

AUGUST 15, 2020



## The Calling Card

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

<http://www.swcw.org>

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## The Conference on Women and the Civil War

**The Society for Women and the Civil War**

announces its 21st Conference

***Women of the Shenandoah Valley***

July 23 - 25, 2021

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Conference Center  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Field trips to Belle Grove Plantation  
and to the Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center

Keynote speaker: Jonathan A. Noyalas  
Director, McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University

Other speakers include:

- Mary Louise Jesek Daley, *The Women in Jackson's Life*
- Megan Hildebrand, *Catholic Nuns and Protestant Soldiers in the American Civil War*
- Steve Magnusen, *Women of Commitment and Courage: The Cutler, Dawes, and Gates Ladies of Marietta, Ohio*

Welcome Reception, Banquet, Auction, and more!

For more information, and to register, please visit:

<http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-registration.html>



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OFF FOR THE WAR.

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## News of Note

### ***A Blockaded Family* Now Available on Kindle.**

If you are looking for a first-hand account of Southern home culture during the Civil War, and particularly the use of substitutions in subsistence, Parthenia A. Hague's *A Blockaded Family: Life in Southern Alabama During the Civil War* is once again widely available as a resource. You can order it for your Kindle for only

\$.99: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01CBU2JoA?pd\\_rd\\_i=B01CBU2JoA&pd\\_rd\\_wg=eiofP&pd\\_rd\\_r=f1971367-98cd-4c85-bc5b-c8faoec7369a&pd\\_rd\\_w=yXawS&ref=pe\\_26987910\\_518605590\\_ssub](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01CBU2JoA?pd_rd_i=B01CBU2JoA&pd_rd_wg=eiofP&pd_rd_r=f1971367-98cd-4c85-bc5b-c8faoec7369a&pd_rd_w=yXawS&ref=pe_26987910_518605590_ssub)

### ***We Did It for You! Women's Journey Through History.***

On August 26, 2020, at 6:30PM EDST, the **US Army Heritage and Education Center** (USAHEC) will present an online live staged-reading of the theatrical production *We Did It For You! Women's Journey through History*. The event will be streamed live on ZOOM and is restricted to the first 500 registrants. Please use the following link to sign up for this event:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IpylBHZ5ScGy3qp465Ht9Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IpylBHZ5ScGy3qp465Ht9Q)

### **Heritage Recipes.**

The “Gastro Obscura” element of the **Atlas Obscura** website notes in a recent posting that many historical societies, while canceling live events during the pandemic, are using the internet for primary outreach. Some are focusing on food history from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and offering for use by pandemic cooks heritage recipes and presentations on line. Links to some of these can be

found in the article, posted at

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/historical-society-recipes>.

### **Online Bookstore Benefits Preservation.**

The **Blue and Gray Education Society** (BGES) funds its important Civil War-era historic preservation activity through sales of members' books and monographs at its bookstore, which may be accessed at <https://www.blueandgrayeducation.org/book-store/>. Two titles of particular interest to SWCW members are the book *The Civil War: A Traveler's Guide* and the monograph *Roswell Feels the Fire: The Impact of Federal Policies During Sherman's Atlanta Campaign in July 1864*, both of which may be ordered at the site.

### **Publication Opportunity.**

**The Company of Military Historians** (CoMH) publishes the quarterly scholarly journal *The Military Collector and Historian*. It contains articles on military topics regarding US and foreign forces. CoMH welcomes submissions of articles and notes its guidelines for authors at [http://military-historians.org/publications\\_cmh/authors-style-guidelines/](http://military-historians.org/publications_cmh/authors-style-guidelines/). As part of its mission to provide education regarding the lives and roles of women during the Civil War, SWCW encourages its own members to submit to CoMH's journal their articles on the topic of women serving in, or supporting, military forces during the war.

