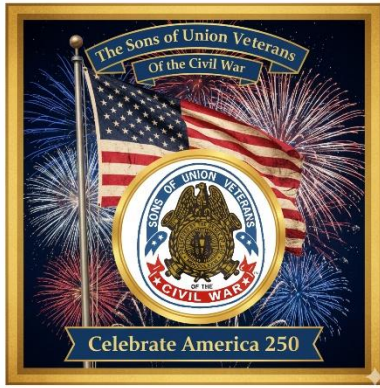




THE FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE FRANKLIN CAMP #5
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUME 6, No. 10

OCTOBER 14, 2026

A WELCOME BACK AND A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION



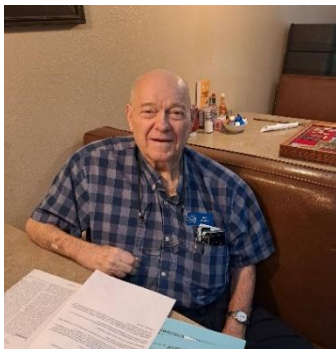
The September 2026 meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp was a joyous occasion as the gathering welcomed Linda Stoker, wife of past Camp Commander Bill Stoker. After suffering a serious heart attack on August 30 and spending several days in the hospital, Linda has made a miraculous recovery to the point of being able to join us for dinner and our meeting. Those in attendance gave her a round of applause as she entered the dining room with Bill.

As the meeting got underway, Commander Dan Stilley opened with a call for volunteers to spend time at the Mine Creek Battlefield Heritage Day that was coming up on Saturday. In a joint effort with our friends from the Sons of Confederate Veterans Key Camp, guided trail walks were being conducted several times during the day to the SCV Confederate Monument and to the SUVCW Benteen Bridge over the creek. These walks would be led by SUVCW Department of Kansas Commander Jim Thornton and SCV Kansas Division Commander Rick McPherson.



Dan then outlined upcoming events and lectures around the area in the coming weeks that may be of interest to everyone, including a Civil War Lecture at the World War I museum on October 21 at 6:30pm. This led into the camp proposing a Battle of Westport driving tour led by Commander Stilley. Plans were made for those wishing to take part to meet at the John Wornall House at 10:00am on Saturday, October 24. Also added to the calendar of events was the Franklin Camp Holiday Dinner and Get Together scheduled for Thursday, December 17, at 5:00pm and to be held at Pegah's Restaurant.

It was then time for the 2027 Camp Officer Elections. This took about two minutes. By a unanimous voice vote, the camp elected to carry forward its existing officers for 2027. There were no other nominations made.



For the evening's program, Brother Dale Walters led the gathering through a philosophical discussion of "Theories on the Myth of the Lost Cause." Utilizing his background in psychology and sociology, Dale performed an analysis of the major differences between the culture of the North and the culture of the South. He contrasted the growing industrial environment of the Union States against the agrarian lifestyle and environment of the Confederate States. Dale's evaluation also led to comparing the social standing of the common Confederate soldier to the elite plantation owners and how that affected the war effort of the Confederacy.

Dale's analysis and theories were quite thought-provoking and resulted in several animated discussions taking place following the meeting's adjournment.

MEETING OF 9-24-2026

ATTENDANCE:

17 Members and 2 Guests in Attendance

Mark Anderson	Matthew Archambault
John Hansen	Philip Hansen
Rick McPherson	Richard Miller
Roger Miller	Lane Smith
Bill Stilley	Dan Stilley
Bill Stoker	Ron Thompson
Jim Thornton	John Thorup
Dale Walters	Bryan Wampler
Jeff Winters	

GUESTS: John Atherton Linda Stoker

6:00pm

Call to Order by Commander Daniel Stilley
Invocation Given by Acting Camp Chaplain Bill Stoker
Opening Procedures – Commander Stilley and Camp Officers

Business:

- 1) Linda Stoker, wife of Bill Stoker, PCC --- Welcome Back--- Health Update
- 2) Mine Creek Heritage Day
 - a) Joint effort with SCV Key Camp
 - b) SUVCW Dept of KS Commander Jim Thornton and SCV Division Commander Rick McPherson to lead scheduled interpretive walks along battlefield trails.
 - c) Volunteers needed to watch over artifacts/weapons displays; interact with visitors.
- 3) Wornall House Tours and Civil War Days throughout October
- 4) Kansas State Fair – September 11-20 – Recap by Bryan Wampler & Jeff Winters
- 5) Veterans Day Ceremony and Quilt-of-Valor Presentations
 - a) Saturday, November 7, 10:00am; Prairie Point Quilt & Fabric Shop
 - b) Six QOV recipients for Franklin Camp; plus one additional from Baxter Springs arranged by Brother Rick Parmele
- 6) Civil War Lecture at the World War I Museum on October 21 at 6:30pm
- 7) Call for presentations and programs for 2027 camp meetings.
- 8) Battle of Westport Tour led by Commander Stilley on October 24; meet at the John Wornall House at 10:00am.
- 9) Franklin Camp raised \$140 to donate to the Churchill Camp Last Union Veteran Project
- 10) Camp Holiday Dinner & Get Together on Thursday, December 17 at Pegah's Restaurant
- 11) Officer Elections for 2027 – Unanimous
- 12) Treasurer's Report: \$140 to Churchill Camp; Balance = \$606.55
- 13 For the Good of the Camp Discussions

