



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

May 2023

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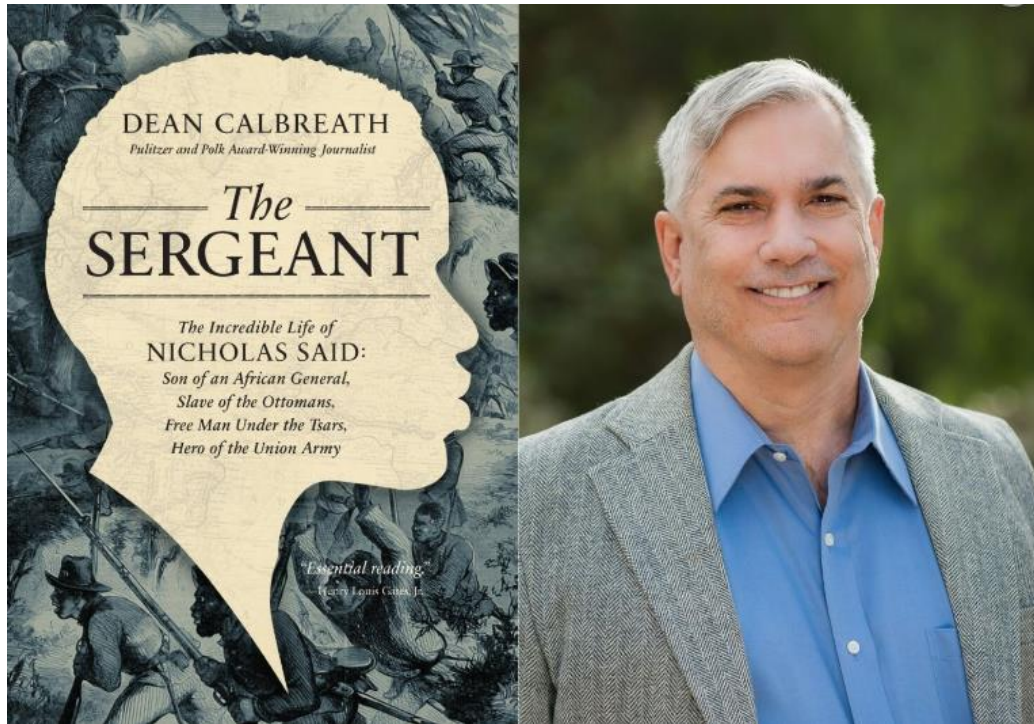
This Month's Program

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Dean Calbreath will present “The Sergeant” about Nicholas Said who was raised in Africa, traveled around the world and served in the Civil War. The program will be held Friday, May 19th. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the usual social period. The program will begin at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 538 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, MI.

Globe-trotting journalist Dean Calbreath, who has written for such publications as The Wall Street Journal and The San Diego Union-Tribune, was once part of a Pulitzer-winning team that uncovered one of the biggest Congressional bribery cases in U.S. history. But his latest project is completely different. “The Sergeant” is the strange but true story of Union Army sergeant Nicholas Said, born and raised in an ancient kingdom in the center of Africa, as the son of a cavalry general whose army looked like it rode straight out of the Arabian Nights.

“The Sergeant,” described as “essential reading” by historian Henry Louis Gates, follows Said on his journeys through Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, where he picked up at least nine languages and met kings, queens and emperors, before arriving in Michigan just as the war was about to break out.

Calbreath will describe Said’s stay in Michigan, his wartime service in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida – fighting a two-front war against Southern slavery and Northern prejudices – as well as his activities in the Reconstruction, teaching freed slaves how to read and write, serving as one of the nation’s first Black voting registrars, and offering lectures on Africa to interracial audiences.



Speaker Dean Calbreath and the cover of his book

Raffle

The KCWRT is raffling the Don Troiani print *Fire on Caroline Street* depicting the 20th Massachusetts at the Battle of Fredericksburg. The winner will be selected May 2023. 100% of funds raised will be given to preservation. This print was originally raffled by KCWRT about 20 years ago. The winner, Connie Larson framed it and displayed it. She recently gave the print to Jeannine Trybus who donated the print back to the KCWRT. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets will be sold until the May 2023 meeting. Winner will not need to be present to win. So far only 30 tickets have been sold so you have a great chance to win a beautiful painting!



Past Programs

In April, John E. Simmons presented "21 Days in September" in which he presented thought provoking information about the 1862 Maryland campaign. Thank you, John.

There were 36 people in attendance. There were \$21 in book sales to help support monthly expenses and \$29 for the raffle to support preservation projects. We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious cakes and pies as well as other treats.

Vintage Baseball

There is a vintage baseball club right here in Kalamazoo called the Continentals that will be hosting a festival at Ramona Park in Portage on July 15. Come out and watch for a good time! They are also in need of umpires, especially anyone who could dress in period clothes. From the club: The good thing about vintage baseball - there was very little the umpire actually had to do in a game! There are usually only two things an umpire would need to call, so we could work with anyone who would be interested regardless of baseball knowledge. For more information contact Chris at: www.kalamazoocontinentals.org
<http://www.facebook.com/continentalbbc>

New Short File on Lincoln at Kalamazoo

The new short film "Return to Kalamazoo" was recently released. The film includes images of the Lincoln statue destined for Bronson Park being sculpted by William Wolfe. It was produced by Mike Mort of Equity Studios and narrated by Tim Brown of Easy On Hold.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVuB3SY1n5E>

Civil War Website and YouTube Videos

The Civil War Digital Digest is a website that provides videos and information on Civil War soldiers, battles, culture and people. There are a lot of videos on a wide range of subjects such as individual soldiers, battles, cooking, uniforms, civilian clothing and many more. You can find these videos at:

<https://civilwardigitaldigest.com/>

OR search for Civil War Digital Digest on YouTube



2022-2023 Dues

Dues of \$20 per family are now due for the 2022-2023 Roundtable. The dues are used to help pay speaker expenses and to pay for use of the room for our meetings.

Civil War and History Programs Around the State

Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday, May 17th

Dean Calbreath will speak on this book “The Sergeant: The Incredible Life of Nicholas Said”. The GRCWRT meets at 6:30 pm (presentation at 7:00 pm) in the Chapel in the Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary 2965 Leonard Street NE Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information contact Dan Dunn at (616) 887-9828 or check www.grcwrt.com.

Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table – Monday, June 12th

The AACWRT will hold a social event. The AACWRT meets at 7:00 p.m in the Administration Building Exhibition Room of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Drive (go to Lot "P"), Ann Arbor, Michigan. For more information call Ken Baumann at 734-439-7657 or email kb64bau@sbcglobal.net. You can also check aacwrt.org.

Michigan Regimental Round Table - Monday, May 22nd

Dean Calbreath will speak on this book “The Sergeant: The Incredible Life of Nicholas Said”. The MRRT meets on the Lower Level of the Farmington Library on Liberty St in Farmington. Meetings start at 6:30 pm with the presentation starting around 7 pm. For more information contact: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.

Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan – Tuesday, June 13th

Jared Frederick will speak on “Civil War Hollywood”. The Southwest Michigan Round Table meets at 6:00 pm (presentation at 6:30) in Fellowship Hall (lower level) of the First Congregational Church at 2001 Niles Ave., St. Joseph, MI. For more information go to <http://www.cwrtswmi.org>.

Sons of Union Civil War Veterans –May 20th, 21st, 27th, 30th

The Pritchard Camp will have several activities in May:

20th: 9:30 am Veteran Flags at Mountain Home Cemetery

21st: 2:00 pm Veteran Flags at Allegan Oakwood Cemetery

27th: GAR Lot Cleanup at Riverside Cemetery

30th Memorial Day Ceremony- GAR Lot Riverside Cemetery.

For more info contact: Len Sheaffer at gator0205@yahoo.com

Michigan’s Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall –

The museum is open 10 am – 4 pm on Wednesdays. The GAR Hall is located at 224 S. Main Street Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. For details visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum> or garmuseum.com or call 517 922-6427



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