



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

January 2024

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This Month's Program

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Cameron Brown will present a program on the American Civil War song “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. The program will be held Friday, January 19th. 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.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Northern Virginia, Cameron S. Brown is the sixth generation of his family to reside in southwest Michigan. Prior to serving in both the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives, Cameron was employed as Marketing Vice President for a southwest Michigan healthcare products manufacturer. He has an MPA from Western Michigan University, and a BA in History from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He also attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Among Cameron's most formative educational experiences was living in West Africa as a child and later attending T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia the eventful year depicted in the Walt Disney movie, Remember the Titans. Cameron was vice president of the senior class.

Since being term-limited from the Michigan Senate in 2010, Cameron has established his own consulting business serving both private and public sectors. Cameron is a frequent keynote speaker on a range of topics drawn from the treasure trove of American history, most notably Abraham Lincoln. He has taught political science at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Michigan History at Glen Oaks Community College. He currently is a monthly guest columnist with Michigan Gannett newspapers.

The former lawmaker is president of the Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute, a Michigan non-profit corporation spearheading efforts to promote Kalamazoo's unique Lincoln legacy. Having

more than a passing interest in Abraham Lincoln, Cameron is related to Joseph Sessford, ticket taker at Ford's Theatre the night President Lincoln was assassinated.

Cameron is married to Helen Lukan. The couple resides in Kalamazoo. Their retreat is the family farmhouse in Fawn River Township, St. Joseph County, Michigan built by Cameron's great-great grandparents. You can follow Cameron at HistoryFrontiers.blog.

Past Programs

In November, Ron Kirkwood presented "Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg". Ron's talk described a lot of little known aspects of the Spangler Farm not only during and after the battle, but also more recently about restoration and recent Spangler family reunions. Thank you, Ron for your interesting and informative presentation!

There were 32 people in attendance. There were \$38 in book sales to help support monthly expenses and \$58 for the raffle to support preservation projects. We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious snacks and treats. Thank you also to all of you who paid dues for the year.

Civil War Website and YouTube Videos

The Civil War Digital Digest is a website that provides videos and information on Civil War soldiers, battles, culture and people. There are a lot of videos on a wide range of subjects such as individual soldiers, battles, cooking, uniforms, civilian life and much more. You can find these free videos at: <https://civilwardigitaldigest.com/>
OR search for Civil War Digital Digest on YouTube



2023-2024 Dues

Dues of \$20 per family are still being accepted for the 2023-2024 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, Jan 17th

Matt VanAcker will speak on his book "Lansing in the Civil War". The GRCWRT meets at 6:30 pm (presentation at 7:00 pm). There is a NEW MEETING LOCATION: Orchard View Church of God 2777 Leffingwell Ave. Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more information contact Dan Dunn at (616) 887-9828 or check www.grcwrt.com.

Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table – Monday, Feb 12th

Ken Noe will speak on "The Howling Storm"---Weather in the Civil War. 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. You can also check aacwrt.org.

Michigan Regimental Round Table - Monday, TBD

The next MRRT meeting is TBD and topic is not posted. The MRRT normally 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: <https://www.mrrt.us/>

Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan – Tuesday, Feb 3rd

The SW Michigan Roundtable will hold their Civil War Trivia event. 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 – Saturday, January 27th

The next Camp meeting will be the Winter Thaw Luncheon held January 27. Time and location are TBD. For more info contact: Len Sheaffer at gator0205@yahoo.com

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall –

The museum is typically 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 or call 517 922-6427

Michigan State Medical Society – Monday, Jan 22nd

Jack Dempsey and Matt Van Acker will present a webinar on "His Sword a Scalpel", the new biography of General Charles Stuart Tripler. For more information, please contact Beth Elliott at belliot@msms.org or 517-336-5789.

Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute – Saturday, Feb 10th

Kate Masur will present "They knew Lincoln" at the Desenberg, 251 E. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo. For more information contact: info@KalamazooLincolnInstitute.org.



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table
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