**Online Manuscript Collections at the  
Library of Congress: 19th Century Women**

- **Susan B. Anthony:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/susan-b-anthony-papers/about-this-collection/>
- **Clara Barton:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/clara-barton-papers/about-this-collection/>
- **Mary Ann Bickerdyke:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/mary-ann-bickerdyke-papers/about-this-collection/>
- **Anna E. Dickinson:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/anna-e-dickinson-papers/about-this-collection/>
- **Harriet Lane Johnston:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/james-buchanan-and-harriet-lane-johnston-papers/about-this-collection/>
- **Betty Herndon Maury Maury:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/betty-herndon-maury-maury-papers/about-this-collection/>
- **Elizabeth Cady Stanton:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/elizabeth-cady-stanton-papers/about-this-collection/>

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## Suggested Reading

Good books on timely subjects

### **19<sup>th</sup> Century Wage-Earning Women Antebellum Period – Reconstruction**

- Anderson, Tanya. *Gunpowder Girls: The True Stories of Three Civil War Tragedies* (A Junior Library Guild Selection)

- Bergin, Brian. *The Washington Arsenal Explosion: Civil War Disaster in the Capital*
- Butler, Anne M. *Daughters of Joy, Sisters of Misery: Prostitutes in the American West, 1865-1890*
- Clifford, Geraldine J. *Those Good Gertrudes: A Social History of Women Teachers in America*
- Delfino, Susanna and Michele Gillespie. *Neither Lady nor Slave: Working Women of the Old South*
- Dublin, Thomas, *Farm to Factory: Woman's Letters 1830-1860*
- -----. *Transforming Women's Work: New England Lives in the Industrial Revolution*
- Foner, Philip S. *Women and the American Labor Movement: From Colonial Times to the Eve of World War I*
- Hill, Marilyn Wood. *Their Sisters' Keepers: Prostitution in New York City, 1830-1870*
- Kessler-Harris, Alice. *Out to Work: A History of Wage - Earning Women in the United States*
- -----. *Women Have Always Worked: A Concise History*
- Petite, Mary Deborah, *"The Women Will Howl": The Union Army Capture of Roswell and New Manchester, Georgia, and the Forced Relocation of Mill Workers*
- Ranta, Judith, *The Life and Writings of Betsey Chamberlain: Native American Mill Worker*
- Robinson, Harriet Jane Hanson. *Loom and Spindle: Life Among the Early Mill Girls*

- Schultz, Jane. *Women at the Front: Hospital Workers in Civil War America*
  - Sutherland, Daniel E. *Americans and Their Servants: Domestic Servitude in the United States from 1800-1920*
  - Turbin, Carole. *Working Women of Collar City: Gender, Class and Community in Troy, 1864-1886*
  - Ziparo, Jessica, *This Grand Experiment: When Women Entered the Federal Workforce in Civil War–Era Washington, DC*
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## Society Notices

### SWCW Authors

Congratulations are due to SWCW author – and founding member – **Brenda Chambers McKean**, who has been nominated for the Eric Hoffer Book Award for 2021. Brenda was nominated for the first book in her series on North Carolinians during the Civil War, *War and Blood at My Doorstep – North Carolina Civilians in the Civil War – Book I*. More about the prestigious Hoffer Award can be found at <http://hofferaward.com/>.

Congratulations are also due to SWCW author **Lisa Samia** for her selection as the September 2020 Gettysburg National Military Park "Artist in Residence." The one-month long program is co-sponsored by the National Parks Arts Foundation and the Gettysburg Foundation.

The **Civil War Roundtable Congress** (CWRT-C) has posted on YouTube videos of lectures by two SWCW authors. The first is by Board Member **Jim Knights**, addressing “Canadians in the Civil War.” Find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ibc6Dwci2co>. The second is by **Jan Croon**, a book presenter at our 2019 conference, and concerns her work *War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of Leroy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865*. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7SODZhpXu4>.

### [www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org)

Our website has been recently re-configured and updated. New postings include a page which lists and describes the society’s “Committees and Publications.” *Please check it out to find a committee on which you’d like to serve!*

We have also added a new “Educational Materials” tab to “More...” on the drop-down menu. At this location, we are posting handouts and other material which can be printed and used by members and non-members. The first posting is of our handout “Women’s Service in the Civil War,” prepared for us by our member organization, **Pallas Athena Ladies Aid Society**.

Other updates include placement of a revised organizational brochure under the “About the Society” drop-down menu. This may also be printed out for use. The pages for the Board of Directors and the Regents have also been updated.

**The Society for Women and the Civil War is 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.**

**Join our efforts and become a member.**

<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**

**Kate Hulbert Warne**



**Born in 1833, in Erin, New York; died on January 28, 1868, in Chicago, Illinois.**

**In 1856, a 23-year-old widow presented herself at the Pinkerton Detective Agency's offices in Chicago, Illinois. She was responding to an**

advertisement in a local newspaper offering the position of detective. Allan Pinkerton told her that it was not the custom to employ women detectives, but after several interviews, she succeeded in convincing him that a woman detective would be good at “worming out secrets in many places which would be impossible for a male detective.” Of medium height, with blue eyes “filled with fire,” the new detective was described by Pinkerton as “slender, graceful in her movements, and perfectly self-possessed in her manner.” Warne immediately proved her worth in solving difficult embezzlement and railroad security cases by obtaining information through undercover access to the women family members of criminals.

