



South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes August 25, 2020

Meeting Location: Online via ZOOM Meeting Application

Special Activities & Events:

4th Annual CWRT Congress 2020

Cancelled Due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic

Officer Reports

President

Upgrade Meeting Support Logistics

- Purchase state-of-the-art computer for meeting presentations
- Hardware: DVD/Flash Drive; USB and HDMI ports
- Software: Windows/10 OS; MS/Word, PowerPoint, Malware protection
- Needs to interface with Holder's large TV screen
- To be used by SBCWRT Secretary and meeting presenters and to store presentations and minutes for future use
- Requested that Tom Roza assess computer purchase options

Presentations: Differing Viewpoints

- For a specific Civil War related topic, a presentation on if a critical component would have changed the outcome
- Two participants: YES – the outcome would have been different; NO – the outcome would not have been different
- This is **NOT** a debate – just a presentation of differing views
 - #1: If Jackson was at Gettysburg, would the CSA have won the battle?
YES: Tom Roza; NO: Jim Rhetta
Date: Sept 29
 - #2: If the Battle of Antietam had been a draw with both armies still in the field, would England and France have recognized the CSA?
YES: TBD NO: TBD
Date: TBD

#3: If Lee had dissolved his Army to link up with other Confederate forces, and not surrendered, would the war have continued in a long partisan warfare struggle?

YES: TBD; NO: Tom McMahon

Date: TBD

#4: If the newly formed Confederate government had chosen to immediately export as much cotton as possible, instead of withholding it from European markets, could the Confederacy have prevailed?

YES: TBD; NO: TBD

Date: TBD

#5: Some believe that the South had the better military leaders. Do you agree or disagree, and why?

YES: TBD; NO: TBD

Date: TBD

#6: If Lee had been killed by a sniper when scouting Union positions prior to the 2nd Battle of Bull Run, would that have been a positive or negative for the Confederacy

YES: TBD; NO: TBD

Date: TBD

Civil War in the News

- Hardtack Oldest Cracker Ever Eaten
 - Taste test of original Civil War Hardtack performed
 - Was very difficult to eat: soaked in water or mixed with coffee

Vice President

- New documentary called Apocalypse '45, about the end of the Pacific War
- Filmmakers reportedly accessed 700 reels of color footage from the National Archives not previously available for public viewing
- To be aired on Discovery Channel; currently available for "virtual" screening online through selected movie house websites
- Also available on website of the Balboa Theatre in San Francisco at <https://www.cinemasf.com/balboa>

Treasurer

- Bank Account: Approximately \$3,267

Credits

N/A

Debits

N/A

Secretary

- Distributed July meeting minutes
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know The American Civil War in the Movies? by Mark Costin
- Book Raffle: N/A
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 8

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Vacant

This Day in the Civil War: August 25th (By Abby Eller)

1861: Skirmishing near Piggot's Mill Virginia and Fort Craig New Mexico Territory. President Lincoln informed Governor Beriah Magoffin of Kentucky that Union forces will not be removed from Kentucky, even though Kentucky wishes to remain neutral.

1862: CSS Alabama is now commissioned to begin 2 year career of raiding US merchant vessels. Skirmishing at Red Bud Creek Kentucky, Fort Donelson Tennessee, and Bolivar Mississippi. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton authorizes receiving into the service of the US Army 5 thousand Negro soldiers to be trained for guard duty.

1863: In the aftermath of guerilla warfare in Kansas and Missouri, an estimated 20 thousand people lost their homes and crops around Kansas City. On Morris Island South Carolina, Federal troops fail to capture Confederate rifle pits in front of Battery Wagner

1864: In Georgia, Sherman begins his final movement to completely cut off Atlanta. In Virginia, at the Battle of Reams' Station, Confederate General AP Hill's Confederate corps defeats Federal General Hancock's corps in a surprise attack. However, this Confederate victory does not interrupt the steady envelopment of Union siege lines around Petersburg.

Person of the Month: Hannibal Hamlin (By Abby Eller)

Introduction

- Born in 1809, an attorney-politician and native of Maine, had a public service career that spanned 50 years.
- Admitted to the bar in 1833, practiced law in Maine. Initially a Democrat, was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1835, then appointed by the governor of Maine to the state military staff.
- The Aroostook War 1838-1839 was an armed confrontation between the US and Britain over the northern boundary of Maine, and the southern boundary of New Brunswick in Canada
- There were no casualties except for two Canadian militiamen who were attacked by black bears
- The Webster-Ashburton Treaty signed in 1842 established new boundary midway between the former boundaries of Maine and New Brunswick which lasts to this day
- Hamlin helped negotiate an end to the Aroostook War in Maine.
- The Aroostook War was last armed confrontation between the US and Britain. US government now assumed final control over the use of state militia forces. No more could states decide to use militias on their own.
- In the 1840's, Hamlin represented Maine in the US House of Representatives, then in the US Senate
- Was antislavery, supporting the Wilmot Proviso, and opposing the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- In 1856, joined the Republican Party. In the election campaign of 1860, he was chosen not only to geographically balance the Republican ticket, but to also persuade antislavery Democrats to vote Republican.

Civil War

- Hamlin was not personally close to Lincoln. However, as presiding officer of the US Senate, he supported the Lincoln administration's legislative programs.
- Was appointed by President Johnson to be Collector of the Port of Boston. Shortly thereafter, Hamlin resigned in protest over Johnson's harsh Reconstruction policies meant to punish the South.
- In 1869, Hamlin was again elected to the US Senate, where he served two more terms. His last office was as Ambassador to Spain, before he retired to live in Bangor Maine, where he died in 1891.

Other Topics

None

August Presentation

Speaker: Tom McMahon

Topic: Finding And Preserving The Past Through Human Memory

September Presentation – Differing Views

Speaker: Tom Roza and Jim Rhetta

Topic: If Jackson was at Gettysburg, would the CSA have won the battle?

October Presentation

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: The Presidential Election of 1864