The Civil War Round Table of St Louis

The Civil War Round Table of St Louis is a not-for-profit organization catering to the vast public interest in the U.S. Civil War. Round Table dinners include dinner and guest speakers. On Sept. 24, Dr. Mark Lause was featured. Mark A. Lause is Professor of History and the author of four books including *Price's Lost Campaign: the 1864 Invasion of Missouri* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011). Raised in a blue-collar Missouri community in the path of General Sterling Price’s 1864 campaign through the state, Dr. Lause came naturally to his interest in the subject.

Price’s Lost Campaign

In the fall of 1864, during the last brutal months of the Civil War, the Confederates made one final, desperate attempt to rampage through the Shenandoah Valley, Tennessee, and Missouri. Price’s Raid was the common name for the Missouri campaign led by General Sterling Price. Involving tens of thousands of armed men, the 1864 Missouri campaign has too long remained unexamined by a book-length modern study, but now, Civil War scholar Mark A. Lause fills this long-standing gap in the literature, providing keen insights on the problems encountered during and the myths propagated about this campaign.

Lause’s account of the Missouri campaign of 1864 brings new understanding of the two distinct phases of the campaign, as based upon declared strategic goals. Additionally, as the author reveals the clear connection between the military campaign and the outcome of the election, he successfully tests the efforts of new military historians to integrate political, economic, social, and cultural history into the study of warfare. In showing how both sides during Price’s Raid used self-serving fictions to provide a rationale for their politically motivated brutality and were unwilling to risk defeat, Lause reveals the underlying nature of the American Civil War as a modern war.

Mark A. Lause is Senior Professor of American History at the University of Cincinnati and the author of both *Price’s Lost Campaign* and *The Collapse of Price’s Raid*. Much of his work has focused on pioneering new approaches to understanding the Civil War as “the Second American Revolution.”