



# SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes April 30, 2024

**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

#### **Membership:**

- Suggestions for attracting new members:
  - Peninsula CWRT: Good success advertising in local newspaper  
Note: Reached out to Cupertino– no response yet
  - Contact local college history instructors  
Note: No updates
  - Changing the meeting place from Holder's to a Local Library Community/Meeting Room  
Note: Preferred location that offers Food Services
  - Host annual or bi-annual "Civil War Movie Nights"
  - Connect with local Cub Scouts or Scouts of America troops and/or collaborate with a local history museum  
Note: Needs more discussion

## **Vice President**

No Report

## **Treasurer**

- SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account as of 3/31/24 had a balance of \$2,403.47; increase of \$27.45 from the prior month.
- All 2024 dues are now paid except for two members; will be contacted to determine if they want to remain members

## **Secretary**

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Civil War in the New Mexico Territory?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 10 (8 in-person; 2 via ZOOM)

## **This Month in Civil War History: April**

**1861**: Confederate forces fire upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The Civil War formally begins.

**1862**: The Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing), the first major battle in Tennessee.

**1863**: Federal forces in the east begin a new campaign in Virginia to flank Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg.

**1864**: Battle of Sabine Crossroads or Mansfield, Louisiana, the first major battle of the Red River Campaign in Louisiana.

**1865**: President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC.

## **Person of the Month: Abraham “Blowed to Freedom”**

- The 3rd Louisiana Redan
  - Union forces continue to dig a new mine
  - Confederates dig a counter mine but don't want to risk white southern
  - 8 slaves, including Abraham, are forced to dig the counter mine
  - July 1 Union mine explodes killing 7 instantly
  - Abraham however blown into air 150 feet landing behind Union lines with only minor injuries
  - Asked by a Union soldier how high he thought he had gone. Abraham replied, slightly stunned, “About three miles!”
  - He becomes a celebrity
    - Union soldiers who rescued him put up tent/installed Abraham, wearing slave rags which further deteriorated due to the bomb blast

- For the remaining few days of the Vicksburg Campaign, the men charged their fellow soldiers a few cents admission to see the slave who was literally “blowed to Freedom.”
- He recovered from his ordeal, got new clothes, and remained with the Union troops, eventually becoming a cook on General James McPherson’s staff

## **Historian**

### **1st Alabama Cavalry Regiment (Union)**

- The 1st Alabama Cavalry Regiment was a cavalry regiment recruited from Southern Unionists that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War
- It was the only predominantly white Union regiment from Alabama
- Of the 2,678 white Alabamians who enlisted in the Union Army, 2,066 served in the 1st Alabama Cavalry

### **Book: Silent Cavalry: By Howell Raines**

- How Union Soldiers from Alabama Helped Sherman Burn Atlanta—and Then Got Written Out of History

## **Other Topics**

No Report

## **April Presentation**

Speaker: Alan Sissenwein

Topic: “Worst Generals of The Civil War - Earl Van Dorn”

## **May Presentation**

Speaker: Mark Costin

Topic: “Battle of Buena Vista - Training Ground for the Civil War”

## **June Presentation**

Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBD