

THE CALLING CARD - OCTOBER 15, 2021

The Calling Card



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

<http://www.swcw.org>

**The 2022 Conference on
Women and the Civil War**

The Society for Women and the Civil War Presents:

Women of the Valley

July 22-24, 2022 in Harrisonburg, Virginia

Call for Presentation Proposals

The Society invites proposals for presentations examining the lives, service and contributions of Civil War-era women in the Shenandoah regional cultural area during intervals of peace, military campaigning, and occupation. For full information about this Call, visit our website: [Call For Papers 2022 - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

Deadline for submissions is November 1.



Image courtesy of The Valentine.

**The Fall 2021 edition of *At Home and In The Field*,
the members-only, quarterly e-journal
of the Society for Women and the Civil War,
will publish on October 31.**

News of Note

Online Resources for Historic Cook Books and Cookery Techniques.

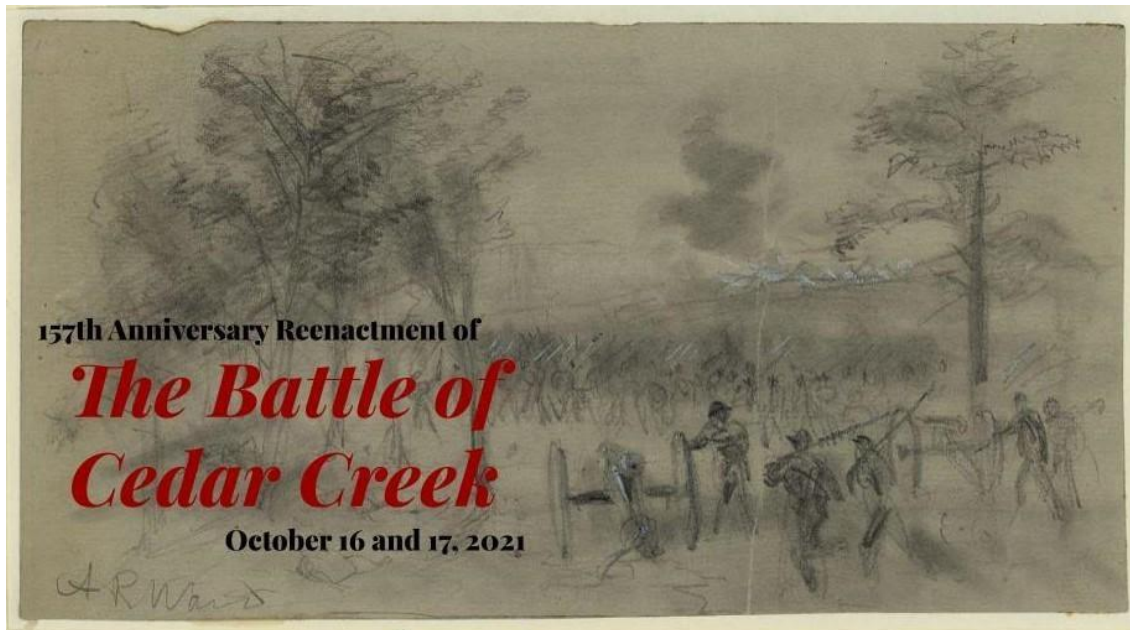
Patricia Bixler Reber's *Culinary History Online* website at www.angelfire.com/md3/openhearthcooking/ contains thousands of links pertaining to 18th and 19th century open hearth, bake oven, and wood stove cooking, plus links to 300 museums hosting cooking demonstrations. It also includes copies and links for more than 1,000 online historic cook books, as well as virtual presentations on historic foodways.

Ms. Reber also writes a culinary history blog at Researching Food History - Cooking and Dining as well as maintaining a Pinterest site at www.pinterest.com/foodhistorian/.



