



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2023

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

873-8983 mark.longstroth@att.net

341-5764 amgilljr@gmail.com

sandykmitwit@hotmail.com

910-3623 jamesmfrey@chartermi.net

kcwrtwebmaster@outlook.com

903-2911 garr.gast@parker.com

Please visit our Facebook and Website Sites

Website : www.kcwrt.com

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/kcwrt

This Month's Program

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Mark Longstroth will present a program about Wilson's Creek. The program will be held on Friday, February 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.

Missouri was a slave state but did not initially join the Confederacy. Missouri's governor, Claiborne Jackson, tried to maintain Missouri neutrality but also signaled that he was sympathetic to the southern cause and slavery. He authorized a new state militia called the State Guard, named former Governor Stirling Price the State Guard commander and called the Guard to an encampment outside St. Louis.

The Federal commander in Missouri, Nathaniel Lyons suspected the large militia encampment outside St. Louis was being organized to seize control of the state and Federal installations in Missouri. Lyons began to gather regular army troops and muster volunteers into Federal units.

Fearing the Federal buildup, Jackson asked the Confederacy for arms and reinforcements. In May, Lyons used Federal troops to seize the encampment and many of the militia. Southern sympathizers fled St. Louis and began to reorganize. During the summer, Lyons was able to clear northern and central Missouri of organized southern units and pushed these troops into Southwest Missouri where they rallied with Confederate reinforcements from Arkansas.

By August, Lyons had managed to gather most of his forces in Springfield but they were opposed by a Confederate army twice their size camped around Wilson's Creek. Lyons decided to attack the Confederates before they could organize and attack him. The battle at Wilson's Creek took place on August 10, 1861.

Mark Longstroth's talk will cover the early days of the Civil War in Missouri leading up to and including the battle at Wilson's Creek and a brief look at the aftermath. Mark is a retired Extension Fruit Educator for MSU Extension in Southwest Michigan. He provided educational information on fruit production to fruit growers and is a source of information about Michigan's fruit industries. He has lived in Kalamazoo since 1993 and discovered the KCWRT while surfing the web and looking at Civil War websites in 2004. "I really enjoy the wide range of subjects. I learn something new all the time." Mark has given six previous talks to KCWRT and currently serves as the KCWRT Treasurer.

Mark is the son of a career army officer. He traveled quite a bit growing up. "We moved every three years when my father was transferred to different duty stations. Mark is an avid reader and finds the military history of the United States a fascinating subject, not just the Civil War. As a child growing up in Idaho, he was disappointed to find out that the western theater of the Civil War was east of the Mississippi.

Raffle

The KCWRT is raffling the Don Troiani print *Fire on Caroline Street* by depicting the 20th Massachusetts (Harvard Regiment) at the Battle of Fredericksburg. The winner will be selected in May 2023. All 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 will be sold until May 2023. Winner will not need to be present to win.



Past Programs

We thank Mack Gill who spoke in January about the Champion Hill Battlefield. While I was not able to attend, feedback was that it was informative and it was really nice to hear the perspective of someone that was able to see the lay of the land.

We also thank Jeff Mattix who spoke about Caring, Preserving and Trading Artifacts. It was an interesting presentation and it was great to see 160 year old artifacts that were used in the Civil War. Some of the artifacts can be seen in the photo below.

There were 22 people in attendance. There were \$45 in books to help support monthly expenses and \$45 for the raffle to support preservation projects. \$40 was also raised for Loaves and Fishes.

We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious cakes and pies as well as other treats.



1861 rules baseball player, Chris Fusciardi who attended the January meeting.

Sultana Museum Project

The KCWRT was approached about donating to a new museum in Marion, Arkansas dedicated to the memory of the soldiers who were involved in the Sultana Steamboat explosion in 1865. This was the deadliest maritime disaster in US history. Request was to purchase a \$250 brick in memory of a Michigan soldier killed in the disaster.

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.

Speaker Podium

The KCWRT is looking to purchase a new speaker podium or at least a new sign. Please contact one of the officers (names and contact info on first page) if anyone is interested in making a new podium, or at least a more modern sign with our logo. Interested people should submit a dimensioned sketch showing their design and a cost estimate.



Current Podium



Example of a New Podium

Civil War and History Programs Around the State

Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday Feb 15th

The GWCRT will present Ben Cwayna who will speak on “The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain”. 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.

Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table – Monday, Feb 13th

The AACWRT will present Dave Powell who will talk about “Grant at Chattanooga”. 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. You can also check aacwrt.org.

Michigan Regimental Round Table - TBD

The next Michigan Regimental Round Table speaker is not yet posted. The MRRT meets the last Monday of the month 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 Feb 14th

The CWRTSWM will present Joh Weaver who will speak on “Coastal Defences: A Legacy of Brick and Stone”. 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, Mar 7th

The Pritchard Camp will have their next meeting at 7:00 pm in the Ransom Library, 180 S. Sherwood Ave, Plainwell, MI.

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 – 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 or call 517 922-6427



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