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KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY * P.O. BOX 3671 KENT, OH 44240
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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.

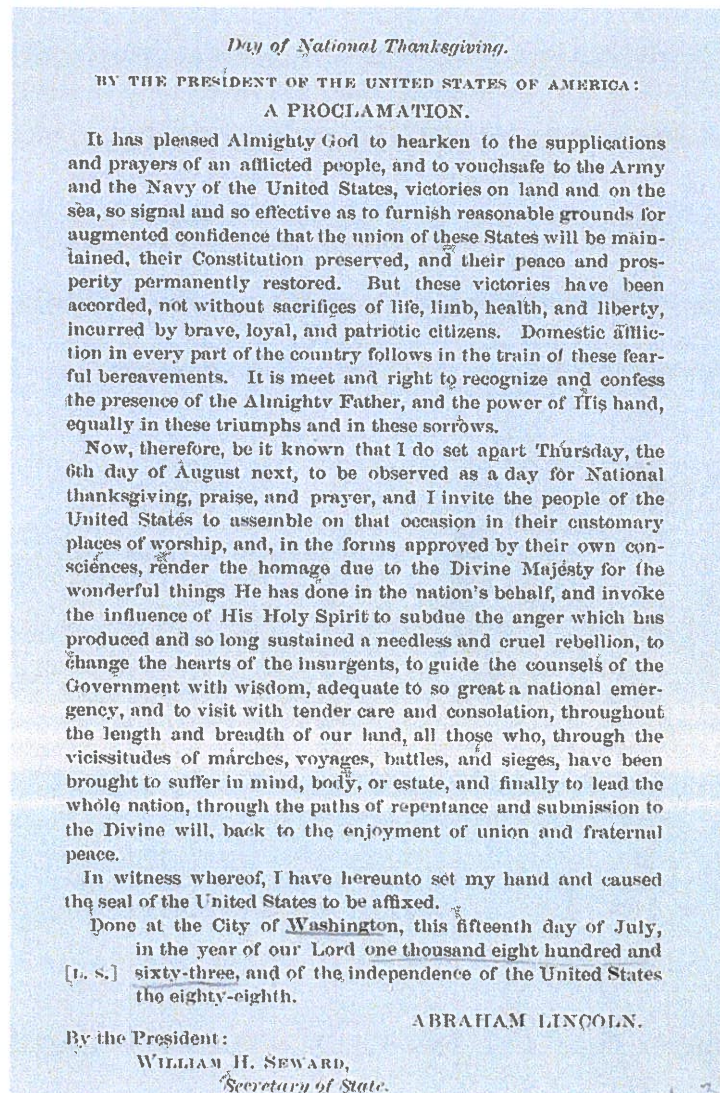
Dr. Jordan (who has been one of our speakers a couple times in past years – some of you will remember him speaking as a teenager) is Associate Professor of U.S. Civil War History and Chair of the History Department at Sam Houston State University, where he has taught since 2015. Dr. Jordan earned his 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 <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...>



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

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.