

# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

February 2018

Editor: Steve Johnson

**San Francisco Civil War Street Names, Part 1** Many San Franciscans may not know that quite a few street names in their city have to do with Civil War history, and that many of them are named for individuals in that conflict who had a connection with the city.



**Baker Street** Edward Dickinson Baker was a lawyer in Illinois where he became friends with Lincoln. He moved west and became a senator from California and later Oregon. He joined the Union Army as a general and was killed in the battle of Balls Bluff in 1861. Lincoln cried when he got the news.

### Dates to Remember

**Thurs., Feb. 15, 2018**  
SF CW Roundtable Lecture  
"Rice, Race, and  
Reconstruction" 6 - 9 pm

**Sat., Feb. 24, 2018**  
Volunteer Appreciation Day  
Presidio, 10 am to noon and  
FOCWA board meeting

**Sat.- Sun. Mar. 3 - 4, 2018**  
San Francisco History Days at  
the Old Mint, 5th & Mission  
10 am to 5 pm, free



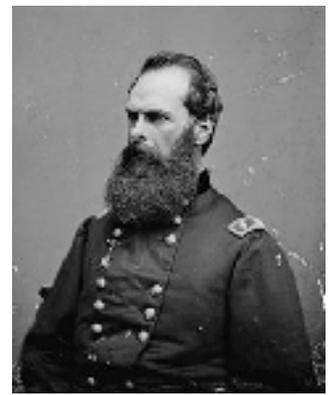
**Broderick Street** Senator David C. Broderick was California's senator in 1857. He was passionately anti-slavery, and he and the state supreme court justice, David Terry, a virulent defender of slavery, had a heated argument which led to a duel at Lake Merced. Broderick was killed and was proclaimed a martyr by abolitionists.

**Chattanooga Street** Named for the Battles of Chattanooga in Tennessee, occurring in 1862 and 1863, and culminating in November 1863 when Maj. Gen. U.S. Grant defeated General Braxton Bragg, effecting Union control of the state.



**Fremont Street** Army scout John C. Fremont gave the name "Golden Gate" to the entrance to San Francisco Bay. Later as an Army officer he lived with his wife for a time in what is now Fort Mason. When the war started he was soon given the command of the Western armies, but was sacked for prematurely freeing slaves. Half-heartedly ran against Lincoln in 1864 and lost.

**Geary Street** John Geary, San Francisco's first mayor, was later given the unenviable task of governing "Bleeding Kansas" in 1856, which he managed to do for a time by calming the pro- and anti- slavery factions in the state. When war broke out he became a brigadier general and served with distinction; he was wounded several times but always returned to his men. Later he became governor of Pennsylvania.



**Grant Street** The first "main street" in the city was Calle de Fundacion, but was later named to honor the 18th President and commanding general of the the Union Army. Grant was stationed at the Benicia army post for a time before he was sent to Fort Humboldt, so he was familiar with San Francisco.



**Ingalls Street** Rufus Ingalls had a long military career. He served as quartermaster under Col. Kearney in California, and continued in that role throughout the Civil War. Rising to the rank of major, he was in charge of supplying the Army of the Potomac in Virginia, which he did so efficiently that Grant put him in charge of the Union supply depot at City Point, VA, which became the largest port depot in the Western Hemisphere.

**Jesse Street** Jesse Benton Fremont was the daughter of the distinguished Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, and wife of the famous scout and Union general John C. Fremont. Jesse was a fervent abolitionist who published many articles on the subject (unusual for women at the time) and invited Thomas Starr King to come to California to preach against slavery. Jesse was central to the effort to keep California in the Union.



**King Street** Thomas Starr king was a well known preacher in New England, and came to California to become the minister of the First Universalist Church in San Francisco. He preached throughout the mines and towns of Northern California and was responsible for the anti-slavery movement to grow and change the make-up of the state legislature. He also did much to raise thousands of dollars for the U.S. Sanitary Commission, which supplied the Union field and regimental hospitals. He is one of the very few whose remains were allowed to stay in the city - he is buried outside his church on Franklin St.

(more in the next issue)

**Fort Point Living History Day** Thanks to over 60 re-enactors, and the Fort Point rangers and volunteers, another successful Civil War living history event was held at the fort on Saturday, January 27. More than 1500 visitors came to the fort and were given tours, watched soldiers drill, saw costumed children playing period games, and stood quietly as the 1861 garrison flag was raised to the sounds of buglers.

FOCWA members Brad Schall and Ken Felton manned the FOCWA and Sons of Union Veterans table, while Steve Johnson led tours and Constance Smith cooked chicken and warmed up apple cider for us. We had an unusually warm and sunny day, which pleased both the re-enactors and the visitors. Part of the barbette (top) tier was closed due to fence restoration, but there was enough space for people to climb up and see the amazing views of the bay from the top of the fort.



Members of the Nevada City Civil War Society came all the way from Carson City to join the event, and most of the re-enactors stayed overnight in the fort and did another flag raising ceremony the next morning. Here the flag detail is about to raise the 34-star garrison flag. Note that it takes 8 men to unfold and prepare the flag.

More photos of this event can be seen in the “past activities” section of our website.

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## Coming Events

If you have volunteered on Alcatraz at a Living History event you were an NPS volunteer and can come to the **Volunteer Appreciation Party** on **Saturday, February 24th**, from 10 am to noon. This will also be the occasion of a farewell to Ranger Lori of Alcatraz, who is retiring this month. If you are planning to come, please email the editor so you can receive an rsvp from the Conservancy, which will give details on the location. If you wish you can come in your Volunteer uniform and/or cap, or in your Union uniform.

We are planning to have a **Board Meeting** right after this event, so please plan to stay so we can plan activities for 2018, determine the budget, and discuss memberships and the election of officers.

This year we will have a table at the **San Francisco History Days** at the Old Mint on 5th & Mission Streets, **March 3 - 4**. It runs from 10 to 5 on Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday. This event draws thousands of visitors, and we need all members to help man the table on both days, taking turns so everyone has a chance to also visit the many booths that share a piece of San Francisco history. Please email Brad Schall to volunteer.

Dublin, CA, is the sister city of Dublin, Ireland, and has a big **St. Patrick's parade** every year. This year the parade will take place on March 17th, which is of course St. Patrick's Day. If you are interested in participating, please contact John Fitzpatrick via the editor.

Resources:

**<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoCivilWarRoundTable/>**

Editor's e-mail: **[ParksVolunteer30@gmail.com](mailto:ParksVolunteer30@gmail.com)**