

## MATTHEW M. STITH

Department of History  
 University of Texas at Tyler  
 3900 University Blvd.  
 Tyler, TX 75799  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 2010  
 M.A., History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 2004  
 B.A., History, Missouri Southern State University, 2003, with departmental honors

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Tyler  
 Associate Professor, 2017-present  
 Honor's Faculty, 2020-Present  
 Member, Center for Environment, Biodiversity, and Conservation, University of Texas at Tyler, 2015-present.  
 Assistant Professor, 2011-2017  
 University of Arkansas, Fort Smith  
 Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, 2010-2011  
 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville  
 Instructor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 2009-2010  
 Assistant Editor, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 2008-2009

### SCHOLARSHIP

### BOOK

*Extreme Civil War: Guerrilla Warfare, Environment, and Race on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2016)  
 Reviewed in: *Journal of American History*, *Civil War History*, *Journal of Military History*, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, *H-Net*, *Kansas History*, *America's Civil War*, *Agricultural History*, *Army Magazine*, *Reviews in American History*, *Choice*, *Register of Kentucky Historical Society*, *Missouri Historical Review*, *Military Review: The Journal of the U.S. Army*, *Civil War Books and Authors*, *Michigan War Studies Review*, *Society of Civil War Historians Newsletter*, *Ohio Valley History*, *Southern Historian*, *Journal of America's Military Past*.

### EDITED VOLUMES

*Hundreds of Little Wars: Community, Conflict, and the Real Civil War*, with G. David Schieffler (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, under contract)

*New Perspectives on the First World War: Beyond No Man's Land*, with Mandy Link (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2023/24)

*Beyond the Quagmire: New Interpretations of the Vietnam War*, with Geoffrey Jensen (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2019)

Reviewed in: *Publisher's Weekly*, *History Net*, *Journal of Military History*, *Army History*, *Air Power History*, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*, *Marine Corps History*, *Military Review: The Journal of the U.S. Army*.

ARTICLES,  
CHAPTERS,  
AND ESSAYS

“War at Home: Nature, Agriculture, and a Confederate Community in Texas,” in G. David Schieffler and Matthew M. Stith, eds., *Hundreds of Little Wars: Community, Conflict, and the Real Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, forthcoming)

“Vermin in the Trenches: Rats, Lice, and the Ubiquitous War with Nature,” in Mandy Link and Matthew M. Stith, eds., *New Perspectives on the First World War: Beyond No Man’s Land* (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming)

“Irregular and Guerrilla Warfare during the Civil War,” in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, ed. Jon Butler (New York: Oxford University Press, January 2023) [6,000+ word, peer-reviewed essay]

“The Natural Environment and the American Military Experience in Vietnam,” in Geoffrey W. Jensen and Matthew M. Stith, eds., *Beyond the Quagmire: New Interpretations of the Vietnam Conflict* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2019)

“Knights of the Brush: Guerrilla Warfare and the Environment in the Trans-Mississippi Theater,” in Barton Myers and Brian McKnight, eds., *The Guerrilla Hunters: Irregular Conflicts During the Civil War* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2017)

“Race and Irregular Warfare on the Trans-Mississippi Border, 1861-1865” in Geoffrey Jensen, ed., *The Routledge History of Race and the American Military* (New York: Routledge Press, 2016)

“Denizens of the Forest’: Hunting Black Bears and Identity in the Mississippi Delta,” *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* (Winter 2015)

“The Environment and the Civil War,” *Essential Civil War Curriculum*, Virginia Tech University (Sept. 2015)

“‘The Deplorable Condition of the Country’: Nature, Society, and War on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier,” *Civil War History* 58 (September 2012). Republished, in part, in Hui Wu and Emily Standridge, eds., *Reading and Writing about the Disciplines: A Rhetorical Approach* (2014)

“Guerrillas, Civilians, and the Union Response in Jasper County, Missouri, 1861-1865,” *Military History of the West* 38 (2008)

“‘Women Locked the Doors, Children Screamed, and Men Trembled in their Boots’: Black Bears, People, and Extirpation in Arkansas,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 66 (Spring 2007). Winner of the Violet Gingles Award for Best Essay, Arkansas Historical Association; Nominated for the Alice Hamilton Prize, American Society for Environmental History.

