

THE CALLING CARD – April 15, 2022

The Calling Card



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

<http://www.swcw.org>

The 2022 Conference on Women and the Civil War

Registration is now open for *The Women of the Shenandoah Valley*,
the 22nd Conference on Women and the Civil War.

July 22-24, 2022

Space is limited!

**This promises to be an exciting and informative event,
featuring presentations by speakers who are experts in their
field;
an excursion to the world-class Frontier Culture Museum;
plenty of opportunity for networking and socializing;
and fine farm-to-table dining.**

Read all the details here: [Details for the 2022 Conference - Society for
Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](#)

Register here: [EmailMe Form - SWCW 2022 Conference Registration
Form](#)



Image Courtesy of The Valentine.

The venue is the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Conference Center
in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Our special conference rate for rooms is \$119 + tax per night,
plus \$5 parking per day.

To reserve your room, call the hotel at 540-564-0200,
or go online to [Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Ctr
\(travelclick.com\)](http://HotelMadisonandShenandoahValleyConferenceCtr.travelclick.com)

Shenandoah Valley: Historical Site Spotlight

The Stonewall Jackson House, Lexington



The museum's mission is to preserve the home of Thomas and Anna
Jackson,

while interpreting their lives, character, and times.

[Visit - Jackson House Museum - Virginia Military Institute \(vmi.edu\)](http://vmi.edu)



Images courtesy of the Stonewall Jackson House

News of Note

Civil War Dance Demonstrations.

The Civil War Dance Foundation, an Organizational Partner of SWCW, will present *Victorian Dance Demonstrations* during the month of May at the following venues in Pennsylvania:

- May 1 at the Fort Hunter Garden Faire in Harrisburg
- May 20 in Parkesburg
- May 28 and 30 at Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

Check their website, civilwardance.org, for all the details.

Celebrating May Day and Springtime!

The 1860s Civilian Celebration 2022 will be held April 29 - May 1 at Capon Springs and Farms in West Virginia. Full information is on their website: Welcome (1860sciviliancelebration.com)



Civil War Hospital, Front Royal, Virginia

Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Tours.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District announces *Fridays at the Front*, their series of complimentary tours of battlefields and historic sites:

- May 20, The Running Fight at Middletown
- July 29, Civil War Front Royal
- October 22, Civil War Mount Jackson

Register at their website: [Fridays at the Front – Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District \(shenandoahatwar.org\)](http://shenandoahatwar.org)

Philadelphia Cemetery Tour.

On May 7, join the General Meade Society for *A Tour of Old and Curious*

Cemeteries of Philadelphia. Reserve your spot online: [Upcoming Events | General Meade Society](#)

Research Resource:

Museum Row, Bardstown, Kentucky

[Civil War Museum | Bardstown, Kentucky \(bardstownmuseumrow.org\)](http://bardstownmuseumrow.org)



Museum Row includes:

The Civil War Museum

dedicated to the Western Theater

The Women's Museum of the Civil War

dedicated to women's 19th century achievements

The General Hal Moore Military Museum

dedicated to the military service of the people of Kentucky

Old Bardstown Village

a collection of ten original 18th and 19th century Kentucky structures

Society Notices

News from the SWCW Board of Directors

Board Member **Jim Knights** has resigned his position. The Board of Directors thanks Jim for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Society, especially for his leadership and creativity in marketing our ongoing initiatives and annual conference to the wider Civil War community. We wish Jim well in his future endeavors.

DONOR LIST

SWCW gratefully acknowledges the following individuals
for their contributions:

Betsy Estilow

Cathryn Kalata

J. White

Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund or Scholarship Funds should visit our website
at [Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org).

SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Forthcoming Appearances by SWCW Members at the American Civil War Museum in Richmond:

- Book Talk with **Lisa Samia**, *The Nameless and Faceless Women of the Civil War*, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Lisa serves as the Author Support Chair for SWCW.
- Book Talk with **Emily Lapisardi**, *Rose Greenhow's My Imprisonment*, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Museum. Emily serves on the Board of Directors for SWCW.

