

The Calling Card



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

Society Notices

A Message From the President of SWCW

Welcome to the 21st year of our society! As we enter this new year, I want to update you on some important aspects of our operations.

Board of Directors

Your Board holds annual elections in December, following a nominations process. Terms are for three years; however, if elected to complete the term of a departing member, the new member's term expires at the end of what would have been the term of the person whom she/he is replacing.

For new three-year terms, beginning on January 1, 2024, the Board re-elected **DeAnne Blanton, Maria Carrillo Colato** and **Susan Youhn**.

Stephen Romaine resigned from the Board due to family challenges. Many thanks are due to him for his service – most notably serving as the Speakers Coordinator for our 2023 conference. We expect to still call upon Stephen for advice based upon his senior business management experience.

To complete the remaining two years of Stephen's term, the Board elected **Nancy Hill**, who had been a member of the Board previously. Nancy was also elected to serve as SWCW's Treasurer, a role she has held in the past. We are fortunate to have her experience. She will be mentored by our retiring Treasurer, **Dr. Gary Ryan**, who is remaining on the Board.

While being re-elected to service on the Board, **Maria Carrillo Colato** resigned from the office of Vice-President due to personal and professional needs. Thus, we will be without a Vice-President for 2024.

The following Board Members continue their service: **Lavonda Broadnax**, Secretary; **Doris Hayden**; **Emily Lapisardi**; **Tish Richard**; and **Ashley Sonntag**. Board Member biographies may be found on our website: [Board - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

The Nominations Committee was made a standing committee in 2023. This means that it can accept and act upon expressions of interest in Board service year-round. The committee chair for 2023-2024 is **Gary Ryan**. If you are interested in serving

on the board, please contact him via our organizational email address, swcw1865@gmail.com, ATTN: Nominations Committee.



Annual Conference

DeAnne Blanton, editor of *The Calling Card*, and **Ashley Sonntag**, Publicity Chair, are doing a great job at preliminary publicity, and I hope that they have stirred your interest for 2024 in Atlanta!

Joining our Co-Sponsor, **Kennesaw State University's Center for the Study of the Civil War-Era**, we are pleased to announce that the **Georgia Battlefields Association** will serve as our Contributing Sponsor. We are honored to be partnering with both of these prestigious organizations.

The Board has finalized the activities for the conference, which will include dynamic presentations, an intriguing all-day field trip, displays and exhibits, author book sales, and silent auction, as well as social hours and fine dining. We encourage attendees to arrive early or remain over for a few days, in order to take advantage of all of the historical and cultural offerings in the Atlanta area.

We are particularly proud that, while greatly expanding the offerings of the 2024 conference, we are keeping the registration cost in line with our previous two conferences. This is due to very careful negotiation with vendors, watching expenditure planning with hawk's eyes, substantial donations, and subsidizing with remaining income from the 2023 conference.

Watch for registration to open in early February!



Membership Dues

While other organizations have found it necessary to raise the cost of annual dues, SWCW has maintained the same dues for many years. We hope that we are offering value for the money – fulfilling our mission, serving our members, and

maintaining a responsible fiduciary position. Due to the efforts of our completely all-volunteer Board, Regents and Committee Chairs, and members, over the past three years, we have expanded our programming while growing our ability to fund the expenses of those projects - all as we steadily increase our financial readiness.

Our dues are based upon the calendar year, so we invite you to now show your support for 2024! Visit our website to renew your membership or join us for the first time: [Join the Society - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org) (As is our custom, the password for our members-only portal, which provides access to our quarterly journal, *At Home and in the Field*, will be changed in March and sent to those members who have paid their dues for 2024. As dues continue to be received, the new password will be shared with those persons.)

Membership Survey

Looking forward to preparing for our 25th conference in 2025, your Board seeks your input in guiding it. The Membership Committee has created a member survey to be sent to dues-paid members for 2023 and 2024. This survey solicits observations and recommendations, and invites members to share their interests, skills, and energy with our society. Please look for a direct email, via our MailChimp platform, at the beginning of February, and know that your response is valued.



I want to personally thank those who care so much about our Society and its mission for sharing your time and talents with us as we recognize the efforts of women 1861-1865!

J. White
President

News of Note

U.S. Mint Announces Release of Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coins.

The 2024 Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin Program recognizes the bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth, and her extraordinary lifework. The collection consists of silver dollar, silver half-dollar, and \$5 gold coins. [Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin - US Mint Catalog Online](#)

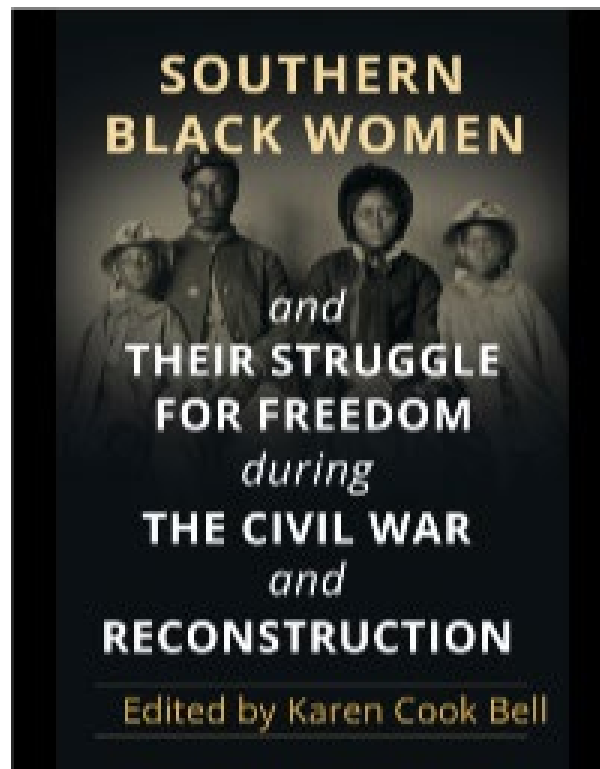


Book of Note: Southern Black Women and Their Struggle for Freedom during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

