



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes November 29, 2022

Meeting Location: Denny's Restaurant located at 2077 N First St, San Jose, CA 95131 and via ZOOM

Special Activities & Events:

Estate Sale

- Approx 300 Plastic Model Kits Available
- Several Hundred Books on Aviation, Ships, History; Numerous books on the Civil War
- Dates/Time/Location:
 - First Buying: Dec 2 10am-5pm
 - Second Buying: 8-11 Dec 10-5pm DATE?????????
 - Address - 10832 W Estates Dr Cupertino
- Do not arrive earlier and do not disturb the occupants!

Officer Reports

President

- **Future Meeting Location Plans**
 - Temporary of Holders Country Inn located in Main Street Cupertino Complex:
 - Currently does not meet SBCWRT meeting requirements
 - Received report that there are plans to create a private meeting room; will follow-up in early January on status
 - Until further notice, will continue meeting at Denny's located at: 2077 N First St, San Jose, CA 95131
- **Contact Local History Associations**
 - Plan joint presentations
 - Expand awareness for membership

- **Membership Recruitment**
 - Will assess setting up Meet-up.com Site again
 - Advertise the Roundtable to public
 - Post Pictures of the Roundtable and list topics
- **Book Review: Braxton Bragg: The Most Hated Man of the Confederacy - The Confederacy's Most Contentious General**
 - An effort to understand Braxton Bragg's personal life and military career, a man with a personality that did not invite approach and easy conversation, a fact which continues to affect his image..
 - Earl J. Hess delves into the man's personality, his family life, his skills as a domestic provider, and his views of Southern culture.
 - This helps humanize otherwise contentious Confederate general, turning him into a real person with praiseworthy abilities as well as disconcerting faults.
 - Bragg's colleagues began the process of making him, variously, a hero, a fool, a cruel disciplinarian, and a scapegoat, all bound into one parcel.
- **West Coast Civil War Conference - Feedback?**
 - Mark Costin attended
 - 3-day event; total attendance: Approximately 25; needed 40 in attendance to break even on cost of event
 - 2 of 3 main event presenters unable to attend due to illness
 - Main presentation: 1864 Overland Campaign
 - Event included a Book Raffle among other activities

Election of Officers 2023

Deferred to Future Meeting

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- Wells Fargo account balance as of November 2022: Approx \$1,858
- Dues for 2023:
 - Increased as follows: Individual: \$25; Family: \$40
 - Dues period changed to January thru December
- Denny's Use Agreement:
 - \$150.00 in business/On one bill/Plus 15% tip
 - \$180.00 minimum needed for each meeting
 - Need 10+ members dining to cover this cost
 - Anything short of \$180.00 comes out of SBCWRT Bank Account

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Little-Known Facts Regarding Fort Sumter?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 17 (13 in-person; 4 via ZOOM)

Historian

- Gave report on Book: Secret Army Behind Enemy Lines by Stephen Romaine
- Described the role of civilians late in the war when the Confederacy was becoming devastated economically
- Plot in 1864 by both Confederate civilians and Union Copperheads to wage guerilla warfare on the North by burning down New York City
- Described a speech given by Union General Benjamin Butler where he praised the role of colored soldiers during the war

Civil War Almanac This Day in the Civil War History: Nov 29

1861: Along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia, planters are burning cotton to keep it from falling into Federal hands. The Charleston Mercury exclaims: "Let the torch be applied whenever the invader pollutes our soil." Meanwhile in California, at Warner's Ranch southeast of Los Angeles, Federal troops finally capture the pro-Confederate Showalter Party raiders, whom they had pursued since November 20th.

1862: Admiral DuPont reports his blockade ships required 950 tons of coal every week. (The coal used in US Navy ships at this time is anthracite coal from eastern Pennsylvania.) Major General John B Magruder CSA, assumes command of the district of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. There is skirmishing in Mississippi at Lumpkin's Mill and Waterford, and in Tennessee at Stewart's Ferry and Baird's Mills near Stone's River.

1863: General Longstreet's forces assault Fort Sanders near Knoxville, Tennessee, attempting to break Burnside's defense lines and take Knoxville before Federal reinforcements arrive. But the Confederates are forced to withdraw, ending Longstreet's last attempt to take Knoxville. Meanwhile in Virginia, at Parker's Store and New Hope Church, Meade seeks in vain for a weak spot in Lee's defensive line.

1864: In Georgia, a US Naval brigade consisting of 350 sailors and 150 Marines from the ships of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, Admiral John Dahlgren commanding, land at Boyd's Landing on the Broad River, led by Commander George H Preble. Their mission is to cut the Charleston-Savannah Railway and establish contact with Sherman's forces now approaching Savannah. Meanwhile in Tennessee, Union General David Stanley's troops hold the road open between Columbia and Spring Hill.

Incredibly, all of Schofield's troops make it up the road to Franklin without being attacked by Hood's forces. Meanwhile in Colorado Territory, Denver citizens are angered at repeated raids by local Indians, who have become bolder now that fewer US Army troops are present to keep order. Colonel JM Chivington now takes an army force from Denver, which kills over 500 Arapahos and Cheyenne, men, women, and children, near Fort Lyon. This disgraceful action goes down in history as the Sand Creek Massacre.

Person of the Month: A Tribute to Civil War Historian Bruce Catton

Background/Beginnings

- Bruce Catton, born 1899, died 1978, was an American historian best known for his series of Civil War history books.
- His history titled *A Stillness at Appomattox*, won the 1954 Pulitzer Prize for History, and the National Book Award.
- His Civil War History *This Hallowed Ground* has been acclaimed as one of the very best one-volume histories of the Civil War ever written.
- During World War II Catton served as Director of Information for War Production Board, after having been a reporter for various newspapers.
- In 1954, he became the founding editor of the new magazine *American Heritage*, devoted to articles about American history topics. At times, Catton served as article writer, book reviewer, and editor.
- In 1977, Catton received from President Gerald Ford Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's greatest honor bestowed on civilians.
- Webster Schott of the *New York Times* said of Bruce Catton: "As much as anyone who has ever written about the Civil War, Catton made it real. Catton not only told us how it happened; he made us feel it."
- Growing up in the small town of Benzonia, Michigan, Catton was intrigued by the reminiscences of the local Civil War veterans.
- I have read several of Bruce Catton's Civil War histories, I would now like to share with you some memorable things he had to say about his memories of the elderly Civil War veterans in the town of Benzonia.
- Read the preface to *The Army of the Potomac* trilogy by Bruce Catton-

Other Topics

- Invitation to Attend Peninsula Civil War Roundtable Meetings
- PCWRT President Abby Eller extended an invitation to attend meetings
- Held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant located in Redwood City
- Lunch time meeting beginning at 11:00am with Business portion starting at Noon

November Presentation

Speaker: Martha Conway

Topic: On her published novel, "The Physician's Daughter"

December

No Meeting

January Presentation

Speaker: Ron Vaughan

Topic: "Franco-Mexican Conflict"