



The Calling Card

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

<http://www.swcw.org>

The Board of the Society for Women and the Civil War wishes everyone a happy Thanksgiving! We feel grateful for all of you.

A Message from our President, Susan Youhn

The SWCW Board has been busy planning our 2020 Conference and here is a short preview.

This year we will be in partnership with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and be hosted by the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, VA. Located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, the hotel will be our main site for our conference.

We will have our reception there on Friday prior to our Membership Meeting and our keynote speaker. We will also host our Saturday night banquet and Sunday lectures at the hotel.

Our field trip will consist of tours of one of the National Park's most recent acquisitions, Belle Grove Plantation. At Belle Grove we will tour the plantation house, with an emphasis on the Civil War era and the women of the plantation. We will also be treated to their Judah program, which presents the life of an enslaved woman cook at the Plantation.

We will then visit the Brethren and Mennonite Heritage Center. There we will tour a Civil War era farm, and learn about the Civil War era lives and roles of Brethren and Mennonite women in the Valley.

More details will be distributed in the next edition of the Calling Card.

The John G. Nicolay Papers at the Library of Congress are now available online!

The collection can be accessed in several ways:

- Through an online presentation (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000085>) that includes not only the collection items themselves, but also a selected bibliography in “[Related Resources](#),” a [timeline](#) of Nicolay’s life, and featured items displayed in slide carousel of images that suggest the range of materials available in the collection.
- Through the HTML version of the finding aid (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011009>); click on the “digital content available” hyperlinks in the Contents List section of the guide. A new window will open containing the object record for that material. Click on the document image in the center to open the viewer that provides access to the content.
- Through the PDF version of the finding aid (<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011009.3>); click on the “digital content available” hyperlinks in the Container List section of the guide. Clicking on the hyperlink will forward that page to the object record for the

material, and hitting the “back” arrow will return you to the start of the PDF (not at your last location in the guide).

If you anticipate needing to toggle back and forth between the finding aid and object records, then the HTML version will be easier to use as object records are opened automatically in a new window. If using the PDF version of the finding aid, right clicking on the “digital content available” link will allow you to manually open a new tab in which to access the material without losing your place in the finding aid on the first tab.

Please note that this collection is not indexed to the level of individual documents, and that the collection is presented at the level of description found in the finding aid (from which the metadata in the online collection is derived). Keyword searching the collection will not return results for individual items; it will only search the level of description available in the container listing of the collection finding aid. The best way to approach searching the Manuscript Division’s online collections is to pretend that you are in the Manuscript Reading Room and are examining the microfilm reels/containers most appropriate to your research. This may only involve searching through a single folder, or it may require you to scan through a microfilm reel’s worth of material.

Civil War Medicine Wagon

At the recent 155th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, 18-20 October 2019, SWCW organizational member Pallas Athena Ladies Aid Society (PALAS) debuted its US Army medicine wagon (mobile brigade-level apothecary). Restoration of an original Civil War-era Wheeling-model US Army ambulance, its conversion into an 1864-era Autenrieth-model medicine wagon – as was the custom - and its equipage with original antique medical equipment was the completion of a two-year project. PALAS was advised in the project by the Historian of the Army Medical Department, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and individual subject matter experts. PALAS’ demonstration of the medicine wagon includes the role of the hospital steward in compounding medications to meet surgeons’ prescriptions and the role of Confederate women herbalists in growing and supplying botanical ingredients for the Confederate Medical Service. The road-worthy medicine wagon will be made available at appropriate future reenactments and living history events.



Smithsonian Exhibition – Cartes de Visite of Prominent Civil War-Era Women

In a new exhibition, [Storied Women of the Civil War Era](#), currently on view at the [National Portrait Gallery](#) in Washington, DC, the Smithsonian Institution presents the enlarged carte de visite images of fourteen women prominent in America during the Civil War era. The women include a queen (not Victoria); a pre-teen Venezuelan-immigrant concert pianist; political operatives; and an abolitionist who was the first woman to address the US Congress. The exhibition particularly highlights the story of Pauline Cushman, an actress, spy, and prisoner of war.

This exhibition is part of the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative, “Because of Her Story,” and may be viewed until 8 May 8, 2022. An article on the exhibit, which includes images of the cartes de visite, may be found at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/actress-who-left-stage-become-civil-war-spy-180972821/>.

United States Sanitary Commission

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has posted Elizabeth Robertson’s excellent and well-illustrated study of the USSC: “The Union’s ‘Other Army’: The Women of the United States Sanitary Commission”. It may be found on line at https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/Elizabeth%20Robertson_0.pdf

We Want to Hear From You!

Please send news of interest to your editor, DeAnne Blanton, at ddbblanton@gmail.com

Submissions for the December issue are due no later than the 10th. The next issue of The Calling Card will arrive in your in-boxes on or around December 15.



Copyright © 2019 Society for Women & the Civil War, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Society for Women & the Civil War

PO Box 3117

Gettysburg, PA 17325-0117

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

