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KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY * P.O. BOX 3671 KENT, OH 44240

“WAR A WORLD AWAY: THE KINGDOM OF HAWAII AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR”

A TALK BY MARK PERKINS OF COPLEY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

ROY SMITH SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT

The American Civil War had implications for nations besides the United States. On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, Kent Civil War Society member and University of Hawaii at Manoa alumnus Mark Perkins will look at the war from the perspective of the Kingdom of Hawaii and her people.

The conflict in America forced nations that did business with the United States to make some decisions — which side to support or neither, how to adapt to changes in their own economic situation brought about by impediments or opportunities to trade, what stand to take on the moral question of slavery.

In Hawaii, influenced as it was by its relationship with a variety of nations and strong economic ties with the United States, the war presented both threat and opportunity. Hawaii was an island nation with a tiny military and limited economy. Could it afford to take sides? There were divided opinions among persons of influence in the island community as to which side would win the struggle. Hawaii’s people included experienced seamen and more than a few people with ties to New England Abolitionists who might be willing to participate on one side or the other. The talk will look at these issues and at the service and sacrifices that the people of Hawaii made in the American Civil War.

Our optional pre-meeting dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. at Little City Grill (formerly Digger’s Bar & Grill) in Kent (our speaker can’t make it, but what’s stopping the rest of us, right?).



As a Valentine's Day remembrance of what soldiers and their loved ones at home must endure, here is a transcript of part of a letter from a member of the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. It is presented as written, including inconsistent use of periods to end sentences and capitalization.

Nashville Tenn 3rd

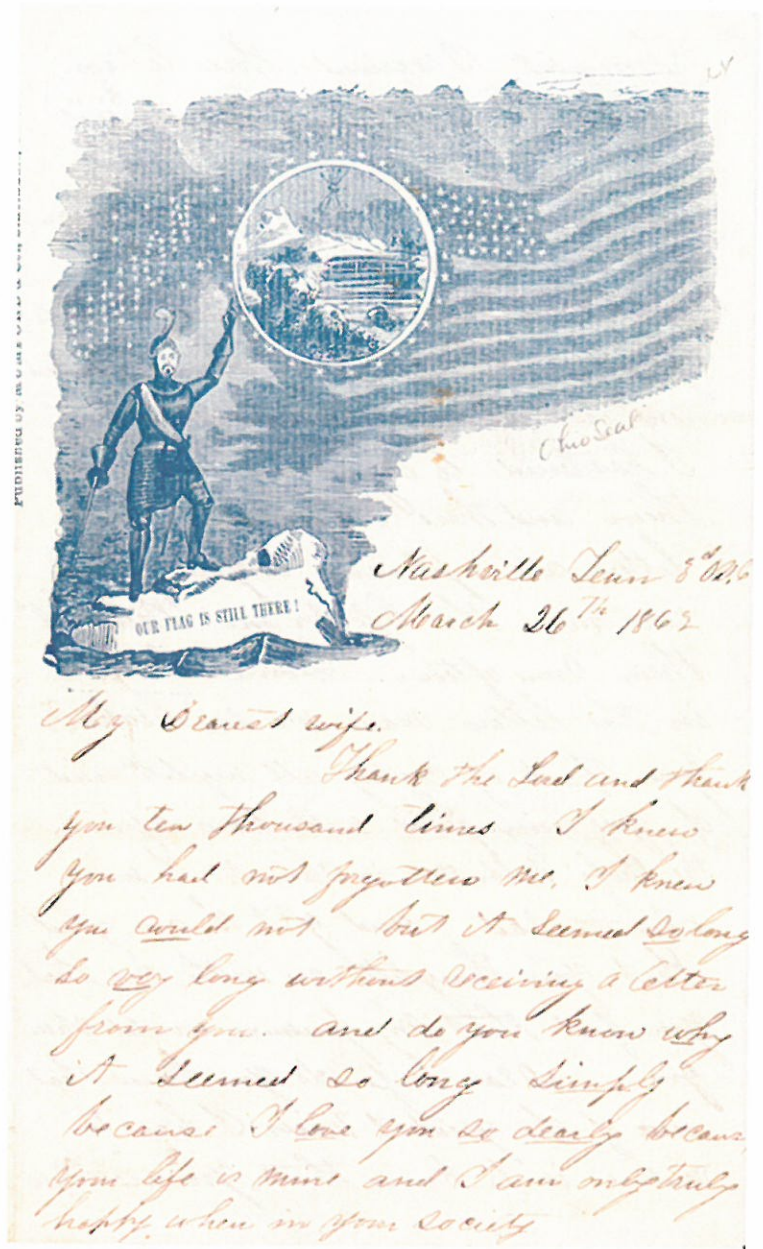
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March 26th 1862

My Dearest wife.

Thank the Lord and thank you ten thousand times I knew you had not forgotten me. I knew you could not but it seemed so long So very long without receiving a letter from you. And do you know why it Seemed so long Simply because I love you so dearly because your life is mine and I am only truly happy when in your society

Tonight I received three letters from you in your own dear hand full of your own dear words and expressions of love. O my dear you cannot imagine the joy it excited in my soul. Though weak from recent illness I almost leaped and ran when I received them I hastened to my room to pursue them and there I feasted. If my letters are a pleasure to you yours are none the less for me Then let them come often. Some things in the letters made me sad When you speak of crying all night and of eyes being filled with tears upon the Holy Sabbath in church I was almost sad and yet I am glad that your thoughts are with me That you feel that my presence would cheer you Dear wife do you know that one of the greatest trials I have to endure is to know that you are obliged to be absent from me and that you are unhappy without me; for one of the first and dearest objects pf my life is to Secure your happiness. Did I not have that to live for the world would be dark ...



Editor's note: Thanks to Mark Perkins for *everything* included herein! As many already know and as information to the rest, our book discussion next month will be on the Battle of Harper's Ferry – read any book about this battle and come join in the discussion in March!