South Bay Civil War Roundtable
Meeting Minutes November 17, 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:
SELDOM HEARD HISTORY of the CIVIL WAR ERA

- 4th Central Coast Conference
- April 30-May 2, 2027 - Monterey, California
- Website URL: https://www.montereyhistory.org/event/4th-central-coast-conference-seldom-heard-history-of-the-civil-war-era/

Officer Reports

President

- Welcomed members to the meeting

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- The ending balance of our most recent SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account as of 10/31/26 was $2,274.00
- 2027 Dues:
  - $25/Individual; $40/Couple
  - Due January 2027

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About The War in the Western States and Territories? Meeting Attendance: Total: 6 (6 in-person; 0 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 Approval of the Fredericksburg Plan: President Abraham Lincoln formally approved General Burnside's campaign plan to march the Army of the Potomac toward Fredericksburg, Virginia, setting the stage for the December battle

1863: Mine Run Campaign. General Meade's Army of the Potomac marches against Confederate General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia south of Rapidan River. Lee reacts and throws up a line of defenses along the banks of Mine Run Creek. After several days of probing the defenses, Meade withdraws north of the Rapidan and goes into winter quarters

1864: Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. After a month of raiding Sherman's supply lines and attacking Federal outposts, John Bell Hood's army confronts US troops under General John Schofield. A massive frontal assault on the well-entrenched Federal line meets with disaster. Despite some taking of outside works and defenses, the toll for Hood's forces is too heavy including the loss of six of his generals. US troops retreat in the direction of Nashville.

Historian

No Report

Persons of the Month: Hiram R. Revels & Blanche Bruce - Mississippi Black Senators

Scott Colom: Newly Elected US Senator from Mississippi

- Democrat Scott Colom made history in 2026 after defeating incumbent Republican senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
- Is Mississippi's first Black senator since the Reconstruction era
- Previous black senators from Mississippi:

Hiram R. Revels:

- 1870 Election to the Senate as a Republican
- Democrats opposed seating Revels based on 1857 Dred Scott
- Vote was 48 to 8, to seat Revels
- Advocated compromise and moderation; vigorously supported racial equality; reassured senators about capability of African Americans

- Served on both the Committee of Education and Labor and the Committee on the District of Columbia
- While Radical Republicans called for continued punishment of ex-Confederates, Revels argued for amnesty and a restoration of full citizenship, provided they swore an oath of loyalty to the United States
- Argued for integration and equality
- Nominated a young black man to the United States Military Academy who was denied admission
- Served term from February 25, 1870, to March 3, 1871

Blanche Bruce:

- February 1874, Bruce elected to the U.S. Senate; presided over Senate, becoming first African American (and only former slave) to have done so
- 1880, first African American to win any votes for national office at a major party's nominating convention, with eight votes for vice president
- First African-American to serve a full term as Senator

Other Topics

Discussion of the 1874 Federal Government mid-Term Elections

- Both Houses of Congress flipped from Republican to Democratic Control
- The Country was growing weary of Reconstruction
- While the former Confederate states were no longer formally under military districts or general martial law, federal troops remained stationed in the South and could still intervene to enforce federal law, protect civil rights, and suppress election or political violence during Reconstruction
- The focus of the people living in the Northern states switched to expansion of the so-called "Western Territories" the completion of the Trans Continental Railroad in 1869 spurred the development of railroads in the Western Territories making it easier to develop the region
- Voters began to switch political allegiances to the Democratic Party

November Presentation

Kristin Patterson on "Brigadier General Lucius Fairchild"

No Meeting in December

2027 Presentation Schedule

January 26: Ron Vaughan on "Jo Shelby's Exodus"
February 2: David Hsueh: TBD
March 30: Tonya McQuade: "The Battle of Centralia – a Carnival of Blood"
April 27: Jim Rhetta: "Presentation Using SOAR"

May 25: From: Herb Burns “Underground Railroad - Fugitive Slaves Active in the Civil War”
June 29: Tonya McQuade: “The Role of the Invalid Corps (aka. Veterans Reserve Corps) in the Civil War”
July 27: Alan Sissenwein TBD