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# **MORE THAN AN EAGLE ON THE BUTTON**

**Black Lives Beyond the Battlefield in the U.S. Civil War  
A Scholarly Research Symposium**

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**Sam Houston State University | Huntsville, Texas**

**The generosity and financial support of these  
co-sponsors made this event possible:**



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**A Partnership Between**

The Department of History  
at Sam Houston State University

The Patricia and Bookman Peters Endowed  
Chair in History at Texas A&M University

The Society of Civil War Historians

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**The Patricia and Bookman Peters  
Endowed Chair in History**



Department of History  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**Greetings!** On behalf of my colleagues in the Department of History (and symposium co-conveners Lorien Foote and Holly Pinheiro), it is a pleasure to welcome you to Texas—and to the campus of Sam Houston State University! We are thrilled that you are here for what we know will be a memorable symposium on the lived experiences of African Americans during the Civil War era. This event was made possible by the generous support of the Society of Civil War Historians, the Department of History at Sam Houston State University, and the Patricia & Bookman Peters Endowed Chair in History at Texas A&M University.

African Americans profoundly shaped various aspects of the U.S. Civil War; in turn, the war altered Black lives and communities. Scholars have produced excellent studies of Black soldiers, veterans, and prisoners of war. They have written about the rebellion of enslaved people that undermined the Confederate war effort and the mass exodus to Union lines that nudged federal leaders toward emancipation as a military necessity. They have studied Black refugee camps and the lived experiences inside them. However, studies of the Black military experience have too often been divorced from studies of families and communities. Recent books, such as Holly A. Pinheiro's *The Families' Civil War*, point toward the development of a holistic, "War and Society" approach to the study of the Black military experience.

Over the next two days, we will investigate connections between battle front and home front and explore how those connections manifested in the lived experiences of Black people during the Civil War. Together, we will investigate how Black people with multiple connections to the U.S. military came to intuit, experience, and understand the conflict.

This event aims to build conversations between and among scholars—as well as between scholars and the lay public. We welcome your active participation and engagement with the many exciting papers on the program. While here, you will have time to visit the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, which the State of Texas recently rebranded as the Sam Houston Republic of Texas Presidential Library. This unique resource is a fitting place for historians of the Civil War era to ponder questions about family, community, freedom, and slavery.

I trust you will find this workshop enlightening and generative of new ideas. If I can do anything to make your visit to Huntsville more enjoyable, please don't hesitate to let me know. Welcome to Sam!

**Sincerely,**



**Brian Matthew Jordan**  
Associate Professor & Chair  
Department of History  
Sam Houston State University

## Schedule of Events

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### Wednesday, October 11, 2023

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|-----------|--|
| Afternoon | Presenters Arrive in Houston   |
| 3 p.m.    | Check-in Begins at Hotel<br>Fairfield Inn & Suites<br>136 Ravenwood Village Drive<br>Huntsville, Texas 77340 |
| 6:45 p.m. | Shuttle Picks Up Participants at Hotel for Dinner  |
| 7 p.m.    | Welcome Dinner at Sam's Table<br><br>Shuttle Returns Participants to Hotel                                   |

### Thursday, October 12, 2023

*\*All sessions held in the Lowman Student Center 241 (LSC 241)*

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 6:30 a.m.  | Continental Breakfast at Hotel  |
| 8 a.m.     | Shuttle Picks Up Participants at Hotel  |
| 8:45 a.m.  | Welcome, Introduction, and Greetings<br><i>Brian Matthew Jordan, Lorien Foote,<br/>and Holly A. Pinheiro, Jr.</i>   |
| 9 a.m.     | <b>Manhood, Families, and Black Military Service</b><br><br>Frank Kalisik, III, "From Residency to Revolution:<br>Social and Political Equality in the Midwest, 1848-1861"<br><br>Kelly D. Mezurek, "'Give my love to each<br>of our dear little ones': Examining Fatherhood through<br>the Private Letters of Black Civil War Soldiers and Sailors"<br><br>Holly A. Pinheiro, Jr., "'Recognised Your Manhood':<br>Northern USCT Military Processions"<br><br>Comment: The Audience |
| 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Break  |

## Schedule of Events

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### Thursday, October 12, 2023

