



The military draft during the Civil war was so unpopular that riots broke out in New York and other cities.

General Casey was the first to propose a system of drafting by congressional districts and appointing a provost martial in each district. His proposal was included in the congressional act.

The draft was not popular. Men could purchase substitutes and many were exempt. Anti-draft riots broke out in many cities. Enrollment bounties were offered. These could be as much as \$500, which was the average annual wage at the time. The system was abused but did help to round up the needed manpower.

General Casey remained in command of his provisional brigade in Washington and performed other administrative duties until the war ended in 1865. His command was dissolved by order of the War Department on 10 March 1865. He was then ordered to Richmond, Virginia, as commander of the organization of US Colored Troops in that city. Later he was sent to the Department of the Ohio, Department of Michigan, to process war damage claims. He was commander of the post of Detroit and Fort Wayne until June 1866.

Major General Silas Casey retired from the Army to his new home in Brooklyn, New York, on 8 July 1869.

It was said in the press of General Casey: "... no mistake has occurred, no blunder been committed, no complaint from any quarter has been heard, no mutiny or disaffection among the troops, or dissatisfaction on the part of the government, of a verity cannot it be said of General Casey. Well done good and faithful servant."

#### Sources:

"Casey, Silas," Unpublished Manuscript, 1880.

Glatthaar, Joseph T., *Forged in Battle the Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers*, New York, 1990.

"Report of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War," Washington, 1863.

Taggart, John H., *Free Military School for Applicants for Command of Colored Troops*, Philadelphia, 1864.

#### Note:

Silas Casey's first wife Abby died in March 1862. He remarried Florida Gordon in July 1864. Silas passed away in New York City on January 22, 1882, and was buried on the Casey Farm in Rhode Island.



Casey ancestral home near Newport, Rhode Island. Interior of home below.



### The Casey Farm

The first Casey ancestor to own the farm was Joseph Morey who purchased the property in 1702. He gave it to his daughter Mary who married into the Coggeshall family.

In the 1780s the plantation passed into the Casey family name. A complicated set of dealings saw various parts of the estate in different Casey hands throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries until Thomas Lincoln Casey, the son of Silas and Abby Pearce Casey, took it over and endeavored to reunite and preserve the property. Though he didn't live there, restoring the farm became his hobby.

Finally, the land and buildings passed to Thomas' son Edward Pearce Casey who willed it at his death in 1940 to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities to be preserved as a working farm. Many of the Caseys are at rest in the family cemetery there.

# Fort Steilacoom

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## Casey's Service Career Ends

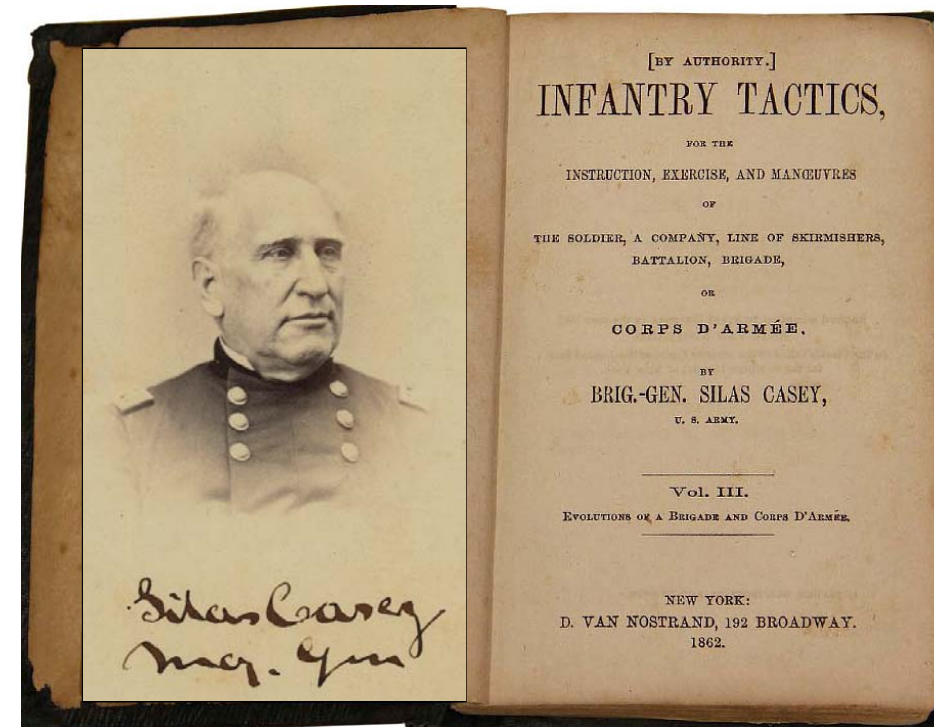
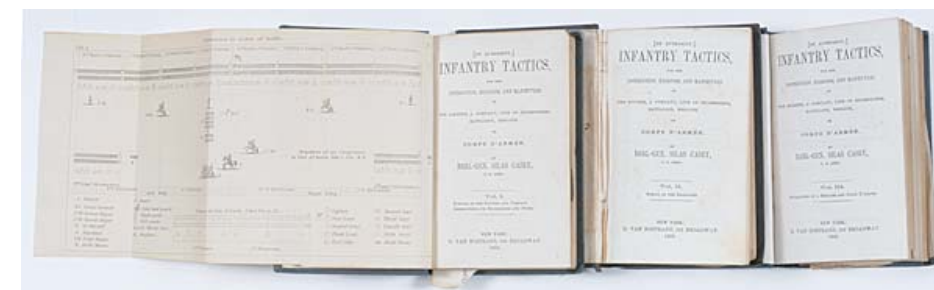
by Kenneth A. Morgan

