



Volume 1

Summer 2026

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Welcome to the first edition of the **1861 Missouri Speaks** newsletter!

Fry's Lyon Foundation, Inc. is excited to begin sharing news about the recent launch of the *1861 Missouri Speaks Collection*, as well as announcements about Civil War events in Missouri, occasional spotlights on key military and political figures of 1861, active Missouri Round Tables and Reenactment groups, excerpts from our volumes, and most importantly, a public thank you to our volunteers and supporters.

Fry's Lyon Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation with three elements focused on educating the public on the role Missouri played in the American Civil War; the first is the **Missouri Civil War Passport Book** (see pg. 3), second is the **1861 Missouri Speaks Collection**; and third is a companion website, **1861MissouriSpeaks.com**.



The War Begins

On **April 12, 1861**, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter and the Civil War officially began. President Lincoln's proclamation of **April 15** followed, calling for 75,000 state militia troops into federal service for 90 days. As a result of the proclamation, the War Department issued orders for the state of Missouri to muster four regiments into U.S. military service. Missouri's Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson refused to follow these orders, which he declared illegal and unconstitutional.

On **April 20**, the federal depot at Liberty was attacked. General Nathaniel Lyon sent Colonel Frank P. Blair, Jr. a letter warning him that the weapons taken at Liberty could be used to capture the St. Louis Arsenal. Two days later, Gov. Jackson gave orders to the Missouri Volunteer Militia units to gather for training on May 3. Jackson called the legislature to convene on May 2, to enact laws and measures needed to improve the organization of the state militia and raise money for the state's defense. Meanwhile, Lyon takes command of the St. Louis Arsenal on **April 23**, and with his approval and that of the St. Louis (Union) Safety Committee, a plan is made to organize the St. Louis Home Guards.

Available Now!

1861 Missouri Speaks: Rebooting History Collection

This ambitious publishing project presents **transcribed and fully footnoted primary-source documents from the Civil War era with a focus on Missouri**. The series brings together letters, newspaper accounts, official reports, and other firsthand materials that illuminate the political and military crisis that unfolded in Missouri during the opening months of the war. The project has been designed to make original Civil War-era documents more accessible to both researchers and general readers.

Explanatory notes, summaries, footnotes, photographs, and maps and illustrations are included to provide context for the people, places, and events described in the sources. Additional research tools, including a timeline, finding aids, and an index, are also provided.

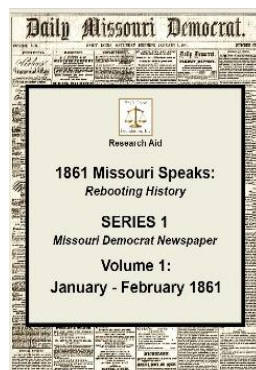
Each volume in Series 1-5 is organized in **chronological order**, allowing readers to follow events as they unfolded. Additional volumes are arranged by **subject matter or by the officer or official associated with the documents**, providing focused perspectives on particular people and issues.

Missouri occupied a uniquely complex position during the Civil War as a border state divided by competing loyalties. The documents collected in the series capture the voices of Missourians as they experienced the conflict firsthand: politicians debating the state's future, soldiers and civilians describing events as they unfolded, and newspapers reflecting the sharply divided opinions of the time.

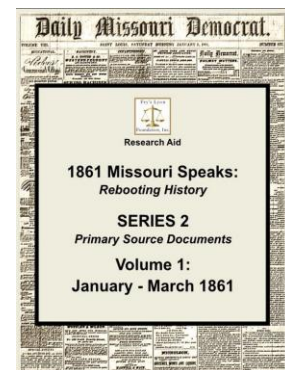
The ***Series Sampler—Selected Excerpts from the 1861 Missouri Speaks Collection***—as well as the entire **Series 1** and **Series 2** volumes, consisting of newspaper articles and primary-source documents are **available now on Amazon.com**. Click on the links below to purchase, or go to 1861MissouriSpeaks.com for more information



Shop Sampler



Shop Series 1 Volumes



Shop Series 2 Volumes

For a limited time, those who purchase either Series 1, Missouri Democrat (11 volumes), Series 2, Primary Source Documents (11 volumes), or both for the introductory price of \$199.95 each, will receive a complimentary Atlas volume and Sampler volume. This offer represents a savings of more than \$125 compared with the standard retail price of \$24.95 per volume, plus shipping costs. Offer only at: www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/1861-missouri-speaks-collection

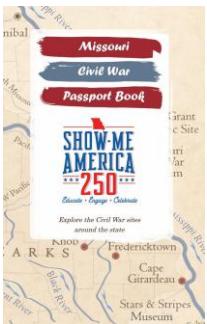
Series Sampler – Selected Excerpts from the 1861 Missouri Speaks Collection. This sampler volume features excerpts from each of the Collection's fourteen series and will provide readers with an opportunity to explore the scope and content of the more than 70-volume collection containing transcribed Civil War-era newspapers, primary-source documents, and government reports related to Missouri during the conflict. The *Sampler* serves as a convenient guide for identifying the volumes that may be of greatest interest.

