



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes May 25, 2021

Meeting Location: Online via ZOOM Meeting Application

Special Activities & Events:

Ft Point Tour (Tentative)

- Meet at Holder's Country Inn at Noon on a Sat TBD; park in back parking lot after Restaurant's approval
- Noon-1pm: Carpool to Ft Point in San Francisco
- 1pm-4pm: Tour Ft Point
- 4pm-5pm: Carpool back to Holder's
- 5pm-7pm: Dinner and SBCWRT meeting at Holder's

Officer Reports

President

- Civil War In the News
 - Civil War cannonball found in Maryland
 - Was live/unexploded
- Special Event
 - See "Special Activities & Events" above
 - More discussion at future meetings

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- Bank Account: \$2,885 (No new expenses or income)

Secretary

- April meeting minutes posted on SBCWRT web site
- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Connection of the American Civil War to other Wars? by Mark Costin
- Book Raffle: Suspended
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 13

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Vacant

This Day in the Civil War: March 30th

1861: In the White House, funeral services held for Col Elmer Ellsworth, who was close to Lincoln family. Before long, individual deaths in the war will receive less attention. Jefferson Davis writes the Maryland legislature assuring them of desire for peace, but holding US government responsible for failure of peaceful relations.

1862: In Virginia, Federals led by Gen Banks fight the Battle of Winchester with Stonewall Jackson's forces. Jackson fights despite his religious scruples against fighting on Sunday. In Washington, Lincoln wires Gen McClellan to either attack Richmond, or return to Washington. The US government declares all railroads must give priority to transport troops and munitions. Skirmishing in Missouri around Miami and Waverly.

1863: Gold discovered at Alder Gulch Montana Territory, which will provide Federal coffers another source of gold besides California. Confederate partisans attempted to seize California gold mines. Clement Vallandigham arrives in Murfreesboro TN, having his sentence for treason commuted by President Lincoln to banishment to the Confederacy. In Mississippi, Federal troops under Gen Nathaniel Banks complete setting up siege operations at Ft Hudson, below Vicksburg on the Mississippi River.

1864: At New Hope Church near Atlanta, GA, Gen Hooker's corps drives against Gen Hood's corps, along Pumpkin Vine Creek. 5 sailors from the USS Mattahesset take 2 torpedoes in a boat up the Middle River near Plymouth, NC, to sink the ironclad CSS Albemarle. The mission fails, but all 5 sailors are awarded the Medal of Honor for their daring attempt. In Virginia, the Battle of North Anna ends with Grant and Meade withdrawing the Army of the Potomac across the North Anna River. Lee has halted Grant for now, but Grant will stay on the offensive.

1865: In Texas, the last significant Confederate Army, the Army of the Trans-Mississippi surrenders. Confederate Gen Buckner, acting for Gen Kirby Smith, surrenders to Maj Gen Peter Osterhaus acting for Maj Gen Canby, on terms similar to those at the Appomattox surrender.

Person of the Month: Os Confederados

Background

- At close of Civil War, South was devastated, spiritually, socially, and materially.
- Thousands of Southerners left to places that offered a new start. Exact numbers unknown, but majority likely resettled in the American West.
- Some resettled in Britain, France, the Caribbean; ten thousand or more resettled in Brazil.
- Were invited by Emperor of Brazil, Dom Pedro II, who hoped American immigrants could introduce agricultural development. The Emperor opened immigration offices in Washington DC and NYC, offering quick naturalization, free ship's passage, and affordable land ownership.
- Immigrants were guaranteed all civil rights enjoyed by native Brazilians, and exemption from military service along with freedom of religion
- Last but not least, Brazil still accepted the practice of slavery. It's not known to what extent any Southern immigrants intended to resume slaveholding, but it's safe to assume many Southerners welcomed the prospect of putting distance between themselves and the hated Yankees, who they knew despised them for having had slavery.
- Dom Pedro II campaigned for years to abolish slavery in his country, which would happen in 1888.

In Brazil

- The Confederados established a number of colonies in Brazil, chiefly in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo; founded towns of Americana and Santa Barbara d'Oeste in Sao Paulo
- Fulfilled Dom Pedro's ambition of agricultural development, growing cotton, corn, melons; established rubber plantations.
- Families like Emmett, Wallace, Henington and Dobbins prospered.
- Practicing the Southern tradition of good manners and hospitality, they blended in well with the surrounding populations
- Confederados settlements maintained close ties through frequent visits with one another, and preserved land ownership through intermarriage between families, much as the antebellum Southern aristocracy had done.

Aftermath

- Some Confederados eventually return to the US; others gave up their identities completely and were absorbed into the surrounding populations

- Today, there remains in Brazil a Confederados population that has stuck to their Protestant Christianity, the Baptist denomination in particular
- Southern foods such as black eyed peas and chess pie, and the Southern English dialect of their forebears which they speak at home and with other Confederados; are fully bilingual and speak Portuguese
- Maintain memories of their heritage with storytelling, regular attendance at their Protestant churches (remember, Dom Pedro guaranteed them freedom of religion), and visiting Confederado cemeteries
- Established their own cemeteries right from the start because, the only other cemeteries in Brazil were Catholic, and the Catholic Church forbade burial of non-Catholics in these.
- Annual festivals are a very big deal in Brazil. The Carnaval held in Rio de Janeiro, the largest in the world, is the most famous of these
- The Confederados American Descendants Association holds an annual festival in April, the Festa Confederata. Here, Confederado descendants dress in period costumes, and enjoy the music and dancing brought by their ancestors to a new homeland, from the old homeland now distant, but not to be forgotten.

Other Topics

Jean Libby Report on Presenter Bob O'Connor

- First met Bob O'Connor when he was doing PR for tourism in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Some books written by O'Connor:
 - **The Perfect Steel Trap: Harpers Ferry 1859 (2006):** Warning given to John Brown by Frederick Douglass when he refused to come along.
 - **Catesby: Eyewitness to the Civil War, 2008:** Fictional characterization. Catesby was one of eleven named slaves in the injunctions against Brown and all the raiders. O'Connor views them as hostages.
 - Catesby has life experiences during the book that demonstrate his strong work ethic, family priority, and religious base. I have come to know these are Bob O'Connor's values too.
 - **The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln, 2007:** Story of Ward Hill Lamon, who was one of Lincoln's bodyguards. O'Connor used a massive manuscript of Lamon's journals that was quite tedious to pore over. This is O'Connor's methodology--using primary documents to create historical fiction. It's fiction because they talk. Bob has made school presentations enacting the character of Ward Hill Lamon in period dress.
 - He publishes all his books himself, on the Infinity platform. They provide editing, layout and printing, and of course ISBN. He does the

sales. Bob came to Charles Town to live near his family and be part of the lives of his grandchildren. One of them is a child with special needs, including blindness. The grandson asked him if there were any books about blind boys. Bob responded by writing and publishing books about a blind boy who was a drummer and helped save the Union.

May Presentation

Speaker: Bob O'Connor

Topic: Mrs. Slater - Missing Lincoln Conspirator

June Presentation

Speaker: Mark Costin

Topic: 1864 General Sterling Price Raid

July Presentation

Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBD