Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable
THE COURIER





Speaker - Brian Kowell

Our speaker, Brian Kowell was born and raised in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. He graduated from Baldwin-Wallace University in 1973 with a B.S. in Biology. He worked for 38 years as a salesman/trainer/territory manager for 3M Pharmaceuticals and Graceway Pharmaceuticals. He is a member of the United States Professional Tennis Association and the United States Tennis Association, teaching tennis for 55 years in Ohio, Hawaii, Illinois, Texas, Florida and Canada. He played in the USTA National Senior tennis tournament held in Florida and Arizona from 2017-2021. Now retired from his profession in the pharmaceutical industry, he currently teaches tennis at Towpath Tennis Club, Akron, Ohio.

Brian became interested in the American Civil War in 5th grade and has been studying the war ever since. Joining the Cleveland Civil War Round Table (CCWRT) in 1975, he has held all executive positions including president and newsletter editor of The Charger. He also organized and led numerous Civil War field trips for CCWRT. Brian was one of the charter members of our Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table. He's published an article in America's Civil War magazine about Buckland Races, of which he is doing further research for a possible book. A member of the Emerging Civil War he has contributed numerous articles on the ECW website. Brian not only gives talks to Northeastern Ohio Roundtables but also in Fort Myers, Florida.

Brian currently lives in Hinckley, Ohio and winters in Estero, Florida with his lovely wife Carole. They have five children and eight grandchildren.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

SPEAKER, BRIAN KOWELL

"CIVIL WAR HORSES"

Evening Schedule

Social - 6:00p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Program-7:30 p.m.
Member - $30.00 Non Member - $40.00
Guests Welcome
RSVP Required by Friday, May 8, 2026
RSVP Contact - Event Coordinator, Franco
(440) 567-2414 or Email: francomichael2414@yahoo.com

Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable
EST. 1997

**** Invite a guest ****

Venue - Pine Ridge Country Club
30601 Pine Ridge Rd. Wickliffe, OH

MAY MESSAGE - PRESIDENT DALE FELLOWS



President Dale Fellows

Dear Members,

I hope we will be enjoying some warmer weather this week as we quickly head into summer!

Our April dinner meeting speaker presented an interesting topic about Camp Cleveland that was informative, with a sprinkling of humor.

We are now looking forward to May's speaker, former member Brian Kowell, who will do a presentation on the Horses of the Civil War.

Brian is very excited to talk about one of his favorite subjects.

I hope you can all join us!

We always know that the food will be great as well as the fellowship!

Dale

Presidents

1998 - Joe Tirpak (1) 1999 - Rob Bayless (2)
2000 - Norty London (3) 2001 - Bob Baucher (4)
2002- Bob Battisti (5) 2003 - Frank Yannucci (6)
2004- Ted Karle (7) 2005 - John Sandy (8)
2006 - Brent Morgan (9) 2007 - Mike Sears (10)
2008 - Bill Meissner (11) 2009 - Arlan Byrne (12)
2010 - Terry Reynolds (13) 2011 - Franco Sperrazzo (14)
2012 - Steve Abbey (15) 2013 - Tom Horvath (16)
2014 - Carl Dodaro (17) 2015 - Bernie Taub (18)
2016 - Bill Wilson (19) 2017 - Hudson Fowler (20)
2018 - David Lintern (21) 2019 - Kenny Godnavec (22)
2020 - Tom Horvath, Jr. (23) 2021 - Scott Hagara (24)
2022 - Paul Siedel (25) 2023 - Tena Kegg (26)
2024 - Darrell Schneider (27) 2025 - Dale H. Fellows (28)

Executive Board 2025-2026

Founders - Joseph Tirpak, NortonLondon
President - Dale H. Fellows
Vice President - Cherie Godnavec
Secretary - Mike Driscoll
Treasurer - George Maier
Past Presidents -
Darrell Schneider, Tena Kegg, Scott Hagara
Event Coordinator - Franco Sperrazzo
Sergeant at Arms -
Mike Driscoll, John Kegg
Courier Editor, Publicity - Tena Kegg
Membership Chairman - Kenny Godnavec
Members at Large -
Dave Lintern, Bob Tribby

1998 Charters

Joe Abazzio, Dale Fellows, Ted Karle
Bill Meissner, John Sandy, Franco Sperrazzo

Michelle Day thank you for the no bake cookie treats
Yummy

Welcome New Member

Patricia Stillman

May Birthdays



May 8 - Sonia Maier
May 12 - Rosemary Brazauskas
May 13 - Tena Kegg
May 21 - George Maier
May 27 - Mark Mattern
May 28 - Craig Niederriter

NEOCWRT Future Dates

The January 12, 2027 program will be a debate with four club members

Debate Topic

"Was Gettysburg the turning point of the Civil War?"

