

FOCWA Newsletter Topics, 2015 – 2026

History articles are in **red**:

Aug 2026 **The Army Protects the Pony Express**
Jul 2026 **Civil War- America's 2nd Revolution**
Jun 2026 **Feeding the Troops**
May 2026 **State Historic Civil War Sites**
Apr 2026 **Desert Fighting by California Troops**
Mar 2026 **The Emperor of the United States**
Feb 2026 **The Role of the Provost Marshal**
Jan 2026 **The Furthestmost Battle in the Civil War**

Nov 2025 **The Woman Behind the Thanksgiving Holiday**
Oct 2025 **The Use of Hot Shot Cannonballs**
Sep 2025 **The Salvador Affair**
Aug 2025 **The Sanitary Commission in California**
Jul 2025 **Celebrating July 4th, 1862**
Jun 2025 **Alcatraz, Watcher of Ships**
May 2025 **Drinking Alcohol in the Civil War**
Apr 2025 **Coffee in the U.S. Army in the Civil War**
Mar 2025 **Chinese Soldiers in the Union Army**
Feb 2025 **U.S. Navy on the West Coast, 1861 - 1865**
Jan 2025 **Swimming from Alcatraz**

Nov 2024 **Election of 1864**

Oct 2024 **Cooking for the Army**

Sep 2024 **Anniversary of the Park Service**

Aug 2024 **Hawaiians in the Civil War**
Jul 2024 **Celebrating Independence Day, 1874**
Jun 2024 **Would Britain Go to War with the U.S.?**
May 2024 **Laundresses in the U.S. Army in the Civil War**

Apr 2024 **How Did they Lift Those Huge Cannons into Place?**
Mar 2024 **The U.S. Balloon Corps**
Feb 2024 **Inside a Soldier's Haversack**

Jan 2024 **Native Thanksgiving on the Island; Soldiers' Hats in the Civil War**

Oct 2023 **Mischief and Bloodshed - Secessionists in California**
Sept 2023 **Territories of the United States, 1850 - 1865**
Aug 2023 **Military Posts Around the Bay**
June 2023 **Swords in the Civil War**
May 2023 **Birds on Alcatraz**
Apr 2023 **Soldier's Pay**
Mar 2023 **Great Flood of 1862**

Feb 2023 **International Events when Alcatraz was a Fort, Pt. 2**

Jan 2023 **International Events when Alcatraz was a Fort, Pt. 1**

Oct 2022 [Army Shoes](#)
Sept 2022 [Springfield Musket](#)
Aug 2022 [Woolen Army uniforms](#)
Jul 2022 [First person accounts, San Francisco](#)
Jun 2022 [The Gardens of Alcatraz](#)
May 2022 [The Lives of Military Wives](#)
Apr 2022 [The Revenue Cutter Shubrick](#)
Mar 2022 [The Irish in the Civil War](#)
Jan 2022 [Book Review: The President and the Freedom Fighter by Brian Kilmeade \(Lincoln and Douglass\)](#)

Nov 2021 [Thomas Starr King](#)

Oct 2021 [Fleet week; Gunpowder on Alcatraz](#)
Sep 2021 [Camp Reynolds, Angel Island](#)
Aug 2021 [The Army Post and Arsenal at Benicia](#)
July 2021 [Volunteer CW Program; Troops Protect Stagecoach Lines](#)
Jun 2021 [Volunteers return; The Monitor Commanche Arrives and Sinks](#)
May 2021 [Ranger John Cantwell; Pauline Cushman, Union Spy](#)
Apr 2021 [Civil War Trust video on Alcatraz; the Sultana explosion, April 1865](#)
Mar 2021 [Alcatraz re-opens: Gen. McPherson, Alcatraz engineer](#)
Feb. 2021 [Book Review: *Confederates in the Attic*; Conspiracies and Rebellions](#)
Jan. 2021 [Removing Lincoln's Name in San Francisco](#)

Nov. 2020 [California election of 1860 \(reprint\)](#)

Oct. 2020 [Island update; History Days; Firefighting in 1860's San Francisco](#)
Sep. 2020 [Alcatraz re-opens; Medicine in the 1860's](#)
Mar. 2020 [A Fortress Against Slavery; Board meeting notes](#)
Feb. 2020 [Privateers in San Francisco Bay? ; Volunteer luncheon](#)
Jan. 2020 [Who Owned Alcatraz?](#)

