

NEWSLETTER

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

JULY 2015

EDITOR: Steve Johnson

Sally Port Grand Unveiling Thanks to a massive outreach by the NPS, dozens of reporters and camera crews were on hand when the east side of the sally port was opened for viewing for the first time in a century. Members of FOCWA were there to participate in the ceremony and to provide interpretation about the sally port and Fort Alcatraz.

Dates to Remember

**August 15, 10 am - 5pm
Civil War Day at
Fort Point NHS**



FOCWA members Steve Johnson and Charles Kenyon (r) hold ribbon for ceremony.
Photo by Michael Macor, San Francisco Chronicle

GGNRA Superintendent Chris Lehnertz gave a brief speech explaining the importance of the sally port in the history of the island. David Dusterhoff, the project manager, said the restoration project, which included the second story and the old library, cost over three million dollars, mostly for the seismic retrofitting. After the speeches, it was time to cut the ribbon and take down the canvas to reveal the restored brickwork and the view of the bay, and the cannon port of the east room. The long-held dream of FOCWA, to take down the old boathouse and reveal the brickwork of the 1860's fort, has finally been realized.

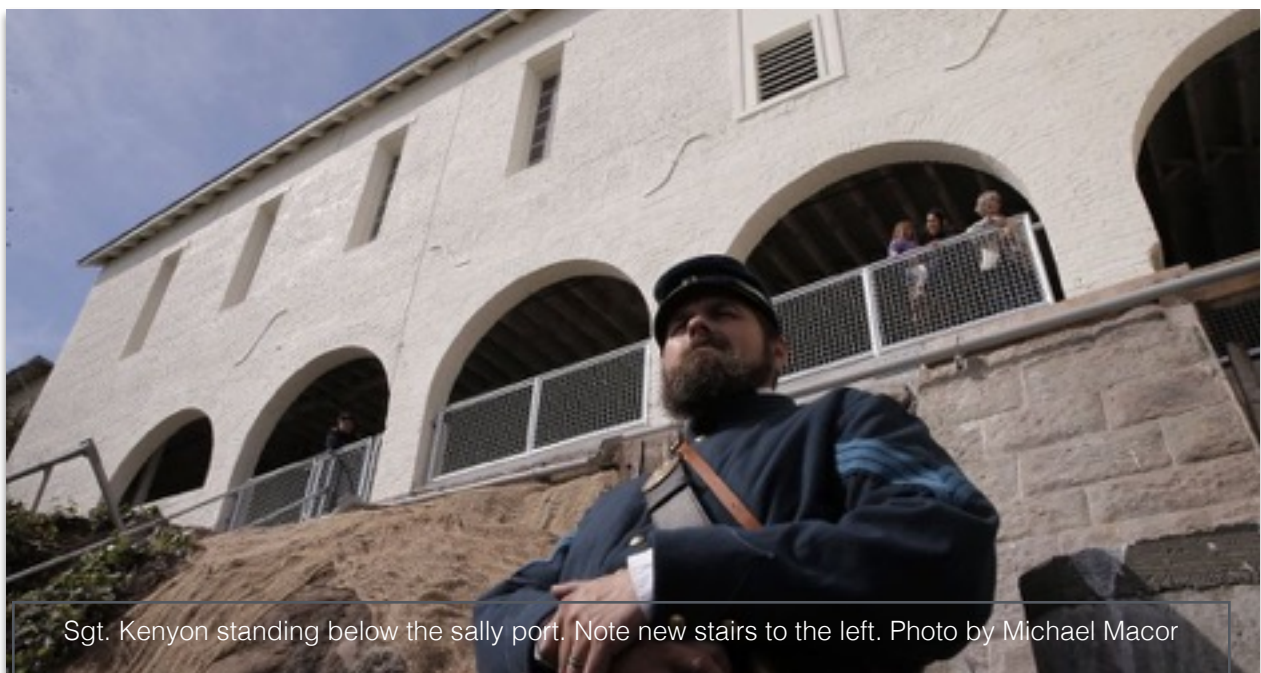
Carl Note, the San Francisco Chronicle's longtime reporter, wrote a fine piece about the early history of Alcatraz. The article included many interesting photos of the history of

Alcatraz taken from the Chronicle's files. The article can be found at <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Renovation-opens-up-earlier-pre-prison-history-6361610.php>



View from the east guard room of the sally port. Photo by Michael Macor

Visitors can now have a better sense of how the cannons in the sally port were the first line of defense if the island was ever invaded. A new stairway now leads down the basement of the sally port, and eventually small groups can be taken down to see where military prisoners were kept in the early days of Fort Alcatraz.



Sgt. Kenyon standing below the sally port. Note new stairs to the left. Photo by Michael Macor



The Sally port ceremony. Photo by Michael Macor



From left: FOCWA Members Constance Smith, Gary Hormel, Steve Johnson, (NCWA President Grant Coffin), Charles Kenyon, and Megan Putman. Photo by Ranger Lori Brosnan