

THE CIVIL WAR IN THE AMERICAN WEST

Civil War Sesquicentennial

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Gordon Chappell
With some annotations

The key purpose of this bibliography is to demonstrate the complexity and extent of the Civil War in the American West through a listing of published books on the subject, including recent scholarship accomplished since publication of Alvin Josephy's general work. To most Americans, the Civil War means a geographical focus on the region from the Atlantic Seaboard and the Gulf Coast to the Mississippi Valley. Indeed, the term "Civil War in the West" often is construed to mean the war in Kentucky, Tennessee and the Mississippi Valley and the other states flanking it, and even the Atlanta campaign. It would never occur to many Americans that anything connected with the Civil War happened farther "out West." Yet New Mexico Territory was an active theater of the war with two major battles and a number of lesser engagements, the Gulf Coast of Texas was under Union assault periodically, Confederate guerrillas operated in Colorado Territory, Confederate soldiers occupied the cities of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Tucson; and the westernmost combat in the war occurred southwest of Phoenix in what now is Arizona at Picacho Pass when a detachment of Confederate Texas Mounted Riflemen ambushed a patrol of the Union 1st California Volunteer Cavalry. In 1865, the Confederate States Navy commerce raider C.S.S. *Shenandoah* destroyed part of the civilian Union whaling fleet in north Pacific waters, scaring the living daylights out of the populace of San Francisco, which feared they and their banks full of gold from the Mother Lode mines would be raided next.

Furthermore, to replace Regular Army units which had been protecting western trails and settlements from Indian attack but had suddenly been called back East to fight Confederates, Union volunteer infantry or cavalry companies and regiments soon were organized in California, Nevada, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota Territory, and some from California, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas fought Confederates out West as well as Indians. Furthermore, to augment those troops, as the war continued, Union volunteer cavalry regiments from Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan and as far east as West Virginia, and even a Wisconsin volunteer artillery battery, were sent "out West" to protect settlements and trails and fight Indians when necessary. On the other side of the war, the Confederates recruited volunteer regiments in Texas and Indian Territory (today's Oklahoma). Even Confederate prisoners of war were recruited into special Union regiments with the promise they would be used only to fight Indians, not to fight other Confederates; they came to be known as "galvanized Yankees," having changed the color of their uniforms from gray to blue just as sheet iron changes color when "galvanized."

Finally, an unknown number of individual western civilians traveled back east to fight in either the Union or Confederate armies. The one well-known example of a unified effort in that direction was the group of 504 Californians who did not want to spend the war fighting Indians out West, so traveled to Massachusetts at their own cost and persuaded the State of Massachusetts to enlist them under its quota for volunteers in five companies of the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry. One group of them came to be known as the “California Hundred” and wore atop their forage caps in addition to the brass crossed saber cavalry insignia and a brass No. “2” for the regiment and a brass company letter, the brass letters and numbers “C A L 1 0 0”.

The scope of this bibliography is published books, monographs and pamphlets on the Civil War in the West, defined generally as the Far West, the Southwest, the Pacific Coast, the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain territories, and the Great Plains from Minnesota and North Dakota to Texas. To keep it manageable in size, it deliberately does not include articles in various national, regional, state and local history journals, military history journals, popular Civil War history magazines, popular magazines about the history of the old West, popular magazines on military history, newspapers, or any other serial publications, although most of that material would be cited in footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies in the books listed here. This bibliography deliberately does not include unpublished manuscript material, also cited in the books below. Biographies of only a very few individuals important in the Civil War in the West are included. The histories of the many forts which served throughout the Civil War in the West and for years before and after the war are not included, with but one exception, because only a portion of such histories deals with the Civil War years. Only in several rare instances are included books, such as volumes by Miller, Thian, and Utley, which went far beyond the Civil War years in time frame, and one by Hauptman, which covered the entire national geographically, because they were each considered too important a reference to be omitted.

In terms of time frame, it should be noted that while the Civil War started in 1861, violence leading up to it began in Kansas in the mid-1850s, and while the war ended in 1865, volunteer troops such as some in New Mexico were not mustered out until 1867 and some in Nebraska until 1869. The Red River Campaign could be considered a “far Western” campaign, or not; only a few works on that campaign are included, and only two on the Battle of Pea Ridge, as those topics are considered marginal to the scope of this bibliography. General histories of each western state have not been included, as typically they have only a chapter or two relevant to the Civil War. This is a bibliography about a part of a war, compiled by a military historian, and thus it focuses on soldiers, battles, and military campaigns, but a few volumes on politics and economics of the period are included, when restricted to the West, and more, no doubt, could be added. The literature on the causes of the Civil War is vast, and except for the inclusion of one or two works, generally outside the scope of this bibliography.

This is a second draft of this bibliography, and some publication information is still incomplete: data to complete those entries is invited. Corrections of typographical,

spelling, and other errors are requested. Suggestions for additions to this bibliography will be welcome and will be considered, as well as other suggestions. Thanks go to Lorraine McConaghy, Guy Washington of the NPS Pacific West Regional Office, and Dr. John P. and Cheryl Wilson of Las Cruces, New Mexico, for additions already submitted, NPS Maritime Historian Kevin Foster for additions regarding naval affairs, and NPS Librarian Nancy Hori in Seattle for checking some bibliographic references.

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with Henry Hastings Sibley, the Union general fighting Santee Sioux Indians in Minnesota. Prior to the Civil War, while a Regular Army officer, this Sibley adapted the Plains Indian tipi for military purposes into a conical canvas tent, and patented his design as the “Sibley Tent” or sometimes “Sibley Tipi”].

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Connor essentially occupied Utah with California troops to insure that it stayed firmly in the Union, and then spent most of the war dealing with the problem of hostile Indians].

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