

THE QUARTO

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FRIENDS IN FUR AND FEATHERS

*W*e Americans love our pets. National polls indicate that 60% of American households

own a pet, and many own more than one. Estimates run as high as 91 million cats, 74 million dogs, 17 million birds, 149 million fish, 11 million reptiles, and 17 million “other” pets in this country. There are pet cemeteries in almost every state; we spend upwards of \$52 billion a year on pet food, toys, and veterinary visits; and while polls tell us that many American parents wish they’d never had children, nobody ever says that about pets. As more than one social activist has pointed out, Americans seem to care more about our pets than we do about our homeless, sick, or elderly humans. Novelists and screenplay writers looking for a sure way to get our attention know that inserting a kitten,

puppy, or tribble into the story works every time. Americans are nuts about many things, but there’s no denying that pets are near the top of the list.

2006), the American love affair with pets goes back centuries. American portrait painters learned early that an ability to depict cats, dogs and birds was more

important than a knack for drawing hands or noses – see Rufus Hathaway’s 1790 “Lady with Her Pets” or Eastman Johnson’s 1856 “The Pets” for two of a thousand well-known examples in American museum collections. By the 1840s American cities had bird stores, publishers were turning out books and pamphlets on keeping pets, and even the new technology of photography was capturing pets willing to sit still for the camera. Sentimental Currier & Ives lithographs of frisky kittens and mischievous puppies



Well-dressed ladies with their King Charles spaniels adorn sheet music for the Pet Polka (New York, 1851). The breed was particularly fashionable because of its association with Queen Victoria (1819-1901). She had a favorite King Charles named Dash (1832-1840).

about our homeless, sick, or elderly humans. Novelists and screenplay writers looking for a sure way to get our attention know that inserting a kitten,

The roots of this pleasant obsession are deep and strong. As Katherine C. Grier details in her excellent book, *Pets in America: A History* (Chapel Hill,

adorned parlor walls across Victorian America, and ephemera collectors today know that there is no end to American advertising use of animals from the



antebellum decades to the present. Henry Bergh founded the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1866, and by the time of his

death two decades later 37 of the 38 American states had anti-cruelty laws the Society worked to enforce. The first American dog shows premiered in 1863 in Washington and New York, with the American Kennel Club (1884) and United Kennel Club (1889) emerging soon after to compete for primacy in judging, development of distinct breeds, and maintaining standards for “best in show” canines. Cats had to wait a little longer (or perhaps they initially refused to do anything dogs could abide), but the arrival of the first National Cat Show in 1878 signaled a similar organizational fascination with feline excellence. Heroic pets became an early staple of American literature (no boy of my generation can forget reading Albert Payson Terhune or Jack London on the virtues of dogs as loyal companions, although my favorite in the literary pet genre remains Ellis Parker Butler’s delightful 1905 short story, “Pigs is Pigs,” which beats out James Thurber’s 1939 “The Unicorn in the Garden” by a small margin in my rankings), while cinematic animals from Toto to Old Yeller

to Mr. Bigglesworth stick in most pet-lovers’ minds more securely than their two-legged co-stars. The question is not whether pets have always been part of

the Clements Library holdings of primary sources on pets in America before the early twentieth century. Jayne Ptolemy’s “Naughty by Nature” will make cat-lovers

purr and dog-people wag their tails at the realization that pets have always misbehaved. Clayton Lewis mines the Graphics Division collections for images of humans and their pets. Do some owners resemble their pets? You be the judge. Rebecca Blair DePeyster’s fascination with animals comes to life in Brian Dunnigan’s article about Mrs. D’s birds, dogs, squirrels, and other companions. Those of us who cannot go to movies in which animals are hurt or killed will have to screw up our courage to read Louis Miller and Lauren Seroka’s “Animals Go to War,” but if they can stand it so can we. And Jakob Dopp reviews the Library’s voluminous holdings of primary sources on human encounters with wild creatures, from bears to rattlesnakes to bullfrogs. As always with issues of *The Quarto*, the result should entice readers to visit the Library to see what else we have on this most entertaining of



Tommy, captured on film sleeping it off after going on a “spree.” Did his misbehavior include scratching the couch? Was catnip involved? Pets frequently appear in gag photos.

American history, but rather how scholars and publishers have managed to get us interested in any other aspect of our national heritage.

This issue of *The Quarto* looks at some of the more engaging materials in

subjects.

—J. Kevin Graffagnino
Director
* 2 cats

NAUGHTY BY NATURE

We share our homes and our hearts with our pets, beloved members of the family. The sound of a cat happily purring or a dog's tail thumping in an over-enthusiastic wag can lift your spirits like nothing else. That being said, pets can also be infuriating creatures hell-bent on destruction and mayhem. The Clements Library's manuscript collections reveal evidence of mischief that, while distinctive to the historical period in which it occurred, still feels all too familiar today.

Anyone who has adopted a cat would not be surprised to learn that feline companions are very well represented in frustrated accounts of misbehaving animals. Our Hill Family Papers, part of the Blandina Diedrich Collection, include a letter from Alice Hill to her daughter from Black Hawk, Colorado, in 1876. She described a scene that is immediately recognizable to those who have lived with kittens. "She is very playful and annoys your papa as all previous cats have done, by sharpening her claws on the best chairs," Alice began, commenting on one of the household's newest additions. "All day long she will lie asleep in the kitchen, but when yr papa comes home at night & the lamps are lighted, she seems possessed to race over the furniture, & he shies things at her." Two months later the family continued to suffer through life with two black kittens. Alice again wrote to her daughter, "They are lots of trouble, for they are hard to teach to be neat, & I go cleaning up after them, until I feel like choking them." The scurrying cat, the frustrated father, the tattered furniture, a messy house—kittens' astonishing energy and needling nails caused the same troubles then as they do now.

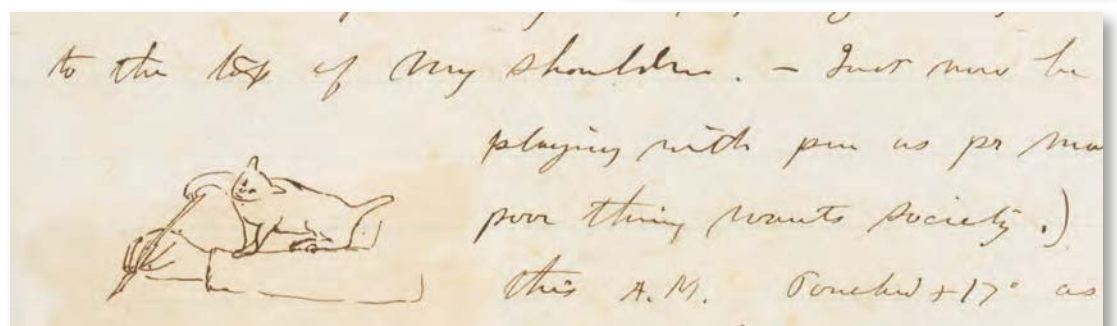
Likewise, reports of cats' particular desire to observe (and obstruct) daily activities reflect the innate feline character, connecting vexed owners across the centuries. The pervasiveness of letter writing in the nineteenth century ensured that cats' inclination to be disruptive found its way to that medium. The Brownell

Family Papers document the antics of one especially rambunctious kitten that was drawn to the pen. In January 1866, Ned Brownell described the scenario to his family, "The kitten has seated himself on the upper left hand corner of this sheet, & is gravely debating in his mind whether to play with the pen that is scratching before him or not. He is lazy, but gets excited whenever it comes near him, he is rubbing against the tip of it now, and pervading the paper generally. He is fond of climbing to the top of my shoulder—Just now he stopped me by playing with [the] pen. The poor thing wants society."

In late March, the kitten persisted in hampering Ned's epistolary efforts. "The kitten is now upon my back," Ned explained, "scurrying over it like a squirrel, being in a perfect gale of excitement and play—My writing he considers a performance got up solely for his amusement, and the scratching of the pen is an irresistible attraction to him. He seizes the top of the pen in his teeth and mamocks [shreds] it." Ned sketched the scene in both letters, helping the recipients visualize the cat's mischief. The images speak to the significance of this laughable event. Important enough to document with an illustration, the kitten's antics, and the exasperated delight they evoked, connected relatives in a shared moment of levity they could all easily relate to and enjoy. Naughty by nature, frisky cats punctuate their owners' days with humor, surprise, and the occasional messy letter caused by a batting paw.

Cats are also creatures of opportunity, and tales of how they capitalized on their surroundings expose glimpses

Ned Brownell documented his kitten's entertaining if disruptive shenanigans with animated pen-and-ink illustrations.