We are looking for volunteers as preparations are under way for a lively debate. YOU are needed to participate as we kickoff our first dinner program of 2027!! Please contact Norty London at njj.london@gmail.com or 216/321-7695 to become a pioneer of debate for the North East Ohio Civil War Round Table

April 28, 2026
Executive Board

KeepingYouInformed

1. ***KennyGodnavec will have wine sales at theMaydinner program***
2. ***Books,Books,Books...we have numerousbooks that have been generouslydonated and would like to offerthemtoour Roundtable members andguests.Please feel free to add them to your collection.***
3. ***Pleasenote-Dinner Costs Effective***

September 8, 2026
Member - $35.00
Non-Member - $40.00

May 2026 & June 2026 Speaker Schedule
President, Dale H. Fellows

May 12, 2026
Brian Kowell

Member - Cleveland CivilWarRoundtable
"Horses of the Civil War"

June 9, 2026
American 250 Celebration
and
Christopher Long - Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer



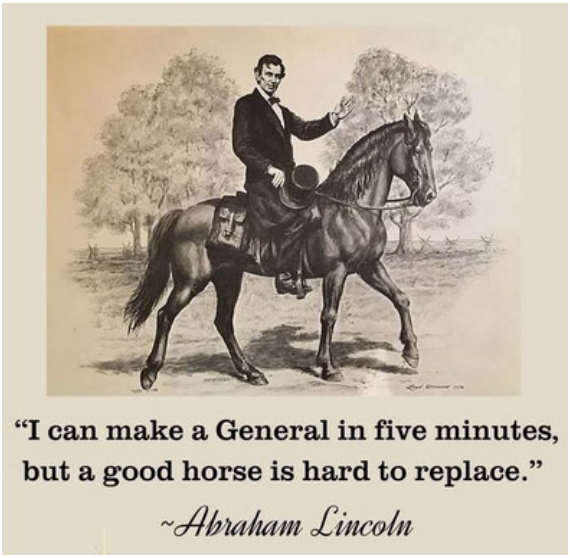
30th NEOCWRT Anniversary
Tuesday, May 11, 2027

Vice President Cherie Godnavec is forminga committee to plan for our special event.Ifyou would like to be part of the planning committee, please contact her at cherieshg@sbcglobal.net

Civil War

Horses & Mules

On the Battlefield
Living in Camps
The North and South's
Animal Soldiers



April 1861 – First Battle
Bombardment of FortSumter
South considered it a "bloodless victory"
as it was without human loss
BUT the 1st casualty was an Army horse

Horses critical to the military
Officer & Cavalry mounts, transports for artillery, supplies hauled,moving of the wounded
Both Armies couldnot have existed without theseGentleGiants

