

## **BIVOUAC**

KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY \* P.O. BOX 3671 KENT, OH 44240 https://www.kentcivilwar.org/
Meeting Hotline (330) 474-9362

HELD IN THE GRASP OF WAR: UNION VETERANS AND THE STUBBORN PERSISTENCE OF OUR DEFINING CONFLICT A TALK BY DR. BRIAN MATTHEW JORDAN FROM SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY IN HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 AT 7:30 P.M. SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT

Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan will address the body of his scholarship on Union veterans, which is huge! He will have copies of his book, *Marching Home*, available for purchase at the meeting.

Dr. Jordan (who has been one of our speakers a couple times in past years - some of you will remember him speaking as a teenager) is Associate Professor of U.S. Civil War History and Chair of the History Department at Sam Houston State University, where he has taught since 2015. Dr. Jordan earned his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. degrees in history at Yale, where his doctoral dissertation earned the George Washington Eggleston Prize (for Best U.S. History Dissertation at Yale) and the John Addison Porter Prize, one of Yale's highest academic honors. He is the author or editor of six books on the Civil War and its era, including Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War, which was a finalist (one of three runners-up) for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History, and The War Went On: Reconsidering the Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans (LSU Press, 2020). His more than 150 reviews, articles, and essays have appeared in scholarly journals, popular magazines, and newspapers. Since 2014, he has served as the Book Review Editor for The Civil War Monitor. His next book, Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves, co-edited with Lincoln scholar Jonathan W. White, will appear with the University of Georgia Press in 2023. Dr. Jordan is currently at work on a major interpretive synthesis of the Civil War that Liveright/W.W. Norton plans to publish in 2025. A native of northeastern Ohio, Brian lives in the Houston area with his wife and daughter.

Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at Eddy's Deli & Restaurant, 4581 Kent Road in Stow, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



## Lincoln and Thanksgiving

Excerpted from <a href="https://www.nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/lincoln-and-thanksgiving.htm#:~:text=Abraham%20Lincoln's%20Thanksgiving%20Proclamation,-In%20July%201863&text=On%20October%203%2C%201863%2C%20with,a%20day%20of%20Thanksgiving...

Day of National Thanksgiving. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: A PROCLAMATION. It has pleased Almighty God to hearken to the supplications and prayers of an afflicted people, and to vouchsafe to the Army and the Navy of the United States, victories on land and on the sea, so signal and so effective as to furnish reasonable grounds for augmented confidence that the union of these States will be maintained, their Constitution preserved, and their peace and prosperity permanently restored. But these victories have been accorded, not without sacrifices of life, limb, health, and liberty. incurred by brave, loyal, and patriotic citizens. Domestic affliction in every part of the country follows in the train of these fearful bereavements. It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almightv Father, and the power of His hand, equally in these triumphs and in these sorrows. Now, therefore, be it known that I do set apart Thursday, the 6th day of August next, to be observed as a day for National thanksgiving, praise, and prayer, and I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and, in the forms approved by their own consciences, render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things He has done in the nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of His Holy Spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion, to change the hearts of the insurgents, to guide the counsels of the Government with wisdom, adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation, throughout the length and breadth of our land, all those who, through the vicissitudes of marches, voyages, battles, and sieges, have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate, and finally to lead the whole nation, through the paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will, back to the enjoyment of union and fraternal pence. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. ... Done at the City of Washington, this fifteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and [t. s.] sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-eighth. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Text of the 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation
President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation, published on July 15, 1863.

Library of Congress

Secretary of State.

In July 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in more than 50,000 American casualties. Despite these losses, the United States gained a great victory during these three days. On October 3, 1863, with this victory in mind, as well as its cost, President Lincoln issued a proclamation:

I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, ...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving... And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him ..., they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

This proclamation is viewed as the beginning of the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day. It was one of nine similar proclamations that Mr. Lincoln issued during the Civil War. Mr. Lincoln issued the proclamation, but he did not author it. Secretary of State William Seward penned the October 1863 proclamation.