



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes May 27, 2025

Meeting Location: Jack's Restaurant & Bar 1502 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129 located in the Westgate Center Shopping Mall and via ZOOM

Special Activities & Events:

SBCWRT Picnic

- Date/Time: Saturday September 6 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Location: Tonya McQuade Family Home
1455 Portobelo Drive
San JoseCA 95118

Officer Reports

President

No Report

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- Wells Fargo Checking Account Balance as of 4-30-25: \$2,464.85 a decrease of \$50.00 from the previous month

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Mexico, France, and the Confederacy?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 13 (10 in-person; 3 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: May

1861: Union forces cross the Potomac River and occupy Arlington Heights, home of Robert E. Lee. During the occupation of nearby Alexandria that Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the 11th New York Infantry and a close friend of the Lincolns, is shot dead by the owner of the Marshall House just after removing a Confederate flag from its roof. Ellsworth is the first US officer killed in the war

1862: First Battle of Winchester, Virginia. After two weeks of maneuvering and battles at Cross Keys and Front Royal, Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson attacks US forces at Winchester and successfully drives them from the city. The victory is the culmination of his 1862 Valley Campaign.

1863: Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi begins. US forces under General Ulysses S. Grant attack Confederate defenses outside the city on May 19-22. If Vicksburg falls, the Mississippi River will be completely controlled by the United States.

1864: Beginning of the Atlanta Campaign. With three US Armies under his command, General William T. Sherman marched south from Tennessee into Georgia against the Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Joseph Johnston, the objective being the city of Atlanta

1865: Confederate President Jefferson Davis is captured near Irwinville, Georgia.

Person of the Month: Louis-Napoléon - Prince Imperial

Early Life and Education

- Born Tuileries Palace, Paris, June 14, 1856
- Son of Napoléon III, Emperor of France; Godfather was pope Pius IX
- Godmother Eugène de Beauharnais's daughter, Josephine, Queen of Sweden
- Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71 a sub-lieutenant to the front
- After fall of France/Second Empire, in exile in England w/parents
- Upon father's death in 1873, Bonapartists proclaimed him Napoleon IV
- 1872 was accepted to Royal Military Academy, Woolwich; finished seventh of thirty-four; top in riding and fencing (but 2nd in French!)
- Served with Royal Artillery remarking he came from a family of gunners

Zulu War

- Zulu War in 1879, Prince lobbied intensely to be allowed to accompany the army to South Africa

- Queen Victoria appointed him to staff of commanding General with rank of Lieutenant
- Attached to Royal Engineers; tasked with several reconnaissance missions; almost in early ambush when he exceeded orders

Death

- June 1, 1879, Prince part of forward party; British commander mistakenly path was free of Zulu skirmishers
- Attacked by Zulus; Prince injured attempting to escape falling beneath his horse; right arm trampled
- Zulus repeatably stab him; 2 others died with him, 4 others escaped

Aftermath

- Death caused international sensation
- Many in England did not know of a war in South Africa but the death of the Prince Imperial was headline news
- French conspiracy theory: Death was arranged by Queen Victoria
- Prince Imperial appointed Cousin Prince Napoléon Victor Bonaparte as heir, skipping genealogically senior heir, Victor's father, Prince Napoléon.
- Current Bonapartist claimant -> Jean-Christophe, Prince Napoléon (Napoleon VII)

Historian

Civil War Battle Tactics Used in WWII at Battle of Midway

- Union Generals Ulysses Grant and William Sherman, and Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest successfully adopted these battle tactics during the Civil War:
 1. Find the Enemy's Location
 2. Attack the enemy immediately
 3. Keep pursuing the enemy until victory is won
- Battle of Midway: June 4–7, 1942
- US Navy Admirals that successfully applied above battle tactics:
 - Admiral Chester W. Nimitz
 - Admiral Raymond A. Spruance

Other Topics

None

May Presentation

Speaker: Kirstein Ta

Topic: "Reminiscences of Smithville in Dekalb County, Tennessee –A personal account of the Civil War through a child's eyes"

June Presentation

Speaker: Ron Vaughan

Topic: "The Battle Of Big Bethel, 1st battle of the Civil War"

July Presentation

Speaker: Tom McMahon

Topic: TBD