

The Rich History of a Fort in Soldier Portraits

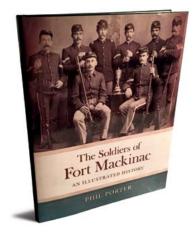
By Ronald S. Coddington

he list of officers who passed through Michigan's Fort Mackinac in antebellum times on their way to becoming Civil War generals might surprise you.

On the Union side, Edwin Vose Sumner, Samuel P. Heintzelman, Marsena R. Patrick, Frederick Steele, Silas Casey and William A. Hammond rank among the names familiar to students of the war. Future Confederates include John C. Pemberton, John M. Jones and Arnold Elzey.

Portraits of all these officers and capsule biographies for each man are featured in *The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac: An Illustrated History.* The images form part of a comprehensive gallery of photographs, paintings and engravings of British and American officers at the fort during its 115-year history from 1780 to 1895.

A number of pre- and post-Civil War portraits are also featured, including an especially



The Soldiers of Fort Mackinac: An Illustrated History

By Phil Porter Hardcover, 196 pages Michigan State University Press \$39.95 impressive circa 1891 group of cabinet cards of enlisted men.

The depth and breadth of the work is a credit to author Phil Porter. A Michigan native, he has served more than four decades on the staff of the Mackinac State Historic Parks in a variety of roles, including chief curator and director. Among those he acknowledged for their assistance are *MI* subscribers Will Dunniway, Mark Krausz and Dr. William Schultz.

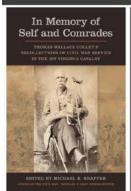
Porter's introductory essay provides an excellent context for the history of Fort Mackinac, and demonstrates his mastery of the subject.

Publisher Michigan State University Press invested in quality paper and color printing where appropriate, and employed a design aesthetic that emphasizes the art and photography.

No matter from which part of the country you hail, *Fort Mackinac* deserves a worthy place on your bookshelf.

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Thomas W. Colley served in one of the most active and famous units in the Civil Nar, the lst Virginia Cavalry, which fought in battles in the Eastern Theater, from First Manassas/Bull Run to the defense of Petersburg. Colley was born November 11, 1837, outside Abingdon, Virginia, and grew up knowing the daily demands of life on a farm. In May 1851, along with the other members of the Washington Mounted Rifles, he left his home in Washington County and reported to camp in Richmond. During the war, Colley received wounds on three different occasions: first at Naterloo Dridge in 1852, again at Kelly's Ford in 1863, and finally at Haw's Shop in 1864. The ongagement at Haw's Shop resulted in the amputation of his left foot, thereby ending his vartime service.

The first scholarly edition of Colley's writings, In Memory of Self and Comrades, dramatizes Colley's fate as a wounded soldier mustered out before the wer's conclusion. Colley's postwar reflections on the war reveal his struggle to earn a living and maintain his integrity while remaining somewhat unreconciled to his condition.

Annotations from editor Michael K. Shaffer provide further context to Colley's colorful and insightful writings on both his own condition and the condition of other veterans also dealing with amputations.

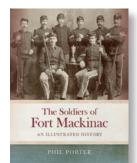


Michael K. Shaffer, works as a Civil War historian, instructor, lecturer, newspaper columnist, and author. He is a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, Historians of the Civil War Western Theater, and Georgia Association of Historians. Shaffer also teaches Civil War Courses at Kennesaw State University's College of Continuing and Professional Education and frequently lectures to various groups across the country.

To schedule a program, please email the author at mkscdr11@gmail.com.



NEW FROM MSU PRESS



THE SOLDIERS OF FORT MACKINAC An Illustrated History Phil Porter

Fort Mackinac was home to more than 4,500 British and U.S. soldiers between 1780 and 1895. In this volume, Mackinac State Historic Parks' director Phil Porter tells the story of

Fort Mackinac through the lives and activities of its soldiers. This book is profusely illustrated with more than 150 historic oil portraits, maps, and photographs collected from libraries and museums across the United States and Great Britain. Both Military historians and readers interested in Mackinac's rich military history will appreciate the story of soldier life found here.

978-1-61186-281-2, cloth, 196 pages, \$39.95

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