

**THE CALLING CARD**  
January 15, 2021



## **The Calling Card**

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

<http://www.swcw.org>

### **2021 Membership Campaign**

Now is the time to join us for the first time,  
or to renew your annual membership.

Just go to our website:

<http://www.swcw.org/join-the-society.html>

**Our membership year runs from January - December\***

*Exclusive benefits of membership include a discounted rate on*

*our annual conference, a members-only page on our website, and access to our quarterly journal, At Home and In the Field.*

The Society for Women and the Civil War is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. ***Membership dues are tax-deductible, and they enable us to fulfill our mission.*** We are dedicated to recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War, and those who research, reenact or otherwise honor these women of the past.

\*New members who joined from October - December 2020 do not need to renew for 2021.

**The Winter 2021 issue of *At Home and in the Field* will publish on January 31!**

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**The Conference on Women  
and the Civil War**



Your Board of Directors has been working on exciting plans and a long-term schedule for our premiere event, the annual ***Conference on Women and the Civil War***. We are pleased to announce the dates and locations for our upcoming Annual Conferences:

**2021: July 23 - 25, Harrisonburg, Virginia**

**2022: July 22 - 24, Petersburg, Virginia**

**2023: July 28 - 30, Carlisle, Pennsylvania**

**2024: July 26 - 28, Atlanta, Georgia**

**2025: July 25 - 27, San Antonio, Texas**

By targeting the locations for our conference well in advance, we can provide the best experience for our attendees. Plans for

speakers, field trips, and programs will be in place and publicized with plenty of time for our members and supporters to make their own plans to be a part of these gatherings.

We encourage you to put these dates on your calendars and we hope you are looking forward to these conference events as much as we are!

If you are interested in helping coordinate any of our future conferences, please contact us at [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com).



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**News of Note**

## **The Last Surviving Widow of a Civil War Veteran Dies.**

**Helen Viola Jackson** married James Bolin in 1936, when she was 17 and he was 93. She died December 16, 2020, at 101 years old. [The Last Surviving Widow of a Civil War Veteran Dies at 101 | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

## **Online Book Reviews.**

**Civil War Books and Authors Blogspot** is an independent, non-fiction Civil War book online review journal, with news, commentary, interviews, and more. According to the site, any non-fiction Civil War-related book will be considered for review, including military, politics, society, and reference. Political events from the decades leading up to the war are also considered for review. The Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi theater and Indian conflicts during and surrounding the Civil War years are particular interests of CWBA reviewers.

Reviews on the blog can serve SWCW authors as excellent publicity available at no cost, and the work of at least one SWCW member author has already been reviewed on the blog. Information regarding submission of books for review may be found at CWBA's website at <https://cwba.blogspot.com/>.

## **From *First Call* to *Taps*.**

Have you ever wondered at the meaning of the military bugle calls which you hear at reenactment and living history events? Check them out here: <https://www.bands.army.mil/music/buglecalls/default.asp>.

### ***The Nameless and the Faceless of the Civil War.***

SWCW member **Lisa Samia** will be teaching an adult enrichment class, *The Nameless and the Faceless of the Civil War*, beginning **February 11**, wherein participants learn about the Civil War through the rhyme and narrative of poetry. For more information, click here: [The Nameless and the Faceless of the Civil War - Farmington Continuing Education \(eleyo.com\)](http://eleyo.com)

### ***The Immigrant's Civil War.***

SWCW supporter and Immigration Law Professor **Patrick Young** writes *The Immigrant's Civil War*, a blog for the website *Long Island Wins*. Twenty-five of the articles discuss women. Read them here: [Women in the Immigrants' Civil War - Long Island Wins](http://LongIslandWins.com)



**The Company of Military Historians** will hold their Annual Meeting, *Ten Crucial Days of the American Revolution*, at the Crowne Plaza, Princeton, New Jersey, **May 27-30, 2021**. This event will include lectures, field trips, a conservation workshop, and social activities. For more information, visit their website: [Information about the 2020/21 Annual Meeting – The Company of Military Historians](https://military-historians.org/2020/21-annual-meeting) ([military-historians.org](https://military-historians.org))

**Research Resource:**

**Carded Service Records of Hospital Attendants,  
Matrons and Nurses, 1861-1865**

(Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office)

*A* | |

*Miss L M Alcott*

*Nurse*, Co. ...., ..... Reg't .....

