, Washington, D.C.
Pro Bull Rider Association National Finals, Las Vegas
National Cavalry Competition
Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson, Kan.
American Royal PRCA Rodeo, Kansas City, Mo.
Round-Up Rodeo, Dodge City, Kan.
Pro Bull Rider Rodeo Thunder on Hooves, Thief River Falls, Minn.
Vietnam War Memorial Dedication, Pierre, S.D.
Civil War on the Border, Olathe, Kan.
Sundown Salute, Junction City, Kan.
Veteran's Day Parade, Manhattan, Kan.
From:
(https://www.facebook.com/RileyCGMCG/info)

The McClellan Saddle
By Trooper Bill Tempero

The origin of the McClellan saddle used by the U.S. Cavalry dates back to 1857 when the Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, commissioned Captain of the Cavalry, George McClellan, to examine the cavalry equipment of other countries to help design a new saddle and equipment to replace the Grimsley saddle which was in use during that period. Captain McClellan’s design came to life in 1859 when it was produced by commercial manufacturers for use by the cavalry, and except for slight changes in the shape of the tree in 1864, 1870, 1885, 1896 and 1904, the saddle’s basic design remained the same until 1948 when the horse cavalry was replaced with the mechanized cavalry.

One of these changes was an improvement to the tree and involved covering the rawhide tree with a layer of dyed-black leather which was greatly appreciated by the troopers who until 1870 had been using a saddle covered by rawhide. The rawhide-covered trees became cracked, brittle and very uncomfortable when used in the dry climate of the west, and thus came the expression, “The trooper has a case of red ass.” A very obvious change to the saddle in 1904 was using brown leather to cover the rawhide tree instead of the dyed-black leather.

All McClellan saddles, from the first to the last, were made to fit a trooper that weighed between 135-155 pounds. Any trooper weighing more than 155 pounds usually complained about the saddle; however, the horses of these times, usually with thoroughbred withers, never complained about the 15-pound saddle.

1859 McClellan
Stand Watie, a three-quarter blood Cherokee Indian, was born December 12, 1806, near the site of the present city of Rome, Georgia. He learned to speak English at a mission school, and became a planter and assisted in the publication of the Cherokee newspaper, the Phoenix. In 1835 he and others signed the treaty by which the remaining Cherokee in Georgia agreed to their removal to what is now Oklahoma. This act split the Indians into two factions and made Watie the leader of the minority or treaty party. At the beginning of the Civil War the Cherokee attempted unsuccessfully to remain neutral, but ultimately divided along the same lines as before. The majority declared for the Union and the minority group under Watie pledged allegiance to the Confederacy. Watie raised a company early in 1861; he was later in the year appointed colonel of the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles, and brigadier general to rank from May 6, 1864. The Indians were engaged in the battles of Wilson’s Creek and Elkhorn, and were principally used in raids and as skirmishers in the Territory and along its borders. It was found that, although excellent soldiers in a sudden offensive dash, they exhibited considerable reluctance to stand up to artillery fire. (516) General Watie’s personal courage was unquestioned and he

William Woods Averell was born on November 5, 1832, in the village of Cameron, New York. In his youth he worked as a drug clerk in the nearby county seat of Bath. He was appointed to West Point in 1851 and was graduated in four years, ranking in the lower third of his class. Averell’s antebellum army career included garrison duty at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; a tour at the Cavalry School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; and two years of rugged service against the southwestern Indians, during which he was severely wounded and invalided from 1859 until the outbreak of the Civil War. As acting assistant adjutant general to General Andrew Porter, Averell took part in the battle of First Manassas and then was commissioned colonel of the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry. He participated in the Peninsular campaign as commander of a brigade; in the campaign which culminated at Sharpsburg; at Fredericksburg in December, 1862; and in various skirmishes of the mounted branch of the Army of the Potomac. His 2nd Cavalry Division won the first claimed victory of the Federal horse over the Confederates at Kelly’s Ford, Virginia, in March, 1863—an action said to have been the turning point of cavalry fighting in the Eastern theater. Meanwhile he was appointed brigadier general of volunteers on September 26, 1862. After
General Waite continued

