



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes May 28, 2019

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

Special Activities & Events:

American Battlefield Trust Event

- Date: May 29-June 2, 2019
- Location: Lexington, KY
- Event Link: <https://www.battlefields.org/events/annual-conference>

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/>

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Officer Reports

President

Civil War in the News

- DNA Usage: DNA from a slave was traced using a clay pip stem found in Maryland
- Confederate Statue Removal: A court ruled that per existing Virginia law, Confederate statues are classified as protected memorials and as a result cannot be removed

Vice President

None Report

Treasurer

- Bank Account: \$2948

Secretary

- Distributed April meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About The Presidential Election of 1860?
- \$34 collected for book raffle
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 21

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Vacant

Other Topics (By Abby Eller)

This Day in the Civil War: May 28th

1861: Secretary of War Simon Cameron meets with Dorothea Dix and accepts her offer to set up hospitals for the Union Army.

1862: Skirmishing at the South Anna River in Virginia. Union troops burn a 500 ft bridge, and will now capture the nearby town of Ashland.

1863: A regiment of African American soldiers, the 54th Mass Volunteers, leaves Boston. They will train at Hilton Head SC.

1864: Lee's Army of Northern VA moves towards Cold Harbor, as Grant's forces cross the Pamunkey River near Hanover town

1865: President Andrew Johnson, with only a few exceptions, orders the release of persons held in prison by Federal military authorities

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Person of the Month: Salmon Chase

Background

- Like his New Hampshire ancestors, a New England Puritan to the core.
- A man not easy to like, but to be trusted and respected always.
- Named after ancestor of King David in the Bible, not after the fish.
- Had a distinguished political career: Governor of Ohio, US Senator
- Sought Republican party President nomination in 1860. Unlike Lincoln, Chase was not a politician by temperament

Civil War

- Served in Lincoln's Cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury
- Realized massive amount of money needed to maintain the army
- Until Congress could authorize new taxes and tariffs, swiftly arranged a series of loans from Northern banks and private individuals
- Got Congress to cooperate in establishing a new national paper currency, "greenbacks," and a national bank system based on this.
- For the duration of the war, the US government suspended in exchange of paper money for gold or silver to finance the Union war effort
- Congress limited the issue of paper money to \$340 million; In contrast, the Confederacy suffered ruinous inflation.
- Chase financed much of Union war effort by recruiting Jay Cooke & Co to sell over \$500 million war bonds; had the effect of distributing the war cost over part of the US population
- Was unhappy as Treasury Secretary; little respect for Lincoln; Lincoln realized Chase's true abilities, better than Chase himself did.

Post-Civil War

- After the Civil War became Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court
- Even though he was not affiliated with any bank, a national bank that's still around today indeed named in honor of Salmon Chase

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

July Presentation

Speaker: Bob Burch

Topic: California: Military Operations Out of State