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General Orders

Altavilla's Brigade

Vol. 35
No. 8
March
2024



MARCH, 2024 MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 2024

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, March 18, 2024

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

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

The HCWRT Presents
Fay Yarbrough speaking on:

“Choctaw Confederates: The
American Civil War in Indian
Country”

The Choctaw Nation officially sided with the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Choctaw legal authorities even deemed any criticism of the Confederacy, or of the Confederate army, to be a form of treason against the Choctaw Nation and punishable by death. The Nation also raised an infantry force and a cavalry to fight alongside Confederate forces. Although their enthusiasm waned as

the war persisted, military service allowed the Choctaws to embrace traditional masculine roles that were disappearing in a changing political and economic landscape.

What accounts for this level of commitment to the Confederate cause among these Native Americans? Dr. Yarbrough draws upon Choctaw legislative documents, narratives from enslaved people and residents of Indian Territory, and military records from the 1st Choctaw Mounted Rifles to answer this question and illuminate the Civil War experience in Indian Territory.



Fay Yarbrough

About Fay Yarbrough

Fay Yarbrough received her doctorate in American history from Emory University and completed her undergraduate degree at Rice University. Her research interests center on interactions between Native peoples and people

of African descent in the nineteenth century. She published the monograph *Race and the Cherokee Nation: Sovereignty in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008) and, with Sandra Slater, co-edited an essay collection titled *Gender and Sexuality in Indigenous North America, 1400-1850* (University of South Carolina Press, 2011). Her work has also appeared in the *Journal of Social History*, *Journal of Southern History*, and the edited volumes *Race and Science* and *Civil War Wests: Testing the Limits of the United States*. In 2020, she was the visiting editor at the *Journal of Southern History*.

At Rice University, Dr. Yarbrough's academic titles include Professor of History, affiliated faculty with the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and the Center for African and African American Studies. She previously taught at the University of Kentucky and the University of Oklahoma. She is currently an Associate Dean in the School of Humanities.



PRESIDENT'S POST

By Keith Altavilla

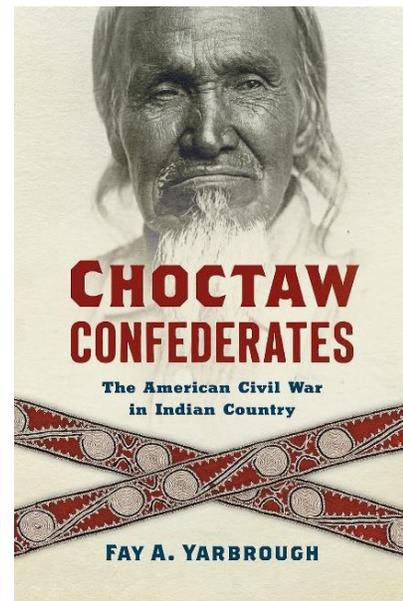
Greetings to all of you of the Round Table, and I do mean all of you packing our room to start 2024, a sign that our Round Table remains healthy and strong. The HCWRT board is committed to bringing in more excellent speakers for the remainder of this year and next.

I might add that we greatly enjoy sitting and talking with everyone at dinner and the meeting.

This past month's "full house" came to honor our Vandiver Award of Merit recipient Chris Mackowski. In addition to all the great work he has done with Emerging Civil War and others (check out last month's newsletter for those details), Chris is an engaging and dynamic speaker. We will have to have him back again in the future, and are proud to continue our long tradition of honoring important work in the study and memory of America's Civil War. This month, we have a local speaker in Rice's Fay Yarbrough. Her talk on the Choctaw Confederates promises to give further nuance to our understanding of the Confederacy, the war, and the place of many people within them.

With the year coming to a close in just a few more meetings, now is the time to start thinking about next year's campaign. Our drive for membership renewals continues, so get ahead of the game and send in those payments for next year, either by mail or in person at the meeting. I also want to reiterate my call about joining Round Table leadership. We always want to make sure our board is representative of our membership and takes advantage of their skills. If you have a way to help, or might be interested, please let us know.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Rudi's!



MARCH QUIZ

By Jim Godlove



On June 23, 1865, a Confederate officer surrendered his forces to Lt. Col. A. C. Matthews in Oklahoma. Who was the last Confederate general to surrender?



2023 Vandiver Award of Merit recipient Chris Mackowski with President Altavilla at February meeting

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michael Clennan

Do yourself and a friend a great favor! Bring them to our March 21 meeting for a book raffle, a challenging Civil War quiz and an informative lecture about "the American Civil War in Indian country." Last month we had 40 Civil War enthusiasts in attendance for an entertaining lecture by Chris Mackowski. Also, Joe Berwick brought a rare, mint condition Union carbine for us to inspect and gave a brief history of it.

We recommend that our members arrive at Rudi's by 5:45 and enjoy a hearty German meal with our friendly gang!

New members can join at the March meeting and receive the "bonus" of a membership that will extend until June 2025! Please call me at (713) 864-1204 if you have any questions. All are welcome!

BOOK RAFFLE

By Rita Campbell

As you may have heard, our collection of books to be raffled each month is quite extensive. Please let me know at our meetings of any particular battles and topics you would like me to add to our book raffle.

This month's book raffle includes **THE PERSONAL MEMOIRS OF ULYSSES S. GRANT, MILITARY MEMOIRS OF A CONFEDERATE** by Edward Porter Alexander, **IF IT TAKES ALL SUMMER: THE BATTLE OF SPOTSYLVANIA** by William Matter, **THE SHIPWRECK OF OUR HOPES: THE BATTLES FOR CHATTANOOGA** by Peter Cozzens, and **LANDSCAPE TURNED RED: THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM** by Stephen Sears.



I am available during every meeting to accept donations to our book raffle collection. Please be sure to include your name in the book so that we may recognize you for the donation.

2023 – 2024 SPEAKERS CAMPAIGN

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
c/o Barry G. Brueggeman
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