

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

In July, we welcome back local author and historian Jim Erwin, who will speak about the Missouri State Militia. The Missouri State Militia (MSM) was a federally funded state militia organization in Missouri, conceived in 1861 and beginning service in 1862. It was a full-time force primarily tasked with conducting offensive operations against Confederate guerrillas and recruiters, as well as opposing raids by regular Confederate forces. The MSM was not intended to operate outside Missouri. However, there were several instances during the war when units found themselves operating beyond the state, including playing a significant role in Price's 1864 Missouri Expedition. At one point, the MSM numbered more than 13,000 soldiers, but this force was reduced to 10,000 soldiers by the United States government. Hopefully, Jim will bring along some of his books to sell.



In August, Layne Chartrand will give a presentation about the common soldier in the Civil War. Layne is a former reenactor, and hopefully, he will have a few teaching aids to accompany his presentation. Our members asked Layne to speak again this year after his fascinating talk about the Confederate Navy last year.

Our next tour will be 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/>

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 in January, Dorris Keeven-Franke's presentation about Archer Alexander, and the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. If you missed a 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>

In addition to their formal monthly 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 scheduled for Thursday, July 3, at 11:00 a.m. at Hearth Room Café, 265 Lamp and Lantern Village, Town and Country. They typically meet on the first Thursday of each month. Please RSVP to Sid at sgamertsfelder@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Steve Tesson and I have attended several meetings, and they are very interesting.

I will be gone most of the summer. If you have announcements or need information about the group, please contact Greg Waters at: 3h2os@charter.net.

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/>

Finally, after being closed for several years, the Old Courthouse in St. Louis reopened on 3 May after renovation.

Tentative 2025 Agenda

January 7: History of Camp Butler, Illinois, during the Civil War -Greg Waters
February 4: Archer Alexander and the Underground Railroad-Dorris Keeven-Franke
March 4: The Fort Henry and Fort Donelson Campaign-Doug Gifford
April 1: Shiloh-Doug Gifford
April 26-27: Springfield, Illinois Tour
May 6: From Shiloh to Corinth and Hallack's Siege of Corinth-Greg Waters
May 18: St. Charles County Civil War afternoon outing-Dorris Keeven-Franke
June 3: Power Couple: The Story of Jesse and John Fremont-Greg Wolk
July 1: History of the Missouri State Militia and the Enrolled Missouri Militia-Jim Erwin
August 5: The Common Soldier in the Civil War-Lane Chartrand
September 2: Opening Hostilities: South Carolina, Maryland, and Missouri-Doug Gifford
October 7: The Battle of Wilson's Creek-Kent Fujiwara
October 18-19: Wilson's Creek Battlefield Tour
November 4: Joseph Shelby's 1863 Missouri Raid-Greg Waters
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/>