“‘Ho! For California!’: Fort Smith, Van Buren, and the Rush to the Gold Fields,” *Ozark Historical Review* 35 (2006); Student Journal, University of Arkansas.

BOOK REVIEWS

Over 25 book reviews published or forthcoming in: *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History* (5), *Civil War History* (2), *Environmental History*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Journal of Military History*, *Agricultural History*, *H-CivWar* (3), *H-Environment*, *Civil War Book Review* (4), *History: Reviews of New Books*, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (4), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (2), *Missouri*

*Historical Review, Chronicles of Oklahoma, Louisiana History, Arkansas Review, and the Pacific Northwest Quarterly.*

## ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Black Bears in Arkansas,” in *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* (Little Rock: Central Arkansas Library System, 2009); Republished as “Black Bears” in Guy Lancaster, ed., and Ron Wolfe, illus., *Arkansas in Ink: Gunslingers, Ghosts, and Other Graphic Tales* (Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2014), 120-121.

“Civil War Action at Pott’s Hill,” in *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* (Little Rock: Central Arkansas Library System, 2007)

## CURRENT PROJECTS

*Camp Ford’s Civil War: Nature and Culture in a Confederate and Union Community in Texas* (Book-Length Manuscript) I have completed research and am in the writing stages of this environmental and cultural history of the largest Confederate prison camp west of the Mississippi River and the community in which it existed.

*American Ursus: An Environmental and Cultural History of Bears and Humans in the South* (Book-Length Manuscript) This book explores the human-bear relationship in the American South from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In narrative fashion, I examine the dynamic interplay between bruins and humans with respect to culture, nature, and identity.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Vermin in the Trenches: Rats, Lice, and the British Experience in the First World War,” Northeast Conference on British History, Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 14, 2023.

“The Nature of Camp Ford, Texas: An Environmental History of the Largest Confederate Prison Camp in the Trans-Mississippi,” Northern Great Plains History Conference, Fargo, ND, September 22, 2022.

“A Fourth Theater of War: The Built Environment and a Confederate Community in Texas,” Agricultural History Society, Stavanger, Norway, August 4, 2022.

“Beyond the Quagmire: New Interpretations of the Vietnam War,” Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive Conference, Texas Tech University, Virtual, April 9, 2021.

“Bruins Behind the Pine Curtain: A Cultural and Environmental History of Black Bears in East Texas,” Gulf South History Conference, Pensacola, FL, October 2019.

“The Natural Environment, Command Policy, and the American Soldier Experience in the Vietnam War,” NSSA Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, April 2019.

“The Trans-Mississippi Homefront: Consensus, Conflict, and New Directions,” Civil War in Arkansas Symposium, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Rogers, AR, November 9, 2017.

“Facing East from the Trans-Mississippi Borderlands,” Western History Association, San Diego, CA, Friday, November 3, 2017.

“Moving the Civil War West: History and Historians of the Trans-Mississippi Theater,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 3, 2017.

[Chair] “The Nature of War: The Environment and Military Campaigns during the Civil War,” Society for Civil War Historians, Chattanooga, TN, June 4, 2016.

“Nature and Guerrilla Warfare in the Trans-Mississippi Theater,” American Culture Association, Seattle, WA, March 23, 2016.

“War in the Margins: Defining the Civil War on the Trans-Mississippi Border,” ACA, New Orleans, LA, April 3, 2015.

[Chair] “War and Politics in the West,” American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA, April 3, 2015.

[Discussant] “Manly Merrymaking with Sports and Music,” Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Galveston, TX, October 9, 2014

“Swine, Beeves, and War: How Domesticated Animals Shaped the Civil War on the Border,” Agricultural History Society Conference, Provo, UT, June 20, 2014.

