



**Volume 50, No. 9**  
**September, 2010**  
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**Deadline is 1:00PM, last**  
**Wed. of the month 2 weeks**  
**before the regular meeting.**  
**Items can be given the editor**  
**by hand, mail or e-mail.**

# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
<http://sacramentocwrt.com/>



## President's Message:

I am always fascinated by Jim Stanbery's ability in bringing a new perspective to a Civil War event. The importance of the battles for Chattanooga is well known but his concept of "The Game of Doors" shed new light on the strategy eventually leading to the war's end. I have been privileged to hear Professor Stanbery's talks for ten years and he has helped me to understand the overall picture. Add into the equation his enthusiasm and boundless energy and he has few peers. We are fortunate to have him out here in the Golden State and look forward to many more of his presentations.

I think the name tags are a great idea and thank the volunteers who have provided them at the last few meetings. In the event we need to free them up we will always have some available at the first table and request that you wear them. They do facilitate us getting to know each other.

The quest to get the re-enactors involved in solving the Gibson Ranch crisis has been accomplished. Since our meeting August 11<sup>th</sup> George Foxworth, Paul Ruud and I have brought together officers of the National Civil War Association with Doug Ose. Mr. Ose's plan is to contract with the county to continue the multiple services the ranch has provided under his aegis. We plan to support him and assume the NCWA will as well.

Please remember that Gettysburg is again being threatened by a gambling casino proposed very near its southern border. This is the same limited partnership which was previously defeated. [www.civilwar.org/nocasino](http://www.civilwar.org/nocasino) will provide the details. If you wish you can protest this at several levels listed in that site. I plan to bring copies of a petition to the next meeting circulated by the Civil War Preservation Trust.

September is the last month to get the lowest rate for the West Coast Civil War Conference in San Francisco, \$179. Dates are Nov. 12-14, 2010. Details are on our website [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) and on [www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org](http://www.friendsofcivilwaralcatraz.org). Speakers are James McPherson, Craig Symonds, John Martini, Rick Hatcher, and Jim Stanbery.

Don't miss our next meeting Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, Sam's Hofbrau. Our speaker is Tom Lubas, President of North Bay CWRT, Santa Rosa. He will cover the Kansas-Missouri Border Wars which should prove quite exciting. Come early for dinner and social hour.

**Don Hayden, President**

# MINUTES

## SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Wednesday, August 11, 2010  
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

### ATTENDANCE – 31

#### MEMBERS – 24

Don Hayden, President  
Silver Williams, Vice-Pres.  
George Foxworth, Treasurer  
George Beitzel  
Joan Beitzel  
Roy Bishop  
Jerry Cress  
Alan Geiken

Bob Hanley, MAL  
Scottie Hayden  
Nancy Hayden  
Chuck Hubbard  
Pam Hubbard  
James Juanitas  
Dennis Kohlmann, PD  
Lowell Lardie

Anne Peasley  
Rick Peasley  
Ron Perisho  
Paul Ruud, IPP  
Nancy Samuelson  
Bob Williams  
Maxine Wollen  
John Zasso

#### GUESTS – 7

Charles Christian  
Mary Lou Christian  
Jim Cress  
Brad Friedman  
Laurel Hayden  
Eric Henderson  
Rob Schroder

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. by President Don Hayden who welcomed members and guests.
2. President Hayden gave the members an update on the proposal by Doug Ose to keep Gibson Ranch open after the closure by Sacramento County. Mr. Ose and Gibson Ranch personnel should contact the National Civil War Association (NCWA), the organization that brings the re-enactment to Gibson Ranch.
3. President Hayden introduced the speaker, Professor Jim B. Stanbery from Harbor College in Los Angeles. "The Game of Doors" was the topic and Mr. Stanbery talked about possible motives and results in the Western Front. For example, the South may have wanted the War to stay in Virginia to protect the cotton states. Another issue was tactical victories versus strategic victories. Finally, the possible objectives versus the true objectives were discussed. The battles of Fort Henry 1862, Fort Donelson 1862, Shiloh 1862, Kentucky 1862, Stones River 1862, Vicksburg 1863, Chickamauga 1863, Chattanooga 1863, and Atlanta 1864 were discussed in light of the War. Mr. Stanbery illustrated how the Union Army stayed out of the Mississippi Valley throughout the War. It may or may not have been a goal and/or objective of the South. Mr. Stanbery was excellent and received many questions during and after the presentation. Thank you very much Jim.
4. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM and the raffle began with John Zasso selling additional tickets and reading the numbers.