Patriotic Instruction: Brother Dale Walters presenting "Theories on the Myth of the Lost Cause"

8:00pm

Closing and Adjournment



CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS



John Wornall House and Alexander Majors House Special Tours

Visit <https://wornallmajors.org/events/> for a list of upcoming events, house tours, and walking tours currently scheduled, including some “Haunted Histories” and, just in time for Halloween, after dark “Paranormal Nights.”

Pershing Lecture Series | The Wars Before the War: The American Civil War

The National World War I Museum; Wednesday, October 21, 6:30pm

Officers in the American Expeditionary Forces believed that how they conducted war in France, particularly in 1918, validated the strategic and operational approaches implemented by their predecessors under Ulysses S. Grant in 1863-1865. Assessing the mixed lessons learned from the American Civil War, Dr. Mitch Klingenberg dissects the uniquely American way of theorizing – and waging – large-scale war.

Free with RSVP; Visit <https://www.theworldwar.org/events/pershing-lecture-series-wars-war-american-civil-war>. Click the **RED** RSVP button and follow the directions.

Battle of Westport Diving Tour Led by Franklin Camp Commander Dan Stilley

Those interested please meet up at The John Wornall House at 10:00am on Saturday, October 24. Planned stops/visits at the key points and highlights of the battle.

Franklin Camp Veterans Day Ceremony and Quilt-of-Valor Presentations

Saturday, November 7, 10:00am. Prairie Point Quilt and Fabric Shop located at 12116 W 95th St, Lenexa, KS 66215 (in the shops near Sam’s Club at 95th & Quivira). SUVCW Franklin Camp pays honor to our United States Veterans and assists with the presentation of a Quilt-of-Valor to seven U.S. Veterans.

SUVCW Franklin Camp Holiday Dinner and Get Together

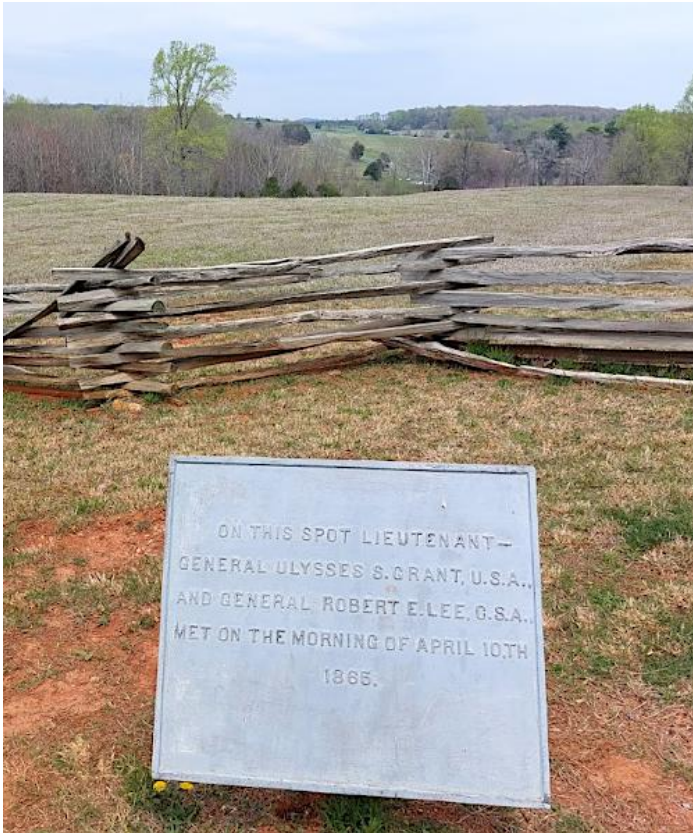
Thursday, December 17, 5:00pm at Pegah’s Restaurant (where we hold our meetings). Let’s all get together for some fun, fellowship, good food, and holiday cheer! There will be no camp business taking place. Please bring your spouses or significant other!



A TRIP BACK IN TIME: WITNESSING LEE and GRANT

ON "THE ROAD FROM APPOMATTOX"

At the Mine Creek Heritage Day on September 26, visitors were taken on a trip back in time to April 10, 1865. The historical moment taking place for their viewing is set in the open pastureland between the lines of Union and Confederate forces at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. The scene unfolding is a conversation between two very tired looking, bearded gentlemen in uniform. The man with the grey beard and hair is in a grey, pristine, dress uniform. The man with the reddish, brown beard and hair is dressed in a dusty blue uniform and chewing on a cigar.



