



## The Calling Card

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

<http://www.swcw.org>

June 15, 2020

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### News of Note

#### **The Last Person Receiving a U.S. Civil War Pension Dies**

According to recent reporting by the Wall Street Journal, Irene Triplett, the last person receiving a federal pension from the Civil War, died at the age of 90 on May 31, 2020 in North Carolina. Her father, Mose Triplett, originally served in the Confederate Army, but deserted in 1863 and joined the Federal Army in 1864. Ms. Triplett, who was born when her father was 83, was officially recognized as a Real Daughter by the Sons of Union Veterans in 2011. Severely disabled, she drew a Civil War military survivor's pension of

\$73.13 per month from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Extends Early Registration for the 156th Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 17-18, 2020**

The CCBF, sponsors of this reenactment, the largest and most prominent in the country, has announced that early registration is extended through **June 30, 2020**. This maintains the early registration fee at \$20.00 for adults and teenagers 13 and above; \$10.00 for children 8-12; and no fee for children 7 and under. Registration fees will increase on July 1, 2020 and again on August 1, 2020. Those wishing to register should go to the CCBF's website, [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us), and print out the registration form. Send the completed form and a check for funds in the appropriate amount to CCBF at PO Box 229, Middletown VA 22645. In the event that pandemic conditions force cancellation of the event, all registration fees will be refunded upon request.

### **Historical Sites Emergency Grant Fund Program Update**

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has announced the funding of more than \$38,000 in grants to historic sites and organizations in the Shenandoah Valley through its *Historic Sites Emergency Grant Fund* program (which we highlighted in our April issue, and to which many of our readers may have contributed). The grants assist partners in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and is intended to provide support for historic sites suffering financial hardship due to the interruption of normal operations caused by the public health crisis. Grants ranging from \$300 to \$2,500 were awarded to 20 partners in the National Historic District.

**The Andrew Johnson Papers at the Library of Congress  
are now available online!**

The collection may be accessed at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000091>

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## **Suggested Reading**

Beginning with this issue, *Suggested Reading* will be an occasional column listing good books on timely subjects. *The Calling Card* welcomes suggestions for future topics.

### **African American Women's History**

#### **Colonial Period - Reconstruction**

- Berry, Daina Ramey. *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, From Womb to Grave, In the Building of the Nation*
- Clinton, Catherine. *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*
- Downs, Jim. *Sick from Freedom: African American Illness and Suffering During the Civil War and Reconstruction*
- Dunbar, Erica Armstrong. *Never Caught: The Washington's Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge.*
- Gordon-Reed, Annette. *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*
- Hines, Darlene Clark and Kathleen Thompson. *A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women*
- Jacobs, Harriet Ann. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- Keckley, Elizabeth. *Behind the Scenes*
- Nathans, Sydney. *To Free a Family: The Journey of Mary Walker*
- Owens, Deirdre Cooper. *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*
- Taylor, Amy Murrell. *Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps*
- Taylor, Susie King. *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp*
- Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn. *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*
- Truth, Sojourner. *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*

- White, Deborah Gray. *Ar'n't I a Woman? Female Slaves in the Plantation South*
- Whitehead, Karsonya Wise. *Notes from a Colored Girl: The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emilie Frances Davis*.

## **Selected Online Works by Civil War Era African American Women**

SWCW member Lavonda Kay Broadnax, Digital Reference Specialist at the Library of Congress, has compiled a web guide to the historic full text of works, now available in digital format with free and open access, written by and about African American women who lived during the U.S. Civil War.

Access the guide here: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/aacivilwarwomen/>

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## **Society Notices**

### **Civil War Round Table Conference Lecture**

SWCW Board Member Jim Knights will present a live ZOOM lecture, *Distaff Soldiers During the Civil War*, to the CWRTC on June 29 at 7:00 p.m. To register for this lecture, visit [www.cwrtccongress.org/lectures.html](http://www.cwrtccongress.org/lectures.html)

**SWCW Proudly Announces a New Day for its Quarterly Journal -- At Home and in the Field**

With thanks to Meg Galante-DeAngelis for her many years of service, *At Home and in the Field* is being revived under new management. In Meg's place – but not replacing her – the SWCW Board of Directors has appointed an editorial committee composed of SWCW board members. Noted author Jim Knights will serve as the editor. He is assisted by J. White, a professional writer with decades of experience; Janet Whaley, also an experienced writer who brings particular talent in publication illustration; and Laurel Scott, a professional magazine editor and photographer. We hope that the blending of their backgrounds and talents will result in an engaging publication to well-represent SWCW and make you, our members, proud.

The journal has been completely re-formatted and will appear in a more easily-readable format. In addition to reporting the results of scholarly research and frequent surprises, the new journal will showcase regular columns, which include the following:

- The Reticule - General information for the context of women's lives.
- Genteel Arts - Fine arts and handwork.
- The Civil War Song Book - Lyrics to popular songs of the era, with introductory commentary about context and meaning.
- The Hearth - Articles about hearth cooking and open fire cooking, to include equipment, techniques and recipes (with period and contemporary instructions).

***At Home and in the Field* is a benefit of paid SWCW membership – look for its availability to be announced in July**

**Do you want to become a member of the  
Society for Women and the Civil War?  
Just visit our website:**

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

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

**Woman of the Month**

**Lucy Pettway Holcombe Pickens**



Born on June 11, 1832 at Westover of Woodstock plantation, Fayette County, Tennessee. Raised at Wylucing Plantation, near Marshall, Texas. Died, aged 67, on August 8, 1899, at Edgewood Plantation, near Aiken, Edgefield County, South Carolina.

At seventeen, following the death of her suitor while he was fighting in Cuba, Lucy penned the novel *The Free Flag of Cuba, or the Martyrdom of Lopez: A Tale of the Liberating Expedition of 1851*, which espoused the cause of Cuban liberation from Spain.

Lucy married Col. Francis W. Pickens, US Ambassador to Russia, in 1858. With the Civil War looming, the couple returned to South Carolina, where Colonel Pickens was elected Governor. From 1860 to 1863, Lucy was the state's wartime First Lady. In addition to her social responsibilities, she is credited with playing a role in the Confederate government as an advisor and confidante to her husband, as she was a gifted diplomat in her own right.

In order to fund the establishment of a South Carolina military unit, which was subsequently named the Lucy Holcombe Legion in her honor, Lucy sold much of the jewelry that had been gifted to her by the Russian Tsar and Tsarina.

She was also the only woman honored by depiction on Confederate States currency, with her portrait appearing on three issues: the 1862 and 1863 dollar bills, and the 1864 hundred dollar bill.

Referred to as "Lady Lucy" in South Carolina, she was known throughout the rest of the nation as the "Queen of the Confederacy." Also described as "beautiful, brilliant, and captivating" by her male contemporaries, Lucy Holcombe Pickens was considered the beau

ideal of the Southern Belle. Claims are made that she was the model for Scarlett O'Hara in the novel *Gone with the Wind*.

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## Solicitations

*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. Please send your submissions to [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com), and please write Calling Card in the subject field. *The Calling Card* is distributed on the 15th of each month.



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