Find out more about these book talks: [Events Archive - American Civil War Museum \(acwm.org\)](https://www.acwm.org)

Notice of Password Change

The Society's website has a "Members Only" section that includes an archive of several years of our e-journal publications plus reference documents like our Membership Guide and Bylaws. And more information is being added that will benefit our members. The password to this part of our website has changed and was sent to the members in good standing.

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2022, you can do so at this link: <https://www.swcw.org/join-the-society.html>. The new password will be sent to you upon renewal.

Membership year runs from January - December.

The Silent Auction is Back!

Our 2022 Conference will include the ever-popular silent auction! The auction will be held following dinner on Saturday evening, July 23. SWCW is seeking donations of books, art, hand-made items, gift baskets, gift certificates, accessories, and any Civil War themed items. If you have an item to donate, please contact SWCW Board Member Steve Magnusen at magnusens@sbcglobal.net. A donation form will be emailed to you for completion and reply. Items will be accepted during registration check-in. Proceeds from the auction benefit the SWCW scholarship funds, and are tax-deductible. (Receipts will be provided.)



This matted and framed page from *Harper's Weekly*, dated April 19, 1862, will be available for auction at the conference.

From the SWCW Author Support Committee:

Committee Chair **Lisa Samia** is available as a resource for all SWCW member-authors. She has amassed a wealth of useful information in marketing publications, and is happy to share her knowledge and insights in regards to promoting your book. Contact her at authorlisasamia@gmail.com.

- Lisa requests that SWCW member-authors send information about their participation in book-signings, presentations, festivals, and other events,

for inclusion in *The Calling Card*. (For Lisa to include the notices in the current month's issue, please send them to her for receipt prior to the tenth of each month.)

- All readers of *The Calling Card* are also invited to send to Lisa notices of recurring book festivals, signing opportunities, and meet-the-author type events which are appropriate for participation by Civil War-era focused authors. Lisa will then share that information in *The Calling Card*.
- Attendees at SWCW's 2022 annual conference who are authors of Civil War-era focused books are invited to set up book sales/signings tables - at no charge - during the conference. When registering for the conference, please indicate in the "Additional Comments" section your interest in participating in this activity, and the conference registrar will contact you to get started.

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

Woman of the Month

Clara Barton



Born December 25, 1821 in North Oxford, Massachusetts

Died April 12, 1912 in Glen Echo, Maryland

Buried at the North Cemetery, Oxford, Massachusetts

This month's feature, ***A BICENTENNIAL ESSAY ON CLARA BARTON,***

is contributed by SWCW member Carolyn Ivanoff.

Dr. Henry Bellows, the former president of the United States Sanitary Commission during the Civil War was well respected and well known in 19th century America. Bellows had tried, and failed, to get the United States to ratify the Geneva Convention. In 1882, Clara Barton succeeded where Bellows and other powerful men had failed. Bellows said of Barton, "If she had belonged to the other sex, she would have been a merchant prince, a great general, or a trusted political leader." High praise, but Clara Barton was something much

more than anything Bellows suggested she would have been had she been born a man. The legacy Clara Barton left to the world will go on and endure forever.

Today Barton has three museums devoted to her memory. Her birthplace in North Oxford, Massachusetts. The boarding house in Washington, D.C., where she lived throughout the Civil War, and where she founded the Missing Soldiers Office. The founding headquarters of the American Red Cross in Glen Echo, Maryland, is a National Historic Site. She has two national monuments dedicated to her, one on Antietam National Battlefield, commemorating her service on America's bloodiest day, and one at Andersonville National Cemetery amid the 13,000 dead she helped identify. She was the founder of the American Red Cross, the founder of the American First Aid Association, and a truly great American humanitarian.

