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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

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Oct.
2023

OCTOBER, 2023 MEETING
Thursday, October 19, 2023

Rudi Lechner's Restaurant
2503 South Gessner Road
6:00 (or sooner) Dinner
7:00 Program Begins

E-mail reservations are preferred. Please
e-mail Barry Brueggeman at
bgbrueg@aol.com or call 281 480-1130
by 6 pm Monday, October 16, 2023

***** Reservations are Required *****

There is no cost for dues-paid members.
\$10.00 charge for visitors.

Meade's role and influence in the Civil War from his command of a brigade in the Pennsylvania Reserves to serving as commanding general of the Army of the Potomac.



Jennifer Murray

The HCWRT Presents Jennifer Murray speaking on:

“The Victor of Gettysburg – George Gordon Meade and the Civil War”

Once prominently defined as the “Hero of Gettysburg,” General George G. Meade is now commonly obscured by generals deeply embedded into the Civil War narrative - Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan or Lee and Jackson. Indeed, Meade commanded the Army of the Potomac, the North's principal instrument of war, longer than any other commander and assumed a prominent role in the course of the Civil War. Together, we will explore George

About Jennifer Murray

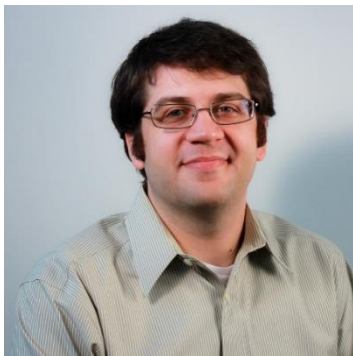
Dr. Jennifer M. Murray is a military historian with a specialization in the American Civil War in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. She is the author of *On A Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933 - 2013*, published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2014, and *The Civil War Begins*, published by the U.S. Army's Center of Military History in 2012. Dr. Murray is currently working on a full-length biography of George Meade, tentatively titled *Meade at War: The Military Life of George Gordon Meade*. This is a comprehensive treatment of Meade's life, with a

focus on his military career in the Army of the Potomac. She is the co-editor of the forthcoming *"They Are Dead, And Yet They Live": Civil War Memories in a Polarized America*, published with the University of Nebraska Press. Murray is a veteran faculty member at Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute and a coveted speaker at Civil War symposiums and round tables. In addition to delivering hundreds of Civil War battlefield tours, Murray has led World War I and World War II study abroad trips to Europe. She worked as a National Park Service seasonal interpretive park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park for nine summers (2002 - 2010).

generalship. I expect we will all have things to ponder when the evening ends.

As this is all interesting to you, I'm sure it is interesting to other people you may know. As always, sustaining our round table is in our hands, both in recruiting new and returning members. We are in good shape, so let's keep that going. Those who were here in September got copies of our new pamphlets and some of our business cards. Please keep passing those out to anyone who may want to join, including areas with potential audiences like libraries and assisted living facilities.

Once again, I am looking forward to our next meeting.

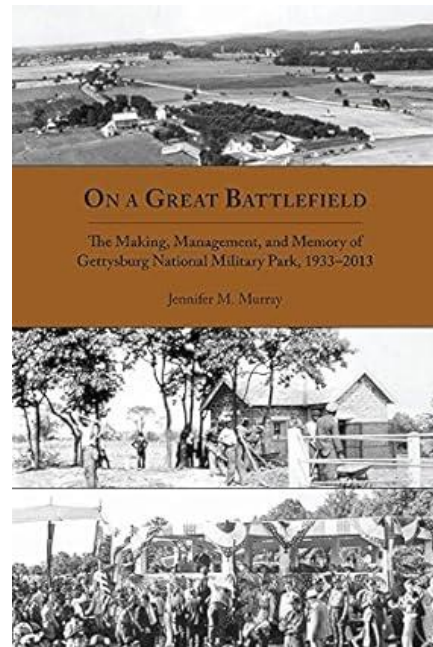


PRESIDENT'S POST

By Keith Altavilla

I want to start by thanking those of you who persevered in the heat with us at last month's meeting. There was a mix up regarding our space, but that has been resolved and we should be back in the usual spot for October and the remainder of the year.