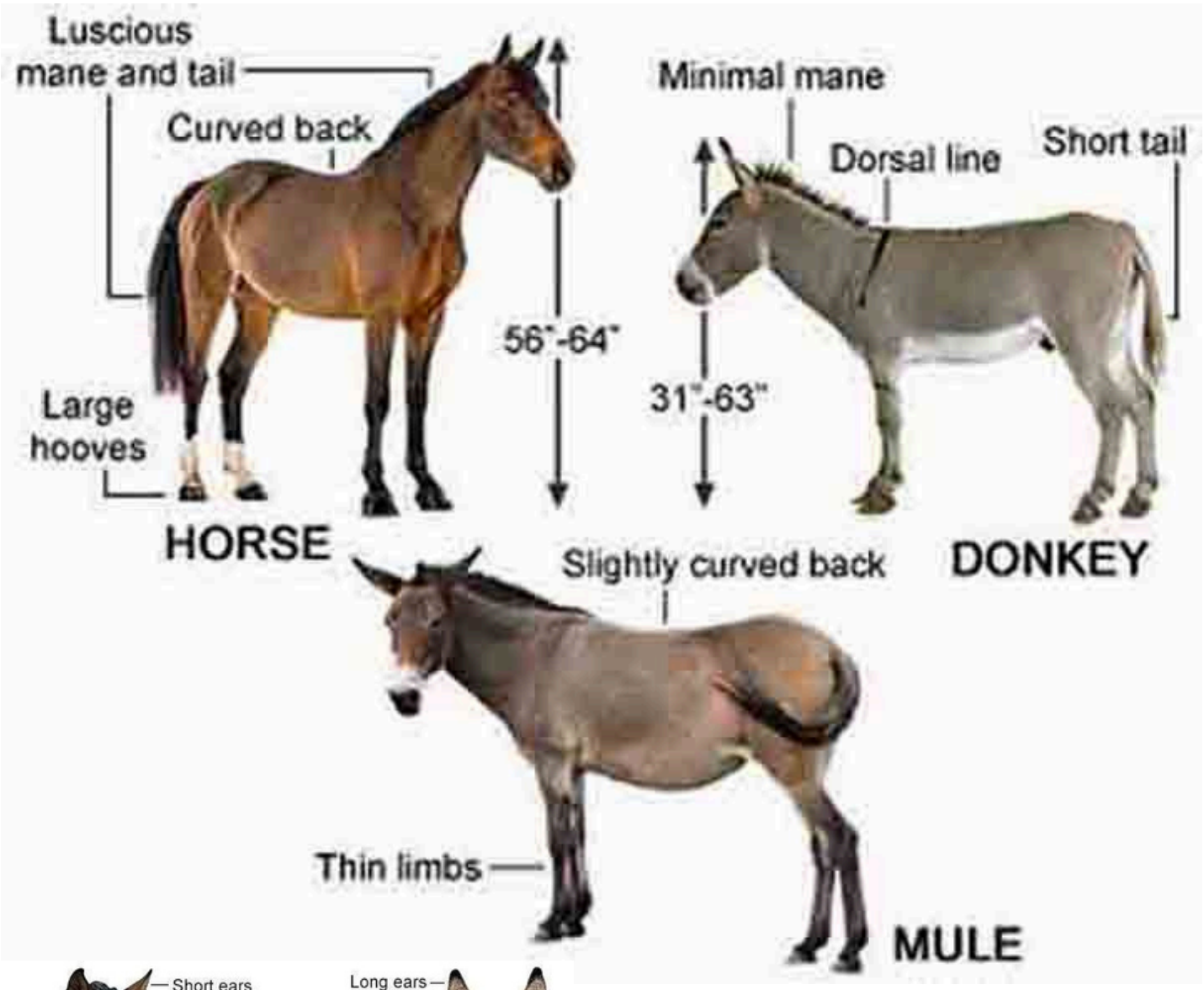
Mules critical to the military
Specialtywaspullingwagons –brute muscle toperformthe backbreaking difficult work

Horses & Mules suffered horribly
due to lack of food&waterresulting in starvation,exposure,exhaustion, hard work, disease, wounding, battlefieldtarget,killed in action,resultingindyinginunfathomable numbers

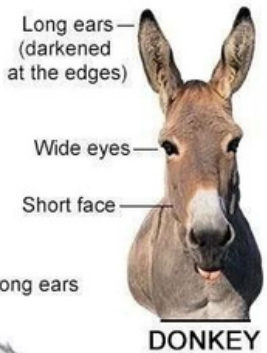
3 million horses and mules served in the War
Battle of StonesRiver
served ~32,000, loss ~3,000
Battle of Gettysburg
served ~50,000–80,000
loss ~3,000–5,000

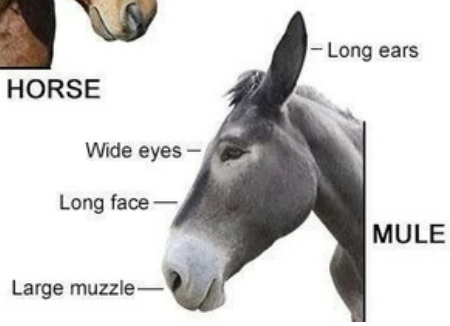
Comparison Numbers
Human Casualties – 970,000
Horses, Mules Casualties – estimated 1,500,000

Horses, Mules, Donkeys









EQUINE SERVICE



Unidentified soldier in Union cavalry uniform, on horse, with cavalry saber, in front of encampment with winter chimneys - LOC



Gibson's Battery of horse artillery, near Fair Oaks, Va
The C & G Batteries of the 3rd U.S. Artillery on horses pulling mounted cannons near Fair Oaks, Va. June 1862