This rich and innovative collection, edited by SWCW supporter **Karen Cook Bell**, explores the ways in which Black women, from diverse regions of the American South, employed various forms of resistance and survival strategies to navigate one of the most tumultuous periods in American history – the Civil War and Reconstruction era. The essays included shed new light on individual narratives and case studies of women in war and freedom, revealing that Black women recognized they had to make their own freedom, and illustrating how that influenced their postwar political, social and economic lives. Black women and children are examined as self-liberators, as contributors to the family economy during the war, and as widows who relied on kinship and community solidarity. Expanding and deepening our understanding of the various ways Black women

seized wartime opportunities and made powerful claims on citizenship, this volume highlights the complexity of their wartime and post-war experiences, and provides important insight into the contested spaces they occupied.

The book may be ordered here: [Southern black women and their struggle for freedom during civil war and reconstruction | African American history | Cambridge University Press](#). Use code BELL2023 for a 20% discount.



Free Civil War Dance Classes.

The Civil War Dance Foundation, an Organizational Partner of SWCW, is offering free dance lessons at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on January 21, February 25, and March 10. For more information, or to register, send an email to contact@civilwardance.org



Research Resource

The American Civil War Museum

[American Civil War Museum - Exploring the unparalleled significance of the Civil War
\(acwm.org\)](http://acwm.org)

The mission of The American Civil War Museum is to explore, inspire, and promote the public's understanding of the Civil War – its causes, course, and consequences. The American Civil War Museum is more than an unparalleled collection of artifacts. It examines the unparalleled significance the Civil War holds to complexities we face today.



The American Civil War Museum-Tredegar is located on the James River waterfront in Richmond, Virginia, at Historic Tredegar, a National Historic Landmark. The Museum building surrounds the ruin walls of the Tredegar Ironworks Central Foundry.



The White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, operated by ACWM, was built in 1818. This National Historic Landmark served as the executive mansion and home for Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family from 1861–1865.



The American Civil War Museum–Appomattox explores the overlapping stories of the end of the War and the beginning of a reunified nation. It is located just over a mile from the surrender site.

To learn more about the museum, visit their website: [American Civil War Museum - Exploring the unparalleled significance of the Civil War \(acwm.org\)](http://AmericanCivilWarMuseum.org)

Women of the Month

Lottie and Ginnie Moon

Confederate Couriers and Smugglers

Cynthia Charlotte Moon, known as Lottie, was born in Danville, Virginia on August

10, 1828. Her father was a physician and her mother was a homemaker. The Moon family relocated to Oxford, Ohio, where Virginia Bethel Moon, known as Ginnie, was born on July 22, 1844. The family also had two sons. Little is known about the formative years of the sisters.



Lottie Moon



Ginnie Moon

As a young woman, Lottie was courted by, and engaged to, a young Army officer,

Ambrose Burnside. She left him at the altar. Instead, she married James Clark, an attorney and local judge.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Lottie was 31 and Ginnie was 16. Both of the brothers enlisted in the Confederate Army. Their widowed mother moved with Ginnie to Memphis. Ginnie was enrolled in the Oxford Female Institute, but was expelled for her Confederate sympathies. After this expulsion, Ginnie was sent to live with Lottie and James in Ohio.

Lottie and James were also Confederate sympathizers, with James joining the Knights of the Golden Circle. Confederate operatives were frequent guests of the couple, and Lottie became a courier of messages between Ohio and Kentucky. Perhaps inspired by her sister, Ginnie returned to Memphis and began her own courier work. Under the pretext of visiting her sister, she relayed messages between Memphis, now under Union occupation, and the Knights of the Golden Circle in Ohio. Both sisters also smuggled medical supplies to the Confederate Army.

They were intercepted by Union authorities in 1863, who discovered the medical supplies sewn in a quilt in their baggage. Requesting to see her "old friend," Ginnie was granted an interview with Gen. Ambrose Burnside, her sister's scorned fiancé, who was serving as the commander of the Union Department of Ohio. After their meeting, Burnside ordered that both sisters be placed under house arrest. Charges were never pressed against the sisters, and after three months, they were sent South into Confederate territory. The sisters went to Danville with their mother.

After the war, Lottie and her husband moved to New York City. They had one son, Franklin, and Lottie began a new career as a journalist, eventually covering the Franco-Prussian War from various European capitals. She died in Philadelphia on

November 20, 1895, at the age of 67.

Ginnie returned to Memphis at the end of the war and ran a boarding house. She moved to Hollywood during the early days of silent films, at the age of 70, and found parts in several movies, including *Robin Hood*. She died on September 11, 1925 in New York City, at the age of 81.

-- DeAnne Blanton

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

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

