



Civil War History in St. Louis

The Gateway to the West played a pivotal role in the clash between the North and the South, and St. Louis was bitterly divided throughout the war, 1861-1865. The majority served in the Union Army, but it's estimated that 5,000 sided with the Confederates with many families harboring split allegiances. According to the 1860 census, Missouri ranked eighth in population, which made it an ideal resource for manpower. Its rich agricultural production provided fuel to feed that manpower, and the state's abundance of raw materials like lead and iron was ideal for making bullets and cannonballs.

The nation's major lines of western communication were anchored in Missouri, along with the Pony Express. Three major trails – the California, Oregon and Santa Fe – originate from Missouri, and the Missouri, Mississippi and Ohio Rivers pass through or run alongside the state. As a result of its ideal location, there are a number of Civil war historic sites, exhibits and activities in the region. For more information about Missouri's role in the Civil War, visit www.mocivilwar.org.

Missouri History Museum, Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park; (www.mohistory.org) (1.5 hrs.) The Missouri History Museum's collections tell the history of the region from its earliest times to the present. Once a perilous frontier, St. Louis grew to be ranked the 4th largest city in the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, and the Civil War played a large role in shaping the city's history. Visitors will find plenty of engaging material in the Missouri History Museum's *Currents* gallery that explores how slavery and secession affected St. Louis and its citizens. From the battle of Camp Jackson to the Gratiot St. prison, the gallery features artifacts and insights that outline the diverse moral and political boundaries that divided the city. Items on view include uniforms, weapons, Thomas Noble's painting "The Last Sale of Slaves" and a portrait of Dred Scott, whose famous trial foreshadowed the Civil War.

Jefferson Barracks Historical Park, 533 Grant Road; (www.stlouisco.com/Parks-and-Recreation/Park-Pages/Jefferson-Barracks) (2 hrs.) Home to restored military buildings, museums and a national cemetery. Established in 1863, the cemetery is the final resting place of approximately 16,000 Union and Confederate soldiers and officers. Robert E. Lee, William T. Sherman, Ulysses S. Grant and most of the war's major generals were posted at Jefferson Barracks, which was established in 1826. During the war, the Barracks had one of the largest Federal hospitals in the country with more than 3,000 beds and accommodated patients from battles as far away as Vicksburg, Mississippi. At one point, it was the largest military base in the nation and played a major role in all the nation's wars from the Civil War to World War II. (South County)

Missouri Civil War Museum, Jefferson Barracks Historical Park; (www.mcwm.org) (1.5 hrs.) A museum, library and educational learning center dedicated to the preservation and study of Missouri and its involvement in the American Civil War. The museum features over 1,000 artifacts and several feature films on the war.

White Haven, 7400 Grant Road; (www.nps.gov/ulsg) (1 hour) Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War hero and the 18th U.S. President, was introduced to his future wife Julia Dent at her St. Louis area plantation home White Haven, which later became the Grant family residence. White Haven is part of the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site and free interpretive tours are available of the main house. Special activities available year-round. (South County)

Grant's Farm, 10501 Gravois Road; (www.grantsfarm.com) (2 hrs.) Hardscrabble, a log cabin hand-built by Grant, is on display at Grant's Farm. The Busch family estate was once owned by Grant, and today serves as a wildlife preserve. Visitors can enjoy animal shows, visit a petting zoo, take a tram ride through the preserve, and view a collection of antique carriages. (South County)

Historic Old Courthouse, 11 North Fourth Street; (www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/och.htm) (1.5 hrs.) Built from 1839-1862, the courthouse was the site of the Dred Scott slavery trials that were considered the flashpoint for the start of the Civil War. Begun in 1847, the case focused national attention on the slavery issue. Copies of court records, period newspaper articles and other artifacts of the case are on display in the second floor rotunda gallery, and groups can participate in trial reenactments in one of the restored courtrooms. The building's five museum galleries depict St. Louis' role in the famous trial and in America's westward expansion. (Downtown)

Museum at the Gateway Arch, Beneath the Gateway Arch; (www.gatewayarch.com) (1 hour) Interactive story galleries guide visitors through time from the founding of St. Louis in 1764 to the building of the Gateway Arch, completed in 1965. The museum describes the westward expansion period of the United States with more perspectives from the cultures involved. (Downtown)

Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947 West Florissant Avenue; (www.bellefontainecemetery.org) (1.5 hrs.) Features the final resting place of some of the city's most historic individuals, including: Edward Bates, Abraham Lincoln's U.S. Attorney General; Major General Don Carlos Buell, who led Federal troops in the battle of Shiloh; Major General Sterling Price, U.S. Congressman from Missouri and President of the Missouri Secession Convention; explorer William Clark; and brew master Adolphus Busch. Maps and self-guided tours are available at the cemetery office. (North County)

Calvary Cemetery, 5239 West Florissant Avenue; (<https://cemeteries.archstl.org/locations/calvary>) (1 hour) Includes the graves of Dred and Harriet Scott; Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman; Daniel Frost, Brigadier General, Confederate Army; and James McLean Thomson, Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General. Also features architecturally significant memorials such as the Nez Perce Tribe monument. (North County)

Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing, 28 East Grand along the Riverfront Trail; (<https://aboutstlouis.com/local/attractions/mary-meachum-freedom-crossing-st-louis-riverfront>) (10 min.) The historical marker is the first nationally-designated Underground Railroad site in Missouri. Named for an African American abolitionist from St. Louis, the site was used by fugitive slaves escaping to the free state of Illinois prior to the Civil War. (North County)