Appears on

**Hospital Muster Roll**

of Union Hotel U. S. A. General Hospital,  
at Georgetown, D. C.,  
for *Nov + Dec*, 186*2*.

Attached to hospital:

When ....., 186 .....

How employed, *Female nurse*

Last paid by Maj. ....  
to ....., 186 .....

Bounty paid \$ .....<sup>100</sup>; due \$ .....<sup>100</sup>

Present or absent, *present*

Remarks: .....

Book mark: .....

(343) *Spencer* Copyist.

The National Archives has digitized this series of records in full, and they are available online. The Carded Service Records were created by the Record & Pension Office of the Adjutant General's Office in the post-war years. Clerks transcribed verbatim information from the original hospital muster rolls. These carded records provide proof of service for nurses, matrons and attendants who were carried on the rolls at Union general hospitals.

The cards list the name of the employee, hospital muster roll and date of original record, when attached, capacity in which employed, by whom and to what date last paid, whether present or absent, and remarks. To view the cards, visit The National Archives

Catalog: [Carded Service Records of Hospital Attendants, Matrons and Nurses](#) ([archives.gov](#))

B. | |

Sophenia E. Bucklin

....., Co. ...., ..... Reg't .....

Appears on

**Hospital Muster Roll**

of Hammond U. S. A. General Hospital,

at Point Lookout, Md.,

for Nov & Dec, 1862.

Attached to hospital: Oct. 29, 1862

When .....

How employed Female nurse

Last paid by Maj. ....

to ....., 186 .

Bounty paid \$ <sup>100</sup> ; due <sup>100</sup>

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Book mark : .....

.....

A. H. Davis

(348) Copied.

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## Society Notices

### A Message from the New President of the SWCW

Welcome to 2021!

We look forward to a year of increased success as we pursue our missions of recognizing the contributions of women who served their nations during the Civil War and supporting our colleagues who honor their service through their scholarship, writing, teaching and reenacting.

Our core operations of conducting an annual conference, delivering our two publications, populating our databases on women's Civil War service and the monuments and markers honoring that service, and supporting members – particularly authors – grew tremendously over the past year. In recognition and support of these expanded activities, membership numbers nearly tripled in 2020. The Board of Directors and the Regents join me in thanking you for the tremendous encouragement given to us by that support!

As we were unable to present an annual report to the membership at what would have been our 2020 conference, the Board is producing a detailed written annual report which will be made available on the website's members-only portal, and announced to the membership. This will become an annual action.

During 2021, we will build upon our success by continuing to identify and apply best-practices in order to enhance our ability to perform our missions and their supporting activities, serve our members in an efficient and transparent manner, and creatively leverage resources by cooperating with our organizational partners.

I thank you for your dedication to our mission and invite you to participate in the committees which lead its fulfillment. You can do so by contacting the board at [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com).

J. White  
President



### **SWCW Project – Organizational History**

As we approach our 25th anniversary, SWCW is undertaking a concerted effort to collect and archive information, records and

ephemera which complete the documentation of our history.