Of course, the evening was made even more tolerable following a great presentation from Brian Wills. As expected, we got some great Civil War history and a story of battlefield preservation, but also some stories involving Charlton Heston and Bart Starr. You just never quite know what any Round Table evening will bring! This month we welcome a new speaker for our group, as Jen Murray comes from Oklahoma State University. She is one of the leading scholars in the (long overdue, in my opinion) re-evaluation of George Meade's



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

Membership for our Houston Civil War Round Table had a great start in September. Renewals from our old reliable members are coming in. At the September meeting at Rudi's, we had three new family members attend. Rita Campbell and her brother, who are new members, even volunteered to take over the book raffle starting in October. Hurrah!!! Dr. Gene arrived to deliver and distribute our 2023 - 2024 promotional pamphlets to all members.

He also has scheduled a lecture about Civil War medical practices to a group of 50 retired doctors, all of whom are potential members.

Please do your friends and groups a favor by inviting them to join our fellowship for a dinner and a lecture in October. The more the merrier! We always have room for more!!!

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

Sam Houston State University will be sponsoring a symposium entitled "More than an Eagle on the Button: Black Lives Beyond the Battlefield in the U. S. Civil War – A Scholarly Research Symposium." The symposium, which is open to the public, will be held on October 12th and 13th. The October 12th symposium will be held from 8:30 am to 5 pm in the Lowman Student Center, Room 241. The October 13th symposium will be from 8:30 am to 12 noon at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library.

For additional information, including a full schedule of events, contact Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan at bmj018@shsu.edu or the Department of History at (936) 294-1475.

PERSONALITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR: GENERAL ALFRED MOUTON



General Alfred Mouton (1829 - 1864) was born in Opelousas, Louisiana. After attending a local college, he enrolled at the U. S. Military Academy. As Mouton grew up speaking only French and wasn't entirely comfortable speaking English at the time he entered West Point, he struggled but managed to complete his studies there and graduated in 1850, 38th out of 44 graduates.

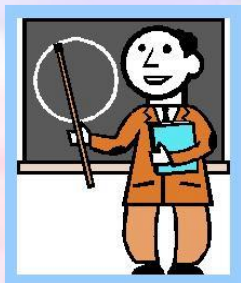
After a short period of service with the U. S. Army, Mouton served as a civil engineer with a Louisiana railroad company, then became a sugar cane farmer in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he organized a company of men from his home area, which later became part of the 18th Louisiana Infantry Regiment.

After serving in different roles in Louisiana (he was interim commander of the District of West Louisiana, part of the Trans-Mississippi Department), Mouton became a brigade commander under Major General Richard Taylor. Mouton, together with Taylor and cavalry General Tom Green, began deflecting Union efforts to secure the Bayou Teche region. He was a key participant in engagements along Bayou Teche, including the Battle of Irish Bend.

On April 8, 1864, Mouton's brigade took part in the Battle of Mansfield. General Mouton was shot and killed while leading his brigade in a charge against the Union position. Following the war, he was re-interred at St. John's Cemetery in Lafayette, Louisiana.

OCTOBER QUIZ *By Jim Godlove*

George Gordon Meade was a Brigadier General during the Seven Days Battles. He was wounded in the arm and body in one of those battles.



Name that battle

2023 – 2024 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

Oct. 19, 2023	Jennifer Murray: “The Victor of Gettysburg: George Gordon Meade and the Civil War”
Nov. 16, 2023	Barbara Gannon: “The Won Cause: Black and White Comradeship of the Grand Army”
Dec. 14, 2023	Graduate student award winner
Jan. 18, 2024	Richard McCaslin: “Lee in the Shadow of Washington”
Feb. 15, 2024	Chris Mackowski, 2023 Vandiver Award Recipient: “Grant’s Next Chapter: Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and the Rise of U. S. Grant”
Mar. 21, 2024	Fay Yarbrough: “Choctaw Confederates: The American Civil War in Indian Country”
Apr. 18, 2024	Stephen Kinnaman: “The Abandonment and Destruction of the Gosport Navy Yard”
May 16, 2024	TBA: 2024 Vandiver Award Recipient

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Houston Civil War Round Table
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