The Pine Needles Foundation of New York hosts its web site, *Manuscript Cookbooks Survey* at www.manuscriptcookbookssurvey.org. This site features the collaborative efforts of Dr. Szilvia-Szmuk Tanenbaum, a retired university special collections librarian; Stephen Schmidt, a food professional and culinary historian; and reference librarian William L. Keogan; and supported by a number of reference librarians working in special collections libraries across the US. Found at this website are a database of pre-1865 English-language manuscript cookbooks held in US public institutions, as well as a database of

kitchen artifacts used at the time the manuscripts were written. The antebellum recipes contained in the manuscripts continued in use during the Civil War, and provide insights into the domestic lives of Civil War-era women. The site also contains adaptations of recipes for 21st century use, plus a glossary of terms.



Battle of Cedar Creek Commemoration Weekend.

The 157th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, in the Shenandoah Valley, will take place on **October 16-17, 2021**. This reenactment is one of the most prominent in the US and one of the very few which are held on the original battle site. The event has historically featured the civilian Civil War experience in its living history area and in presentations and performances. The reenactment is hosted by the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, for which SWCW member Ashley Sonntag serves as the Operations Manager and Museum Curator. More information about visiting the event may be obtained at www.ccbf.us.

Belle Grove Plantation, which is adjacent to the battlefield, will commemorate the anniversary of the Battle with self-guided tours of the Manor House and living history presenters throughout the property, including an

ordnance and flag display hosted by the [Civil War Dance Foundation](http://www.civilwar.org), an organizational partner of SWCW. They will also host free Civil War Signaling programs on the lawn. More information can be found at www.bellegrove.org/.

Hill Country Scholarly Seminar.



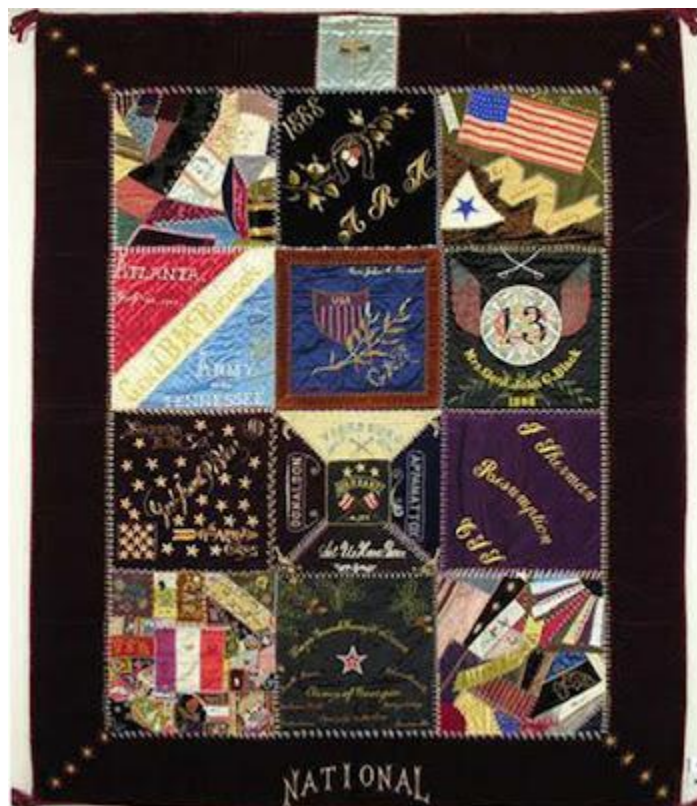
Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated, is holding its annual *Hill Country Scholarly Seminar*, hosted by The Texas Center, Schreiner University, in Kerrville, Texas, on **November 12-13, 2021**. The seminar will feature multiple presentations, including topics about Civil War civilians. Field trips include a visit to the Camp Verde area, home of the US Army – and later CS Army – Camel Corps (addressed in an article in the October 2020 issue of SWCW's *At Home and in the Field*). To obtain more information about the event, contact HBAR's president, Martha Hartzog, at m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu.

