

## BOOK REVIEW

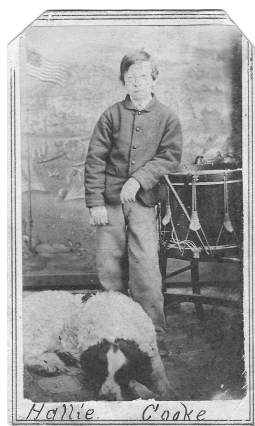
### “Loyal Hearts: Histories of American Civil War Canines”

By Michael Zucchero. 184 pp. Schroeder Publications 2009. \$25.00

BOOK REVIEW by Elizabeth Shannon © The Courier Magazine, Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.

I highly recommend this book for dog lovers, Civil War enthusiasts and scholars, but with a warning... you may want to read it with a box of tissues and your own canine loyal heart at your side.

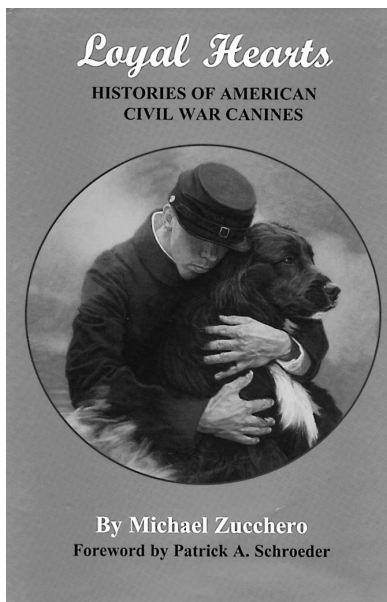
Pups and dogs marched, camped, and even whelped and fought with the Union and Confederate Armies and Navies, including mascots such as Rover of the 44th New York Regiment. Dogs accompanied drummer boys who were mere children. Among the dogs captured and held in



Civil War CDV of a drummer boy with a large dog. The boy is certainly old enough to be an actual serving drummer with a regiment. The tired look and well worn sack coat are signs of real service.

The back mark reads R. E. Weeks, Photographer, Sanduskey, Ohio. (Author's Collection)

prisons was a young mastiff called Union Jack. There were dogs who stayed with the bodies of their masters who had made the ultimate sacrifice, some remaining at their graves. Numerous dogs made that sacrifice too, and were buried during battle. “One of the first

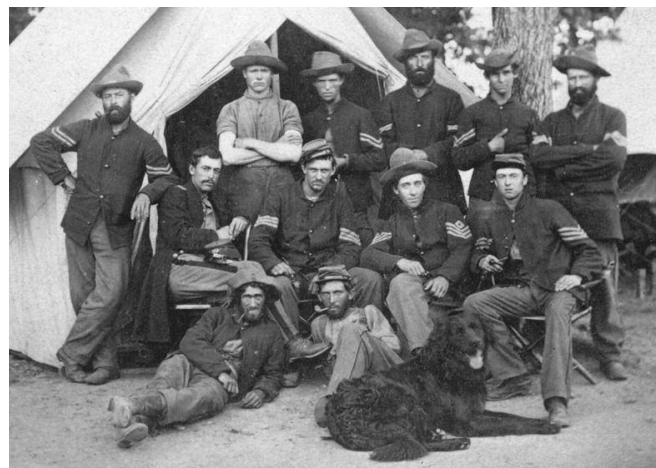


unofficial pet therapists” was water spaniel Curly, who served with the 11th Ohio Infantry, spending his later years in the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Dayton.

*There’s even a story of a working water dog, especially endearing to us water dog lovers.* A terrier named Tinker worked for years on a Confederate blockade runner where he was considered a good luck charm. After General Robert E. Lee’s surrender, the blockade running ceased. With no job to do, Tinker’s spirits were very low, and he soon after became sick and died. He was buried at sea among the icebergs of the North Atlantic in 1865, shortly after the war’s end.

“Loyal Hearts” is well documented. The author provides descriptions of these dogs in the words of the men who marched, camped, and fought with them. He provides extensive endnotes, bibliography, and primary sources as well as historians’ notes. Fifty-seven pages of captioned photographs show these brave, memorable, loyal Civil War dogs.

Loyal Hearts can be found on Amazon.com by searching it as “Civil War Canines” and at [www.civilwar-books.com](http://www.civilwar-books.com)



A dog pictured with Captain Frederick Barton and non-commissioned officers of Co. E, 10th Massachusetts Infantry taken at Camp Brightwood, Washington, DC, in August 1861.

(Massachusetts MOLLUS Collection, Army Military History Institute)



George Armstrong Custer rests in camp with one of his favorite dogs at his feet. The dog has apparently been playing fetch in a wet and muddy area. Custer had a great affinity for dogs and often took several on campaign with him. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

NOTE: All captions accompanying photos are quoted directly from *Loyal Hearts: Histories of American Civil War Canines*