



# SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes January 29, 2019

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

### **Special Activities & Events:**

#### **Third Annual Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium**

- Date: April 5-7, 2019
- Location: Baton Rouge, LA
- Theme: Fifty Shades of Blue and Grey
- Event Link: <https://www.brcwrt.com/2019-symposium.html>

#### **2019 CWRT Congress**

- Date: September 20-22, 2019
- Where: Missouri Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks  
222 Worth Road - St. Louis, Missouri 63125
- Hosting Organization: Civil War Round Table of St Louis  
P. O. Box 220982 - Kirkwood, Missouri 63122  
Email: [stlcwrt@gmail.com](mailto:stlcwrt@gmail.com)
- Event Link: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/upcoming-events.html>

### **Officer Reports**

#### **President**

#### **Civil War in the News**

#### **Removal of a Confederate Plaque**

- In 1959, a plaque was created entitled, “Children of the Confederacy Creed”; was mounted in the Texas State House in the capital, Austin, TX
- The plaque advances the “Lost Cause” concept that the Civil War was not a rebellion nor was its underlying cause to sustain slavery; it labels those who supported the Confederacy as noble and patriotic ancestors
- Over the recent years, more organizations moved to have the plaque removed because of its inaccurate description of the causes for the Civil war, and as a result was viewed as a historical abomination

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- The Texas Legislature voted to remove the controversial plaque from its spot in the Texas State House in Austin, TX on Jan 11, 2019

### **Home Front Future Presentations**

- A two-part presentation series on the Home Front during the Civil War is planned; Part One will cover the North; Part Two will cover the South
- Various historical sources including two Time-Life books will be referenced to develop the presentations
- Anyone who would like to work on these presentations should contact either Jim Rhetta or Tom Roza

### **Vice President**

No Report

### **Treasurer**

- Bank Account: \$3,077
- Sent check in the amount of \$500 to American Battlefield Trust

### **Secretary**

- Distributed January meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Civil War Prisons & Prisoners?
- \$35 collected for book raffle
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 15

### **Preservation**

No Report

### **Historian**

Vacant

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

#### **This Day in the Civil War: January 29th**

- **1861**: Kansas, with a state constitution prohibiting slavery, received Congressional approval to become the 34th state
- **1862**: James Mason & John Slidell, the Confederate ambassadors to England & France, arrive in England after resolution of the Trent affair.
- **1863**: Minor skirmish occurs near the towns of Suffolk & Turners Mills, VA; On the Stono River in South Carolina, the Union gunboat Isaac Smith is attacked by Confederate shore batteries and is captured

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- **1864:** Following his Proclamation of Amnesty & Reconstruction, Lincoln advises General Banks in New Orleans that he “is at liberty to adopt any rule which shall admit to vote any unquestionably loyal Free State men.
- **1865:** Fighting in Lawton, SC between Confederates and Sherman’s army and between Union forces and Confederates in Chaplinton, KY

## **Person of the Month: Thomas Starr King**

### **Early Life and Career**

- Preacher & social activist; born in 1824, son of a minister in Charleston, MA; at age 20 took over deceased father’s pulpit; became famous as a preacher of extraordinary speaking ability
- In 1860, became minister of the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco.

### **California & Outbreak of the Civil War**

- In 1850 California entered the Union as a free state, but new arrivals brought their political leanings
- When war broke out, California had divided allegiance to the Union, and to secession; secessionists wanted to form a “Republic of the Pacific” in league with the Confederacy.
- King was important in California during the Civil War; Abraham Lincoln declared: “King was the man who saved California for the Union.”

### **US Sanitary Commission**

- In June 1861 Lincoln signed into law the creation of the US Sanitary Commission whose mission was care of sick & wounded Union soldiers; it relied on voluntary contributions
- By the summer of 1862, Northerners stopped; King inspired Californians to make exceedingly generous donations to the US Sanitary Commission; California became the #1 state in donations raising \$1.2 million

### **Legacy**

- In March 1864, King succumbed to pneumonia and died; was interred on the grounds of the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco
- Was King “the man who saved California for the Union?”:
  - It is more accurate that King’s effectiveness as a public speaker reinforced already existing Union loyalty in California
  - His monument in Golden Gate Park reads: “In him eloquence, strength and virtue/Were devoted with fearless courage/To his country, and his fellow man”

## **January Presentation**

Speaker: Jim Toricelli

Topic: Federal Ironclads and Their Technology

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## **February Presentation**

Speaker: Mike MacDonald

Topic: Civil War Swords

## **March Presentation**

Speaker: Tom Roza

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