To build upon her success, in 1860, Warne and Pinkerton created Pinkerton’s Female Detective Branch, nicknamed “Lady Pinkertons,” or “Pinks,” comprised of more than fifteen agents. Warne served as Superintendent of Women Agents. Pinkerton told the new women recruits that “in my service, you will serve your country better than on the field. I have several female operatives. If you agree to come aboard you will go in training with the head of my female detectives, Kate Warne. She has never let me down.”

In 1861, Pinkerton, then Chief of Intelligence for the Army of the Potomac, made Warne the head of the Union Intelligence Service, a predecessor of today’s Secret Service. The UIS was responsible for obtaining intelligence regarding Southern military resources and plans. The Pinkerton women detectives were exceptionally successful in conducting this mission.

One of Kate Warne’s most notable successes came on the eve of the Civil War, when she and a team of four were assigned the responsibility of identifying threats to President-elect Lincoln on the rail journey to his inauguration. Deployed to Baltimore, she masqueraded as a wealthy

secessionist socialite visiting from out of town. She uncovered a plot to assassinate Lincoln while on his lunch-time stopover in Baltimore. With difficulty, Lincoln was convinced of the threat and acquiesced to Kate Warne's plan to safely deliver him to Washington. Warne took several measures, including disguising Lincoln as her invalid brother and providing armed guards to surround him. She refused to sleep a wink until she completed her mission. Not only did this potentially save the life of the president-elect, but also reportedly led to the adoption of the motto "We Never Sleep," which accompanies the Pinkerton Agency's traditional eye logo.

Throughout the Civil War, the fearless Kate Warne continued to use her talents at disguise and adoption of different aliases to collect crucial military intelligence. With the additional task of her UIS management responsibility, she became the most important wartime spy for Federal military forces.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, she quietly performed charitable work with the formerly enslaved persons who fled to Washington.

Succumbing to pneumonia in 1868, Kate Warne died, still in service as a detective. Allan Pinkerton, who was by her side at her death, considered her a member of his family, and had her buried in his family plot.

An obituary in the March 19, 1868 issue of the *Democratic Enquirer* of McArthur, Ohio, described Kate Warne thusly: "Up to the time of her death, her whole life had been devoted to the service into which she had entered in her younger years. She was undoubtedly the best female detective in America, if not the world."

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## Research Requests

### **Topic: Bandages and Lint**

Lisa Dixon Denton, History Programs Recreation Coordinator for Henrico County (Richmond, Virginia) Parks and Recreation, seeks information about **the sources for bandages and lint which were available to civilian physicians, nurses and midwives in the South during the mid-nineteenth century**. This information will support programming at the Meadow Farm historic house museum, which was owned by Dr. John M. Sheppard, a country doctor during the period 1840-1875. Denton is particularly interested in whether there were sources for already-wound and pre-packaged bandages and lint available for civilian use. She would also like to learn if it was the practice for cotton fabric to be purchased by these professionals for preparation using bandage-roller jigs - by themselves or by others working for them. She is additionally interested in whether women of individual households prepared bandages and lint for their own potential use, from purpose-purchased fabric or from old sheets. (This information will also assist Pallas Athena Ladies Aid Society in its efforts to demonstrate the home medical preparedness of nineteenth century civilian women and the work of women supporting the CSA Medical Corps.) Please contact Lisa at [den63@henrico.us](mailto:den63@henrico.us).

### **Topic: Uniontown, Maryland**

CWRT-C member Tim Russo, seeks **primary sources (diary or letter) by soldiers of II Corps, the Army of the Potomac, who were present in Uniontown, Maryland, during the period of June 29-30, 1863**. He is most interested in confirmation of the occurrence of a "ball" or "dance" on the night of June 30. Any other mentioning of the time in Uniontown is useful, as well, including anything regarding the plentifulness of whisky in Uniontown. Those who have answers or leads are asked to contact Tim directly at [tjrusso@gmail.com](mailto:tjrusso@gmail.com).

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## ***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, notifications about educational and archival resources, and ideas for suggested reading lists.

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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