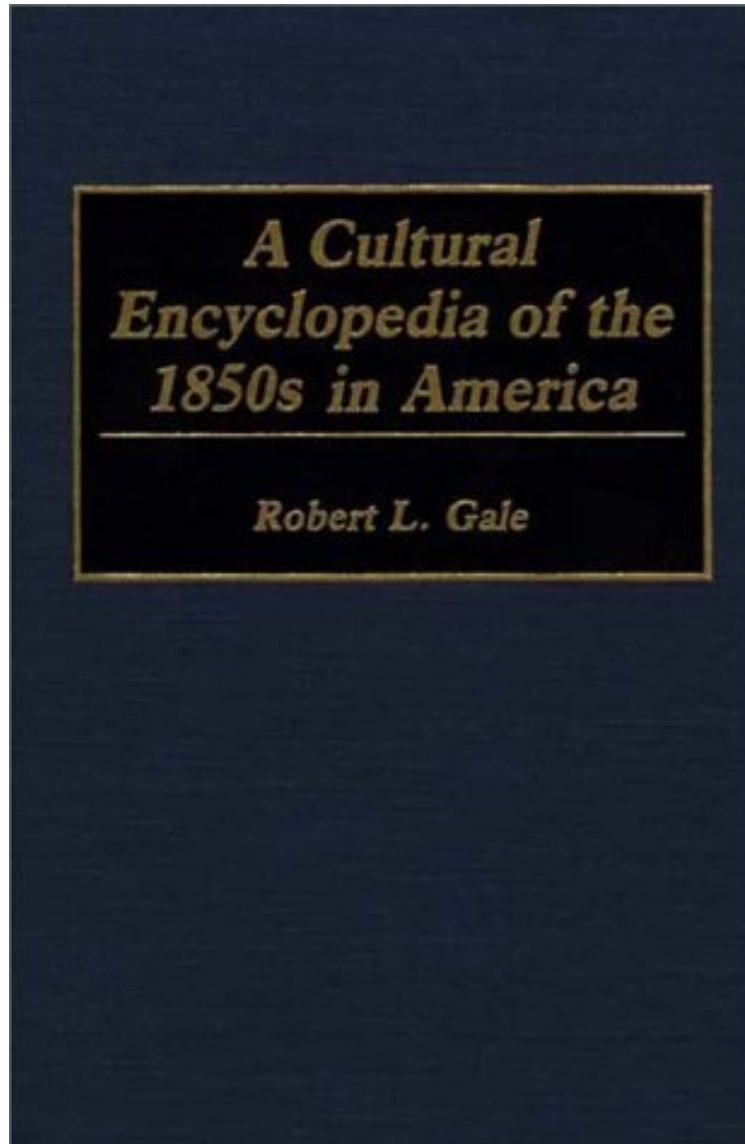


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## A Cultural Encyclopedia of the 1850s in America

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was like to live in the 1850's and 1860's. The book reads wonderfully for an "encyclopedia", and doesn't 'feel' episodic, or topic-driven. It brings to light and life a wide array of fads and bedrock ideals of that time. At its core, the book provides a coherent picture of the prevailing culture of that time, enabling someone who hopes to re-enact in a way that is both educational and educative to really represent how a person behaved, and what motivated them in the Civil War era. Comprehensive and accessible, this book offers a panoramic and informed look back. For people outside of the re-enactor community, who have an interest in history, culture, and behavior, this book will be a fascinating read. Well done, and invaluable.

The 1850s were a particularly fruitful and eventful period in American history, a time of unrest and preparation for change. This reference work provides a thorough record of the cultural happenings in America during that period. The volume is divided into several sections. It begins with a chronology that presents the events of the 1850s in capsule form year by year. A list of entries follows. The encyclopedia that comes after the list of entries contains brief, alphabetically arranged articles for performers, military personnel, theologians, composers, critics, educators, explorers, historians, industrialists, inventors, authors, artists, physicians, scientists, sculptors, and numerous events and creative works. A bibliography, divided into topical sections, directs the reader to the best sources of additional information. An appendix lists the biographical entries according to professional categories, and a detailed index adds to the usefulness of the volume.

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About the Author  
ROBERT L. GALE is Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of Pittsburgh. An authority on the nineteenth century, his many publications include A Henry James Encyclopedia (Greenwood Press, 1989), A Nathaniel Hawthorne Encyclopedia (Greenwood Press, 1991), and The Gay Nineties in America: A Cultural Dictionary of the 1890s (Greenwood Press, 1992).