

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

more than a library...it's an experience

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CIVIL WAR SATURDAY RETURNS TO THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY CHANDRA MANNING, "WHAT THIS CRUEL WAR WAS OVER"

CHICAGO, IL (October 5, 2007) – The soldiers of the Civil War had no need for newsreels to know why they were fighting. In Chandra Manning's remarkable new history, *What This Cruel War Was Over*, they tell us themselves:

"The fact that slavery is the sole undeniable cause of this infamous rebellion, that it is a war of, by, and for Slavery, is as plain as the noon-day sun."

On Saturday, October 20th, historian Chandra Manning will appear at the Pritzker Military Library to discuss her new book, *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 9:30 a.m. A complimentary coffee and tea reception will precede the event at 9:00 a.m.

In *What This Cruel War Was Over*, Chandra Manning reveals the voices of the soldiers of the Union and the Confederacy. Her exhaustive research, using countless diaries, letters, and regimental newsletters, follows in the footsteps of James McPherson, recent recipient of the Pritzker Military Library Literature Award, in its commitment to uncovering the views of the citizen soldier in the Civil War – the causes that drove them to fight, the views that evolved as the "cruel war" engulfed them. Why did non slave-owners, who accounted for the vast majority of Southerners, take up arms to fight? How did Northerners, who had never thought of themselves as abolitionists and wanted nothing to do with "the negro", react to their first encounters with the violence of slavery?

Described as a rising star among new American historians, Manning's work is in the best tradition of Civil War scholarship, and marks a critical entry in one of the most hotly-contested topics in American military history.

Chandra Manning received a Master of Philosophy from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and took her Ph.D. at Harvard in 2002. Currently, she is an assistant professor of history at Georgetown University and lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband and son.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net.

Please note that historian Donald A. Davis (*Stonewall Jackson*) was originally scheduled to appear after Mrs. Manning, but was unfortunately forced to cancel due to health issues.

For more information, visit www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events.

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a state-of-the-art private research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 25,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 170 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly military affairs panel program, Front & Center with John Callaway. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the internet, and archived as part of the Library's collection. Library programs are typically broadcast on WYCC Channel 20, a PBS affiliate, and are also available in podcast format at iTunes and Yahoo!, among others. A complimentary wine and cheese reception for our Associate Members precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing by The Book Stall. To learn more, please visit our website at: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

The Pritzker Military Library is a short walk from the CTA Red Line (Grand). Public parking is conveniently located at the corner of Fairbanks and Ohio. The library and gallery are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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