

THE CALLING CARD – DECEMBER 15, 2022

## *The Calling Card*



**The monthly e-newsletter of the  
Society for Women and the Civil War**  
<http://www.swcw.org>

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Family Reading at Christmas (staged), stereograph, Civil War period. Library of Congress.

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**The Board of Directors wishes all of you  
the happiest of holidays.**

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## **The 2023 Conference on Women and the Civil War**

SWCW is proud to announce that Philadelphia-based Old Baldy Civil War Round Table has accepted our invitation to serve as the Society's partner organization/co-sponsor for our 2023 annual conference. Old Baldy is a recipient of CWRT Congress' recognition for innovation and is a long-time supporter of SWCW. Old Baldy and SWCW are looking forward to enhancing

our working relationship in the production of another brilliant conference.

The 23rd Conference on Women and the Civil War, *Women in Government Service*,  
will be held July 28-30 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

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**Give the Gift of Membership!**

This holiday season, surprise and delight the Civil War enthusiast in your life with a gift membership in the Society for Women and the Civil War. Gifting is fast and easy -- just go to our website:

[Gift Membership - copy \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

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Godey's Lady's Book, 1861

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## News of Note

### **The American Civil War Museum announces its 18th Annual Symposium.**

*The Civil War and Remaking America: From Abolition to Reconstruction* will be held February 18, 2023 in Richmond, Virginia. Details here: - [American Civil War Museum \(acwm.org\)](https://www.acwm.org)

### **The McCormick Civil War Institute announces its Winter 2023 Online Lecture Series.**

Focusing on the post-war era in the Shenandoah Valley, this three-part lecture series will consist of the following sessions:

- January 10, *Sheridan's Veterans, Reunion, and Reconciliation's Limits*
- January 12, *Grand Army of the Republic Posts in the Shenandoah Valley*
- January 17, *African Americans in the Postwar Valley*

These Zoom sessions are free, and begin at 7 p.m. EST. To register, email the Institute's director at [jnoyalas01@su.edu](mailto:jnoyalas01@su.edu) no later than January 5. The McCormick Civil War Institute is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

### **Field Report: Gettysburg Civil War Women's Memorial 20th Anniversary Ceremony.**

The 20th anniversary of the dedication of Gettysburg's Civil War Women's Memorial (also known as the Elisabeth Thorne Memorial) was held Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Evergreen Cemetery as part of the Women's History Weekend. After the Battle of Gettysburg, Elisabeth Thorn, though six months pregnant, nursed the wounded and buried dozens of dead soldiers.

The ceremony honored the women of Gettysburg who served in various capacities before, during and after the battle. The ceremony was moving and inspirational to the 50+ attendees. Opening remarks were made by Richard Mancini, president of the Evergreen Cemetery Association, followed by an opening prayer from Pastor Kim Blocher. The Mayor of Gettysburg, Rita Frealing, was also in attendance. Cindy Small, Deb Novotny and Sue Boardman spoke of the women who lived in Gettysburg and to whom the monument is dedicated. Brain Kendell, Superintendent of the cemetery, also spoke. Then three young Gettysburg students, fifth-grader Violet Bolitho, eighth-grader Lucy Crist and sophomore Sophia Willard, chosen for their love of history, laid wreaths at the monument.





Gettysburg Area School District history students stand with wreaths they presented as the Gettysburg Civil War Women's Memorial was rededicated at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg. From left are, front row, fifth-grader Violet Bolitho, eighth-grader Lucy Crist and sophomore Sophia Willard; back row, Sue Boardman, Pastor Kim Blocher, Richard Mancini, president of the Evergreen Cemetery Association, Deb Novotny, Gettysburg Mayor Rita Frealing, and Cindy Small.

