



Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table Newsletter

September 2023

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This Month's Program

The Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable is proud to announce that Chris Fusciardi will present "19th Century Base Ball: Then & Now". The program will be held Friday, September 15th. 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.

Bat and ball games weren't new to most 19th century American's. Dating back to at least the late 18th century in America various games were played by children involving a stick and ball, and a small number of men found their way to formal cricket clubs in the decades preceding the Civil War. But by the end of the 1860's the game we now call "baseball" had exploded in popularity and was now the preeminent game to be enjoyed by both the athletically gifted youth as well as the older public. Included in this discussion is how this "new" game grow to such popularity, what this looked like in SW Michigan, and how the spirit of the early history of the sport continues today.

Chris grew up in metro Detroit and relocated to Kalamazoo to attend WMU Chris has lived in the Greater Kalamazoo area most of the last 20 years with his wife and two kids. He received his undergraduate degree from WMU in History Education and was briefly a high school social studies teacher in a local school district before working as a journalist and now in finance.

There is also a vintage baseball club right here in Kalamazoo called the Continentals. More info can be found here: www.kalamazoocontinentals.org <http://www.facebook.com/continentalbbc>



Speaker Chris Fusciardi ready to play ball!

Past Programs

In May, Dean Calbraith presented “The Sergeant” about Nicholas Said who was raised in Africa, traveled around the world and served in the Civil War. The talk was about Dean’s book written on the same subject and was very interesting illuminating an interesting life and experiences that few of us had heard about. Thank you, Dean.

There were 35 people in attendance. There were \$75 in book sales to help support monthly expenses and \$60 for the raffle to support preservation projects. A total of \$170 in preservation funds were also collected for the Don Troiani print *Fire on Caroline Street* that was raffled in May. We thank Jim and Roxanne Frey for providing delicious cakes and pies as well as other treats. \$115 was raised for Loaves and Fishes.

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 many more. You can find these 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/story/news/nation/2015/08/27/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>

Civil War and History Programs Around the State

Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table – Wednesday, Sept 13th

Wayne Motts will speak on "The George Spangler Farm: 11th Army Corps Field Hospital At Gettysburg". 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, Sept 11th

Curt Fields will speak on "Ulysses S Grant, After Appomattox". 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, Sept 11th

The MRRT is recommending members attend the Ann Arbor CWRT this month – see above for info. 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, Sept 12th

Curt Fields will speak on "After Appomattox" about Grant's actions after the surrender. 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 –

No info posted this month.

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



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