



Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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Volume 50, No. 11
November, 2010
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Deadline is 1:00PM, last Wed. of the month 2 weeks before the regular meeting. Items can be given the editor by hand, mail or e-mail.

President's Message:

Many thanks to Ray Cosyn for traveling from Saratoga to tell us the story of the Lincoln Funeral Train in its passage from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois in that fateful year of 1865. His presentation was well received stimulating many questions and much discussion. Thank you, Ray, for a splendid talk and reminding me that I must put a visit to Springfield on my future travel agenda.

November's meeting brings the annual election of officers. Although all offices are open for new candidates, we must vote in the present slate and replace Jim Middleton who has resigned after serving faithfully for nearly ten years as Battle Cry Editor. Recent new member Brent ten Pas has come forward volunteering to step into Jim's shoes and will require membership approval. Present officers, excepting Jim, are listed on the left and willing to serve another year pending membership approval. I recommend our members review the by-laws published on the website www.sacramentocwrt.com.

It has come to my attention that after each meeting the raffle is interrupted by conversations among members. Out of courtesy to John Zasso, who has graciously conducted the raffle over more than ten years, the board suggests holding off private discussions until all items are won. There is no reason we are obligated to leave immediately after the meeting is terminated and those who wish to stay for visiting are welcome to do so.

It is not too late to sign up for the annual West Coast Conference in San Francisco November 12-14. Details and registration forms are at www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org or by calling me at (916)-485-1246.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 10, 7PM, at Sam's Hof Brau. The speaker is Ron Vaughn who will discuss 1862's Battle of Pea Ridge, the largest Civil War battle west of the Mississippi. Join us early for dinner and conversation. See you there.

Don Hayden, President

The November 10, 2010 meeting on the Battle of Pea Ridge

The Civil War west of the Mississippi is largely ignored in many histories. The battle of Pea Ridge is sometimes referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West". It is interesting, not only as the largest battle of the Western theater, but it had many different features from Eastern battles, such as Native Americans, troops armed with shotguns, an numerically inferior Union army, different tactics, and others.

Ron Vaughan, speaker

MINUTES

Sacramento Civil War Round Table
September 8, 2010
Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

Attendance-34

Members-27

Silver Williams, Vice President
George Foxworth, Treasurer
Eddie Keister, Secretary
Joan Beitzel
George Beitzel
Roy Bishop
Fred Bohmfalk
Rose Browne
Ardith Cnota
Mitchell Cnota
Irene Cole

Evan Cole
Jerry Cress
Bob Henley
Nina Henley
Wayne Henley
Dennis Kohlmann, PD
Lowell Lardie
Jim Middleton, Editor
Bruce Nothmann
Anne Peasley
Rick Peasley

Paul Rudd, IPP
Brad Schall
Richard Sickert, MAL
Brent Ten Pas
Bob Williams
Guest-7
James Cress
Gail Cretcher
Keith Cretcher
R.L. Jackson
Ruth Jackson
Judy Lubas
Tom Lubas

1. Meeting started at 6:58. Vice President Silver Williams presided. Guest were introduced and welcomed. Fred Bohmfalk reminded the club of the upcoming conference in San Francisco in November. Petitions against the casino at Gettysburg were passed around and signed
2. Brent Ten Pas has generously agreed to take on the editing responsibility of the Battle Cry in the coming year.
3. Member Brad Schall was elected National Commander-in-chief of the Sons of Union Veterans in Kansas City last month. Congrats Brad!
4. Our speaker for the evening was Tom Lubas of the North Bay CWRT. Tom came from Santa Rosa to present "Kansas-Missouri Boarder War." He spoke on the events leading to the conflict, also the personalities and their involvement, good and evil, on both sides. He had graphics and sound effects to accompany his talk. He also gave each member a crossword puzzle to take home. Tom- you forgot the answer key! Thank you it was great.
5. Raffle was held, thanks to Anne Peasley for help with the tickets. Meeting adjourned at 8:21.