Fairgrounds Park, Grand Avenue and Natural Bridge Road; (30 min.) The park was the former site of Camp Benton, an encampment for Union troops located about five miles north of the city. The facility could accommodate 30,000 soldiers and contained a mile of barracks, warehouses, cavalry stables, parade grounds, and a 3,000-patient military hospital. Establishing operations in 1861, it served as a troop cantonment (replacing Jefferson Barracks after its conversion to a hospital), parole encampment, and a camp for contraband, refugee slaves and white refugee Unionists. There is also some evidence that Confederate guerilla POWs were briefly housed at the camp guardhouse. (North County)

Saint Louis University Campus, bound by Grand, Olive, Vandeventer, and I-64; (30 min. - 1 hour) Former home of Camp Jackson, also known as Lindell's Grove, the site of the first major Civil War-related action in Missouri and the only military action to take place within the city limits. The campus was named for General Daniel M. Frost, Commander of the Missouri Volunteer Militia. The militia was captured by federal forces on May 10, 1861. (Midtown)

Museum of Transportation, 3015 Barrett Station Road; (www.tnmot.org) (2 hrs.) Features dozens of locomotives, freight and passenger cars from almost every era of American history, including the Daniel Nason steam locomotive. Built by Boston and Providence Railroad master mechanic G.S. Grigg, sometime between 1833 and 1858, it is the country's sole surviving inside-connected steam locomotive and represents the pre-Civil War practice of placing the steam cylinders inside the frame. (South/West County)

MISSOURI CIVIL WAR FACTS

- On Jan 11, 1865, Missouri became the first slave state to outlaw slavery during the Civil War. By war's end, 8,400 black Missourians had been recruited by the Union Army.
- Initially, President Lincoln did not intend to wage a war against slavery, but realized he needed to use the abolition of slavery as a weapon against the Confederate states. Missouri, occupied by a loyal pro-slavery government, was excluded from Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation but its issue on January 1, 1863, resulted in an inundation of slaves fleeing to the adjacent state of Arkansas. The newly-freed slaves caused a ripple effect on Missouri's slaves and the slave population dropped from 85,000 in 1862 to around 22,000 in 1864.
- Missouri sent more men to war per capita than any other state. Missouri volunteers numbered just under 200,000, including 31,000 German-Americans. Approximately 27,000 military and civilian Missourians were killed during the war.
- More than two-thirds of Missouri's white population was of Southern stock, while St. Louis' 65,000 German immigrants formed a core of Union support.
- General Sterling Price replaced Governor Claiborne Jackson as Missouri's pro-South leader, who had been deposed by the state convention he had assembled. Concurrently, Pro-Union legislators in Jefferson City declared the state's loyalty to the Union, which resulted in Missouri having two governments and representation in both the U.S. and Confederate congresses.
- Hannibal Confederate, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) had his fill of war and retired after only two weeks. His only other brush with the Union Army came when he was a passenger on a steamboat that was fired upon while trying to run a blockade past Jefferson Barracks.

- The Battle of Wilson's Creek marked the beginning of the Civil War in Missouri. For the next 3 ½ years, the state was the scene of savage and fierce fighting, mostly guerrilla warfare, with small bands of mounted raiders destroying anything military or civilian that could aid the enemy. By the time the conflict ended in the spring of 1865, Missouri ranked as the third most fought over state in the country.
- The Battle of Westport was the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River and was the last major battle in the state. It ended the Civil War in Missouri.
- Governor Thomas C. Fletcher signed the proclamation stating that slavery would be abolished in Missouri "now and forever." Missouri independently abolished slavery within its borders before the 13th amendment of the Constitution was adopted in December 1865.
- The Battle of Pilot Knob on September 27, 1864, was the beginning of the end for General Sterling Price and the Missouri Confederacy. News of the battle gave Union forces in St. Louis and Jefferson City time to build up their defenses, and Price's forces were soon driven from the state.
- Union generals who served at Jefferson Barracks before the Civil War included: Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Henry W. Halleck, Don Carlos Buell, Winfield S. Hancock, and Edwin V. Summer. Grant was the first man in the U.S. military to hold the rank of General of the Army.
- Generals who served at Jefferson Barracks and resigned their commission in the U.S. Army to fight for the Confederacy were: Joseph E. Johnston, James Longstreet, Albert Sidney Johnston, and Braxton Bragg.
- The first ironclad ships for federal use were built in 65 days by St. Louis contractor James B. Eads.
- The USS St. Louis, launched at Carondelet, MO, on October 12, 1861, was the first U.S. ironclad gunboat and the first to sustain a bombardment from a hostile battery. It led a fleet of ironclads in victories at Island No.10 on the Mississippi River and at Ft. Henry on the Tennessee River.
- The capture of Island No.10 in the Mississippi River on April 7, 1862, was the first significant Union victory where no men were lost in combat.
- In spite of its position as the western headquarters of the Union Army, the only military action within St. Louis' boundaries took place on May 10, 1861, at Camp Jackson. Union forces captured more than 600 Confederate-sympathizing Missouri militia as they plotted to capture the well-stocked federal arsenal at Camp Jackson. The fight represented the war's first blood spilled west of the Mississippi River.

*Itinerary provided by the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission.
For more information: www.explorestlouis.com*