



## **South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes June 30, 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:**  
**None**

### **Officer Reports**

#### **President**

No Report

#### **Vice President**

No Report

#### **Treasurer**

No Report

#### **Secretary**

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Clara Barton?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 8 (8 in-person; 0 via ZOOM)
- Book Presentation: Provided an overview of the three historical novels that have been published:
  - Windows to the Past: A Virginian's Experience in the Civil War
  - Lost Cause-Justice Found
  - Triumph Conquers Tragedy

**Note:** All are available in both Paperback and eBook versions on Amazon.com

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

**1861:** At the culmination of the Wheeling Convention, the northwestern counties of Virginia broke away from that state to form West Virginia. West Virginia will be officially designated and accepted as the 35th state of the Union on June 20, 1863.

**1862:** The Seven Days' Battles before Richmond. General Lee's army attacks the US Army of the Potomac under General George McClellan in a succession of battles beginning at Mechanicsville on June 26 and ending at Malvern Hill on July 1

**1863:** The Gettysburg Campaign continues. Confederates pass through York and reach the bridge over the Susquehanna River at Columbia, but Federal militia set fire to the bridge, denying access to the east shore. Confederate cavalry skirmishes with Federal militia near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**1864:** The USS Kearsarge sinks the Confederate raider CSS Alabama near Cherbourg, France

## **Question of the Month: Who Is Elizabeth Jennings Graham?**

### **Fight Against Racial Discrimination**

- Began in July 1854, when the conductor ordered her off a public transportation horse car because she was a Negro
- Horace Greeley's New York Tribune & Frederick Douglass' newspaper reported on the incident

### **Lawsuit:**

- Graham sued & was represented by the law firm of Culver, Parker, and Arthur; lead lawyer Chester A. Arthur, future president of the United States
- Court ruled in her favor; the jury awarded Jennings damages in the amount of \$250 (equivalent to \$8,600 in 2025) as well as \$22.50 in costs. The next day, the Third Avenue Railroad Company ordered its cars desegregated.
- It took more lawsuits and until 1865 for all New York's public transportation to be desegregated

### **Later Life**

- Married Charles Graham in 1860
- They had one son who died of convulsions at the age of one during the New York Draft Riots of July 16, 1863
- With the assistance of a white undertaker, the Grahams slipped through mob-filled streets and buried their child
- After the New York Draft Riots, there were numerous attacks against the African-American community
- They moved to Monmouth County, NJ where Charles died in 1867

- Returning to New York city, he founded and operated the city's first kindergarten for black children in her home
- She died on June 5, 1901, at the age of 74

### **Historian**

- Noted that the membership frequently reports on the human interest aspects of the Civil War
- Sources for much of this topic are the letters and other correspondence between family members and those serving in the military, bit North and South

### **Other Topics**

#### **Annual SBCWRT Picnic**

- Location: Tonya McQuade’s House – 1455 Portobelo Drive –
- Date/Time: Saturday August 29 1pm-4pm
- Food/Refreshments:
  - Main Course: BBQ Chicken and Hamburgers: Prepared by Picnic Hosts (cost paid from SBCWRT funds)
  - Other Food/Refreshment Items: Provided by other members (salads, desserts, chips/dips, drinks, etc.)
- Attendees:
  - Members plus one guest
  - Non-members on SBCWRT email list encouraged to attend with hope that they will considering becoming Dues Paying members

### **June Presentation**

Kristin Patterson on “The Funding of the Gettysburg National Cemetery”

### **July Presentation**

Tonya McQuade on “Mary Brown, the Wife of John Brown”

### **August Presentation**

Annual Picnic: Mark Costin - TBD