Eddie Keister
Secretary

October's Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the October 13, 2010 meeting was \$3,008.57. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests; the raffle brought in \$57.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

MINUTES

Sacramento Civil War Round Table

October 13, 2010

Hof Brau Restaurant, 2500 Watt Ave, Sacramento

Attendance-37

Members-31

Don Hayden, President

Silver Williams, Vice President

George Foxworth, Treasurer

Eddie Keister, Secretary

Joan Beitzel

George Beitzel

Roy Bishop

Fred Bohmfalk

Marsha Cain

Harvey Cain

Jerry Cress

Bob Hanley

Scottie Hayden

Nancy Hayden

Nina Henley

Wayne Henley

Pam Hubbard

Chuck Hubbard

Dennis Kohlmann, PD

Lowell Lardie

Victor Le

Jim Middleton, Editor

Horst Penning

Mark Penning

Ron Perisho

Nicholas Scivoletto

Brent Ten Pas

Bob Williams

Susan Williams

Maxine Wollen

John Zasso

Guest-6

Ray Cosyns

Gail Cretchen

Keith Cretchen

Eric Henderson

Marty Joseph

Robert Schroedeor

1. Meeting started at 7:08
2. It was announced again that Brent Ten Pas will assume the duties of Editor for The Battle Cry.
3. President Hayden discussed the ongoing situation to keep Gibson Ranch open for future re-enactments. County supervisors will decide to accept or decline the proposal from Doug Ose to lease the Ranch from the county. It is still in the works.
4. Looking for a speaker to speak on African-American soldiers at Cosumnes River College. Contact President Hayden.
5. Program Chairman Dennis Kohlmann looking for speakers for 2011. Dennis also mentioned that The French Impressionism Tour which will be on exhibit at the De Young Museum during the November conference in San Francisco.
6. Ray Cosyn, who is on the Board of Directors for the Saratoga History Museum, presented the "Lincoln Funeral Train- Transforming a Man to a Myth." Mr. Cosyn spoke on the train route from Washington to Springfield Illinois, and the various stops in between. The presentation was accompanied with slides. He shared many facets of each stop as people grieved for their fallen President. Thank you Ray.
7. Member Ron Perisho has a timeshare if needed for the conference in San Francisco.
8. Guest were welcomed and introduced.
9. Raffle was held and meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Eddie Keister
Secretary

The Rise and Demise of the Third System of Coastal Fortifications Part Three



Fort Monroe is located in Hampton, Virginia on Old Point Comfort where the Hampton Roads Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay meet. It was one of the first constructed, the largest, and perhaps the most elaborate of all of the Third System fortifications; and was considered to have been General Simon Bernard's masterpiece. Due to its massive size, as evidenced by a 64 acre parade ground, the construction time spanned 20 years from 1817 until completion in 1837.

Fort Monroe is an irregular hexagonal shaped works with very large open bastions. In addition to a bastion at each corner, one was placed midpoint dividing the longest side of the fort. (See aerial photo). The long side was the main channel front, with casemates on the curtains, flanks and bastions. Casemated guns joined those on the barbette tier to provide direct fire on the channel. Additional fire on the channel was achieved by the two secondary fronts off set at 45 degree angles. The Fort also had a unique 40 gun casemated water battery located across the 40-60 foot wide, 8 foot deep wet moat, reached by a *postern* (back door) and bridge. In all Fort Monroe had positions for mounting up to 467 cannons. The early construction engineer was Charles Gratiot, USMA 1806; and later Rene DeRussy, USMA 1812, who subsequently superintended construction of the San Francisco Bay defenses.

Complimenting Fort Monroe was to be Fort Calhoun; renamed Fort Wool at the start of the Civil War for obvious reasons. It is located across the channel on the Rip Rap Shoals, but foundation conditions became a serious problem. This was a situation not unlike that at Fort Pulaski, but much more severe. The structure was envisioned to be a "tower" fort of three casemate plus the barbette tier; and mounting 216 gun; but foundation settlement could not be controlled. Construction work started in 1826, but was discontinued for some 25 years,

hoping for stable conditions to occur. Ultimately a single tiered works was partially completed, but that was largely demolished during the Endicott period. On numerous occasions Fort Wool's artillery did fire on Rebel shipping and coastal batteries during the Civil War.

Fort Monroe's original mission was to protect the entrance to Hampton Roads and the several port cities that had access to its waters. The fort accomplished this mission by mounting an impressive array of the most powerful artillery of the time, 32-pounder guns with a range of over one mile. This was just enough range to cover the main shipping channel into the area. In 1824, while still under construction, the fort received another important mission when it was chosen as the site for the Army's new Artillery School of Practice.

