



# ★ *The Border Star*

Official Monthly Publication of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

● Founded 1992

● Incorporated 1994

*"Studying the Border War and Beyond"*

January 2011

## The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri

### 2011 Officers

President ----- Mike Calvert  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P. ----- Pat Gradwohl  
2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. ----- Art Kelley  
Secretary ----- Karen Wells  
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Historian ----- Paul Tate

### Board Members

Delbert Coin Karen Coin  
Terry Chronister Barbara Hughes  
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Steve Olson Carol Olson  
Terry McConnell

### *The Border Star* Editor

Dennis Myers  
12800 E. 48<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 769-6490

### Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 p.m.

Villages of Jackson Creek  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive  
(lower level)

Independence, Missouri

**Visitors Always Welcome!**

### Annual Dues

Individual ----- 15.00  
Family ----- 25.00  
Student (under 21) ----- 5.00  
Newsletter Only (no meetings) 10.00

### For Information

Mike Calvert ----- 836-1013  
Beverly Shaw ----- 225-7944  
Art Kelley ----- 373-4101

### Mailing Address

C.W.R.T. of Western Missouri  
P. O. Box 3019  
Independence, MO 64055

### Website

[www.orgsites.com/mo/cwrt](http://www.orgsites.com/mo/cwrt)



The bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 was the opening engagement of the American Civil War. The countdown to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 12, 2011 is just 90 days away, as of the date of our next Round Table meeting on January 12, 2011.

### *President's Letter*

**"Any understanding of this nation has to be based, and I mean really based, on an understanding of the Civil War. I believe that firmly. It defined us. The Revolution did what it did. Our involvement in European wars, beginning with the First World War, did what it did. But the Civil War defined us as what we are and it opened us to being what we became, good and bad things. And it is very necessary, if you are going to understand the American character in the twentieth century, to learn about this enormous catastrophe of the mid-nineteenth century. It was the cross-roads of our being, and it was a hell of a crossroads."**

Shelby Foote interview in the documentary series *The Civil War* (1990)

I'm sure that all of us have heard Shelby Foote in his slow soft Mississippi drawl say these words. I chose to use them today because I believe they should act as compass to direct us in our study and remembrance during the next four year celebration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. As we look back upon the events both big and small and reflect upon them on how they have affected our lives today. Let's look at the events in the context of; if they didn't happen what our world would be like and conversely, why is our world like it is because they did.

No one can argue against the fact that the Civil War did change the course of our 19<sup>th</sup> century ancestors but, how has it changed us? Without the Civil War would you live where you live? Would your views on your fellow man be different? Would your great-great grandfather be your great-great grandfather? Would your family be wealthy because of a southern plantation? Would your family not be wealthy because your family didn't own the munitions plant?

Just a few question to start you out. You see the Civil War did define us. For better or worse we are what we are because men, 150 years ago stood up for what they thought was right. Let's study this watershed conflict with our eyes open ready to understand that where we have come from has brought us to where we are.

Here's to a prosperous and happy New Year. I hope to see you at our meetings and events. It is going to be an exciting year.

*~Mike Calvert, President, Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri*

## **CWRTWMO Calendar**

### January 2011 Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Villages of Jackson Creek (lower level),  
3980-A S. Jackson Drive, Independence, MO  
Annual “Show and Tell” from our members  
and friends. Check in with Mike Calvert so  
that he can allocate time for everyone who  
wishes to participate.

### Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Home of Beverly Shaw, 17313 E. 51 Terr. Court,  
Independence, Missouri.

## **Other Events**

### Discovering the Civil War

November 10, 2010 - April 17, 2011  
Lawrence O’Brien Gallery in the National Archives  
Building, Washington, D.C. Part Two called  
“Consequences.” Then the exhibit will travel.  
The Durham Museum, Omaha, NE (Fall 2013).

### Bingham and the Civil War

Saturday, January 8, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.  
Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitors Center.  
Mike Dickey, Site Administrator: Bingham and  
The Civil War. First of a series which continues  
February 5, March 5 and April 2, 2011.

### Common Soldier of the Civil War

Saturday, January 8, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.  
Antioch Library, 6060 N. Chestnut, Gladstone, MO.  
It’s 1861 and the Civil War is raging. Common  
soldier Greg Higginbotham takes you through daily  
life. From enlistment procedures to camp life,  
relive the past of America’s heroes. Register at  
(816) 454-1306.

