

Civil War Round Table of St. Charles January 2026 Newsletter

On Tuesday, January 6, we will open our 2026 campaign with a look at one of the most unique military organizations produced during the Civil War: the **Missouri State Guard**. The Guard was established by the Missouri Legislature on **May 10, 1861**, in response to the Camp Jackson Massacre in St. Louis. Governor Claiborne Jackson appointed **Sterling Price** as Major General and commander of the Missouri State Guard.

A strongly pro-Southern force, the State Guard fought to bring Missouri into the Confederacy. Its soldiers engaged federal forces across Missouri and Arkansas—often without support from the Confederate Army and with extremely limited logistics—until they were finally driven from Missouri in February 1862.

Although the majority of its members eventually enlisted in the Confederate Army, the Missouri State Guard continued to exist, in reduced numbers, until the end of the war.

Our tentative agenda for 2026 is now complete. We have an excellent mix of member and guest speakers covering a wide range of Civil War topics, along with several enjoyable outings scheduled throughout the year. You can review the complete list on page 3 of the newsletter.

I am hoping to add a speaker from Missouri Humanities to replace one of my presentations, though I have not yet reached him. I am also open to adjustments, and I would be happy to postpone one of my talks if *you* would like to step forward and present on a topic of your choice.

Please note that outing dates are tentative and we can adjust them if necessary. I also want to add a workday for us to move headstones at Peruque Creek Fort. A date in late winter, before poison ivy begins to grow, would be good.

On Tuesday, February 3, Captain Greg Waters will present a program on **John A. Logan**, one of the most prominent volunteer generals in the Union Army during the Civil War. Born near present-day Murphysboro, Illinois, Logan was a lawyer and politician before the war. At the outbreak of the conflict, he resigned his seat in Congress and entered military service, raising the 31st Illinois Infantry, which he initially commanded as a colonel. Logan fought with notable bravery at the Battle of Belmont in 1861 and rose rapidly in rank. By 1862, he had become a major general and played key roles in major Western Theater campaigns, including Fort Donelson and Shiloh, where he was wounded. He later commanded XV Corps in the Army of the Tennessee during the Vicksburg, Atlanta, and Carolinas Campaigns, and temporarily led the entire army following the death of **James B. McPherson**.

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://cwrtsec.org/>

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

St. Louis County Libraries will host a Zoom presentation on the **Camp Jackson Affair (often called the Camp Jackson Massacre)** on **Saturday, January 22, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** The program will be presented by **Nick Sacco**, Historian and Curator at **Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site**.

The Camp Jackson Affair marked the moment the Civil War became a violent reality in Missouri. In May 1861, tensions between Union forces and pro-secession Missouri militia erupted in St. Louis, resulting in bloodshed that shocked the city and helped push the state irreversibly into the conflict.

This presentation will explore Missouri's secession debates, competing military efforts to control St. Louis, the events surrounding Camp Jackson itself, and how the affair has been remembered—and contested—over time.

The video from our visit to the James H. Johnson home in Louisiana, MO, last month is now available on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRRRYHnwb8o&t=41s>

Our channel continues to grow—Greg's **Shelby's 1863 Missouri Raid** video has already received more than 230 views—and several additional presentations are now available. If you missed a meeting or would like to revisit a program, I encourage you to explore the full selection of videos on our page.

Please remember to **Like and Subscribe**, as this greatly improves our visibility in search results. Feel free to share the link to our YouTube channel and website with anyone who may be interested.

Special thanks to **Greg** and **Daniel Waters** for managing and updating our channel.

Civil War Round Table 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 hosts a small informal discussion group for more intimate conversations about the Civil War. The group meets at **11:00 a.m. at the Hearth Room Café**, 265 Lamp and Lantern Village, in Town and Country. They typically gather on the **first Thursday of each month**.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Paula at pzalar@aol.com.

Steve Tesson and I have attended several of these meetings, and they are always engaging and informative. This month, the meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 8**

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/>

The Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site has several activities planned for in January 2026:
<https://www.nps.gov/ulsg/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

Tentative 2026 Agenda

January 6: The Missouri State Guard-Doug Gifford
February 3: General John A. Logan of Illinois-Greg Waters
March 3: The Romance of Julia and Ulysses Grant in St. Louis-Jim Irwin
March 28-29: Outing-Wilson's Creek and The Battle of Springfield Tours
April 7: General Orders #11-Tom Raifner
May 5: The End of the Civil War-Doug Gifford
May 9: Outing-Civil War Weapons Firing
June 2: The Prairie Grove Campaign-Doug Gifford
July 7: A Civil War Confederate Soldier-Layne Chartrand
August 4: The Civil War in Northern Missouri-Doug Gifford
September 1: The Vicksburg Campaign Part 1-Doug Gifford
October 6: The Vicksburg Campaign Part 2-Doug Gifford
October 17: Outing-Tour of Jefferson Barracks and the MO Civil War Museum
November 3: The Battle of Perryville, Kentucky-Greg Waters
December 1: Cookies, Cocoa, and a Documentary

We also need to add a workday to move headstones at Peruque Creek Fort

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/>