Quilts Honoring Civil War General Officers and Their Wives.

Album, memory and memorial quilts have long been part of the domestic arts tapestry of our national cultural heritage. During the Civil War they were popular amongst soldiers as homely and practical reminders of their families and friends. Quilts were also popular contributions to aid society fundraisers.

Following the Civil War, a common theme for new album and memorial quilts was the experience of veterans and their families. Community-produced

quilts made from individually-donated blocks were often raffled in order to fund local charities and veterans' causes. One such quilt, possibly joined by an associated pair, was made to honor US Army generals. Quilt blocks were produced by, or on behalf of, the wives of these generals for *The National Quilt*, completed in 1888. Barbara Brackman, a leading authority on original Civil War-era, reproduction, and commemorative quilts, writes about *The National Quilt* in an April 2017 article at civilwarquilts.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-generals-wives-quilt.html.



"National Quilt", 1888

(Image from the Collection of the Ohio Historical Society)

A small number of modern-day patchwork quilts honoring the wives of US Army generals serving in Civil War have been created, with a number of persons credited for involvement in their designs. Of these, perhaps the best known is *The Generals Wives Quilt*. Patterns for this quilt were originally made available

as part of a quilting block-of-the-month program, but an integrated pattern for the quilt may now be found online and in quilting shops. More information on this quilt and its patterns may be found at several sites, including those served by the following URLs:

blog.fatquartershop.com/generals-wives-block-of-month/
www.gatheringfabric.com/general-wives-quilt-by-windham-fabrics.htm
[Generals Wives BOM – The Quilters Quarters \(quiltersqtrs.com\)](http://quiltersqtrs.com)



Generals' Wives' Quilt
(Image from Quilters Quarters)

Research Resource:

Confederate Slave Payrolls

During the Civil War, the Confederate Army extensively used the labor of thousands of enslaved people, who were impressed into service or loaned to the army by their enslavers. The army employed them as cooks, laundresses, miners, ordnance workers, and trench diggers. Enslaved persons worked in hospitals, factories, depots, army camps, and in the field. To track this extensive network of laborers, and to pay their owners for their work, the Confederate Quartermaster Department created the record series now called the "Confederate Slave Payrolls."

These records are housed at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and have been digitized in full. They can be accessed via The National Archives Catalog: [Confederate Slave Payrolls \(archives.gov\)](#)

Sheet No. 1

We, the subscribers, hereby acknowledge to have received of *John S. Adams*
 full for the services of our Slaves at *Ashley Ferry North Works*

No.	FROM WHOM HIRED.	NAMES.	OCCUPATION.	TIME EMPLOYED. Days	RATE OF PAY.		AMOUNT FOR EACH SLAVE.	On w
					Per month.	Per day.		
1	<i>Gen. R. G. Meade</i>	<i>Billy</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>32 50</i>		
2	"	<i>Silvia</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
3	"	<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Child</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
4	"	<i>Katy</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>22 00</i>		
5	"	<i>Grace</i>	"	<i>25</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>25 00</i>		
6	"	<i>Eugenia</i>	<i>Child</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
7	"	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
8	"	<i>Bella</i>	"	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
9	"	<i>Blara</i>	"	<i>22</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>22 00</i>		
10	"	<i>Jim</i>	<i>Child</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
11	"	<i>Oliza</i>	"		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
12	"	<i>Jacob</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
13	"	<i>George</i>	"	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
14	"	<i>Ketty</i>	"	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
15	"	<i>Sampson</i>	<i>Child</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
16	"	<i>Adelle</i>	"		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
17	"	<i>Joe</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
18	"	<i>Tenah</i>	"	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
19	"	<i>Erelia</i>	"	<i>17</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>17 00</i>		
20	"	<i>Judith</i>	"	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
21	"	<i>Ben</i>	<i>Child</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
22	"	<i>Polly</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
23	"	<i>Charles</i>	<i>Teamster</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>32 50</i>		
24	"	<i>Primus</i>	"	<i>22</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>27 50</i>		
25	"	<i>Charlotte</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
26	"	<i>Haumah</i>	"	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>26 00</i>		
27	"	<i>David</i>	<i>Child</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>00 00</i>		
28	"	<i>Nancy</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>13 00</i>		