**George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Edie Keister**

### **Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the July 14, 2010 meeting was \$3,556.67. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$61.00.

The cash balance following the August 11, 2010 meeting was \$3,190.88. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$61.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

<b>Coming Programs 2010</b>		
Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Lubas	Kansas/Missouri Border Wars
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Cosyn	Lincoln's Funeral Train

### **September 2010 Talk**

Many historians believe that the Kansas Missouri Border Wars were the precursor to the American Civil War. The talk demonstrates how political math played an important role in provoking what was called at the time "bleeding Kansas". Centered on this theme were famous and infamous participants who will be featured.

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From our friends in Elk Grove:

For those getting ready to attend the fall conference in San Francisco we have an interesting program in September at the Elk Grove CWRT. Dr. Blaine Lamb will speak on "The Other Fort: Camp Reynolds and Angel Island during the Civil War". Our meeting is on Wednesday September 15, 2010.

No host dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. The meeting is held at Denny's Restaurant, 8707 Elk Grove Blvd. Elk Grove, CA. Anyone interested or needing more information contact George Beitzel at 916 897 2588

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### **From the Editor:**

In May, I notified the Board that I would not accept the editor's position in 2011. As of the last time I heard, there were no volunteers. Being editor is an easy position giving one contact with everything going on in the SCWRT. Some people might be uncertain about taking this position, thinking they don't have the necessary skills. When I became editor, I knew almost nothing, never having been editor anywhere before. There are people in the group who have had experience as editor. Paul Ruud and George Foxworth have both had some experience and would be happy to help. I will still be around to show you the ropes if you want. If you volunteer before December I will show you how I do it personally either at your home or mine.

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### **Canon Used in Battle of Westport-----Alcatraz**



## The Rise and Demise of the Third System of Coastal Fortifications Part One

With memories fresh of the burning of



Washington, D.C. in August 1814 during the War of 1812, President Madison appointed a Board of Engineers in 1816 to survey the

nation's coastal defense needs and recommend measures to meet them. Thus was the start of the planning, design and construction of what later became known as the Third System of Coastal Forts. First and Second System Forts were defined as those constructed between about 1794-1807 and 1807-1814, respectively. Representative of the latter were: Fort McHenry, which protected Baltimore from capture; and Fort Washington on the Potomac River which *might* have protected the Capitol City had its garrison not cowardly deserted their posts. Two other Fort of the second period, Fort Moultrie at Charleston and Fort James Jackson at Savannah, provided some service during the Civil War.

The make up of the new Board was of interest. It consisted of six members, two senior officers of the U.S. Corps of Engineers and two junior officers of that corps; one of whom was the immensely talented Joseph Totten, plus a US Navy representative, since it was fully recognized that the navy was the first line of coastal defense. But for Chairman, Madison, at Lafayette's advice, chose a French engineer and former Senior Aid to Napoleon, Simon Bernard. The French at that period were the world leaders in science and technology. Madison made the appointment to provide the Board greater stature, but this hurt the feelings of the senior U.S.C.E. officers who promptly resigned. However, the young engineer members welcomed the opportunity to work and study under Bernard. Upon the latter's return to France in 1830, Totten took over the reins of the Fortifications Board; and on 1838 became Chief Engineer of the Corps, serving until his death in 1864, and after 56 years dedicated to the designing and building of the nation's fortifications.

Over the early years the Board surveyed more than 100 possible fort sites ranking them as

to priority. Of these 44 were constructed. They included 30 on the Atlantic Coast; 12 on the Gulf Coast; and two on the Pacific Coast. In addition a number of earlier forts (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> System) were upgraded to 3<sup>rd</sup> System standards. The new construction on the West Coast were Fort Point (a.k.a. Fort Winfield Scott) and Fort Alcatraz for the protection of San Francisco Bay.

