

The 9th Annual Conference for Women and the Civil War Held July 27 - 29 2007 at The Inn at Chester Springs, PA

Attendees will experience brief, sequential encounters with other researchers, sharing issues, suggestions, solutions to research dilemmas.

Friday July 27

Collections Workshop: "My Find" - Attendees to this workshop can bring a favorite find - military or civilian - that dates to the mid-19th century. This workshop will consist of discussions of the identity, analysis and care of items.

Research Workshop: "Military Records" - Military Historian Les Jensen outlined how and why military records are created, and how and where researchers can find the information in them.

Collections Workshop: "Tabletop Displays" - Individuals and teams compared and critique table-top displays showing artifacts or research related to the conference. The workshop focused on techniques for producing displays that are both attractive and educational.

Annual Meeting - A brief update and meeting on organizational matters of the Society for Women and the Civil War.

"Women of Philadelphia" presented by Robin Stokes

Robin Stokes, a life-long resident of the greater Philadelphia area, provided an overview of the many and varied roles of Philadelphia women in the Civil War.

Midnight Madness

Saturday July 26

"Nellie Chase Leath: Civil War Nurse with Attitude" by Dr. Carolyn P. Schriber

Dr. Schriber described a nurse who might be described as "Dorothea Dix's worst nightmare." She was young, beautiful, practical, headstrong. Patients adored her; a chaplain did not.

"Depot Women: Unknown Backbone of the Confederacy" by Les Jensen

Mr. Jensen described the lives and labors of tens of thousands of women who worked for uniform depots, and organizations that employed them, comparing Richmond and Philadelphia

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depots.

"Martha J. Coston: An Illuminating History" by Denise E. Pilato

Ms. Pilato reported on Martha J. Coston, who invented and patented the Coston Signal Flare, which was adopted and used by the U.S. Navy and other services during and after the Civil War.

"Copperhead Women" by Ph.D. candidate Jonathan W. White

Mr. White broke away from our discussions of women who supported the war to discuss northern women who opposed what they saw as coercion of the South and Lincoln's "war to free the slaves."

Afternoon Field Trip – "An Afternoon at the Spa"

The Saturday afternoon field trip consisted of a short bus trip to Yellow Springs Historic Site. Docents provided guided tours of a site that was alternately used as a tavern, a hospital for Revolutionary War Soldiers, a 19th century spa and resort, and a Soldiers' Orphans Home.

Sunday July 26

"Becoming Useful: Confederate Women Composers" by Dr. Candace Bailey

Dr. Bailey described the efforts and accomplishments of women who made themselves useful to Confederate war efforts by composing and publishing patriotic sheet music.

"Cherokee Women" by Dr. Clarissa Confer

Dr. Confer explored ways that Cherokee women experienced the war, focusing on individuals who left records of their experiences, including Mrs. General Stand Watie, wife of the highest ranking Indian in the Civil War.

"The Role of Chester County Women in the Great Central Fair" by Florence Williams

Ms. Williams described the organization and participation of women from Chester County, PA [where our conference is being held] in the 1864 Philadelphia Sanitary Fair.

"The Woman Major General John Fulton Reynolds Left Behind" by Marian Latimer

Ms. Latimer revealed the 'rest of the story' about Catharine Mary Hewitt, detailing what

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happened to the fiancée of General Reynolds...new data for anyone who thought her life was an
"unsolved mystery."