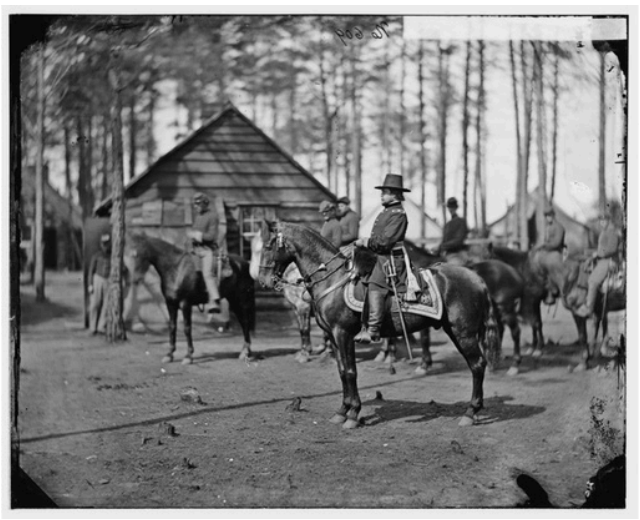
Battle of Brandy Station
June 9, 1863
nearly 20,000 horsemen fought northeast of Culpeper, VA in the largest cavalry battle in North America



The perfect Union Cavalry horse during the Civil War...
The best horse; the best gear; and hopefully a good rider.
Credit: A Pictorial History of the Civil War 1911



Battery M, 2nd U.S. Horse Artillery, 1862
Photo by James F. Gibson
LOC



Main eastern theater of war,
winter quarters at Brandy Station, VA
December 186 - April 1864
General Rufus Ingalls on horseback
Timothe H. O'Sullivan, (1840-1882), photographer



John Buford's Union cavalry gave J.E.B. Stuart quite a surprise—and an equally vigorous fight—in the fields and hills around Brandy Station on June 9, 1863
Harper's Weekly



General Robert Edward Lee
in uniform on Traveller
photographer Adam H. Plecker

<u>Lee's Traveller</u>
born 1857 - 1871(tetanus)
sired by Grey Eagle - 1830s renowned racer
<u>Traveller's other names</u>
Jeff Davis, Greenbrier

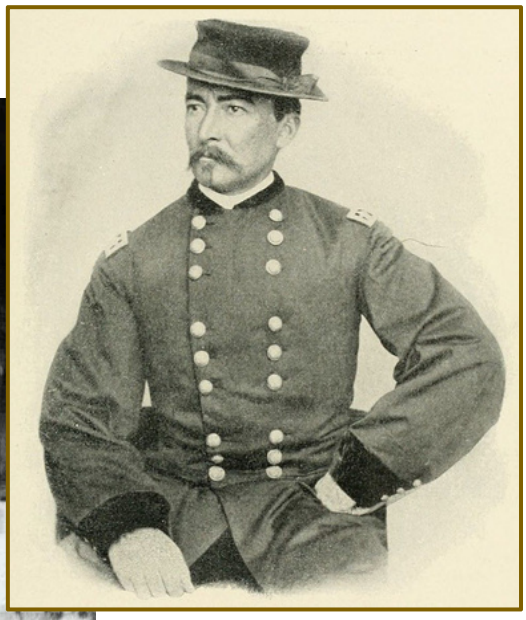
<u>Traveller had two prior owners</u>
before he was purchased for $200.00 by Robert E. Lee in February 1862

<u>2nd Battle of Bull Run</u>
Lee dismounted Traveller & was holding Traveller's bridle when the horse became frightened pulling Lee onto a stump, breaking both of his hands, resulting in Lee riding during the remainder of the campaign mostly in an ambulance

<u>Accompanied Lee to Washington College Lexington, VA after the war</u>
Mrs. Lee wrote, "He does not like to part even for a time from his beloved steed."

Men & Horses





Union Cavalry General Phillip Sheridan's horse Winchester, the Civil War Morgan in Washington, DC



Stereograph showing a man holding the reins of General U.S. Grant's horse "Cincinnati" at City Point, Virginia.
LOC



General William T. Sherman Federal Fort No. 7, Atlanta, Georgia
LOC

EDWIN AUSTIN FORBES

American landscape painter
sketch artist
in 1861 - age 22 - Hired by
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper
embedded with the Army



Edwin Forbes, "Writing Home," self-portrai, courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society