They are, respectively, General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate States of America and General Ulysses S. Grant of the United States of America. Just 24 hours earlier, General Lee had signed papers surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant's Army of the Potomac. Now, General Grant had asked to meet with General Lee one-on-one between the lines to ask for General Lee's cooperation in bringing the other Confederate armies to the surrender table. General Grant is hoping that General Lee, as the most respected field commander in the Confederate Armed Forces, can use his position to influence the other field commanders to surrender and thereby prevent further, unnecessary bloodshed.

The above scenario was played out in the Mine Creek Battlefield Visitor Center with Brother Lane Smith of Franklin Camp (and the SCV Key Camp) presenting General Robert E. Lee and Brother Randy Durbin of Old Abe Camp presenting General Ulysses S. Grant. As Lane Smith mentioned at the end of the presentation, it is known that this meeting took place.

General Grant made mention of this meeting with General Lee in his memoirs published years after the war. Although no details exist as to the content of their conversation, much can be interpreted and extrapolated from the events that took place over the next several days following the surrender.

Brother Smith as Lee and Brother Durbin as Grant engaged in a spirited conversation between the two adversaries. It was truly easy to imagine such a debate between the two field commanders. At one point, General Grant offered documents to Lee that would allow him free, undeterred passage anywhere within the northern states --- in exchange for his cooperation in convincing the remaining Confederate armies to surrender. As the two generals debated back and forth, it became obvious both men had quite different opinions about responsibility for bringing an end to the hostilities.

Mine Creek Battlefield is very fortunate to receive this presentation from Brother Lane Smith and Brother Randy Durbin year after year at Heritage Day. It is a pleasure to experience a re-enactment of such an historical event. The Franklin Camp and the Key Camp extend their sincere appreciation to Brother Smith and Brother Durbin for sharing their knowledge of the events and their talents in recreating the events.

Franklin Camp Participates in Fall Festival



On October 10, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp once again participated in the Old Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival. As has become customary, the camp partnered with the Sons of Confederate Veterans Key Camp, setting up in the Heritage Groups section of the festival grounds. The Key Camp graciously provided a portion of their replica weapons collection for display, which always generates interest.

This year, brothers from the camp also assisted with the festival setup, with Brothers Phil Hansen, John Hansen, Past Camp Commander Bill Stoker,

and Junior Vice Commander Jeffrey Winters joining with the Indian Mission Site staff in putting up the tents/flies around the grounds on Wednesday, October 7. Thank you, gentlemen, for your community involvement!

Representing the Franklin Camp at the festival were Brothers Bill Stoker, Jim Thornton, Jeffrey Winters, Jerry Coffelt, and Rick McPherson. Note that all except Jeffrey are “Sons of Both” groups. Surprisingly, this year, although the crowds were much smaller than in years past, there seemed to be much more interest in the organizations. Many commented on the new banner behind the displays. This was the first year for using our new combined banner highlighting both organizations. Quite a few patrons picked up the brochures and business cards, expressing willingness to look into the two groups. Bill Stoker reports that one gentleman returned multiple times and even sat down with the group to learn more.



As it has been every year at the festival, the highlight of our participation was Bill Stoker and his demonstration of loading and firing an 1853 Enfield Rifle. This year the festival organizers had a speaker system throughout the grounds allowing more visitors to hear the announcement of Bill’s scheduled demonstrations. There were good crowds for the performance and of course the kids loved it! Whether Bill used a larger load of powder or it was the weather conditions, his firing seemed to be much louder than in previous years.

Although we had a very small participation by the camp, it still turned out to be a pretty good day.

Please Join Us!
2026 Veterans Day Ceremony
Quilt-of-Valor Presentations



Saturday, November 7, 2026

10:00 am

Prairie Point Quilt and Fabric Shop

12116 W. 95th Street, Lenexa



Hosted by The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Franklin Camp No. 5

2026 VETERANS DAY QUILT-OF-VALOR RECIPIENTS

MIKE CRADER: Colonel, United States Army; Served 34 years (February 1986 to January 2020); Military Occupational Specialty was Logistics with the Corps of Engineers; Assigned to the 35th Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom; Awarded the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit.



ROY VILLARREAL: Gunnery Sergeant E-7, United States Marine Corps; Served 20 years (June 1975 to August 1995); Awarded Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Medal.



CRAIG KELLING: Radioman Seaman E-3, United States Navy; served 3 years (June 1971 to June 1974); Military Occupational Specialty was Radio/Communications; Deployed to Vietnam; Served aboard the destroyer USS Hanson DD-832; Awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.



CURTIS WILLIAMS: Specialist E4, United States Army; Served March 1970 to November 1971; Military Operations Specialty was Infantryman 11-Bravo; Deployed with the Americal Division to Vietnam; Awarded Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal.