Readers of *The Calling Card* who have the following are requested to contact our Archivist at [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com):

- 1. The identities of persons who have served on the board of directors, as officers, as committee chairs, as regents, as conference chairs, and in any other special capacity, along with years (dates) of service.**
- 2. Texts of conference presentations, presentation summaries and conference handouts.**
- 3. Minutes of board meetings.**
- 4. Conference notebook contents for the following years: 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2009.**
- 5. Records of conference planning and coordination.**
- 6. Records and files of actions, projects and key correspondence.**
- 7. Records of coordination with other organizations.**
- 8. Records of key committee actions.**
- 9. Financial and budget records, to include records regarding conference expenditures and of key donations.**
- 10. Observations of lessons-learned.**

Our deepest thanks to those of you who can help us fill the gaps in our organizational archives. Anyone with information or documents (paper or electronic) is requested to send an email, with a descriptive inventory and estimated page count, to the Archivist, who will determine if the content is amongst that which is needed. Electronic files are preferred, but the SWCW will accept paper materials. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, SWCW can cover the cost of thumb drives and shipping of paper materials. Upon request, paper materials sent to the Archivist will be returned after scanning.

Once the archives is fully electronic, documents relating to our organizational history will be posted to the members-only portal on our website, enabling us to recognize and honor all the persons who have served the SWCW. Information from prior conferences will also be posted to the members-only portal, thus extending the educational utility of previous presentations. The Board of Directors also plans to make use of the completed archives to extract lessons learned from our past to apply towards best practices for our future.

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## **Suggested Reading**

**A sampling of books written by  
SWCW members and supporters.**



Abraham, Donna. *The Way They Were Dressed in 1860-1865: A Photographic Reference, Vols. 1 & 2.*

Bierle, Sarah Kay. *Call Out the Cadets: The Battle of New Market, May 15, 1864.*

Blanton, DeAnne, and Lauren Cook. *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War.*

Carr, JoAnn Daly. *Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War.*

Christie, Jeanne. *The Women of City Point.*

Conklin, Eileen. *The Women of Gettysburg, 1863.*

Croon, Jan. *I Am Perhaps Dying: The Medical Backstory of Spinal Tuberculosis Hidden in the Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham.*

Curran, Thomas F. *Women Making War: Female Confederate Prisoners and*

*Union Military Justice.*

Floyd, Claudia J. *Union-Occupied Maryland: A Civil War Chronicle of Civilians and Soldiers.*

Harriel, Shelby. *Behind the Rifle: Women Soldiers in Civil War Mississippi.*

Hudson, Carson O. Jr. *Yankees in the Streets.*

Kaufmann, Patricia A. *Independent State Mail and Confederate Use of U.S. Postage.*

Knights, James J. *Soldier Girl Blue.*

Krowl, Michelle A. *Women of the Civil War.*

Leisch, Juanita. *The Look of the Ladies: Clothing During the Civil War.*

Mescher, Michael. *American Children's Games Through the Civil War Period.*

Mescher, Virginia. *Flitting Fingers: Tatting in the Nineteenth Century.*

Noyalas, Jonathan. *Civil War Legacy in the Shenandoah: Remembrance, Reunion and Reconciliation.*

Rumble, Victoria. *Victoria's Home Companion: Or, The Whole Art of Cooking: A History of 19th Century Foods, with Recipes.*

Samia, Lisa. *My Name is John Singer.*

Scriber, Carolyn P. *Henrietta's Journal: A Life of Compromise*.

Steenhagen, Polly. *Tunisian Crochet a la Mode*.

Stevenson, Louise. *Lincoln in the Atlantic World*.

Tilghman, Kathy. *Slaves to Freedom*.

To see more titles by SWCW authors, visit our website:

[Authors List - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

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**National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War  
(NRWSCW):**

**Woman of the Month**

**Sarah Rosetta Wakeman**



Born January 16, 1843 at Bainbridge, New York  
Died June 19, 1864 at New Orleans, Louisiana  
Buried at Chalmette National Cemetery in Louisiana

Sarah Rosetta Wakeman was the eldest of nine children born to Harvey and Emily Wakeman, who were yeoman farmers near Afton, NY. Rosetta spent her childhood and early teenaged years working the farm. Like many girls of her background, she received little formal education beyond learning the fundamentals of reading and writing.

