

## MATTHEW M. STITH

Department of History  
University of Texas at Tyler  
3900 University Blvd.  
Tyler, TX 75799  
[mstith@uttyler.edu](mailto:mstith@uttyler.edu)

### EMPLOYMENT

---

University of Texas at Tyler  
Associate Professor, 2017-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  
Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), 2006-2009

### 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

### RESEARCH & TEACHING AREAS

---

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Environmental History; Military and the Environment; Animal and Natural History; Nature and the American South; The Civil War.

### SCHOLARSHIP

---

#### BOOKS

*Camp Ford's Civil War: Nature, Community, and Captivity in the Dark Corner of the Confederacy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, under contract, expected 2026)

*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, accepted and in press, Spring 2025)

*New Perspectives on the First World War: Beyond No Man's Land*, with Mandy Link (Palgrave Macmillan, April 2024)

*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

“Camp Ford, Texas: Nature and Community in the ‘Dark Corner of the Confederacy,’” 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, accepted and forthcoming, Spring 2025)

“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, April 2024)

“All Quiet on Every Front: Fighting the Great War Beyond No Man’s Land,” with Mandy Link, in Link and Stith, eds., *New Perspectives of the First World War: Beyond No Man’s Land* (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, April 2024)

“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

Thirty-four book reviews published or forthcoming in: *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Southern History* (5), *Civil War History* (2), *Environmental History*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *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), *North Carolina Historical Review*, *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

*American Ursus: An Environmental and Cultural History of Bears and Humans in the South* (Writing Stage; Book-Length Manuscript)

- This book tells the story of humans and bears 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.

*Wildlife and War: Animals and People in the Civil War South* (Research Stage; Book-Length Manuscript)

- This book project examines the relationship between humans and wildlife in the American South during the Civil War era. It focuses most keenly on the dynamic between wild animals, soldiers, civilians, and enslaved people in a time of tumult, destruction, and, in many ways, the resumption of wilderness.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

[Chair and Discussant] “New Perspectives on the First World War: Beyond No Man’s Land,” European History Section of the Southern Historical Association Conference, Kansas City, MO, October 24, 2024.

“Hundreds of Little Wars: Community, Conflict, and the Real Civil War,” Roundtable, Society for Civil War Historians, June 2024.

“Vermin in the Trenches: Rats, Lice, and the British Experience in the First World War,” Northeast Conference on British Studies, 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,” 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.

#### OTHER INVITED LECTURES/TOURS

“A History of Camp Ford Prison—Guided Tour of the Camp Ford Site,” Honors Symposium, UT-Tyler, April 4, 2023; Dr. Rhys Dotson’s Texas History Class, October 2024.

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

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

John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History Research Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2024

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

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

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

---

### COURSES TAUGHT AT UT-TYLER (2011-PRESENT; \* Denote courses I created.)

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: 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)

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

Melody Mott, “Japanese Texans in the Twentieth Century,” M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, in progress

Michael Allen Knous, Jr., "First to Last: The 70<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regiment, 1861-1865," M.A. Thesis, University of Texas at Tyler, 2024.

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

---

##### BOOK & ARTICLE MANUSCRIPT REFEREE

University of North Texas Press (2024)

*Journal of Southern History* (2023; 2024)

University of Nebraska Press/Bison (2023 x 2)

*Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History* (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)

## EDITORIAL WORK & SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, “American Military Studies” Series, University of North Texas Press, 2022-present.  
Editorial Board Member, *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.

Editorial Advisor, *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas*, Smith County Historical Society, Texas, 2012-2014.

Assistant Editor, *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 2008-2009

## DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

CAS Curriculum Committee, 2024-present

Faculty Advisor, History Club, UT-Tyler, 2011-present.

Search Committee Member, World History, Department of History, UT-Tyler, 2024-2025

Post-Tenure Review Committee x2, Department of History, UT-Tyler, Fall 2024

Search Committee Member, Senior Coordinator, Honor’s College, UT-Tyler Spring 2024

Search Chair, Early American History, Department of History, UT-Tyler, 2023-2024

CAS Tenure and Promotion Committee, UT-Tyler, 2023-2024

Patriot Trees Committee, UT-Tyler, 2023-2024

Sustainability Committee, UT-Tyler, 2023-2024

Tenure Outside Peer Reviewer, Missouri State University, Fall 2023

Promotion Committee, Department of History, UT-Tyler, Fall 2023

Faculty Senate, UT-Tyler, 2020-2023

Student Engagement Advisory Committee, UT-Tyler, 2021-2023

Student Media Advisory Board, UT-Tyler, 2020-2022

Promotion Committee, Department of History, UT-Tyler, Fall 2022

Tenure Committee, Department of History, UT-Tyler, Fall 2021

History Representative/Leader, Education Camp for East Texas 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, UT-Tyler, May 2020

Promotion Committee, Department of History, UT-Tyler, 2020-2021

History Field of Study Representative for the UT-Tyler, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Austin, TX, 2018-2021

History Department Faculty Representative, Majors Preview Day, UT-Tyler, Fall 2011; Spring 2012; Fall 2012; Spring 2014; Fall 2014; Summer 2015; Fall 2021

Post-Tenure Review Committee, UT-Tyler, Department of History, Fall 2018

Search Committee, Library Director, UT-Tyler, Fall 2018

Member, Center for Social Science Research, UT-Tyler, 2016-2020

CAS Governance Committee, UT-Tyler, 2018-2019 (Chair); 2019-2020

Library Advisory Committee, UT-Tyler, 2016-2020

Pre-Tenure Review 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

CAS Curriculum Committee, 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, UT-Tyler, November 13, 2012

## PUBLIC HISTORY, PUBLIC EDUCATION, & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guest Speaker, “Emily Dickinson and the Civil War in the North,” *A Verse Reaction with Dr. Beebe*, Podcast KVUT 99.7, Recorded October 20, 2023

Professional Development Facilitator, Whitehouse ISD Social Studies Program, January 2023

AP Exam Reader, American History, 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022 (Table Leader); 2024 (Table Leader)

AP Exam Reader, World History, 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015.



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

Honor's Faculty, 2020-Present

Member, Center for Environment, Biodiversity, and Conservation, UT-Tyler, 2015-present.

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 MEMBERSHIPS (As of 2024)

Southern Historical Association

Society of Civil War Historians

Arkansas Historical Association

Phi Alpha Theta

History Club, University of Texas at Tyler