

## John Rarey: The Horse Whisperer

More than 100 years ago a local boy named John Rarey was making a name for himself using gentle horse-breaking techniques which was unusual for that time. Rarey was born in 1827 in Groveport, Ohio and spent many solitary hours in his youth studying horses on his parent's horse farm.

The Rarey method of horse training included watching their body language and speaking to them quietly. In 1857 he crossed the Atlantic Ocean and appeared before Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. They were so impressed with his unique manner they invited him to their daughter's wedding, Princess Victoria to Frederick William, Crowned Prince of Prussia. His royal visit proved to be a milestone in his career leading to worldwide recognition and fame.

While in England, Rarey was asked to work with a vicious and ill-behaved horse, Cruiser. He had turned so mean that he wore an iron muzzle so he could not bite anyone and his stall was made of brick. Through perseverance, gentleness and his method of hobbling a horse's foreleg, Rarey tamed the wild beast.

Cruiser's original owner gave him to Rarey. The two became famous by traveling the United States giving horse training exhibitions. Cruiser became just as famous as the hometown boy, Rarey.

Cruiser outlived Rarey by nine years. In his will, Rarey made specific arrangements for Cruiser for he feared any other owner would exploit the horse. Cruiser lived out the rest of his life on the Rarey farm in Groveport, which later became the site of Groveport Madison High School. If you ever wondered for whom the Groveport Cruisers are named, wonder no more.

### Sources:

*John Rarey, Horse Tamer*

Nancy Bowker  
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*The Horse Cruiser and the Rarey Method of Training Horses*

Sara Lowe Brown  
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