



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes May 31, 2022

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

Special Activities & Events:

None

Officer Reports

President

New Member: Tony Corbelletta

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- As of May 1 2022, ending Wells Fargo account balance: \$1,639

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Presidential Election of 1864?
- Book Raffle: \$10
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 14 (11 in-person; 3 via ZOOM)

Note: Tom Roza reported on his recently published novel entitled, “Lost Cause-Justice Found.” The novel is a prequel to Tom’s first novel, “Windows to the Past: A Virginian’s Experience in the Civil War.” Tom’s second novel focuses on the Reconstruction period following the Civil War and describes the significant adverse economic, political, and societal impact Reconstruction produced. Interwoven into the story line is the attempt to solve a horrible crime that is frequently frustrated by the limitations imposed by Reconstruction. Both novels are available on Amazon.com in paperback and e-Book versions.

Preservation

No Report

Historian

- Provided a report on religious ministries that served during the Civil War

This Day in the Civil War: May 31st

1861: Federal troops, having abandoned posts in Indian Territory, arrive at Ft Leavenworth KS, having been led by Jesse Chisholm along the Chisholm Trail. The Confederacy names Gen Beauregard to command all forces on the Alexandria Line, which includes all northern Virginia. In Missouri, Generals Lyon and Blair, authorized by Lincoln, relieve General Harney of duty

1862: McClellan has one corps north of the Chickahominy River and two corps south of this river. Joe Johnston attacks the two-south corps at Fair Oaks (also known as Seven Pines). The Rebel drive is stopped when Gen Sumner, not waiting for McClellan's order, moves his corps into the battle. Johnston is wounded; the next day, command of the Army of Northern Virginia is given to Robert E Lee

1863: There is a small action on James Island, South Carolina. A skirmish at Warrenton WV. Jefferson Davis discusses army appointments and disposition of units with Robert E Lee. Davis fears worst for Vicksburg MS

1864: At Cold Harbor, Grant attempts to maneuver his lines around Lee's right flank; Lee adjusts his lines accordingly. On the James River, the USS Commodore Perry, Acting Lt Amos Foster commanding, is hit 6 times while dueling with Confederate artillery on the riverbank

1865: Scattered engagements in Johnson County Missouri. In Texas, for most of the rest of 1865, the Federal Army will continue operations against former Confederates who are now waging guerilla warfare. In Florida, a federal military expedition. Operates from Barrancas to Apalachicola

Other Topics

The Meaning of Memorial Day: Abby Eller

- For most Americans, Memorial Day means an enjoyable three-day weekend: picnics, BBQs, store sales and so on; this is a good thing
- Even so, we owe it to ourselves not to forget the original meaning of Memorial Day. To commemorate those in service to our country, who risked death, and met death, to defend what America stands for. What those in other countries hope America continues to stand for.
- In the words of one George Gordon: We are fit to entertain great hopes only as we cherish great memories.

- From the poet Ada Jackson: They gave their safety for our own,/ For us they fought and bled and died.
- And from the poet Joyce Kilmer: What matters Death, if Freedom be not dead?/ No flags are free, if Freedom's flag be furled./Who fights for freedom, goes with joyful tread,/ To meet the fires of Hell against him hurled.
- And as well, let's honor the suffering of those who grieved their loss.
- Lincoln had this to say, in a letter to a Mrs. Bixby:
 - Dear Madam: I have been shown in the files of the War Dept a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.
 - I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming.
 - But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.
- In conclusion, I would like to pause, read, and reflect on the most famous words ever spoken by Lincoln. He spoke them in a particular time and place; I think what he says transcends time and place, and says so well why we should remember the original purpose of Memorial Day:

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

- Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
- Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.
- We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who have given their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.
- But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.
- The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

- It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining for us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead have not died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

May Presentation

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: "State of Wisconsin in the Civil War"

June Presentation

Speaker: Jim Rhetta, Alan Sissenwein and Nick Stern

Topic: "Wargames: Fighting the Battle Before Firing a Shot"

July Presentation

Speaker: Mark Costin

Topic: "Confederate Campaign to Invade New Mexico, Battles of Valverde and Glorieta Pass"