

Drum Barracks Civil War Museum

January / February 2018

Reveille

Director's Chair

Tara Fansler

I am often asked, "What is the right age for Civil War education?" There really is no right answer, and one of the nice things about the museum environment is that we offer educational opportunities at a variety of levels. A core part of our mission is to provide Civil War education to K-12 students, but many of our visitors tell us they did not develop an interest in Civil War history until adulthood. With such a broad audience we have endless opportunities to educate and engage people on Civil War subjects.

We started 2018 off with a bang by adding a new program for elementary school children. The program is run by Drum Barracks staff and volunteers, and through four workshops students learn about the Civil War in California, Civil War medicine, the life of a soldier, and the US Army Camel Corp.



Left to right, one hundred and nine 5th graders participated in our new school program on January 25. Volunteers Tim Huebner, Annette James Rogers and Kristen Anderson ready to welcome students to Drum Barracks. Volunteer Tim Huebner, dressed as a Zouave, teaches a workshop on the daily life of a Civil War soldier.

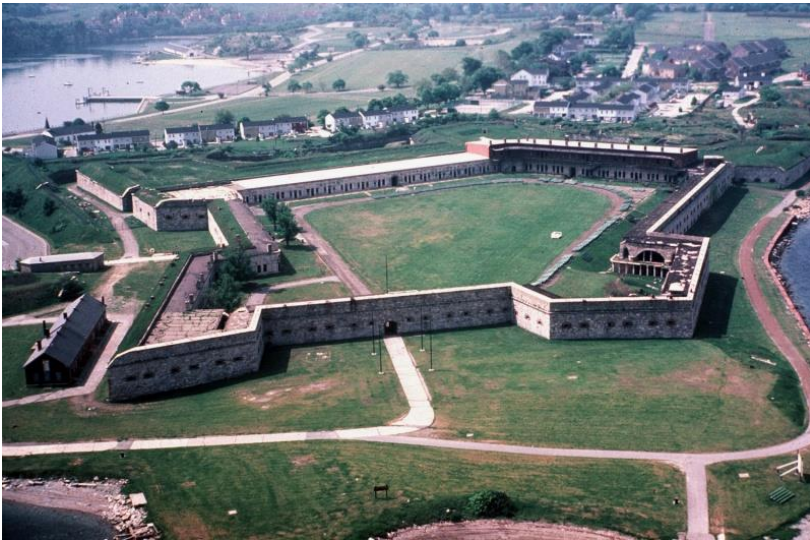
To encourage adult members and visitors to continue their Civil War education we offer tours, exhibitions, lectures and a monthly book club. We also have one of the most impressive Civil War research libraries in California. The catalog now numbers more than 5,000 books, periodicals and other media. The library is open by appointment for research, but there are borrowing privileges on non-reference materials for members and volunteers.

Scholarship on the Civil War is vast, with more books published on the Civil War each year than any other American historical event. To introduce you to new publications and "old classics" we are adding a new section to the newsletter highlighting our library. It will contain book reviews, suggested reading lists, and information on library events. In this issue you will find a new column called **The Book Report**, by Anthony Mollico. Turn to page 6 to read Mr. Mollico's review of Sydney Blumenthal's *Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1849*.

Whether your passion is Civil War education for children, or continuing education for yourself, there are many opportunities for you to engage with Civil War history. As we start the New Year let me encourage you to take a museum tour, attend a lecture at a Civil War Round Table, make an appointment to visit our library, or sign up for our docent training class this spring. I look forward to the many ways we will explore Civil War history together in the coming months.

Civil War Forts - Fort Adams

http://fortwiki.com/Fort_Adams



From the original construction through the World War II era Fort Adams adapted defensive needs of the times. The original defensive structures included the main seacoast fort itself, a significant Landside Outer Defense and beyond that, an Advanced Redoubt designed to protect the main fort from land attacks. The U.S. Civil War saw the main fort modified for newer, more powerful weapons. As shipborne and coastal defense weaponry further evolved the old fort and the land side defenses were abandoned as defenses and high powered gun batteries were placed outside the old fort in concrete batteries. These separate batteries remained the mainstay of the defenses up until World War II when aircraft and long range naval weapons obsoleted them. During World War II the fort provided small caliber harbor and anti-aircraft defenses along with harbor mining. After

the end of World War II the whole concept of fixed harbor defenses was abandoned and the fort was no longer required.

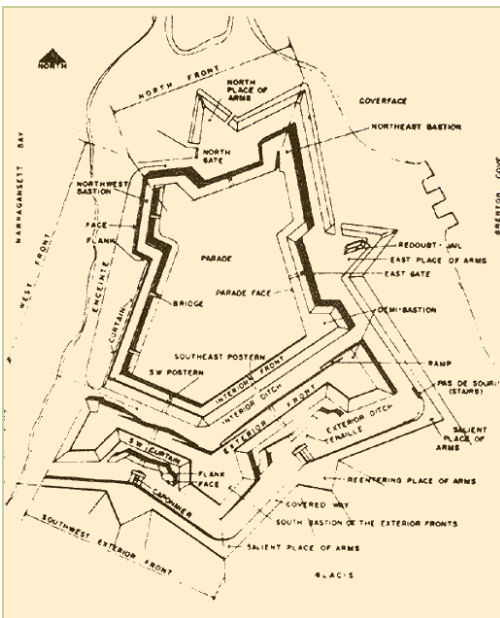
First System (1794-1808)

Rebuilt as a First System Fort in 1798 with 17 guns by Major Louis Tousard and opened on 4 Jul 1799. The first commanding officer of Fort Adams was Captain John Henry of the 2nd U.S. Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers. From 1 Apr 1802 to Jul 1814 the fort was unmanned.

War of 1812 (1812-1814)

The War of 1812 made it necessary to garrison with three companies of Rhode Island militia who were released from duty Feb 1815. After the war the fort was usually garrisoned by a company of regular artillerymen and operated as a subpost of Fort Wolcott until 1821, when the garrison was removed.

Third System (1816-1867)



The current structure was built as a Third System Fort beginning in 1824 under the supervision of Lieutenant Andrew Talcott and, starting 22 Feb 1825, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph G. Totten, it took over 30 years to complete.

Throughout Totten's tenure as superintendent of construction he was assisted by a number of lieutenants in the engineer corps who had recently graduated from West Point. These included John G. Barnard, who commanded the defenses of Washington during the U.S. Civil War, George W. Cullum and P.G.T. Beauregard who would become a general in the Confederate Army and commanded the attack on Fort Sumter at the beginning of the U.S. Civil War. All three became Superintendents of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The Outer Redoubt was built in 1825. The Fort is a massive work with structural walls constructed of local shale and Maine granite. Alexander McGregor, a Scots mason and Newport resident, oversaw the stonework, which is still relatively intact.

Features of Fort Adams that are uncommon or unique in United States military architecture include galleries under the ditches, counterscarp galleries, underground listening galleries tunneled under the glacis, and extensive outer defenses including the redoubt

and tenailles, massive earth-filled, masonry cribs designed to protect the outer face of the fort's crown work from battering by a besieger's artillery.

Fort Adams was mostly complete by 25 Aug 1841 when it was garrisoned by two companies (F and I) of the 2nd U.S. Artillery Regiment.

Mexican War (1846-1848)

In April of 1847 Fort Adams was designated a "rendezvous and receiving depot for all troops raised in the Eastern States". In reality the fort was used in this capacity only by the 9th U.S. Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Truman B. Ransom of Vermont. The regiment shipped out for Mexico between May 21st and 28th. The regiment saw action at the battle of Chapultepec, where Colonel Ransom was killed on September 13th. On 19 May 1847 Brigadier General Franklin Pierce stopped briefly at Fort Adams on his way to Mexico. Pierce departed Fort Adams on the 28th, along with the last detachment of the 9th U.S. Infantry, and served with distinction in Mexico. He was elected president of the United States in 1852 and served from 1853 until 1857.

