

## MOSCOW THE CIVIL WAR HORSE

Walking through the Sand Lake Union cemetery in the fall is a pleasure for the eyes. A riot of colors Reds - Yellows - Oranges span the artist palette of every shade. Framed by the Evergreens, Maples, Oaks and Beeches splash of colors greet every visitor. I found a little peace of Sand Lake history many years ago while looking through clippings on Sand Lake in a library. One by Edgar S. Vanolinda in his "Around the Town" column wrote a story about a horse named Moscow who belonged to Colonel James K. Averill. Titled "Averill's Horse Lies in State." When I got home I called Madolyn Carpenter our town historian, she started laughing, she had heard the story about Averill's horse when she was a child.

After I became Sand Lake Town Historian I received a letter from Evelyn Howard from Rhode Island, she was interested in the Averill family. The family wanted to mark Jennie Averill's grave. Many visits and letters later, Evelyn called, the stone would be done for Jennie in the spring. They had also made the decision to mark Moscow's grave as well. I was so happy that this little piece of Sand Lake History would not be lost.

I am one of the volunteers from the Fort Crailo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) who mark the graves of soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. This spring when I gathered my American flags to mark the graves of these soldiers, I placed a flag near the stone of Moscow The Civil War Horse.

As you enter Sand Lake Union cemetery to your left you will see a flag pole that marks the Averill lot, in back area of that lot you will see the small flag near the stone that marks his grave. the inscription reads "Moscow Civil War Horse." We knew that James Averill was called Colonel Averill yet no service record has been found.

Friends helped in the search, Etheleen Williams, wrote to her daughter with the story of Averill's horse named Moscow. Many months later a letter came, the young lady had worked on this project all winter long. She found an Averill who had served under General Custer in the Civil War. Custer's command. We still don't have all the facts. We know certain parts and yet we do not have all the story.

During a battle Moscow's owner was wounded and the horse ~~the~~ carried his master to safety. Later the horse was presented to Col. Averill because of his dedication to helping Civil War Soldiers.

Col. Averill's affection and love for this special horse became evident when he purchased the burial lot for his family, the lot was large. Moscow was to be buried near his owner. <sup>James</sup> ~~James~~ Averill died his son carried out his fathers wish. <sup>when</sup>

Mr. Averill and Moscow ~~lead~~ <sup>led</sup> the Memorial Day Parade; the day came when Moscow was too old to lead the parade ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> was retired. The next Memorial Day. the bands music could be heard in the distance, Moscow knew when that music played he was to lead the march. Over the fence he jumped, galloped a short distance toward the music <sup>and then</sup> he slumped to the road. His heart <sup>had</sup> ~~given~~ out.