PHIL RIVERA: Master Sergeant E-8, United States Marine Corps; Served 34 years (November 1964 to February 1998); Military Operations Specialty was Infantry; Deployed twice to Vietnam; Served with G Company (Golf Company) of the 27th Marine Regiment; Awarded Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Purple Heart.



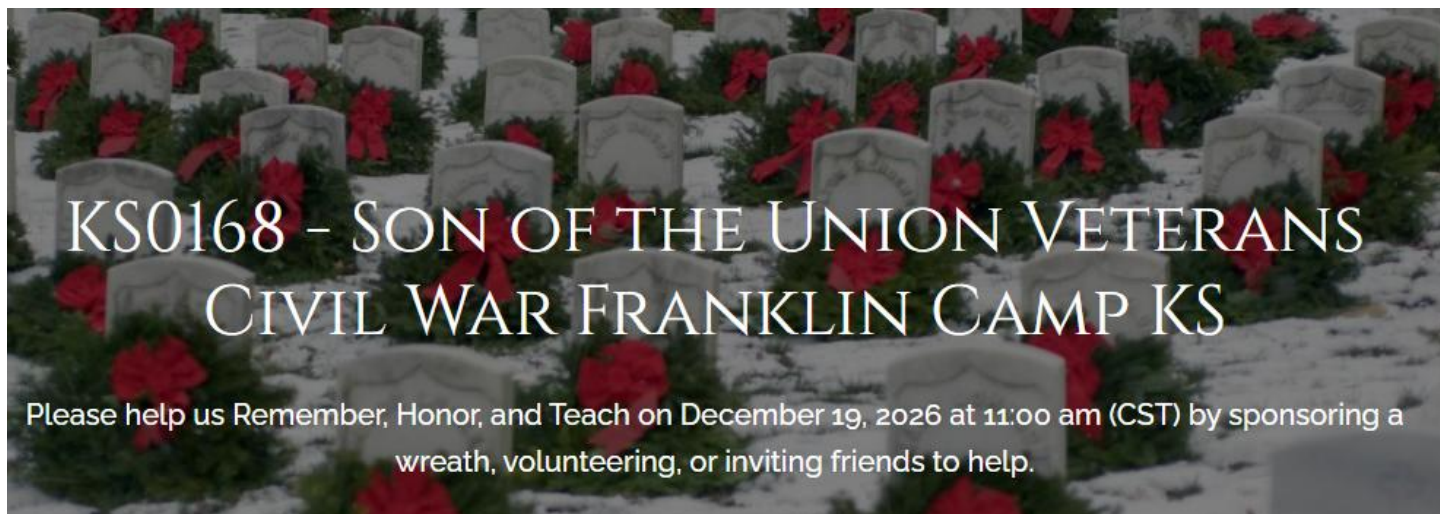
ALAN MOORE: Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army; Served 29 years (September 1968 to October 1997); Military Operations Specialty was Combat Infantry; Deployments include Vietnam, Southwest Asia, Europe, multiple posts in the United States; Awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Legion of Merit.



THEODORE LESLIE KIMZEY: Master Sergeant, United States Marine Corps; Served 21 years (February 1974 to April 1995); Military Operations Specialties included Infantry Rifleman, Infantry Unit Leader, and Personnel/Administrative Chief; Deployments included the Western Pacific aboard the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier, Jungle Warfare Training in the Philippines, Mountain Warfare Training in the Sierra Nevada; Campaigns included Operation Frequent Wind and Operation Eagle Pull (both part of the final evacuation from Vietnam in 1975); Awarded Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (x2), Navy Achievement Medal (x2), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.



SPONSOR A WREATH NOW
FOR A U.S. VETERAN'S GRAVE
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY DECEMBER 19



On December 19, 2026, at 11:00 am, The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp KS will be helping Johnson County Memorial Gardens to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

Wreath sponsorship is only \$17. And \$5 comes back to the camp!

Please visit <https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/180926/Overview/?relatedId=0> to sponsor a wreath through the SUVCW Franklin Camp. Click the **RED** "Sponsor Wreaths" button and follow the onscreen directions. You may sponsor a wreath for our chosen cemetery, or you will be given an option to designate your wreath to be placed on a loved one's grave at a participating cemetery. A Wreaths Across America volunteer will ensure your wreath is placed on your chosen grave.

The Group ID Number for the SUVCW Franklin Camp No. 5 is KS0168P



Wreaths Across America – What is It?

How Does it Work?



Graves are adorned with wreaths during Wreaths Across America at Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg, Md., December 16, 2017. In the background is the Private Soldier Monument. (Meredith Tibbetts/Stars and Stripes)

This year, the Franklin Camp will once again be joining other Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War camps across the country by participating in the Wreaths Across America program. Jr. Vice Commander Jeffrey Winters has coordinated the registration of Franklin Camp as a sponsoring organization. The camp will be focused on the veterans' graves in Johnson County Memorial Gardens. Our camp has been set up on the Wreaths Across America website with sponsorship group ID **KS0168P** and the cemetery with location ID **KSJCMG**. Remember – this can be a fund raiser for the camp as \$5.00 from every wreath sponsored is returned to the camp!