This series of records comprises nearly 6,000 individual payrolls, showing the following information: the time period covered; the Confederate officer under whom the enslaved people were employed; the place of service; names of the enslaver; names and occupations of the hired enslaved person; number of days employed; daily rate of wages; amount

paid; and the signature of the person receiving the payment.

The records shine a spotlight on the lives of enslaved persons during the Civil War, and may provide a wealth of genealogical information relating to the names and home counties of African Americans.

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

SWCW Board Member **Jim Knights** recently was interviewed on the subscription podcast *Writing Women*, where he spoke about the life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, how he researched Sarah's life, and also treated listeners to brief reading of his novel *Soldier Girl Blue*. Find out more at [Writing Women \(substack.com\)](http://substack.com)

SWCW Member and USA Today best-selling author **Gina Danna** recently released the fifth book in her series of historical novels set in the Civil War, *Hearts Touched by Fire: Authentic Storm*. Gina's website, [Gina Danna](http://GinaDanna.com), hosts announcements of her other highly-popular novels.

DONOR LIST

SWCW gratefully acknowledges the following individuals
for their contributions:

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 \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

SWCW Board of Directors Farewells

Long-Time Board Member Dianne Kauffman and Welcomes New Board Member Steve Magnusen

Dr. Dianne Kauffman, a long-time stalwart member of SWCW, best known for her hilarious leadership of silent auctions at conventions, has, for health reasons, submitted her resignation as a board member. The Board thanks

Dianne for her service and looks forward to still enjoying her company at conferences.

At its September monthly meeting, the Board of Directors elected Steve Magnusen to complete Dianne's term of office. Participants in our 2021 virtual conference will recall with pleasure Steve's presentation "Women of Commitment and Courage: The Cutler, Dawes and Gates Ladies of Marietta, Ohio," based upon his well-received book, *To My Best Girl*. Steve's bio can be found on the Board of Directors page at the SWCW website: [Board - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org/Board-Society-for-Women-and-the-Civil-War). Please join us in welcoming Steve's distinguished leadership to the service of SWCW!

**National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War
(NRWSCW):**

Woman of the Month

Mary Sophia Hill

Nurse & Matron, CSA

"The Florence Nightingale of The Army of Northern Virginia"



(Image from The Wild Geese Blogspot for Irish-American History)

Born on November 12 ,1819, in Dublin, Ireland

Died January 7, 1902, in Brooklyn, New York

Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans, Louisiana

Mary Sophia Hill and her twin brother Samuel William Hill were the children of an Irish physician working in Dublin. Not much is known about their childhood, except that they spent a part of their youth in England. Samuel immigrated to coastal Louisiana, probably in 1850, and Mary and her younger sister, Elizabeth, joined him in New Orleans on February 5, 1851. Mary had worked in England as a teacher of English, French, and music, and she continued that occupation in New Orleans. Her income was supplemented by quarterly transmission of funds from Ireland, sent to her via the British consul. Samuel worked as a civil engineer. At some point prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Elizabeth married John Van Slooten, an engineer of Hanoverian nationality working in New Orleans. Mary moved in with the couple.

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Samuel enlisted as a private in Co. F, 6th Louisiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Mary opposed the enlistment,

believing that her brother was not fit for military service. She tried, and failed, to nullify the enlistment on grounds of Samuel's British citizenship, so she obtained permission from the commander and regimental surgeon of the 6th Louisiana to serve as a nurse for the regiment, so she could keep an eye on her twin. The regiment was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia and, in June of 1861, Mary traveled with it to Virginia.

