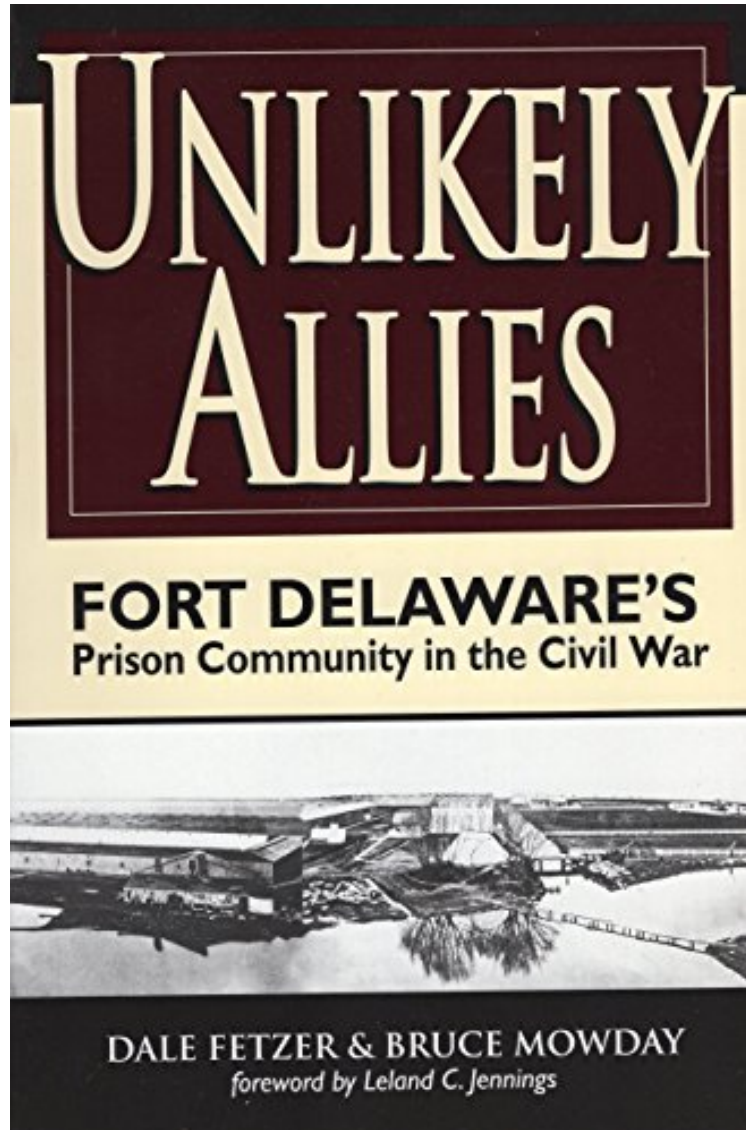


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## Unlikely Allies: Fort Delaware's Prison Community in the Civil War

*Dale Fetzer, Bruce Mowday*

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**Dale Fetzer, Bruce Mowday : Unlikely Allies: Fort Delaware's Prison Community in the Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unlikely Allies: Fort Delaware's Prison Community in the Civil War:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great stories.By RLMMMy great great great grandfather was a prisoner here, and I have visited the fort with my mother and son. He is buried across the river at Finns Point National Cemetary with 2000+ other prisoners and guards who died of smallpox. I wanted to read about the life there, so this

has been an education. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent resource! By Allwazthinking This book gave me exactly what I was looking for.... day to day experiences of the soldiers captured at Gettysburg who were imprisoned at Fort Delaware. Excellent resource. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fine history By J. Keith Jones Unlikely Allies is a very thorough history of the famed POW camp on a tiny island in the Delaware River. It begins with the survey of the simple little mud flat known initially as "Pip Ash" Island by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the famed first chief engineer of the United States Army. Pea Patch Island which had previously been used as a bird hunting preserve had value for its strategic location to protect the Delaware River from enemy invasion. Skillfully crafted by Fetzer and writer and journalist, Mowday, this history tells the story of this important federal fort in a readable and accessible format. From the time that L'Enfant surveys and reports on the island through the scramble to outfit it as a full artillery battery and the erection of barracks for use as a busy prisoner of war camp. Fort Delaware quickly becomes a full operational community and one of the most famous northern POW camps of the war. Being the commandant of a POW camp is a thankless and often no-win proposition. The authors do an excellent job of covering the commanders and the various military outfits and their key officers who manned the fort. In every case most of the men would have preferred other duty. This tiny island would be home to many famous guests throughout the war. Not only were there high ranking Confederate officers, but one of the primary uses of the prison was for "prisoners of state." That is the political prisoners confined there for a number of infractions in the north deemed to be treason. Some of these were as blatant as spying or colluding to commit actual acts of insurrection, but most were for less overt actions. These were among the thousands imprisoned for the duration of the war without charges or due process for actions like writing newspaper editorials critical of the Lincoln administration or members of state legislatures casting votes the federal government deemed damaging to their position. If you have ever wondered about the role played by Fort Delaware or just wanted to go behind the scenes of a northern POW camp, Fetzer and Mowday do an excellent job of taking you there. Keith Jones Author of [...]

Moving narrative of the harrowing ordeal of Civil War prisoners Based on newly discovered primary sources During the Civil War, more than 30,000 Southern prisoners passed through the gates of Fort Delaware over the course of three years. As with all Civil War prison camps, Fort Delaware gained a reputation for wretched living conditions and is still called the "Andersonville of the North" by some historians. Undoubtedly, there were suffering and death at the prison, but a thorough examination reveals a markedly different picture: that of a group of men and women determined not only to survive, but to thrive as well, despite harsh circumstances.

About the Author Dale Fetzer has worked as the lead historical interpreter for Fort Delaware State Park and has also served as an advisor for numerous films and documentaries, including Gettysburg, Glory, and Andersonville. Bruce Mowday, former managing editor of the Daily Local News of West Chester, Pennsylvania, has written several other books, including September 11, 1777: Washington's Defeat at Brandywine Dooms Philadelphia (1-57249-328-3).