NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Ethnic and Immigrant Studies / American History

Sons of Garibaldi in Blue and Gray

Italians in the American Civil War

Frank W. Alduino and David J. Coles

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Description

Not much has been written about the Italian immigrant experience prior to 1880. This book, through careful analysis of primary and archival sources, brings to life the Civil War-time trials and tribulations of several notable Italian Americans—Bancroft Gherardi, Luigi Palma di Cesnola, Francis B. Spinola, Decimus et Ultimus Barziza, and Edward Ferrero, among others. Though their numbers were few, Italian Americans played central roles in the bloodiest war in our country’s history. Included in this book are samples of John Garibaldi’s wartime correspondence to his wife, lists of Italian Americans who served as officers and noncommissioned sailors in the Union Navy, and first-hand correspondence of William Howell Reed (Virginia hospitals overseer under President Grant) and the brother of a young Italian who died in the hospital during the war. Sons of Garibaldi in Blue and Gray: Italians in the American Civil War fills a critical gap in studies of Italian American life in the United States in the late 1800s.

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Table of Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments
Photo Acknowledgments
1. The Early Italian Experience
2. Giuseppe Garibaldi: The Hero of Two Worlds
3. Ye come from many a far off clime; And speak in many A tongue: The Garibaldi Guard
4. Edward Ferrero: From Ballroom to Battlefield
5. Luigi Palma di Cesnola: An Italian Cavalier in the Union Cavalry
6. Francis Barretto Spinola: A Tammany Politician Goes to War
7. Alberto Maggi and Enrico Fardella: Two Professional Soldiers
8. The Sons of Neptune: Italian Americans in the Union Navy
9. Italians in Gray
Appendices
   A. John Garibaldi Letters
   B. Hospital Life in the Army of the Potomac
   C. Union Naval Enlistments
Bibliography
Index

Reviews

“Although not numerous, the part played by Italian and Italian Americans during the war is informative, colorful, and extremely fascinating—a story that deserves to be told. Scrupulously employing canons of historical objectivity, Frank Alduino and David Coles have mined an impressive array of primary and secondary sources exhaustively—some virtually undiscovered—to establish their thesis reinforced by the unassailable objective historical record. ... this is a robust, solid, and sturdy work of history that records the important role Italians and Italian Americans played during the Civil War. They fought in some of the most critical battles such as Bull Run and Gettysburg, and participated in blockading key ports—a worthy contribution to ethnic history that also enriches our understanding of the Civil War. It is the definitive monograph in the field.”
– Salvatore J. LaGumina
Professor, Nassau Community College
and Past President, American Italian Historical Association

About the Authors

Dr. Frank W. Alduino is Professor of History at Anne Arundel Community College. He holds a Ph.D. from Florida State University.

Dr. David J. Coles is Assistant Professor of History at Longwood College where he teaches archival administration as well as U.S. Southern, Military, and Civil War history. Before coming to Longwood, he worked as the archives supervisor at the Florida State Archives. Dr. Coles earned his Ph.D. at Florida State University.