SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

GAINES M. FOSTER, SYMPOSIUM MODERATOR
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

GAINES M. FOSTER is dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and also serves as the LSU Foundation Murphy J. Foster Professor of History at Louisiana State University. Author of Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865 to 1913, his interest in the Civil War has focused on how Americans, particularly southerners, have interpreted the war—a subject that historians today label “Civil War memory.”

KELBY OUCHLEY, BIOLOGIST/AUTHOR
The Wild Side of the Civil War in Louisiana: Considering the Flora and Fauna

During the Civil War, humans impacted plants and animals on an unprecedented scale, as soldiers on both sides waged the most environmentally destructive war ever seen on American soil. Refugees and armies alike tramped across the landscape foraging for food, shelter, and fuel. Wild plants and animals formed barriers for armies and carried disease; provided medicine and raw materials necessary to implement war; and greatly influenced the day-to-day life of soldiers and civilians. This talk will focus on how soldiers and citizens in Louisiana thought about and interacted with wild flora and fauna in a time of epic historical events.

KELBY OUCHLEY is a biologist who managed National Wildlife Refuges for the US Fish and Wildlife Service for thirty years. Since retiring he has written several books: Flora and Fauna of the Civil War: An Environmental Reference Guide; Bayou-Diversity: Nature and People in the Louisiana Bayou Country; Iron Branch: A Civil War Tale of a Woman In-Between; and American Alligator: Ancient Predator in the Modern World. He is the recipient of the Louisiana Governor’s Conservationist of the Year Award. Ouchley and his wife, Amy, live in the woods in Rocky Branch, Louisiana, on the edge of the D’Arbonne Swamp.

ANDREW F. LANG, RICE UNIVERSITY
A Perfect Season of Stagnation: Union Soldiers and the Military Occupation of New Orleans

“A Perfect Season of Stagnation” addresses the ways in which Union soldiers experienced the Civil War–era military occupation of New Orleans. As occupation emerged as a necessary component to Union strategy, its complexities challenged northern soldiers’ conceptions of warfare, testing notions of integrity, masculinity, and racial identity. Volunteer soldiers viewed the principal tenets of military occupation in New Orleans—securing, holding, and guarding territory; enforcing government policies; regulating and defining the limits of civilian-combatants; policing the town; and battling guerrillas—as incompatible with the citizen-soldier ideal, which they had intended to fulfill.

ANDREW F. LANG is a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Rice University. He received his PhD in history from Rice in 2013. His dissertation, “The Garrison War: Culture, Race, and the Problem of Military Occupation during the American Civil War,” earned awards for best dissertation in the Humanities and in the Department of History at Rice and is currently under contract for publication with Louisiana State University Press. Lang has published articles in national and regional historical journals as well as pieces in the New York Times and Houston Chronicle. In August he will join the faculty of Mississippi State University as an assistant professor of history.
The republic was in peril, both North and South, during the Civil War. Not only did the sectional strife threaten to divide the United States on a permanent basis, but it exposed the nation to predatory powers seeking to further their own interests in the Western Hemisphere. Both Britain and France closely followed American events—the former concerned about protecting Canada and expanding its economic influence in Latin America, the latter wanting to restore its imperial empire in the Americas (including the old Louisiana territory) and thereby endangering the entire republic.

Howard Jones, University of Alabama (retired)

Republic in Peril: Lincoln and the Diplomacy of the Civil War

Howard Jones has recently retired as University Research Professor of History at the University of Alabama. After receiving his PhD from Indiana University, he taught at the University of Nebraska before moving to the University of Alabama, where he chaired the Department of History for eight years. A recipient of both the John F. Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award and the Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award, he taught courses on American foreign relations and the US-Vietnam War.

Jones’s books include Union in Peril: The Crisis over British Intervention in the Civil War; Abraham Lincoln and a New Birth of Freedom: The Union and Slavery in the Diplomacy of the Civil War; and Blue and Gray Diplomacy: A History of Union and Confederate Foreign Relations. He is researching a new project, “Into the Heart of Darkness: My Lai.”