During the Civil War, Fort Monroe was more than just a thorn in the side; it was a downright terrible pain in the "you-know-where" for the Confederacy. Unlike others this Fort was quickly garrisoned so that it could not fall to Rebel forces. R. E. Lee, as a junior engineering officer had been stationed at Fort Monroe, 1831-34; and he was well aware of its strengths. There is no evidence that he ever later gave serious thought of attacking it. In cooperation with the Navy, troops from Fort Monroe extended Union control along the coasts of the Carolinas. Early on it denied the Rebels the full use of the Gosport Naval Yard.

Also important were the several land operations against Confederate forces mounted from the Fort, notably the battle of Big Bethel in June 1861, McClellan's Peninsula Campaign of 1862 and the siege of Suffolk in 1863. In 1864, the Army of the James was formed at Fort Monroe. It is also the location where Ben Butler made his famous "contraband" decision, by which escaping slaves reaching Union lines would not be returned to bondage. Commander-in-Chief Lincoln visited the Fort several times for meetings during the war. Later, the captured Insurrectionist-in-Chief J. Davis was held prisoner there for two years while the federal government tried to decide what to do with this traitor. His unpleasant first room-of-residence in a casemate is shown in the attached photos.

Over extended time the armament at the Fort was upgraded, taking advantage of new technologies. In addition, the Fort controlled several sub-installations around Hampton Roads, making the area one of the most heavily defended in the

country. By World War II, Fort Monroe served as headquarters for an impressive array of coast artillery guns ranging from 3-inch rapid fire rifles to 16-inch guns capable of firing a one ton projectile 25 miles. In addition, the Army controlled submarine barriers and underwater mine fields from that location. But this vast array of armaments was all made obsolete by the development of the long-range bomber and the aircraft carrier.

After the operational armament was removed, Fort Monroe received a mission that it still maintains to this day. Since World War II the major headquarters that have been stationed there have all been responsible for training soldiers for war. Since 1973 Fort Monroe has been home to the Training and Doctrine Command, which combines the training of soldiers with the development of operational doctrine and the development and procurement of new weapons systems. Fort Monroe is the only Fort of the Third System which is still an active military post and continues to have an important effect on the current history of our Nation and the Army; *but* those days are rapidly coming to a close.

Some two years ago the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted in favor of the Fort's closure. And, with the subsequent approval by the Secretary of Defense and President, that is scheduled to occur 15 September 2011. Fort Monroe was the first, largest, most elaborate and will have provided the longest service as an active military installation of any of the Third System Coastal Fortifications. Established as a U. S. Army installation in 1817, the Fort will have provided 194 years of continuous service. I believe this makes its tenure the third longest of any military installation and next in longevity to Carlisle Barracks. (What military installation has the longest continuous active service?) The longevity is due in large measure to changing missions over the years, mainly as to the location for military service specialty schools, similar to the ongoing role of Carlisle. Fort Monroe had also been the location of various army command headquarters in the post WWII era.

Fort Monroe and the some 500 acres surrounding it was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1960. Most of this land will now be managed by the State of Virginia in the future. However, the Fort proper (i. e. the Moat-

Ramparts and all area within) will probably be under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service; plus, hopefully, many of the historic buildings outside the moated area. The Fort Monroe Reuse Plans are presently being formulated, and must receive approval of the DOD and NPS. *So, the State of Virginia's fervent desire to acquire Fort Monroe in 1861 will be met, at least in part, in 2011 by stroke of the pen of the BRAC Commission!*

Since this Fort is an active military base it has been well maintained and is in a remarkably fine condition. While the only remaining outworks consist of one *place d'arms* and one magazine, the entire Fort is intact. One exception is that much of the separate casemated water battery had been removed to make way, I believe, for an Endicott Battery which was also later removed. Like San Francisco's Fort Point alteration of many of the interior rooms for use in later missions has obscured the original details; but a portion of the casemate museum has been restored to its original. Although unused and in only fair condition other casemates are accessible by special permission.

The museum does a fine job of interpretation; and there is a book store/gift shop providing a wide array of publications and other good stuff. Allow another hour or so to roam around the ramparts and walk along the moat to gain a flavor of what a mid 19th century attacker would have been up against. Visit Officer's Quarters #1 where Lincoln stayed during his sojourns; Quarters #17 where Lee lived in the 1830's, the Post Chapel of the Centurion, built in 1856, with its 24 stained glass nave windows (several by Louis Tiffany); and observe that Jeff Davis' casemate quarters really did not measure up to Motel 6 standards. Fort Monroe is easily accessible. A visit is a rewarding experience and may entice subsequent ones.

I hope to see many of you at the San Francisco Conference on Forts, 12-14 November.

