



The Calling Card

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

<http://www.swcw.org>

Save the Date! *The Conference on Women and the Civil War* is rescheduled for July 23 – 25, 2021

The Board of Directors is delighted to announce our conference will be held at the Madison Hotel in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and they have secured a hotel rate of \$99 per night. The conference will feature the same dynamic field trip and we hope to have the same exciting lineup of speakers.

Thank you for being so understanding during this time of great upheaval!

Susan Youhn, SWCW President

Civil War Themed Graphic Novels

Cartoonist Marek Bennett is drawing a multi-volume series of epic graphic novels, *The Freeman Colby Series*, using letters and diaries to tell the story of Freeman Colby, a Union soldier from New Hampshire. The lives of Civil War nurses such as Sarah Low and Fannie Dawson also feature prominently.

Freeman Colby Vol. 2 has been nominated for two major awards this spring: Excellence in Graphic Literature ("Best in Young Adult / Non-Fiction) and the National Cartoonists Society Reuben Award ("Best Graphic Novel").

For more information, visit his website, <https://marekbennett.com/freeman-colby-series/>

**National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War (NRWSCW) –
Woman of the Month**

**American Civil War Royalty
Agnes Elisabeth, Princess zu Salm-Salm**



Born Agnes Elisabeth Winona Leclerc Joy on Christmas Day 1844, in Franklin, Vermont, Agnes, Princess zu Salm-Salm played a heroic role in the American Civil War and later in the Mexican Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War. Not only was she one of the very few women who received an honorary US Army commission – as a captain – but, for her nursing and humanitarian services, she later received the Prussian Army's Medal of Honor.

She was a distant relative of President Lincoln, and, at the outset of the American Civil War, the acclaimed equestrienne was a star of Washington social activities. Early in the war, she met and married Prince Felix Constantin Alexander Johann Nepomuk Marie zu Salm-Salm, of the Imperial House of Hapsburg, who was serving as a colonel, later brigadier general, in the US Army. It was a true love match, and the intrepid princess accompanied her husband with his unit, serving as a volunteer nurse. She was well-known for her skills as a “dog robber,” rifling through wagons of officers’ personal equipment – including that of her husband - to find supplies for wounded troops. She was admired for her beauty, humanity, humility, spirit, graciousness and great humor.

After the American Civil War, her husband served in the joint European army supporting his relative, the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian von Hapsburg of Mexico, in the Mexican Civil War. Princess zu Salm-Salm, who had, in an arduous journey, made her way alone to join her husband in Mexico, won world-wide renown for her attempts to save Maximilian’s life from execution by the victorious republican forces of Benito Juarez. Maximilian was not spared; however, in recognition of her courage, Juarez released her husband from captivity, and the couple returned to his home in Europe.

The prince then served in the Prussian army during the Franco-Prussian War, while the princess resumed her role as volunteer nurse. She again “stole like a magpie” in support of gravely wounded and dying soldiers. When the King of Prussia accidentally came across the princess raiding his personal cellars for buckets of wine for her patients, he gave her leave to plunder his kitchens as much as she pleased. Widowed during the war, to the rest of her life, she continued active support of humanitarian causes. Having used her personal funds to support these

causes, she died impoverished, in Karlsruhe, Germany, on 21 December 1912. Her life as a volunteer nurse through three wars was chronicled in her memoir "Ten Years of My Life".

Visit *The National Civil War Museum* on YouTube! Although the Museum is currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they are busy uploading their catalog of lectures. Check it out: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChzZS4t8cZN2L2qPEIzBd_wA

Civil War Home-Schooling During the Covid-19 Pandemic

With students across the country currently being home-schooled, now is the perfect time to re-introduce that subject for which many school systems have given short shrift in recent years: American History. As persons with an interest in the American Civil War experience and, in particular, the lives of civilians during the Civil War, there are a number of web-based opportunities which we can use to introduce or to expand this exposure for students.

Organizations, such as the **Civil War Round Table Congress**, the **American Battlefield Trust** and others offer on-line lectures and organized home-schooling content.