Nov 2019 [Alcatraz and Native Americans; 50th anniversary of Indian occupation, 1969](#)
Oct 2019 [How Alcatraz Got Its Name; Alcatraz LHD; Book Review: Yerba Buena - San Francisco](#)
Sept 2019 [The Russian Navy visits San Francisco, 1863, part 2; Union Navy sailor honored](#)
Aug 2019 [The Russian Navy visits San Francisco, 1863; Book Review "Friends in Peace and War"](#)
July 2019 [Jose Ramon Pico; Book Review: California Lacers by Tom Prezelski](#)
June 2019 [The British Naval Squadron in the Northwest 1845-1865; May Living History Day](#)
May 2019 [Seacoast Forts](#)
Apr. 2019 [Book review: The War Criminal's Son — The Civil War Saga of William A. Winder](#)
Mar 2019 [Living History Day at Fort Point; board meeting notes](#)
Feb 2019 [The U.S.S. Cyane — Historic Ship of the West Coast; Lecture on Shiloh by](#)

Jan 2019 [Escapes during the Military Prison era](#)

Nov 2018 [California election of 1860](#)

Oct 2018 FOCWA election results; Living History Day; [1859- a consequential year](#)

Sep 2018 FOCWA Meeting; [Sherman in California, Pt.2](#); Ft. Point Living History Day

Aug 2018 [Sherman in California, Pt.1](#)

July 2018 Angel Island; Brad Schall retires

Jun 2018 New head ranger; [Union Army discipline](#)

May 2018 Living History Day; Civil War Trust

Apr 2018 [S.F. Civil War Street Names Pt. 3](#); S.F. Mint History Days

Mar 2018 [S.F. Civil War Street Names Pt. 2](#); new superintendent

Feb 2018 [S.F. Civil War Street Names Pt. 1](#)

Jan 2018 [Who Knew About Alcatraz?](#); Book review: [California & The Civil War](#) by Hurley

Nov 2017 [Thanksgiving during the Civil War](#)

Oct 2017 [Regimental Bands](#); Living History Day Alcatraz; Halloween at Ft. Point

Sept 2017 Chronicle reports on Ft. Point Civil War Day; [Alcatraz almost abandoned](#)

Aug 2017 [Protecting San Francisco Bay](#); Civil War Day, Fort Point

July 2017 Sundays on Alcatraz; [What did soldiers eat on Alcatraz?](#)

Jun 2017 [Memorial Day](#); San Francisco National Cemetery

May 2017 [Other California Forts](#)

Apr 2017 Alcatraz Living History Day; FOCWA Honorees

Mar 2017 [Army ranks on Alcatraz](#); Ranger Roldan

Feb 2017 [Resources on California & the Civil War](#); Civil War Day at Fort Point

Jan. 2017 Don Van Auken; [Rodman Cannon](#)

Nov 2016 [Lighthouse & Bell Pt. 2](#) ; Book on Fort Point by John Martini

Oct 2016 [Lighthouse on Alcatraz Pt. 1](#)

Sept 2016 Civil War Day at Fort Point

Aug 2016 [Flags over army forts 1846 - 1865](#)

July 2016 [Captain Stewart, Alcatraz Commander](#); Angel Island Civil War Days

Jun 2016 [History of the Howitzer on Alcatraz](#); painting the cannon

May 2016 [Alcatraz and Mare Island](#)

Apr 2016 Living History Day, Alcatraz

Mar 2016 FOCWA members as Park Ambassadors; FOCWA general meeting

Feb 2016 [Hopi Elders](#); Ft. Point Civil War Day

Jan 2016 [Book Review: Los Angeles in the Civil War](#)

Nov 2015 Book Review: [Antebellum and Civil War San Francisco](#) by Monika Trobits

Oct 2015 Cannon gets drilled; Living History Day; Band renamed the 3rd U.S. Artillery Band

Sept 2015 Board meeting; [Army units at Alcatraz](#)

Aug 2015 East guard room gets a whitewash

Jun 2015 Citadel training; **Book review— The World on Fire by Amanda Foreman**

May 2015 Memorial Day; Board Meeting

Apr 2015 Citadel to Open; Alcatraz Model

Mar 2015 Alcatraz Living History Day; Board meeting

Feb 2015 Interpretive Panels for Civil War Room

Jan. 2015 Ranger Deskal