



## The Western Campaigner: The Journal of the Missouri Civil War Re-enactor's Association

December 2025- March 2026

### Message from the President:

Greetings fellow reenactors!

I'll admit that the last few weeks of sub-zero cold, snow, and ice has had me thinking about the upcoming spring and getting my gear out to travel. But I also was thinking how those who have gone before us fighting in the same weather actually survived. They were all great people and I'll admit, a lot tougher than I. Just the thought makes me proud of our armed forces from then to now. They are the greatest of us!

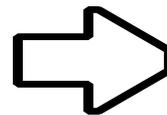
New events are being added weekly so make sure and check out our web site and Facebook page. Any additions you wish to place contact us and we will see about adding it. I think this will be a great year and I look forward to seeing all of you on the battlefield! Stay safe...and warm. Keep our soldiers in your prayers.

Sincerely,  
Dave Plummer  
MCWRA President

If you need to update your membership or pay your dues for this year please see the links/QR Code below!

[Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association Membership Form](#)

Scan the QR code to pay your \$15 individual/family dues



Click or Scan the codes below to visit our [MCWRA website](#) and [Facebook Page](#) to stay up to date on Information throughout the year!

**MCWRA.ORG**



**Missouri Civil War Reenactor's  
Association Facebook Page**



## Missouri: Home and Battlegrounds

By: MCWRA Board Member Heidi Lechner February 10, 2026

St Louis, MO 1861. As the nation split apart, Missouri became one of the most important and dangerous states in the entire Civil War. Missouri stayed in the Union, but it was a slave state filled with people who supported both the North and the South. This made Missouri a place of constant tension, where families argued, towns divided, and loyalties could change at any moment. With the mighty Mississippi River and key railroads running through it, Missouri became a major prize. Whoever controlled Missouri could move soldiers, weapons, and supplies across the western United States, and both sides knew its value.

Missouri was pulled into the war almost immediately. In May 1861, the Camp Jackson Affair shook St. Louis when Union troops arrested pro-Confederate militia members. Crowds gathered, shouting filled the streets, and gunfire broke out. It was the kind of moment that made ordinary citizens realize war was no longer far away, it had in fact arrived. Just months later, still in the first year of the war, August of 1861, the Battle of Wilson's Creek, known to Southerners as The Battle of Oak Hills, near Springfield, MO brought heavy fighting and thick clouds of smoke across the fields. Union General Nathaniel Lyon was killed, and the nation began to see that Missouri would be one of the fiercest battlegrounds in the West.

Missouri became most famous for a different kind of warfare though, guerrilla fighting. Raids, ambushes, and surprise attacks became common as armed men rode through the countryside like ghosts. People feared traveling roads or even sleeping at night, unsure of who might strike next. Soldiers wrote of constant tension, never knowing when gunfire would erupt from the trees. In Missouri, the Civil War wasn't always fought with marching armies, it was fought in forests, barns, and small towns where danger could appear in an instant and families were impacted greatly.

Even away from the battlefields, Missouri's women played a powerful role as well. Many served as nurses and cared for the wounded in makeshift hospitals overflowing with injured soldiers. Confederate nurse Kate Cumming wrote about tending to "poor suffering creatures," showing the heartbreak and bravery seen every day during the war. Women cooked, carried supplies, and held farms and communities together while chaos surrounded them.

Missouri wasn't just part of the Civil War, it was one of the places where the war felt the closest, the loudest, and most unforgettable. Our state shaped the course of American history right at its doorstep. Never forget the historical importance of our State and what Civil War reenactors bring to life!

### Old Time 1860s Molasses Cookies Recipe:

#### Ingredients:

1/2 cups butter, softened	2 cups sugar
2 large eggs, room temperature	1/2 cup molasses
4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour	4 teaspoons ground ginger
2 teaspoons baking soda	2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup chopped pecans	3/4 cup coarse sugar

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in eggs and molasses. Combine flour, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Fold in pecans. Shape into 2-in. balls and roll in coarse sugar. Place 2-1/2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until tops are cracked, 13-15 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.



## Advertisements:

**James Country Mercantile: Del and Jean Warren**  
111 N. Main St., Liberty, MO 64068  
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Come see them for their clothing, patterns, books, fabrics, buttons, and knowledge!!

### **ADLER'S DRY GOODS: KNOX AND MARY ADLER**

Unfortunately, they are going out of business and have given the following information to share.

Here is the information on the upcoming swap meet. They have reserved 4 tables, and will probably be bringing Union Sack coats, Artillery shell jackets, shirts, civilian clothing, and whatever they think will fit on the tables. Mary plans to bring bolts of material. There should be silks, cottons, and wool. We are selling out and will make good deals.

The address is: The Pavilion at Lemay, 305 Gregg Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125

**Knox cell number is: 314-750-0701.**

### **Ensembles of the Past: Sara Gonzalez 417-399-9541**

**Bespoke Clothing, Fine Fabrics, & Sewing Instruction**

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[www.Etsy.com/Shop/EnsemblesOfThePast](http://www.Etsy.com/Shop/EnsemblesOfThePast)

**She has a study session happening in one week!**

<https://ensemblesofthepast.com/blog/feb-24th-zoom-study-session-2-extant-1850s-gowns>

Ensemblesofthepast.com

**She offers sales and a wealth of knowledge in clothing and accessories.**

Message from the secretary:

I have had a few people state that they are not getting the newsletters when they are emailed. Below I have attached a membership application form. When entering the information that I have been given through the years, the email addresses may have been missing or mis-spelled. I ask that you please fill out and email or mail it back to me so I can try and correct this issue. Thank you for your time.

Jamie Horan

Please email [this form](#) to [cwhistory1861@gmail.com](mailto:cwhistory1861@gmail.com)

Or Print form and Mail to: MCWRA, Treasurer: Jamie Horan, P O BOX 296, Linn, MO 65051



Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association Membership Form

Year 20\_\_\_\_ Membership Application

\*Membership costs: \$15 per member/family, \$150 for New Lifetime Members

**Membership type:**

- Member/Family Renewal
- New Member/Family
- Active Military
- New Lifetime Member
- Information Change

Member Name:

Additional Family Names:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Phone:

Your Email:

Name of Your Unit:

Unit Commander Name:

Commander Phone:

Commander Email:

**Unit Affiliation(s):**

- Union
- Confederate
- Civilian/Medical
- Independent

**Would you like your newsletter:**

- Emailed
- Mailed

**Treasurer's use only:**

Membership paid: date \_\_\_\_\_ cash or check # \_\_\_\_\_

Added to roster: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

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Please email this form to [cwhistory1861@gmail.com](mailto:cwhistory1861@gmail.com)

Or Print and Mail form to: MCWRA, Treasurer: Jamie Horan, P O BOX 296, Linn, MO 65051

Please pay dues online at <https://mcwra.org/join>. (Scroll to bottom of page for link to pay)