Close examination of the wire cage on the table to the left of this Kalamazoo, Michigan, couple will reveal their pet squirrel on its exercise wheel. Both squirrel and the dog at right were intentional elements of this family portrait.

of everyday life that might otherwise have been lost. In late July 1846, an unnamed physician aboard a ship traveling from Virginia to Boston recorded an unexpected event in his journal. “The Captain seems not to be in an especially good humor,” he noted, “in consequence of a little incident which happened a short time since. Coming into the cabin in a hurry to exchange his straw hat for a sea cap, which lay in an empty berth, he discovered that his pet cat, an ugly, dingy colored varmint, had with true maternal solicitude sought out the said cap, & lay ensconced in its crown purring out a modest introduction of four tender strangers to the kind offices of its owner—a catastrophe indeed!” The story stands as a testament to cats’ ability to claim the world—or at least their owners’ wardrobes—as their own, regardless if they find themselves on land or sea. It also reveals how particulars of the captain’s clothing, mood, and shipboard pets made their way into the archival record because of this mother cat’s questionable choice of where to deliver her litter. Historical actors in their own right, wayward animals had an impact on the types of information that were recorded and preserved.

While they seem to have an especially well developed hankering for causing headaches, cats are by no means the

fully successful. Squirrels need to forage and chew. Combined with their playful and energetic nature, this did not always make them ideal housemates, as evidenced in our Dall Family Papers. Sarah Dall Munro’s children adopted two gray squirrels, Jack and Jill, in November 1882 that had “to be watched all the time they are out of the cage.” Jack’s “chief amusement when let out, is to pop! the corks out of all the medicine bottles in

only unruly pets represented in the Clements Library collections. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, keeping tamed squirrels was quite common. Having no practical function like catching mice, assisting in a hunt, or offering protection, squirrels served primarily as companions, entertainment, and a challenge to properly domesticate. Such efforts were seldom

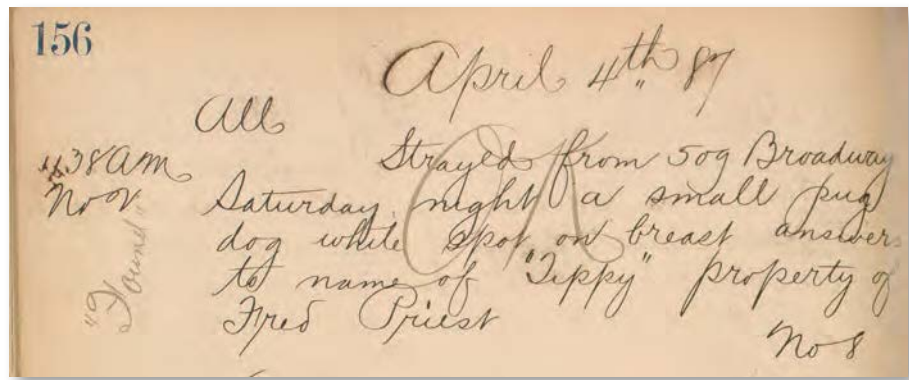
Charley’s bureau, & then chew them up. But he has so many hard nuts that he has not bothered us by gnawing anything but our fingers—so far.” The letter feels a bit prophetic, as three years later the family suffered a vicious squirrel attack. “I had a most exciting hand to hand fight with one of our squirrels today,” Sarah wrote in March 1885. “He was sitting on the back of a chair, getting his breath after skipping about like mad, when I went up & talked to him a little. He must have thought what I said insulting, for he deliberately left the chair, ran up the front of my dress, and took my chin in his jaws, biting with all his strength.” The squirrel proceeded to nip her lip, scratch her face, and attack her husband’s hands when he tried to return him to his cage. Pets can be friendly and fun, but they are animals nonetheless and can be not only mischievous but also dangerous. A month later, the family had reverted to keeping kittens.

Even dogs, a perpetual favorite, pose challenges. Whether they are loyal and loving or independent and obstinate, dogs of all types have a tendency to wander off. Francis Hopkinson, years before he became a member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote in the fall of 1766 about his lapdog, Master Pompey. “You can’t imagine the Trouble he has given me,” he complained. “Besides the original Price which was pretty considerable, he has cost me I don’t



Common mice, depicted here by John James Audubon, were happy to share a tent and a meal with Civil War soldier George Starbird and his comrades.

know what all to find him & recover him from Time to Time after he had run away, and sometimes I despair'd of ever seeing him more." Dogs' ability to worry their families by straying from home spans the centuries and is well documented in our Buffalo, New York, Police Reports from 1877. The volume records thefts, missing children, fugitives from the law, and various assaults, but peppered throughout are accounts of lost dogs. On January 21 at 1:55 p.m. an entry recorded, "Strayed or stolen from Mr Welch 514 Delaware Ave last night a pure white Bull terrier dog has been fighting and has cuts & marks on head and neck no collar on answers to name 'Toughy.'" Not all canines were so rough and tumble. Compare Toughy to a lost dog recorded two weeks later: "Mrs Dr Wolf 312 Peckham st reports she lost a valuable white french poodle dog with red ribbon around neck answers to name



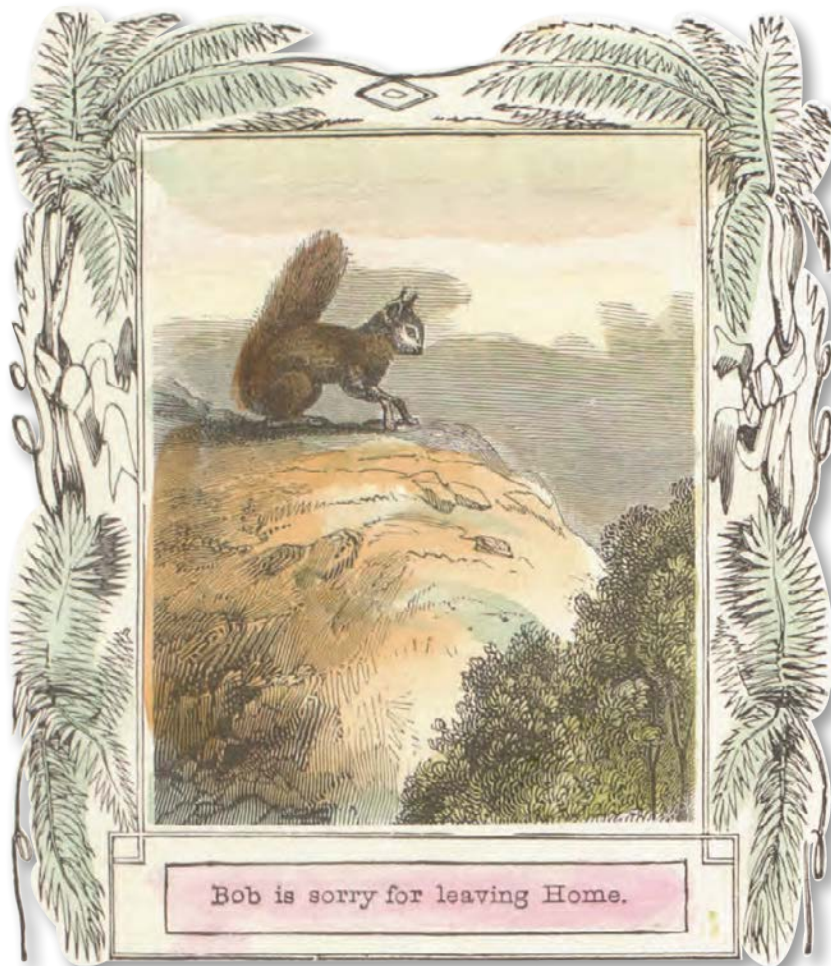
Fred Priest promptly reported the disappearance of his pug, "Tippy," from his home at 509 Broadway in Buffalo, New York. The incident ended happily, and the desk sergeant closed the case by scribbling "found" on his blotter for April 4, 1887.

of 'Nannie' yesterday near Cor Broadway & Washington liberal reward." Whether chewed up or pampered, missing dogs drove their owners to report them to the police in the hopes of securing their return. Sometimes the entries are docketed "Found," and it is easy to imagine

