

FEDERAL CORRAL

Due largely to the availability of shipping on both the Illinois Central and the Terre Haute & Alton Railroads, Mattoon became a depot for the acquisition and rehabilitation of Cavalry and Artillery horses, as well as mules for transport use.

North of the city near Dodge Grove Cemetery a large Federal Corral and pasture area were created. Lieutenant Alonzo Eaton, of the Army Quartermaster Corps was sent to Mattoon on the direct orders of General Grant to set up a Federal corral. Eaton took up an office in Mattoon and became the resident Army representative for buying and selling horses and mules.



In addition to buying stock for the Army, played out horses were shipped by rail to Mattoon for rest and rehabilitation, or if too used up, sold.

Many area farmers prospered during this time by selling feed and fodder to the Corral.

Cavalry Horses.
 By order of Gen. Davidson, Chief of Cavalry Depot at St. Louis, Mo., Mattoon, Ills., has been made a Depot for the purchase of Cavalry Horses. These Horses to the following requirements, viz: Height (15) fifteen hands and upwards, age not less than (5) five nor more than (9) nine years.
\$120, Cash,
 will be paid for Horses of the foregoing description suitable for Cavalry service, at the United States Corrals, Mattoon, Ills.
A. EATON,
 Lieut. & A. A. Q. M.
 Mar. 16, '64-373-1f

Army Proposals.
ARTILLERY HORSES!
 To the Farmers and producers of Horses in Illinois.
 THE UNDERSIGNED WILL PURCHASE,
 Direct from the Original Holders, until further notice, all Horses
 Suitable for Artillery Service,
 in accordance with the following specifications and requirements, viz:
 Horses to be from (15½) fifteen and one-half to (16) sixteen hands high, not less than (5) five nor more than (8) eight years old, weight not less than 1050 pounds each; colors, brown, black, bay, chestnut, and dark gray.
 Payment will be made for the above description of Horses in Vouchers payable in St. Louis, at
\$140 per Head.
 These Horses to be delivered and inspected at Government Corral,
MATTOON, ILL.,
 in lots not less than (8) eight.
 By order of Gen. ROBERT ALLEN, Chief Q. M. Western Department.
ALONZO EATON,
 Lieut. & A. A. Q. M.

MORE GOVERNMENT HORSES.--Some 400 used up government horses were unshipped and driven to the Corral at this place this morning.

Eight hundred condemned and captured horses, cattle, mules, &c., will be sold in this place, by order of Lieut. Eaton, commencing on the 5th of June next.

The Mattoon Gazette published running news articles on the status of the Corral and the horses.

All horses fit for duty, in charge of Lt. Eaton, at the Corral at this place, are ordered to the front.

In the Mattoon Gazette of 4 May 1864, it was reported that for the month of April, 268 Cavalry horses had been purchased as the average price of \$188.84, and 90 Artillery horses at \$147.16. Additionally, 16 mules were purchased for an average price of \$158.43. The same article stated that on the 29th and 30th of April, 450 unserviceable Cavalry Horses arrived in Mattoon by train, of which about one-third would be sold, the remainder recuperated on Illinois Prairies.