Jeff Rosenheim, the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Seeing the Elephant: Photography and the American Civil War

This presentation explores the role of the camera during the Civil War, a watershed moment in American culture. During the war years (1861–65), some 750,000 combatants lost their lives. This same period saw the medium of photography—then just twenty years old—mature and flourish in surprising and unexpected ways. What survives from the period is a rich photographic record of remarkable complexity: haunting views of battlefields strewn with human remains; emancipated former slaves (many from New Orleans) posing for their first portraits; medical studies of unflinching realism; and intimate likenesses of armed soldiers, North and South, preparing to meet their destiny. In a direct expression of the nation’s changing vision of itself, the camera documented the four-year war and also mediated it by memorializing the brutal events of the battlefield as well as the consequent toll on the home front. This richly illustrated talk investigates the Civil War through the “new” medium of photography, revealing a legacy that still looms large in the imagination and character of the American public.

Prior to joining the Metropolitan Museum in 1988, Jeff Rosenheim earned his BA in American Studies at Yale University and his MFA in Photography at Tulane University, and worked at The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Museum of the City of New York. An expert in American photography with wide-ranging interests from 19th-century to contemporary art, he has taught at Columbia University, the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, and Bard College. At the Metropolitan Museum, he has organized or co-organized some twenty exhibitions and was responsible for facilitating the museum’s acquisitions of the complete archives of photographers Walker Evans in 1994 and Diane Arbus in 2007. He has in recent years published catalogue essays on Robert Frank, Robert Polidori, Stephen Shore, and Paul Graham. He organized the exhibition Photography and the American Civil War, which ran at the Metropolitan Museum from April 2 through September 2, 2013, and is currently on view at the New Orleans Museum of Art.
By October 1862 “Beast” Butler was the most intensely hated man in the entire Confederacy—not least as a result of his infamous “Woman Order,” threatening that any woman in New Orleans who displayed public contempt for a Union soldier would be “treated as a woman of the town plying her vocation.” Not surprisingly, the outcry across the Confederacy was immediate and intense. But even across the Atlantic, the British government claimed that history held no example “of so infamous an act.” At a point in the war when European recognition of an independent Confederacy was a very real possibility, Butler’s interactions with Confederate women sat at the very heart of larger political and military decisions.

Jacqueline Glass Campbell, who earned her PhD from Duke University, is the author of When Sherman Marched North from the Sea: Resistance on the Confederate Home Front. Currently associate professor at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, she teaches the American history survey as well as specialized courses in the Old South and Civil War America. Her new research focuses on Benjamin Butler in occupied New Orleans from May through December of 1862.

Panel Discussion
Interpreting the Civil War through Its Museums and Battlefields

Patricia Ricci, Confederate Memorial Hall
Patricia Ricci is the director of Confederate Memorial Hall and has worked at the museum for thirty-four years. Her tenure has seen the completion of a photographic inventory of the museum’s collection; the development of an Adopt-a-Flag program; the creation of a museum website; and the conclusion of several major construction projects. Ricci coauthored Confederate Memorial Hall Museum: The Battle Abbey of the South and served as executive director of the newly released video presentation Confederate Memorial Hall: Reverence of the Past, Devotion to the Future. Both the book and the DVD chronicle the history of the museum from its beginning to present day. Ricci was born, raised, and educated in New Orleans; she is married to Joseph Ricci and has two sons and two grandchildren.

Michael Fraering, Port Hudson State Historic Site
Born in 1956 in New Orleans, Michael Fraering graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a BA in History in 1980. He began to work for Louisiana State Parks in October 1987, and has worked at the Port Hudson State Historic Site—where he currently serves as site curator—for the past twenty-six years. He and his wife, Mona Kay Davison Fraering, have three children.