



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes November 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:

American Cruise Line: Civil War Battlefield Cruise

- 35 Days/34 Nights River Cruise
- 13 States - 35 Days/34 Nights
- May 3, 2024 – June 6, 2024
- URL: <https://www.americancruiselines.com/cruises/extended-cruises/civil-war-battlefields-cruise>
- Tel#: 800-460-4518 (Free Brochure)

Officer Reports

President

New Members

- Daniel Hsueh
- David Hsueh

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- As of 10/31/23 the SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account balance was \$2,168.34, a decline of \$200.52 from the prior month due to the annual charge for our Zoom usage for meetings.
- In order to avoid a \$10.00 monthly Bank service fee, must maintain the minimum average balance of \$1,000.00.

2024 Annual Dues:

- Are due in January for 2024:
- Individual:\$25
- With a 2nd Person:\$40

ZOOM Fees:

- Effective January 2024, the monthly ZOOM fee (\$16.72 per month) will be shared equally with another Civil War Roundtable organization helping to reduce our expenses.

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Civil War Peace Conference?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 9(8 in-person; 1 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: November

1861: President Lincoln appoints General George B. McClellan as General-in-Chief of all United States armies.

1862: President Lincoln orders that Major General George McClellan be replaced with Ambrose Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac

1863: Dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg. President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.

1864: Lincoln is reelected president of the United States. General Sherman's Army of Georgia begins the March to the Sea.

Person of the Month in Civil War History: Jack the Dog

- Mascot for the 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry
- Before the Civil War, stray bull terrier wandered into firehouse of Niagara Volunteer Company on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh
- The dog, given the name Jack, was adopted, and made mascot
- Most of the firefighters enlisted in the 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry
- Jack would stand by his regiment and bark during combat
- When the fighting was over, used his nose to sniff out wounded amongst to be retrieved by the ambulances
- Gave comfort in field hospitals, helped with morale of patients
- Would sniff out fresh water/hunt small game for camp
- Was in the several battles
- At Malvern Hill, severely wounded when shot in shoulder and neck but saved by the medics
- Captured twice
 - 1-Savage's Station for 6 hours but he escaped
 - 2-Salem Church and exchanged (for one or two Confederate soldiers)
- August 1864, regiment raised \$75/bought silver collar and medal for Jack
- On December 23, 1864, Jack disappeared at Frederick, MD and was never seen again
- Some believe he was killed by somebody who wanted his silver collar; others that he may have been killed in battle
- Dog Jack in Books and Movies
 - Book: Dog Jack by Florence W. Biros
 - Movie: Dog Jack as Told By Louis Gossett Jr.

Historian

A Comparison: Epaminonda; Union General William Tecumseh Sherman; US General George Patton

Epaminonda:

- An Athenian General who 2300 years ago, in the words of author Davis "upon hearing of the aggression of mighty Sparta took his army into the heart land of the Spartan nation where Spartan women came out of their

homes to witness slaughter of man, woman, child and animal and the destruction of the Sparta mystique”

- Killed more Spartan Hoplites in a single day at the battle of Leuctra, 370 BCE as did the entire Persian army in its invasion of Greece a decade before

William Tecumseh Sherman:

- “Destructive March to the Sea” was the name of Sherman’s military machine
- Under Sherman’s command a way of life for over 200 years, the unique plantation system of the South destroyed
- Ten years ago, San Jose Civil War Round Table hosted writer Debbie Petite whose book, “The Women Will Howl” tells the story of deportation of innocent women along with their children whose only crime was making confederate uniforms
- Families were being shipped north to die on the Potomac River of starvation
- Sherman is famous for “WAR IS HELL”

General George Patton:

- After the invasion of Normandy, was given command of the 6th Army that raced into Baston to rescue an exhausted U.S. Division in 1944 where the U.S. commander, General Anthony C. McAuliffe had replied to the German request for American surrender, “Nuts”
- Patton’s army was a destructive machine, the first to enter Germany (in WWI, American troops never entered Germany)
- Patton carried a destructive hatred for the enemy as well as a harsh attitude toward his own troops earning him the name Old Blood and Guts

Now the Comparisons:

- 1) They differ in military service time by close to 3000 years, about 45 well beyond the average age of combat involved leading officers
- 2) Each has been disciplined for harsh treatment of his underlings as well the dislike of his enemy soldiers
- 3) Each took the battle into the heart land who had started the war
- 4) Each were well trained in democracy, having a west point type military education yet literally lead a rabble army that consisted of farm boys who did not know the issues of what they were fighting for.
- 5) The armies of all three lasted only months as their military machines wreaked havoc, the wars ending under their powerful involvement.
- 6) All three changed cultural history in the land they conquered. They freed no people nor established a new government. The only heritage they left behind them was destruction.
- 7) Two had mysterious death, Sherman in a mental health facility, Patton in a strange car accident in Germany, and our Athenian dying in exile and

disgrace. Sic transit gloria mundi ...an old Roman saying “so ends the glories of life”

Other Topics

None

November Presentation

Speaker: Alan Sissenwein and Jim Rhetta

Topic: “Wargaming: Napoleon at Waterloo”

December

No Meeting

January Presentation

Speaker: TBD

Topic: “TBD”