

# Civil War Round Table of St. Charles April 2026 Newsletter

On Tuesday, April 7, Author Tom Rafiner will speak to our group about General Orders #11, issued by General Thomas Ewing in the fall of 1863. Using the “Cass County Exodus” as the focal point, the presentation takes the audience into the personal experiences of individual civilians and families forced to abandon their homes following the issuance of General Order No. 11. This presentation does not use electronic devices. Each member of the audience is given a copy of the mural. The mural, a collaborative effort, between the artist and the presenter, depicts actual refugees whose stories emerged through extensive research. The presentation goes beyond the refugees, bring the audience into the exodus itself. The stifling August heat, the dust drifts, the pervasive fear of death, the sounds of the animals and humans as well as the smells of destruction. The audience is quite literally asked to participate in a flood of frightened humanity driven to desperation in 1863. The journeys and the stories all told – and then there were none.



On Tuesday, May 5, Dorris Keeven-Franke will present a program on The Union Fort at Peruque Creek in St. Charles County during the Civil War. When the Civil War began in 1861, St. Charles County was home to both Unionists and Confederates. By the summer of 1862, the conflict had dragged on long enough that the initial three-month enlistments were a thing of the past, and many men had joined both Union and Confederate armies. Those who remained, known as Missouri’s Home Guards, were local Union men determined to hold the state for Lincoln and the Union.

The county’s large German population filled the Home Guard’s ranks, led by German-born Lt. Col. Arnold Krekel. Confederate bushwhackers and guerrillas worked constantly to undermine them, targeting the North Missouri Railroad, a vital Union supply line. In November 1862, a Union fort was constructed where the railroad crossed a steep ravine over Peruque Creek.

In 1863, Confederates met at Naylor’s Store to plan an attack on the wooden trestle bridge, intending to saw through its timbers when Union troops were away. Weapons and ammunition were stored nearby in preparation.

We meet at the Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm Street in St. Charles,  
where presentations begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Fry's Lyon Foundation, 1861 Missouri Speaks Facebook page posts "This day in Missouri" Civil War articles. Check out their site for interesting posts about Missouri's Civil War history:  
<https://www.facebook.com/1861MissouriSpeaks>

We have more articles on the Civil War in Missouri blog.  
<https://historynutt.net/blog>

In December, the Kathryn Linnemann Library staff informed us that, due to a change in library operating hours, we must adjust the start time of our meetings. Beginning January 6, all meetings will start at 6:00 p.m.

Although we do not have a video of last month's presentation, our channel continues to grow, 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](mailto:pzalar@aol.com).

Steve Tesson and I attend these meetings, and they are always engaging and informative. This month, the meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 2.**

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/>

## 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 Rafiner  
May 5: Peruque Creek Fort-Dorris Keeven Franke  
May 9: Outing-Civil War Weapons Firing  
June 2: William Quintrill-Dr. Loftin Woodiel  
July 7: General Lloyd Tilghman, CSA-Steve Tesson  
August 4: The Camp Jackson Affair-Nick Sacco  
September 1:The End of the Civil War-Doug Gifford  
October 6: The Prairie Grove Campaign-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; Shiloh Firey Trial

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, or would like to volunteer to present, contact  
Doug at [historynutt@hotmail.com](mailto: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/>

Missouri in the Civil War Blog: <https://historynutt.net/blog>