

THE CALLING CARD – August 15, 2021

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The Calling Card



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

<http://www.swcw.org>

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

On behalf of our SWCW Board of Directors and Regents, please let me offer our thanks to all who participated in our 24–25 July 2021 annual conference – virtual style!

In mid–February of this year, based upon our expectations of the course of the CoVID19 pandemic, our board made the tough, but prescient, decision to pivot to a virtual conference. As most conferences take 1–2 years to plan, and we had never hosted a virtual meeting – of any size – this was quite a leap of faith. But the health and safety of our members and friends was of paramount importance to us.

As you can imagine, the pivot from live to virtual required lengthy serious negotiations with our contracted hotel and conference venue in order to change the terms of the contract to 2022 – without incurring financial penalties.

Next, our speakers graciously agreed to filming their presentations and being available for the live follow–up sessions. Mike Movius, President of the CWRT Congress, held our hands through an enlightening course in Zoom meeting

operations and acted as the technical director for the programs. He and our Vice President, Janet Whaley, who served as the face of SWCW in hosting the two days of programs, immersed themselves for many hours in organizing the video production. Our board member and publicity chair, Jim Knights, threw himself into instantly creating a new publicity campaign, complete with advertising and brochures. Board member Tabitha Miller acted as our speaker liaison, seeing that their needs, from rehearsals to new home video and sound equipment, were met. Board member Susan Youhn attended to IT needs, from creation and posting of information on our website to monitoring registrations. Our board member and Treasurer, Gary Ryan tracked our budget and confirmed registrations. Board member Laurel Scott edited our conference binder. Board member and *The Calling Card* editor DeAnne Blanton joined me as writers, record-keepers and utility hitters.

Thanks are also due to our co-hosts, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, represented by Terry Heder, and the McCormick Civil War Institute, helmed by our speaker, Prof.

Jonathan Noyalas, for general and publicity assistance. Great assistance in publicity was also provided by Mandy Kallal, publisher of *Homefront Herald*, Juanita Leisch Jensen, representing the Company of Military Historians, and Rich Jankowski and Kathy Clark, both of the Old Baldy CWRT.

This was a tremendous team effort, and we are so very gratified by the overwhelmingly positive accolades from attendees.

Please be certain that your thoughtful and useful responses to our attendee survey have been carefully analyzed and will be applied to our planning for coming years.

Thanks again to all, and we look forward to seeing you in person for *Women of the Valley*, at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Conference Center, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on 22–24 July 2022!

J. White

President



Image courtesy of The Valentine.

SWCW is pleased to announce our
22nd Annual Conference,
Women of the Valley
July 22-24, 2022
in Harrisonburg, Virginia at the

Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center.

The conference will include field trips, lectures and presentations, author book signings, silent and live auctions, dining and social events, and more! Watch our website and upcoming issues of *The Calling Card* for conference details and registration information.



We have reserved a block of rooms for our conference attendees at discounted group rates for the extended pre-and-post conference period of Monday, July 18 through Monday, July 25, 2022.

\$109/night Sunday through Thursday Deluxe Double Queen or King

\$119/night Friday and Saturday Deluxe Double Queen or King

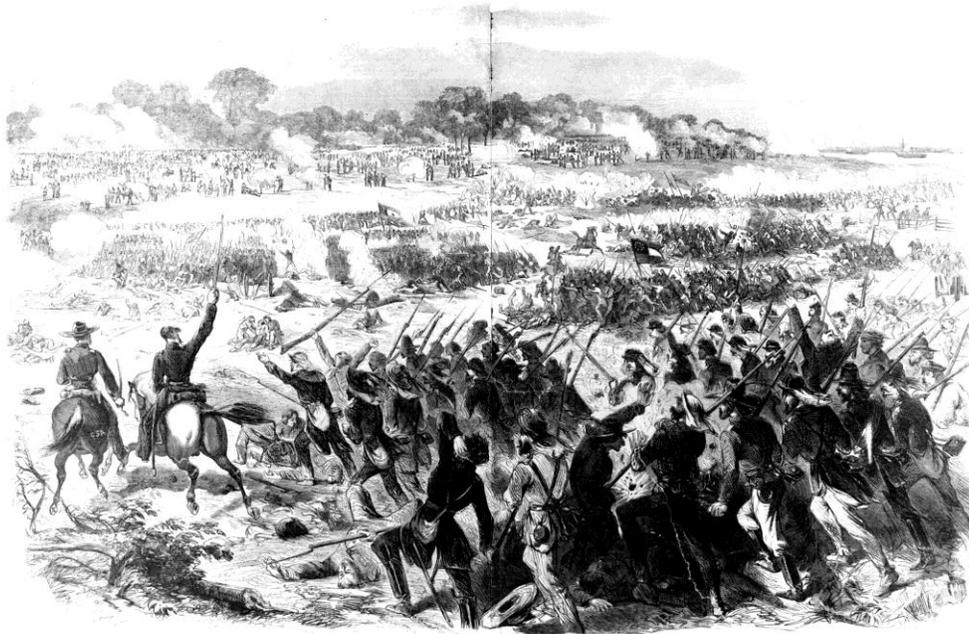
We encourage you to make your reservation early (yes, they are accepting reservations now!) before the discounted room block sells out. You can reserve with no deposit required and just a credit card to guarantee the room.