[Chair & Discussant] “Perspectives of Government and Activism in the Nineteenth Century,” Southwestern Historical Association, San Antonio, TX, April 17, 2014.

“Defining the Southern Frontier: Black Bears and Culture in the Nineteenth-Century South,” AUMLAC—Southern Studies Conference, Montgomery, AL, February 8, 2014.

“‘The Demonic Spirit of these Rebel Fiends’: Race and Revenge on the Trans-Mississippi Border,” Society for Military History Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 15, 2013. [Panel Organizer]

“Hunters and Humorists in the Bear State: Fent Noland, Friedrich Gerstaecker, and Frontier Identity in Nineteenth-Century Arkansas,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 8, 2013.

“Nature and War in Indian Territory, 1861-1865,” Southwestern Historical Association Conference, San Diego, CA, April 7, 2012.

“‘Killed him a Ba’r’: Black Bears and Identity in the American South,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 2, 2012.

“‘Beyond the Pale of Law’: Warfare on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier during the American Civil War,” Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, October 9, 2010.

“On Bushwhackers, Environment, and War: Nature’s Influence on the Lower Trans-Mississippi Frontier, 1861-1865,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 4, 2010.

“Nature and Irregular Warfare on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier,” American Society for Environmental History, Annual Meeting, Tallahassee, FL, February 26, 2009.

“Overlooked Ubiquity: The Role of the Environment in the American Civil War,” Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 8, 2008.

“Black Bears, People, and Extirpation in Arkansas, 1860-1927,” Mid-America Conference on History, Fayetteville, AR, September 15, 2006.

“Bulwark of Unionism: Benton County, Slavery, and the Coming of the Civil War,” Mid-America Conference on History, Lawrence, KS, September 23, 2005.

“Guerrillas, Civilians, and Terror in Jasper County, Missouri, 1861-1865,” at Mid-America Conference on History, Springfield, MO, September 30, 2004.

## INVITED LECTURES

“Nature as Enemy and Ally: Irregular Warfare and the Environment in the Trans-Mississippi,” Jefferson Civil War Symposium, Jefferson, TX, August 5, 2023. One of four invited speakers.

“A History of Camp Ford Prison—Guided Tour of the Camp Ford Site,” Honors Symposium, UT-Tyler, April 4, 2023.

Keynote Speaker: “Hundreds of Little Wars: Community, Conflict, and the Real Civil War in the Ozarks,” Crowder College, Neosho, MO, September 8, 2022.

“The Civil War Facing East: New Perspectives on the War in the Trans-Mississippi,” East Texas Heritage Museum Association, Tyler, TX, April 16, 2018.

Keynote Speaker: “Re-Imagining the Civil War Battlefield: Nature, Culture, and the Civilian War on the Border,” Civil War in Arkansas Symposium, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Rogers, AR, November 9, 2017.

“Toward an Environmental History of the Civil War,” Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, August 7, 2013.

“Common Foe of Mankind?: Guerrillas, Civilians, and the Nature of War in 1863,” Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield and Springfield-Greene County Library District Invited Speaker, July 15, 2013.

“On Bruins, Humans, and the Merits of Environmental History,” Webb Historical Society, Tyler, TX, October 28, 2011.

“The Civilian War in Jasper County, Missouri, 1861-1865,” Invited Lecture at the Powers Museum, Carthage, Missouri, April 22, 2006.

“The Peculiar Institution in Northwest Arkansas,” Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Springdale, AR, February 15, 2006.

“Guerrilla War and Jasper County, Missouri: Localized Study of Total War,” Topeka Civil War Roundtable, Topeka, KS, September 22, 2005.

“A Battlefield All Around Us: Guerrilla Warfare in the Ozarks during the Civil War,” Civil War Roundtable of Northwest Arkansas, April 28, 2005.