In 1862 General Casey was called before a Congressional committee to testify about the conduct of the war. He had a lot to say. This is a continuation of the previous article "General Casey's Post Fair Oaks Service" which was published in the Autumn newsletter.

General Casey's January 1862 testimony before the committee had centered mostly on the training of soldiers and their officers. Most training was based on the tactics manual then in use. Further, each branch—infantry, artillery, cavalry, and engineers—had their own instruction manuals. Some had changed little since the Mexican War.

The infantry used primarily the two-volume *Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics* manual by William J. Hardee, which was published in 1855 and approved by then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis for use by regular and militia regiments. Hardee, as Casey, had served in the Florida and Mexican wars. When the South seceded from the Union, Hardee resigned from the U.S. Army and was commissioned by the Confederate Army. The Union war department was concerned by this. Should the federal Army be using a tactics manual written by a Confederate officer?

General Casey could answer this question. For some time he had been working to revise Hardee's tactics, partly due to advances in weapons technology and especially due to the increased size of the Army. His three-volume work, titled *Infantry Tactics for the Instruction, Exercise,*



General Silas Casey wrote a three volume work of infantry tactics which were used by the Union Army during the Civil War. (Casey's photo has been inserted above and is not included in the book.)

and Maneuvers of the Soldier, a Company, Line of Skirmishers, Battalion, Brigade or Corps D'Armée was approved by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton on 11 August 1862. This

manual was used by Casey and by others throughout the Civil War.

By 1863, 1864, and 1865, Union enthusiasm for the war was waning. States were finding it more and

*Continued on page 3)*

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**President’s Message**



As the holidays fast approach, we bring another great year to an end. First I would like to start out with an addition to my message. I reported that we have been hosting numerous groups that use our buildings, but I did fail to mention the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine (WCWA reenactment group). An oversight on my part. We are always grateful when we get to share our fort and its history with other organizations.

Now for activities while in garrison. In September the fort once again took part in the Museum Day Live, a national event that is hosted by the Smithsonian Institute. The day had to have been one of the wettest days in Washington history. While standing in the buildings and watching the rain, we all thought we would not have any visitors. By the end of the day, weather and all, we had over 100 visitors—a good day after all.

October was our Annual Meeting. Nancy Keller-Scholz, Ken Morgan, and Tom Melberg agreed to continue their service as Directors, and were so reelected. John Roten will once



Generals Kautz (Lawrence Bateman) and Casey (Ken Morgan) respond to questions of moderator Joe Lewis during the “You Are There” program.

again serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. I would like to introduce our newest member of the Board, Mike McGuire. Mike joined the fort this past year and has volunteered as a docent. He has also agreed to take on the position as Treasurer. Thanks, Mike!

After the meeting we had a visitor from Tacoma’s past, Mr. Herbert Hunt (Walter Neary). Hunt, born in 1869, was a newspaper reporter, editor and historian who wrote, among other books, a three volume set about Tacoma’s history before his early death in 1918 at the age of 48.

November 17<sup>th</sup> was our “You Are There” program. Two officers who were at Fort Steilacoom in the 1850s, and would go on to become Generals in the Civil War, General Silas Casey (Ken Morgan) and General August V. Kautz (Lawrence Bateman), were interviewed by a present day moderator, Joe Lewis.

In other news, we have been looking into revamping our married officer’s quarters. Nancy and Claire Keller-Scholz have been researching and making period window furnishings to add some color to the quarters. It was also decided to switch the family room with the formal parlor of Quarters 1. This was done by John Roten, Bernie and Lawrence Bateman after the “You Are There” program.

All of the Companies were recalled



Walter Neary portrays Herbert Hunt.

to the fort this quarter, so no “In the Field” report will follow.

