



**South Bay Civil War Roundtable
Meeting Minutes November 26, 2019**

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

Special Activities & Events:
None

Officer Reports

President

• Alternative History Presentation Topics:
While the primary focus of the SBCWRT topics should be on “what actually occurred” regarding the Civil War, alternative history presentations such as “What if the South Had Won the Civil War” can provide insight onto the thought processes of the author on which the topic was presented

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

• Bank Account: Approximately \$3,245

Credits

Raffle: \$4

Debits

Speaker Fee: \$51.50

Note: Members spent \$330 well above the required \$200.

Secretary

- Distributed October meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: “What Do You Know About Medals Awarded in Connection with the Civil War?” (by Mark Costin)
- \$40 collected for book raffle
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 16

(Continued on back side)

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Vacant

This Day in the Civil War: November 26 (By Abby Eller)

1861: A convention meets in Wheeling in western Virginia and calls for formation of a new state called West Virginia. In Savannah GA, rebels try without success to engage Union ships by artillery firing from Ft Pulaski.

1862: President Lincoln goes to Aquia Creek, VA to inspect the army there and confer with the general that Lincoln has recently appointed.

1863: Skirmishing breaks out around the Rapidan River in VA as Union forces begin an offensive against the greatly outnumbered Lee. Meade hopes to force the Confederate army back to Richmond. In the Chattanooga campaign, Union troops under Thomas and Sherman pursue Bragg's retreating Army of Tennessee towards Ringgold GA.

1864: In the Nashville campaign, Hood's Army of Tennessee arrives outside Columbia only to find Union troops well entrenched by the Duck River. At Sanderson GA, Confederates clash with Sherman's army. In Nebraska Terr, US soldiers clash with Indians near Spring Creek and Plum Creek Station.

Person of the Month: Anna Etheridge - Vivandière Extraordinaire (By Abby Eller)

Background

- Occupation of Vivandiere was created for Frenchwomen by Napoleon.
- Vivandieres as a rule were soldiers' wives who accompanied their husbands on campaign wearing female versions of army uniforms
- Vivandieres obtained provisions and small amenities which they sold to troops, most importantly foodstuffs not always otherwise available, often cooked and served by the Vivandieres; also nursed the sick and wounded

Civil War

- US Army learned of Vivandiers observing the Crimean War in 1856
- Vivandieres were on both sides in the Civil War
- Vivandieres' provisions deterred foraging and looting; men who might otherwise desert, would hesitate to do so with women around.
- Vivandieres were not expected to go into battle. But, at least a few of them performed courageously on the battlefield.
- Anna Etheridge, a Michigan native, Anna had previously worked as a hospital nurse

(Continued on next page)

- With her husband James enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Volunteers Regiment at the outbreak of the Civil War
- James deserted not long after, but Anna served with the 5th Michigan Volunteers Regiment
- At Bull Run, Antietam and Gettysburg, she repeatedly went to the aid of the wounded becoming famous for her bravery under fire.
- In 1864, Anna worked for the US Sanitary Commission Hospital Transport Service after Grant ordered all women out of army camps, this despite many officers signing a petition for Anna Etheridge to stay
- The Kearny Cross was an unofficial decoration established in Nov 1862, issued by commanders in the field during the Civil War for outstanding service
- Anna Etheridge was one of three women awarded this medal along with two other Vivandieres: Marie Tepe served with the 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers; was decorated for bravery at Gettysburg; Charlotte McKay was decorated for bravery at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Post-Civil War

- After the Civil War, Anna Etheridge received a \$25/mo pension for the unpaid services she had rendered. She was honored with burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Other Topics

Native Sons of the Golden West (Ken Habeeb: Program Director for PCWRT)

- The Native Sons of the Golden West is a fraternal service organization founded in 1875; limited to native born Californians
- Dedicated to historic preservation, documentation of historic structures and places in the state, the placement of historic plaques and other charitable functions within California
- URL to Website: <https://nsgw.org/>

November Presentation

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: If the South Had Won the Civil War

December Presentation

No Meeting

January Presentation

Speaker: Bob Burch

Topic: California: U.S. Navy