



# SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes March 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** (Alan Sissenwein for Jim Rhetta)

**Book Review:**

- Recommended the reading of two books:
  - “A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role In The American Civil War” by Amanda Foreman. An excellent read with much rich detail regarding Anglo-American relations during the Civil War.
  - “Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam” by James McPherson. It's an excellent overview of the campaign, outlining its political, diplomatic and social importance, along with its military aspects.

**Vice President**

No Report

**Treasurer**

- Wells Fargo account balance as of March 2022: Approx \$2,352

**Secretary**

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Women's Role in the Civil War?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 10 (7 in-person; 7 via ZOOM)

## **Historian**

- Tom MacMahon provided a description of his education and experience that influenced his become a student of the American Civil War
- Provided an assessment of behavior of Robert E Lee and Ulysses Grant at the Battle of the Wilderness and how that influenced the outcome of the battle

## **Civil War Almanac This Day in the Civil War History: March 28**

**1861:** President Lincoln submits 50 appointments to Senate, holds his first state dinner. Gen Winfield Scott tells Lincoln, he recommends evacuating Forts Sumter and Pickens. In South Carolina, Gov Pickens tells South

Carolina Convention that 600 men needed to hold Charleston Harbor forts

**1862:** Near Santa Fe New Mexico Territory, battle of Pigeon's Ranch takes place at Glorieta Pass. During the fighting, Union forces led by Maj JM Chivington descended from mountains upon the supply-laden Confederate wagons at Johnson's Ranch. Confederate Col WR Scurry is forced to retreat to Santa Fe. In Tenn, there is a Confederate expedition in Scott and Morgan counties. In Virginia, skirmishes around the Orange and Alexandria Railroad

**1863:** There's engagement at Pattersonville LA between Confederate forces and Union gunboats. Skirmishing at Hurricane Bridge W Virginia, and Federal expedition operating in Tenn from LaGrange to Moscow and Macon

**1864:** In Louisiana, Gen Banks' Red River expedition engages in fighting on the way to Shreveport. In Charleston Illinois, Copperheads attacks Union soldiers on leave visiting the town. 5 men are killed and about 20 wounded

**1865:** At City Point, Pres Lincoln, Genls Grant and Sherman, Adm David Dixon Porter confer on board USS River Queen. Lincoln stresses the desire to bring the war to speedy close, after which a lenient policy towards the South was to be followed. At Mobile Bay, USS Milwaukee, Lt Cmdr James Gillis, strikes a torpedo in Blakeley River. Crew successfully evacuates. In North Carolina, Stoneman's cavalry encountered many strong Union supporters.

## **Other Topics**

None

## **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"

## **May Presentation**

Speaker: Abby Eller and Jim Rhetta

Topic: “Opposing Views: If the newly formed Confederate government had chosen to immediately export as much cotton as possible, instead of withholding it from European markets, could the Confederacy have prevailed? YES: Abby Eller NO: Jim Rhetta