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## *The Calling Card*



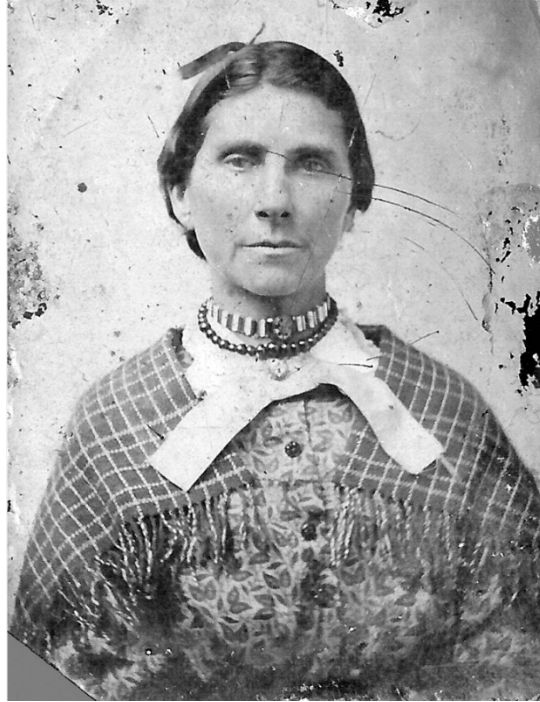
**The monthly e-newsletter of the  
Society for Women and the Civil War**

<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



Nancy Kile Green of Georgia.

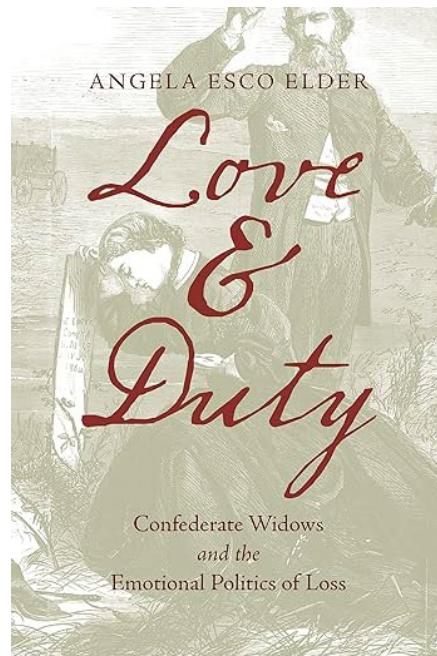
She raised seven children alone after her husband died of illness during the Civil War.

## News of Note

**Book of Note: *Love and Duty: Confederate Widows and the Emotional Politics of Loss* by Angela E. Elder.**

Between 1861 and 1865, approximately 200,000 women were widowed by the deaths of Civil War soldiers. They recorded their experiences in diaries, letters, scrapbooks, and pension applications. In *Love and Duty* (UNC

Press), Elder draws on these materials—as well as songs, literary works, and material objects like mourning gowns—to explore white Confederate widows' stories, examining the records of their courtships, marriages, loves, and losses to understand their complicated relationship with the Confederate state. Elder shows how, in losing their husbands, many women acquired significant cultural capital, which positioned them as unlikely actors to gain political influence.



### **Civil War Dance Foundation Events.**

The foundation's Victorian Dance Ensemble will present *The Original Civil War Ball* on Remembrance Day at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg, November 18 at 8 p.m. (admission charged at the door). On November 24, join them at the Gettysburg National Military Park for free dance demonstrations as part of the Park's *Christmas in the 1860s* program, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. To learn more about the Victorian Dance Ensemble, visit [civilwardance.org](http://civilwardance.org).

The Civil War Dance Foundation is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

## **"Lunch and Learn."**

The American Civil War Museum in Richmond will present a program on *Victorian Christmas Traditions* on December 8 at noon in the Tredegar Lobby, presented by Kelly Hancock, Director of Programs. Get all the details here: [Lunch & Learn: Victorian Christmas Traditions - American Civil War Museum \(acwm.org\)](https://www.acwm.org)

## **The McCormick Civil War Institute Announces Spring Conference.**

Registration is now open for *"Is the Vindictive Spirit...Just?" Waging Civil War*, scheduled for April 20, 2024 at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. The full schedule of events is here: [McCormick CWI Spring Conference - McCormick Civil War Institute \(su.edu\)](https://www.mccormickcwi.org)

The McCormick Civil War Institute is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

## **Research Resource**

### ***Civil War Photographs at the Library of Congress***

[About this Collection](#) | [Civil War](#) | [Digital Collections](#) | [Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](#)



The Prints & Photographs Division of the Library of Congress holds thousands of images relating to the Civil War, found in many different collections. Use the link above to search these collections for glass

negative prints, stereograph cards, ambrotypes, tintypes, carte de visite,  
and eyewitness drawings.

### **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)

## **Society Notices**

### **SWCW Scholarship Programs**

The Society offers four annual scholarships to support students, educators, and reenactors / living historians.

#### **The Dr. Florence Williams Memorial Scholarship:**

awarded to current high school students.

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

**The Marge Estilow Memorial Scholarship:**

awarded to current college students.

[Estilow and Williams Scholarships - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

**The Brenda McKean Memorial Scholarship:**

awarded to current practicing reenactors / living historians.

[Brenda McKean Reenactor Scholarship - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

**The Ann Kilian Educator Scholarship:**

awarded to teachers or museum professionals.

[Ann Kilian Educator Scholarship - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

Visit the SWCW website for details about scholarship criteria.

**Applications for the 2024 scholarships must be received by April 1, 2024.**

## Women of the Month

**The National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War**



Postcard, ca. 1911. National Library of Medicine.

In June 1881, Former Superintendent of Army Nurses, Dorothea Dix, founded the Ex-Nurses Association of the District of Columbia. The Association was primarily a social organization tasked with rendering assistance to its members, and working to secure Federal benefits and recognition for Union Army nurses. The group met annually, and also attended the encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Membership in the association grew to former nurses outside of the DC area, and in 1892 it changed its name to the National Association of Army Nurses of the Late War. This was also the year that Congress finally granted pensions to Union Army nurses, a victory gained through the lobbying efforts of the Association and its allies in the GAR.

By 1897, membership had swelled to more than 500 former nurses, and



included such luminaries as Harriet Dame, Annie Wittenmyer, Clara Barton, Cornelia Hancock, and Mary Ann Bickerdyke. Membership in the organization was open to anyone who had served at least three months as a paid or volunteer nurse.

In 1901, the name changed again to the National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War, to distinguish it from the Spanish-American War. The association continued its fellowship and philanthropy until it disbanded in 1931 (when only five living members remained).

--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](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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[Newsletter Archive - The Calling Card - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org/newsletter-archive)

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