## **Research Resource**

***Records of the U.S. Sanitary Commission  
at the New York Public Library***

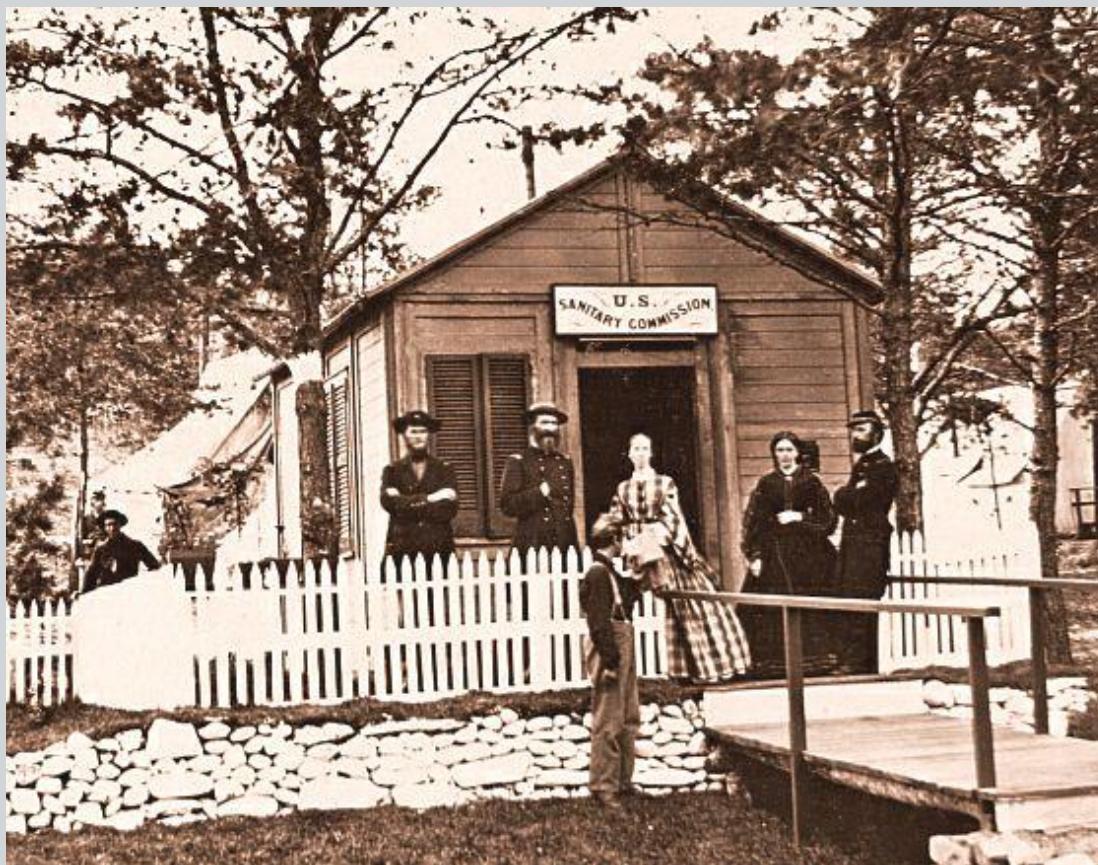


The Sanitary Commission was a civilian organization authorized by the United States government to provide medical and sanitary assistance to the Union volunteer forces during the United States Civil War. As the USSC broadened the scope of its work, Regular troops, sailors and others also benefited from its services.

The collection of Sanitary Commission records consists of 1193 archival boxes and 333 volumes. Some of the collection has been microfilmed, and selected photographs and documents have been digitized. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, military service claim files, registers, diaries, financial records, scrapbooks, posters, illustrations, photographs, printed matter, maps, ephemera and artifacts concerning the Commission's sanitary, medical and relief work during the Civil War, as well as its post-war relief work and publication activities.



Researchers who wish to use the collection must contact the New York Public Library in advance of their site visit.



Comprehensive details of the collection are found here: [Guide to the United States Sanitary Commission Records \(nypl.org\)](#)

The digital collection is found here: [United States Sanitary Commission records - NYPL Digital Collections](#)



Research information for the New York Public Library is found here: [Research | The New York Public Library \(nypl.org\)](https://www.nypl.org/research)



Godey's Lady's Book, 1862

## Society Notices

### **SWCW announces the 2023 Board of Directors**

At the October 2022 Board of Directors meeting, in keeping with the by-laws of the organization, the composition of the Board for the upcoming year was finalized. We are pleased to present the elected individuals:

President: **J. White**  
Vice President: **Maria Carrillo**  
Treasurer: **Dr. Gary Ryan**  
Secretary: **Lavonda Broadnax**

Newly Elected Board Members:  
**Doris Hayden; Dr. Tish Richard; and Stephen Romaine**

Returning Board Members:  
**DeAnne Blanton; Emily Lapisardi; Ashley Sonntag; and Susan Youhn**

Biographies of the Board of Directors are posted on our website: [Board - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://Board - Society for Women and the Civil War (swcw.org))

*We extend our deepest gratitude to outgoing Vice President **Janet Whaley** and Board Member **Steve Magnussen** for their tireless work on behalf of the Society.*