Through her work and advocacy in educating the public, senators, and presidents, this woman, who could not even vote, motivated the United States to ratify the Geneva Convention in 1882. She succeeded where powerful men had failed. She became the founder and first president of the American Red Cross and served in that capacity for 23 years, retiring in 1904 at the age of 82. Barton believed that the mission of the Red Cross should not be just a war time relief agency, but a world relief organization. This belief motivated Barton and the American Red Cross to respond to every great disaster in the latter half of the 19th century. In 1884, through her work, the "American Amendment" to the Geneva Treaty was adopted internationally and it transformed the Red Cross from a wartime relief agency into a humanitarian relief agency, in both peace and war, wherever aid was needed, domestically and internationally. Through her work, disaster preparedness, preparedness training, and stock piling of crucial lifesaving supplies are a hallmark in all facets of health and medicine, war and peace. Her belief, that first aid could save

more lives than the Red Cross ever could, has made first aid a normal part of our homes, workplaces, educations, and lives. First Aid kits are almost universal and worldwide, thanks to her founding of the American First Aid Association in 1905.

Throughout her long life of service and dedication to others, her personality was large and conflicted. She was insecure and confident, rigid and flexible, frequently at odds with herself. She possessed immense personal magnetism and charismatic charm. She was never convinced of the love or esteem of others and continually sought compliments from friends and praise from the public. She was both bold and shy. She feared rejection but had a powerful sense of her individuality. From childhood she never felt that she fit in. She always felt she was the odd man (or woman) out. She was the embodiment of Walt Whitman's words in *Song of Myself*, "Do I contradict myself? Very well then, I contradict myself, I am large, I contain multitudes."

One of Barton's most admirable qualities was her ability to motivate powerful men to work with her toward her goals. Her network was an outstanding hallmark of her success. But most admirably, the relationships she cultivated and developed to gain her goals often became friendships, true and treasured, and lasted a lifetime. Mostly the lifetime of others as she outlived almost all of her contemporaries. Present biographers criticize that she sometimes exaggerated or lied about her accomplishments. Why? Certainly, her accomplishments needed no embellishment. But she felt driven by necessity to do this. She lectured to garner public support for her causes. She needed to inspire the powerful and the public to support her. This woman stood on the lecture circuit with many of the giants of her age. Who would criticize Frederick Douglass by saying he exaggerated the evils of slavery to win public support for freedom and civil rights? She did not seek riches. But she pursued fame. She needed it personally, emotionally, and because it was the only bona fide way for

her to secure public support for her humanitarian causes. As a woman alone, without a powerful family, without wealth, only through fame could she secure her goals.

Barton's concept of a Missing Soldier's Office was a remarkable one for its time. One of the greatest tragedies of the Civil War were the tens of thousands of soldiers who died unknown. There were tens of thousands of unmarked graves throughout the land. Grieving families were left without any consoling knowledge of their loved one's fates, circumstances of death, or place of burial. Many of the missing simply disappeared. Barton was haunted by this. Without proof that a soldier had died, the government would not pay pensions to widows and orphans. The Army did not notify families in the event of a soldier's death. There was no formal physical form of identification, such as the dog tags that became part of the 20th century military. There was no central graves registration process. Casualty lists were notoriously inaccurate, compiled from company and regimental rolls after a battle. Notification and condolences to families came from company officers or comrades and in mass casualty situations, there might be no one to write home. If burial parties were aware of a man's identity, they tried to mark the place of burial. But the sheer numbers of dead, the time between death and burial on the field, the advances in weaponry, and the damage beyond recognition to the human form--so many men were never identified. In February 1865, Barton wrote to President Abraham Lincoln in pursuit of permission to become an official government correspondent seeking those who had vanished during the conflict. Her office identified almost 23,000 unknown dead. In 1869 When Barton wrote her final report to Congress and the Senate, she concluded it with a plea that Congress make a declaration of death for all soldiers still missing and unknown so their families could finally have closure and could seek financial relief through the pension system.



Today, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) carries on Clara Barton's work for the U.S. military. The mission of the DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, they search for missing personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. DPAA research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world to identify our honored dead and to bring them home. Clara Barton would surely applaud this mission as a service of the highest honor.

Clara Barton led one of the most remarkable lives in American history. Her humanitarian accomplishments were astounding and are without parallel. More importantly those accomplishments continue to the present. I believe we can be very sure, that even as we recognize the bicentennial of this woman, her life's work and her legacy will continue into the next two hundred years and beyond.

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

We are pleased 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, with *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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please consider forwarding to a friend.**

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(swcw.org)

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