



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes February 28, 2023

Meeting Location: Holder's Country Inn Restaurant located at 10088 N Wolfe Rd STE 130, Cupertino, CA 95014 across from the former Vallco Fashion Mall and via ZOOM

Special Activities & Events:
None

Officer Reports

President

- **Future Meeting Location Plans**
 - Holder's Country Inn Restaurant located at 10088 N Wolfe Rd STE 130, Cupertino, CA 95014 across from former Vallco Fashion Mall
- **Book Review**
 - Charley: True Story of the Youngest Soldier to Die in the American Civil War
 - Born in West Chester, PA,
 - Had a great love of music; when the Civil War began, begged his father to let him join.
 - After help from a neighbor, his father was convinced to let him go.
 - Joined Company F of the 49th Pennsylvania Volunteers who fought in the Peninsula campaign and at Antietam.
 - Was killed at Antietam by an artillery shell; was 12 or 13 years old and it is still unknown where he is buried
 - Book is scheduled to be released in July and is available for pre-order on Amazon

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- Wells Fargo account balance as of November 2022: Approx \$2,228

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Civil War Participants With Same Last Name But Are They Related? (Mark Castin)
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 14 (9 in-person; 5 via ZOOM)

Historian

None

Civil War Almanac This Day in the Civil War History: February 28

1861: In Washington, Congress votes to form the Territory of Colorado as part of the Union. In Raleigh NC, voters reject a state convention on secession. In eastern TN, request for similar convention is defeated by more than 10 thousand votes. Meanwhile in Montgomery AL, the Confederate Congress decides to borrow \$15million to support the new government.

1862: On the Mississippi River, General John Pope moves his force down the west bank of the river towards the town of New Madrid MO. At this point in the river, Island No 10 is the main bastion of the Confederates, and the daily target of Federal gunboats.

1863: USS Montauk, Cmdr Worden, shells and destroys blockade runner Rattlesnake, formerly the CSS Nashville, as Rattlesnake lies under the guns of Ft McAllister on the Ogeechee River, GA. The Federal expedition on the Yazoo River to attack Vicksburg is temporarily halted by trees the Confederates have cut and felled into the river, to obstruct the gunboats.

1864: General Judson Kilpatrick leads a force of 3500 Federal cavalry south on a raid to crash through the weakened defenses of Richmond and free the Union prisoners there. Kilpatrick's force crosses the Rapidan early in the morning, accompanied by Col Ulric Dahlgren. At the same time, Gen Custer begins a raid in Albemarle County VA as a diversionary tactic.

1865: Sherman's armies at Cheraw SC are near the South Carolina-North Carolina border. Skirmishes occur; Gen Johnston desperately tries to put together a force to oppose Sherman.

Subject of the Month: Re-Naming Bases, Ships, Facilities

Background

- Robert Smalls (1839-1915) was born into slavery in South Carolina.
- Became a skilled sailor and was an expert navigator of southern coasts.
- Smalls was conscripted in 1862 to pilot the Confederate steamer Planter.

- On 13 May 1862, sailed Planter out of fortified Charleston harbor with family, other enslaved people, and military cargo and surrendered Planter to the U.S. Navy.
- Smalls continued as pilot of the ship, but also piloted ironclad Keokuk and other vessels.
- Smalls led one of first boycotts of segregated public transportation in 1864; this movement led to Philadelphia integrating streetcars in 1867.
- After the Civil War, Smalls was appointed brigadier general of the South Carolina militia.
- Served in the South Carolina legislature 1864-1874.
- In 1874, was elected to U.S. House of Representatives/served five terms.
- After time in Congress, Smalls was twice appointed collector of the Port of Beaufort, South Carolina; died at Beaufort in 1915.

CSS Planter: Coastal Packet Steamer

- Common for Coastal Transportation
- Coastal traffic stopped by the blockade
- Used to supply coastal forts

Base Names to be Changed

There are nine major U.S. military bases named for Confederate military leaders, all in former Confederate States:

Fort Benning (1917), near Columbus, Georgia, named after BGen Henry L. Benning,

Fort Bragg (1918), in North Carolina, named for General Braxton Bragg

Fort Gordon (1917), near Augusta, Georgia, named for Maj Gen John Brown Gordon,

Fort A.P. Hill (1941), near Bowling Green, Virginia, named for Lieutenant General A. P. Hill

Fort Hood (1942), in Killeen, Texas, named after General John Bell Hood,

Fort Lee (1917), in Prince George County, Virginia, named for General Robert E. Lee[9]

Fort Pickett (1942), near Blackstone, Virginia, named for Confederate General George Pickett

Fort Polk (1941), near Leesville, Louisiana, named for Reverend and General Leonidas Polk,

Fort Rucker (1942), in Dale County, Alabama, named for Col Edmund Rucker

Other Topics

None

February Presentation

Speaker: Jean Libby

Topic: "Kansas Free State Battery, 1856"

March Presentation

Speaker: Alan Sissenwein

Topic: "Antietam: A Pivotal Diplomatic Turning Point in the Civil War"

April Presentation

Speaker: Ron Vaughan

Topic: "Franco-Mexican Conflict"