

Civil War Round Table of St. Charles-April 2025 Newsletter

After the Union victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in February 1862, Confederate general Albert Sidney Johnston withdrew from Kentucky and left much of the western and middle of Tennessee to the Federals. This permitted Major General Ulysses S. Grant to establish a forward position at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River, 22 miles from the railroad town of Corinth, Mississippi, the strategic intersection of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and a vital troop and supply conduit for the South. While Grant moved south, General Johnston concentrated all available Confederate forces in the West for an attack on the Union army to restore the strategic balance in the West after the disaster of Fort Donelson. The subsequent Battle of Shiloh proved to be a disaster for the South, not only for its strategic failure but for the tremendous number of casualties. After Shiloh, both sides realized the magnitude of the conflict, which would be longer and bloodier than they could have imagined.



We have some dates for outings in 2025. Our first outing will be in Springfield, Illinois, on April 26-27. You can visit one or both days. Saturday stops include the Lincoln Home, Illinois Military Museum, Lincoln Tomb, Camp Butler, and Daughters of Union Veterans Museum; we'll tour the Lincoln Presidential Library on Sunday. Then on Sunday afternoon, May 18, Dorris Keeven-Franke will lead an afternoon trip to various Civil War sites in St. Charles County, including several locations mentioned during our presentations. Additionally, we will have a battlefield tour of Wilson's Creek on the weekend of October 18-19. Sergeant First Class (retired) Kent Fujiwara will give a presentation on Wilson's Creek in October and will be the lead guide during the tour.

We now have our own web page, thanks to Dorris Keeven-Franke, who created the Civil War Round Table of St. Charles County website. Check out the website for upcoming events and to see what we've been up to in the past.

<https://cwrtsc.org/>

Our study of the 1862 Union offensive will end in May with an exciting presentation about the Union advance from the Shiloh battlefield to the vital railroad crossroads town of Corinth, Mississippi. After the Battle of Shiloh, Union Major General Henry Hallack assumed command of the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of the Ohio at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. Meanwhile, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard reorganized the beaten Army of Mississippi in Corinth and prepared Confederate forces to defend the town against the Union attack he knew was coming.

We meet at the Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm Street in St. Charles, where presentations begin at 7:00 p.m.

We now have a YouTube channel, and it looks great! There are several presentations on the channel now, including Captain Greg Waters's presentation about Camp Butler last month and Doris Keeven-Franke's presentation about Archer Alexander. If you missed last month's meeting or cannot attend this month, I encourage you to check out our presentations on YouTube. Also, please hit the Like and Subscribe buttons, which enable the algorithms to make the page more prominent on search engines. Please pass along the information about our YouTube channel and our website. Thanks to Greg and Daniel Waters for running the page.

Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles County – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@CWRTSCC>

Little Round Table

In addition to their regular monthly formal meetings, the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis has a small group that meets informally for more intimate discussions about the Civil War. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 3, at 11:00 a.m. at Hearth Room Cafe, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village, Town & Country. They usually meet on the first Thursday of the month. Let me know if you're interested in going because they ask you to notify them so they can reserve table space

If you're interested in what other Civil War Round Tables are up to, check out the Civil War Round Table Congress website.

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/>

I have attached an ebook about the Atlanta and Savannah campaigns this month. In early May 1864, Federal forces under Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman began battling the Confederate Army of Tennessee. At stake was Atlanta, a major manufacturing center and railroad hub. Sherman had 110,000 men in three armies around Chattanooga. Facing them at Dalton, eighty miles north of Atlanta, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston had 53,800 officers and men present for duty. The Confederates received 15,000 reinforcements within the month, making Johnston's army the South's largest. Despite his large numbers, Johnston's plan hinged on taking a strong defensive position and waiting for the enemy to attack him. After Atlanta fell to the Federals, Sherman abandoned his supply lines and headed toward Savannah on his March to the Sea.

Tentative 2025 Agenda

January 7: History of Camp Butler, Illinois, during the Civil War
February 4: Archer Alexander and the Underground Railroad
March 4: The Fort Henry and Fort Donelson Campaign
April 1: Shiloh
April 26-27: Springfield, Illinois Tour
May 6: From Shiloh to Corinth and Hallack's Siege of Corinth
May 18: St. Charles County Civil War afternoon outing
June: 3: Power Couple: The Story of Jesse and John Fremont
July: 1: History of the Missouri State Militia and the Enrolled Missouri Militia
August: 5: The Common Soldier in the Civil War
September 2: Opening Hostilities: South Carolina, Maryland, and Missouri
October 7: The Battle of Wilson's Creek
October 18-19: Wilson's Creek Battlefield Tour
November 4: Joseph Shelby's 1863 Missouri Raid
December 2: Movie TBD, cookies and hot chocolate

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, or would like to volunteer to present, contact Doug at historynutt@hotmail.com or (636) 290-0710.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064540790434>

YouTube page: Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles County - YouTube

or

<https://www.youtube.com/@CWRTSCC>

Website: <https://cwrtsc.org/>