

Conference on Women & the Civil War

April 7, 8, & 9, 2000
Winchester, Virginia

*Recognizing the Efforts of Women
1861-1865*



The Conference on Women and the Civil War focuses on the service of women to their country during the War Between the States. Participants include academics, independent scholars, reenactors, living history presenters, genealogists, military and government personnel, and others who have an interest in women's history.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

DeAnne Blanton, Military Archivist & Historian
Jeanne Christie, Research Associate, Univ. of Connecticut
Eileen Conklin, Civil War Historian & Author
Betsy Estilow, Associate Professor, Hood College
Juanita Leisch, Civil War Historian & Author
Marie V. Melchiori, Certified Genealogical Records Specialist
Katherine Tennery, Rockbridge Publishing;
Past President, Order of Southern Gray

This conference is presented in partnership with the

McCormick Civil War Institute
Dr. Brandon Beck
Department of Arts and Sciences
Shenandoah University



CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
& THE CIVIL WAR
12728 Martin Road
Smithsburg, MD 21783

Janet Whaley
443 Bogueville Lane
Glendora, CA 91741



2000 Conference on Women and the Civil War

April 7, 8, & 9 • Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

- Noon to 6 Registration
- 1 to 3 Optional Workshops
- 4 to 5 Optional Tours: Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters or Mt. Hebron Cemetery
- 5:30 to 7 Welcome Reception for Registrants

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- 7:30 to 8:30 Registration
- 8:30 Welcome

8:45 **Mary Surratt: An American Tragedy** *Elizabeth Trindal, researcher and author.* Mary Elizabeth Surratt (1823–65), a widow and mother, is no more than a footnote in history, yet she was tried and sentenced to die by military court. She and three men were found guilty of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate Abraham Lincoln, and the four were hanged on July 7, 1865. Years of research has proven, for the most part, that Mary Surratt was innocent.

9:30 **"We lived in fear." Maryland Women and the Antietam Campaign** *Kathleen Ernst, social historian, author, and educator.* In 1862, the women of Frederick and Washington counties in western Maryland were a complex population of white, free black, and slave; Unionist and Secessionist; activist and abstainer. Who were these women? What was their experience before, during, and after the battles of South Mountain and Antietam Creek? How did the 1862 campaign shape their lives? How did their divided loyalties affect the soldiers they encountered?

10:45 **"Free to Teach, Free to Learn, Free to Choose": Yankee Schoolmistresses and Former Slaves in the South** *Juanita Leisch, researcher and author.* During and after the Civil War, a select group of women acted on their beliefs that freed slaves ought to be educated as a means to permanently improve their lives. This presentation describes the experiences of schoolmistresses working in Schools for Freedmen and the African-American women they encountered in their efforts. Did the schoolmistresses succeed in their goals, or did factors such as race and gender or the political and military events of the era foil their efforts?

11:30 **"A Teacher, an Agent, and an Angel to her State:" the life of Cordelia P. Harvey** *Richard J. Blumberg, militarist and researcher.* A woman of persuasive manner and untiring tenacity, Cordelia Harvey served the state of Wisconsin as a teacher, the wife of the governor, and a sanitary agent during the Civil War. After the war she convinced President Lincoln to establish a veterans' hospital that also served as a orphanage for the children of veterans. She was an advocate for all aspects of humanity and truly was the "Angel of Wisconsin."

12:15 to 1:45 Luncheon and Book Signing

1:45 **Families under Stress: the Richmond Bread Riot** *Douglas O. Tice Jr., federal judge and author.* Inflation and food shortages in the Confederacy caused some organized groups of women to confront merchants and authorities in a violent quest for reasonably priced goods. The Richmond riot was put down by a unit of militia only after personal appeals from the governor of Virginia and President Davis.

2:30 **Lois Adams: Civil Servant** *Evelyn Leasher, librarian and editor.* Lois Adams of Detroit was an early employee of the Department of Agriculture. She left a record of her service in a series of columns she wrote in 1863–65 for the *Detroit Advertiser and Tribune* and also reported on civil service wages, working conditions, and appointments. Her columns provide an important contribution to our understanding of conditions during wartime, when hiring men and women to work in the same office was an experiment.

3:45 **"Poverty is no disgrace, but very unhandy. Please come home."** *Budge Weidman, archivist and researcher.* African American mothers and wives describe life at home during the Civil War in letters discovered in the military service records of soldiers of the U.S. Colored Troops. These unpublished documents contain tender descriptions of love, tell of the conditions of children and other family members, and express a longing for the soldiers to come home.

4:30 **"Do you wonder that I get the blues?": Ellen Moore's Wartime Negotiations** *Jonathan M. Berkey, Penn State.* A look at how Ellen Moore of Berryville, Virginia, negotiated family roles with her soldier-husband during four years of war and separation. She took on responsibility as head of household as her husband attempted to retain his antebellum role as master.

6:30 to 7:30 Dinner

7:30 to 8:30 Educational Exhibits

PLEASE NOTE: Additional information—including educational exhibits, presentations, and presenter biographies—is posted on the conference web site: <http://www.nfis.com/~eileen>

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

9:30 **Roswell Grey: the Arrest and Deportation of North Georgia Mill Workers.** *Deborah Petite, military historian.* In Roswell, Georgia, there stood a textile mill that produced a particularly well-made cloth called "Roswell Grey" for Confederate uniforms. In July 1864 Gen. Kenner Garrard burned the mills and had the mill workers—primarily women and children—arrested and charged with treason. These innocent victims were transported hundreds of miles from home, simply because they worked in mills that supplied cloth to the Confederate government. That was their crime, and it cost them dearly. Many would never return.