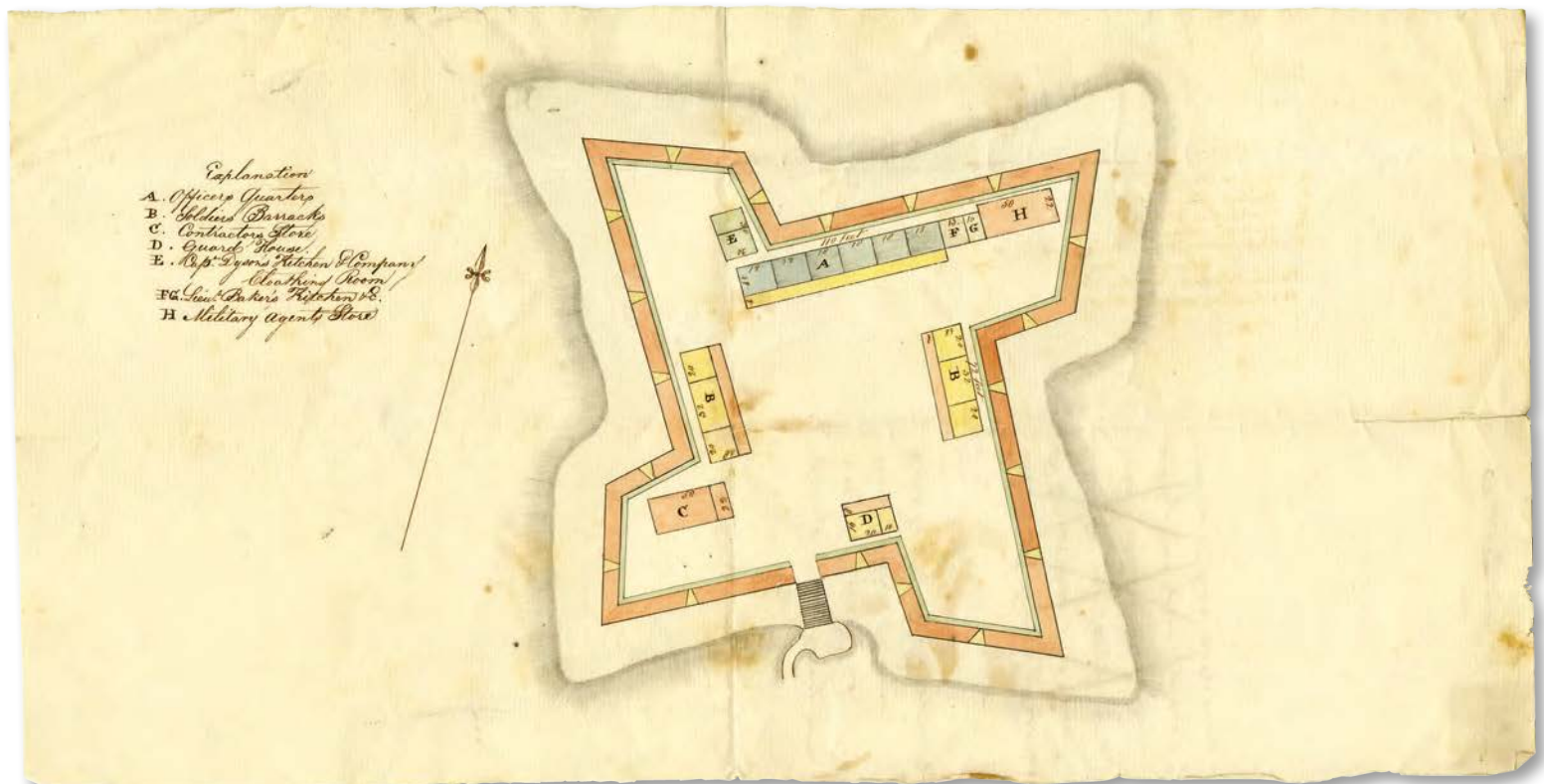
the relief felt by the family upon their reunion and their subsequent efforts to prevent further escapes.

Of course, not even the best-built fence will stop a determined dog that chooses to jump or dig its way to freedom. Henry Burbeck, a U.S. Army artillery officer who served from the American Revolution through the War of 1812, was all too familiar with the destructive power of headstrong dogs. In a circa 1809 letter, Burbeck urged the issuance of a general order "forbidding any Officer or soldier keeping Dogs or Fowles in Garrison, particular where the works are mostly built of sods (as Detroit, F. Nelson, McHenry &c &c) as its impossible to keep them in any kind of repair—It will take the greater part of next summer to restore the injury done to the works, at this post and mostly by *Dogs*." For all the love and companionship they provide to civilian and soldier alike, a dog that wants to dig can readily tear apart a yard or a fort's carefully constructed earth-works.

Military figures encountered more than dogs in their service, and written records of their wartime experiences reveal the presence of animals in surprising places. Richard Coulter served with the 2nd Pennsylvania Infantry during the Mexican War, struggling in the hot southern sun and suffering from repeated bouts of gastrointestinal distress. During an especially difficult day in mid-June 1848 near Veracruz, finding himself unable to march, Coulter was compelled to ride in a wagon. "The road was very rough and made it more painful than walking, but I was too weak to walk. There was a caged parrot hanging upon the waggon which the jolting of the waggon every few minutes brought in contact with



The Travels and Extraordinary Adventures of Bob the Squirrel, a cautionary tale published in 1847, capitalized on the popular creature's impish reputation to warn children of the hazards of misbehavior and disobedience.



Henry Burbeck was annoyed by the serious problem of dogs digging into the newly renovated earthen walls of Fort Detroit in 1809. Some of the canines were pets of the garrison officers. This colorful plan of c. 1809 shows the earthen walls in orange.

my head when the bird would reach out and pull my hair, quite an annoyance to one too sick to enjoy it." The following morning, Coulter admitted, "Did not attempt to walk this time, but got into the waggon and had a time of it with the parrot." Being pestered by a cantankerous bird is not typical of a military march, but unexpected encounters with unruly animals happen in times of both war and peace.

Sometimes soldiers "adopted" such annoying beasts, converting unpleasant incidents into something slightly more agreeable. In February 1863, George Starbird wrote to his sister Marianne to tell her of "our pets." "You will no doubt wonder what they are. Well I am going to tell. *Mice*—yes mice." Serving in the Union forces during the Civil War, George's camp near Suffolk, Virginia, was overrun with rodents. "They are about here 'most any where,' thick and fast little fellows wake me up most every night by getting into my hair, shirt, &c. &c. They go away when I lift my hand. Then visit the other beds and wake up the occupants seem to go 'their rounds' every night regular. *Wake us all up* in less than it takes to tell it. They are union mice, no doubt, so we don't try to kill or

hurt them." Characterizing the mice as mischievous pets rather than unwelcome pests transformed an infestation into a more palatable scenario, blunting some of the disgust by framing it instead as the familiar frustration of a pet owner.

From the Civil War to the Second World War, the impulse to adopt non-traditional animals persisted. Lieutenant Russell Schlagal served in India and Tinian with the Air Service Group, and while there wrote frequently to his wife Margery, sketching and painting scenes in his letters. In one dated August 2, 1945, he described the recent activities of a companion who had been sharing his quarters. "By mistake I darn near knocked out my spider friend with an aerosol bomb, and then I moved my shirt again and ruined his web, by now we shouldn't be on speaking terms, but he's busy weaving a new web and the compensation he reaps from the effect of the aerosol on the other bugs should warrant his forgiveness." He then illustrated the spider's new web, spanning the void between a post and a light, narrating how the spider "gets so excited he bounces the web" when it detected a possible meal. Whether or not a creature is a pet or a pest, whether their behavior is useful or

vexing, is sometimes merely a matter of perspective.

The affection, comfort, and amusement that pets bestow upon us make up for the tattered furniture, miscellaneous messes, and other annoyances. Looking to the archive and finding tales of animals' misbehavior and mischief helps us relate to historical figures on a very personal level while also uncovering intimate details of their everyday lives. The collars that failed to restrain dogs; the arrangement of the writing desks that cats disturbed; the location of the parrot's cage during a military march—all of this information may appear trifling but had quite significant meaning for the individuals recording it. When we complain about our pets, we reveal more than their weird and frustrating behavior. We reveal how they fit into our lives—not always neatly or comfortably, but nonetheless right at the heart of them.

—Jayne Ptolemy

Assistant Curator of Manuscripts

* 1 cat

PETS AND THEIR PEOPLE

*P*erhaps the one thing that pet owners enjoy as much as spending time with their favorite creature is having a photograph or portrait made with their pet. Witness the endless numbers of selfies taken with an animal. The results are always satisfying (unless the cat won't hold still). Images of pets of nearly every sort may be found within the Clements Library's photography collection. Some even bear a passing resemblance to their masters. Here are a few examples.

—Clayton Lewis

Curator of Graphic Materials

** 1 cat*



A family resemblance? Man and his dog photographed by Kurtz of Dighton, Kansas.



A best friend, especially when one is in deep trouble.



Taking the goat cart for a spin. The animals are matched in a manner that was popular with carriage horses. They form a "Boston pair," one animal white and the other dark.



I'll always be your friend. When do we eat?