The Third System Forts had a number of elements in common, but they varied significantly in size, configuration and footprint. The nomenclature applied to elements of American forts is almost exclusively French; most of which even predates the arrival of General Bernard. Material was brick and/or stone masonry with *Ramparts*, i. e. outside walls, eight or more feet thick. Rosendale natural cement was used to make concrete. Arches were used in abundance for load bearing openings. Where soft soil conditions were discovered inverted arches were used to spread the load over the entire foundation. Fort traces were that of regular, irregular or truncated polygons, corner *Bastions* were regularly used to prevent dead space along the *Scarp*, i. e. exterior wall faces; and moats, wet or dry, were not uncommon. Most had flanking howitzers at the *Salle Port*, i. e. main entrance. Arched *Casemates* were used to house the main artillery and the open top tier was known as the *Barbette*. Casemated Guns fired through *Embrasures*, i. e. wall openings, of which the Totten shutter-type was the most favored design in the later constructed forts.

Of the 44 forts built 17 had a single cannon tier; 15 had two tiers, 10 had three, and 2 had 4 tiers. The largest of the four tiered forts was Fort Richman on Staten Island. Outworks were used to protect landward or *Gorge* walls and *Salle Ports*; known as *Revelins* (V-shaped), *Redans* (enclosed-V), *Redoubts* (mini forts), or *Demilunes* (half moon-shaped). They usually had connecting trenches or tunnels. Another further removed outwork for landward defense was the Martello Tower, containing two to four guns to function in conjunction with the main fort. Two such towers were built in Key West, Florida in support of Fort Taylor. Some forts had a lower level Water Battery which permitted solid shot to be ricocheted across the water surface to hit ships at the water line. Some were equipped with a *Citadel*, which was a fort of last resort within the fort. *Casemates*,

sans guns, were used in many forts as living quarters (an often cold and damp environment!), while others had barrack buildings for enlisted men and officers.

The eight forts that played the most significant roles in the Civil War were: Fort Sumter, Fort Monroe, Fort Pickens, Fort Pulaski, Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines, Fort Massachusetts, and Fort Jackson. Others playing lesser roles were; Fort Delaware, Fort Wool (Calhoun), Fort Caswell, Fort Barrancas, and Fort Jefferson. There was no really typical Third System Fort, but there was an atypical one; Fort Alcatraz; which consisted essentially of three extensive artillery batteries of some 140 guns mounted en barbette on this shaped vertical rock walled island. Fort Monroe, defending Hampton Roads, was the largest in the System, designed to mount 467 guns; and Fort Massachusetts, defending Ship Island channel was the smallest, mounting 37 cannons. Second largest was Fort Adams, defending Newport Bay with positions for 450 cannon. Rarely, if ever, were all guns planned actually installed at any of these forts.

Fort Jefferson, covering most of Golden Key in the Dry Tortugas, 68 miles west of Key West, was the third largest with a parade ground of 18 acres and perimeter of nearly 2700 feet. Arguably, it was also the most impressive of all. What set Fort Jefferson apart from the other large forts of the period was its vertical scale; having two casemate tiers instead of a single one, resulted with the parapet being 50 feet above the base of the walls. Designed by Joseph Totten and begun in 1846, Fort Jefferson was a regular hexagon that had been “squashed” to better fit the shape of the island. There were tower *Bastions* at each corner, protecting the scarp with howitzers. It had a wide moat formed by a sea wall. Some 450 guns could be mounted en casemate and on the barbette tier. Totten embrasures with shutters protected the gunners when loading and hot shot furnaces served the lower tier casemates. Construction continued on & off for 25 years, but Fort Jefferson was never completely finished and it was never fired upon.

This fort had the most pleasant living quarters in the system. Designed to house up to 1,500 artillerymen in war time, there were two three story barracks, for officers and enlisted personnel, plus two separate houses for high

ranking officers. It had a superb water collection system piping water into huge cisterns which remained in operation well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The barracks are now gone, one destroyed by fire in 1927. The large circular roofed structure now remaining on the parade ground was the magazine, the largest of any fort of that era.

