

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Sibley's New Mexico Campaign

By **Miles Mathews**, Western Wyoming Community College

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Frazier, Donald S.	<i>Blood & Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest</i> . College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Alberts, Don E.	<i>The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the West</i> . College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1998.
Edrington, Thomas S., and John Taylor	<i>The Battle of Glorieta Pass: A Gettysburg in the West, March 26-28, 1862</i> . Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998.
Hall, Martin Hardwick	<i>Sibley's New Mexico Campaign</i> . Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000
Kliger, Paul I.	"The New Mexico Campaign," in <i>Blue and Gray Magazine</i> 11, no. 5 (June 1994).
Taylor, John	<i>Bloody Valverde: A Civil War Battle on the Rio Grande, February 21, 1862</i> . Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995.
Thompson, Jerry	<i>Civil War in the Southwest: Recollections of the Sibley Brigade</i> . El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1992.
_____.	<i>Confederate General of the West: Henry</i>

	<i>Hopkins Sibley</i> . College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1996, 215-308.
Whitlock, Flint	<i>Distant Bugles, Distant Drums: The Union Response to the Confederate Invasion of New Mexico</i> . Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2006.

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
Pecos National Historical Park	The National Park Service manages the Glorieta Pass Battlefield in the Pecos National Historical Park. The park is located 25 miles east of Santa Fe New Mexico off Interstate 25. They advise not to rely on GPS units to get to the park and visitor center. The park is open from Memorial Day through Labor day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It is open from Labor Day until Memorial Day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Their website is: http://www.nps.gov/peco/index.htm
Bureau of Land Management: Fort Craig National Historic Site	The ruins of Fort Craig, the strategic Union-held bastion in central New Mexico, are now under the control of the Bureau of Land Management. Their address is Socorro Field Office, 901 S. Highway 85, Socorro, NM 87801-4168. 575 835 0412. They are open year round during daylight hours. Their website is: http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/socorro/fort_craig.html

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/glorietapass/glorieta-pass-history-articles/glorietaalberts.html	This article from the website of the <i>Civil War Trust</i> "The Battle of Glorieta: Union Victory in the Far West" by Don E. Alberts provides a brief but detailed overview of the

	campaign.
https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qds03	This article from the website of the <i>Texas State Historical Association</i> "Sibley Campaign" by historian Don E. Alberts provides a brief but detailed overview of the campaign.
http://exploringoffthebeatenpath.com/Battlefields/ForgottenFront/index.html	Exploring Off the Beaten Path has an excellent page on the Sibley's New Mexico Campaign including maps and modern views.

Other Sources

Scholars

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Miles Mathews	milesmathews@wwcc.mailcruiser.com
Donald S. Frazier	dfrazier@mcm.edu
Jerry Thompson	jthompson@tamiu.edu

Precis

Confederate Brigadier General Henry Sibley secured permission from Confederate President Jefferson Davis to raise a brigade of 3 regiments of Texas Mounted Volunteers to invade and seize the New Mexico Territory from the Union. The success of the plan required the Confederates to live on supplies captured from weakened Union forces in the territory advancing as far as the federal Fort Union in the north of New Mexico Territory. His brigade left San Antonio Texas on October 22, 1861. Union forces in the territory were commanded by Colonel Edward Canby. Their first battle was fought on February 21, 1862 at the Battle of Valverde north of Union Fort Craig. The Confederates won the battle but, because they lacked the artillery to capture Fort Craig and its supplies, they suffered a strategic defeat and they continued their advance to Fort Union. On March 26, 1862 at the Battle of Apache Canyon the action was not decisive but a large number of Confederates were captured. On March 28 they clashed again at the Battle of Glorieta Pass where the Confederates defeated their opponents. However, a Federal flanking force fell on the Confederate supply train lightly guarded at a distance from the battlefield and destroyed it completely. Without supplies, Sibley was forced to retreat back to Texas taking twelve days to cross the 100 miles of Jornada del Muerto Desert leaving a trail of debris along their route which littered the desert for years afterward. Sibley's troops straggled into San

Antonio throughout the late summer of 1862. Instead of capturing the New Mexico Territory for the Confederacy, a stepping stone to further conquests north and west, perhaps as far as California, the campaign was an unmitigated disaster and only 1,500 of the original 2,500-man brigade made it back to San Antonio having achieved none of their goals.