10:45 **Emilie Todd Helm: Lincoln's Beloved Rebel Sister-in-law** *Gerald D. Swick, researcher and author.* Emilie Todd Helm was half-sister to Mary Todd Lincoln and wife of Confederate Gen. B. H. Helm. After her husband's death, she stayed at the White House on Lincoln's personal invitation. Following the war she devoted much of her energy to defending both the lost cause of the Confederacy and her maligned half-sister, although Mary never forgave her for writing to Lincoln, "[Y]our minnie [sic] bullets have made us what we are."

11:30 **"If she had been a man, she would have been a major general": the story of Mother Bickerdyke** *Betsy Estilow, Hood College.* Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke, a widow from Galesburg, Illinois, began her Civil War service in June 1861 in the hospital tents at Cairo. Enraged at army inefficiency, and without authorization, she began to work and care for her "boys," the soldiers of the Union army. Her own report of her service states that she "served for four years and was in nineteen hard-fought battles." Mother Bickerdyke's true story has become mired in myths and colorful stories. Who was she, and what did she really accomplish?

12:30 Adjourn

INFORMATION AND FEES

- **Basic Registration** \$195 through March 10; \$245 if received March 11 or later. Includes syllabus and other conference materials, presentations, educational exhibits, Friday reception, Saturday lunch and dinner.
- **Workshops** \$25. (optional) Space limited.
- **Tours** \$10. (optional) Space limited.

CANCELLATION

Cancellation received on or before March 10, 2000, will be refunded less \$50. No refunds will be made after March 10, but substitutes will be accepted.

FOOD

The Friday night reception, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and light refreshments between sessions are included. Guests of conference attendees and speakers may enjoy dinner and the exhibits Friday evening at \$25 per person. Guest space for dinner is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Breakfast is not included but may be obtained on campus or in nearby restaurants.

LODGING

CWCW has reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn of Winchester at a rate of \$55/room/night (single or double occupancy). Participants should reserve directly with the Holiday Inn at (540) 667-3300. Refer to confirmation code "WCW" for especially prompt reservation service. The Holiday Inn is east of Shenandoah University, directly across I-81 on route 50. Information on other motels in the area will be included in the confirmation packet sent to registrants.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Continuing Education Units are available. Please indicate your interest on the registration form.

QUESTIONS?

301-293-2820 (9 A.M. to 8 P.M. Eastern)
roslin@nfis.com

Additional information is available on the web:
<http://www.nfis.com/~eileen>

(Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink.)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Friday, April 7

WORKSHOPS

(1 to 3 P.M.)

A • Documenting Women's Lives: Sources in the U.S. Military History Institute *Louise Arnold-Friend* will provide an orientation to primary and secondary sources at the Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, from which information on women in the Civil War can be extrapolated. She will discuss search strategies for isolating and evaluating pertinent source material.

B • Using Medical Records at the National Archives to Research Women in the Civil War *Marie Varrelman Melchiori* will take a look at Union and Confederate military records in both microfilm and textual format that can be used to research women. Some of the series list specific female nurses and matrons; others deal with individual females as well as with particular hospitals. There will be a very brief overview of the arrangements of records, as well as the proper source citation of National Archives Records.

C • What do I do now? Shaping Your Research into a Book Civil War book editor and publisher *Katherine Tennery* will address questions of focus, manuscript preparation, whether to self-publish or approach commercial publishers and more. Questions received by March 1 will be addressed specifically.

OPTIONAL TOURS

(4 to 5 pm)

Stonewall Jackson Headquarters The Winchester house that Jackson used for his headquarters and which served as home to his wife when she stayed with him in Winchester will be open to conference participants for a specially-tailored tour led by Jackson Headquarters docents.

Mt. Hebron Cemetery The Stonewall Jackson Cemetery, located within the bounds of Mt. Hebron, and other stops will be visited on a tour tailored for CWCW by local Civil War historian and publisher Mac Rutherford.

REGISTRATION

NAME _____
(PRINT AS YOU WISH NAME TO APPEAR ON ID BADGE)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION \$ _____
(\$195 IF PAID BY MARCH 10;
\$245 IF PAID MARCH 11 OR LATER)

OPTIONAL WORKSHOP @ \$25 \$ _____
(WHICH ONE? A B C — CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE)

OPTIONAL TOUR @ \$10 \$ _____
(WHICH ONE? JACKSON'S HQ OR CEMETERY?
CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE)

GUEST DINNER SAT. NIGHT @ \$25 \$ _____
NAME OF DINNER GUEST _____
(DINNER FOR PARTICIPANTS IS INCLUDED IN
THE REGISTRATION FEE. GUESTS WILL BE
ACCOMODATED AS SPACE PERMITS.)

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MO PAYABLE TO CWCW.

CREDIT CARD: MASTERCARD _____ VISA _____

CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

— I'M INTERESTED IN CONTINUING EDUCATION
CREDIT. PLEASE SEND DETAILS.

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO

CWCW
12728 MARTIN ROAD
SMITHSBURG, MD 21783