



# Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2022

## **Club Officers and Contact Information**

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## **This Month's Program**

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to present Steve Rigoni who will talk about "Dear Eleanor, The Civil War letters of James Henry Wheaton 1st Michigan Infantry" to be held on Friday, February 18th. 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.

Westwood Methodist Church requests that all people in attendance wear masks.

The presentation is the story of a 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan infantry soldier in the Civil War told through his letters home to his sweetheart and Steve Rigoni's own research.

Steve Rigoni is a member of the Van Buren Historical Society and he will present this program in first person as soldier James Henry Wheaton. He will be describing all his experience during his time in the Civil War as told to his wife through numerous letters he sent home. My goal during my presentation is to have people gain the level of respect I have for James Wheaton and to learn, laugh, and cry due to experiences.

Steve retired from many years as a Biology / Agriculture teacher and also is a retired fruit farmer and grape harvester. According to Steve, "I have always loved history, especially Michigan History and the Civil War. I reenacted the Civil War for a decade raising my children in the hobby and instilling in them a love for history as well. I am now using my time in retirement to volunteer at the Van Buren County Historical Museum in Hartford (Poor House) building displays and general maintenance, etc. I also collect Civil War relics and have an extensive collection of CDVs of Michigan Soldiers especially the 1st Michigan Infantry, 3rd Michigan Cavalry, and 2nd Regiment VRC. I love to share my knowledge of the Civil War and promote understanding of the devotion and dedication the men who fought in the war had for their country."

### **Past Programs**

We thank Jim Carter who gave a presentation on a series of John Brown paintings painted by Jacob Lawrence. The talk gave historical information relating to each painting as well as artistic background. The paintings are in the Kalamazoo Institute of Art collection. There were 27 people in attendance in January. \$51 was raised for preservation through the raffle and \$64 was raised by sales of books for operating expenses. \$26 was also raised for Loaves and Fishes which will provide for many meals.

## **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 February 16<sup>th</sup>

The GWCRT will present Dr. Roger Resentreter who will talk about “Lincoln in Michigan”. 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. 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](http://www.grcwrt.com).

### Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table – Monday February 14<sup>th</sup>

The AACWRT will present Tom Nanzig who will talk about “Nuns Under Guns”. 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 - Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

MRRT plans to hold a meeting this month, but only the date of the next meeting is listed on the website. For more information contact: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrrt/>.

### Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan – Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

CWRTSWM will present “The XI Corps at Gettysburg” by Dr. James Pula. 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, March 1<sup>st</sup>

The Pritchard Camp will have their next meeting on March 1. The Camp meets at 7:00 pm at the Plainwell-Ransom Library at 180 S. Sherwood Plainwell, MI 49080. For more info contact: Len Sheaffer at [gator0205@yahoo.com](mailto:gator0205@yahoo.com)

### Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall – Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

The GAR Memorial Hall will present “Born Free and Equal – Michigan's Colored Regiment” by Maurice Imhoff. Seminar will start at 7 pm. 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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