Construction of the fort continued during this period. The most significant improvement was the completion of the redoubt about 1/4 mile south of the main fort. The construction of the redoubt was mostly completed under the supervision of 1st Lieutenant Isaac Ingalls Stevens who would rise to the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Civil War and be killed in the battle of Chantilly, Virginia. His son, Hazard Stevens, who was born during his father's posting to Newport, would earn the Medal of Honor and be brevetted to Brigadier General. The redoubt qualifies as a fort in its own right and has a number of sophisticated features including an outer ditch, and inner ditch, reverse fire galleries, interconnecting tunnels and an unique dual spiral granite staircase.

The fort was manned continuously until October 1853 when it was placed in caretaker status until 1857. In 1857 the fort was garrisoned by Company I of the 1st U.S. Artillery under the command of Captain (Bvt. Lieutenant Colonel) John B. Magruder. On 11 Sep 1859 Magruder was host to Major General John E. Wool, commander of the Army's Department of the East, and former President Millard Fillmore when they inspected Fort Adams.

Magruder and his company departed Fort Adams on 31 Oct 1859 and the fort reverted to caretaking status until the U.S. Civil War. The caretaker detachment was commanded by Ordnance Sergeant Mark W. Smith. Ordnance Sergeant Smith was a veteran of both the Seminole and Mexican War and would later serve at Fort Griswold in Groton Connecticut where he died in 1871.

U.S. Civil War (1861-1865)

During the U.S. Civil War Fort Adams was rearmed, with new Rodman guns, 10-inch pieces in the casemates and 15-inch guns in open batteries atop the southwest bastion of the crown work. The army later constructed permanent batteries for 10 and 15-inch Rodman guns on the island.



On 11 Jan 1861 Lt. Edson and six ordnance men from Watertown Arsenal arrived to activate the Fort. On 9 May 1861 the frigate U.S.S. Constitution ("Old Ironsides") arrived under tow with about 70 midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy on board. The academy was moved from Annapolis, Maryland for fear of Maryland being invaded by the Confederates. This arrangement lasted until 21 Sep 1861 when the academy was moved to Newport.

From Oct 1862 until the end of the war, Fort Adams served as the headquarters of the 15th U.S. Infantry Regiment of the Regular Army, under the command of Colonel Oliver L. Shepherd. Fort Adams was used primarily as a recruit depot.

From Oct 1862 to May 1863 the fort was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John P. Sanderson of the 15th U.S. Infantry. He was

succeeded by Colonel Oliver L. Shepherd. Colonel Shepherd's command was interrupted by the brief tenure of Brigadier General Robert Anderson in 1863.

From Aug 19th to Oct 26th of 1863 Fort Adams was under the command of Brigadier General Robert Anderson. Anderson was a living legend for his stand at Fort Sumter at the beginning of the war but was in poor health, attributed to the stress he suffered as a result of surrendering Fort Sumter, which prevented him from active service at the front. Anderson was assigned to Fort Adams in hopes that by being in a pleasant and healthy environment he would recover from his ailments.

In late October Anderson retired from the Army at his own request. He died in Nice, France in 1871. He is buried in the West Point Cemetery.

Fort Adams returned to its primary function as a major coastal artillery fort after the U.S. Civil War. Periodically the garrison would be rotated as the two primary assignments for an artillery unit of the time were garrisoning coastal fortifications and defending the western frontier.

Endicott Period (1890-1910)

Part of the Harbor Defense of Narragansett Bay.

Construction on the first of six concrete Endicott Period gun batteries on Fort Adams began in 1896. The first two were 12" mortar batteries, Battery Greene and Battery Edgerton and they were both accepted for service in May 1898 during the Spanish-American War. Battery Reilly (10") and Battery Talbot (4.72") followed in 1899. Battery Bankhead (2) (6") and Battery Belton (3") were accepted for service on the same day, 31 Jul 1907. All of the guns in these batteries were breech loaded and rifled. None of the batteries was located within the walls of the old Fort Adams and most were aligned along the water on the west side of the post. Only the mortar batteries were set back from the water's edge.

Post construction to support the new batteries included a post hospital (1900), an administration building (1901), a guard house (1903), a power house (1901) and a post exchange (1906).