Series 1 – Missouri Democrat Newspaper Articles Published in 1861 (11 volumes). Eleven volumes, each covering one or two months of the year, contain transcribed articles from the *Missouri Democrat* newspaper. There are two volumes for August due to the number of articles published that year.

The *Missouri Democrat* was a pro-Union, anti-slavery newspaper published in the slave state of Missouri. The surviving microfilm of the 1861 issues was of poor quality; therefore, considerable effort has been made to transcribe the articles as accurately as possible, making this series invaluable to researchers.

The articles document the unfolding events of 1861, including the slavery debate, the secession crisis, and the political and military developments that shaped Missouri's role in the Civil War. Together, they offer readers a valuable window into the social and political climate of the period. In 1875, the *Missouri Democrat* merged with the *St. Louis Globe* to form the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. The *Globe-Democrat* ended publication in 1986.

Series 2 – Primary Source Documents. Series 2 presents a month-by-month collection of Civil War-era documents from 1861, offering a firsthand look at events as they unfolded in Missouri. Drawn from a wide range of archival sources, each volume includes letters, official reports, proclamations, military orders, and other contemporary records that reveal the decisions and experiences shaping the conflict.



The Foundation's previously launched **Missouri Civil War Passport program** encourages historical tourism across the state's Civil War sites. The new "Show-Me America 250" edition, which includes eight new "Bonus Sites," is available in two sizes at many of the stamp sites, as well as some historic sites and stores. See <https://mo-passport.org/books-for-sale/> for locations to purchase. Books can also be ordered at Amazon.com, but shipping costs may be added to the price.

Calendar of Events in Missouri: August through October

For event accuracy and registration requirements, click on the link provided for information on each event.

Aug. 19: “The Dan Sickles vs George Meade Gettysburg Peach Orchard Spat,” presented by James Hessler, Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69th St., Overland Park, KS. <https://cwrtkc.org>

Sept. 1: “The End of the Civil War,” presented by Doug Gifford, Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles, MO, Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm St., St. Charles, MO. <https://cwrtsc.org>

Sept. 10: Wilson’s Creek, Springfield National Cemetery, and Battle of Springfield Tour guided by retired park ranger Connie Langu, sponsored by Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. <https://www.facebook.com/CWRTWM>

Sept. 11-13: Boonville, MO – Living History Event at annual steam engine festival. <https://mcwra.org>

Sept. 16: “Railroads During the War of the Rebellion, their use as Both Strategic and Tactical Assets,” presented by Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69th St., Overland Park, KS. <https://cwrtkc.org>.

Sept. 23: “A Thousand May Fall: An Immigrant Regiment’s Civil War,” by Brian Matthew Jordan, Civil War Round Table, Affton Elks Lodge, 6330 Heege Rd., St. Louis, <https://civilwarstlmo.org>

Oct. 6: “The Prairie Grove Campaign,” presented by Doug Gifford, Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles, MO, Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm St., St. Charles, MO. <https://cwrtsc.org>

Oct. 17: Outing – Tour of Jefferson Barracks and the MO Civil War Museum, Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles, MO, Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm St., St. Charles, MO. <https://cwrtsc.org>

Oct. 21: “Lockdown: Outlaws, Lawmen & Frontier Justice in Jackson County, MO” Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69th St, Overland Park, Kansas, <https://cwrtkc.org>

Oct. 28: “How Should Americans Understand Gettysburg in 2026,” presented by Gary Gallagher, Civil War Round Table, Affton Elks Lodge, 6330 Heege Rd., St. Louis. <https://civilwarstlmo.org>

If you have an upcoming event in Missouri that you would like to include in our quarterly newsletters, please send the information to 1861MissouriSpeaks@gmail.com

Do you know someone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter? Please email requests to 1861MissouriSpeaks@gmail.com. **Watch for future issues**, where we will highlight Missouri Civil War Round Tables and Reenactors’ Associations! If you would like your group included, please send information to 1861MissouriSpeaks@gmail.com.