



# Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2022

## Club Officers and Contact Information

Dave Jordan – President

Mark Longstroth - Treasurer

Mack Gill –Secretary

Sandy George – Assistant Secretary

Jim Frey – Albert Castel Book Award Chairman

Jonathan Wildes – Webmaster and Technical Support

Garr Gast – Newsletter Editor /Book Sales and Raffle –

323-3757 [davejordan262@gmail.com](mailto:davejordan262@gmail.com)

873-8983 [mark.longstroth@att.net](mailto:mark.longstroth@att.net)

341-5764 [amgilljr@gmail.com](mailto:amgilljr@gmail.com)

[sandyknitwit@hotmail.com](mailto:sandyknitwit@hotmail.com)

372-5780 [jamesmfrey@chartermi.net](mailto:jamesmfrey@chartermi.net)

[kcwrtwebmaster@outlook.com](mailto:kcwrtwebmaster@outlook.com)

903-2911 [garr.gast@parker.com](mailto:garr.gast@parker.com)

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

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## **This Month's Program**

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Jim Ribby will present "American Iliad: The Civil War through Poetry" to be held on Friday, April 22. 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.

Jim is a retired probation/parole officer. While working at this job he got involved in amateur theater as an escape. In the early 90's he began memorizing poetry and performing in various venues, specializing in historical works. Jim has had a great interest in the Civil War for a number of years finding the personalities of the main characters in that conflict to be fascinating. While re-watching the Ken Burn's program on the Civil War, he realized that Ken used a great deal of poetry from that era in his narration and wondered why there was such an enduring national interest in that conflict. It occurred to him that it was much like Homer's story The Iliad: a great war with admirable heroes on both sides. Jim had heard that Homer's Iliad was actually a compilation of many Greek legends which Homer compiled, tied them together with a narrative, and focused them on Troy.

Jim thought that he could do something similar using poetry from the Civil War which led to his creation "An American Iliad." This program is composed of 28 works 27 from the Civil War era. The one that isn't is a short passage from the old testament. Jim arranged them as though they are one veteran's recollection of the war and presents it in the form of a one man play. All of the works are memorized. Many of the pieces are very moving and some are amusing but

all of them will make you think. It combines drama, history and literature and it also gives the listener a chance to hear how our language has changed over the years. Jim hopes that people who are skeptical about poetry readings will be pleasantly surprised.

## **History Day Winner**

Each year, a History Day is held at Western Michigan University in which local students give a presentation on an historical event of interest to the student. The KCWRT awards a prize for the best History Day presentation on the Civil War. This year's winner of the Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table prize was "Henry Box Brown." This is a senior group exhibit. The three students are from Heritage Christian Academy: Lena Miner, Paige Pawell and Elise Wylie. KCWRT will give their presentation. The KCWRT will also present them the award and certificate at the April meeting.

## **Past Programs**

We thank Jim Epperson who gave an interesting talk about Ulysses Grant, William Rosecrans and their Feud. \$104 was raised for Ukrainian Refugee Relief.

## **Dues**

To help pay for speakers as well as use of the church, a \$20 yearly due is requested of each family. THANK YOU to the many people who paid their dues!

## **Civil War and History Programs Around the State**

### **Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table** – Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>

The GWCRT will present Marie LePres who will talk about "Civilians and the Civil War". 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** – Monday May 9th

The AACWRT will hold their next meeting on May 9, but the presenter and topic are still TBD. 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** - next meeting is not listed on the website

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

**Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan** – Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

CWRTSWM will present “Round Table Discussion of the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign” by Mike Dumke, Ted Chamberlain, and Scott Adrian. 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, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Pritchard Camp will have their next meeting on May 3. 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.

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

**Michigan’s Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall** – No meetings are posted on the website. 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



**Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table**  
**820 Ellendale Street**  
**Kalamazoo, MI 49006-5482**