A bit of a resemblance. Photograph by C. A. Finzel of Romeo, Michigan. David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography.



*Whoa! That's no pony!
Who has viewed the fox?
David V. Tinder
Collection of Michigan
Photography.*



These three serious gentlemen from Ishpeming, Michigan, bear a passing resemblance to each other. A family business? David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography. The majority portion donated by David B. Walters in honor of Harold L. Walters, U-M class of 1947, and Marilyn S. Walters, U-M class of 1950.



Mustn't forget the felines.



Left: *Is that a monkey in Standish, Michigan? Whew! No, just another pug. O. A. Wendt, photographer. David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography.*

Right: *Canine sentry. Halt and be recognized. Photo ca. 1865 from a British military album.*



MRS. D'S MENAGERIE

The Great Lakes region of the eighteenth century was all about animals. Native American, French, and British trappers and traders pursued the ubiquitous beaver and dozens of related species of fur-bearing mammals. The trade in pelts drove the economy of Canada. New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the southern colonies also enjoyed a lively trade, although the farther south one went, the more likely the skins were to be of deer or other large herd animals. Forts and Native villages had significant populations of dogs, but they mostly provided motive power for sleds.

A Carolina parrot. While "Poor Poll's" exact species remains unknown, the bird had a reputation as a biter. Detail of a plate from Alexander Wilson's American Ornithology (New York and Philadelphia, 1828).



Also rare in the world of the early Great Lakes was the presence of wives of the officers who commanded

the military posts that protected and policed the traders. Regulations usually permitted six spouses of enlisted men per company to follow their husbands into the wilderness. There, they worked for their keep as laundresses. Officers, having much greater means, could leave their wives and children in more comfortable, sophisticated places like Montréal or Québec.

Rebecca Blair DePeyster (d. 1827) was almost unique in that she remained with her husband, Arent Schuyler DePeyster (1736-1822), throughout the seventeen years he served in Canada (1768-1785), eleven of them on the lakes as commandant, successively, of Michilimackinac, Detroit, and Niagara. In May 1775, following their first winter at the Straits of Mackinac, Arent reported that, "Mrs DePeyster seems to be quite reconciled to this place." He admitted that she would have liked it even better "when the Indians thought it their duty to clothe their Father & Mother [the commandant and his wife] in the Richest furs . . . but that good custom is drop'd." Rebecca was an animal lover and seldom without some sort of pet, whether wild or domesticated. Her husband seems to have been resigned to her fascination with animals.

We are fortunate that DePeyster was a poet as well as a soldier. He accordingly immortalized in verse a few of his wife's favorite pets in *Miscellanies, by an Officer* (Dumfries, Scotland, 1813).

These included a swan, a striped squirrel, at least two spaniels (both called Dapper), one or more parrots, a Newfoundland dog named Towzer, and at least two of what

DePeyster described as "American Yellow Birds," probably goldfinches. These creatures, and undoubtedly others, were a part of the DePeyster household throughout their years in America and later while on garrison duty at Plymouth, England, from 1785 to 1790.

Sadly, few of the pets featured in Arent's poetry had happy endings. One poem titled "On the death of a Pet Swan" (known as Wabesie) was composed at Michilimackinac amidst "Ye squalling loons." The huge white bird had been a fixture of the fort's parade ground where, *How waddling round the barrack yard, He led the drums, how formed and drilled the guard.* At some point during the American war the cap-

tain attempted to nurse one of a pair of American yellow birds back to health, with predictable results.

*My Dick, sweet bird, doth stretch his bill,
Sure prelude to his cheerful song;
Like him my fav'rite Tom did trill
Sweet notes, to cheer me all day long.
But soon, alas! the grief he gave,
The short-lived pleasure did exceed.
For him I culled, and cracked each seed;
No pains were spared my bird to save:
I gave him herbs, but all in vain.*

Rebecca lost another pet at Michilimackinac in 1775, her "favorite striped squirrel," Tim (or Timmy). Her husband waxed philosophical:

*See, where the giddy circling Tim,
Lies motionless at last;
What, though no squirrel, ran like him,
Grim death could run as fast.
Cease then my fair, O cease to mourn
For guiltless Timmy's sake,
Since there's no living creature born,
But death will overtake.*

By far the most colorful of Mrs. D's pets was a parrot (she probably had more than one over the years). Her "favourite parrot" (Poll) was a disagreeable creature, prone to biting. Poll had a talent for mimicry, however, having learned the commands of the manual of arms by listening to sergeants at drill.

*You'd teach a mincing Adjutant,
Or major of brigade,
The tip-top military cant,
When they their guards parade.*

*Who hears you say—"to the right face,"
Or be it—"to the left"
Or—"right about,"—think't no disgrace,
There to commit a theft.*

*At times, you cast an eye so arch
At squads, when at the drill,
As seems to say, "if thus you march,
You'd best, my lads stand still."*

DePeyster composed these verses in shame-faced regret for a rash act that he knew would deeply upset his beloved wife. He explained the circumstances in



Lieutenant Colonel Arent S. DePeyster and his wife, Rebecca Blair, were portrayed not long after their arrival at Plymouth, England, in 1785. The three feathers of the Prince of Wales adorn Rebecca's gown, suggesting that she had it made for the visit of the Prince of Wales (later King George IV). Rebecca seems not to care that one of her pampered spaniels (Dapper II?) has jumped up on her dress. Photographs courtesy of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The originals are in a private collection.

the title of a poem, "AN EPITAPH On Mrs. DePeyster's favourite parrot, spoken extempore, by supposing he had been killed by a kick from his master against his cage, on receiving a most treacherous bite while caressing him." This was the same bird captured by young Lieutenant Isaac Brock in 1785 when it flew over Plymouth dock.

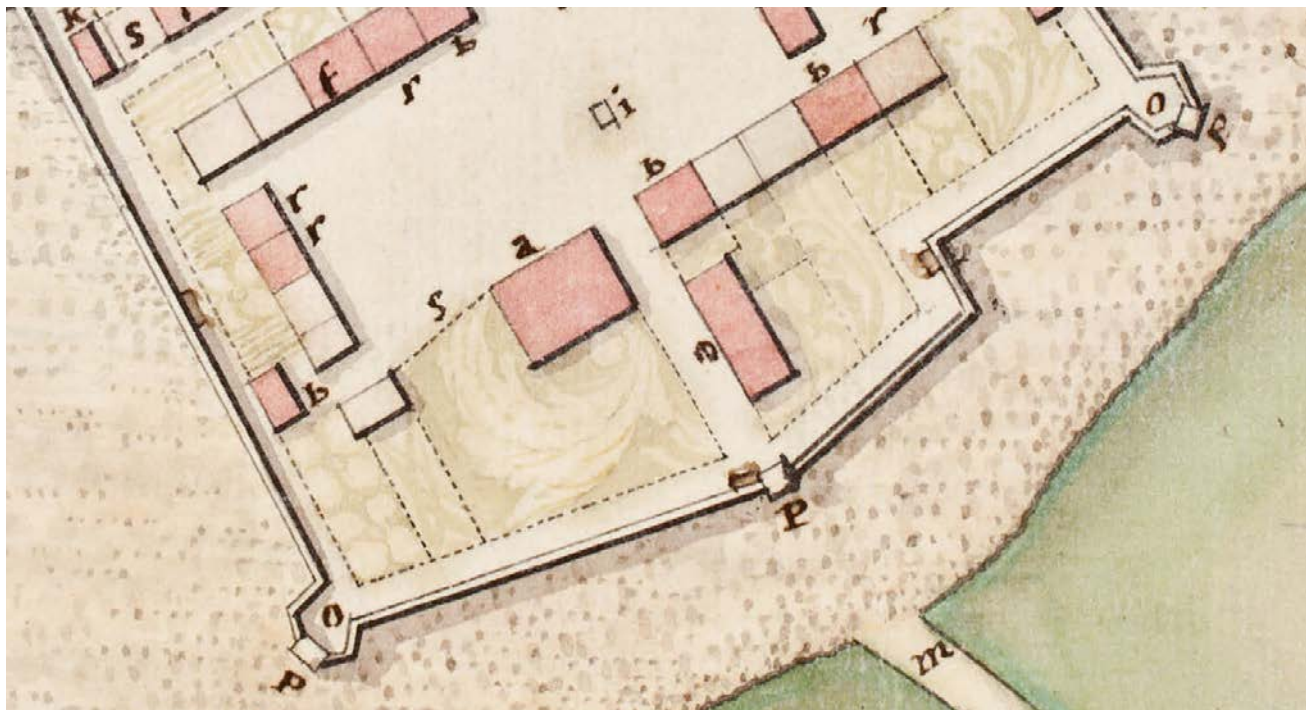
Brock presented him to Mrs. DePeyster. In typical fashion Poll bit Brock, nearly severing his finger. The lieutenant would go on to capture Detroit in 1812 and earn the sobriquet "Savior of Upper Canada" at the Battle of Queenston Heights later that fall.

