



# Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

October 2023

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Website : [www.kcwrt.com](http://www.kcwrt.com)

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kcwrt](http://www.facebook.com/kcwrt)

## **This Month's Program**

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Dr. Fred Johnson III will present a program titled “General Robert E. Lee’s War Upon Norther Railroads”. The program will be held Friday, October 20<sup>th</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.

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III earned his BS degree in History & Teacher Education from Bowie State College and his MS and PhD at Kent State. He also earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. Dr. Johnson served in the US Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve. Dr. Johnson is currently a history professor at Hope College where he has earned numerous awards including the Favorite Professor Award (twice), the Outstanding Professor Educator [H.O.P.E] award, and the Ruth and John Reed Faculty Achievement Award. In 2008 and 2010, Dr. Johnson ran for the United States House of Representatives as the Democratic nominee for Michigan’s 2nd Congressional District. He is an enthusiastic participant in the international Toastmasters organization.

Dr. Johnson has authored three novels: Bittersweet, A Man Finds His Way, and Other Men’s Wives. He is also the co-author of Tupac Shakur: The Life and Times of an American Icon.

In 2019, the Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), awarded Dr. Johnson with the Medal of Honor which is the most prestigious award that the DAR presents.

## Past Programs

In September, Chris Fusciardi presented "19th Century Base Ball: Then & Now". It was very interesting to see what type of game was played in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, how the game has evolved to today and also that there is a 19<sup>th</sup> century baseball team right here in Kalamazoo called the Continentals. [www.kalamazoocontinentals.org](http://www.kalamazoocontinentals.org) Thank you Chris!

There were 16 people in attendance. There were \$7 in book sales to help support monthly expenses and \$25 for the raffle to support preservation projects. We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious cakes and pies as well as other treats. \$42 was raised for Loaves and Fishes. 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 clothing and much more. You can find these free videos at: <https://civilwardigitaldigest.com/>

OR search for Civil War Digital Digest on YouTube



## Lincoln statue in Bronson Park, Kalamazoo

A new Lincoln statue sculpted by William Wolfe was unveiled at Bronson Park in Kalamazoo on August 27. The statue commemorates Lincoln's visit to Kalamazoo in 1856. A news article on the statue's unveiling can be found here: [Kalamazoo celebrates Abraham Lincoln historic speech with new statue in Bronson Park \(msn.com\)](http://www.msn.com/kalamazoo-celebrates-abraham-lincoln-historic-speech-with-new-statue-in-bronson-park)

There is also a short film "Return to Kalamazoo" that includes images of the Lincoln statue and other background information. 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>



## 2023-2024 Dues

Dues of \$20 per family are now due 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.

### KCWRT upcoming meetings:

November 17 - Author Ron Kirkwood will present a program based on his book Too Much for Human Endurance : The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg

December – Christmas break, no meeting will be held in December.

January 19 – KCWRT member Mark Longstroth will present a program on Grierson's Raid.

February 16 – KCWRT member Dave Jordan will present a program entitled Meanwhile, South of the Border: The French Attempt to Take over Mexico 1862 -1867

## Civil War and History Programs Around the State

### Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

Roger Rosentreter will speak on "Victory on The Mississippi". 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](http://www.grcwrt.com).

### Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table – Monday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>

Bill Christen will speak on "17th Michigan". 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 - Nov 4-5<sup>th</sup> and Monday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>

The MRRT is hosting a field trip to Vicksburg battlefield with tours by former Chief Historian, Terrence Winschell on November 4-5. Their next meeting is November 27<sup>th</sup> but 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, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>

Topic for the next meeting is not yet posted. 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 – Nov 7<sup>th</sup>

The next Camp meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at Ransom Library, 180 S. Sherwood Ave, 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 –

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



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