### Cass County Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Pearson Hall, Cass County Library, 400 E.  
Mechanic, Harrisonville, MO. Don Gilmore: “The  
Camp Jackson Affair.”

### Tombstone Talks

Thursday, January 13, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific,  
Independence, MO. John Mark Lambertson:

“Marble Roses: Tombstone Art, Decoration, and  
Symbolism.” \$6 per lecture or \$25 for series of 6  
(Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12.)  
Advance reservations at (816) 325-7575.

### Boone County Historical Society Exhibit

Thursday, January 13, 2011 – 5:00 p.m. opening.  
3801 Ponderosa St., Columbia, MO. Civil War  
artifacts will be exhibited in a Progressive format  
for 15 months to show new contents every 3 months  
to represent a different year of the Civil War.  
Viewing hours are Wed.-Sun., 12:30 - 4:30 p.m..  
Performances and interactive gatherings will also be  
included. January 21, 2011-“John Brown’s Body”  
by Stephen Vincent Benet will be performed.

### On Slavery’s Border

Sunday, January 16, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.  
Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City,  
MO. Diane Mutti Burke: “On Slavery’s Border:  
Missouri’s Small Slaveholding Households, 1815-  
1865.” Mutti Burke, an assistant professor at  
UMKC, discusses her new book. RSVP at (816)  
701-3407 or [www.kclibrary.org](http://www.kclibrary.org).

### Missouri State Archives Speaker Series

Thursday, January 20, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600  
West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO. Jeremy  
Neely: “The Border Between Them: Violence and  
Reconciliation on the Kansas-Missouri Line.” Also  
available during business hours is the exhibit  
“Divided Loyalties: Civil War Documents from the  
Missouri State Archives” until May 31, 2011.  
Missouri State Archives is open 8:00 a.m. – 5:00  
p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
and from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday.  
Saturday hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Closed Sundays.

### Symphony Designers’ Showhouse Preview

Saturday and Sunday, January 22-23, 2011  
Saturday – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday – Noon  
to 5:00 p.m., 1000 Westover, Kansas City, MO. \$5.

### Kansas and the Civil War

Tuesday, January 25, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Tonganoxie Community Historical Society, 201 W.  
Washington, Tonganoxie, KS. Craig Miller: “How  
the Civil War Affected the State of Kansas.”

### Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Tuesday, January 25, 2011 – Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Homestead Country Club, 6510 Mission Road,  
Prairie Village, KS. Wes Franklin, Director of the  
Newton County Historical Society: “Battle of  
Newtonia.” Dinner-\$25. For reservations call Paul  
Gault at (816) 741-2962.

### Bleeding Kansas Lecture Series

Sunday, January 30, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.  
Constitution Hall State Historic Site, 319 Elmore  
Street, LeCompton, KS. “Against All Odds – the  
Topeka Constitution and Rush to Statehood.” First  
in a series which continues Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 20,  
and Feb. 27. Free. Refreshments served.

### Frank James: Hero or Hoodlum?

Monday, January 31, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Dearborn Library, 206 Maple Leaf Ave., Dearborn,  
MO. Spend an hour with Frank James. He’ll share  
details about his early life, the Civil War, and his  
outlaw days. For reservations call (816) 450-3502.

### Civil War Trivia

Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.  
Excelsior Springs Library, 1460 Kearney Road,  
Excelsior Springs, MO. How much do you know  
about the Civil War? Trivia questionnaires will be  
available through March 15. Feel free to use the  
library’s resources to get the answers. An answer  
key will be available at the front desk. Reservations  
at (816) 630-6721.

### Living Abe Lincoln

Wednesday, February 2, 2011 – 11:30 a.m.  
Antioch Library, 6060 N. Chestnut, Gladstone,  
MO. Larry Greer, actor: Riveting account of the  
life and times of Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> president.  
Reservations at (816) 454-1306.

### Bingham and His Art

Saturday, February 5, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.  
Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitors Center,  
Arrow Rock, MO. Dr. Maryellen McVicker:  
“Bingham and His Art.” (Dr. McVicker was our  
Tour Guide in Boonville several years ago and  
our hostess at lunch in her home).