In 1992, Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience while visiting Arlington National Cemetery, owner Morrill Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older cemetery sections that had been receiving fewer visitors each passing year.

As plans were underway to transport the wreaths to Washington, several other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. Local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way from Maine to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For over a decade, this annual tribute went on quietly and privately. Everything changed in 2005, when a photo of the headstones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, went viral around the internet. Suddenly, the homespun tribute from a small town in Maine was receiving national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help purchase and lay wreaths at Arlington. Thousands more wanted to emulate the Arlington project at their own local, National, and State cemeteries.



In 2007, the Worcester family, along with the support of veterans' organizations and a variety of other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veteran's wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support others around the country who wanted to do the same. The simple mission of the organization was established: *Remember. Honor. Teach.*

In 2025, over 3.1 million sponsored veterans' wreaths were placed on headstones of our nation's service members at 5,598 participating locations. Millions of volunteers helped place wreaths, a third of whom were children. This was accomplished with the support of 7,778 sponsorship groups (such as the SAR, the DAR, SUVCW, SCV, VFW,

American Legion, etc.), corporation contributions, and in-kind donations from the trucking and transportation industry across the country.

Wreaths Across America is committed to teaching all generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. In 2022, the organization launched its expanded TEACH program and collaboration with like-minded organizations focused on character development and service projects for young people of all ages, with lesson plans for all grade levels and learning abilities.

While we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, United States service men and women sacrifice their time, safety, and even lives every single day of the year, to preserve our freedoms. In many American homes, every day there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and never came home. That is why the Wreaths Across America mission to Remember, Honor and Teach lasts all year long, far beyond the single day in December when we coordinate wreath-laying ceremonies. All throughout the year, Wreaths Across America works in several ways to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget—we will never forget.

“TO BE KILLED IN WAR IS NOT THE WORST THAT
CAN HAPPEN. TO BE LOST IS NOT THE WORST
THAT CAN HAPPEN... TO BE FORGOTTEN IS THE
WORST.”

— PIERRE CLAEYSSENS (1909-2003)

So, how does this process work? It begins with the individual “sponsorship” of a wreath. This sponsorship program is open year-round through the Wreaths Across America website. The cost of wreath sponsorship is \$17.00 per wreath. The sponsorship of a wreath can be on an individual basis or through a registered group such as a local chapter of the SAR, SUVCW, VFW, etc. If sponsorship is done through a registered group, \$5 from each sponsored wreath is allocated to the group sponsorship program and is paid back to the many community partners including Legion Posts, VFW's and Auxiliaries, Civil Air Patrol Squadrons, school groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and other non-profits and like-minded organizations. Since this program started in 2007, Wreaths Across America has given back more than \$20 million to other organizations to support their local efforts.

Now that the wreaths have been sponsored, what happens next? With each sponsorship received, a wreath is delivered to a participating cemetery location. Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. This year's Wreaths Across America Day will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2026. On that day, more than three million Veterans' Wreaths will be placed across Local, National, and Military Cemeteries as well as Veterans' Memorials and historic sites. At each of those sites, a Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator works throughout the year with cemetery contact and local governments to organize and promote the ceremony, coordinate wreath delivery, and manage the placement of wreaths. In addition to location coordinators, most Wreaths Across America locations rely on the assistance of community members, local businesses and civic groups and organizations to place wreaths on the day of the event.

There is no cost to attend an event on National Wreaths Across America Day, all are welcome to join. However, Wreaths Across America receives no government funding. National Wreaths Across America Day and other events are made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths and participate in the events. Individual wreath sponsors and corporate donors pay for most of the cost for the program and volunteer truck drivers and trucking companies make it possible for WAA to transport wreaths all over the country.

For more information and details on Wreaths Across America, visit <https://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/>

The Deadliest Firearm Innovations **Of the Civil War**

The American Civil War was fought at a crossroads in military history. Generals trained in the tactics of the early 19th century suddenly found themselves commanding armies equipped with far more lethal technology. The result was a devastating mismatch: traditional battlefield maneuvers met industrial-age weaponry, and the human cost soared. While courage and leadership shaped the conflict, it was technological innovation that made the war so deadly.



Perhaps no innovation transformed the battlefield more than the widespread adoption of the rifled musket. Earlier wars had relied heavily on smoothbore muskets, which were accurate only at relatively short range, often under one hundred yards. By the 1860s, however, armies were equipped with rifled weapons such as the Springfield Model 1861 and the British-made Enfield Pattern 1853.