During the Civil War, Fort Jefferson served as a federal military prison whose most famous prisoner was Dr. Samuel Mudd, convicted of complicity in Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Mudd was imprisoned for almost four years, before being pardoned in 1869 by President Johnson. In 1898, the USS *Maine* sailed from Tortugas harbor on its ill-fated final journey to Havana harbor.

Today, Fort Jefferson stands much as it did 150 years ago with one major exception; the four inch thick cast iron embrasures and shutters have rusted, expanded and set off chemical reactions resulting in the destruction of the adjacent brick masonry. Salt air and tropical humidity had ravaged the massive structure. Removal of 350 or more embrasures was paramount. This labor intensive work is being done as indicated by the pictures taken during my 2002 visit. Work continues in progress to rebrick the damaged walls and install rust proof replicas of the historic Totten embrasures and shutters. This \$18 M preservation project is scheduled for completion in 2012±. Volunteer brick masons are very much welcomed!

Fort Jefferson is a most interesting historic site to visit. It can be reached from Key West by seaplane or high speed catamaran; but bring your own food and water. No Sutler services are available. Indeed, this is the Dry Tortugas.

**Main Reference:** “A Legacy in Brick and Stone” by J. R Weaver II, 2001.

**Notes:** 1) Part 2 of this article may discuss the Siege of Fort Pulaski and the overall reasons for the Dissolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> System; and a possible Part 3 on Fort Monroe may follow.

2) The upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast Civil War Conference, titled “Blood on the Ramparts”, is scheduled for 12-14 Nov. 2010 at the San Francisco War Memorial Bldg. Please plan to attend if you wish to learn more about historic forts-- unless you get a better offer. Like a visit to the Florida Keys!

**R. A. Williams: 8-08-10**

# Coastal Fortifications of the Third System, 1816-1868

## Fort Jefferson

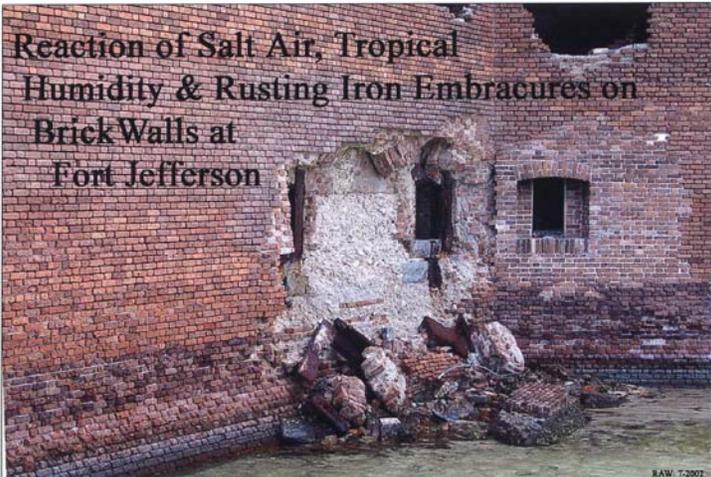
Dry Tortugas, Florida



# Coastal Fortifications of the Third System, 1816-1868

## Fort Jefferson

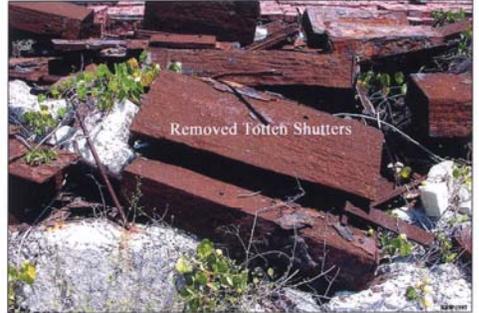
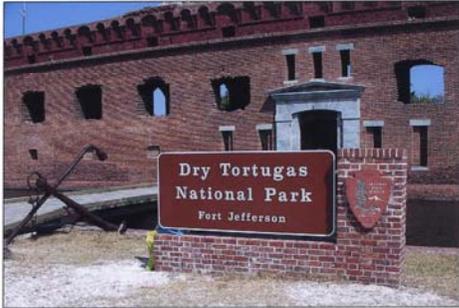
Dry Tortugas, Florida



