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## *The Calling Card*



**The monthly e-newsletter of the  
Society for Women and the Civil War**

<http://www.swcw.org>

**The 2024 Conference on  
Women and the Civil War**

**Save the Date!**

*The 24th Conference on Women and the Civil War*  
will be held July 26 - 28, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia



Refugees in Georgia, July 1864

## News of Note

### **Lincoln Forum XXVIII.**

*What Price Glory? Emancipation and Gettysburg at 160* will be held November 16 - 18, 2023. Details here: [2023 Symposium Schedule — The Lincoln Forum](#).

## **2024 Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize Announcement.**

The Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA) and the Abraham Lincoln Institute (ALI) invite nominations and submissions for the 2024 Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize. Eligible doctoral dissertations must have been completed between 2021 and 2023. To learn more, click here: [Abraham Lincoln Institute Dissertation Awards | The Latest in Lincoln Scholarship \(lincoln-institute.org\)](https://www.lincoln-institute.org/dissertation-awards).

Submission deadline is October 7, 2023.



## **Fort Walker Officially Designated.**

On August 25, 2023, Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, a DOD training and maneuvering center, was renamed Fort Walker, in honor of Union Civil War surgeon and Medal of Honor recipient Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Fort Walker is the first U.S. Army installation named solely for a woman.

## **Schedule of Old Baldy CWRT Speakers and Activities for Fall 2023.**

SWCW members and friends in the greater Philadelphia area are invited to attend Old Baldy's in-person meetings in Cherry Hill, NJ. Upcoming speakers include Carole Adrienne, "Healing a Divided Nation: How the American Civil War Revolutionized Western Medicine" on October 12; and Chuck Veit, "Monitor's Unknown Mission: The Navy Raid on the Petersburg Bridges" on November 9. For more information, visit the Old Baldy website: [Old Baldy Civil War Round Table | Civil War discussion organization for the greater Philadelphia area \(oldbaldycwrt.org\)](https://oldbaldycwrt.org)

## **Research Resource**

### ***The Civil War: Women and the Homefront***

*A Guide to Print and Manuscript Materials  
at Duke University's Rubenstein Library  
Related to Women and Their Roles  
During the Civil War*

[Getting Started - The Civil War: Women and the Homefront - LibGuides at Duke](#)

[University](#)

159 New Bond St  
London Feb 17<sup>th</sup>  
" 1862

The old adage of your  
"sight out of mind" seems  
fully carried out by my going  
at home, for during my long  
absence few would I expect  
to write to me but rather in  
line, and I hold you up as a  
most flagrant instance of the  
dilutions you French women  
I am sure unless your conscience  
has been blunted by similar  
instances of "I have left under  
those things" &c you must feel  
very forcibly thus by procuring  
your sin of omission

I have had a very pleasant  
time, and among other my  
wishes is to see you again  
by paper. I have just returned  
from Paris where I spent two months

From the Papers of Rose O'Neal Greenhow

This research guide points to manuscript collections, microfilm, and publications concerning all aspects of women's experiences. The guide

may be searched by name of individual, or by topics such as spies, enslavement, and clothing. Digitized materials are also linked in this guide.

**The Society for Women and the Civil War is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War, and those who research, reenact or otherwise honor these women of the past.**

**Join our efforts and become a member.**

[Join the Society - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

Membership year runs from January - December.