fought bravely to the end, supposedly not surrendering until June 23, 1865. After the war he resumed the life of a planter and also engaged in various business enterprises. He died at his home on Honey Creek, in what is now Delaware County, Oklahoma, September 9, 1871. He is buried in Old Ridge Cemetery there. (517)
(516) 189. Evans.
(517) Besides 22. D.A.B., which carries an account of Watie’s life, the Chronicles of Oklahoma (quarterly publication of the Oklahoma Historical Society) should be consulted for the relations between the United States and the Five Civilized Tribes before and after the Civil War.

General Averell continued

taking part in George Stoneman’s famous but ill-starred raid on Richmond during the campaign of Chancellorsville, (6) Averell was employed on minor operations in western Virginia until Philip Sheridan’s Shenandoah campaign. At the end of the war he was brevetted brigadier and major general, U.S. Army, and resigned on May 18, 1865. He served as United States consul general to British North America (French Canada) from 1866 until 1869, and then invented a number of devices which rendered him financially independent. He died at Bath, New York, February 3, 1900, and was buried there.
(6) Bruce Catton remarks that during his raid “Averell wandered over to Rapidon Station and went into bivouac there . . . as much out of the war as if he had been in Cuba. . . .” (Glory Road 228.) Averell was summarily relieved of his command by Hooker but was later reinstated.

The Cavalry School
Reprint from July-August 1940 U.S. Cavalry Journal

During the present expansion, the following courses for the officers and enlisted specialists are being conducted at the Cavalry School:

OFFICERS’ COURSES

Refresher Course for Reserve Officers. Four separate courses each of one month’s duration; first course opened July 10, 1940.

Basic Horse and Mechanized Cavalry course for newly-commissioned cavalry graduates of the United States Military Academy, Thomason Act officers accepted for Regular Army, and honor graduates of senior R.O.T.C. units.

Refresher course for Regular officers. Three one-month courses, the first beginning on August 31st, in Advanced Motors and Advanced Communication.

ENLISTED SPECIALISTS’ COURSES

Horseshoers’ Course, 75 days, beginning July 10, 1940.

Saddlers’ Course, 75 days, beginning July 10, 1940.

The first one-month refresher course for Reserve officers opened on July 10, with a class of 42 lieutenants of the Organized Reserve in attendance. These lieutenants for the most part graduated in June of the present year from senior R.O.T.C. units of universities and colleges throughout the United States and have been ordered to active duty with the Army for a period of one year, the first month of which will be spent taking the Refresher Course at the Cavalry School. Upon completion of the course, they will be transferred to cavalry regiments, including the 3d Cavalry at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, and Fort Myer, Virginia, the 4th Cavalry at Fort Meade, South Dakota, the 14th Cavalry at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, the 11th Cavalry at the Presidio of Monterey in California, the 6th Cavalry at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, the 7th Cavalry Brigade, Mechanized, at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and the 5th, 7th, 8th, and 12th Cavalry Regiments along the Texas-Mexico border.
The Refresher Course will constitute a theoretical and practical foundation in preparation for their duties for the remainder of their year of active duty. In Tactics, time will be devoted to a study of reconnaissance, horse and mechanized, attack and defense, and other special tactical phases of cavalry operations. In Weapons, time will be devoted to a detailed study of the various types of weapons both on the range and during field firing. Special emphasis will be placed on the M-1 automatic rifle, the caliber .30 and caliber .50 machine guns, the 37-mm. antitank gun, and the 60- and 81-mm. mortars. In General Instruction, time will be devoted to troop administration, including, training, schedules, operation of troop messes, and handling of organization funds, and a study of the regulations and customs of the Service. In Horsemanship, time will be devoted to the correct military seat and to the correct methods of training officers and enlisted men to ride properly; to the control and proper care of the horse on the march, on roads and across country under all conditions and at all gaits; instruction in close and extended order drill mounted, all to the end that the student may be better prepared to undertake the training of officers and men for mounted duties in combat.