The **Civil War Round Table Congress** sponsors a series of live presentations. Each presentation, hosted on Zoom, requires registration. To be placed on the distribution list and receive notice of lectures, contact the CWRT-C at <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/>. Upcoming presentations include one by SWCW-associated author Janet Croon, which is specifically focused upon the life of children during the war. Register for presentations at www.CWRTCongress.org/lectures.html.

American Battlefield Trust - <https://www.battlefields.org/learn>

Similarly, museums and historic sites offer organized on-line content for students. These can easily be found by web searches. Some of the more prominent national sources follow.

The **US Army Heritage and Education Center** is the leading military museum and military historical research center in the country. It features on-line-accessed lectures and Civil War-era exhibition content which includes the web-version of its exhibit on the role of women during the Civil War at <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu> , <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/lectures.cfm> and <https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/exhibits/CivilWarImagery/index.cfm>

The **American Civil War Museum** is another highly-regarded museum center which focuses on the Civil War experience at <https://acwm.org/>.

The **African American Civil War Memorial Museum** provides excellent lesson plans at <https://www.aacwmed.org/services>.

The **Atlanta History Center** is one of the country's premier museums with a focus upon the Civil War civilian and military experience. Its on-line Georgia Campaign Map offers an interactive view of civilian life in Georgia during the war at <http://www.georgiacampaignmap.com>.

The **Mariners Museum** offers on-line content about nineteenth century civilian and military women at <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/sites/micro/women/index.htm>. The museum offers specific programming for home-schooling. Including "What's the Story?", about which more can be found at <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/whats-the-story/>.

Regional museums and historical societies are also rich sources which can provide local context for students. An excellent example is that provided by the Louisa County [Virginia] Historical Society's Sargeant Museum at <https://louisahistory.org/lesson-plans>.

Some television channels, such as the **History Channel**, now offer curated home-school programming, and History Channel's own offerings can be found at <https://www.history.com/history-at-home>.

YouTube is a treasure trove which can be easily searched for videos offering visual instructions in nineteenth century crafts and skills. A simple YouTube search on "drop spinning for beginners" yields quite a few video tutorials on making and using a drop spindle with wool roving ordered on line. Pair that with introductory videos on dyeing with natural materials from your yard and the woods and with beginning knitting (if you don't have needles, use clean chop sticks left over from your home-delivered Asian food), and your students can go back to their in-school experience wearing their own fashion designs!

The **History Channel** has teamed with **YouTube** in order to offer content and format specifically tailored to students at <https://www.youtube.com/user/historychannel>.

The **Mariners Museum** is another YouTube partner. It offers a regular YouTube lecture series on Civil War-era topics. Registration is required, and may be accessed at <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/LIVE/> .

We hope these ideas provide you with some great options for students – and if they get well and truly bored, you can send them outside to gather eggs, milk the cows, pick off the tobacco beetles and hitch up the plow to take over their father’s duties while he’s off to the Civil War!

The Horace H. Lurton Papers at the Library of Congress are now available online.

Horace H. Lurton (1844-1914) served in the Confederate Army, spent time as a prisoner of war at Camp Chase and Johnson’s Island Prison in Ohio, and later served as an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1910 to 1914. The 250-item collection includes a number of letters Lurton wrote during the Civil War, including while a prisoner of war.

The collection can be accessed in several ways:

- Through an **online presentation** (<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000097>) that includes not only the collection items themselves, but also a selected bibliography in “[Related Resources](#),” a [timeline](#) of Lurton’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.ms008042>); 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.ms008042.3>); 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. Depending on your internet browser, hitting the “back” arrow may return you to the start of the PDF, rather than to your last location in the guide.

Social Distancing Solicitation: please send us suggestions for learning more about the Civil War and women's history. What websites, documentaries, and books do you think Society members and friends might enjoy while we self-isolate? Please send your recommendations to DeAnne Blanton, editor of *The Calling Card*, at dablanton@gmail.com.

The next issue will arrive in your inbox on or around June 15, 2020.



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