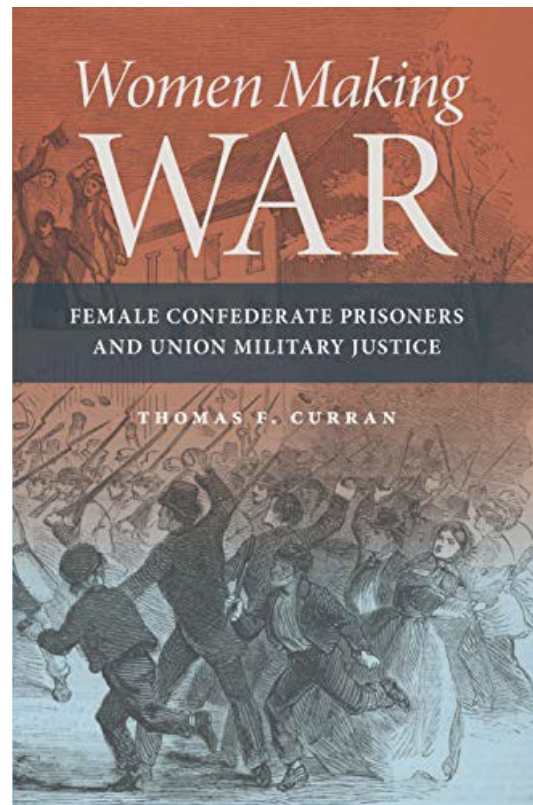
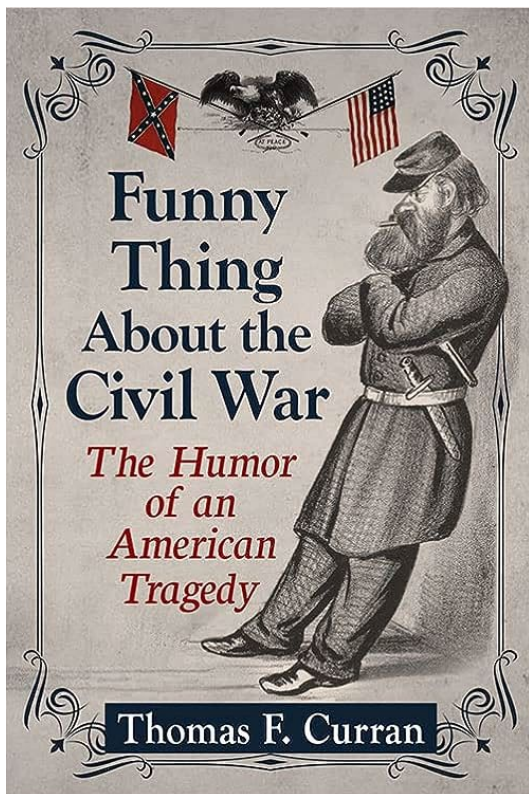
## Society Notices

### **Scholarship Awarded.**

SWCW proudly announces that our Florence Williams Scholarship for an outstanding high school student is awarded to **William McCoy** of Luray, VA. His essay, "Forgotten: The Disregarded History of the Common Woman on the Southern Homefront," will appear in the next issue of our journal, *At Home and In The Field*.

## Books of Note.

Friend of the Society and former conference speaker **Dr. Thomas Curran** has two works that may be of interest to Society members. *Funny Thing About the Civil War* examines humor in depictions from the war years to the present, covering a wide range of literature, film and television in historical context. *Women Making War* highlights female Confederate prisoners in the St. Louis area and shows how their activities affected Federal military policy. These titles are available wherever books are sold.



## Research Fellowships.

SWCW Organizational Partner, the **Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation**, announces the inauguration of two annual research fellowships, beginning in 2024. Each fellowship provides \$1,000 to support the cost of travel



and per diem expenses for researchers to use the Foundation's library at the Strayer House in New Market, VA, for a period of at least five consecutive days. The fellowships are open to graduate students, academics, teachers, museum professionals, and independent scholars whose research interests may benefit from the Foundation's holdings. Additional information is posted here: [The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Research Fellowships | H-Net](#) The application deadline is November 1, 2023.