### Cole Younger & Frank James’ Wild West Show

Monday, February 7, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Edgerton Library, 404 Frank Street, Edgerton, MO.

Dave Bears & Gregg Higginbotham: Two outlaws  
talk about their noted exploits in earlier times.  
Reservations at (816) 790-3569.

### What Happened in April, 1861?

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Liberty Library, 1000 Kent Street, Liberty, MO.  
Come and find out what happened in April, 1861.  
For reservations call (816) 781-9240.

### **Dues for 2011**

Now it’s official that yearly dues for the Civil War  
Round Table of Western Missouri are payable for  
2011. You can pay them at a membership meeting  
or mail them to CWRTWMO, 17313 E. 51 Terr.  
Court, Independence, MO 64055. Family dues are  
\$25, single dues are \$15, and a subscription only for  
the newsletter is \$10. Those who joined in July,  
2010 or later are paid for 2011.

### **Code for Entrance to Meeting Place**

We are very grateful to the Villages of Jackson  
Creek for allowing us to use the lower level  
exercise area for our membership meetings. The  
sliding doors at the entrance may be secured before  
7:00 p.m., but you can use the keypad code 1207\*  
to open them, or you can call Beverly Shaw on her  
cell phone at (816) 225-7944 to have someone come  
let you in. When you leave, you will also need to  
use the same code. Please do not try to force the  
doors open. If you have a problem, please come get  
someone from our group to help you.

### **Kansas City Posse of the Westerners**

One of our Round Table members, Dennis  
Garstang, asks if you are interested in the Old West.  
The Westerners meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the  
month at the Golden Ox for a delicious dinner and  
an Old West talk. For information you can call  
Dennis at (816) 569-1180 or E-Mail him at  
[dgarstang@kc.rr.com](mailto:dgarstang@kc.rr.com).

We have received word that the January 11, 2011  
speaker will be Shelton Ponder on the topic of the  
Buffalo Soldiers. There is a social time at 6:00 p.m.  
with dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Golden Ox in the  
historic stockyards area, 1600 Genesee, Kansas  
City, Missouri. Steak or salmon dinners are \$25 and  
chicken is \$20. Call Dennis to make a reservation.

### **Civil War Messages Still Being Received**

The January 2, 2011 Kansas City *Star* reveals “Civil War message opened, decoded.” It seems that a glass vial stopped up with a cork during the Civil War and until recently sitting on a shelf at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, was recently opened and a message decoded. It revealed that the Confederate general Pemberton could not expect help at the siege of Vicksburg. The date of the message was July 4, 1863, which was the day Pemberton surrendered to U. S. Grant. This was an especially terrible time in Vicksburg when Grant blocked the flow of supplies and support. Many in the city resorted to eating cats, dogs and leather and soup was made from wallpaper paste. The Confederate messenger bearing the vial arrived at the river’s edge and saw a U. S. flag flying over the city. Figuring out what was going on, he probably thought “this is pointless” and turned back. The vial was donated by Capt. William A. Smith who served during the Vicksburg siege.

### **Quantrill Collection in Gentry, Arkansas**

Richard Stewart has announced that the official opening for the “Quantrill Special Collections Research” at the Gentry Public Library has been set for May 19, 2012. Richard has been collecting books and other resources for several years and thanks all of you who have contributed. The library has also agreed to establish a smaller collection dubbed “QTRC” (Quantrill Teachers Resource Collection) which can be used for lesson plans and resources from grade school through high school and college. These resources do not deal solely with Quantrill but instead emphasize the Border War. If you would like to donate to this collection, you can reach Richard by sending an E-Mail to [soapboxstand@hotmail.com](mailto:soapboxstand@hotmail.com) or calling his wife’s cell phone at (816) 695-2731.

### **Happy New Year to the Jackson County Historical Society**

The Jackson County Historical Society will celebrate its annual gala on January 20, 2011. They have announced the recipients of the 2010 Outstanding Achievement Awards. The Jane Flynn Lifetime Award will be given to Henry Marnett. The Historical Book of the Year goes to Bruce Mathews, editor of *Elmwood Cemetery: Stories of Kansas City*. Historical film of the Year goes to

Gary Jenkins for “Negroes to Hire: Slave Life and Culture on Missouri Farms.” Volunteers of the Year are Gary Kimball at the Archives and Bud Vitt at the 1859 Jail Museum. The Preserving Jackson County History Award goes to the John B. Wornall House Museum for partnering with the Alexander Majors Home.

