

Civil War Round Table of St. Charles October 2025 Newsletter

At our next meeting on Tuesday, October 7, we will discuss the Battle of Wilson's Creek before our battlefield tour on October 18. The Battle of Wilson's Creek, fought on August 10, 1861, was the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River. It involved Union Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon's Army of the West against Confederate forces led by Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch and Major General Sterling Price. Despite a surprise attack by Lyon, the Union forces were repelled, leading to a Confederate victory that bolstered Southern sentiment in Missouri. The battle resulted in approximately 2,300 total casualties, with Lyon being killed during the fight. The Union retreated to Springfield, Missouri, marking a significant setback for the Union in the western theater of the war.

Our next tour will be a battlefield tour of Wilson's Creek on the weekend of October 18-19. Sergeant First Class (retired) Kent Fujiwara will give a presentation on Wilson's Creek in October and will be the lead guide during the tour. We will meet at the visitor center at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at 10:00 a.m. There will be time to tour the museum and watch a brief documentary before we head out onto the battlefield. The tour will include several stops at locations where significant events took place during the battle. The tour will last several hours. After the tour, we'll head to Flat Creek Republic for a late lunch/early supper. On Sunday, those who choose to spend the night can meet at Park Central Square in Springfield at 10:00 a.m. for a driving tour of the 1863 Battle of Springfield. Try to do some advance reading about the Battles of Wilson's Creek and Springfield to enhance your learning experience during the tours.

I am currently creating our 2026 agenda. I have some interesting ideas, but I need more. If you've a topic you would like us to explore, or **if you would like to research and present on a certain topic**, please let me know. We have many knowledgeable members in our group who have contributed in the past, and we would enjoy hearing from more of you. Don't be intimidated. Volunteer! We've had two interesting outings this year, plus one more scheduled and another possibility. If you have an idea for an outing, please let me know.

We now have our own web page, thanks to Dorris Keeven-Franke, who created the Civil War Round Table of St. Charles County website. Check out the website for upcoming events and to see what we've been up to in the past.

<https://cwrtsc.org/>

We meet at the Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm Street in St. Charles, where presentations begin at 7:00 p.m.

In November, Captain Greg Waters will give a presentation about Shelby's Missouri raid. Numerous Confederate cavalry raids into Missouri occurred during the American Civil War as part of the conflict for control of Missouri. These raids were the result of multiple failed campaigns by conventional rebel forces to seize and hold Missouri for the Confederacy. In September 1863, Confederate General Joseph Shelby led a raid into central Missouri. Shelby led this raid to recruit soldiers, prevent Missouri troops from reinforcing the Eastern Theater, and secure a short-term victory for the rebels in Arkansas, which had been demoralized by recent Federal successes. Greg will analyze whether Shelby's raid was a success, or "thrilling but pointless."

Last month's talk about the beginning of the Civil War is now available on our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYSc7n3afeQ&t=200s>

There are several other presentations on the channel now, including Captain Greg Waters's presentation about Camp Butler in January, Dorris Keeven-Franke's presentation about Archer Alexander, and the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. If you missed a meeting or cannot attend this month, I encourage you to check out our presentations on YouTube. Also, please hit the Like and Subscribe buttons, which enable the algorithms to make the page more prominent on search engines. Please pass along the information about our YouTube channel and our website. Thanks to Greg and Daniel Waters for running the page.

Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles County – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@CWRTSCC>

In addition to their formal monthly meetings, the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis has a small group that meets informally for more intimate discussions about the Civil War. They meet at 11:00 a.m. at Hearth Room Café, 265 Lamp and Lantern Village, Town and Country. They typically meet on the first Thursday of each month. Please RSVP to Paul at: pvh1225@aol.com if you plan to attend. Steve Tesson and I have attended several meetings, and they are very interesting. This month, the meeting is on Thursday, October 2 so you'll need to email right away

If you're interested in what other Civil War Round Tables are up to, check out the Civil War Round Table Congress website.

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/>

Finally, after being closed for several years, the Old Courthouse in St. Louis reopened on 3 May after renovation.

Tentative 2025 Agenda

January 7: History of Camp Butler, Illinois, during the Civil War -Greg Waters
February 4: Archer Alexander and the Underground Railroad-Dorris Keeven-Franke
March 4: The Fort Henry and Fort Donelson Campaign-Doug Gifford
April 1: Shiloh-Doug Gifford
April 26-27: Springfield, Illinois Tour
May 6: From Shiloh to Corinth and Hallack's Siege of Corinth-Greg Waters
May 18: St. Charles County Civil War afternoon outing-Dorris Keeven-Franke
June 3: Power Couple: The Story of Jesse and John Fremont-Greg Wolk
July 1: History of the Missouri State Militia and the Enrolled Missouri Militia-Jim Erwin
August 5: The Common Soldier in the Civil War-Layne Chartrand
September 2: Opening Hostilities: South Carolina, Maryland, Missouri, and Virginia-Doug Gifford
October 7: The Battle of Wilson's Creek-Kent Fujiwara
October 18-19: Wilson's Creek Battlefield Tour
November 4: Joseph Shelby's 1863 Missouri Raid-Greg Waters
December 2: Movie TBD, cookies and hot chocolate

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, or would like to volunteer to present, contact Doug at historynutt@hotmail.com or (636) 290-0710.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064540790434>

YouTube page: Civil War Roundtable of St. Charles County - YouTube

or

<https://www.youtube.com/@CWRTSCC>

Website: <https://cwrtsc.org/>