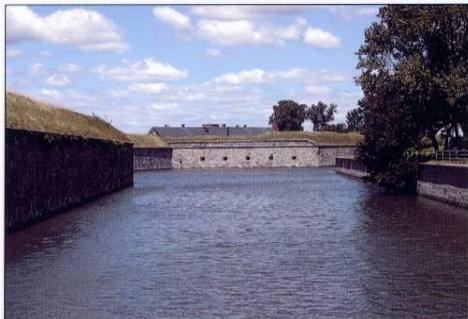
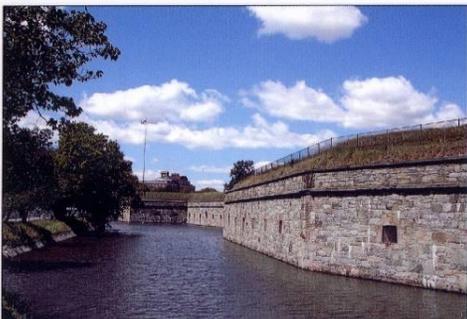
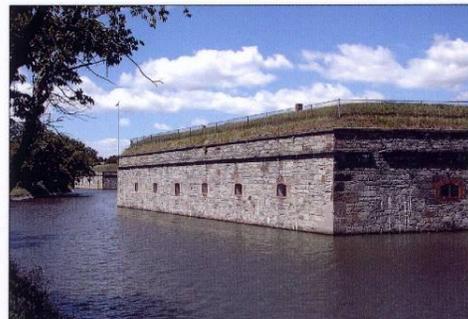
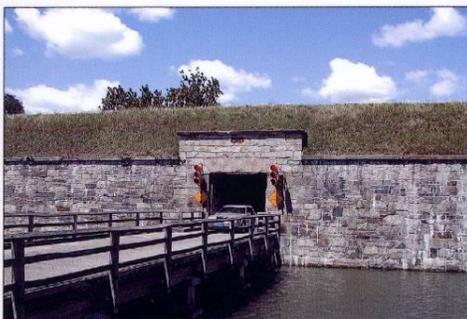
Main References: "Fortress America (1)" by D. Clary 1990; "Fortress America (2)" by J. & H. Kaufmann; 2004; "Fort Monroe Reuse Plan" by NPS, DOD & the Fort Monroe Authority, 2009.

R. A. Williams: 10-15-2010

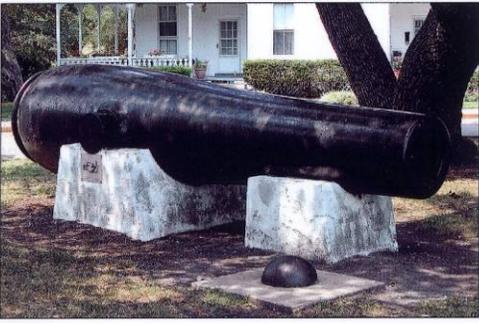
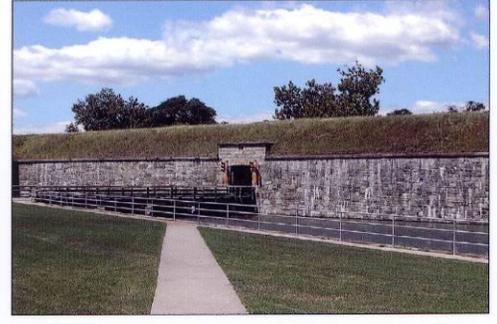
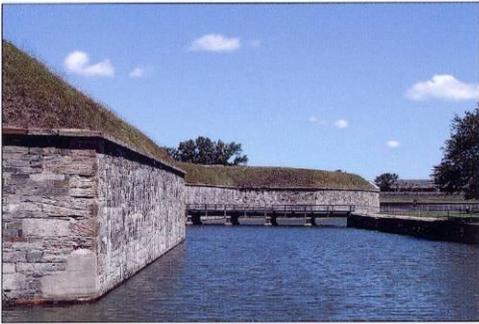
Part 3 Photo Group A
Coastal Fortifications of the Third System, 1816-1868

Fort Monroe

Hampton Roads, Virginia



Part 3 Photo Group B
Coastal Fortifications of the Third System, 1816-1868
Fort Monroe
Hampton Roads, Virginia



Part 3 Photo Group C

Coastal Fortifications of the Third System, 1816-1868

Fort Monroe

Hampton Roads, Virginia

