



# SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

**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**

- New Member: Roger Bonilla

#### **Vice President**

No Report

#### **Treasurer**

- SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account as of 12-3-24: \$2,316.48;  
No change from the previous monthly
- **Awarding Scholarship**
  - In a discussion of what is done with funds in the SBCWRT bank account, there was a discussion on the possibility of establishing a Scholarship
  - This would service at least two purposes:
  - Assisting an individual in their education efforts
  - Maintaining interest in the Civil War

- A process would have to be developed to determine who to award the scholarship to, how candidates would be selected and screened, and the amount of the scholarship
- This will be an agenda item at a future SBCWRT meeting

### **Secretary**

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About Little Known Facts of the Civil War?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 11 (10 in-person; 1 via ZOOM)

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

**1861**: Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas secede from the United States

**1862**: Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky. This Federal victory weakened the Confederate hold on the state

**1863**: The Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect; it declared enslaved people in rebelling states to be free, authorized the enlistment of black troops, and outraged white Southerners. Was an important turning point in the war; shift from of restoring the Union as it was, to building a better Union without slavery

**1864**: Confederate cavalry attack on Athens, Georgia, where a small Union force successfully defended the town against a much larger Confederate force on January 26th, 1864; this battle is often noted for the Union's surprising victory despite being heavily outnumbered

**1865**: Assault and capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina. United States occupation of this fort at the mouth of the Cape Fear River closes access to Wilmington, the last Southern seaport on the east coast that was open to blockade runners and commercial shipping.

### **Person of the Month: Henry A. Barnum - Medical Miracle**

#### **Civil War**

- **1861**
  - Born Sept 24, 1833, Jamesville, New York
  - Passes New York bar exam in 1860
  - May 13, 1861, captain of Company I, 12th N.Y. Infantry, at the age of 27
  - Oct. 1861 promoted to major
- **1861 Battle of Malvern Hill**

- Shot through front of Barnum's hip bone/passed out through his back
- Civil War, abdominal wounds often regarded as death sentence
- Field hospital Surgeons considered wounds fatal; listed as dead
- Barnum was discovered by Confederate forces and taken prisoner
- Several days in Confederate field hospital; taken to Libby Prison
- Mid-July, released in a prisoner exchange; home to Syracuse by rail
- Barnum remained medically stable, with no signs of serious infection
- **Convalescence**
  - Physicians explored/cleaned the wound; removed chunks of splintered bone; fitted soft fabric plug that kept wound open and draining
  - While recuperating at home, Henry Barnum and wife conceived another son: Malvern Hill Barnum
- **Not Done Fighting**
  - October 4, 1862, accepted commission as colonel 149th New York
  - Received flesh wound in right forearm while leading charge of his regiment at the Battle of Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863
  - Wounded by shell fragment in right side at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864
  - Sept. 10, 1864, assumes command of 3rd Brigade
  - Promoted to brevet rank major general of U.S. Volunteers
  - Awarded the Medal of Honor for his service
- **Postbellum Career**
  - President of Central New York Peat & Marl Company
  - New York State Prison Inspector from 1866 to 1868
  - Elected on Republican ticket at the 1865 New York state election
  - Member of NY State Assembly (New York Co., 21st D.) in 1885
  - New York Harbor Master
  - Director of Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association for NY
  - Department Commander of Grand Army of the Republic for NY
  - Died New York city, 1892 age 58 of pneumonia
- **The Wound**
  - Another abscess formed on his hip wound in the winter of 1864
  - Doctors discovered that original path of bullet had become a pocket of infection in his bone
  - Doctors reopened the healed exit wound, releasing the trapped infection; determined only way to preserve Barnum's life was to leave wound open and draining
  - Barnum wore long pieces of candlewick, threaded through the open wound, for the remainder of his life
- **Left Hip Bone**

- After the war, Barnum's hip wound became famous
- Donated left hip bone to Army Medical Museum; is there to this day
- Modern CT scans of the bone have shown that it was riddled with lead fragments left by the bullet that smashed through it in 1862

## **Historian**

### **Preserving Interest in the Civil War**

- As the years go by, the events leading up to, occurring during, and following the Civil War are slowly fading
- Current political events in our country are evidence that the root causes of the Civil War, its ramifications, and the steps taken to prevent a reoccurrence are returning as the country has become not just divisive, but dangerously polarized as evidenced by:
  - The January 6, 2021, Insurrection attempt to overthrow the results of the Electoral College based on numerous false claims that the 2020 Presidential Elections was fraudulent
  - Acts and/or threats of violence as evidenced by an attempt to assassinate Donald Trump and death threats to Dr Anthony Fauci
- Quora is an organization located in Silicon Valley that provides an online forum where information on the Civil War could be made available to current generations, especially young adults
- There exists thousands of publications in books, videos, and online on the Civil War that need to be made readily available to current generations

## **Other Topics**

### **Resumption Of Annual SBCWRT Picnic**

- In a discussion of what is done with funds in the SBCWRT bank account, there was a discussion on prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, there was an annual picnic held in September where members and a guest attended
- Funds to pay for the food and refreshments came from the SBCWRT Bank Account
- The picnic was held at various members homes
- Possible resumption of the Picnic will be an agenda item at a future SBCWRT monthly meeting

### **Monthly Meetings About History – Dana Lombardy**

- Beginning in March 2025, the World War One Historical Association (WW1HA) will hold a monthly series of in-person meetings in the Club Room at the Alice Street Apartment Complex located at 14<sup>th</sup> and Alice Streets in downtown Oakland
- The first meeting is March 8; meeting times are 1030am-Noon

- Cost: TBD – considering a “Pay-as-You-Go” format – NOTE: There is no cost to attend the March 8 Meeting
- Coffee and Tea will be provided to those that attend
- Seating is limited; Reserve a seat by contacting Dana Lombardy via email: [dana.lombardy@gmail.com](mailto:dana.lombardy@gmail.com); Tel #: 510-301-0753

### **January Presentation**

Speaker: Ron Vaughan

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

### **February Presentation**

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: “John Buford - A Forerunner of Mechanized Warfare Tactics.”

### **March Presentation**

Speaker: Tonya McQuade

Topic: “Paddy's Lament”