Captain DePeyster knew he was responsible for Poll's death. *There lies poor poll, ah me! A breathless cor[p]se.* As DePeyster considered how to break the news to his wife, he perceived a slight movement of

the feathered creature and rhymed his relief:

*But hark! the biting Ethiope is not dead!
Let that shrill note, my dear; your grief
assuage;
In cream, you still shall steep your
fav'rite's bread,
And I will bear it, trembling to its cage.*

—Brian Leigh Dunnigan
Associate Director & Curator of
Maps
* 3 dogs
* 3 cats
* 3 horses



While at Michilimackinac the DePeysters resided in the building labelled "a" in this detail of Lieutenant Perkins Magra's 1765 plan of the post. From its window Mrs. D's parrot had a fine view of soldiers at drill and soon learned to bark the sergeants' commands.

ANIMALS GO TO WAR

During wartime, many aspects of an individual's daily life change, whether one is a civilian or a soldier. We tend to forget, however, that human beings are not the only living creatures impacted by armed conflict. The American Civil War was no exception to this cruel reality. Horses, mules, dogs, cats, and other animals suffered in equal measure to their human counterparts. Historians estimate that over one million horses and mules died during the war. Thomas D. Willis of the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry, wrote to his mother on November 19, 1862, that "about ½ mile from here is a kind of Horse Depot . . . and thousands and thousands of dead horses are lying all over this piece of land. In visiting these places you will see at a glance that man is not alone in misery but the poor dumb brute have to bear their equal share in this contest."

One constant, despite the death and destruction, was the bonds that formed between humans and animals. Perhaps the best known of these relationships was that of a mounted officer or trooper and his horse. Henry H. Seys, at that time Medical Inspector in the Army of the Cumberland, wrote in October 1863 of the failing health of his horse, "Dr." When Seys realized "that never more would [Dr.] respond" to his commands, he almost "cried like a child." He told his wife, "pardon all this horse jargon but I know you are interested in all my affairs and independently of my love for the noble animals, the comfort of a mounted officer depends to an extent upon the character of his horse to a

degree you can little imagine."

Many regiments and individual soldiers kept pets. Dogs were the most common, but cats, squirrels, and eagles also lived among the soldiers. Captain Henry Grimes Marshall of the 29th Connecticut Colored Infantry Regiment wrote multiple letters to his sister in February and March of 1865 describing the activities of "three little kittens." He had the pleasure of sharing his quarters with the kittens, taking great delight in their "grand frolics . . . trying to bite and scratch each other & their poor old mother who returns all their abuse with an immense deal of licking."

Although animals helped humans temporarily escape the grim realities of war, they also suffered immensely. They dealt with starvation, were wounded or killed in battle, and mourned the losses of their human friends. Soldiers sometimes had to make a difficult choice between four-legged friends and food, forced to kill pets to ward off starvation. Nathan B. Webb of the 1st Maine Cavalry Regiment, while imprisoned at Belle Isle in Virginia, described in his diary how "a small dog got into the enclosure and in less than

five minutes he was killed and dressed." According to Webb, the Confederate guard took great delight in the spectacle, and when a fellow prisoner "told [the guard] they wished he had to eat" the dog, he replied, "not another word or you'll have to live on something worse than raw dog."

Edgar Halstead Klemroth, born in 1837, worked as a bookbinder in Phil-



A cook in Edgar Klemroth's regiment shares a meal with his canine companion. Dogs appear to have been the favorite army pet.



A mule race provides some exciting but perilous entertainment to help combat the day-to-day monotony of military duty. The uncooperative animals have already thrown two jockeys, and the leader looks like he will be next. Horse races or cockfights were also common diversions in camp. The riders in this contest are all African Americans, probably the teamsters who cared for and drove the mules.

This sketch reveals the sad physical state of many of the army's horses and mules. This poor creature is clearly malnourished, so desperate for food that it is willing to eat a trooper's clothing to fill its stomach. While Klemroth presents this as a humorous incident, he also sympathized with the starving animal.



adelphia in the years before the Civil War. In 1861 he enlisted as a volunteer in the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment (Rush's Lancers) two years before the enactment of the draft. By September 1862 he reported heart palpitations to his commanding officer who ordered him to see the regiment's surgeon. After the surgeon told Klemroth that he was healthy, although "very much excited," the trooper disappeared from his unit for almost a month, ending up in Washington, D.C. The resulting General Court Martial found him guilty of absence without leave, reducing his rank from corporal to private, and his monthly pay by six and a half dollars for six months. Klemroth was only one of 200,000 Union soldiers charged with unauthorized absences during the war.

For reasons unknown, Klemroth reenlisted in early 1864, and by August he was on "detached duty," serving under General Alfred T.A. Torbert (1833–1880) in the Shenandoah campaign. Under General Philip Sheridan's leadership, this campaign pushed the Confederate army out of the Shenandoah Valley, blocking them from a vital food supply and route to the North. Following the Civil War, Klemroth was actively engaged with veterans groups. For at least fourteen years, he served as a proctor in the Union Soldiers' Alliance, a Civil War veterans group

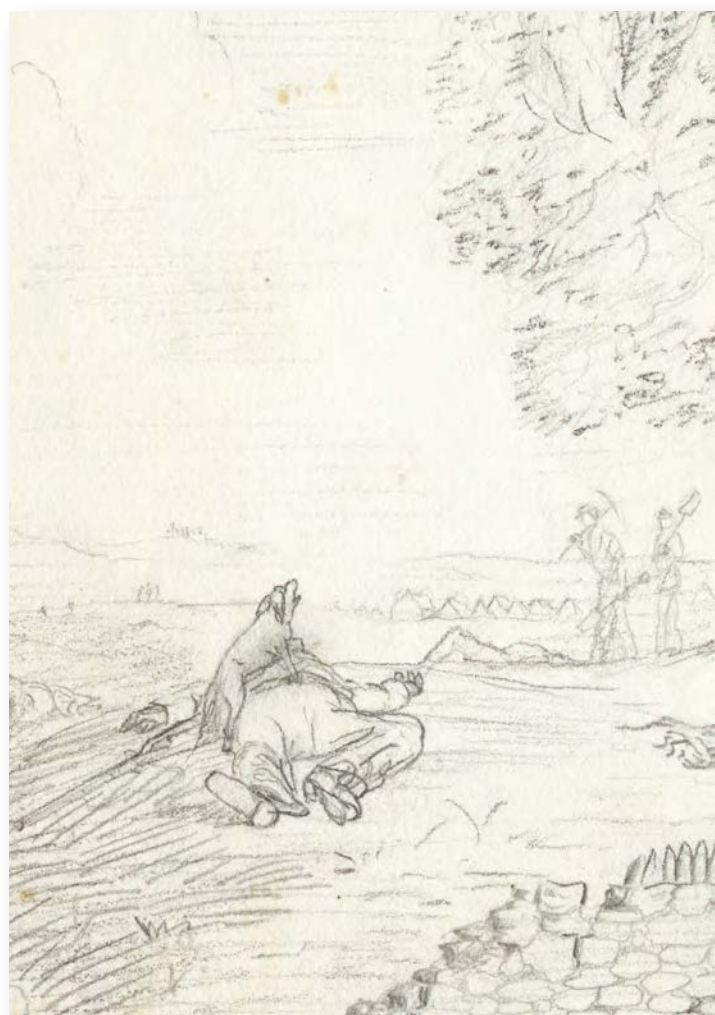
based in Washington D.C. Newspapers reported gatherings for veterans of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry hosted by Klemroth. Professionally, he worked for the federal government, serving as an architect and supervisor of the construction of many federal buildings across the country. He died at the age of 96 on May 5, 1934, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Clements Library holds Edgar Klemroth's sketchbook containing forty-five drawings from the Shenandoah Campaign in 1864. His visuals are a vital resource for those interested in the daily struggles faced by soldiers and, in many cases, their interaction with animals, large and small. Readers interested in viewing Klemroth's sketchbook in its entirety will find it recently digitized and added

to the Clements Library Image Bank where it is available as a free download.

—Louie Miller
Curatorial Assistant
* 2 cats

—Lauren Seroka
Student Employee
* 2 dogs



This mournful scene of a dog howling over its dead Confederate master's body is perhaps the most powerful image in Klemroth's sketchbook. Detail of original sketch.