*\*All sessions held in the Lowman Student Center 241 (LSC 241)*

- 10:45 a.m.     **New Perspectives on the Black Military Experience in New Orleans and Beyond**  
Rory McGovern, "William N. Reed: Race, Agency, and Opportunity in the USCT"  
David Silkenat, "C.C. Antoine's Civil War"  
Anthony J. Cade, II, "The Louisiana Native Guards and the Black Military Experience in the Gulf"  
Comment: The Audience
- 12:15 p.m.     Lunch
- 2 p.m.         **Recovering Black Soldiers' Lives: New Tools & Opportunities**  
Lorien Foote, "The Escapees of the 44th USCI: An Opportunity for Research and Digital Publication"  
Barbara A. Gannon, "Recovering the Dead of Olustee"  
Comment: The Audience
- 3:30 p.m.     Coffee Break
- 3:45 p.m.     **Confronting Consequences, Forging Memories**  
Ryan Keating, "Policing the Freedmen: Stereotyping Race and Charity in the Post-Civil War South"  
Hilary Green, "Porch Stories: USCT Veterans, Kin, and Civil War Memory"  
Comment: The Audience
- 5:15 p.m.     Shuttle Returns Participants to Hotel
- 7:15 p.m.     Shuttle Picks Up Participants at Hotel for Dinner
- 7:30 p.m.     Dinner at 1836 Steakhouse  
Shuttle Returns Participants to Hotel

## Schedule of Events

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### Friday, October 13, 2023

*\*All sessions held in the Sam Houston Republic of Texas Presidential Library*

- 6:30 a.m.     Continental Breakfast at Hotel
- 8 a.m.         Shuttle Picks Up Participants at Hotel
- 8:30 a.m.     Sam Houston Republic of Texas Presidential Library Tour
- 10 a.m.        Jonathan W. White, "A House Built By Slaves"
- 11 a.m.        Book Signing for *Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves* with co-editors Jonathan W. White and Brian Matthew Jordan (and contributors Barbara A. Gannon and Hilary Green)
- 12 p.m.        Lunch
- 1 p.m.         Participants return to Houston

## About the Presenters

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### **Anthony J. Cade II**

earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in History at George Washington University. Dr. Cade is an historian for the Air Force Air National Guard at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. He has published in *Army History* and *The Civil War Monitor* and is presently at work on his first monograph, *A Test of Courage: The African American Experience in the Louisiana Native Guards*.



### **Barbara A. Gannon**

is Professor of History at the University of Central Florida. She is the author of *The Won Cause: Black and White Comradeship in the Grand Army of the Republic* (a Lincoln Prize finalist and winner of the Wiley-Silver Prize) as well as *Americans Remember Their Civil War*. She has published widely in edited volumes and academic journals and is presently studying the dead of Olustee.



### **Lorien Foote**

is Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor of History at Texas A&M University. Her books include *The Gentlemen and the Roughs: Manhood, Honor, and Violence in the Union Army* (a Lincoln Prize finalist), *The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners of War* (a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title), and *Rites of Retaliation: Civilizations, Soldiers, and Campaigns in the American Civil War* (winner of the 2022 OAH Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award).



### **Brian Matthew Jordan**

is Associate Professor and Chair of History at Sam Houston State University. He is the author or editor of six books, including *Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War* (a Pulitzer Prize finalist), *A Thousand May Fall: An Immigrant Regiment's Civil War, and Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves*.



### **Hilary N. Green**

is James B. Duke Professor of Africana Studies at Davidson College. She is the author of *Educational Reconstruction: African American Schools in the Urban South, 1865-1890* and co-editor of *The Civil War and the Summer of 2020*. Her articles and essays have appeared in numerous edited collections. Presently, Dr. Green is finishing a book on how African Americans remembered and commemorated the U.S. Civil War and its legacies.



### **Frank Kalisik III**

is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where he was awarded the 2023 David and Diane Buck Dissertation Fellowship. Mr. Kalisik has presented papers at a variety of professional meetings and has co-produced podcast episodes for the Milwaukee County Historical Society.



### **Ryan W. Keating**

is Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History at California State University, San Bernardino. He is the author of *Shades of Green: Irish Regiments, American Soldiers, and Local Communities in the Civil War Era* and editor of *The Greatest Trials I Ever Had: The Civil War Letters of Margaret and Thomas Cahill*.



### **Holly A. Pinheiro, Jr.**

is an Assistant Professor of History at Furman University. Prior to his appointment at Furman, Dr. Pinheiro taught at Augusta University, where he earned the University Teaching Excellence Award. He is the author of *The Families' Civil War: Black Soldiers and the Fight for Racial Justice*.



### **Rory McGovern**

is Associate Professor, Chief of the American History Division, and Director of the Black History Project in the Department of History at the United States Military Academy. He is the author of *George W. Goethals and the Army: Change and Continuity in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, and co-editor of *Race, Politics, and Reconstruction at Old West Point*.



### **David Silkenat**

is Senior Lecturer of American History at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of four books, including *Raising the White Flag: How Surrender Defined the American Civil War* (a Lincoln Prize finalist); *Driven from Home: North Carolina's Civil War Refugee Crisis*; and *Scars on the Land: An Environmental History of Slavery in the American South* (a finalist for the Douglass Prize).