Inventor of the Horse Racing Starting Gate

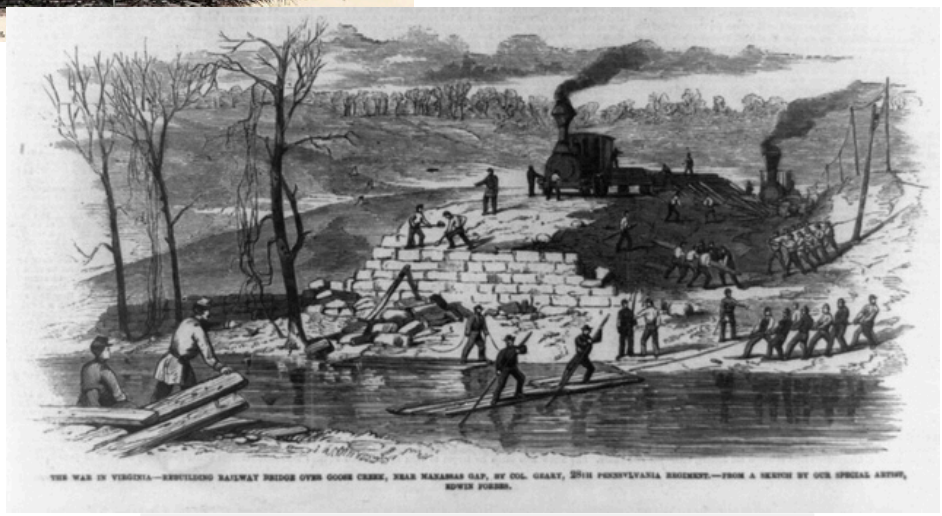
1839-1895



22nd USC carrying an advanced line of Confederate works in Baylor's Field on the City Point Road
June 15, 1864
Woodcut from a sketch by Edwin Forbes,
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper,
July 9, 1864

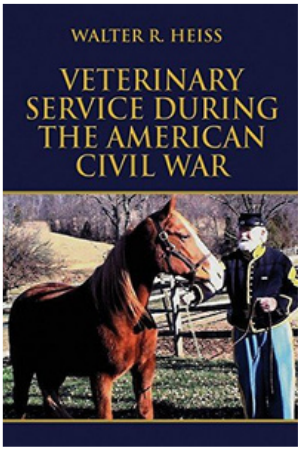


A Broken-down Mule
1864 E.A. Forbes sketch
LOC



The War in Virginia - rebuilding railway bridge over Goose Creek, near Manassas Gap,
by Col. Geary, 28th Pennsylvania Regiment
sketched by - Edwin Forbes - Wikimedia Commons

Random Bits of Information



- **April 12, 1861 - 7,500,000 horses in the U.S., but only 50 graduated veterinarians - all vets had done their schooling abroad, most were foreign born - thus due to lack of vet services during the war, a great number of the million+ animals died from sickness and disease**
- **Cavalry Regiment about 1200 horses**
  - **Union - received mounts from Union Army**
  - **Confederate - supplied their own**
- **Artillery - six-gun battery - 120 horses to pull cannons, caissons, limbers**
- **Average life expectancy:**
  - **Civil War horse - 6 months**
  - **Cavalry horse - 4 months**
- **There is a monument at Stone River Battlefield Murfreesboro, TN honoring the 32,000 equines who suffered the loss of 3,000+ as a result of the battle**
- **April 9, 1865 - Horses Traveler (General Lee) & Winchester (General Sheridan) were both at Appomattox Courthouse as the Confederate Army surrendered**

Just had to includethis beautiful modernday equine



MONUMENT OF DEDICATION
"BRIDLED VETERAN"
1997
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA - SCULPTOR TESSA PULLMAN



Inscription

"In memory of the one and one half millionhorses and mules of the Confederate and Union armies who were killed, were wounded or died from disease in the Civil War"

****

There are 3locations ofthis statue
National Sporting Library and Museaum - Middleburg, VA
Virginia Museum of History and Science - Richmond, VA
Fort Riley, Kansas

HardTack and Coffee
by JohnD.Billings

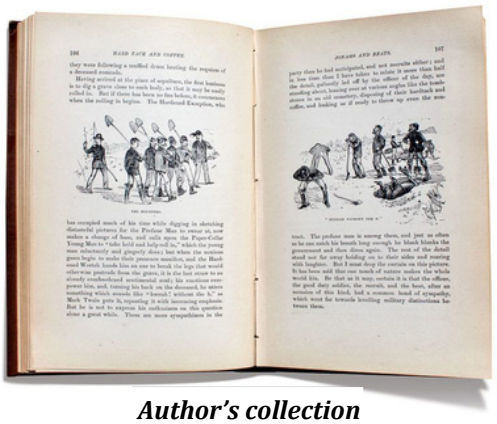




Author's collection

1888 Memoir by veteran, John D Billings of the 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Light Artillery is humorous with details of the daily life of an ordinary Army of the Potomac soldier. The author's focus is on camp life, recruitments, routines, rations, hygiene, punishments, pastimes, marches - not battles.