We congratulate the historical society for welcoming home an 1850s hand-carved walnut sofa which belonged to the William McCoy family who lived on West Farmer. The home has been restored by Brian and Sharon Snyder, members of the Round Table. It was donated by Mrs. Ina Harvey who has cared for the McCoy furnishings all these years.

### **The “Sesquicentennial” (150) Has Finally Arrived**

Not only is it hard to say, it’s harder to spell. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kansas statehood is January 29<sup>th</sup>. Events for the weekend include a big ceremony outside the capitol in Topeka, the opening of a year-long exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, and activities at the Shawnee Indian Mission and Grinter Place.

Check out [www.ks150.org](http://www.ks150.org) for a full calendar of 2011 lectures and festivals.

The Civil War also hits the 150-year mark. The Kansas City *Star* on January 1, 2011 listed re-enactments across Missouri such as the battles of Carthage (July 8-9), Wilson’s Creek (Aug. 12-14), and Lexington (Sept. 16-18). The Boonville *Daily News* on October 28, 2010 also listed the First Battle of Boonville (June 17-19). On March 12, 2011 the Fourth Missouri Grande Ball will be held in Springfield, MO. For more information go to [www.4moinf.com](http://www.4moinf.com). The Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission also announces a new website for information about Civil War events. It’s [www.MoCivilWar150.com](http://www.MoCivilWar150.com). The site also has links to photos from the Civil War, social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, a special YouTube channel, and a series of war related videos from Wide Awake Films.

Our friend, Len Eagleburger of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks (Springfield), is offering a weekly Civil War newsletter by E-Mail which you

can subscribe to free of cost by E-Mailing him at [leneagleburger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leneagleburger@sbcglobal.net). He will have links to newspaper and magazine articles of interest. He also points out the Round Table resources in Missouri: Kansas City Round Table ([www.cwrtkc.org](http://www.cwrtkc.org).) Cass County Round Table ([www.casscountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.casscountyhistoricalsociety.org) and click on Round Table page), St. Louis Round Table ([www.civilwarstlouis.org](http://www.civilwarstlouis.org)), and Mid-Missouri (Columbia) Civil War Round Table ([www.mmcwrt.missouri.org](http://www.mmcwrt.missouri.org)). The Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks is presently updating its website, and our own website will soon be available at [www.civilwarroundtableofwesternmissouri.org](http://www.civilwarroundtableofwesternmissouri.org).

Libraries and historical organizations also have many Civil War related offerings. The Missouri Valley Special Collections at the Central Library, 14 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO has a wonderful digital collection of photographs of 52 charcoal portraits of legends of the era such as William Quantrill, Jesse and Frank James, and William “Bloody Bill” Anderson. The collection is called “Guerillas and Outlaws.”

For more Civil War related photos and letters, you can go to [www.kchistory.org](http://www.kchistory.org). Border Warfare special topics appear at [www.kclibrary.org/kchistory-border-warfare-civil-war](http://www.kclibrary.org/kchistory-border-warfare-civil-war).

Our friends at the Missouri/Kansas Border War Network have created a YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/moksbnw](http://www.youtube.com/moksbnw) where you can see the life-like figures of Quantrill and Cole Younger as they discuss the plans and motivations behind the ride across Cass County to burn Lawrence, KS on August 21, 1863.

You can also view seven podcasts created by Freedom’s Frontier to tell the story about the Missouri-Kansas border war by going to [www.freedomsfrontier.org](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org). These podcasts are a partnership between the Kansas Humanities Council and the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. The seven podcasts are “James Henry Lane and Lanesfield” (Lanesfield School Historic Site at Edgerton, KS), “The Burnt District, Cass County, and the Youngers (Cass County Historical Society, Harrisonville, MO), “The Story of Aunt Polly” (Humboldt, KS), “The Battle of Lexington” (The Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, Lexington,

MO), “John Brown’s Raid on Vernon County” (Bushwhacker Museum, Vernon County Historical Society, Nevada, MO), “John Brown and the Adairs” (John Brown State Historic Site, Osawatomie, KS) and “The Story of Opothleyahola” (Wilson County and Woodson County, KS).