Call (540) 564-0200 and select option “2” for the Front Desk to connect with a live person to make your reservations. Mention “Society for Women and the Civil War” to get the discounted group rate.

News of Note

The Battle for Clatsop County.

The Northwest Civil War Council will host the *Battle for Clatsop County*, a Civil War living history and reenactment event, on September 4-6, 2021, in Astoria, Oregon. For more information about this event, visit their Facebook page: [\(3\) Battle for Clatsop County | Civil War Living History & Reenactment | Facebook](#)



Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers at the Library of Congress are now available online.

Some of you may recognize Goldsborough's name in association with his long career in the U.S. Navy, which during the Civil War included service in the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, and for his time as superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy (1853-1857) and commander of the Washington Navy Yard (1868-1873). Others may be interested in the family correspondence in the collection, as Goldsborough was the son-in-law of Attorney General William Wirt, and correspondence by and about the Wirt family, as well as with Goldsborough's wife and daughter during his frequent absences from home, can be found throughout the "Correspondence and Other Papers" series. Thus, the Goldsborough Papers offer opportunities for sources in mid-19th century women's history. The collection can be accessed through an online presentation (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/louis-malesherbes-goldsborough-papers/about-this-collection/>).

2022 Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize Announcement.

The Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA) and the Abraham Lincoln Institute (ALI) invite nominations and submissions for the 2022 Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize, which includes a \$1000 honorarium. Eligible doctoral dissertations must have been completed between 2019 and 2021. Preference will be given to Abraham Lincoln-focused dissertations, but studies that examine Lincoln's history and political, cultural, and/or social legacy within a larger context (such as emancipation during the Civil War, Reconstruction, Lincoln administration policies involving indigenous peoples), will also be considered. Comparative studies (e.g., leadership studies, biographies) offering more than one chapter of Lincoln-related material will be considered, as well as studies of individuals traditionally associated with Abraham Lincoln. Submissions should offer new evidence or primary source materials, new interpretations, and/or a reevaluation of previously accepted conclusions.

Selection will be made by a joint ALA/ALI committee. The winner will be notified by January 2022, with the expectation of accepting in person (travel and lodging provided) at either the ALA Banquet on February 12, 2022, in Springfield, IL, or the ALI Symposium in March 2022, at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. (pandemic conditions permitting).

Dissertations must be submitted by email as a PDF to Dr. Mark Pohlad (MPOHLAD@depaul.edu) and Dr. Michelle Krowl (mkrowl@aol.com). Submissions must be received by 5:00pm Eastern Time on Friday, October 1, 2021.

Conferences!

SWCW members and friends may be interested in the following conferences scheduled for 2021:

CWRT Best Practices, presented by the CWRT Congress, September 17 - 19 in Blackwood, New Jersey. [2021 Congress | CWRT Congress](#)

North Carolinians at Gettysburg, presented by the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, October 8-10, 2021 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. [Fall Field Program - Gettysburg College](#)

Tar Heels in the Valley, presented by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, October 23 in Raleigh, North Carolina. [Tar Heels in the Valley: A Civil War Conference – Shenandoah at War](#)

4th Annual Baton Rouge Civil War Symposium, presented by the Baton Rouge CWRT, November 5-7 at Port Hudson, Louisiana. [Symposium Speakers - BATON ROUGE CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM \(brewrt.com\)](#)

"We Shall Have Graveyards at Every Door": The Lower Shenandoah Valley's Border Region during the Civil War, presented by the McCormick Civil War Institute, November 6 in Winchester, Virginia. <https://www.su.edu/mcwi/upcoming-mccormick-civil-war-institute-events/fall-semester-seminar-tour/>

Research Resource:

Quilt Museums in the U.S.

