

NEWSLETTER

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

March 2018

Editor: Steve Johnson

San Francisco Civil War Street Names, Part 2 of 3

This is a continuation of last month's article about San Francisco Street names named after notable personages or events in the Civil War.



Lawton Street Henry Ware Lawton was from Ohio and joined the 9th Indiana Volunteers in 1861, and later re-enlisted with the 30th Indiana Infantry. He became a captain at age 19, and experienced 22 major battles, including Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Corinth. He was given the Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Battle of Atlanta. Later he was in the West serving in the U.S. Cavalry, and it was he and his troops in the 4th Cavalry who captured Geronimo in 1866. Lawton eventually became a general in the army and served in Cuba and the Philippines during the Spanish-American war. He was killed by a Filipino sharpshooter under the command Licerio Gerónimo.

Lendrum Street was named after Captain John Lendrum, who briefly commanded Fort Point in 1861. He had previously served with distinction in the Mexican-American war, serving with U.S. Grant, but was killed near the fort in an accident involving a train of dirt cars in Oct., 1861.



Lincoln Boulevard, Lincoln Way Named, of course, for our 16th president who guided the nation during the Civil War. *Side note:* The Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway that stretched from Times Square in New York to Lincoln Park in San Francisco. It ran through 14 states and 700 cities. Dedicated in 1913, many of the western roads were still unpaved then and at times the highway followed the wagon routes of earlier days. You can still drive the Lincoln highway today, though parts have been re-aligned or absorbed by modern highways.



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

Thursday, March 15, 2018
SF CW Roundtable Lecture
"The Trent Affair" 6 pm

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Peninsula CW Roundtable
"Judah Benjamin: The Brains of the Confederacy" 11:30 am

Saturday, April 7, 2018
Alcatraz Living History Day

You can see the western terminus of the Lincoln Highway in Lincoln Park, near the Legion of Honor

Lyon Street Nathaniel Lyon was the first general to be killed in the Civil War. He had served in the Mexican-American War and in the western frontier. He worked with the German-Americans in St. Louis to smuggle the guns out of the armory there and out of the hands of the pro-Southerners in March, 1861. At the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Lyon — though wounded twice — rallied his men before being shot in the heart. His actions helped diminish the strength of the Southern militia in Missouri and helped keep the state in Union hands.



Montgomery Street In 1846 Captain John B. Montgomery, commanding the *U.S.S. Portsmouth*, arrived in San Francisco and took possession of the town of Yerba Buena by taking down the Mexican flag and raising the American flag. He later commanded the Pacific squadron during the first half of the Civil War.

Civil War started, the first to hold that rank after George Washington. It was he who came up with the “Anaconda Plan” to slowly squeeze the South out of its resources by blockading all Southern ports and seizing the Mississippi. But health reasons caused him to resign in 1861.

Scott Street General Winfield Scott was the senior commander of the army during the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War. He had risen to Lieutenant General by the time the



Sheridan Street Before the war, Phillip Sheridan served as a lieutenant in Texas and then Fort Reading in California. At the beginning of the war he started out in the army as an auditor and quartermaster, but eventually found his calling as a cavalry officer in 1862. Due to his brilliant tactics in several engagements, he went from captain to major general in six months. He became head of the Army of the Shenandoah and applied pressure on Confederate forces under Jubal Early, eventually diminishing its effectiveness altogether. He was responsible in helping to surround Lee's forces near Appomattox which led to the end of the war.

The New Superintendent of the GGNRA is Ranger Laura Joss, who has a long history with the National Park Service. She spent the summer as an intern at Mesa Verde National Park, living in a remote area under primitive conditions — and enjoyed it. She went on to become a ranger at Glen Canyon in Arizona, then Yellowstone, Fort McHenry, and Arches National Park in Utah. Ranger Laura made a point to come over to the Fort Point/Alcatraz table at the recent luncheon for volunteers, and talked about her time at Fort McHenry — and how she learned much about cannons and fort defenses. (She was talking our language!) She thanked us for our service, and we will be sure to invite her to come see the Living History Day on the island on April 7th. We certainly welcome such a personable and experienced ranger to head the GGNRA.



Ranger Laura Joss. Photo courtesy of GGNP Conservancy

Meeting of the Board on February 24th A board meeting of FOCWA was held at the 989 building near Fort Point, after the volunteer luncheon. In attendance were Brad Schall, Gary Hormel, Constance Smith, Steve Johnson, and Frank Avila. Main decisions were: to add an honorary membership “Emeritus” to the membership category, and to add an “Education” committee to the board. Plans were made for the upcoming San Francisco History Days and Alcatraz Living History Day. We will continue Civil War programs on Alcatraz every Sunday with FOCWA volunteers Brad Schall, Gary Hormel, Steve Johnson, Constance Smith.

Coming Events

The Friends of Civil War Alcatraz will have a table at the **San Francisco History Days** event at the Old Mint at 5th and Missions Streets the weekend of **March 3 and 4**. Sponsored by the City of San Francisco and the California Historical Society, the event draws thousands of visitors every year. This is a major opportunity to reach out to the public, to explain our mission, and hopefully recruit new members. Call Brad Schall if you can help. The hours are 11-5 Saturday, 11-4 Sunday.

Living History Day on Alcatraz on Saturday, April 7th. We will need members to man the FOCWA information table throughout the day.

Resources:

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

<http://www.peninsulacivilwarroundtable.org>