## FELLOWSHIPS GRANTS & RESEARCH AWARDS

General and Mrs. Ridgway Research Grant, United States Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, PA, 2023

Lawrence T. Jones III Research Fellowship in Civil War Texas History, Texas State Historical Association, 2014

Kentucky Historical Society Research Fellowship, 2013  
 Faculty Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Texas at Tyler, 2013  
 Faculty Development Grant, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Arkansas  
 Fort Smith, 2010-2011  
 History Department Travel Grant, University of Arkansas, 2010

William E. Foley Fellowship, Missouri State Archives, 2009  
 James J. Hudson Fellowship, University of Arkansas, 2008-2009; 2009-2010  
 Alfred D. Bell Fellowship, Forest History Society, 2008  
 Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Arkansas, 2008; 2009  
 Willard B. Gatewood Fellowship in Southern History, University of Arkansas, 2007-2008  
 Violet Gingles Award for Best Essay on Arkansas History, Arkansas Historical Association, 2006

## TEACHING

### TEACHING AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

Kirkpatrick Award for Excellence in Teaching, Department of History, University of Arkansas,  
 2010  
 “Outstanding Faculty Member for Excellence in Teaching,” Student Alumni Board and  
 Associated Student Government, University of Arkansas, 2010  
 Nominated for Most Outstanding Faculty Member at the University of Arkansas, 2010

### COURSES TAUGHT AT UT-TYLER (2011-PRESENT)

HNRS 1351: World, Text, and Image I  
 HNRS 1352: World, Text, and Image II  
 HIST 1301: United States History I  
 HIST 1302: United States History II  
 HIST 3300: Historical Methods and Research  
 \*HIST 4321: The American West  
 HIST 4322: The American South  
 \*HIST 4325: Alcohol in American History  
 HIST 4330: Modern American Military History  
 \*HIST 4350: American Environmental History  
 HIST 4377: American Borderlands  
 HIST 4379: Age of Jackson (Antebellum America)  
 HIST 4386: Civil War and Reconstruction  
 \*HIST 4355: The Vietnam War  
 HIST 5386: Civil War and Reconstruction (Grad)  
 HIST 5379: Age of Jackson (Grad)  
 HIST 5377: American Borderlands (Grad)  
 \*HIST 5351: The Vietnam War (Grad)  
 \*HIST 5397: American Environmental History (Grad)  
 \*Courses I created at UT-Tyler.

### M.A. THESIS STUDENTS AT UT-TYLER (THESIS DIRECTOR)

Michael Allen Knous, “First to Last”: The 70<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regiment, 1861-1865,” M.A. Thesis, in  
 progress.  
 Melody Mott, “Japanese Texans in the Twentieth Century,” M.A. Thesis, in progress.  
 Lincoln Clayton, “Trade, Culture, and the Environment among the Caddo,” M.A. Thesis,  
 University of Texas at Tyler, 2023.

- Clinton Thompson, "Hell in the Snow: The US Army in the Colmar Pocket, January 22-February 9, 1945," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2017.
- Elle Harvell, "Cope, Cooperate, Combat: Civilian Responses to Union Occupation in Saline County, Missouri, During the Civil War," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2012.

#### M.A. THESIS STUDENTS AT UT-TYLER (THESIS READER)

- Meri Souliman, "The Coptic Orthodox Church: The Continuation of its 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roots and its Adaptation to Modernity," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2022.
- Jeanna Mankins, "Insane Asylums in Britain during the Nineteenth Century," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2022.
- Katherine Prince, "Emerging Cold War Ideologies During the Populist Era in Latin America and the U.S. Media Response," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2017.
- Robin Haynie, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Democracy: Comedy and Politics in the Twentieth Century," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2015.
- Sharon Hughes, "Isaac Merritt Singer: A Womanizer Who Liberated Women," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2014.