Pen-and-ink Illustrations by fellow veteran Charles W. Reed



Author's collection



Corporal John D. Billings
Portrait sitting after mustering outJune 10, 1865 following his attendance at Appomattox Carte de visite by E. Samuels of Boston, Mass.
Author's collection.

The Tragedy and Loss Continues Into World War I

approximately 8 million horses, mules and donkeys died on both sides of the over 16 million serving in WWI



A water cart stuck in the mut
St Eloi, Belgium
1917

America - 1,325,000 horses, mules with estimates of only 200 to a few thousand returned

Britain - 1,000,000 horses left Britain for the Western Front but only 60,000 returned

A soldier demonstrates fitting his horse with a gas mask in WWI.
© US National Archives





Unloading a mule
Alexandria, Egypt 1915
Britain and France imported horses and mules from overseas by the hundreds of thousands thus transport ships were targeted by German U-boats, resulting in human handlers and thousands of animals tragic loss at sea



Western Front WWI
Cavalrymen in a shell hole waiting for the order to move up
Nation Library of Scotland

Heroine of the KOREAN WAR

Staff Sergeant Reckless

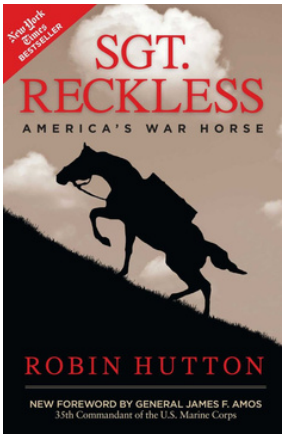
United States 1st Division Marine Corps 1952-1960

after the war she returned to America living at Camp Pendleton
until her death in May 1968

Reckless's "hoof camp, hoof training" was taught mostly by Marine Sergeant Joseph Latham. Her training would teach her the important battlefield survival skills - how to lie down under fire, not to become entangled in barbed wire, and when hearing the cry of "incoming" she learned to run for cover to a bunker. The pack animal with a gentle disposition endeared herself to her own troop "pack." She was allowed to roam freely about camp, entering tents, sometimes sleeping inside on cold nights lying down in Latham's tent next to the tent stove. Food could not be left unattended. She enjoyed scramble eggs, bacon, toast, shredded wheat, Coca-Cola, beer, chocolate bars, mashed potatoes, PB sandwiches. Wow!! just another hard working soldier's rations. It was advised the mare could receive no more than two bottles of Coke a day!! One time she ate a horse blanket!! Another time $30 of poker chips won by Sergeant Latham!! Read her amazing military achievements, included in the newsletter, when her monument was dedicated at Camp Pendleton.



Reckless with her primary trainer, Platoon Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Latham



She wasn't a horse—
she was a Marine.



Reckless beside a
75 mm recoilless rifle



Reckless under fire in Korea



Sergeant Reckless a highly decorated
US Marine Corps artillery horse in the Korean War
shown here in her red and gold horse blanket in an
alfalfa field at Camp Pendleton, California.



Staff Sergeant Reckless Monument Camp Pendleton, California

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Camp Pendleton hosts a ceremony unveiling a statue dedicated to Staff Sgt. Reckless, the famous Korean War pack horse, at the Pacific Views Event Center, Oct. 26, 2016.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, as well as many Marines who served in the Korean War with Reckless, attended the ceremony.

"I never expected to see a horse in the middle of the chaos in Korea," said Harold Wadley, a Korean War veteran who served with Reckless. "Reckless supplied about 9-thousand pounds of ammo while receiving heavy artillery fire."

Reckless' finest hours came at the Battle of Outpost Vegas in March of 1953, where she made 51 solo trips in a single day, transporting 386 recoilless rifle rounds to the front lines. As Reckless took care of the Marines, the Marines took care of her, shielding the war horse with their flak jackets to protect her from heavy enemy fire.

"She was a herd animal and the Marines became her herd," said Jocelyn Russell, sculpture of the Staff Sgt Reckless monument. "For her to be turned loose and to walk across mine fields and heavy enemy fire all on her own I learned a lot about her loyalty to the Marines."

