



# SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes May 30, 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:**

#### **WEST COAST CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE**

#### **160th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN**

- **Sponsor:** San Joaquin Valley CWRT
- **When:** Nov 3 to 5, 2023
- **Speakers:**
  - Gen. Parker Hills, Jim Stanbery
  - Gen. U.S. Grant (Dr. Curt Fields)
- **Where:**
  - Wyndham Gardens, Fresno Airport
  - 5090 E. Clinton Way
  - Phone 1-866-238-4218
  - \$112 Nightly with Group Block ID# 141218
  - Early Bird Registration \$225 until Oct 1st, After \$250
    - Attendee Name
    - Mailing Address
    - Email Address
    - Send to Ron Vaughan:
      - 730 E. Tulare Ave., Tulare 93274
      - ronvaughan@prodigy.net

## **Officer Reports**

### **President**

No Report

### **Vice President**

No Report

### **Treasurer**

No Report Update

- Wells Fargo account balance as of April 2023: Approx \$2,416

### **Secretary**

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Use of Railroads During the Civil War?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 11 (8 in-person; .3 via ZOOM)

### **Historian**

#### **Psychological Insight Into The Civil War**

- The psychological insight viewed in 1865 as a weakness unbecoming to a commanding general
- Historically I have in mind Robert E. Lee who is ranked by numberless military historians as one of the greatest generals of all time
- Some 40 + years after the brutal American Civil War psychologist Sigmund Freud would give to ordinary people like you and me an easier understanding of this complex creature called homo sapiens ,a term easily translated as a thinking person.
- If true to a whole person concept a writer of fiction cannot avoid being human and this is what I retraced in the whole complete person of Robert E. Lee and his humanness. While reading again of this famous man I limit myself tonight to three rediscoveries
- In THE KILLER ANGELS Author Michael Sharara offers many authentic mixed conversations before the battle of Gettysburg, Union soldier gossip that established Lee's command as a master strategist at the arrest of John Browne at Harper's Ferry before the Civil War started and the defense of the confederate capital Richmond during the three year period between Sumpter and the surrender of Richmond in 1865.
- There are as well Confederate conversations between two religious men , Longstreet and Lee concerning the loss of human life and their human concern for the American population
- A prize exhibition of Lee's humanness comes after the downfall of Richmond in April of 1865 as the once powerful army of Virginia is

decimated by starvation and human inability to be fit for battle Lee is the personal negotiator of surrender at Appomattox , primarily having in mind the human needs of his fallen men. Grant and Lee will shake hands, their military job complete, and Lee will spend his post war years on education .

- Michael Sharara adds on page 399 what he calls AFTERWORD , a statement by Robert E . Lee after Gettysburg," no blame can be attached to the army for its failure to accomplish what was projected by me ,,,I alone am to blame
- Have long held Lee's words and this man in admiration as one who seeks to blame no one else. I close with a human story I have long accepted. Years after the Civil War at a Methodist communion service in Virginia an elderly man of color rose with the congregation to receive the holy bread, eventually the man knelling by himself as the group refused to join
- Robert Lee rises & knells alongside the man as a sign of equality & oneness in common experience of being a member of the human race.
- The greatest gift I ever received was the moment my mother and father united in love creating the life embryo that eventualized into the human being who has researched this presentation.
- Next month we look at Lawrence Joshua Chamberlain , the college professor who became a Civil War hero. .

### **Civil War Almanac This Day in the Civil War History: May 30**

**1861:** In western Virginia, Federal troops under Col BF Kelley occupy the town of Grafton, to guard the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and protect pro-Union citizens in western Virginia. Secretary of War Simon Cameron informs General Benjamin Butler to retain fugitive slaves that come to Fort Monroe Virginia, employ them, and keep records of their services. Meanwhile at Norfolk Virginia naval yard, the Confederates raise the sunken ship USS Merrimack.

**1862:** In Mississippi, the Federal army under General Halleck moves into the road and rail center town of Corinth, evacuated the night before by Beauregard's troops. Federals also captured the nearby town of Booneville. Meanwhile in the Virginia Shenandoah Valley, Jackson's forces fall back to avoid capture by the converging Federal forces led by McDowell and Fremont. Elsewhere in Virginia

**1863:** Lee reorganizes the Army of Northern Virginia into 3 corps under Lieutenant Generals Ewell, AP Hill, and Longstreet. Skirmishes at Jordan's Store Tennessee, Greenwich Virginia, and Port Isabel Texas

**1864:** In Charleston Harbor South Carolina, the Federals commence a bombardment of Fort Sumter which will last until June 5th, consisting of 319 rounds. In Virginia there is fighting at Matadequin Creek, Old Church,

Shady Grove, Armstrong's Farm, and Ashland. In Georgia, skirmishing at Allatoona and at Burned Church. Skirmishing at Honey Creek Missouri and Greeneville Tennessee

**Subject of the Month:**

None

**Other Topics**

None

**May Presentation**

Postponed

**June Presentation**

Speaker: Alan Sissenwein and Jim Rhetta

Topic: "Opposing Views: Could the South have ever received recognition from England? YES: Alan Sissenwein NO: Jim Rhetta

**July 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