The Basic Horse and Mechanized Cavalry Course for newly-commissioned graduates of the U.S.M.A. who have elected to serve in the cavalry, those cavalry officers commissioned in the Regular Army under the Thomason Act, and honor cavalry graduates of senior R.O.T.C. units, will open on August 7, 1940, for a period of three months. The course for these newly-commissioned lieutenants in the Regular Army will include the subjects enumerated above for the Refresher Course with the scope of the course increased so that students will receive considerable additional theoretical and practical instruction. The object of this course is to qualify these young officers for duty as platoon leaders in regular troops. There will be 39 students in this class.

The first Advanced Courses in Motors and Communications will open August 31st for one month. These courses will be repeated until all available lieutenants in the cavalry have completed the course. The officers initially ordered to attend the Advanced Motors and Communications Courses are those lieutenants who were originally ordered to attend the Regular Course at the Cavalry School, 1940-41, before it was cancelled. There will be 20 officers in this group. Ten will attend the Motors Class and ten will attend the Communications Class. The purpose of these advanced courses is to provide a selected group of qualified officers to supervise the training of motors and communications personnel and the operation of motors and communications equipment which has been added to the army in the rapid expansion which has taken place within the last few years.

In addition to the courses for officers, a series of courses for enlisted specialists is in session at Fort Riley. Horseshoers’ and Saddlers’ Courses for a period of 75 days opened on July 10th. The object of these courses is to qualify specially selected men for the important duties of correctly shoeing horses and keeping leather equipment in first-class condition, as well as supervising the instruction of new men in the regiments who are selected for duty as horseshoers or saddlers. The instruction included the theory of shoeing and the theory of working leather, in addition to much practical work in horseshoeing and repair of leather equipment.

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The time for our Bivouac/National Cavalry Competition at Fort Reno, OK, September 17-21 is fast approaching. Along with the competition and evening functions, don’t forget to attend the Fiddler’s Green service, conducted Sunday morning at the historic Fort Reno chapel. I hope you all will be able to attend to recognize and honor those who have passed before us.

When Karen and I visited Fort Reno in June to complete the planning for the Bivouac/NCC, we spent some time at the Fort cemetery which is surrounded by a stone wall and is located just west of the Fort on a hill overlooking the grounds. Not only is the cemetery the final resting place for many Fort Reno soldiers and their families, but also an Indian scout and civilian employees of the fort and their families. It was sad to note the number of children buried there reflecting the high mortality rate of little ones during the late 1800’s. On the west side of the cemetery a stone wall separates the POW cemetery from the Fort Reno post cemetery. Approximately seventy German and Italian POWs are buried here, all dating 1942-1946. A stile over the wall gave us access to this part of the cemetery.

Remember the Association if you, or someone you know, has cavalry artifacts, books, or pictures which can be added to our research library. Your donations help fulfill our mission of preserving the history of the U.S. Cavalry.

We’ll be looking for you at Fort Reno in September. Keep the Guidons flying!

Bill Tempero

Notes from the Editor

Reminders!!!

~We have an abundance of US Cavalry Journals that date back to 1977. If you would like a copy of an old journal, please let me know. They will be sold for $5 a journal. If you are interested email me at cavalry.archives@flinthills.com for more information.

~We are still trying to build up our artifacts room. If you have a donation of anything cavalry such as saddles, uniforms, sabers and equipment and would like it preserved, please keep us in mind! We would also like to add to the US Cavalry Memorial Research Library. We would love to hear stories, see pictures, and preserve these memories in the library for you!

~Address change? Let Linda know! cavalry@flinthills.com

~Let's build up our membership! Please purchase a membership for a friend, family member or colleague. Memberships make great gifts.

~If you would like to advertise your business in our journal, please let us know. It is a great way to get your business's name out there.

Keep the Guidons flying!
# Specials at Sutler's Store

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<td>&quot;U.S. Cavalry Polo&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Army of Two T-shirts&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;1906 Cavalry Sword&quot;</td>
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