Reckless was awarded two purple hearts, a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation with a bronze star, the National Defense Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Korea Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation, a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and, posthumously, was awarded the **Dickin Medal.
****Courier Editor Note (animal medal equivalent to the Victoria Cross)**

After serving in the Korean War, Reckless' final duty station was Camp Pendleton where she stayed until her death in 1968. Reckless was buried with full military honors.

Entertainment



Theatrical Release Poster
2011 Movie War Horse
directed and produced
by Stephen Spielberg
based on the horses of World War I
(check it out)





Michael Morpurgo 2009
author of the 1982
children's novel "War Horse"
2007 - adapted for stage
2011- film "War Horse"

Sources for May Courier

Camp Pendleton Unveils Staff Sgt Reckless Monument

Clan Forbes Society, Edwin Austin Forbes

Faust, Drew Gilpin, "Equine Relics of the Civil War," Southern Cultures, Spring 2000

Fitzpatrick, Mike "The Army Education of John D. Billings….", November 12, 2022, Military Images

Golden, Kathleen, The "War Horse" of the Civil War, April 4, 2012

Hill, David, "The Story of Sergeant Reckless: Korean War Horse Served with Valor," The Life, November 11, 2025

The Pony Post, "In Honor of Veterans Day: 3 Real-Life War Horses That Changed History," November 11, 2019

Wickens, Kim, "Civil War Horses"

Wikipedias, Edwin Forbes, Sergeant Reckless, Traveller

Book Synopsis - AbeBooks, May 1, 2005
Heiss, Walter R., Veterinary Service During the American Civil War: A Compilation

YOU ARE INVITED

Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable

Willoughby Sharpe Cemetery

4145 Madison Ave. - Main Entrance
Willoughby, OH 44094

Honoring Civil War Soldiers Who Served



9:30 A.M. PARADE

10:00 A.M. DEDICATION

10:30 A.M. FIONA'S

DEDICATION & LAYING OF WREATHS AT OUR LEGACY MONUMENT

YOU ARE INVITED

Woodland Cemetery
Honoring & Tribute



Dear Friends: **If you are planning to attend the decorating of veteran graves or Memorial Day, PLEASE bring your own chair.**

***

If you would like to help place flags on veteran graves, please come even if it is to do one section or one hour, every little bit helps to decorate this 60 acre cemetery where over 2,150 veterans have made this cemetery their final resting place. Please join us May 16 & 17 anytime during the day from 9:00a-4:00p to help decorate the veteran graves.

We will be providing snacks and lunch for the volunteers as we do each year as a way of saying "*Thank You*". We could not do this without your assistance. If large groups are planning on attending, please let me know by Monday, May 11 so we can plan accordingly.

If you would like to financially contribute, we would like to include you as a supporter in our Memorial Day program. Let us know how you would like to be listed and if you have a logo, please email it to us.

With a deep sense of appreciation from the foundation and those buried at Woodland Cemetery. They fought for our freedom through battles and diseases. We will not forget them and their sacrifice to our country and our freedom.

Michelle A. Day
President

Note: If you do not feel comfortable being outside around people, we will respect your choice not to attend and to keep the veterans dear to your heart from a distance.





Memorial Day Events
To Remember & Honor
Those Who Gave Their All
Monday, May 25, 2026

As we honor those who have sacrificed their lives for our country this upcoming Memorial Day here are a few more communities with parades/tours Please check out their websites

Memorial Day Parades

Mentor 9:30 a.m.
Painesville 10:00 a.m.
Madison 9:30 a.m.



Memorial Day Tours

Lake View Cemetery



Started after the Civil War honoring men and women who died while serving known as Decoration Day 1971- became an official federal holiday

Area Events



Laura Mae Corrigan: Snubbed, Close Calls, & Getting the Last Laugh
Mentor Library
Tuesday, May26,2026
6:30pm – 7:30pm

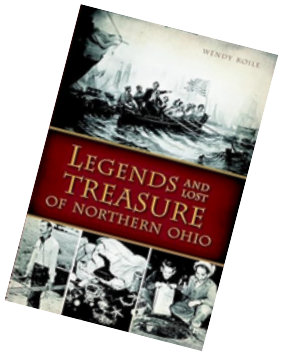
How did a small-town Wisconsin girl make her way from waitressing in Chicago to becoming the toast of Europe? Tenacity and luck brought Laura Mae Whitrock to Wickliffe, Ohio. There she married a Cleveland millionaire but got the cold shoulder from the local Who's Who. Undaunted by their snub, she took her big dreams abroad, finally becoming the sole heir to the Corrigan family fortune.

