



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes March 31, 2026

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:

Central Coast Conference

- Date/Location: May 1-3, 2026 - Stanton Center, Monterey, CA
- Topic: Seldom Heard History of the Civil War Era
- Website URL: <https://whtours.org/seldom-heard-history-2026.html>

Officer Reports

President

No Report

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- The closing balance on our SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account per our latest statement as of 1/31/26 is \$2,466.87, an increase of \$117.25 from the prior month.

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About the Black Codes and Jim Crow?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 9 (9 in-person; 0 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: March

1861: Confederate delegates in Montgomery approve the Constitution of the Confederate States of America

1862: The Battle of Hampton Roads pits USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia (the old USS Merrimack), the first ironclads, against one another off the Virginia coast. On March 8, the CSS Virginia destroys two wooden-hulled Federal ships. On March 9, the USS Monitor arrived and the two ironclads fought for hours, neither inflicting much damage on the other.

1863: March 9 – Mosby's Raid: Confederate Captain John S. Mosby captured Union Brigadier General Edwin Stoughton at Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia.

1864: Grant officially takes command of the Army of the Potomac, planning to attack Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

1865: The Battles of Averasborough and Bentonville, North Carolina. Sherman's army is stalled in its drive northward from Fayetteville but succeeds in passing around the Confederate forces toward its object of Raleigh.

Ship of the Month: USS Water Witch

- Launch in 1851
- Initially deployed off South American waters\
- At start of the Civil War, deployed as part of the Gulf Blockading Squadron
- Commanders: Lieutenant Pelot; Lieutenant Pendergrast
- The Raid:
 - Moses Dallas – Ship Co-Pilot
 - Eugene D'W Parsons – Night Watchman – Spots raiders/cannot sound alarm
 - Confederate raiders board ship' Parsons shots/kills Dallas
 - Water Witch Crew attempts to repeal boarding raiders
 - Lieutenant Pelot Shot Dead
 - Ship engineers refuse Pendergast orders to move the ship forward
 - Water Witch is captured by Confederates
- Aftermath:
 - In 1864 Water Witch burned/scuttled as Union General Sherman's troops approach
 - Union Read Admiral John Dahlgren orders strong measures to prevent future incidents that affected the Water Witch
 - Union Secretary Gideon Wells court-martials Pendergast on the charge of "culpable inefficiency in the discharge of duty"

Historian

No Report

Other Topics

High School Essay Contest

Event Date:.....Tuesday April 28, 2026

Location:.....Saratoga Senior Center

Address: 9655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga, CA

Agenda:

6:30pm-645pm:.....Setup Logistics

6:45pm-7:00pm:....Gathering & Refreshments

7:00pm-715:pm: ...SBCWRT Welcome/Brief Overview of the
Organization

7:15pm-8:00pm:.....Essay Contest Presentations; Winner Selection;
Quiz: Social Gathering; Adjournment

March Presentation

Speaker: Ron Vaughan on “John Pelham – Confederate cavalry
Artilleryman ”

And

“Tyree Bell- Confederate General ”

April Presentation

High School Essay Contest

May Presentation

TBD