AWFUL WILD

As the saying goes, “You can take the animal out of the wild, but you can’t take the wild out of the animal.” Indeed, as most pet owners can attest, our beloved animal friends like to remind us of their savage origins as often as they can. Be it a dog howling uncontrollably at a rival across the street or a house cat ambushing an unsuspecting pair of feet, there is no shortage of ways in which our supposedly tame companions can offer us glimpses of the beast that lurks within.

The Clements Library has an abundance of material regarding encounters, interactions, and relationships with all sorts of wild creatures. Many readers may already be familiar with the remarkable John Capen Adams (1812-1860), more commonly known as “Grizzly Adams.” A failed Gold Rush miner turned hunter, trapper, and circus performer, Adams made a substantial living out of killing, capturing, taming, and selling dangerous animals such as bears, wolves, coyotes, and cougars. Many of his adventures are recorded in the autobiographical *Life of J.C. Adams, Known as Old Adams, Old Grizzly Adams, Containing a Truthful Account of his Bear Hunts, Fights with Grizzly Bears, Hairbreadth Escapes, in the Rocky and Nevada Mountains, and the Wilds of the Pacific Coast* (New York,

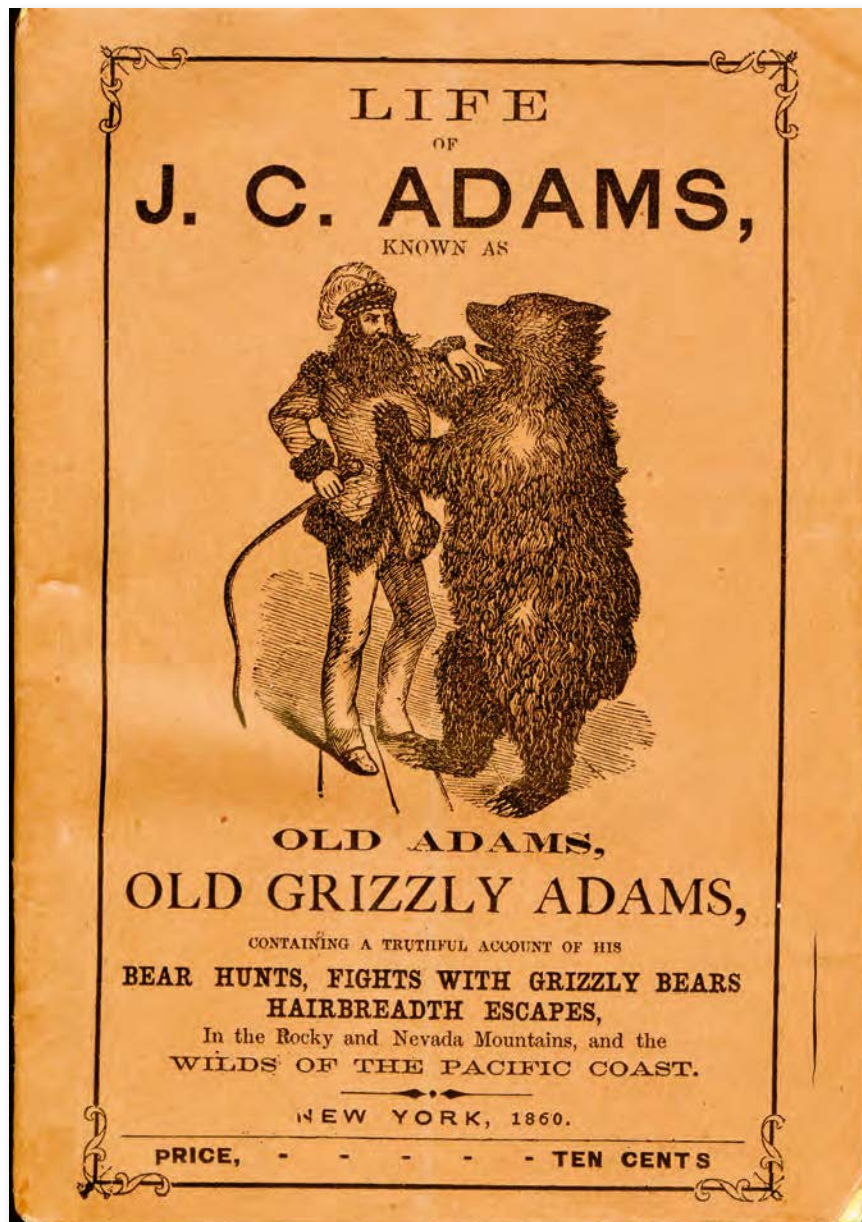
1860), including several accounts regarding bear cubs that were caught and molded into loyal companions. One of Adams’s favorite bears was a female grizzly named Lady Washington that he trained to a pack animal. Adams claimed to have taught his beloved “pack bear” how to “carry a saddle, and

Lady Washington’s warm, shaggy belly fur during especially frosty nights while camped out in the wilderness. Another bear, a male grizzly dubbed Ben Franklin, became one of Adams’s most faithful associates. In Ben’s infancy, Adams placed him in the care of a female dog who had recently given birth to a litter of puppies. As a result of being raised by a canine mother, Ben “grew into many of her habits, and learned to hunt in company with her.” In 1855, Adams narrowly avoided a gruesome death at the hands of a gigantic grizzly bear when Ben suddenly appeared and courageously “attacked the bear, in my defense, with a ferocity and effect that completely turned the scale of victory in my favor.”

Unfortunately for Adams, he suffered an injury to his skull during the bear’s assault. It never healed properly and became mortally infected during a circus tour in 1860 after a show-monkey sunk its teeth into the wound.

J. O. Barrett’s *The Soldier Bird*. “Old Abe”: the Live War-Eagle of Wisconsin, that Served a Three

Years’ Campaign in the Great Rebellion. (Madison, Wisconsin, 1876) describes the incredible life story of a temperamental bald eagle who served as the mascot of a Wisconsin volunteer regiment during the Civil War. An Ojibwa hunter took Old Abe from his nest as a



to go along very well with a load upon her back” and would sometimes even “mount into the saddle, and ride her, myself, like a horse, merely to accustom her to such a novelty.”

Adams also wrote of his particular delight at being able to bury himself in



"OLD ABE."

chick in the spring of 1861 before selling him into captivity. Several months later, Captain John C. Perkins of the Union Army purchased the young raptor for \$2.50 and incorporated him into the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 8th (which came to be known as the "Eagle Regiment") became a highly regarded unit during the course of the war. Such was Old Abe's renown in his own right that one Confederate officer was reportedly overheard at the Battle of Corinth ordering his men to watch for the eagle and to "be sure and take him; if this they could not do, to kill him, adding he had rather get that bird than the whole brigade." According to Barrett, Old Abe generally enjoyed the society of those he knew and trusted, yet could still fly into a murderous rage at the slightest provocation. A camp dog by the name of Frank reportedly learned of Old Abe's explosive temper the hard way when, after venturing too close, the eagle suddenly "pounced on him, sticking his talons

"Old Abe," the battle eagle of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, soldiered through three campaigns.

into the hide, and 'making the fur fly.' Such a pow-wow was never before heard in a military camp. Ever after, Frank kept a respectful distance, and from that time Abe has had an eternal hatred for dogs."

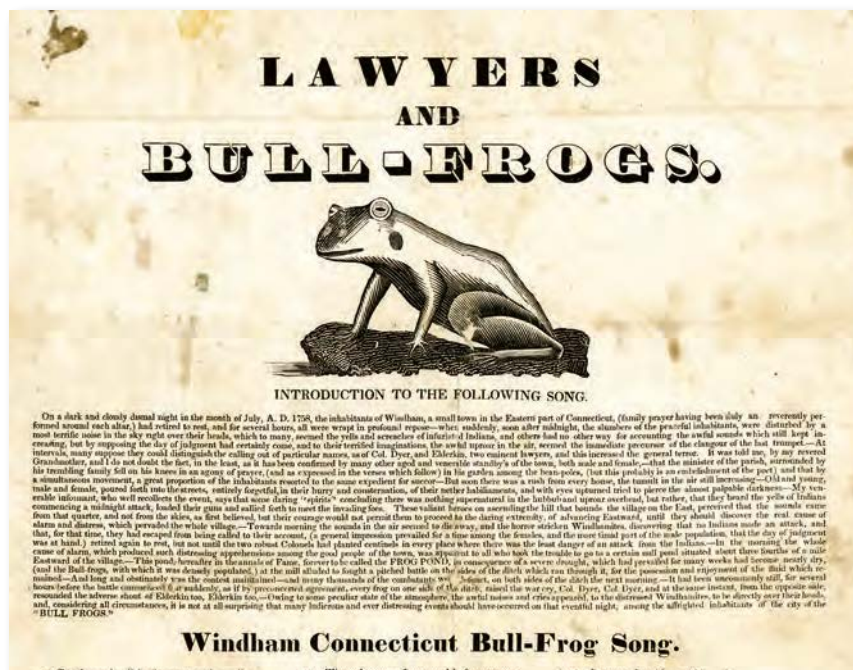
Old Abe, while perhaps the most famous, was not the only wild animal to perform mascot duties during the Great Rebellion. According to Barrett, throughout the Peninsular Campaign "a Minnesota regiment had a half-grown bear which smelt powder in a dozen engagements, and was sent home in good condition," while several other Wisconsin regiments had pet badgers and "a coon, which was

taught many tricks." On the

Confederate side, one Arkansas regiment supposedly "went into the fight at Shiloh with a wildcat, which was captured by the Federals and afterwards killed by accident. Another regiment had a pelican."

A collection of letters written by U.S. Army infantryman Earl Seitzinger to his mother while stationed in El Paso, Texas, from July 1916 to January 1917 includes numerous references to wildlife of the Chihuahuan Desert. On July 31, 1916, Seitzinger wrote that "yesterday a fellow from are [sic: our] company was out for a walk and captured a big triantler bug that is so poisonous that if one should get bit it means sure death a fellow in the 4 regiment got bit one afternoon and died the next morning."

On top of having to be wary of venomous "triantler" insects (scorpions?) and enormous spiders, Seitzinger and his fellow soldiers also had to be on the lookout for western diamondback rattlesnakes. In an August 14, 1916, letter Seitzinger described an attempt to catch a grey squirrel that went awry after "a big rattler came out of a little buch [sic: bush] right aside of me and started to rattle as quick as a flash I stepped back and drew my bayonet . . . and cut his head of [sic: off] with my bayonet as



Windham, Connecticut, has had a special relationship with bullfrogs since the eighteenth century.

about a month the snake is a
genuine rattler so beware it
still has it fangs maby some
one will pull them out some

clean as a whistle.” In another letter to his mother dated October 29, 1916, Seitzinger expressed profound delight in learning that “the box arrived safe and my pets were all alive.” Incredibly, Seitzinger had managed to ship both a live prairie dog and a rattlesnake from El Paso to Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, without either of the animals perishing along the way. Seitzinger seems to have intended the animals to end up in the care of a friend who may have operated some sort of animal exhibition business. Regarding the handling of these critters, he cautioned his mother “that is a real prairie dog, and they are mad at times so be carefull and tell the children not to touch him. I have him pretty well tame but he is awful wild . . . the snake is a genuine rattler so beware it still has its fangs.”

When it comes to relationships with wild animals, the citizens of Windham, Connecticut, have fostered a particularly odd connection with some of their local wildlife. For nearly 260 years, the people of Windham have held the American bullfrog in unusually high esteem. Bullfrog sculptures currently adorn “Frog Bridge” in Willimantic Borough, while in the 1850s a local bank circulated notes illustrated with a bullfrog triumphantly towering over the body of a

conquered rival. Even the town seal of Windham bears the likeness of their cherished amphi-bian mascot.

The origin of Windham’s obsession with North America’s largest species of frog stems from a semi-legendary incident known as “The Battle of the Frogs” that is purported to have occurred in June or July of 1758. Common wisdom has it that due to a lengthy drought a nearby millpond dried up substantially, leaving the resident bullfrog population desperately short of water needed for drinking, hunting, and mating. One evening, the bullfrogs apparently descended upon the pond *en masse*, each of them in a bellicose mood. According to an analysis of the incident published in 1857, what happened next was nothing short of spectacular. At some point after midnight the inhabitants of Windham were abruptly aroused from their slumbers by

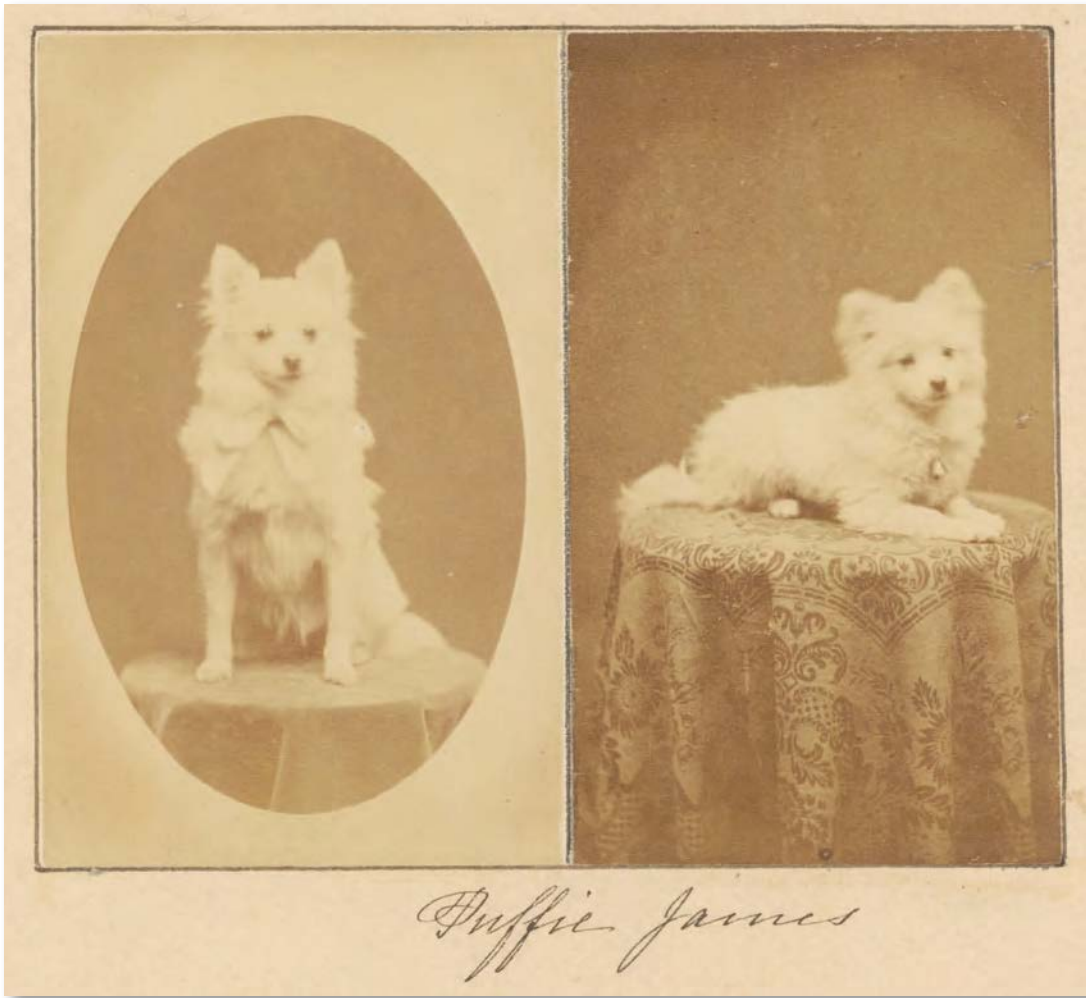
“shouts and cries, and such a variety of mingled sounds, which seemed to fill the heavens.” The townsfolk began to panic, with some thinking that either “the day of judgement was at hand” or that “an army of French and Indians was advancing to attack the town.” With the majority of the citizens

cowering in terror for the remainder of the night, a contingent of the bravest souls decided to investigate the source of the commotion after daybreak. Thinking they had heard the noises coming from the direction of the millpond, the townsfolk were shocked and rather embarrassed to discover that “Dead frogs by hundreds, some say thousands, were lying on the shores of the pond or floating on its surface, either killed in battle, or by some dire catastrophe.” Suffice it to say, the “mortification and chagrin of the citizens, when the facts became known, may well be imagined, and we presume they never heard the last of it.”

—Jakob Dopp
Curatorial Assistant
* 2 cats



Soldiers have always accumulated pets. The blue-coated gunners of the Royal Regiment of Artillery stationed at Fort George, Upper Canada, in 1804 show off their wild pets—two bears, a raccoon, and a fox. Detail from a watercolor by Edward Walsh (1756-1832).



New York Society dog Puffie James. Not only did he sit for a formal portrait, but he had his own calling card as well.



ONCE THERE WERE TWELVE

Members of the CLA are aware of the Library's unmatched collection of manuscripts documenting the British side of the War for Independence. Among the best known of these are the papers of General Thomas Gage. But how many of us give much thought to how Gage's records were transported, accessed, and preserved? The answer to that question is on display in the Avenir Foundation Reading Room.

