



Animal Histories of the Civil War Era

Edited by **EARL J. HESS**

Animal Histories of the Civil War Era charts a path to understanding how the animal world became deeply involved in the most divisive moment in American history. In addition to discussions on the dominant role of horses in the war, one essay describes the use of camels by individuals attempting to spread slavery in the American Southwest in the antebellum period. Another explores how smaller wildlife, including bees and other insects, affected soldiers and were in turn affected by them. One piece focuses on the congressional debate surrounding the creation of a national zoo, while another tells the story of how the famous show horse Beautiful Jim Key and his owner, a former slave, exposed sectional and racial fault lines after the war. Other topics include canines, hogs, vegetarianism, and animals as veterans in post-Civil War America.

The contributors to this volume—scholars of animal history and Civil War historians—argue for an animal-centered narrative to complement the human-centered accounts of the war. *Animal Histories of the Civil War Era* reveals that warfare had a poignant effect on animals. It also argues that animals played a vital role as participants in the most consequential conflict in American history. It is time to recognize and appreciate the animal experience of the Civil War period.

EARL J. HESS is the former Stewart W. McClelland Chair in History at Lincoln Memorial University. He is the author of nearly two dozen books on the American Civil War, including *Civil War Logistics: A Study of Military Transportation*.

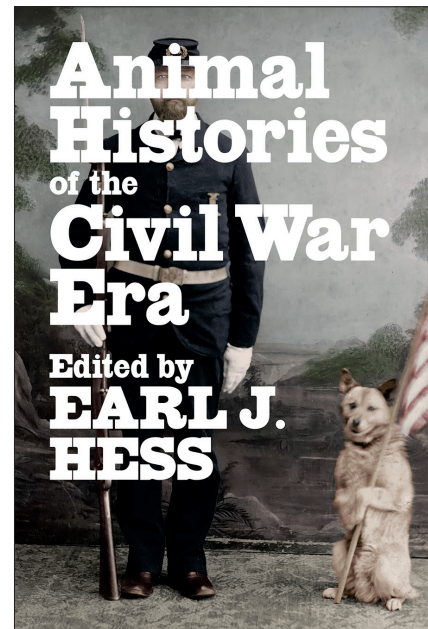
Praise for *Animal Histories of the Civil War Era*:

“This is a timely addition to both the growing body of scholarship in animal studies and the recent florescence of work on the environmental aspects of the Civil War era.”—Erin Stewart Mauldin, author of *Unredeemed Land: An Environmental History of Civil War and Emancipation in the Cotton South*

“It is not often that a group of scholars make a wholly original contribution to the vast literature on the American Civil War era. Earl J. Hess and his team have earned this coveted distinction. This volume is sure to spark a vibrant new scholarship on a well-trod historiographical landscape.”—Andrew F. Lang, author of *In the Wake of War: Military Occupation, Emancipation, and Civil War America*

“By foregrounding animals, this volume signposts one of the most significant developments in contemporary historiography. Its striking perspective on the Civil War era demonstrates that we cannot fully understand our past without reference to the animals that have lived and died around us. . . . These are remarkable and revelatory essays.”—Gervase Phillips, author of *The Anglo-Scots Wars, 1513–1550*

“*Animal Histories of the Civil War Era* is a much-anticipated volume on a crucial period in American animal history. The collection’s contributors offer thought-provoking analyses of the war and its aftermath to expose how the nation’s greatest political crisis was equally transformational for, and because of, nonhuman life. . . . These innovative and compelling historical studies will be invaluable for scholars and students alike.”—Susan Nance, author of *Rodeo: An Animal History*



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