



# SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes April 30, 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**

Civil War News: The Military Academy at West Point installed a statue honor Ulysses S Grant who graduated with the Class of 1843

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## **Vice President**

### **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: \$3,036

## **Secretary**

- Distributed March meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Funeral and Burial of Abraham Lincoln?
- \$62 collected for book raffle
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 21

## **Preservation**

No Report

## **Historian**

Vacant

## **Other Topics (By Abby Eller)**

### **This Day in the Civil War: April 30th**

**1861:** Complying with orders from President Lincoln, Federal troops evacuate Indian Territory forts. This leaves the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks and Seminoles open to alliance with the Confederacy.

**1862:** In control of New Orleans, Federals post US flag over New Orleans Custom House & City Hall, much to the anger of local citizenry. There is skirmishing at Cumberland Gap KY and near Bridgeport AL.

**1863:** In MS, Genl McClelland's Union troops cross MS River near Bruinsburg. Genl Grant poised to move forces inland towards Vicksburg. In the Chancellorsville campaign, Genl Hooker reports "the operations of the last 3 days have determined that our enemy must ingloriously fly."

**1864:** In Red River campaign, one of great feats of military engineering history begins with work on building dams to raise the river level, to float the stranded Union fleet over the rapids above Alexandria on the Red River.

**1865:** Genls Edward Canby & Richard Taylor meet near Mobile A; agree to a truce to arrange surrender of all Confederate troops in AL and MS.

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## **Person of the Month: Mary “Mother” Bickerdyke**

### **Preamble**

- Genl Sherman praised her as “our best general.”
- In the Grand Review of the Army held in Washington DC after the Civil War, at Sherman’s request she rode at the head of the XV Corp
- US military hospital ship, SS Mary Bickerdyke, named in her honor.

### **Background**

- Born in 1817 in Ohio, one of first women to attend Oberlin College
- In 1847 married Robert Bickerdyke; had two sons – one died in 1857
- Moved to Illinois to practice alternative medicine using plants and herbs

### **Civil War**

- Volunteered to deliver supplies for military hospital at Cairo IL.
- US Grant took notice and for remainder of war, had Grant’s support.
- Went on to serve as nurse and hospital administrator until March 1865
- Established 300 field hospitals, including ones near 19 major battles
- Cared for sick and wounded soldiers, both Union and Confederate
- Ensured soldiers’ letters & belongings got sent home if the soldiers died
- Flouted army regulations that hindered getting care for the soldiers
- When one army surgeon challenged her, “On whose authority do you act?” she shot back, “On the authority of God Almighty! Have you anything that outranks THAT?”
- Regrading complaints, Sherman said “She outranks me! Take care not to cross her, for if you do, she is liable to place you under arrest!”

### **Post-Civil War**

- After the Civil War, among other things, became an attorney in order to help army veterans with legal problems and obtaining pensions
- She received pension of \$25/month voted by Congress
- At the end of her life, lived with one of her sons; died of a stroke in 1901
- Monuments in her honor . erected in Galesburg Ill & Mount Vernon, OH

### **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

### **June Presentation**

Speaker: Bill Yenne

Topic: Tom Custer in the Civil War