### SERVICE AND ADVANCEMENT

#### MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL & ARTICLE REFEREE

- University of Nebraska Press/Bison (2023)  
Routledge Press (2023; 2013)  
W.W. Norton (2022)  
*Louisiana History* (2022)  
*Missouri Historical Review* (2022)  
University of Arkansas Press (2020)  
University of Georgia Press (2020)  
Louisiana State University Press (2019)  
*Civil War History* (2022; 2019)  
*Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (2019)  
*Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (2022; 2014; 2011)  
*Agricultural History* (2017)  
Oxford University Press (2013)

#### DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Tenure Peer Reviewer, Missouri State University, 2023  
Sustainability Committee, UT-Tyler, 2023-present  
Faculty Senate, UT-Tyler, 2020-2023  
Student Engagement Advisory Committee, 2021-2023  
Student Media Advisory Board, 2020-2022  
Promotion Committee, Department of History, Fall 2022  
Tenure Committee, Department of History, Fall 2021  
History Representative/Leader, Education Camp for East Texas 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, May 2020  
Promotion Committee, Department of History, 2020-2021  
History Field of Study Representative for the University of Texas at Tyler, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Austin, TX, 2018-2021  
Search Committee, Library Director, Fall 2018

Member, Center for Social Science Research, University of Texas at Tyler, 2016-2020  
 College of Arts and Sciences Governance Committee, 2018-2019 (Chair); 2019-2020  
 Library Advisory Committee, UT-Tyler, 2016-2020  
 Faculty Advisor, History Club), UT-Tyler, 2011-present.  
 Pre-Tenure Committee, Department of Political Science, Spring 2018  
 Tenure Committee, Department of Social Sciences, Fall 2017 (two candidates)  
 Tenure Committee, Department of History, Fall 2017  
 Tenure-track Search Committee, Department of History, Fall 2016  
 Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, UT-Tyler, 2014-2016  
 External Reviewer, Department of History, Defiance College, OH, Fall 2015  
 Library Strategic Planning Focus Group, UT-Tyler, Spring 2014  
 Tenure-track Search Committee, Department of Social Sciences, UT-Tyler, 2013  
 Tenure-track Search Committee, Department of History and Political Science, UT-Tyler, 2012  
 History Department Faculty Representative, Global Quiz Night, November 13, 2012  
 History Department Faculty Representative, Majors Preview Day, University of Texas at Tyler,  
 Fall 2011; Spring 2012; Fall 2012; Spring 2014; Fall 2014; Summer 2015; Fall 2021

PUBLIC HISTORY  
 PUBLIC EDUCATION  
 & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Professional Development Facilitator, Whitehouse ISD Social Studies Program, January 2023  
 Editorial Board, *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas*, Smith County Historical Society, Texas, 2019-  
 present.  
 Editor, *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas*, Smith County Historical Society, Texas, 2014-2018. As  
 chief editor for the county historical journal, I oversaw the general editorial operations  
 for the publication, all editing duties, publication decisions, design, layout, and final  
 printing.  
 AP Exam Reader, American History, 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022.  
 AP Exam Reader, World History, 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015.  
 Editorial Advisor, *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas*, Smith County Historical Society, Texas, 2012-  
 2014.  
 AP Exam Rubric Study Participant, Spring 2014.  
 Lead Planner/Evaluator, Cane Hill Battlefield Interpretation Project, 2007-2013.  
 Treasurer, Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail, 2007-2010.  
 Humanities Advisor, Fort Smith Historical Society, 2010-2011.  
 National Register Nomination, 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Newtonia, Missouri, 1862. National Register of  
 Historic Places, Listed 2004.  
 National Register Nomination, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Newtonia, Missouri, 1864. National Register of  
 Historic Places, Listed 2004.

TEACHING  
 & ADVISING  
 WORKSHOPS

PATSS Training, May 2016; Summer 2017  
 Global Awareness Through Education (GATE) Instructor, UT-Tyler, Fall 2013-2015  
 Staying Connected Online Training, Spring 2015  
 Master Advisor Certificate, University of Texas at Tyler, August 2013



PROFESSIONAL  
AFFILIATIONS

Southern Historical Association

Agricultural History Society

Arkansas Historical Association

Phi Alpha Theta

Smith County Historical Society (Texas)

History Club, University of Texas at Tyler

Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association (Honorary Lifetime Member)