World War I (1917-1918)

When the United States entered the World War I in August of 1917 twenty companies of Coast Artillery troops from the Rhode Island National Guard were activated and helped reinforce Regular army troops at Fort Adams and other Rhode Island coastal fortifications. Fort Adams did not see action during the war but it served as a headquarters for the coast defenses in Rhode Island as well as a training facility and as a depot for units departing for service in France.

On 11 Nov 1918 the armistice ending the World War I was signed. National Guard units activated for the war were demobilized in December and smaller forts in the area deactivated over the next three years. As of 11 Jan 1919 Fort Adams was garrisoned by five coast artillery companies. The period between 1920 and 1935 was marked by significant reductions in Army manpower and budget. The regular army was quickly reduced to an authorized strength of 125,000 men and the Coastal Artillery was reduced to 12,026 men. Of the 12,026 authorized, less than 3,500 men were authorized for all of the fixed U.S. harbor defenses. Sixteen of the harbor defenses were put in caretaker status and the remainder were reduced enough so that many of them were effectively in caretaker status. Fort Adams was not immune to the cuts and while the post remained active the armament was put in caretaker status. Special emphasis was put on rebuilding the National Guard and providing yearly training opportunities for all the guard units.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came to the post in the mid 1930s for construction and restoration of facilities and in 1935 a Citizens' Military Training Camps (CMTC) was set up on the southwest corner of the post near Battery Reilly. CMTC camps allowed civilians to do basic military training without incurring a service obligation and provided a commissioning program. The CMTC section was mostly a tent camp area but had a mess hall that could feed 500 men and permanent latrines.

In 1939 the post had a listed capacity of 20 officers, 29 NCOs and 623 enlisted personnel.

World War II (1941-1945)

At the beginning of World War II, the only active Endicott Period battery on Fort Adams was Battery Greene-Edgerton. This 12 " mortar battery was obsolete at the beginning of the war and was scrapped in the fall of 1942. The harbor defense was taken up by coastal forts on other reservations further out in the harbor. The only guns remaining on Fort Adams were three, 3" anti-aircraft guns. A 90mm AMTB battery and a 155mm mobile battery were located at Brenton Point.

Fort Adams expanded, like most coastal forts, just prior to the start of World War II. The Army built a number of temporary WWII style buildings on post before June 1941, in anticipation of large numbers of draftees. These new buildings included ten standard WWII barracks, each housing 63 men. Along with the barracks came the mess halls, admin buildings, day rooms and recreational facilities. Post capacity increased to 60 officers, 33 NCOs, and 1284 enlisted men.

State Park

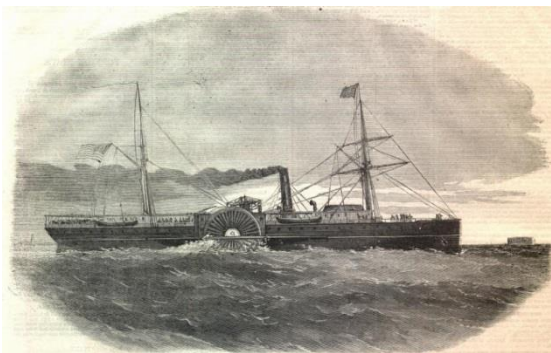
In 1953, the Army transferred ownership of Fort Adams to the Navy, which still uses some of the grounds for family housing. In 1965, the fort, and most of the surrounding land, was given to the state of Rhode Island for use as Fort Adams State Park. In 1976, Fort Adams was declared a National Historic Landmark, in recognition for its distinctive military architecture, which includes features not found in other forts of the period. In 1994, the Fort Adams Trust was formed, which provides guided tours at the fort and oversees ongoing restoration work at the fort.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower lived at the former commanding officer's quarters (now called the Eisenhower House) during his summer vacations in Newport in 1958 and 1960.

