



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes October 29, 2024

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

NOTE: November Meeting: Date/Location Change

Because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, the following date and location changes are required:

Date: Tuesday Dec 3

Location: Holder's Country Inn Restaurant located at 10088 N Wolfe Rd STE 130, Cupertino, CA 95014 across from the former Vallco Fashion Mall

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 8/31/24 had a balance of \$2,266.48, a reduction of \$39.30 from the previous month

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Union General Daniel E Sickles?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 14 (14 in-person; 0 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: October

1861: Battle of Ball's Bluff, Virginia. Colonel Edward D. Baker, a friend of President Lincoln, led troops across the Potomac River only to be forced back to the river's edge where he was killed. The ensuing Union withdrawal turned into a rout with many soldiers drowning while trying to re-cross the icy waters of the Potomac River.

1862: Battle of Perryville, (October 8), in the American Civil War, engagement of Union and Confederate troops as General Braxton Bragg was leading the Confederates in an advance on Louisville, Kentucky, from Chattanooga, Tennessee

1863: Outside of Charleston Harbor, the Confederate David, a partially submerged, steam powered vessel, attacked the New Ironsides, part of the US fleet blockading the harbor, with a torpedo. Both ships survived the attack, though the commander of the David and one of his crew were captured.

1864: The Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia. In a surprise attack, Jubal Early's Confederates successfully attack and drive troops of the Army of the Shenandoah from their camps on the banks of Cedar Creek south of Middletown, Virginia. Hearing the fight from his headquarters at Winchester, General Philip Sheridan rides southward, rallying dispirited troops who return to the battlefield. By day's end, Early's forces are put to flight. Despite several attempts to disrupt the US advance in the coming weeks, the struggle for control of the Shenandoah Valley is over..

Person of the Month: Matthias W. Baldwin

And the Connections

Baldwin's Start:

- Matthias W. Baldwin, jeweler and metal finisher; in 1825, formed partnership with machinist David H. Mason; began making bookbinders' tools and cylinders for calico printing.
- Baldwin designed/constructed small stationary steam engine for his own use. This proved successful he was asked to build others like it

Baldwin Locomotives

- In 1831 Baldwin built a miniature locomotive for exhibition at request of Philadelphia Museum; received an order from a railway company for a locomotive to run to the suburbs of Philadelphia.
- Entered Locomotive market when Railroads were expanding; By 1837, employed 300 skilled artisans; produced 40 locomotives annually
- Baldwin made a variety of locomotives and cars for customer requirements

Baldwin in the Civil War

- Start of the Civil War at first appeared disastrous for Baldwin; Baldwin had great dependence on Southern railways as primary market.
- Loss in Southern sales offset by purchases by the expanding Pennsylvania Railroad.
- Additional sales to the new United States Military Railroads Agency.

Pennsylvania Railroad

- Pennsylvania Railroad was the most extensive in the nation; Tracks spanned from New York to Council Bluffs Iowa.
- Pennsylvania Railroads built their own locomotives; favorite outsourced locomotive builder was Baldwin Locomotive Works; received raw materials/shipped out its finished products on Pennsylvania rail lines.

US Military Railroad

- U.S. Military Railroad (USMRR) established by War Department as a separate agency to operate any rail lines seized during the Civil War.
- Since Baldwin Locomotives ran on Southern Railroads; The USMRR purchased Baldwin locomotives for use on seized Southern railroads

Matthias Baldwin

- Baldwin Locomotive Works helped moved the War Effort.
- By Matthias Baldwin death in 1866, company was vying with Rogers Locomotive & Machine Works for top spot among locomotive producers.
- By 1870 Baldwin had taken the lead and a decade later, it was producing 2 1/2 times as many engines as its nearest competitor.
- Baldwin Locomotive Works built 76,140 locomotives until closing in 1956

Historian

William Tecumseh Sherman

- Sherman was born in 1820 in Lancaster, Ohio; his father, Charles Robert Sherman, a lawyer who was a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court gave his son the name Tecumseh after the Native American Indian Chief.

March to the Sea

- With 62,000 soldiers, adopted a “Scorched Earth Policy” from Atlanta to Atlantic Ocean living off the land and causing, by his own estimate, more than \$100 million in property damage
- Earned the wrath of Southern Women for Sherman’s actions in Georgia that helped form the Daughters of the Confederacy

Other Topics

Tonya McQuade Book Interview Video

- Video of a news interview from KQ2 TV in St. Joseph, Missouri about Tonya’s book, ““Missouri – A State Divided”, about her family in Andrew County during Civil War

October Presentation

Speaker: David Hsueh

Topic: “Let Us Die to Make Men Free: The Story of Antietam’s Union Participants”

November Presentation

Speaker: Kristin Patterson

Topic: “How the State of Wisconsin Assisted Civil War Soldiers’ Families”

December – No Meeting

January Presentation

Speaker: Ron Vaughan

Topic: “The Battle Of Little Round Top -- More Than Just Chamberlain!”