



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes August 27, 2024

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:

2nd Annual Central Coast Conference

- Event Theme: Seldom Heard History of the Civil War
- Location: Stanton Center, Monterey, California
- Date: May 2-4, 2025
- Event URL: <https://whtours.org/seldom-heard-history-2025.html>

Officer Reports

President

No Report

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account as of 6/30/24 had a balance of \$2,342.07, same as the June 2024 account

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Civil War Prisons?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 8 (6 in-person; 2 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: August

1861: US Congress passes and President Lincoln signs the Confiscation Act of 1861. This act permits court proceedings for the confiscation of property, including enslaved people, used to support the Confederacy

1862: The Battle of Second Bull Run (or Second Manassas) is fought on the same ground where one year before, the United States army was defeated and sent reeling in retreat to Washington. Likewise, the result of this battle is a US defeat

1863: Sacking of Lawrence, Kansas. A murderous daylight raid, Confederate & Missouri guerillas under William Clarke Quantrill storm Lawrence & destroy most of the town. Approximately 150 people are murdered by Quantrill's men

1864: Battle of Mobile Bay. A US fleet under Admiral David Farragut steamed into Mobile Bay outside the city of Mobile, Alabama, defended by two strong forts and a small southern flotilla, including the formidable ironclad CSS Tennessee. Farragut's ships defeated the Confederate ships and bypassed the forts, capturing the important Southern port

Person of the Month: Brigadier General Stand Watie

Background

- Born on December 12, 1806, at Oothcaloga, Cherokee Nation (present-day Calhoun, Georgia)
- Named Degataga which means "standing firm" in English
- By 1827, his father, David Uwatie (later changed to Watie) had become a wealthy planter, who held African-American slaves as laborers.
- Uwatie converted to Christianity with the Moravians
- Watie learned to read and write English at Moravian mission school and wrote for first Native American newspaper in both Cherokee and English
- Congress passed the 1830 Indian Removal Act, to relocate all Indians from the Southeast to lands west of the Mississippi River
- In 1832, Georgia confiscated most of the Cherokee land

Treaty Party

- Believing removal was inevitable, Watie and several other tribal members and family members helped negotiate Treaty of New Echota with United States which confirmed Cherokee relocation to Indian Territory, now modern-day Oklahoma
- Cherokee were forcibly removed in 1839, known as the Trail of Tears
- Watie's party represented only a minority of the Nation and were viewed as traitors by the majority

- Violence ensued with opposing National party lead by Chief John Ross
- In 1839, most members of the treaty party were attacked and assassinated including Watie's uncle Major Ridge
- Stand Watie was one of the few to survive
- In 1842, Watie encountered one of his uncle's executioners, and killed him; in was acquitted on the grounds of self-defense

The Cherokee Civil War

- The Cherokees initial sided with the Confederacy; soon split between National and Treaty party
- John Ross and his allies supported the Union, and included fervent traditionalists who supported abolition
- Watie and fellow planters supported Confederacy to protect their investment in slaves
- Watie joined the Confederate army in 1861

Watie During the Civil War

- 1861, Organized 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles
- Fought at the battle of Pea Ridge, March 6-8, 1862
- August 1862, John Ross and followers announced support for the Union
- Cherokee support for the Confederacy sharply declined, Watie continued to lead the remnant of his cavalry
- Watie served as the second principal chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1862 to 1866 after John Ross fled
- Watie commanded the First Indian Brigade of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, composed of two regiments of Mounted Rifles and three battalions of Cherokee, Seminole and Osage infantry.
- Fought in several of battles/skirmishes in the western Confederate states
- Including victory at the Second Battle of Cabin Creek
- Appointed to the grade of Brigadier-General on May 10, 1864
- Known as a gifted field commander and a bold guerrilla leader
- Surrendered On June 23, 1865, a month after the rest of the Confederacy

After the War

- Member of the Cherokee Delegation to the Southern Treaty Commission, which renegotiated treaties with the United States
- The US imposed harsh conditions on the Cherokee
- After the treaty signing, Watie goes into exile in the Choctaw Nation; soon returns to try and rebuild his fortune
- He dies on September 9, 1871
- Postscript:
 - On June 13, 2020, following the George Floyd protests, a 1921 monument to Stand Watie and a 1913 monument to Confederate

- soldiers were removed from the Cherokee Capitol grounds in Tahlequah
- The justification was because it was the Daughters of the Confederacy who had commissioned and erected the monuments. The monuments were placed in storage by the Cherokee Nation

Historian

Slave Language in the Southern Culture

- Provided examples of how enslaved Negroes created words and phrases associated with their enslaved condition and the Southern slave owners and masters

Other Topics

No Report

August Presentation

Speaker: Alan Sissenwein

Topic: “George Armstrong Custer – Part 2”

September Presentation

Speaker: Tonya Graham McQuade

Topic: “Missouri – A State Divided”

October Presentation

Speaker: David Hsueh

Topic: “The Battle of Antietam”