Notable persons associated with Fort Adams

- Robert Anderson – Commander of Fort Sumter and Civil War general
- Pierre G. T. Beauregard – Confederate Civil War general.
- Simon Bernard – French army general, military engineer under Napoleon and designer of Fort Adams.
- Ambrose Burnside – Civil War general, Governor of Rhode Island and United States Senator.
- George W. Cullum – Civil War general and Superintendent of West Point.
- Henry A. du Pont – Medal of Honor recipient, president of the Wilmington & Northern Railroad Company and United States Senator.
- Dwight Eisenhower – Vacated at Fort Adams while he was president.
- William P. Ennis – Army lieutenant general born at Fort Adams.
- Robley D. Evans – Navy rear admiral and commander of the Great White Fleet.
- John G. Foster – Civil War general.
- Henry Jackson Hunt – Civil War general and artillery commander at the Battle of Gettysburg.
- John B. Magruder – Confederate Civil War general.
- Franklin Pierce – General, Senator and President of the United States.
- William S. Rosecrans – Civil War general.
- Isaac Ingalls Stevens – Civil War general.
- Thomas W. Sherman – Civil War general.
- Thornton Wilder – Author. Parts of his book *Theophilus North* were inspired by his experiences while stationed at Fort Adams during the First World War.
- William Griffith Wilson – Best known as "Bill W". Founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. Stationed at Fort Adams during the First World War.

Star of the West



When South Carolinians seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860, they demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter. President James Buchanan refused to comply with this demand but was also careful not to make any provocative move. Inside the fort, Major Robert Anderson and his 80 soldiers needed supplies. The Buchanan administration decided to dispatch a civilian ship, the *Star of the West*, instead of a military transport, in order to keep tensions from flaring.

The *Star of the West* left New York on January 5, 1861 carrying supplies and 200 federal troops to reinforce Union forces at the fort. After the ship was en route, Secretary of War Joseph Holt received a dispatch from

Anderson saying that the garrison was safe and supplies were not needed immediately. Anderson added that the secessionists were building gun emplacements overlooking the main shipping channel into Charleston Harbor. Holt realized that the ship was in great danger and a war might erupt. He tried in vain to recall the *Star of the West*, and Anderson was not aware that the ship continued on its way.

On the morning of January 9th, *Star of the West* captain John McGowan steered the ship into the channel near the fort. Citadel cadets manning an artillery battery on Morris Island off the coast of South Carolina fired at the *Star of the West* to prevent it from reaching Fort Sumter. There were between 40 and 50 cadets on Morris Island who were not an official part of the military at that time. The mostly first- and second-class cadets (seniors and juniors) were there because they had attended classes and instruction in artillery and infantry tactics as a part of their course of study. Other cadets were

detailed to instruct the gathering militia units in infantry drill on the Citadel Green, now known as Marion Square. Others were at Fort Moultrie and others on Sullivan's Island instructing recruits in the employment of artillery. About 70 remained at The Citadel.

Two cannon shots roared from gunner George E. Haynsworth, a cadet at the Citadel. The shots were poor, but more shots were fired and the *Star of the West* suffered a minor hit. Anderson watched from Fort Sumter but did not respond in support of the ship. If he had, the war might have started on that day.

This incident was the first time shots were exchanged between North and South, and resulted in strong talk on both sides but stopped short of war. The standoff at Fort Sumter continued until the Confederates attacked in April, triggering the Civil War.

Many scholars consider the firing on the *Star of the West* to be the first hostile shots of the Civil War even though the attack on Fort Sumter did not begin until April 12, 1861. Because the *Star of the West* was not a United States Naval vessel, some scholars do not consider it to have been a military engagement.

The *Star of the West* was later captured by Confederate forces, used for several purposes, including a hospital ship and blockade runner, and was scuttled in defense of Vicksburg in 1863.



During the *Star of the West* incident, the cadets flew a unique flag observed by eye witnesses on the federal steamer, and described in a dispatch by a Union officer at Fort Sumter as "a flag with a red field, and a white palmetto tree." That flag is now known as Big Red and is the official spirit flag of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets.

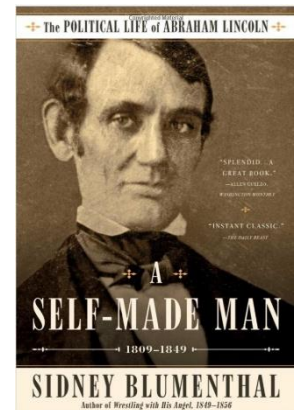
What is believed to be the flag that flew over the cadet battery on Morris Island in 1861 is currently on display at The Citadel's Holliday Alumni Center. Discovered in storage in an Iowa museum, "Big Red" is on loan from the State Historical Society of Iowa, where it had been in storage since 1919 when it was donated by Iowa Civil War veteran Pvt. John Baker. The flag is machine- and hand-stitched of wool and cotton. It measures a little more than 7 feet high and just over 10 feet wide.