This program is free and open to the public. The program will be held in the lower level of the Main Library in the Village Room. Call the library at 440.255.8811, ext. 247 for more information or register online.

Registration for Laura Mae Corrigan begins May 12, 2026

Legends and Lost Treasure of Northern Ohio

Kirtland Public Library
Monday, June 8, 2026
6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m
9267 Chillicothe Rd
Kirtland, OH 44094



Calling all true crime and history buffs to this engaging presentation on her book, *Legends and Lost Treasure of Northern Ohio,* by author Wendy Koile. She will weave true stories of treasure and murder from all over Northeast Ohio that involve bank robbers, counterfeiters and even ghosts. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Kirtland Public Library. Registration is required.

President James A. Garfield

The Garfield Trail

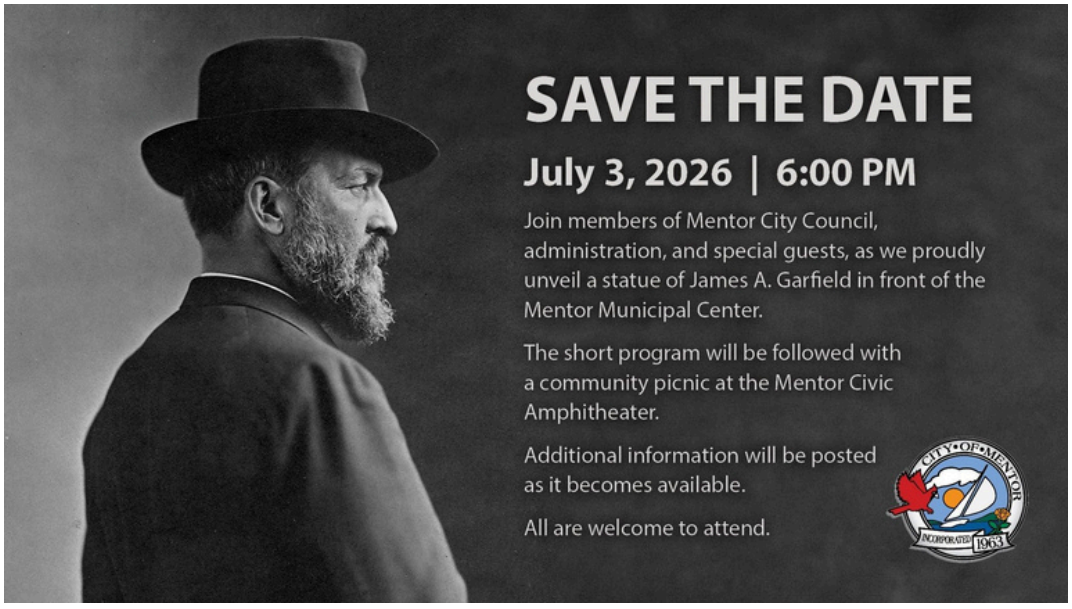
From the Cradle to the Grave

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Barberton Public Library
602 W. Park Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203

Our newest program presented by Tim Garfield, great great grandson of President Garfield, and President and Founder of the Garfield Trail. Join us to delve into the life of James A. Garfield, as recounted by a direct descendant of President Garfield



The discussion will emphasize four key stages of President Garfield's life: his formative years at the cabin in Moreland Hills, his education and early career at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College), his political endeavors at the Mentor Farm (JAGNHS), and his final resting place at Lake View Cemetery



The City of Mentor

Friday, July 3, 2026
6:00 p.m
.
Garfield Statue Dedication
&
Community Picnic
to follow

Mentor Municipal Center
8500 Civic Center Blvd.
Mentor, Oh 44060

All are Welcome



Save the Date

Monday, June 15, 2026
3:00 p.m.
Smith Family/Chardon Road Cemetery
29017 Chardon Road (Rt. 6) Chardon, OH

Restoration, Rededication & Veteran Headstones Unveiling

Revolutionary War Veteran Edward Halstead
&
Civil War Veteran Ransom William White

Special thanks to Linda O'Brien/Founder Liberty Camp USA, Brian Massie, The Men of Honor, Lake County Recorder Becky Lynch, Troy Bailey, Cynthia Turk, NEOCWRT, and the many who contributed to make this day possible. Without their help this project would never have happened, and two American patriots would never be known!

Attend and see how your generosity is honoring those who have served our Country
See flyer for detail