

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Jacob Dolson Cox: Civil War General and Historian

By Eugene D. Schmiel

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Schmiel, Eugene D.	<i>Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era</i> . Athens: Ohio University Press, 2014.

Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in Journal ##, no. # (Date): #.
Cox, Jacob D.	<i>Atlanta</i> . New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1882.
_____.	<i>The Battle of Franklin Tennessee November 30, 1864 A Monograph with Maps</i> . New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1897.
_____.	<i>The March to the Sea Franklin and Nashville</i> . New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1898.
_____.	<i>Military Reminiscences of the Civil War</i> , 2 vols. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1900.
Guelzo, Allan	<i>Fateful Lightning: A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction</i> . New York: Oxford University, 2012.
Jordan, Brian	<i>Unholy Sabbath; The Battle of South Mountain in History and in Memory, September 14, 1862</i> . El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beattie, 2012.

Sears, Stephen	<i>Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam.</i> Boston, MA: Ticknor and Fields, 1983.
Sword, Wiley	<i>Embrace an Angry Wind: The Confederacy's Last Hurrah; Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville.</i> New York: HarperCollins, 1992.

Organizations

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Cox%2c%20Jacob%20D%2e%20%28Jacob%20Dolson%29%2c%201828-1900	The Online Books Page of the University of Pennsylvania contains digitized versions of Cox's books and articles and speeches.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob_Dolson_Cox	This is the Wikipedia article on Cox.

Other Sources

Scholars

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Topic Précis

The wrenching and unexpected events of the mid-nineteenth century led Jacob Dolson Cox from a tranquil life in academe and religion in rural Ohio, through the turbulence and bloodshed of the Civil War, and onto the political stage of Reconstruction, finally returning him to the relative peace of scholarship and the writing of history. Born in 1828 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Dolson as he was called, studied theology at Oberlin College, became a school superintendent and lawyer in Ohio and Senator from Ohio in 1859. At the start of the Civil War he was appointed a brigadier General and had his first experience of war with McClellan in the early fighting in West Virginia. He transferred to the Army of the Potomac in 1862 for the Maryland Campaign and ascended to the role of co commander of the Union left at Antietam. After Antietam, he was engaged in the military administration of Ohio until

1864 when he fought with Sherman in the campaign to capture Atlanta. He commanded Union forces at Franklin before returning to Sherman and participating in the battles leading to the surrender of Confederate General Joseph Johnston, ultimately retiring as a Major General. In 1865, he was elected Governor of Ohio. A supporter of President Andrew Johnson's vision for reconstruction, he lost the support of the Republican party and did not stand for re-election in 1867. He served briefly in President Grant's administration as Secretary of the Interior and served briefly from 1877-1879 in the House of Representatives but after that abandoned his political career. From 1872 until his death in 1900 Cox filled many roles. He spent time practicing as a lawyer, President of the Toledo Wabash Railway, congressman, Dean of the Cincinnati Law School, and president of the University of Cincinnati. He conducted scientific research and authored 32 articles on microscope photography. But the war left its mark on Cox, as it did on an entire generation. As a result, his most important post-political career by far was as an influential historian and analyst of the Civil War, and his writings have become his enduring legacy. He published four books and many articles. The books continue today to be cited as reliable history, as well as essential primary sources. Cox and his wife Helen had seven children, five of whom lived to adulthood. The Coxes lived their final years together back in Oberlin, Ohio, where he completed research on his memoirs. In return for the free use of the library and other facilities at the college, Cox left his collection of over 2,000 books and his papers to the college. His papers are now in the Oberlin College archives. Cox died in 1900 from a heart attack, and he and much of his family are buried in Spring Grove cemetery in Cincinnati.