The Book Report by Anthony Mollico

Review: *A Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1849*, by Sidney Blumenthal

Our 8th Grade Scott School trip took us to Springfield and New Salem, Illinois. Of this destination I remember exactly one thing, being alone before the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, the savior of our nation, our martyred president, with the sense that I was standing on holy ground. All was silence as I meditated reverently on the significance of this great man.

In Sidney Blumenthal's new book, *A Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1849*, we find ourselves in the audience transfixed by a political address as the speaker is assailed on all sides with threats of violence. Suddenly, our attention turns upward due to a great clatter there. A pair of long legs descends through a trap door and Abraham Lincoln drops to the stage assuming an attitude of righteous defiance. This book interrupts our contemplation of reverential memories, myths and legends by confronting us with the man himself in a life portrait that drops Lincoln in our midst as if through a heavenly trap door, standing before us defiant as ever for the cause of truth. We learn that in his early manhood a curious and sensitive Abraham is bound to service; hired out by his father for thirty-one cents a day. This experience led him to hate tyranny and its imposition upon others. At twenty-one he escaped his bondage and travelled to Illinois where he would build flatboats and carry cargo to New Orleans.



From childhood he had been an obsessive reader. We follow young Abe as he travels backwoods trails to the doorways of men who would loan him books. We are left with the distinct impression that he realized his pathway to freedom was paved with the pages of books. He didn't just read. He read and reread until he would know the book by heart. He worked his way through the first six books of Euclid's *Elements*. He could recite from memory all of the poems of Robert Burns in Scottish dialect. Political Philosophy, Law, Economics and Shakespeare, nothing escaped his undivided attention. His

need to know took on the aspect of a desperate struggle to escape oblivion. Altogether it is touching to think of this young man's love of ideas. When Abe discovers the school within the experimental community of New Harmony, Dennis Hanks relates, "His eyes were as big as a hungry hoot owl's". Lincoln is reported to have said, "There's a school and thousands of books there and fellows that know everything in Creation."

Throughout this book accounts of Lincoln, the story-teller, are instrumental in understanding his political effectiveness. Lincoln's stories were highlighted by corny frontier humor and animated by body language and facial contortions that kept his audiences laughing. The comic vision is informed by careful observation of others and an understanding of human nature. He didn't get this out of books but Abe had it. Yarns such as the lizard story made audiences receptive to his political arguments. The Clary's Grove Boys were a local posse and regulation committee of New Salem. They had a practice of hazing newcomers. In Mr. Blumenthal's account Abe wrestles their champion, Jack Armstrong and when the match is decided – a tie, Abe accepts the verdict with such grace and good humor that they take him in as one of their own. Over time they are transformed into the nucleus of Lincoln's political operation. We see him repeat this process over and over until he has a network of political operatives, sponsors and mentors throughout the State of Illinois. Some of these mentors would instruct him in and allow him to read law which became a way of earning a living while pursuing his political career. It also gave him an opportunity to practice the discipline of formulating legal arguments. Lincoln as portrayed here is the most effective political leader of his day. His activities included hundreds of street corner disputations, anonymous editorials and staged formal debates that yield a profile of a political figure who is energetic, canny and ruthless, but whose arguments are always grounded in moral authority and presented in his matter-of-fact Euclidean style.

Mr. Blumenthal's background as a political operative shines in his portrayal of elections. His discussions clarify matters ignored or glossed over in less careful accounts. A genealogy of contemporary political ideas is provided including a history of the Whigs. Shifting political alliances are laid out in detail. Found here are striking portraits of John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, John Randolph and others that are worth the price of the book alone. The Whig Presidents and their successors are described in a way that makes the eventual demise of the Whig Party predictable. Lincoln served one term in Congress, and his leading issue was war with Mexico. He had correctly assessed that territory so obtained would be slave states if the Southern power bloc had its way. He focused on the issue of where aggression by Mexico had occurred. He asked proponents of war to identify where the spot was that American lives had first been lost. This got him the nickname, "Spotty," and lost him a bid for reelection. It also sent him back to the prairies of Illinois to practice law, to organize a new political party and to become the Lincoln we recognize today.

