



Civil War Weekend

Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, 2026
(10 AM - 4 PM)



A living history event celebrating life during the Civil War. Included throughout the day are soldier encampments, civilian presentations, 19th century music and instrument demonstrations, and information on researching your Civil War ancestors. Members of the Sons and Daughters of the Union Veterans, Julia Dent Camp, Turner Brigade, and others will participate in the event.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 11

- 10:00 AM Opening Historic Weapons demonstration
- 10:30 AM History Talk: Now is Our Time to Strike: 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry by Cody Faber in the Visitor Center Theater
- 11:00 PM Civil War baseball
- 11:30 AM Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie
- 12:00 PM Historic Weapons demonstration
- 12:30 PM Civil War baseball
- 1:00 PM Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie
- 1:30 PM Historic Weapons demonstration
- 2:00 PM Civil War baseball
- 2:30 PM Concert: Independent Silver Band in the front yard of White Haven
- 3:30 PM Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie
- 3:45 PM Closing Historic Weapons demonstration

Now is Our Time to Strike: 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry

The 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry were the first black troops to see combat in the American Civil War and this distinction was given to them at a battle that took place in Missouri! The risks they took in fighting for freedom included re-enslavement and death, yet they joined and encouraged hundreds of thousands of other African Americans to do the same. General Grant himself said 'They will make good soldiers', and he could not have been more correct. Join visiting Park Ranger Cody Faber as he discusses this important unit's creation, the battles they fought, where they served, and how their fight for freedom made them so influential in America's history!



Captain William Mathews
(Kansas State Historical Society)



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Did the Civil War really end at Appomattox, Virginia?

It is commonly believed that the Civil War ended at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865 when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. However, was that really the case? As the Confederacy was falling apart, an estimated 175,000 troops remained in the field and were not included in the surrender. These troops were loosely dispersed throughout the Confederacy yet Confederate President Jefferson Davis vowed to keep the war going. Join Park Ranger Ashton Farrell to discover what happened in the weeks and months after the famous meeting at Appomattox Court House.

- 10:00 AM Opening Historic Weapons demonstration
- 10:30 AM Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie
- 11:00 AM Women's Clothing during the Civil War
in the Visitor Center Classroom
- 12:00 PM Historic Weapons demonstration
- 1:00 PM Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie
- 1:30 PM Historic Weapons demonstration
- 1:00 PM History Talk: Did the Civil War really
end at Appomattox Court House?
by Ashton Farrell in the Visitor Center Theater
- 2:00 PM Historic Weapons demonstration
- 2:30 PM Women's Clothing during the Civil War
in the Visitor Center Classroom
- 3:00 PM Professor Farquar & Polecat Annie
- 3:45 PM Historic Weapons demonstration



Grant and Lee Appomattox - Thulstrup 1885
(Library of Congress)