### **Kelly D. Mezurek**

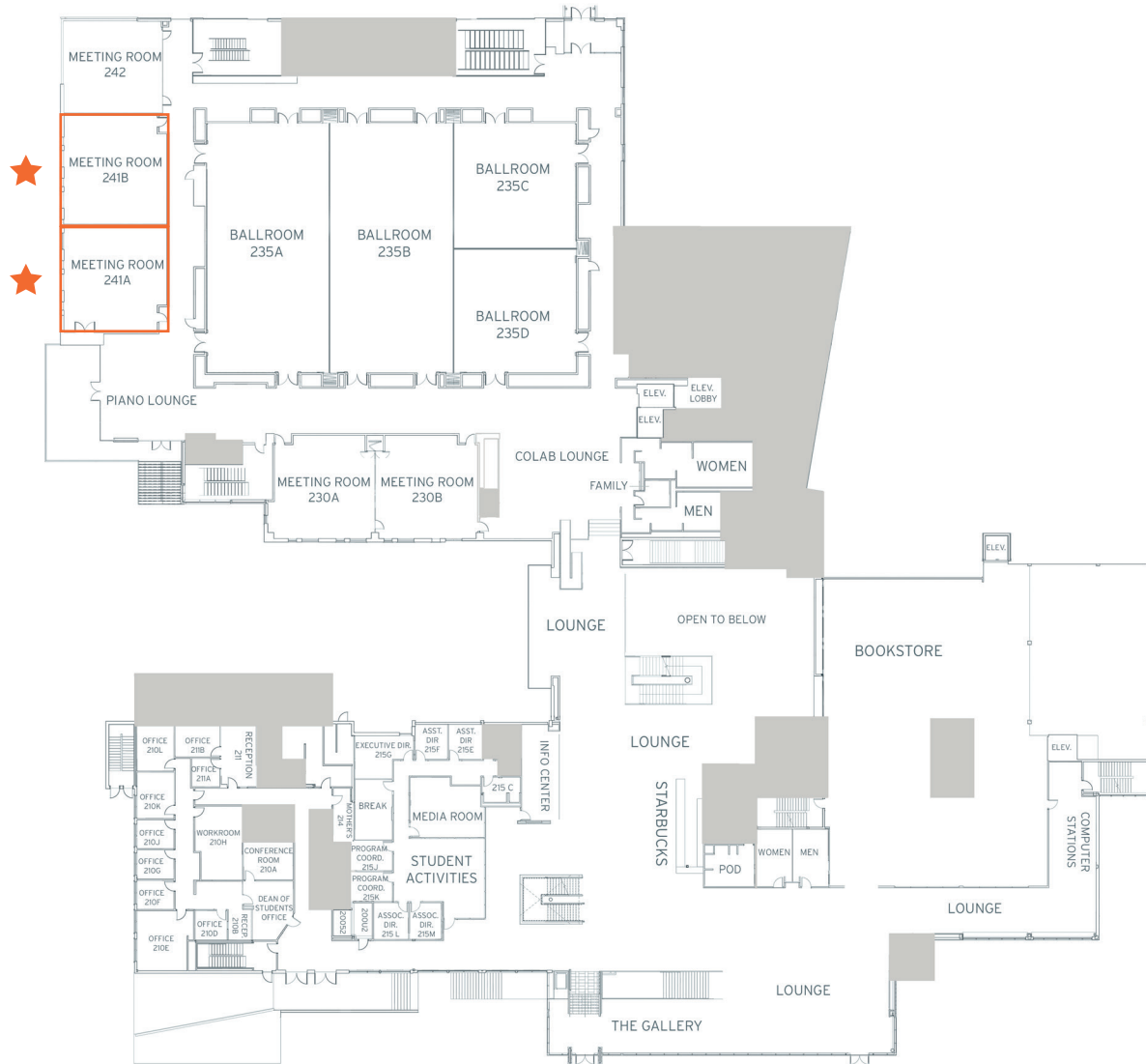
is an historian and writer who researches Black Civil War soldiers, sailors, and veterans. She is the author of *For Their Own Cause: The 27th United States Colored Troops*, in addition to several chapter-length studies. She teaches at Walsh University in Ohio and is an active member of the Ohio Humanities Speakers Bureau.



