

Sources

Reference Books

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American Civil War: A State-by-State Encyclopedia. Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-528-0). E-book available (978-1-59884-529-7), call for pricing.

Obviously there is no shortage of available resources on the American Civil War. Nor is there a shortage of encyclopedias covering this seminal event from numerous perspectives and vantage points. However, there are not many sources looking specifically at the war from a state-by-state viewpoint. Two separate books with the same title have covered this territory previously. *The Civil War State by State* by Paul Brewer (Thunder Bay 2004), and more recently, Chester G. Hearn’s unrelated work by the same name (BlueRedPress 2013) take the state approach. However, neither work is nearly as in-depth and detailed as this new release edited by the senior fellow in military history at ABC-CLIO, who has authored or edited a long list of military history books and encyclopedias. Also, the previous editions mentioned have a great emphasis on color graphics and appealing layout, and are not intended as a starting point for scholarly research. This latest release, however, is clearly focused on providing historical background information while also pointing the user to further research and analysis by way of Further Reading lists and a “Select Bibliography.”

The two volumes are simply organized alphabetically by state or territory into forty-four chapters. There were thirty-four states at the start of the war, and thirty-six by the end, with West Virginia and Nevada joining the Union mid-war. Each of these chapters begins with an Introduction providing geographical and historical context. Next are listed “Key Cities/Towns,” “Key Military Facilities,” and “Notable Individuals,” which includes civilians, politicians, and military figures. Finally, “Notable Battles” are listed, if any. Clearly, a state like Virginia will merit a longer section than California. Yet whatever manner of participation in the war took place in a region, whether by contributing soldiers, generals, ammunition, or food, this set will cover it. From a military perspective, campaigns, raids, and expeditions appear in addition to the expected battles. For example, the Battle of Gettysburg warrants a long, detailed explanation, but also included are summaries of two nearby engagements in Pennsylvania involving the town of Chambersburg, one before and one after the great Gettysburg battle. These forays into Northern territory neatly encapsulate an important aspect of the Civil War—the South taking the war to the North. This encyclopedia does an excellent job of concisely demonstrating how the South was only raiding to destroy Union supplies earlier in the war (the first raid on Chambersburg in October of 1862), but later changed tactics. In the second raid on Chambersburg in 1864, Southern forces actually held the town hostage, demanding monetary ransom. When it failed to materialize, they burned and looted the town. As clearly explained in this source, this gesture was both retaliatory and counter-productive, since the Union Army used the incident as an excuse to employ similar tactics as they occupied more and more of the South as the war progressed.

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A user of this set can clearly and easily see how a particular area, in this case southern Pennsylvania near the Maryland border, played a crucial role in the war.

Overall, the set is well-indexed in case users do not know in which state to seek information on a person or battle. Other features are some black and white maps and illustrations. The entries clearly and concisely tie locations, events, and people to the overall war effort of each side. The level of detail and overall scholarly approach make this seem more appropriate for academic libraries; or perhaps public libraries with a strong Civil War collection.—*Mike Tosko, Associate Professor, Research and Learning Services, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio*

American Poets and Poetry: From the Colonial Era to the Present. Ed. by Jeffrey Gray, Mary McAleer Balkun, and James McCorkle. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-831-3). E-book available (978-1-61069-832-0), call for pricing.

In many ways *American Poets and Poetry: From the Colonial Era to the Present* is a condensed version of *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry* (Greenwood, 2006). They have the same editors, many of the same contributors, and there is overlap in the poets and topics covered. The earlier encyclopedia was five volumes and much more comprehensive, but this new work does cover some contemporary poets not found in the previous work, such as Natasha Trethewey, and has more recent information about some of the still living poets.

The alphabetical arrangement of the entries, along with a table of contents and an index, make it easy to use. Signed entries include some biographical information, exploration of the poets' style and themes, and very brief lists of primary and secondary sources. Frequently entries discuss individual poems or poem collections, which really helps illustrate the nature of the poet's work. This two volume work also contains a historical chronology, a bibliography (featuring anthologies of poetry, critical studies, reference works, and websites), and an introduction that provides context for the periods covered.

The topical entries are a strength of this work since they make it more than just a biographical source. A student can gain more understanding about such topics as beat poetry, imagism, Native American poetry, and postmodern poetics. Unfortunately the topical entries are not easily linked to the individual poets. There is no "see also" section in the entries, and poets discussed in a topical entry are not highlighted in any way, even if they have their own entry. The index helps solve this oversight. For example, when beat poetry appears in the index, it lists not only the page numbers for the main topical entry and other pages where beat poetry is mentioned, but it also lists under it the names of beat poets that have entries.

The target audience for this reference work is high school and college students. It's only recommended for libraries who

have not already purchased *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*, or perhaps for those looking for a more compact reference work on this topic to be added to their circulating collection.—*Arianne A. Hartsell-Gundy, Librarian for Literature and Theater Studies, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina*

Encyclopedia of Asylum Therapeutics, 1750–1950s. By Mary de Young. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2015. 368 pages. acid free \$55 (ISBN: 978-0-7864-6897-3). E-book available (978-0-4766-1788-6), call for pricing.

Therapeutics is defined as the treatment and care of a patient to both prevent and combat disease and injury in the online *Encyclopedia Britannica*. This encyclopedia is an attempt to gather many of the treatments applied in institutions for the mentally ill (insane), using the writings of proponents and practitioners of these treatments. While a few of the therapies described and documented in this encyclopedia appear to be humane and well intentioned (Hydrotherapy—beach bathing), many others appear to be punitive and even sadistic when compared to contradictory views at the times and definitely so in light of current modern understandings of mental illness. Some forms of hydrotherapy such as douche, drenching, mustard bath, etc. might be considered torture.

The 35 alphabetically arranged entries or categories of therapeutics include summaries of single or related groups of treatments. These may be paraphrased or quoted from the writings of proponents of the wide ranging theories of sanity and insanity that led to the treatments sometimes inflicted on patients in asylums. The categories are succinctly defined under the headings, followed by descriptions of the various ways these might be carried out. There are reference lists for each category, though the placement between the introductory discussion of each category and individual treatments falling within the category is unusual.

An example of this entry organization is Cerebral or Psychic Stimulation where temporary anoxia was induced by altering air pressure, inhalation of various carbon dioxide mixtures, continuous oxygen therapy, nitrogen inhalation, nitrous oxide inhalation, or sodium cyanide injections. Major hospitals, university research centers, state and private institutions for the insane and even the Chemical Warfare Service of the US Army were involved in using one or more of these methods.

Another questionable category was genital surgery of various kinds. Castration, clitoridectomy, ovariectomy, sterilization (tubal ligation and vasectomy), and "wiring" to cause pain when masturbating, are described along with those who practiced and promoted these therapies for various types of behaviors.

Many of the therapies have obscure names that require reading the entry to discover the underlying theories and treatments. Awakenings, Depletive Therapy, Fixing, Metallotherapy, Psychic Driving and Total Push are examples.