# Coastal Fortifications of the Third System, 1816-1868

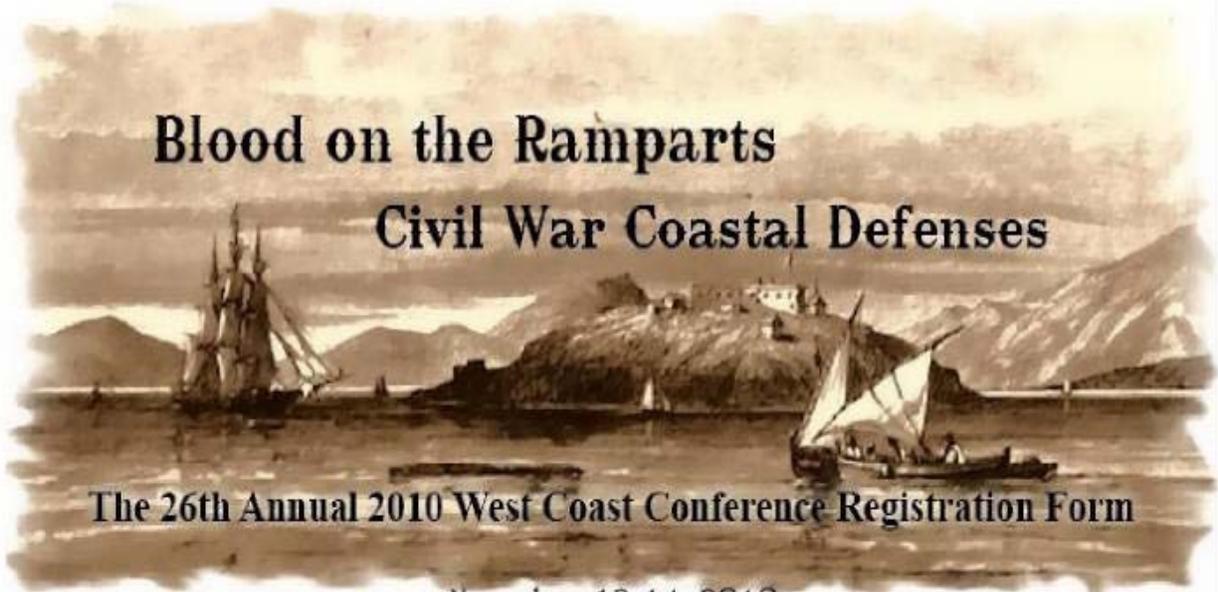
## Fort Jefferson

Dry Tortugas, Florida



# Blood on the Ramparts

## Civil War Coastal Defenses



### The 26th Annual 2010 West Coast Conference Registration Form

November 12-14, 2010

War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Across the street from San Francisco City Hall

The registration fee of \$199 includes dinner and lecture on Friday; lunch, dinner, and a full day of lectures on Saturday; and on Sunday, transportation from Alcatraz to Fort Point, the Presidio and Fort Mason, including a box lunch.

Register early - prior to October 1, 2010 - and get the reduced rate of \$179.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ For confirmation and special announcements

Friday only (includes dinner) - Nov. 12	\$75	Guest meals Friday \$40
Saturday (lunch, dinner and lectures) Nov. 13	\$100	Guest lunch Saturday \$15; dinner \$30
Sunday (activities, bus, box lunch) Nov. 14	\$35	No guest meals on Sunday
Sunday only	\$50	
All three days	\$199	

Check here if you are attending Sunday \_\_\_\_ We need this information for bus reservations.

Make checks for the days you will be attending payable to:

**FOCWA or West Coast Civil War Conference**

Send registration form and check to:

Brad Schall, Treasurer, FOCWA

P.O. Box 983, Lincoln, CA 95648