

*Mrs. Lee's Rose Garden: The True Story of the Founding of Arlington* by Carlo DeVito

This book was chosen as the December reading for the Musing on Main Street Book Club. Knowing the group well, one strong point in the book's favor was that it is a small book, only 143 pages in length, making it a great selection for a busy month. It's also a book filled with so much history!

DeVito starts with the Lee family history, going back to Martha Washington's family and tracing down the lineage to Mary Custis and General Robert E. Lee. Their home, Arlington House, and Mrs. Lee's rose garden on the grounds of the property were well-known Washington DC showplaces prior to the start of the Civil War. As the war expanded, the Union Army took over the mansion, and under the direction of Montgomery Meigs determined the grounds would serve as burial grounds for Union soldiers, including Meigs own son. DeVito provides a great deal of historical information about the Lee family, as well as the Civil War battles and time period.