



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2019

Club Officers and Contact Information

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This Month's Program

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to present: Bullets or Bugs: How Were Michigan Civil War Soldiers More Likely to Die? By Bill Christen to be held on Friday, September 20th. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the usual social period. The program will begin at 7:30. As always, the meeting will be held at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 538 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, MI. If you would like to meet the speaker, Bill will be meeting several people before the meeting for dinner at Applebee's on West Main Ste at 5:45pm.

Bill and his wife, Glenna Jo Christen, live in Chelsea, Michigan. They have two grown children and three grandchildren. They are members of the Chelsea Area Historical Society and the Michigan Photographic Historical Society.

Bill was an automotive engineer for General Motors for thirty-seven years before taking early retirement. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from Kettering University (formerly General Motors Institute). He attended the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, studying industrial design and fine arts. After retirement he was a substitute teacher for ten years in the Warren Consolidated Schools.

Bill wrote a biography of Pauline Cushman, a nineteenth-century actress and a Civil War spy in Middle Tennessee. The book, Pauline Cushman: Spy of the Cumberland, was published in 2006 by Edinborough Press.

Bill started researching and collecting men's clothing (1850–75) over twenty-five years ago while building a civilian's wardrobe for living history and reenactment events. He had participated in Civil War military and civilian reenacting since 1977. As a result he and Glenna Jo have

assembled a collection of original garments and period photographs for their own research, which they make available for others to study.

Bill has an interest in several Civil War regiments. One in particular, the Seventeenth Michigan Infantry, had in its ranks over forty men from the Grass Lake area. Several years ago he and Glenna Jo cataloged, transcribed and annotated a collection of five hundred documents and a dozen diaries belonging to a Connecticut family who's three of the family's five sons were soldiers in several Connecticut units. He also has an interest in the US Navy during World War 1 as his grandfather served on the USS Indiana, a battleship.

Bill and Glenna Jo have worked with independent film companies making documentaries and other films about the Civil War.

May 2019 Program

Our last program was John Wilkes Booth and the Women Who Loved Him by Ernie Abel in May 2019. Ernie gave a thoughtful and sometimes humorous talk why Booth, a man about to be married, had photos of four other women in his pocket in addition to his fiancée's photo, and ended with a surprising explanation of why Booth shot Lincoln.

Raffle Report

27 people attended the May meeting. The raffle raised \$31 for Civil War Preservation. Sales of books and other items raised an additional \$26 for KCWRT operating expenses. A total of \$44 for was raised for Loaves and Fishes.

2019 Donations

As voted by the KCWRT members, this year's preservation donation was \$500.00 to the Battlefield Trust - Gaines Mill/Cold Harbor Battlefield project. In May the KCWRT members also voted to give a one time \$250.00 donation from the general fund to the Abraham Lincoln Project in Kalamazoo.

President's Note

At the May 2019 meeting Dave Jordan announced his retirement as the President, Program Director and Newsletter Editor effective at the conclusion of the May meeting. Dave plans to remain an active member of the Round Table and be able to enjoy the meetings without all of the work associated with performing three duties. The KCWRT members truly appreciate all of work Dave has performed for over 20 years to make our Round Table the success that it is. THANK YOU, Dave!

September 2019 Elections

The retirement of Dave Jordan has left a big leadership vacancy in our organization and we ask for your help. The positions in the Round Table that are up for election at the September meeting are: President, Newsletter Editor, Program Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Book Sale and Raffle Coordinator, Albert Castel Award Coordinator, Civil War Battlefield Preservation Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator. You can see the people who are currently serving as officers in the KCWRT on the first page. If you volunteer, these people will work with you or will step into another position that needs help. We look forward to your input.

Civil War and History Programs Around the State

Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday Sept 18th

Speaker and subject to be announced. The GRCWRT meets at the West Dining Room in the Dewitt Student Center, Kuyper College, 3333 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Doors open at 6:30, program begins at 7:00.

For more information contact Coordinator Dan Dunn at (616) 887-9828 or check www.grcwrt.com.

Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table - Monday October 9th

Dennis Rasbach will present Joshua L. Chamberlain at Petersburg. 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

Michigan Regimental Round Table – Monday Sept 30th

MRRT member Ernie Abel will present a program on Dixie – the Song. The Michigan Regimental Roundtable meets in the Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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

Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan – Tuesday Oct 8th

Dr. Curt Fields will present Ulysses S. Grant and the Overland Campaign. This Round Table meets in the Fellowship Hall (lower level) of the First Congregational Church at 2001 Niles Ave., St. Joseph, MI. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information go to <http://www.cwrtswmi.org>.

Sons of Union Veterans - Tuesday Oct 1st

The Pritchard Camp will hold it's camp meeting at 7:00 pm at the Portage Public Library, 300 Library Lane, Portage, MI. For more info contact: pritchardpress@aol.com

Oshtemo Historical Society – Thursday Sept 19th

The Oshtemo Historical Society will present House of David about the 1903 religious colony in Benton Harbor. The public of all ages is welcome to this free, educational programs, which are held beginning at 7:00 at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, just west of US-131.

For details visit www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org or call 269-375-9302.



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table
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