From the diary of Mary Sophia Hill: 21st of June. Battle of Manassas began at half-past seven in the morning. Day very hot. Fighting all day. 22nd. Sunday. Plenty of prisoners taken and Sherman's whole battery captured; I saw it with my own eyes. Water very scarce; troops suffered awfully for want of it. When Johnston's men came in the morning, at their halt at Manassas, I sent them buckets of water and a bag of crackers, that they might not face their enemy black fasting. Spent day at hospital with Dr. Nott of Mobile, and Dr. Williams. Tied up and staunchd the bleeding of many a poor fellow. I remember being asked by some to pick Minie balls out of their legs and arms, while they waited their turn of the doctors, who of course had to attend to the most serious cases first. They have not half supplies. I tore down all the window blinds, and rolled them into bandages; nor was there half hospital accommodations. I made good chicken-soup, and flew around generally. The sights of the wounded were fearful to look at.

Mary steadily worked as a field nurse with her regiment until she received a furlough in December 1861-January 1862, and returned briefly to New Orleans to visit her sister. She was unable to collect her quarterly funds from abroad, due to the US Navy's blockade, but she nevertheless collected comfort supplies to be shipped back to Virginia for the soldiers of the 6th Louisiana. She then returned to her regiment.

In April 1862, she separated from the 6th Louisiana and traveled to Richmond to visit the Confederate hospitals located there, and volunteered for service at

the hospital at Camp Winder. But not long afterward, during the later part of the Spring 1862 campaigning in the Shenandoah Valley, she transferred to the hospital complex located in Charlottesville, where her grievously ill brother had been sent. When he was transferred to Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, she followed. She then boarded him as an out-patient in Richmond, and began nursing in the Louisiana Hospital at Chimborazo. After her brother recovered, he was declared unfit for field service and assigned to map-making duties in the Confederate Corps of Engineers. Meanwhile, Mary had been promoted to the hospital's matron. Beloved by her patients, they bestowed upon her the sobriquet of "The Florence Nightingale of The Army of Northern Virginia."

After New Orleans was taken by federal forces at the end of April 1862, the blockade of its port was lifted. Using her British passport, Mary travelled to New Orleans to obtain the funds being held for her by the British consul. She returned to Richmond, then visited her brother at Culpeper, where she contracted smallpox. Fortunately, it was a mild form of the disease, since Mary had been previously inoculated. When she recovered, she resumed work at the Louisiana Hospital in Richmond.

She again traveled to New Orleans, this time carrying with her verbal messages from Louisiana soldiers to their families. Once in the city, she wrote hundreds of letters conveying those soldier messages to their families outside the area. She encountered difficulty obtaining a pass to exit the federally-occupied territory, but eventually succeeded. Upon her return to Richmond, she worked in the Ladies Institute Hospital.

In 1863, Mary returned to New Orleans. Waiting for her there were letters from Ireland, the contents of which prompted her to travel to abroad to conduct some private family financial business. She embarked from the Port of New Orleans with a pass from the federal Provost Marshal. Upon her return from Ireland, she

made her way out of New Orleans, returned to Confederate-held territory, and resumed nursing and humanitarian activities.

In May 1864, Mary decided to return to New Orleans yet again. Mary had always traveled between Federal and Confederate lines with a pass from the British consul, her British passport, and an oath of neutrality, using flag of truce transit. While enroute, federal regulations changed to require that all those crossing the lines must have a federal pass. Unaware of the new requirement, she arrived without a federal pass and was immediately arrested and sent to the Julia Street Prison. After two days, she was released due to her British citizenship, and paroled to the home of her sister. Weakened by her travails, she fell ill with scarlet fever and nearly died.

While bedridden, she was visited by a federal detective identified as Ellen Williams, who tried to entrap Mary into violating her neutrality status. Long suspicious of Mary, due to her multiple travels in and out of Confederate territory, Federal officials arrested her on May 21, 1864, and she was once again confined to the Julia Street prison, where conditions were deplorable. Mary's mental health deteriorated along with her physical health.