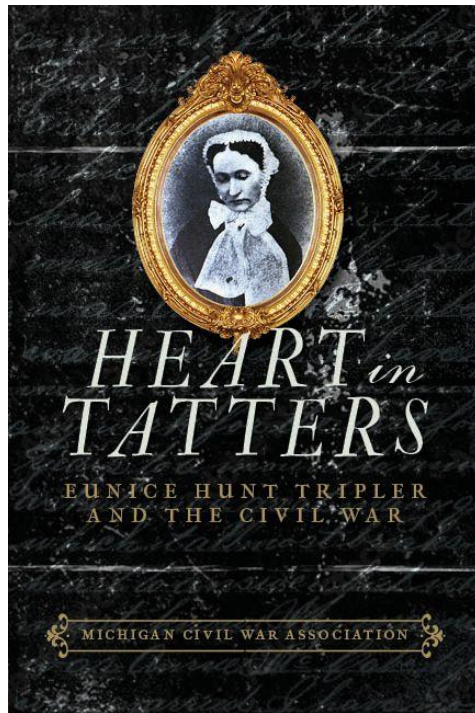
## **DONOR LIST**

*SWCW thanks the following individuals  
for their generous contributions in 2022:*

DeAnne Blanton  
Maria Carrillo Colato  
Betsy Estilow

David D. Finney  
Juanita Leisch Jensen  
Ann Kalata  
Ann Kilian  
Steve Magnusen  
Thelma J. Richard  
Stephen Romaine  
Gary Ryan  
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Susanne Toomey  
Janet Whaley  
J. White  
Walter Wilson  
Jennifer Wisener  
Susan Youhn

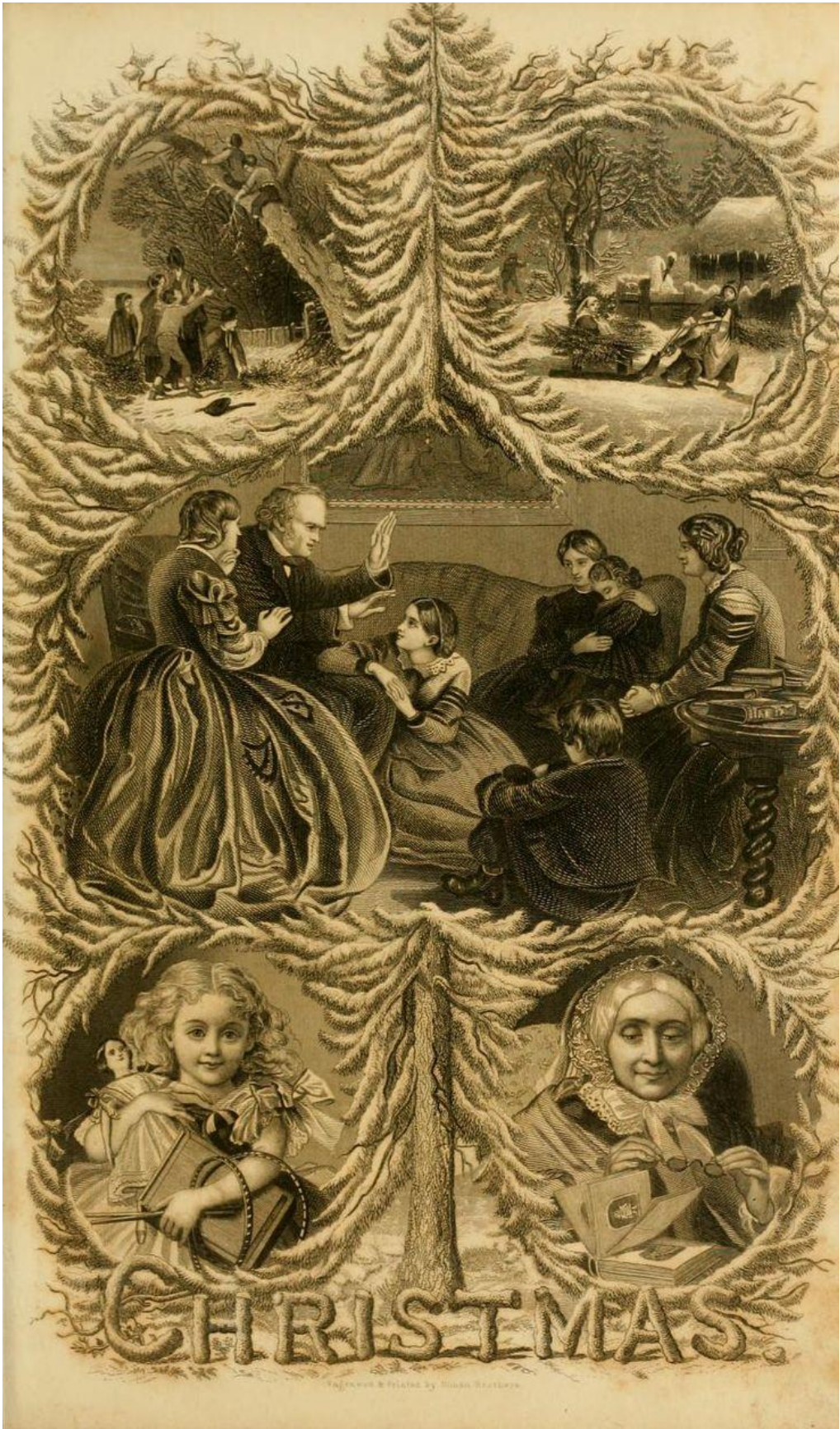
Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund or Scholarship Fund should visit our website at [Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