The Rifled Musket and the Minie Ball

These weapons used spiral grooves inside the barrel to spin the bullet, dramatically increasing

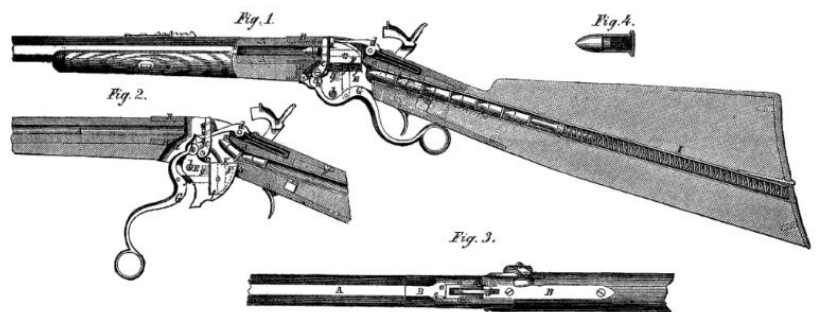
accuracy and range. Soldiers could now reliably strike targets at 300 to 500 yards. Yet commanders often continued to order massed frontal assaults as if they were still fighting with shorter-range weapons.

The rifled musket's lethality was amplified by the Minie ball—a conical bullet that expanded upon firing, gripping the rifling and traveling with deadly precision. When it struck bone, it shattered it. Field surgeons were frequently forced to amputate shattered limbs to prevent infection. The horrific wounds associated with the Minie ball became a grim hallmark of the war.

Battles such as Fredericksburg and Cold Harbor demonstrated the deadly consequences of charging entrenched defenders armed with rifled muskets. Technology had changed; tactics had not.

Though not widespread enough to dominate the war, repeating rifles signaled the future. Weapons such as the Spencer repeating rifle and the Henry rifle allowed soldiers to fire multiple rounds without reloading after each shot.

Units equipped with repeaters could unleash sustained firepower far beyond that of traditional single-shot muskets. In defensive situations especially, this advantage could be decisive. The psychological effect was also significant—troops facing repeating firepower often believed they were confronting much larger forces.



Repeating Rifles and Early Rapid Fire

With the invention of the repeating rifle, the traditional firing routine was no longer effective. Rifles like the Spencer rifle could contain a large number of self-contained rounds, increasing the firing rate of the rifle and protecting the rounds from the elements. By the end of the war, rifle and optics technology had progressed so far that it was possible to possess a rifle capable of accurate fire up to one thousand yards.

The Gatling gun, an early form of rapid-fire weapon, also made limited appearances during the war. While not yet fully integrated into battlefield tactics, it demonstrated how industrial engineering was beginning to multiply killing power.

Handguns, due to their portability and relative accuracy, were fast becoming the additional weapon of choice for many Civil War soldiers, replacing the swords of past battles. Revolvers had their drawbacks, the process of loading was tedious and time consuming, and the soldier could only rely on a few of the rounds to actually fire in succession. When they did fire, the handguns were only accurate to fifty yards. Large companies such as Colt Patent Firearms and Remington began mass producing both single and double action revolvers for the Union.

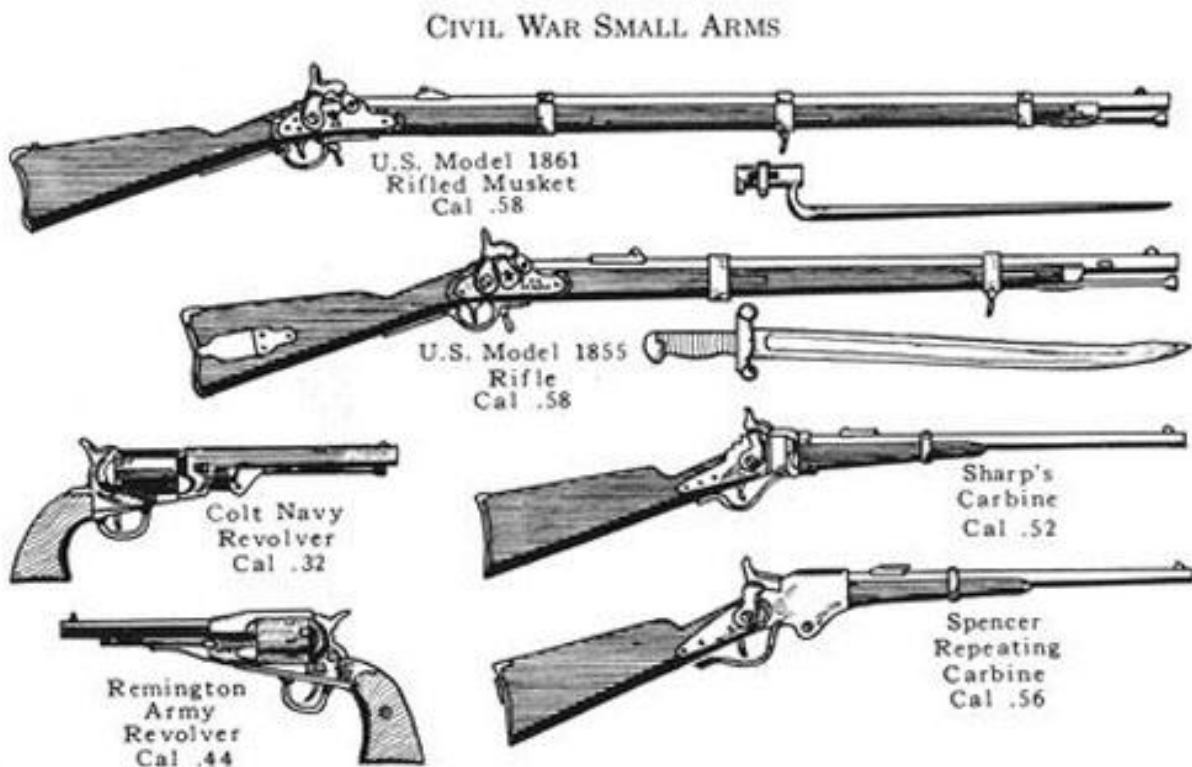
**There is no better spur to
military innovation than war**

