

The Calling Card



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

<http://www.swcw.org>

News of Note

The Daguerreian Society.

The Daguerreian Society is the leading organization dedicated to the history, technology, art, and preservation of 19th-century photography. Their

international membership brings together photography collectors and dealers, museum professionals, historians, scientists, students, educators, photographers, and artists. A 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 1988, The Daguerreian Society welcomes all who share an interest in early photography.

The Daguerreian Society will hold their annual Symposium and Photo Fair in Chicago on October 27 - 30, 2022. For more information, visit their website: [The 2022 Symposium & Photo Fair - The Daguerreian Society](#)

Online Exhibit: Images of Civil War era women.

Check out this collection of images from the Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Maryland: [Photos | Women and the Civil War \(umd.edu\)](#)



Carte-de-visite of Mary and Sandra Giles with Nancy, circa 1860-1885. Photograph taken by E. M. Recher, Hagerstown, Maryland. From the Humrichouse Family photograph album. University of Maryland Libraries.

Research Resource:

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine

[- National Museum of Civil War Medicine](#)

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is located in Frederick, Maryland. Showcasing more than 1,500 original artifacts, plus a Research Center, online exhibits and educational resources, a blog, and year-long events, it is the premier institution for learning about the medical, surgical, and nursing practices of the Civil War.

The Museum also operates the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office in Washington, DC; and the Pry House Field Hospital Museum at Antietam Battlefield, featuring a 19th century medicinal herb garden.



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

Membership year runs from January - December.

Society Notices

SWCW Board Member **Steve Magnusen** has been elected as President of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table.

DONOR LIST

SWCW gratefully acknowledges the following individuals
for their contributions:

Janet Whaley

J. White

Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund or Scholarship Fund should visit our website at [Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War

(NRWSCW):

Woman of the Month

Phoebe Yates Levy Pember

hospital matron, CSA



Born August 18, 1832 in Charleston, South Carolina
Died March 4, 1913 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia

Phoebe Yates Levy was the fourth child born to Jacob and Fanny Levy of Charleston. Her father was a successful merchant and her mother had been an acclaimed actress. Due to their wealth, the Levys moved comfortably among Charleston's elite society, despite the fact that they were Jewish. Not much is known about Phoebe's childhood, although her later writings are evidence that she was well educated. At some point in the 1840s, the Levy family moved to Savannah, possibly due to financial setbacks.

In 1856, Phoebe married a Christian, Thomas Pember of Boston. After five years of marriage, he died of tuberculosis in July 1861. Phoebe returned to her parent's home, now in Marietta, Georgia, but she felt "confined and unproductive" there, so she accepted an invitation to Richmond, Virginia, from her friend Mary Randolph, wife of the Confederate Secretary of War, and took the position of Chief Matron of the Second Division of Chimborazo Hospital.

Phoebe oversaw nursing operations in the division and attended to the housekeeping, dietary needs, and comfort of more than 15,000 men. As the first female administrator appointed to Chimborazo, she offered the warmth and femininity craved by the soldiers, but she also fought against repeated attempts to undermine her authority. Much of the time this meant blocking efforts by the staff to pilfer supplies, especially whiskey, placed under her control. On one occasion, she threatened a would-be thief with a gun she kept hidden nearby. Her self-assurance and commitment to caring for the sick and wounded earned praise among Richmond society. Phoebe remained at her post until the Confederate surrender in April 1865.

Phoebe published her memoir soon after the war, in March 1866, serialized in a Baltimore magazine called *The Cosmopolite* as "Reminiscences of A Southern Hospital. By Its Matron." The memoir was later reworked and published in book

form as *A Southern Woman's Story: Life in Confederate Richmond*, in 1879. Phoebe's account of her experiences at Chimborazo from December 1862 until April 1865 provides a valuable resource for Southern, gender, and American Jewish historians. Her memoir detailed day-to-day life in the wards, described the poor state of Confederate medical facilities, revealed the attitudes of and toward southern women, and offered a glimpse into the mind-set of a highly acculturated southern Jewish woman.

Throughout her adult life, Phoebe took advantage of her high social status and moved easily among the South's elite families. She travelled extensively in the post-war years in both the United States and Europe. In her last years, she lived with a niece in Pittsburgh, where she died of breast cancer at the age of 89.

***The Calling Card* accepts submissions.**

We are pleased to share the achievements of our members, and to advertise the activities of the Civil War and Women's History communities. We also welcome individual research requests, and notifications about educational and archival resources.

Please send your submissions to 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.

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