Perched on a wooden framework at the west end of the room is a pine trunk painted "Spanish brown" with a matching painted canvas lid cover, wrought iron handles, hinges, and a lock. Spelled out in tacks on the top of the lid is "Secty Offs. / N 7 / 1770." The interior of the roughly 32 x 21 x 12-inch box is of unfinished pine enclosing two

levels of pigeonholes. Fourteen slots on each level provide 28 in total. The top tray is removable, and most of the pigeonholes retain paper tags identifying the military post to which the particular correspondence pertained.

The trunk was designed to be portable. Gage's papers moved with him in America and made two Atlantic crossings before coming to the Library in 1937. There were twelve trunks at that time, but they took up valuable space and were of no particular use in the Library, so they were dispersed—all but the one currently on display. Last summer curious members of the Library staff began an effort to account for the "missing eleven." The few clues were mostly dead ends, and very few people who might remember the arrival of the trunks are still with us. But one tip hit the jackpot in October 2017 when two trunks were discovered and returned to

the Library. Though not in as good condition as "Number 7," one of the two retains its tacks (Secty Offs / N 8 / 1771). The other lacks the fabric and tacks or evidence of there ever having been any.

Based on our two trunks with tacks and a 1937 photograph of the lid of another (No 3 / 1766) we now believe the message is: "Secretary Office(s) / [trunk number] / [year of Gage's command]" – the third trunk was 1766; the seventh 1770; and the eighth 1771.

Do any CLA members know the whereabouts of any of the remaining Gage trunks—the "lost nine?" If so, we would love to talk to you about these important artifacts of the American Revolution.

—Brian Leigh Dunnigan
Associate Director & Curator of
Maps

Trunk No. 8 would seem to have contained Gage's correspondence from 1771.



DEVELOPMENTS

*A*s I read our *Quarto* articles, I am often reminded how much we can relate to the inhabitants of this country over the centuries. The bonds with the animals in their lives are not so different from my own experience. My household includes a sweet and gregarious Labradoodle and two shy rabbits. I swear that my dog, Satchmo, loves to dress up, and as I was chuckling at the photo of the dog on page 9, I was thinking about all the photos I have of him in costume!

My favorite piece on display these past few months is a delightful watercolor of a salamander by Edward Walsh. I enjoy leading behind-the-scenes tours and included this item in my tour this spring. Edward Walsh was a British Army surgeon with the 49th Regiment of Foot in Canada when he made several nature sketches in 1803-1807. I invite you to explore our upcoming events including tours at <http://clements.umich.edu/guided-visit.php>. In addition, if you are interested in examining our online collections, you can view digitized items like the Walsh salamander at <http://clements.umich.edu/wlcl-online.php>. Since 2013, donors have provided nearly \$14,000 in support of technology initiatives. You can help us make our collections available for use around the world. It is just one of the many ways to get involved at the Clements Library.

In May we co-sponsored a talk by Lynda Klich about the Leonard A. Lauder real photo postcard collection with the Michigan Photographic Historical Society. I began collecting postcards when I was nine years old. Since they are in shoe boxes and not organized in any scholarly way, I hadn't considered myself a "true collector," until I heard Lynda describe the shoe boxes that Lauder still stores his early collections in! When I was a child, I often tagged along with my grandparents when they went to flea markets. I would buy antique postcards with my allowance making my choices based on the written note or the image without any real strategy except what tickled my fancy on any given day. After the lecture, I got out the shoe boxes and was

pleasantly surprised to revisit the memories contained within the cards. During the lecture, I learned about real photo postcards and found that I have one sample. You may not be surprised to learn that my younger self also favored animals of all types, both realistic and in amusing outfits!

As part of the university's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative, we are providing closed captioning for this past year's lecture recordings. If you are not yet on our monthly e-newsletter list, I encourage you to join it to receive links

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Mary Stockwell's new biography of Anthony Wayne has just been favorably reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*. Mary, formerly on the faculty of Lourdes University, did much of her research at the Clements Library where she was an Earhart Foundation Fellow in 2012 and 2015. *Unlikely General: "Mad" Anthony Wayne and the Battle for America* was published by Yale University Press.



A Parisian dog-groomer, about 1820. Watercolor by Edward William Clay (1799–1857).

to the lecture recordings, hear about upcoming events, and learn more about the collections. Email us at clementsevents@umich.edu to join the email list or with any questions.

—Angela Oonk
Director of Development
* 1 dog
* 2 rabbits

** An informal poll of twenty-two Clements Library staff numbered their pets as: 16 cats, 11 dogs, 6 horses, 1 tarantula, and 2 rabbits.*

STAFF NEWS

Jayne Ptolemy has stood out within the Clements Library staff ever since we hired her as a Library Assistant in 2013. Jayne has helped keep the Avenir Foundation Reading Room humming with efficiency, conducted research for patrons and staff, assisted in the development of finding aids for the Manuscripts Division, and participated in the recruitment and selection of Clements Library Fellows. It is a great pleasure to announce that we have promoted Jayne to Assistant Curator of Manuscripts.

Two new staff members, Erin Berger and Morgan Fenton, will share

reception duties at the South Entrance. Sara Quashnie joins us as a part-time Reading Room Supervisor. Welcome.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Welcome to the newest member of our Committee of Management. Gregory E. Dowd is the Helen Hornbeck Tanner Collegiate Professor of American Culture and History. He will fill the position reserved for a member of the History Department faculty. Greg knows the Clements well having frequently consulted our collections in his research. The late Helen Tanner, we might add, did much of her outstanding cartographic research at the Clements.

2018 POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

It is always a pleasure to announce successful applicants for the Clements Library's limited number of post-doctoral research fellowships. Their topics are thought-provoking, and they provide an idea of the direction in which scholarly historical inquiry is headed.

Dr. Timothy J. Williams of the University of Oregon has been awarded an Earhart Fellowship on American History for his topic, "Civil War Prisons and the Making of Confederate Nationalism, 1861-1900."

Dr. Matthew W. Dougherty of Ryerson University is the recipient of a Norton Strange Townshend Fellowship on American History for his topic, "Land of the Jewish Indians: Religion and the Struggle for Territory in the Early Republic."

Dr. John J. Garcia of California State University, Northridge has been selected for a Reese Fellowship in the Print Culture of the Americas for his topic, "The Early American Bookseller: A Network History, 1679-1891."

2018 PRICE FELLOWS

The Library had its largest-ever field of applicants this year for the Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowships. Forty graduate students and junior faculty members representing thirty-six prestigious institutions made presentations. We were able to fund ten of them.

Christopher Blakley, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, for his dissertation, "Inhuman Empire: Enslaved People and Nonhuman Animals in the British Atlantic World."

Dr. Benjamin Carp, Brooklyn College, CUNY,

for his topic, "The Night Broadway Burned: The New York City Fire of 1776."

Dr. Norah L. A. Gharala, Georgian Court University, for her topic, "Heirs to Their Houses: Families of Africans, Europeans, and Indians in Early North America, 1640-1820."

Nathaniel Holly, College of William & Mary, for his dissertation, "From Chota to Charlestown: The Urban Lives of Cherokees."

Alexey Krichtal, Johns Hopkins University, for his dissertation, "Liverpool, Slavery, and the Atlantic Cotton Frontier, ca. 1763-1833."

Dr. Tessa Murphy, Syracuse University, for her topic, "The Creole Archipelago: Race and Colonization in the Southern Caribbean, 1660-1797."

John Nelson, University of Notre Dame, for his dissertation, "Five Miles of Muddy Ground: Indians, Europeans, and the Chicago Portage."

Dr. Matthew Stallard, University of Manchester (UK) for his topic, "'Never Permit a Free Black to Learn a Trade, or Teach a Slave in Mechanics': Class, Race, and the Mixed-Labour Economy of Antebellum New Orleans."

Catherine Treesh, Yale University, for her dissertation, "Committees of Correspondence: Mobilizing Resistance Communities in the American Revolution."

Hannah Knox Tucker, University of Virginia, for her dissertation, "Masters of the Market: Mercantile Ship Captaincy in the Colonial British Atlantic, 1607-1774."

In addition to the Price Fellowships the Clements now offers a short-term Fellowship for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. These are reserved for students from historically African American schools who are conducting research in DEI topics. The 2018 DEI Fellowship goes to **Andrew Maginn** of Howard University for his topic, "Haiti: An American Nexus, 1815-1915."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 25, 2018 – October 26, 2018: Exhibit: "The D. N. Diedrich Collection of Manuscript Americana, 17th – 20th Century." Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October 2, 2018: Clements Library Associates Board of Governors Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

November 2, 2018 – April 26, 2019: Exhibit: "Over There": With the A.E.F. in France, 1917–1919. Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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