



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes July 30, 2019

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

Special Activities & Events:

Annual SBCWRT Picnic

- Sept 14 1pm-4pm - Marilyn Comstock Residence
- 6574 Crystal Springs Drive San Jose, CA 95120
- Costs:
 - Picnic: \$20/person
 - Annual Dues: \$20/Individual; \$35/Couple
- RSVP Tom Roza (Email: tomroza@earthlink.net; Tel #: 408-376-0566)

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 in the News

Atlanta To Be Home Of Rare Civil War Flag Of Black Soldiers

- “We Will Prove Ourselves Men,” reads the inscription of regimental flag of the 127th United States Colored Troops.
- Six feet wide and more than four feet tall, the silk flag was painted by an African American artist in Philadelphia; is now in the collection of the Atlanta History Center

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Book: Barracoon

- Author: Zora Neale Hurston
- Story of the Last "Black Cargo"; a non-fiction work
- Based on interviews in 1927 with Cudjo Lewis, last living survivor of the Middle Passage.

Vice President

None Report

Treasurer

- Bank Account: \$3007
- Donation to Holder's Waitress
 - Holder's Waitress Peggy who provides support at SBCWRT monthly meetings has cancer
 - In recognition of her exceptional support of RT meetings, a donation Peggy in the amount of \$100 was approved by the membership

Secretary

- Distributed June meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About The "Lost Cause" of the Confederacy?
- \$19 collected for book raffle
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 15

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Vacant

This Day in the Civil War: July 30th (By Abby Eller)

1861: Secty of War Simon Cameron is asked by Genl Benjamin Butler to make a policy concerning former slaves who have been given refuge at Fortress Monroe VA where Butler is in command.

1862: At Moore's Mills, MO, Confederates are routed by Union guerillas. Union officials in England are unsuccessful in attempt to prevent Confederate vessel Alabama from sailing from Liverpool. Capt Raphael Semmes will inflict much damage on Federal vessels in Atlantic waters.

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1863: Confederate partisan leader John Singleton Mosby begins a series of daring maneuvers to harass Union Genl Meade's army.

1864: At Petersburg, Union forces attack after explosion of mined tunnel under Southern defenses. One of the largest explosions on American continent, cannons, bodies and tons of earth rocket over 100 ft into the air, leaving a crater 170 ft long, 80 ft wide, and 30 ft deep; Jubal Early's forces enter Chambersburg, PA – demand \$100,000 in gold. This sum cannot be provided; Chambersburg is put to the torch.

Person of the Month: Henry Burden (By Abby Eller)

Background

- Of Scottish ancestry, studied engineering at University of Edinburg; in 1819 emigrated to US
- Started Townsend & Corning Foundry manufacturing agricultural implements
- Invented improved plow, threshing machines, and grist mill; eventually held 12 mechanical invention patents, which he successfully defended in court against patent infringement.
- Moved to Troy NY; became owner of the Troy Iron & Nail Factory, which he renamed Burden Iron Works
- Invented world's first railroad spike manufacturing machine; turned out 60 horseshoes/minute.
- Horseshoes protect horses' hooves, much as footwear protects people's feet. Roman armies protected their horses' hooves with leather wrappings, called "horse sandals." horse peoples of Central Asia evidently shod their horses with fitted leather booties, literally "horse shoes." Iron horse shoes, nailed to the edge of the hoof, originated in Europe about a thousand years ago.

Civil War

- Great majority of horses used in the Civil War were for transport of supply wagons and artillery pieces; Cavalry used minority of horses
- Burden Iron Works became chief horseshoe producer for the Union Army. Factory had nine horseshoe manufacturing machines which could produce a variety of horseshoes, and mule shoes
- Shoes were packed/shipped in kegs weighing 100lbs each. By 1864 The Burden Iron Works produced 600 thousand kegs of horseshoes annually.
- The iron plates used to construct the Union ironclad USS Monitor were forged at the Burden Iron Works.

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- It's fascinating to think how all the production made possible by Henry Burden's agriculture and manufacturing inventions helped make the difference in the North's ability to prevail in the Civil War.

Other Topics

Book Auction

- Book provided by San Mateo County History Museum: "Echo of a Distant Drum: Winslow Homer and the Civil War" containing complete works of Winslow Homer during the Civil War
- Will be an auction item at Sept 14, 2019 annual SBCWRT picnic; Starting Bid: \$20; Incremental Bids Minimum: \$2
- Proceeds split between SBCWRT & San Mateo County History Museum

July Presentation

Speaker: Bob Burch

Topic: California: Military Operations Out of State

August Presentation

Speaker: Jim Rhetta & Tom Roza

Topic: How to Write a Book

September Presentation

Speaker: Jim Rhetta

Topic: The Civil War and the Generations of Human Warfare