## Woman of the Month

**Elizabeth Chester Fisk**

Aid Worker, Teacher

Born February 18, 1846 in Vernon, CT

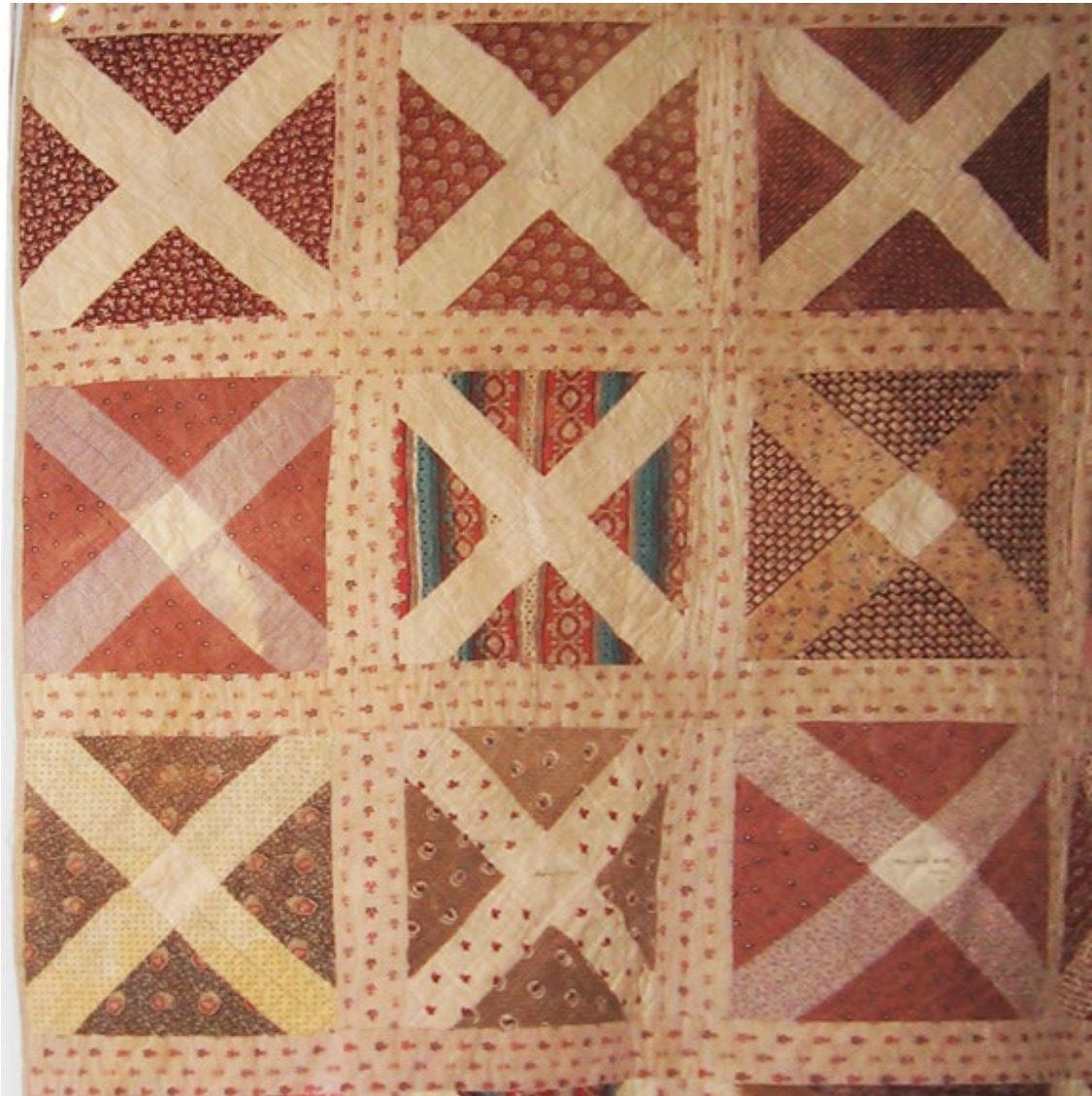
Died April 21, 1927 in Berkeley, CA



Elizabeth Chester was born in Vernon, Connecticut in February 1846 to Azubah Chester and her husband Isaac, a Congregationalist minister. The family expanded three years later with the addition of a daughter named Fanny. Fervent abolitionists, the Chesters were strong supporters of the Union cause throughout the Civil War.

Lizzie and her family joined the Patriotic Society of Vernon, an aid society largely comprised of parishioners of the First Congregational Church where her father ministered. Lizzie also worked as a teacher in the neighboring community of New Windsor.

One of the many activities of the Patriotic Society was sewing quilts for the Union Army. In the Fall of 1864, Capt. Robert Fisk, 132nd New York Infantry, received one of these quilts from the U.S. Sanitary Commission, along with a note from Fanny Chester identifying herself and the ladies of the Patriotic Society as the creators of the quilt. Robert sent a thank you note to Fanny, but since she was only 16 years old, it was improper for her to write a response. Lizzie replied to Robert, which began a correspondence lasting until the end of the war. Robert came to Vernon when he was discharged, and asked Lizzie to marry him. They wed in March 1867.



Quilt Sent to Captain Fisk by the Patriotic Society of Vernon.  
Collection of the Lincoln Shrine, Redlands, CA

The newlyweds moved to the recently established mining town of Helena, Montana where Robert and his brothers owned a printing press. Lizzie and Robert lived in Helena for 32 years and had five children. The family moved to Berkeley, California in 1902. Robert died in 1908 and Lizzie passed away in 1927.

Lizzie's letters are archived at the Montana Historical Society. They paint a fascinating picture of life on the frontier during the second half of the 19th century. Her letters were edited by Paula Petrik and published in 1991 as *Lizzie: The Letters of Elizabeth Chester Fisk, 1864-1893*. To learn even more about Lizzie, find "Mothers and Daughters of Eldorado: The Fisk Family of Helena, Montana, 1867-1902" in *Montana: The Magazine of History*.

--Maria Carrillo Colato

## **Submissions Requested**

The Calling Card accepts notices of the achievements of our members; activities of the Civil War & Women's History communities; educational and archival resources; and essays for our Woman of the Month column.

Send your submissions to [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com) with *Calling Card* in the subject field.  
(Submissions may be edited for brevity or clarity.)

*The Calling Card* is distributed on the 15th of each month, and our deadline for same-month submissions is the 10th.

Editor: DeAnne Blanton, SWCW Board Member and President Emerita



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([swcw.org](http://swcw.org))

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