(exhibiting antique quilts)

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, San Jose, CA
[San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles \(sjquiltmuseum.org\)](http://www.sjqm.org)

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, Golden, CO
[Home \(rmqm.org\)](http://www.rmqm.org)

Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum, Carrollton, GA
[Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum](http://www.seqtm.org)

Quilters Hall of Fame, Marion, IN
<https://quiltershalloffame.net>

Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset, IA
[Home | Iowa Quilt Museum | Winterset, Iowa](http://www.iowaquiltmuseum.org)

National Quilt Museum, Paducah, KY

[The National Quilt Museum](#)

New England Quilt Museum, Lowell, MA

[NEW ENGLAND QUILT MUSEUM \(neqm.org\)](#)

Missouri Quilt Museum, Hamilton, MO

[Missouri Quilt Museum | United States | Quilt Museum](#)

International Quilt Museum, Lincoln, NE

[International Quilt Museum - Lincoln, NE](#)

Texas Quilt Museum, Houston, TX

[Texas Quilt Museum Houston Quilts](#)

Virginia Quilt Museum, Harrisonburg, VA

[The Virginia Quilt Museum \(vaquiltmuseum.org\)](#)

National Quilt Collection at the National Museum of American History,
Washington, DC

[National Quilt Collection | Smithsonian Institution \(si.edu\)](#)

Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts, Cedarburg, WI

[Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts \(wiquiltmuseum.com\)](#)



Sophia Denty's Floral Appliqued Quilt Top, ca. 1840-1860. National Quilt Collection, National Museum of American History.

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.

[Join the Society - Society for Women and the Civil War](#)

[\(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

Membership year runs from January - December.

Society Notices

Call for Volunteers

SWCW continues our work in building the National Registry of Women's Service in the Civil War (NRWSCW). The latest project in conjunction with this effort is to glean data from the *Carded Service Records of Hospital Attendants, Matrons and Nurses*. SWCW is requesting volunteers to assist in this task, in order to add the names and service of the 2,000+ women documented in these records.

The National Archives digitized this series of records in full, and it is 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.

Volunteers for this project will access the records online and add information for each individual in a Service Excel spreadsheet, which will be imported into the NRWSCW by the SWCW Project Manager.

To volunteer, email swcw1865@gmail.com with NRWSCW in the subject line, and we will contact you when we are ready to start!

DONOR LIST

SWCW gratefully acknowledges the following individuals
for their contributions:

Sara Bartlett

Mary Louise Jesek Daley

(in memory of Fr. Jerome Lukachinsky)

Jim Knights

Lin Russell

Janet Whaley

J. White

Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund or Scholarship Fund 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.

Calling all authors!

SWCW maintains an Author List on our website, promoting published works by our members and affiliates. [Authors List - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org) If you are a member of the Society, and wish to have your work included on our list, please inform of us of your publications by sending an email to swcw1861@gmail.com, with the subject line *Authors List*.

Free E-Book.

SWCW member Stephen Romaine's book, *Secret Army Behind the Enemy Lines*, will be available for free on Kindle from August 16 - 20. [Amazon.com: Secret Army Behind Enemy Lines The Back Story of How Grant Took Richmond eBook: Romaine, Stephen: Kindle Store](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089888888)

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

Woman of the Month

Sarah Elizabeth Lane Thompson Bacon Cotton

Military Recruiter, Spy, Nurse, Lecturer, and
Government Employee, USA



(Image from Sarah E. Thompson Papers, Special Collections Library, Duke University)

Born February 11, 1838, in Greene County, Tennessee

Died April 22 1909, in Washington, DC

Buried at Arlington National Cemetery

Little is known of her youth, but, at sixteen, Sarah Elizabeth Lane married Sylvania H. Thompson, a shoe maker, in 1854. Early in their marriage, they lived in Thompkinsville, Kentucky, but, by the onset of the war, had returned to East Tennessee, living in Greeneville, the seat of Sarah's home county. The couple had two daughters together. Sarah was a mother and traditional homekeeper during the pre-war years, but she also developed her own, independent political identity. Not only was she highly patriotic toward the

United States, but she was an early abolitionist, and, as was sometimes rare even for abolitionists, strongly practiced racial equality.