The Civil War's casualty figures—estimated by modern scholars at approximately 750,000 dead—reflect more than the scale of mobilization. They reflect a war fought with technology that had outpaced tactical thinking.

Rifled muskets extended killing range. Artillery became more precise and destructive. Trenches magnified defensive power. Repeating rifles increased the volume of fire. Ironclads revolutionized naval combat. Together, these innovations created one of the first truly modern wars.

The tragedy of the Civil War lies not only in its causes or outcomes, but in the painful lesson it delivered: industrial-age weapons demanded new ways of fighting. That lesson would echo into the 20th century and beyond.

Today, when walking Civil War battlefields, it is worth remembering that these fields were not only scenes of courage and sacrifice, but also testing grounds for technologies that forever changed warfare.



Looking Back....

From the Franklin Camp Newsletter "The Old Flag"; Volume 5, No. 3; March 2009

NEW CAMP FLAG DEDICATED AT FEBRUARY CAMP MEETING



*Member David Tollefson with Franklin
Camp's new Camp Flag Photo -Editor*

Our deepest gratitude is extended to Franklin Camp Member David Tollefson (shown left) who has donated the new Franklin Camp Flag to Camp Commander Lane Smith. Brother Tollefson made this donation in honor of his Great-Grandfather, Private Samuel Matson Vanover, Co D, 86th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment and his other 2nd Great-Grandfather, Private George Klinefelter, Co I, 136th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. "I'm proud of both my grandfathers, especially Private Vanover, who fought with the first two Indiana regiments who took Missionary Ridge without orders. The other regiments followed, turning the time of battle."

The names of his two ancestors are permanently engraved in brass at the tip of the standard. Formal acceptance and dedication of the flag will take place at Franklin Camp's regular Camp Meeting, 7:00pm, 26 February, at Olathe City Hall. The flag will be proudly displayed at each camp meeting, parades, recruiting booths, and at all Department Encampments.

NOTE: The photo to the right was published in the March 2009 Franklin Camp newsletter. This "Battle of Westport Museum" did not last long. It was closed five years later following the 150th-anniversary commemorations held in October 2014, later relocating its exhibits and visitor operations to the historic Harris-Kearney House in Westport. Reasons given included: ongoing staffing constraints, limited volunteer availability, and shifting operational focus toward their guided walking and driving battlefield tours rather than maintaining a fixed brick-and-mortar museum space in Swope Park.

The physical museum moved out of the location at the Harris-Kearney House in 2024 and is temporarily closed while looking for a new permanent home.



*Located just inside the West entrance
to Swope Park is the new Battle of
Westport Museum – Grand Opening
was 18 October Photo – Editor*

"The Old Flag" was the official newsletter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Franklin Camp 5. It was edited and published monthly by Past Camp Commander Jim Converse 2008-2010.

FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN

The Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin is a newsletter published for the Franklin Camp #5 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The SUV is a non-profit organization with a patriotic, historical, and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect the views of the writers and are not necessarily a statement of the views of the SUV, the Department of Kansas, nor any other camp. Comments and articles are solicited.

Franklin Camp Website Resources

Franklin Camp Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/805798033688654>

Franklin Camp Webpage: <https://suvwks.org/franklin-camp-no-5/>

SUV National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SUVCW/>

Department of Kansas Website: <https://suvwks.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-Department-of-Kansas-124886647572266/>

Franklin Camp Officers

<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>SR. VICE COMMANDER</u>	<u>JR. VICE COMMANDER</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>
Dan Stilley	Matthew Archambault	Jeff Winters	Jim Thornton	Richard Miller

NEXT MEETING

Franklin Camp No. 5 meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at Pegah's Restaurant, 12122 West 87th Street, Lenexa, Kansas. The camp does not meet in December.