Out of a treasury of materials Mr. Blumenthal has woven a panoramic portrait of Antebellum political America in which Abraham Lincoln found his vision and his voice. A question I have from time to time entertained is: What American of the past would I most like to meet and consistently my answer is: Abraham Lincoln. I could perhaps laugh at one of his stories and shake his great hand. We can't do such a thing but thanks to Sidney Blumenthal's enthralling account we can come close.

Come March to the Beat of the Drum

Join the Drum Barracks Garrison & Society and help preserve this unique piece of California's History

Private (Individual)	\$20	Colonel	\$200	Please make checks payable to: Drum Barracks Garrison & Society 1052 Banning Boulevard Wilmington, CA 90744
Corporal (Family)	\$30	Brigadier General	\$300	
First Lieutenant	\$50	Major General	\$400	
Captain	\$75	Lt. General	\$500	
Major	\$100	General	\$1000	
Lt. Colonel	\$150			

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer in one of these areas? Docent _____ Museum Shop _____ Library _____

2018 Event Schedule

Civil War Book Club Meetings

Meetings of the Richard Rollins Civil War Book Club are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Library. All are welcome to attend, even if they have not read the book, as they can participate in or listen to a lively discussion of that monthly book selection. There are no meetings held in July and August. Check the Book Club entry under "Events" for a list of the books that will be discussed in 2018.

Docent Training Class, Every Saturday, April 7 - April 28, 2018

Share your knowledge of Civil War history with the public by becoming a Drum Barracks Museum docent. Registration is free, but participation in all four classes is required to graduate. Call 310.548.7509 for more details. Register today!

Civil War Trust Park Service Day, April 7, 2018

Mark your calendar and roll up your sleeves. Civil War sites across the country will welcome volunteers for this day of service. A list of times and activities being held at Drum Barracks will be posted shortly.

Mother's Day Tea, 11:30 am, Saturday, May 12, 2018

This elegant event held in the Drum Barracks Library is not to be missed. Sip tea from antique china and enjoy elegant tea sandwiches and finger foods while listening to classical musicians. This journey back in time is the perfect Mother's Day activity and is fun for the whole family. Advance ticket purchase required. Call 310.548.7509 or email drumbarracks@gmail.com. \$50 regular admission, \$40 members.

Civil War Technology Fair, 11:00 am, Saturday, June 30, 2018

This free event held at Drum Barracks will feature special exhibitions and demonstrations on Civil War technology such as the telegraph, railroad, air corp, field photography, medicine, and weapons. With hands on activities and lectures this event will appeal to visitors of all ages.

"Remembrance Day" 2:00 pm, Saturday, November 17, 2018

For the eighth year, the Drum Barracks Museum joins in the national remembrance and celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address given at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery on November 19, 1863. The event is sponsored by the Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, Department of the Pacific, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their Auxiliary, the ASUVCW. Free admission.

Spirit of the Drum Candlelight Tours, Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, 2018

Docents in period attire lead tours through the museum. Various times. Special tickets and reservations required.

"Trick or Treat" the Drum, Monday, October 31, 2018

Walk-through rooms of museum, and children in costume receive candy. FREE event.

"Civil War Christmas" 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 1-2, 2018

The 18th Annual Holiday Celebration. An event that should not be missed and one that has become a holiday tradition for thousands! The Banning Museum and the Drum Barracks Museum sponsor free horse-drawn carriage rides between the two sites, which are each decorated for true holiday delight. Admission to both museums and the carriage rides are all free. Now that's the holiday spirit.

Wilmington Holiday Parade, Sunday, December 9, 2018

Starting at noon, the parade moves north up Avalon Boulevard from Anaheim Street, ending at Banning Park. Volunteers in period attire reenact skirmishes for delighted spectators.