For those of you who like to hold an actual book or magazine in your hand, fear not, there are plenty of titles to choose from. Larry Wood of Joplin, MO has written *The Two Civil War Battles of Newtonia* and is available to speak to groups by E-Mailing [katie.parry@historypress.net](mailto:katie.parry@historypress.net). The December 15, 2010 issue of the Neosho *Daily News* featured an article about an old-fashioned “pounding in” at the Ritchey Mansion in Newtonia. For those of you who don’t know, a “pounding in” is the custom for people to welcome newlyweds into their new home by bringing a pound of sugar or flour, butter, potatoes, bacon, etc. The young couple, Robert and Rachel Martineau, are the new caretakers of the Ritchey Mansion.

The St. Louis Round Table has published *Political Cartoons of the American Civil War*. It’s a 52 page book of cartoons from many sources and is accompanied by a PowerPoint disc suitable for groups and schools. The price is \$14.95 postage paid and can be ordered from The Civil War Round Table of St. Louis, P.O. Box 220982, St. Louis, MO 63122.

Steve Olson of the Clay County Archives reminds us that the *1865 Clay County Historical Atlas* is available for purchase for \$20 plus \$2 for mail delivery. I’m sure Steve would be glad to hand deliver a copy to you at one of our meetings if you would give him a call at (816) 452-3540. The book is a collection of plat maps dating to the mid-1860s and has been researched to confirm property assignments.

A rather unusual title is *Financial Fraud and Guerrilla Violence in Missouri’s Civil War, 1861-1865* (\$55) by Mark Geiger, a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. He explores a previously unknown financial conspiracy at the start of the American Civil War and the reasons for the puzzling intensity of Missouri’s guerrilla conflict and experiences during

Reconstruction. It also reveals the nature of military mobilization in the antebellum U.S. Geiger's great-great grandfather was George Anderson, "a man of very bad character" in a newspaper account of his death. He was shot down by a mob in the streets of Boonville in October 1866. Ouch!

We have also received a catalogue from the Gatehouse Press which publishes Morningside Books and the *Gettysburg Magazine*. The Morningside Bookshop, The American Civil War Source, is operated by Mary E. Younger who is jointly responsible for the donation of the OR's (Official Records) to our Round Table along with Peggy Ruester of Marshall, Missouri. The books are now part of the Mainschien Collection housed at the Clay County Archives in Liberty, Missouri. If you would like to see the catalogue of "Used and Rare Books for Sale," call Beverly Shaw at (816) 225-7944 (cell). You can also get more information about the Gettysburg Magazine by going to [www.gettysburgmagazine.net](http://www.gettysburgmagazine.net).

### News About Members and Friends

We are sorry to report that **Karen Wells'** mother passed away in Nebraska on December 30, 2010. The services were held January 3, 2011 in rural Tilden, NE. Her mother's name was Delores Klamert, and she will be remembered fondly by her family and friends. If you wish to send a card, Karen's address is 9753 N. Smalley Ave., Kansas City, MO 64157.

We also wish to send our condolences to **Dick and Barbara Hughes** at the death of his brother in Texas, to **Charles and Claudetta McCorkendale** for the death of his brother, Clarence, in Arizona, and to the family of **Pete McComas** in Independence. Pete took our Battle of Westport tour several years ago.

Just in time for Christmas, **Dennis and Dorothy Myers** received a baby granddaughter, Norah Grace Myers, born to Matthew and Carmen Myers on Wednesday, December 22, 2010. Mom, dad, baby, and grandparents are doing fine.

Our long-distance member, **Scott Cauger** from New York State has been making trips back to Independence to look after his parents who have

spent some convalescent time at the Villages of Jackson Creek where we meet. Unfortunately his visits don't quite coincide with our meetings.

Longtime member from Slater, Missouri, **Fred McBurney**, does not get to attend meetings, but he was kind enough to send us a newspaper article from the Marshall *Democrat-News* about the Battle of Marshall archaeological dig in October, 2010.

**Mike Calvert** has been on the lecture circuit again. He spoke at the Platte County Historical Society Fall Dinner on October 24, 2010 about the last gunfight in Independence. His topic was "What Starts in Platte City Ends in a Killing Fray on the Independence Square."

