



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

November 2023

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This Month's Program

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Ron Kirkwood will present a program “Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg”. The program will be held Friday, November 17th. 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.

Dowagiac native Ron Kirkwood is the author of “Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg,” which was published in June 2019. The book's two hardcover editions sold out and it is now available in paperback, audio and E-reader. He is working on a sequel, which will be published in 2024.

Kirkwood argues in “Too Much for Human Endurance” that the George Spangler farm was the most important farm in the Battle of Gettysburg, revealing factors that have been overlooked for generations. The book and his presentation also discuss how the Spangler family and their farm suffered while their land was occupied and the agony and heroism of the surgeons, nurses, and wounded at the two hospitals on the Spanglers' land and the Civil War medicine.

Kirkwood is retired after a 40-year career as an editor and writer including USA TODAY and newspapers in Baltimore, Harrisburg, York, Midland and Cadillac. He won numerous state, regional and national writing and editing awards during his career and managed the 32-person copy desk in Harrisburg when the newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize.

Kirkwood is a graduate of Central Michigan University, where he has been a guest speaker to journalism classes as part of the school's Hearst Visiting Professionals series. Kirkwood's wife, Barbara, is a native of South Haven and also a CMU grad. They live in Pittsburgh but return to southwest Michigan several times a year.

Kirkwood has been a Gettysburg Foundation guide at the George Spangler Farm Civil War Field Hospital Site since it opened in 2013.

If anyone would like to meet the speaker prior to the meeting, please contact Dave Jordan (contact info on page 1) who will be meeting him for dinner at Texas Corral before the meeting around 5:30 pm.



Author and November Speaker, Ron Kirkwood

Past Programs

In October, Dave Jordan presented “The French Attempt to Take over Mexico (1862 - 1867)”. Dave’s talk was informative and very much appreciated as the originally scheduled speaker fell through at the last minute. Thank you Dave for the talk and also adjusting so quickly!

There were 30 people in attendance. There were book sales to help support monthly expenses and the raffle to support preservation projects (amounts will be published next newsletter). We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious cakes and pies as well as other treats. \$85 was raised for Loaves and Fishes. Thank you also to all of you who paid dues for the year.

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 life and much more. You can find these free videos at: <https://civilwardigitaldigest.com/>
OR search for Civil War Digital Digest on YouTube



2023-2024 Dues

Dues of \$20 per family are now due for the 2023-2024 Roundtable. The dues are used to help pay speaker expenses and to pay for use of the room for our meetings.

KCWRT upcoming meetings:

December – Christmas break, no meeting will be held in December.

January 19 – KCWRT member Mark Longstroth will present a program on Grierson's Raid.

Civil War and History Programs Around the State

Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday, Nov 15th

J Scott Payne will speak on his book "A Corporal No More" on Joe Little who was in 83rd Penna. The GRCWRT meets at 6:30 pm (presentation at 7:00 pm). There is a NEW MEETING LOCATION: Orchard View Church of God 2777 Leffingwell Ave. 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, Nov 13th

Bill Christen will speak on "17th Michigan". 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, Nov 27th

The next MRRT meeting is November 27th but topic is not posted. The MRRT normally 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: <https://www.mrrt.us/>

Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan – Tuesday, Nov 14th

Steven Magnus will present "To My Best Girl - The Inspiring Story of Rufus Dawes & Mary Gates". 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 – January

The next Camp meeting will be the Winter Thaw Luncheon held in January 2024. Further details are TBD. For more info contact: Len Sheaffer at gator0205@yahoo.com

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall –

The museum is typically 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

Portage Public Library - Nov 15th

Jerry Berg will present "Blades of the Civil War". Steve Rossio will also present "Muskets of the Civil War" 6:30-8:00 pm. Portage Public Library is located 300 Library Lane, Portage, MI 49002



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