

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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

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BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS: LINCOLN, SHERMAN, AND TITANS OF THE CIVIL WAR IN "1858" AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

CHICAGO, IL – In 1858, fate had yet to pay its call on them. Abraham Lincoln was giving galvanizing speeches across Illinois...and losing an election. Jefferson Davis was suffering the health consequences of an old hotel tryst in Cuba. William Tecumseh Sherman, the general who later observed that "war is hell", was trying – and failing – to sell corn at a roadside stand.

In a couple of years, everything would change. But in 1858, none of them knew what was coming.

On Wednesday, April 9th, Bruce Chadwick will appear at the Pritzker Military Library to discuss his new book, *1858: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and the War They Failed to See*. This event is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. It will also be recorded for later broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20.

This is the prologue to the American Civil War, ending with the first shots fired on Fort Sumter in the spring of 1861. But it is less a survey of the era than a study of characters: James Buchanan as an odd-looking, maniacal disaster of a president, bent on conquering Paraguay, and John Brown as an imposing, biblical fury, determined to force America to confront the issue Buchanan was determined to ignore: slavery.

With the nation mired in a series of patchwork laws and untenable compromises, Chadwick finds the same crossroads in the men who would take center stage in the war to come. He relishes in personal details from the lives of major figures like Robert E. Lee, describing the Confederacy's chief strategist confounded by a rebellious slave named Reuben, or watching as Abraham Lincoln sticks to cheap taverns for dinner on the campaign trail, traveling on a tight budget as he plots how to outwit Stephen A. Douglas in their next debate. *1858* is a story of a country seeking to chart a way ahead, and the decisions made by a handful of men that would set its course.

Bruce Chadwick is a former journalist and editor at the *New York Daily News*. He is the author of eight books on history, including *The Reel Civil War* and *The General and Mrs. Washington*. He lectures on American history at Rutgers and also teaches writing at New Jersey City University.

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

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

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a private, non-partisan research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 26,000 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 180 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *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 taped for broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes. A complimentary reception for Associate Members with wine and light refreshments precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing at author events by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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