



South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes July 26, 2022

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

NOTE: THE HOLDER'S COUNTRY INN ON DE ANZA BLVD IN SAN JOSE, CA WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE ON JULY 27, 2022. A SEARCH FOR A NEW MEETING LOCATION IS IN PROGRESS

Special Activities & Events:

Annual SBCWRT Picnic

- Sept 17 Noon – 3:00pm – Holder's Country Inn Restaurant
- 998 S De Anza Blvd, San Jose, CA 95129
- One Guest per member
- Costs:
 - Picnic: Purchase Own Meal from Restaurant
 - Annual Dues: \$20/Individual; \$35/Couple
- RSVP Tom Roza (Email: Thomas_roza@yahoo.com; Tel #: 408-376-0566)

2022 West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference

Date/Time: November 4th (5:00) Thru 6th (Noon), 2022

Theme: "Combat Strategy and Tactics, Grant VS Lee in 1864."

Host: San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table

Location: Wyndham Garden Fresno Airport
5090 E. Clinton Way, Fresno
(559-252-3611) \$103 per night.

Event URL: <http://www.sjvcwrt2.com/events.html>

Attendee Registration: \$200 Per Person including meals (Breakfast on your own; coffee & pastries provided.) (Non participants who wish Dinner Fri or Sat Night: \$30 each meal)

Questions? Email: ronvaughan@prodigy

Officer Reports

President

No Report

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

No Report

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Little Known Facts Regarding Stonewall Jackson?
- Book Raffle: \$34; numerous old books were distributed to various SBCWRT members
- Civil War Statues:
 - 6 statues donated to SBCWT 3-4 years ago; need to decide what to do with them
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 16 (13 in-person; 3 via ZOOM)

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Inflation During the Civil War

- There were eight (8) recessions to the US economy in the years leading up to the Civil War:
- Because the North was more industrialized and business oriented, financiers and government officials developed the knowledge on how money and goods and services were affected
- Because the South was basically an agrarian society with little industry or major business, the people living in this region did not develop effective money-management skills
- Inflation Rates During the Civil War:
 - Union: 80%
 - Confederacy: 800%
- Primary Sources of Income During the Civil War:
 - Union: Business and financial investment
 - Confederacy: Agriculture and Slavery

- Controlling Inflation:
 - Union: President Lincoln, using experience gained as a lawyer litigating business-related cases, nationalized the railroads and other key industries helping to control prices
- Confederacy: The governing philosophy of “States Rights” hamstrung the Confederate government’s ability to control prices; there was little cooperation on economic policies between the central government and the 11 Confederate states

Civil War Almanac This Day in the Civil War History: July 26th

1861: In New Mexico Territory near the town of Mesilla, 7th US Infantry, Major Isaac Lynde commanding, abandons Fort Fillmore to Confederates, Captain John Baylor commanding. Confederate Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer is assigned command of the region of east Tennessee. There is a small engagement in Missouri at McCulla’s Store.

1862: Fighting near Orange Court House Virginia, Mill Creek near Pollocksville North Carolina, and Tazewell Tennessee.

1863: At Salineville Ohio near Ohio-Pennsylvania border, raider John Hunt Morgan and his 364 exhausted Confederates surrender to Federals. Sam Houston, long a towering figure in American politics and Texas life, dies at his home in Huntsville Texas. John Crittenden, who tried so hard in vain to bring about compromise between North and South, dies in Frankfort , KY

1864: Confederate sharpshooters attack USS Shokoken, Acting Master Sheldon commanding, anchored at Turkey Bend in the James River. The 710-ton warship replies with naval guns. In Georgia, Sherman sends Stoneman’s cavalry to destroy railroads in the vicinity of Macon Georgia. President Lincoln writes to Sherman expressing “profoundest thanks to you and your whole army for the present campaign.” Near Martinsburg West Virginia, Jubal Early’s cavalry begins destroying the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

Fighting in Falling Waters West Virginia, Muddy Branch Maryland, White’s Station Tennessee, Shelbina Missouri, and Haddix’s Ferry Kentucky.

Place of the Month: Private Mohammed Kahn, Civil War Union Soldier

Background

- A Civil War soldier named...Mohammed? In fact, there have been Muslims in America since colonial times.
- Most slaves brought to America were from West Africa, where Islam has been the predominant religion for centuries. Historians have deduced that about one-fifth to one-third of slaves brought to America were Muslims. This remains an educated guess, since slave owners suppressed their slaves’ native cultural identities.

- Prior to the late 19th century, few non-slave Muslims on record as residing in the US, were typically merchants and sailors. From the late 1800's until World War I, several thousand Muslims are known to have come to the US, from the Ottoman Empire and British India
- Immigration quotas between the 1920's and early 1960's mostly ended immigration to America, until abolished by the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act. Immigration from Muslim majority countries such as Iran and Pakistan have since increased substantially
- There has also been steadily growing conversion to Islam by African-Americans. In 2017 there were an estimated 3-1/2 million Muslims residing in the US.

During the Civil War

- At the outbreak of the Civil War, what few records we have leave scant evidence of the size of the US Muslim population. We can say for certain that 250 Muslims are now known to have served in the Union Army. Records brought to light in the future may establish more.
- Mohammed Kahn, also known as John Ammahaie, was born in Persia in 1830 about. He came to the US in 1861, lived briefly with his family in Boston Mass, before enlisting in the 43rd New York Infantry Regiment in August 1861
- Private Kahn served in the Union Army until the close of the Civil War. The 43rd New York Infantry was recruited in Albany, Schenectady, and New York City, commanded by Col Francis Vinton, Col Benjamin Baker, and Charles Milliken
- They fought in no less than 18 engagements, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. The regiment suffered 693 casualties, and finally mustered out in September 1865.
- We know about Private Mohammed Kahn, thanks to his letter applying for an Army pension. In his application, Kahn described all the battles he'd fought in; he was wounded several times, and treated in two Army hospitals in Washington and Philadelphia
- He served in the Union Army as infantryman, cook and sharpshooter. We know he did not relinquish his Islamic faith; in his pension file is an affidavit from a friend of his who occasionally read to Mohammed Kahn from "the Alcoran, or Mohammedan Bible." The pension application, by the way, was approved in 1881.

After the Civil War

- How did Mohammed Kahn's pension application finally come to the attention of Civil War historians? Fortunately, it had been stored at the National Records and Archives Administration (NARA) in Washington

DC. NARA is the government agency which since 1934 has preserved and documented US government and American historic records

- Today, NARA provides online access to over 160 million records dating from before the founding of our republic, to the present day. Since 1964, NARA has awarded 4500 grants to state and local governments, colleges, universities, libraries, to preserve and publish local historic records.
- In 2017 NARA archives technician Jesse Wilinski came upon the Pvt Mohammed Kahn pension application file. Wilinski has helped many Civil War historians doing research. One researcher, Jonathan Deiss, told Wilinski he'd heard a story of a Mohammed Kahn, who'd fought in the Union Army and later received an Army pension. Wilinski turned up the pension file, proving the story as true.
- Don't you wonder now, what new and surprising facts about Civil War history are still stored away somewhere in obscurity, waiting to be brought to light? How much Civil War history that no one knows now, is still waiting to be discovered?

Other Topics

None

July Presentation

Speaker: Mark Costin

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

August Presentation

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: "New York City Draft Riots"

September Presentation

Speaker: Abby Eller

Topic: "Grant's Memoirs: How and Why They Came to Be Written"