



# Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## May 2022

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### **Please visit our Facebook and Website Sites**

Website : [www.kcwrt.com](http://www.kcwrt.com)

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kcwrt](http://www.facebook.com/kcwrt)

### **This Month's Program**

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Steve Hawks who will present "The Crucial Role of Logistics in the Civil War" to be held on Friday, May 20. 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. Please contact Dave Jordan (contact info above) if anyone is interested in having dinner with the speaker at 5:30 prior to the meeting.

An army marches on its stomach. The generals who commanded the armies of the Civil War learned this at West Point studying the campaigns of Frederick and Napoleon, and in real life on the road to Mexico City with Winfield Scott. But by 1861 they faced developments that their professors at the Academy hadn't anticipated. Civil War armies grew to become several times larger than anything Scott ever commanded in the field, posing huge supply problems that challenged traditional methods. When it became clear that the war would not be short, long-term, sustainable supply solutions needed to be found. At the same time a promising technology presented itself. The development of the steam engine provided power for railroad locomotives, ships and riverboats that were far faster and more efficient than the power of draft animals or the wind. But how well could both sides apply these solutions?

The presentation focuses on the Eastern Theater of the Civil War, starting from the first campaigns where logistics was a minor consideration. As the war progressed important supply sources became targets and came to have greater influence in the planning of campaigns.

Logistics failures contributed to strategic failures, and surprising innovations led to victories. By the end of the war the movements of the armies were dominated by the demands of supply. The ultimate victor happened to be the side that best mastered logistical challenges.

Steve Hawks' interest in history began long before he earned a degree in it from Kalamazoo College in 1978. He went on to a thirty year career in marketing and still teaches marketing classes at Grand Valley State University, but he never lost his love for history. He has been a speaker at Civil War Roundtables around Michigan for over 25 years and in 1992 authored one of the first interactive CD-ROMs, Twelve Roads to Gettysburg. He is the author and publisher of two websites on the Civil War, Stone Sentinels and Civil War in the East, along with a website on his father's World War II engineer battalion, Skydozer. He has also published three guidebooks on the monuments and historical markers of Gettysburg. Steve lives in Grand Rapids when he's not traveling to some battlefield or scenic national park or riding someplace on a train.

## 2022 History Day Winner

Thank you to Lena Miner who presented "Henry Box Brown" to the KCWRT in April. This was a senior group exhibit made by Lena, Paige Pawell and Elise Wylie from Heritage Christian Academy. In the picture below, Dave Jordan and Tom George from KCWRT awarded the group a \$50 check for the best History Day presentation on the Civil War. Their teacher, John Beck, is also in the picture.



## 2021 History Day Winner

The 2021 History Day winners were Elijah and Ezekiel Fenstermaker who made a Senior group documentary video "Communication in History: The Battle of Gettysburg,". John Beck was also their teacher. Since we did not have a 2021 May meeting, the 2021 History Day winners will present the video at the May 2021 meeting.

## Past Programs

We thank Jim Ribbey who presented “An American Iliad” in which he made a story of around 30 poems that he had memorized and presented in a novel fashion. It was a style of presentation that I had not seen before but enjoyed. We hope you did too. 26 people were in attendance in April. \$32 was raised for preservation through the raffle and another \$32 was raised by the book sales for operating costs. \$79 was raised for Ukrainian Refugee Relief.

## 2022 Preservation Donation

Each year the KCWRT presents a donation to Civil War preservation efforts. At the May meeting, we will vote on what preservation effort will receive this year’s donation. Below are two links for several battlefields that are good candidates for the donation.

Belmont, Chickasaw Bayou, Buffington Island, and Upperville battlefields are included in the link below. There is a \$13 / 1 match for donations.

<https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-preserve-311-acres-four-historic-battlefields>

Corinth, Champion Hill, Port Hudson, and Chattanooga battlefields are included in the link below. There is a \$9 / 1 match for donations.

<https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-protect-407-acres-across-four-sacred-battlefields>

## Albert Castel Book Award

We will be deciding soon what book will be awarded the Albert Castel book award. If you have read any of the books (or even a third of the book) we would like to get your input. Please send your evaluation form to Jim Frey (contact info on the first page) or bring it to the meeting.

## Civil War and History Programs Around the State

### Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>

The GWCRT will present Wally Ewing who will talk about “From home to Trench: The Civil War Letters of Mack and Nan Ewing”. 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 Coordinator Dan Dunn at (616) 887-9828 or check [www.grcwrt.com](http://www.grcwrt.com).

### Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table – TBD

The next AACWRT meeting is not yet posted. 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 Program Director Ken Baumann at 734-439-7657 or email [kb64bau@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kb64bau@sbcglobal.net). You can also check [aacwrt.org](http://aacwrt.org).

### Michigan Regimental Round Table - May 23<sup>rd</sup>

The next Michigan Regimental Round Table will present Jack Dempsey who will speak on his new book “ Major General Alpheus Williams – Citizen Soldier” Th MRRT meets at the Farmington Library, Lower Level at 6:30 pm.

For more information contact: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.

**Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan** – Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

CWRTSWM will present Dr. Curt Fields who will talk about “Ulysses S. Grant and the Appomattox Campaign. 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** – Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

The Pritchard Camp will have their next meeting on June 7. The Camp meets at 7:00 pm at the Plainwell-Ransom Library at 180 S. Sherwood Plainwell, MI 49080.

There is also a Department Encampment May 13-14 in Grand Rapids, MI, a Riverside Cemetery cleanup on May 28 and a Memorial Day Ceremony that will be held at Riverside Cemetery on May 30.

For more info contact: Len Sheaffer at [gator0205@yahoo.com](mailto:gator0205@yahoo.com)

**Michigan’s Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall** – Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

GAR Hall will have a seminar on the Destruction of the Steamboat Sultana: The worst Maritime Disaster in American History. Gene Salecker will be the speaker. The seminar will be held at 7 pm. The museum is open 10 am – 5 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](http://garmuseum.com) or call 517 922-6427



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