A couple of events to look forward to: The first takes place at Fort Nisqually on December 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be a “19<sup>th</sup> Century Christmas at Fort Nisqually” with 1850s Christmas activities and living history. Contact Fort Nisqually for more information.

The following week on December 14<sup>th</sup> Fort Steilacoom will present its annual “Christmas at Fort Steilacoom.” This year we will be seen in 1863 while it was occupied by Company K, 1<sup>st</sup> Washington Territorial Volunteers. See the advertisement in this newsletter and in the fort website [historicfortsteilacoom.org](http://historicfortsteilacoom.org).

To our Board of Directors, volunteers, Living Historians, general members, and our “Wayward Volunteer” posted in the Dept. of Arizona, *thank you all* for a job well done! Look for some great events next year. I would also like to wish you all a Wonderful Holiday Season. See you all next year.

Lawrence Bateman

**Casey’s Service Ends (from p.1)**

more difficult to recruit volunteers. African-Americans had served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, but they encountered resistance when they attempted to serve in the Civil War. The Lincoln Administration was concerned that slave-holding border states that remained loyal to the Union would defect to the Confederacy. In addition, there was fear that arming both freemen and former slaves could result in the South’s worst nightmare—slave rebellion.

African-Americans would not be deterred, however. In the fall of 1862, three regiments of blacks were raised in New Orleans. Later, regiments were raised from South Carolina and Kansas. Little federal support was afforded these regiments, but they did demonstrate the resolve of the African-American community.

By 1862, the war was not progressing well for the Union. In order to gain continued northern support, primary war aims were changed from preserving the Union to freeing the slaves. In July 1862, Congress passed the Second Confiscation and Militia Act, which allowed persons of African descent to be received into military service for any purpose “judged best for the public welfare.”

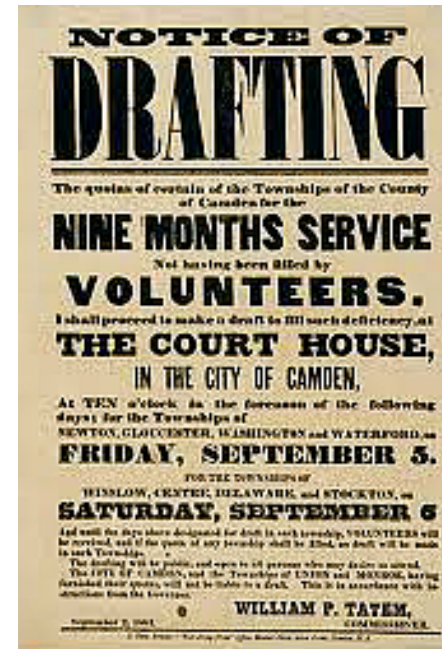
But President Lincoln waited until after he issued the Emancipation Proclamation to allow these troops into combat, specifically “that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed services of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.”



The War department responded by issuing General Order No. 143, which created the Bureau of Colored Troops (USCT). This order also established a board to examine applicants for commissions to command. Only white officers would command black soldiers, although black officers could serve as surgeons and chaplains. Major General Silas Casey was appointed as permanent president of the officers’ examining board. Officers of all ranks—colonels, majors, captains, and lieutenants—would be needed. How would they be found?

Anyone could apply. Former officers, soldiers from the ranks, civilians from all occupations, and serving officers of lesser ranks all applied. Forty-seven per cent failed. Clearly this was not acceptable. General Casey stated, “(l)et it be impressed deeply on the conscience of every man of influence and authority that when he places in command an incompetent officer he is guilty of manslaughter.”

When the failure rate became known, the Philadelphia Supervisory Committee for recruiting Colored Regiments, at the suggestion of General Casey’s board, established a Free School for Military Tactics, to provide instruction in military leadership to those applicants for commissions to command colored troops. In today’s terms—an officer candidate school.



Instruction at the school was provided in military tactics (using Casey’s infantry tactics manual), military regulations, mathematics, and other pertinent subjects. When the school’s preceptor, John H. Taggart, himself a late colonel of Pennsylvania Reserves, determined a student was ready, the student was referred to General Casey’s examining board. In March of 1964, through Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War, General Casey commended the school, saying, “I am pleased to inform you that the board of which I am president have not as yet rejected one of your candidates.”

By the end of the war, one hundred and seventy-five regiments of USCT, over 178,000 black soldiers, had been raised and were led by officers General Casey had certified.

But the federal government was still having trouble raising volunteers. Something other than accepting African-American soldiers was needed. Congress passed an act for enrolling and calling out the National Forces, which was signed by President Lincoln on 3 March 1863. The act required all able-bodied men aged 18 to 45 to be enrolled in local militia units, available for call to national service. The actual drafting was the responsibility of the individual states.