

# Sources and Acknowledgments

In "Sources and Acknowledgments" of *\*The Demon of Unrest\**, the author discusses the creative process behind the book, emphasizing the search for a compelling narrative. He recounts how, during the onset of the COVID pandemic in early 2020, he began exploring the events that led to the Civil War, particularly at Fort Sumter. The chaotic political climate of the pandemic fueled his curiosity about the origins of the war, prompting a detour from his usual research methods, which were interrupted by limited access to archives due to safety measures.

Engaging with various online resources, he discovered *\*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies\**, which captivated him with its comprehensive collection of primary documents, allowing him to piece together a vivid account of America's struggle leading to civil conflict. His visit to Charleston post-pandemic further enriched his understanding, as he interacted directly with historical documents revealing the stark realities of slavery, including a list of enslaved individuals and advertisements for slave auctions.

Utilizing resources from the Library of Congress, he examined papers from key historical figures such as Maj. Robert Anderson and others, while also making good use of digital archives dedicated to Abraham Lincoln's works. Notably, secondary sources such as *\*Battle Cry of Freedom\** by James M. McPherson and *\*Team of Rivals\** by Doris Kearns Goodwin also played significant roles in shaping his narrative.

The author expresses gratitude toward various contributors, including his wife and editor, Amanda Cook, whose insights helped refine the book from its initial draft. He acknowledges the support from publicists and friends who facilitated his journey through the writing process, ensuring the project stayed true to its vision. Through their collaboration, the book metamorphosed into a finished product, enhanced by a thoughtful design and marketing strategy, ensuring its reach to a wider audience.

The author's reflections reveal not only his extensive research process but also the personal connections and inspirations that shaped the final work, which is peppered with anecdotes and insights from the past.