



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019

Meeting Location: Holder's Country Inn – Cupertino, CA

Special Activities & Events:

Wings of History Museum Open House

- Date: May 18, 2019
- Location: 2777 Murphy Avenue - San Martin CA 95046
- Theme: Aviation Day at San Martin
- Event Link: <https://www.wingsofhistory.org/>

Civil War Institute

- Date: June 14-19, 2019
- Location: Gettysburg College
- Event Topics: 1864 Atlanta campaign, political crisis of the 1850s, Civil War artifacts, Nat Turner's Rebellion, combat experience of Civil War soldiers, and more.
- Event Link: <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/>

2019 West Coast Civil War Conference

- Date: November 8-10, 2019
- Location: Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast, 5321 Date Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95841-2512
- Theme: Civil War Leadership: The Strategy, Tactics, and Politics of a Country Torn Asunder
- Event Link: <https://www.savasbeatie.com/savas-beatie-blog/2019-west-coast-civil-war-conference-in-sacramento-featuring-two-major-savas-beatie-authors/>

Officer Reports

President(Jack Nakash led Meeting)

No Report

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Vice President

- Announced Upcoming Civil War Re-enactment events:
Las Mariposa Civil War Days
 - April 12-14: Link: <https://mariposacivilwardays.com/>
- **Roaring Camp Civil War Battles and Encampment**
 - May 25-27: Link: <https://www.crazycrow.com/site/event/roaring-camp-civil-war-battles-and-encampment/>

Treasurer

- Bank Account: \$3,101

Secretary

- Distributed February meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Foreign Involvement in the Civil War?
- \$37 collected for book raffle
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 17

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Vacant

Other Topics (By Abby Eller)

This Day in the Civil War: March 26th

- **1861**: President Lincoln and his cabinet to discuss how to best deal with the growing crisis at Ft Sumter.
- **1862**: State militia in Missouri clash with Confederate forces at Hammondsville. In Colorado territory, Union forces near Denver City encounter Confederate cavalry and capture 50 Confederate cavalymen. In New Mexico territory, Confederates and Union soldiers clash at Apache Canyon; the Union troops are victorious.
- **1863**: In a letter to Andrew Johnson, Lincoln declares: “The colored population is the greatest available force for restoring the Union.” In the new state of West Virginia, the citizens approve a referendum providing for the emancipation of slaves in their new state.

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- **1864:** Threatened by cavalry sent by Sherman, Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederates withdraw from Paducah KY towards Ft Pillow.
- **1865:** Sheridan's Union cavalry arrive at the Petersburg front to reinforce Grant's army. In the Mobile campaign, Federals prepare to lay siege to Spanish Fort, a crucial Southern fortification.

Person of the Month: Matthew Brady: Father of Photo Journalism

Preamble

- Napoleonic Wars saw the beginnings of modern warfare, when Napoleon called upon the entire French nation to contribute to the war effort
- In the 1850's, the Crimean War saw the beginning of extensive documentation by officers' written reports, and journalists' coverage.
- The American Civil War was the first modern war due in no small part to the enormous extent it was preserved in photographs; an estimated 1500 photographers produced photographs; the most famous of these was Mathew Brady, considered to be the father of photojournalism.

Brady's Beginnings

- In Born in 1822 in upstate New York,
- Studied portrait painting as a teenager
- Studied portrait photography under Samuel F.B. Morse, who pioneered daguerreotype photography in America
- Opened photography studio in New York City in 1844; another in Washington DC in 1849

Government and Civil Experience

- Photographed John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Andrew Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln among many others.
- Trained team of assistants to work as expert photographers
- Studios a brisk business taking portrait photographs of Union recruits
- Obtained permission to photograph battlefields; most were taken by Brady's expert team of assistants
- First to show gruesome aftermath of battles that shocked the nation

Advancements in Photography

- By 1861, photography technology had reached the point where chemical coated glass negatives could be used to make multiple photographs on specially coated paper, making possible widespread distribution of the images; this was a major advance over the previous daguerreotype and ambrotype technologies
- Unique images then had to be sealed under glass for protection
- A copy of an ambrotype or daguerreotype could only be made by photographing the original with another camera

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Notable Brady Photographic Portraits

- Brady took many photographs of notable Civil War individuals:
Lincoln: Used on the five-dollar bill and the penny; on April 10th 1865, took last photograph of Lincoln, which depicts a man greatly aged and worn by the burden he's borne.
Other Iconic Figures: Grant, Sherman, McClellan, Beauregard, Robert E Lee, Jefferson Davis, Burnside, Banks, Stonewall Jackson.

Brady's Post Mortem

- During the war, Brady spent \$100,000 to create 10,000 photographs
- After the war, planned to sell to public & US Government for archiving;
- there was no market for Brady's work
- Brady's fortunes declined; died in poverty in 1896; many of the negatives and photographs were lost
- 7,000 photographs eventually placed in government archives
- Glass negatives that remained were acquired by Edward Baily Eaton; published them in 1912 "The Photographic History of the Civil War"
- In our own time, Brady's legacy is what largely made possible Ken Burns' famous Civil War documentary

March Presentation

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: Comparing the Root Causes for the Revolutionary War and the Civil War

April Presentation

Speaker: Nick Adams

Topic: A Civil War Story of the Family Left Behind

May Presentation

Speaker: Libra Hilde

Topic: The African American Soldier and the Civil War