By the time Rosetta was seventeen, her family was in severe financial straits, so she found employment as a domestic servant to help her family make ends meet. At the age of nineteen, in search of higher wages, she decided to pass as a man. She cut her hair, donned men's clothes, assumed the name of Lyons Wakeman, and secured a job as a coal handler on a Chenango Canal boat.

At the end of her first trip down the canal, she and her coworkers encountered U.S. Army recruiters. Enticed by an opportunity for adventure, as well as the \$150 in local and state bounties, she enlisted on August 30, 1862, and was mustered into the 153rd New York Infantry. Lyons Wakeman was described on the muster-in roll as five feet tall with blue eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion.

From October 1862 to February 1864, the 153rd New York Infantry was stationed in the Defenses of Washington, mostly providing guard duty. In January 1863, Wakeman survived a bout with the measles.

Her family in New York State was aware that their daughter was in the army, for she faithfully wrote to them throughout her service. Her letters indicated deep bonds of affection. She routinely forwarded some, if not all, of her paychecks to her parents. Her letters showed that she was proud of her competence as a soldier, writing "I have got so that I can drill just as well as any man there is in my regiment" in one of her letters.

In March 1864, the 153rd New York was transferred to Louisiana, to take part in the ill-fated Red River Campaign. Having labored her entire life, and having spent nearly two years in the army, Wakeman was prepared for the hard work of campaigning. Her unit saw combat at the Battles of Pleasant Hill on April 9 and Monett's Ferry on April 23. Wakeman wrote her last letter home after Pleasant Hill, relaying that "I had to face the enemy bullets with my regiment. I was under fire about four hours and laid on the field of battle all night."

On May 3, 1864, Wakeman went to the regimental hospital complaining of chronic diarrhea. The regimental surgeon ordered her transferred to the Marine USA General Hospital in New Orleans for care, and she arrived there on May 22. Her condition steadily

deteriorated, and most likely left her debilitated and confined to her bed.

Based on the military records documenting the service of Lyons Wakeman, no one in her regiment or chain of command realized that the private was a woman. If any of the medical staff in New Orleans discovered that fact, they kept it to themselves.

Rosetta Wakeman died in service to her country on June 19, 1864, and was buried under her assumed name.



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## **Partner Organizations Spotlight**

**The Civil War Dance Foundation**

Since 1995, the Civil War Dance Foundation has conducted period balls, dance demonstrations, dance classes, and artifact displays throughout the mid-Atlantic region. The group has presented programs for the Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, Ken Burns' American Journeys Tours, National Civil War Museum, Pennsylvania State Museum, Maryland Historical Society, the Washington DC National Theatre, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Virginia's Pamplin Park, North Carolina's Museum of the Cape Fear, and for numerous other historical organizations and sites.

The CWDF is deeply committed to supporting historic preservation and education, and has held events that have raised more than \$280,000 for numerous preservation projects. Through 2020, the CWDF has directly donated more than \$65,000 from its own treasury to various historical preservation and education causes. The CWDF is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

In 2011, the group was named "Reenactment Unit of the Year" by the Civil War Trust in recognition of its service to preservation causes. They also received the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award from President Barack Obama for donating more than 3,480 hours of volunteer public service in 2016.

The CWDF has created an *Introduction to Civil War Dancing* DVD, which depicts a period ball in the rotunda of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building, and an instructional portion that demonstrates the basic moves used in the dances. They also offer a free PDF Dance Manual.

Information on their activities, as well as DVD or Dance Manual ordering instructions are available on their website:

[www.civilwardance.org](http://www.civilwardance.org).



***The Calling Card* accepts submissions.**

We are keen to share the achievements of our members, and to advertise the activities of the Civil War and Women's History communities. We also welcome individual research requests, and notifications about educational and archival resources.

Please send your submissions to [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com), and please write 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.



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**Our mailing address is:**

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PO Box 3117

Gettysburg, PA 17325-0117

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