

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

Harrisonburg is the seat of Rockingham County, in the center of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. During the Civil War, the Valley was considered the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy"; control of its resources was highly contested between the armies. Located between the spectacular Blue Ridge and Alleghany mountain ranges, the city is grounded in its historic agricultural roots and artisan culture, but celebrates its modern role as an academic and arts center. Vibrant, modern and diverse, the "Friendly City" welcomes our exploration. See more about the Civil War in the Shenandoah and Rockingham County at <http://www.shenandoahatwar.org>.

**Conference Partner:
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields
Foundation**



SWCW is dedicated to recognizing the lives and contributions of women who lived through, or participated in, the American Civil War. It also supports those who research, reenact, or otherwise honor these women of the past. The society sponsors an annual conference and two publications: the monthly "Calling Card," providing announcements of events of interest, and "At Home and in the Field," a quarterly e-journal.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

**Hotel Madison and
Shenandoah Valley Conference Center,
Harrisonburg, Virginia**

Conference Registration

Website: www.swcw.org

E-Mail contact swcw1865@gmail.com

or:

Society for Women and the Civil War

P.O. Box 3117

Gettysburg PA 17325

MEMBERS – FULL REGISTRATION - \$ 325.00

**NON-MEMBERS – FULL REGISTRATION –
\$ 350.00**

(PayPal accepted at registration website)

REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 20, 2020

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center

710 S. Main Street

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

540-564-0200

www.hotelmadison.com

**\$99.00 per night + tax (12.3%) single or
double occupancy for lodging.
Parking charge is \$5.00 per night.**

A block of rooms at this special rate has been reserved. Reserve your room by phone, or online using code **CSVW200720**.

The rate may be extended to 3 days prior and 3 days after the conference.

**Please reserve your room with the hotel by
June 20th to use our conference rate.**

The Society for Women and the Civil War

21st Annual Conference

"The Women of the Shenandoah Valley"



*July 24-26, 2020
Harrisonburg,
Virginia*

**FRIDAY,
JULY 24, 2020**

Check-In at
The Hotel Madison

ON-YOUR-OWN ADVENTURES

Sarah Kay Bierle, of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, will lead a tour of civilian-related New Market Battlefield Civil War sites.

Additional on-your-own adventures will be available in the Harrisonburg area.

FRIDAY NIGHT

**Welcome Reception
and
SWCW Annual Meeting**
Shenandoah Valley Conference Center

Officers and committee chairs report accomplishments in our organization's programs and on planning for the future.

Keynote Speaker

Jonathan A. Noyalas
Director, McCormick Civil War Institute
Shenandoah University
Shenandoah Valley Conference Center

This noted historian discusses Rebecca Wright McPherson, the Unionist spy who was critical to Sheridan's successes in the 1864 Valley Campaign.

Hospitality Suite

Join us at our Hospitality Suite in the hotel for complimentary evening snacks, libations, fellowship and networking, on both Friday and Saturday nights.

**SATURDAY
JULY 25, 2020**

Breakfast at the Hotel Madison
Bus Pick-up at the Hotel

FIELD TRIP

Belle Grove Plantation

This national historic site at Middletown was the location of the battle of Cedar Creek, pivotal to the 1864 Valley Campaign. The National Park Service program will focus on the lives of the women of the plantation – free and enslaved – during the battle and during other military campaigns in the Valley.

A picnic lunch will be served at Belle Grove by one of the Shenandoah Valley's premier barbeque pit masters.

Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center

This Harrisonburg site focuses on the Civil War-era Church of the Brethren and Mennonite farm families who were mostly Unionists and endured the brunt of the Valley Campaigns. Their descendants remain a strong and defining cultural presence in the Valley.

DINNER & AUCTION

Dinner

We'll enjoy a fabulous dinner of farm-to-table offerings provided by the chefs of the Hotel Madison.

Twilight Madness

Auction, Sales Tables, and Information Sharing
Bring donations for the auction when you check-in on Friday. Tonight, bid on donated treasures, with auction proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. Talk with SWCW authors and buy their books. Share information on SWCW programs, on local events, and on places to visit related to women and the Civil War.

**SUNDAY,
JULY 26, 2020**

Breakfast at the Hotel Madison

Presentations at Shenandoah Valley Conference Center – Adjacent to the Hotel

SPEAKERS

“The Powells of Winchester”

Alison Herring presents her research on the unpublished papers of the Powell family women, who witnessed the outbreak of the Civil War while running a girls' school in Winchester, Virginia.

“O you are just like my mother to me!": Catholic Nuns and Protestant Soldiers in the American Civil War”

Megan Hildebrand reviews the stories of Roman Catholic nuns serving as Civil War nurses. This presentation considers the relationships developed between the nursing nuns and hospitalized Protestant soldiers, most of whom had never met a Catholic person, let alone a strangely-dressed nun. The long-term effects of their relationships brought positive social change to nineteenth-century America.

“Women of Commitment and Courage: The Cutler, Dawes and Gates Ladies of Marietta, Ohio”

Steve Magnusen describes the lives of these courageous women, who endured extraordinary drama as war disrupted their lives. Their experiences and perceptive observations are brought to life through their eloquent letters and journals.