Mary was charged by the US Army with correspondence with the enemy by conveying food, clothing and letters – allegedly including a forged letter to an unknown Confederate general – across the lines to enemy forces. Taken before a military tribunal in July, she protested that the food, clothing and letters – except the forgery, about which she knew nothing – were for her brother. Despite the evidence of her federally-approved line-crossing passes, with specific approval of the items which she carried, coupled with her British passport, she was unsuccessful in fighting the charges. After a five day trial, she was convicted and sentenced to confinement in the Julia Street prison for the duration of the war.

A campaign for her release reached the British ambassador to the US, Lord Lyons. His demands influenced the final review of her sentence and, in August 1864, that sentence was commuted to permanent removal from New Orleans to territory under Confederate control. Her request to depart to England instead was denied. She arrived in Richmond on October 7, 1864. She delivered food and clothing to her brother, including a new uniform which she had made from woolen cloth which she had brought from Ireland – disguised as a cape worn during her travels. Ill and having run out of money, she procured a pass to visit the British consul in Norfolk, where she received aid, including assistance in departing North America for Ireland. Mary remained abroad until her post-war return to New Orleans in October 1865.

Mary's health had suffered while in federal custody, and she was considered an invalid. Her post-war claim for compensation in the amount of 2,000 British pounds sterling was denied by the US Government. In an international court, the Mixed Commission on British and American Claims, she eventually won her case against the US Government for false imprisonment. On September 3, 1873, the British government was awarded \$1560.00 in gold on her behalf, a sum which she considered insufficient recompense for her mistreatment.

Despite her poor health, Mary worked as a nurse, then matron, at the newly-established Confederate Veterans Home in the New Orleans area. As the facility was privately funded until after Reconstruction, she refused to accept any wages for her work. At an unspecified date, Mary moved to the home of her nephew, William van Slooten, a mining engineer living in Brooklyn, New York. Although William committed suicide in 1901, Mary lived with his family until her own death from cancer at the age of 82. Her will stipulated that she be buried in New Orleans and, following her death, her remains were borne there by train. Her brother Samuel, still residing in New Orleans, did not participate in her funeral due to ill-health.

From *The Times Picayune* of New Orleans, January 13, 1902: "When she died, aging Confederate veterans rallied to pay her homage. Eighteen of them provided an honor cortege for her casket, which had the flag of Camp 1, Army of Northern Virginia covering it.... A funeral at 9 o'clock in the morning is a rare occurrence in this city, and still more unusual is the sight of a large number of men in the twilight of life, some wearing the Confederate uniform of gray, reverently marching behind a hearse, while with martial tread a delegation of veterans walk along as pallbearers. Such a scene was witnessed yesterday morning, when, on the arrival of the 9:35 train of the Illinois Central, the remains of Miss Mary S. Hill were transferred to the hearse, and then accompanied to their last resting place in Greenwood Cemetery by veteran Confederates. Forty-one years ago Miss Hill was one of those ministering angels who, leaving their homes and firesides, and impelled by a call from on high, sought the battle fields and the crowded hospitals and devoted themselves to taking care of the dying and the wounded soldiers. She was a true type of feminine gentleness, charity and sympathy; with a sweet voice, a touch so light that care vanished at its charm, and footsteps as noiseless as a snowfall."

In 2005, the Louisiana Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy sponsored the erection of a granite military-style marker at her previously unmarked gravesite.



(Image from The Wild Geese Blogspot for Irish-American History)

The principal source for this article is Mary Sophia Hill's wartime memoirs, published in 1875 by Turnbull Brothers of Baltimore as *A British Subject's Recollections of the Confederacy While a Visitor and Attendant in its Hospitals and Camps*. A number of secondary sources contain confusing contradictions. All sources are available upon request.

Partner Organizations Spotlight

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***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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