

WHAT IS THE BATTLE?

In July, 1779, Spain joined the American Revolutionary War against Great Britain. Great Britain had ordered its generals in Canada to begin expeditions against Spanish settlements on the Mississippi River a few weeks before this. Their mission was to drive out the rebels led by George Rogers Clark. Clark learned of this and warned the Spanish Commandant at Saint Louis, Fernand de Leyba, in March, 1780 to prepare for an attack. DeLeyba began fortifying the village. With money from the villagers and his own resources, and with volunteer labor, he began to construct a tower which we call Fort San Carlos at what is now the intersection of 4th and Walnut Streets. He also had the villagers dig a mile-long trench from each side of the tower to the riverbank. The Spanish brought cannons to place in the tower from an abandoned fort.

Around 1PM on May 26, 1780 the large force of Indians, fur traders and seasoned troops under British command attacked the village. These attackers found the village to be protected by the tower and about 200 armed defenders. However, some villagers were surprised working in the fields, and about 21 were killed and 70 captured. The cannon fire alarmed the Indians and they withdrew. The British western campaign failed. The village of Saint Louis was never attacked again. The same day George Rogers Clark and his army defeated the British at Cahokia.

WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE?

The Commemoration Committee is a group which has come together to publicize what was probably the only battle of the American Revolution fought west of the Mississippi River. A yearly Commemoration Service is conducted and a movement is afoot to secure a monument on the St. Louis Riverfront to the people and history of this battle. All interested people are welcome to join the Committee. Dues are \$10, mailed to the address below. There are many ways to contribute to the Committee's efforts, meetings occur about 4 times per year and one's involvement can be at any level – from active to simply paying dues or donating.

HOW TO REACH US:

Mail: FSC Commemoration Committee

The UPS Store #333

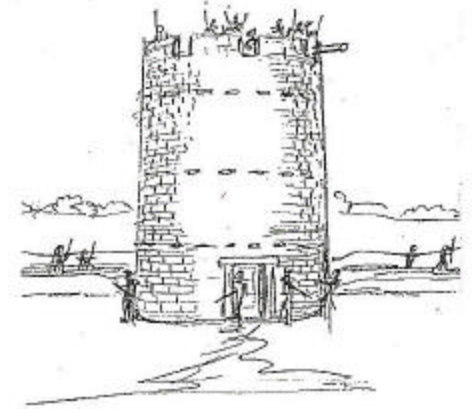
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THE BATTLE OF FORT SAN CARLOS
May 26, 1780



An American Revolutionary War Battle fought west of the Mississippi River at present-day Saint Louis, Missouri

**COMMEMORATION
COMMITTEE FOR THE
BATTLE OF FORT SAN
CARLOS AT ST. LOUIS,
MISSOURI 1780**

**HTTP://BATTLEOFFORTSAN
CARLOS.ORG**

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The Commemoration Service for 2011 will be conducted on Sunday, May 29 at 2PM at the Missouri History Museum located at Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park with plenty of free parking. The speaker will be Meredith Hawkins, Principal Investigator for The Archaeological Research Center. Her topic will be French Colonialism in the St. Louis area in 1780 and before.

The Committee is working closely with the Missouri Historical Society on what will be a large exhibit on the American Revolution in the West

Ideally the annual Commemoration Service will be but one facet of the project which will include a traveling exhibition, a book, curriculum for teachers and perhaps a website and/or film.

All are welcome at the service, one does not need to be a member to attend.

The Committee welcomes all people who wish to join our commemorative efforts, affiliation with another group certainly is not necessary to offer valuable input to the Committee's efforts! Daniel F. Carr is the current President, his wife Margaret A. Carr is the Treasurer and there is a growing number of other members on the Committee – Please join us!

Incorporated in the State of Missouri

FORT SAN CARLOS MEDAL



The Committee is pleased to offer a handsome medal to all interested persons. It measures 3.5" top to bottom, the reverse is also printed. It can be worn at any time on the right side with other medals or alone. The ribbon is red, blue & gold and has a pinback. Please order through the committee address on the reverse by sending \$12 to include postage. Price is \$10 if picked up from a Committee member. All proceeds will go to the furthering of our Commemorative efforts.

TIMELINE FOR THE BATTLE

1754-63 French & Indian War

Nov. 5, 1762 France gives Spain the West side of Mississippi River in a secret treaty

1763 War ends; Treaty of Paris gives all French land east of Mississippi River to Britain. Spain cedes Florida to Britain.

Feb. 1764 St. Louis is founded by the French on the west side of the Mississippi.

July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence is signed.

June 16, 1779 Spain declares war on Britain.

March, 1780 A trapper warns St. Louis that an attack on the town is imminent.

May 25, 1780 The Feast of Corpus Christi is a holiday for the settlers in St. Louis.

May 26, 1780 The Battle of Fort San Carlos is fought – the enemy is repelled and Saint Louis is never again attacked.

1801 Spain gives the territory west of the Mississippi River back to France by secret treaty.

March 9-10, 1804 Ceremony of the Three Flags is held. The Spanish flag is lowered and is replaced by the French flag. Twenty-four hours later, the French flag is lowered and the flag of the United States of America is raised, marking the start of the Westward Expansion of the United States.

From The Battle of Fort San Carlos by Margaret A. Carr, ©1997