Congratulations to SWCW Member **Jack Dempsey** on the publication of his most recent book, *Heart in Tatters: Eunice Hunt Tripler and the Civil War*. [Heart in Tatters: Eunice Hunt Tripler and the Civil War | Jack Dempsey Books](#)

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Engraved & Colored by Misses Bentley

Godey's Lady's Book, 1863

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## Woman of the Month

### **Antonia Ford Willard**

Spy, CSA

Born July 23, 1838 in Fairfax Court House, Virginia

Died February 14, 1871 in Washington, DC

Buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, DC



Born to successful merchant Edward Ford and his wife Julia, Antonia grew up in a well-to-do family and received a good education. She was a graduate of the Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute.

At the start of the Civil War, Antonia's family were secessionists, and her brother Charles joined the Confederate Army, serving under J.E.B Stuart. As Fairfax Court House was halfway between Washington, DC and Manassas, Virginia, Antonia's father opened his house to Union officers, while keeping the family allegiances a secret. Antonia went to work using her youth and charm to learn about Union plans, which she sent to Stuart prior to the First Battle of Manassas. On October 7, 1861, Stuart presented Antonia with a "commission" as an honorary aide-de camp, ordering she be "obeyed, respected and admired" as such.



Antonia continued to pass intelligence along to Confederate officers, including John Singleton Mosby, and most historians agree that she was instrumental in Mosby's capture of Union General Stoughton in Fairfax Court House on March 9, 1863. Lafayette Baker of the Union Secret Service investigated the capture and quickly focused on Antonia and her father, given that General Stoughton's mother and several of his aides had stayed at the Ford house, and there were rumors that Stoughton himself had called on Antonia on at least one occasion. Antonia and her father were arrested by Union authorities, and a search of the house produced Stuart's commission, which was taken as proof that Antonia was in the employ of the Confederate Army. Under interrogation by a female agent of the Secret Service, Antonia confessed to spying for Mosby.

Charged with espionage, she was jailed at Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. She was never tried for the charge, and was released from prison after six months due to intense lobbying on her behalf by her arresting officer, Maj. Joseph Willard, on condition that she take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

Antonia and the Major had fallen in love during her incarceration. They were married on March 10, 1864, with Joseph resigning his Army commission. The couple settled in Washington, DC, where Joseph managed the famous Willard Hotel owned by his family. Antonia gave birth to three children, but only one, Joseph Edward, survived infancy. Antonia died in 1871 at the age of 32. Her cause of death is unclear, although some sources claimed it was an indirect result of the privations she endured while imprisoned. Her husband never remarried.

*-- Article by SWCW Board Member DeAnne Blanton*





GOING TO A PARTY IN WINTER.



RETURNING FROM A PARTY.

## **Solicitations**

*The Calling Card* accepts submissions. We are accepting 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.

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Godey's Lady's Book, 1865.

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If you enjoyed this issue of *The Calling Card*,  
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and we will add you to our monthly distribution list.

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Back issues of *The Calling Card* are available on our website:

Newsletter Archive - The Calling Card - Society for Women and the Civil War  
(swcw.org)

Editor: DeAnne Blanton, SWCW President Emerita

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