From Clay County co-chairs **Carolyn Hatcher** and **Karen Wells** report a good turnout of about 380 people for the Fall Homes Tour in Liberty, Missouri. Carolyn is also planning a series of programs at the Clay County Museum.

We enjoyed seeing our friends from the Union Cemetery Historical Society at the Christmas luncheon and hearing **John Mark Lambertson** of the National Frontier Trails Museum give one of his "tombstone talks" about the famous and infamous whose graves he has visited. See the calendar of events for a schedule of his complete series to be given at the Museum.

The Union Cemetery group will be very busy in 2011 with a pilot project to restore parts of the cemetery and a commemoration of the birth of **George Caleb Bingham** (200 years ago). You will see from the calendar that our friends at Arrow Rock will also be doing a series of programs about Bingham. **Beverly Shaw** has been reading (actually skimming) H. W. Janson's mammoth work *History of Art* and just arrived at "The Modern World." She was surprised to see a reproduction of "Fur Traders on the Missouri" by George Caleb Bingham which is owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Two trappers glide downstream in the misty sunlight which reminds us of how much romantic adventurousness went into the westward expansion of the United States. What Beverly found more interesting was the note that it is a black fox chained to the prow of their dugout canoe; she

always thought it was a black cat. So much for artistic criticism.

Former member of the Round Table and docent at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate **Lee Jackson** contributed to an article in the Kansas City *Star* on December 19, 2010 about family traditions at Christmas. Every Thanksgiving her six children went to the basement to plan their “Christmas play.” Many times someone came plodding up the stairs to declare “no play this year” because so-and-so was not cooperating, but each year when Christmas Eve arrived, the play would go on. Since 1956 some combination of Lee’s six children, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren have made it happen. When someone marries into Lee’s family, she tells them, “You can have any other holiday you want, but I have Christmas Eve. Generations later we still have a Christmas Eve production.”

Our member **Bob Grover** is also a Color Guard Major General of the Missouri Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Along with other members including **Captain James Scott** who assisted Bob in presenting a program to the Round Table on colonial flags, they greeted the returning World War II Honor Flight Veterans at the Kansas City International Airport on November 3, 2010. The Honor Flights transport World War II survivors to Washington, D. C. to visit and reflect on their memorials. One of the veterans honored was **Peggy Smith**, former historian of the Westport Historical Society.

Finally we wish to congratulate **William Garrett Piston** and **Thomas P. Sweeney** for being honored by the State Historical Society of Missouri in 2010 for their book *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Missouri in the Civil War*. We were fortunate enough to have Dr. Piston come speak to our Round Table in 2010 thanks to **Jim Beckner**. The authors gave credit to **Connie Langum** of the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield for assistance in locating and digitalizing some of the images.

### Civil War Genealogy

Frankie Meyer wrote a column in the Joplin *Globe* in October 2010 about how the Civil War affected many U.S. ancestors who lived between 1861 and 1865. He describes the background of the research website called [www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss):

More than 4 million men served with Union regiments, and more than 2 million served with the Confederacy. There is a good chance that some of your male ancestors served in those troops.

When researching your Civil War ancestors, a great resource to check first is the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System. This database is an online index of men who served during the war. The resource was developed from the general index cards that were created from muster rolls by our War Department’s Record and Pension Division.

Such a large project could not have been tackled by one group alone. Several groups such as the National Park Service, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Genealogy Society of Utah worked together.

The database is rich with details about the soldiers and their families, as well as regiments, battles, cemeteries and prisoners. About 3.5 million soldiers from both the Confederate and Union troops are included, except for the sailors. The information on that group of records is still being developed.

At first glance, the site seems to have a mistake. The site states that the database was made using information from 6,270,639 index cards, yet only 3.5 million men served during the war.

This inconsistency can be explained. Each index card lists the service of a man and his unit. Because many men served in more than one regiment during the war, their names were sometimes recorded in different ways on the muster rolls.

In a few cases, only the man’s initials were recorded, while on other rolls, the soldier’s first name was given. Occasionally, men used an alias. On some cards, the soldier’s middle name was recorded rather than the first name. Each time that a name had a different spelling on a muster roll, the person was assigned a different card.

If you want to research Civil War ancestors, you can get help at local libraries and classes. One of them in our area is the Midwest Genealogy Center at 3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, Missouri. The phone number is (816) 252-7228.