

# Civil War Round Table of St. Charles May 2026 Newsletter

On Tuesday, May 5, Dorris Keeven-Franke will present a program on The Union Fort at Peruque Creek in St. Charles County during the Civil War. When the Civil War began in 1861, St. Charles County was home to both Unionists and Confederates. By the summer of 1862, the conflict had dragged on long enough that the initial three-month enlistments were a thing of the past, and many men had joined both Union and Confederate armies. Those who remained, known as Missouri's Home Guards, were local Union men determined to hold the state for Lincoln and the Union.

The county's large German population filled the Home Guard's ranks, led by German-born Lt. Col. Arnold Krekel. Confederate bushwhackers and guerrillas worked constantly to undermine them, targeting the North Missouri Railroad, a vital Union supply line. In November 1862, a Union fort was constructed where the railroad crossed a steep ravine over Peruque Creek.

In 1863, Confederates met at Naylor's Store to plan an attack on the wooden trestle bridge, intending to saw through its timbers when Union troops were away. Weapons and ammunition were stored nearby in preparation.

In June, Dr. Lofton Woodiel will have a presentation titled:

William C. Quantrill, the Father of Post-Civil War Missouri Banditry

During the American Civil War, Captain William C. Quantrill commanded a band of Confederate irregulars who wreaked death and destruction throughout the Missouri and Kansas borders. Tactical and technical perfection were trademarks of his organization. Prior to the war, Quantrill was a schoolteacher in Ohio. A number of Quantrill's men continued to hone their skills, maintained these deviant behaviors, and channeled them into post-war career banditry; e.g., James Robert Cummins, the James Brothers (Jesse and Frank), and the Younger Brothers (Cole, Bob, and Jim). Just as a teacher motivates his students to adopt specific standards of academic and social behavior, did Quantrill's pedagogical skill set propel his subordinates into deviant careers? This interdisciplinary research design employs historical context analysis, psychological evaluation of motivation in a running text, and the application of criminological theory.

Find more articles about the Civil War in Missouri at The Civil War in Missouri Blog:

<https://historynutt.net/blog>

We meet at the Kathryn Linnemann Library, 2323 Elm Street in St. Charles,  
where presentations begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Fry's Lyon Foundation, 1861 Missouri Speaks Facebook page posts "This day in Missouri" Civil War articles. Check out their site for interesting posts about Missouri's Civil War history:  
<https://www.facebook.com/1861MissouriSpeaks>

In December, the Kathryn Linnemann Library staff informed us that, due to a change in library operating hours, we must adjust the start time of our meetings. Beginning January 6, all meetings will start at 6:00 p.m.

Last month's presentation, by Tom Raifner, will be available in May. In the meantime, there are several new videos about our Wilson's Creek tour, as well as previous presentations. If you missed a meeting or would like to revisit a program, I encourage you to explore the full selection of videos on our page.

Please remember to **Like and Subscribe**, as this greatly improves our visibility in search results. Feel free to share the link to our YouTube channel and website with anyone who may be interested.

Special thanks to **Greg and Daniel Waters** for managing and updating our channel.

Civil War Round Table 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 hosts a small informal discussion group for more intimate conversations about the Civil War. The group meets at **11:00 a.m.** at the **Hearth Room Café**, 265 Lamp and Lantern Village, in Town and Country. They typically gather on the **first Thursday of each month.**

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Paula at [pzalar@aol.com](mailto:pzalar@aol.com).

Steve Tesson and I attend these meetings, and they are always engaging and informative. This month, the meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 7.**

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/>

## Tentative 2026 Agenda

~~January 6: The Missouri State Guard-Doug Gifford~~  
~~February 3: General John A. Logan of Illinois-Greg Waters~~  
~~March 3: The Romance of Julia and Ulysses Grant in St. Louis-Jim Irwin~~  
~~March 28-29: Outing-Wilson's Creek and The Battle of Springfield Tours~~  
~~April 7: General Orders #11-Tom Rafiner~~  
May 5: Peruque Creek Fort-Dorris Keeven Franke  
June 2: William Quintrill-Dr. Loftin Woodiel  
July 7: General Lloyd Tilghman, CSA-Steve Tesson  
August 4: The Camp Jackson Affair-Nick Sacco  
September 1: The End of the Civil War-Doug Gifford  
October 6: The Prairie Grove Campaign-Doug Gifford  
October 17: Outing-Tour of Jefferson Barracks and the MO Civil War Museum  
November 3: The Battle of Perryville, Kentucky-Greg Waters  
December 1: Cookies, Cocoa, and a Documentary; Shiloh Firey Trial

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, or would like to volunteer to present, contact  
Doug at [historynutt@hotmail.com](mailto: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://cwrtscc.org/>

The Civil War in Missouri Blog: <https://historynutt.net/blog>