

Dan Sickles Civil War Roundtable



Presents:

Holding Charleston by the Bridle: Castle Pinckney and the Civil War

with Historians and Authors

W. Clifford Roberts, Jr. & Matthew Locke



A Virtual Program via Zoom

Sunday, February 23, 2025 ♦ 7:00 pm (eastern)



On the eve of the Civil War, the *London Times* informed its readers that Castle Pinckney has “been kept garrisoned, not to protect Charleston from naval attack from the ocean, but to serve as a bridle upon the city.” Located on a marshy island in the center of Charleston’s magnificent harbor, the large cannons on the ramparts of this horseshoe-shaped masonry fort had the ability to command downtown Charleston and the busy wharves along East Bay Street. The impressive bastion, constructed as a state-of-the-art seacoast fortress on the eve of the War of 1812, hosted luminaries including President James Monroe, and Generals Winfield Scott, P. G. T. Beauregard and Robert E. Lee. The history of Pinckney is as impressive as its list of visiting VIPs.

After First Manassas (Bull Run), 156 captured Yankee officers and enlisted men were sent to the island, and in 1863, members of the famous 54th Massachusetts were held there as POWs. The fort’s guns helped defend Charleston during the war’s longest siege. By 1865, the old fortress had been transformed into an earthen barbette battery. During Reconstruction Pinckney became an “American Bastille” for Southerners accused of crimes against the government.

Join us for an evening with historians and authors W. Clifford Roberts, Jr. and Matthew Locke for a virtual visit to Castle Pinckney to explore its rich and varied history!

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