



# Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

April 2023

## **Club Officers and Contact Information**

Dave Jordan – President

Mark Longstroth - Treasurer

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## **This Month's Program**

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that John E. Simmons will present "21 Days in September" about the 1862 Maryland campaign. The program will be held Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

Many classic histories portray McClellan's army as moving lethargically, averaging only 6 miles a day. Historians have provided clear evidence that McClellan, despite his expressed joy upon being given Lee's "lost order", delayed by some 18 hours before reacting to the intelligence coup. The famous Lincoln reference to a general with "the slows". General Lee's ability to know how to read McClellan is also a powerful theme in our history books. Now in 2023 is there new information that could change how we understand the 1862 Maryland Campaign? There is! The challenge is can we adapt to this foundational change.

John E. Simmons attended Climax-Scotts Schools in Kalamazoo County, being the seventh generation Simmons to live on his street. He started his Civil War journey in elementary school hearing family stores of ancestors who served during the war. He has a B.S. from Western Michigan Univ and while in college he attended the "Civil War" class by Prof. Castel. His term paper for that class was on Lee's Lost Order. He lives in Caledonia, Kent County and worked in food sales. He is a member of a number of small village' historical groups and gives presentations on the local history of small West Michigan communities. Now retired and a member of the Kalamazoo Round Table, he has given numerous Civil War presentations.

You can meet the speaker prior to the meeting at 5:30 pm at Texas Corral on Main St in Kalamazoo. Please let Dave Jordan know if you would like to attend so he can make reservations. Dave's contact info is listed above.

## Raffle

The KCWRT is raffling the Don Troiani print *Fire on Caroline Street* by depicting the 20th Massachusetts at the Battle of Fredericksburg. The winner will be selected May 2023. 100% of 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 are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets will be sold until the May 2023 meeting. Winner will not need to be present to win. So far only 15 tickets have been sold so you have a great chance to win a beautiful painting!



## Past Programs

In March, Erica 'Marie LaPres' Emelander presented an interesting program about Civilian's in the Civil War. Thank you, Erica! Joshua Grimes and Omarion Robinson also presented their History Day exhibit titled "Slave to Soldier". It is great to see Civil War history sparking interest in the next generation. KCWRT presented Joshua and Omarion with an award for the best History Day Civil War presentation.



Joshua Grimes and Omarion Robinson, along with their teacher, Julie Sheppard.

There were 33 people in attendance. There were \$33 in book sales to help support monthly expenses and \$26 for the raffle to support preservation projects. \$67 was also raised for Loaves and Fishes. We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious cakes and pies as well as other treats.

## **Speaker Podium**

At the February meeting the members voted to purchase a new speaker podium.



**New Podium**

## **Vintage Baseball**

There is a vintage baseball club right here in Kalamazoo called the Continentals that will be hosting a festival at Ramona Park in Portage on July 15. Come out and watch for a good time! They are also in need of umpires, especially anyone who could dress in period clothes. From the club: The good thing about vintage baseball - there was very little the umpire actually had to do in a game! There are usually only two things an umpire would need to call, so we could work with anyone who would be interested regardless of baseball knowledge. For more information contact Chris at: [www.kalamazoocontinentals.org](http://www.kalamazoocontinentals.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/continentalbbc>

## **New Short File on Lincoln at Kalamazoo**

The new short film "Return to Kalamazoo" was recently released. The film includes images of the Lincoln statue destined for Bronson Park being sculpted by William Wolfe. It was produced by Mike Mort of Equity Studios and narrated by Tim Brown of Easy On Hold.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVuB3SY1n5E>

## **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.

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

### **Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table** – Wednesday, Apr 19<sup>th</sup>

Gary Gibson will speak on the Grand Army of the Republic and its Grand Rapids Connection. 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 Dan Dunn at (616) 887-9828 or check [www.grcwrt.com](http://www.grcwrt.com).

### **Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table** – Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Jim Gindlesberger will present “Bullets and Bandages: The Aid Stations and Field Hospitals at Gettysburg.” 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](mailto:kb64bau@sbcglobal.net). You can also check [aacwrt.org](http://aacwrt.org).

### **Michigan Regimental Round Table** - Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

John Simmons will speak on “General John Bell Hood”. The MRRT 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: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.

### **Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan** – Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

Dean Calbreath will speak on “The Sergeant: The Incredible Life of Nicholas Said”. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>

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](mailto:gator0205@yahoo.com)

### **Michigan’s Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall** –

The museum is 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](http://garmuseum.com) or call 517 922-6427



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