

FOCWA Newsletter Topics, 2015 – 2025

History articles are in **red**:

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 [Mischievous 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](#)

Nov 2022 [California Politics in the Civil War](#)

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 Larry Tagg

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 Auker; [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

July 2015 Sally port unveiling

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