The Franklin Camp will meet on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**, at Pegah's Restaurant at 12122 W. 87th Street in Lenexa, Kansas, at 6 p.m. for dinner and conversation. Our featured program will be provided by Brother John Hansen presenting "*Civil War Ghost Stories*."

Come early and join us for camaraderie, dinner, and education! As always, your wife or significant other is welcome. Feel free to bring guests!

Don't forget to bring a prospective recruit!

UPCOMING PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE FRANKLIN CAMP

October 2026 – John Hansen – Civil War Ghost Stories

November 2026 – Jim Thornton – Coffee and the Civil War

January 2027 – Richard Miller – B-29's and The Battle of Kansas

February 2027 – Bill Stoker -- Advancements in Weaponry and Rifling Technology

!!!!Programs Are Needed for 2027!!!!

****VOLUNTEERS TO PRESENT A PROGRAM AT FUTURE MEETINGS ARE WELCOME! IF INTERESTED, PLEASE E-MAIL A MEMBER OF OUR PROGRAMS COMMITTEE****



Franklin Camp is in need of speakers, presentations, or programs for our 2027 monthly meetings. We currently have presentations lined up through February 2027.

The camp's program committee is currently at work looking to fill the 2027 schedule.

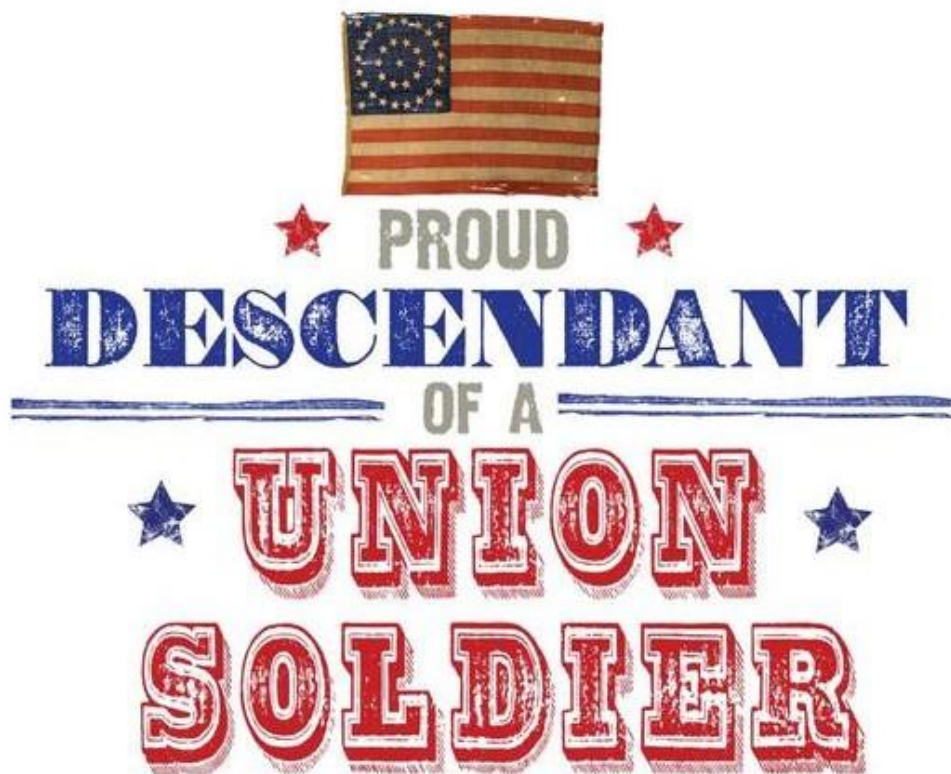
If you have a suggestion or contact information for a possible speaker, please notify one of our camp officers or a member of the programs committee (Richard Miller, Bryan Wampler, John Hansen, Mark Anderson).

Don't hesitate to step up and volunteer yourself to give a presentation. Feel free to give a talk on your own ancestor! Everyone has a story to tell!

WANTED: NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The Franklin Camp Monthly Bulletin is always looking for articles on topics of interest. If you attend a Civil War event or have something you would like to contribute to the monthly newsletter (maybe a book recommendation and review?), please notify our newsletter editor Jim Thornton at JDThornton85@live.com. This year, in commemoration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, we would like to do a series of articles on what it means to you to be an American. What was your proudest moment as an American? Please submit your contribution in a WORD DOC or PDF format to Jim at the e-mail address above.

“THE LAST FIVE LETTERS OF THE WORD HISTORY SPELL “STORY.” AND THAT’S EXACTLY HOW HISTORY SHOULD BE TAUGHT. NUMBERS AND DATES HAVE NO SOUL. SUCH PRESENTATIONS FALL FLAT, FOR HISTORY IS ALIVE AND RELEVANT.”



REQUIRED DISCLAIMER: “Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material.”