

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Melodee Pedersen, President, Friends of the Columbus Public Library

Nebraska author to give program at library

What better way to celebrate Columbus Days than by hearing a “cool” program in the library auditorium before watching the parade? Sunday afternoon, August 21st at 2:00 p.m., Nebraska author Shawn J. Farritor will speak about his self-published historical fiction novel, “End of Pawnee Starlight”, which deals with the last great confrontation between Native Americans on the North American continent. He will also answer questions about self-publishing in general. Farritor’s book has seen such success that it has also been released as an e-book.

In his stirring work, Farritor delves into the events surrounding the Battle of Massacre Canyon through the thoughts and actions of the well-meaning but inexperienced Indian agent, John Williamson. Memorable characters drawn from chapters of Nebraska history surround John Williamson. The dignified Great Pawnee Chief, Petalasharo, struggles to keep his people on the lands of their ancestors. The formidable warrior, Sky Chief, leads his people into disaster on their last great buffalo hunt. The tough and hardened Major Frank North and his more reflective younger brother, Captain Luther North, assist the Pawnee in their terrible and deadly warfare with the powerful Sioux Nation.

The Battle of Massacre Canyon occurred in an indistinguishable valley in southwestern Nebraska on August 5, 1873. The battle hastened the departure of the Pawnee Tribe to Indian Territory in the future State of Oklahoma. Estimates of the number of killed and wounded vary widely, but the immediate impact of the conflict changed Nebraska for whites and Native Americans alike.

In the end, neither tribe won the Battle of Massacre Canyon. The Pawnee and Sioux were fighting over access to hunting grounds that the American government had recently, and unilaterally, determined were not theirs to claim. Each tribe was removed from their beloved Nebraska homelands before the end of the decade. Well-researched with informative maps, “End of Pawnee Starlight” provides remarkable revelations of one of history’s most often forgotten events. For more information about this engrossing historical novel, log on to www.Xlibris.com.

Shawn J. Farritor is a native Nebraska having been raised in the small town of Ravenna. He received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and went on to attend law school, where the idea for this book was born. He practices law in central Nebraska and lives with his wife and step-son in Grand Island. “End of Pawnee Starlight” is his first novel.

This program is brought to you by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library. Don’t forget to visit the Friends book sale, August 18th-21st. Thursday evening is the preview night from 6-9 and a \$5 fee will buy you the first peek at this sale’s offerings. Friday and Saturday the sale will be open from 10 to 5, and Sunday will be a buck a bag sale from 1:30-5:00. Hardback books, VHS tapes and DVDs are still a low \$1 each, and most paperbacks are \$.25. We’ve added more signage to help customers find those treasures they are looking for. With a selection of thousands of items, there is something for everyone!