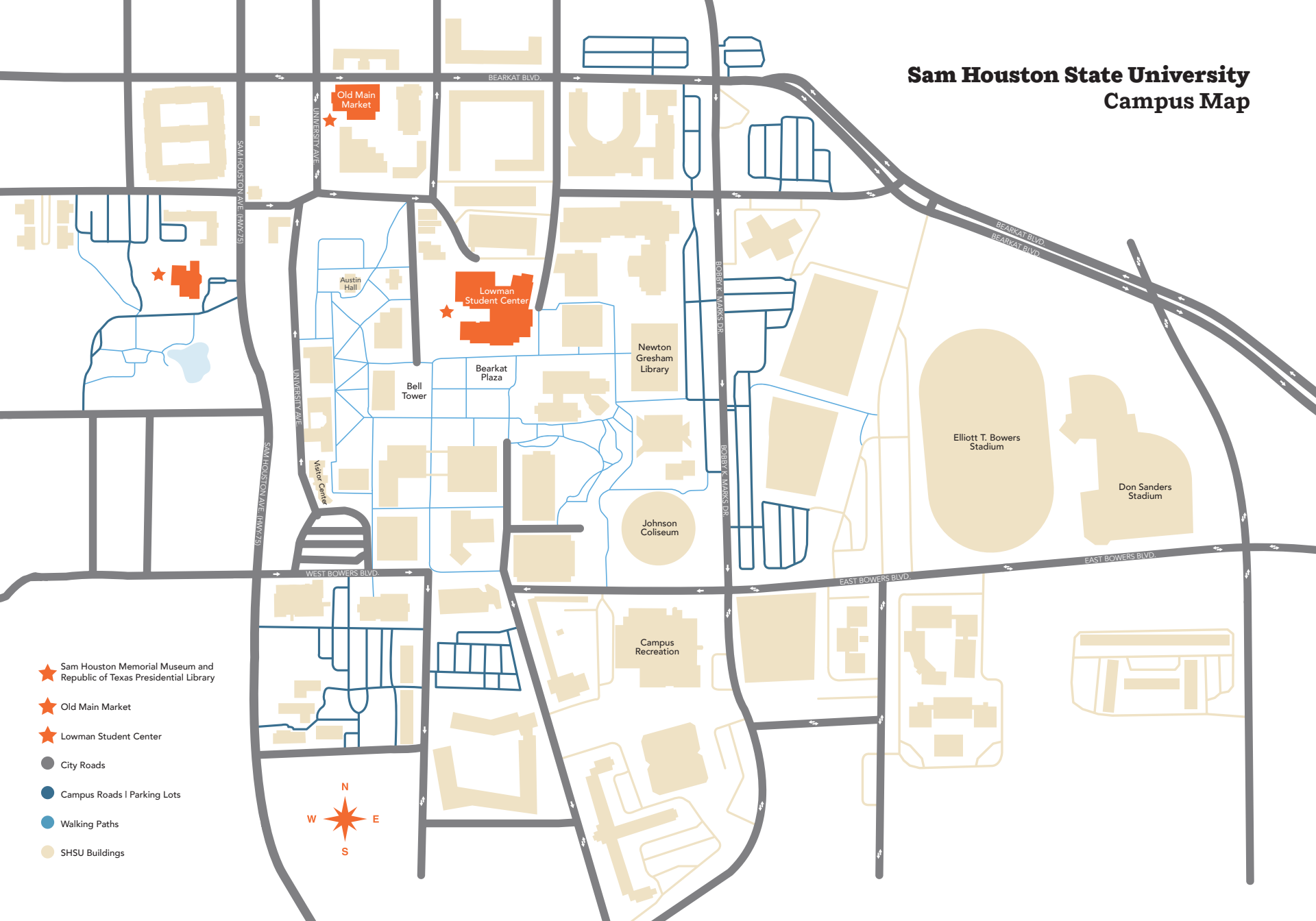
### **Jonathan W. White**

is a professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University. He is the author or editor of sixteen books, including the Lincoln Prize-winning *A House Built By Slaves: African American Visitors to the Lincoln White House and Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln* (a Lincoln Prize finalist). Among his most recent titles is *Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves* (co-edited with Brian Matthew Jordan).

# Lowman Student Center Floor Plan



# Sam Houston State University Campus Map



- ★ Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library
- ★ Old Main Market
- ★ Lowman Student Center
- City Roads
- Campus Roads | Parking Lots
- Walking Paths
- SHSU Buildings



Old Main Market

Lowman Student Center

Austin Hall

Bearkat Plaza

Bell Tower

Newton Gresham Library

Johnson Coliseum

Elliott T. Bowers Stadium

Don Sanders Stadium

Campus Recreation

SAM HOUSTON AVE. (HWY 75)

UNIVERSITY AVE.

SAM HOUSTON AVE. (HWY 75)

WEST BOWERS BLVD.

BEARKAT BLVD.

ROBERT K. MARKS DR.

ROBERT K. MARKS DR.

EAST BOWERS BLVD.

BEARKAT BLVD.  
BEARKAT BLVD.

EAST BOWERS BLVD.





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