Early in the Civil War, Sarah's Unionist husband travelled to Kentucky to enlist in a US Army unit. On July 12, 1862, Sylvanius was enrolled in Company I of the 2d Tennessee Cavalry Regiment (USA). His assignment was to return to the Greeneville area to secretly perform recruiting duties. Sarah was his partner in this endeavor. In an area which was controlled by the Confederacy, but with a substantial amount of Unionist allegiance amongst the populace, they worked together to recruit and organize support for the US Army. The pair built an underground network of Unionists, which included not only men and women of Caucasian descent but enslaved African-American men and women. Sarah took on the team's intelligence and recruiting work. Led by Sylvanius, and using the same mountainous route he had first taken to join the US Army, their network succeeded in safely guiding East Tennessee Unionist recruits to US Army enlistment centers in Kentucky.

Along with fellow Unionists in the Greeneville area, the couple faced tremendous hardships, vicious harassment and daily danger. Area Unionist women were specifically targeted for what Sarah described as brutal treatment by the Confederate government and military forces. On January 10, 1864, Sylvanius was ambushed and killed by a Confederate soldier. Despite the death of her husband, and the grave threat to herself, Sarah continued her secret service to the US Army – as a recruiter, spy and dispatch carrier.

On September 4, 1864, Confederate Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his cavalry forces spent the night in Greeneville, initially at Sarah's house. After he had departed to spend the remainder of the evening at the home of a Confederate-sympathizer mother of a member of his staff, Sarah rushed to get word to nearby Federal forces under the command of Maj. Gen. Alvan Cullem

Gillem, a fellow Tennessean. Sarah later described that night in her own words:

"I took my sunbonnet in hand and went to the street and met Colonel Williams and after I had passed the time of day I asked him to pass me out after my cow as there was several cows on the hill. He told the guard to pass me out and to pass me in when I returned and I would give him some milk. So I was through the enemies lines and went on after the cow. When I got to it I threw (a rock) at her and she went down the hill and I went after her. When I was out of sight, I crossed over in a corn field and went to a friend's house that had aided me more than one time and got a horse and went to our forces that were at Bulls Gap. I sent word into our forces. When Gillem who was general heard the news he did not believe it as he said it was a woman's tale. The colonel of the 3rd Tennessee whose name is Brownlow and the 10th Michigan and seven others said they would go. After they talked and at last they started though I must say Gillem did not deserve any of the honor of that great deed for had it been left to him he would not have went and when he did go he went behind so far there was no danger of any harm in anyway coming at him."

Responding to Sarah's alert, Federal forces raided Greeneville, surprising Morgan's cavalry. Having learned of Morgan's location from an enslaved woman whom she had paid to watch him, Sarah later took credit for having pointed out to the trooper the position of Morgan hiding behind a garden fence. Morgan was approached, but refused to surrender and was shot and killed by a Federal cavalry trooper.



(Unidentified artist's depiction of US Army Sergeant James Campbell firing and killing CSA BG John Hunt Morgan, for The National Tribune, 24 April 1902)

Following the killing of the controversial, but highly-popular Morgan, Sarah was captured and threatened with hanging by troopers from Morgan's cavalry unit. Rescued by Federal forces, Sarah and her children were forced to flee the Greeneville area. They were taken to federally-controlled Knoxville, Tennessee, where she served as a nurse in a US Army hospital. She later

served as a US Army nurse in Cleveland, Ohio. Following the war, she earned a living for herself and her children by lecturing to audiences in Northern cities about her wartime experiences.

Sarah re-married, in 1866, to Orville J. Bacon, of Broome County, New York. She had two children with Orville prior to divorcing him. During the 1870s, she received a series of appointments to positions in a variety of U.S. government departments, from which she was consistently laid-off, mixed with appointments to temporary positions. She married again, in the 1880s, to James Cotton, by whom she was widowed.

Once more required to support herself and her youngest children, she struggled to obtain and maintain employment. Amongst the letters from those who attempted to assist her, was one from a US Army Cavalry unit commander. Evaluating Sarah's wartime service, he wrote:

"From a personal knowledge derived from service in East Tennessee during the years 1864-5 I can truthfully state that...the value of Mrs Thompsons services to the cause of the Union was not exceeded by those of any of the gallant soldiers with whom I served during the years named. Justice appears to demand a recognition by some of the Departments in accordance with her physical strength and sufficient for her support.

E J Brooks

Bat Lt Col 16th Mich Cav"

By a special Act of Congress, she was finally granted a pension for her wartime nursing service, at \$12.00 per month. An image of her certificate, issued to Sarah E. Cotton, and dated May 7, 1898, may be found in the collection of her papers held by Duke University, for which information is provided below.

In April 1909, at the age of 71, she was struck on the street by an “electric car” in Washington, DC, and died from her injuries the next day. She was buried, with full military honors, in Arlington National Cemetery, under her Thompson married name. Her grave marker is inscribed: “Her love for her country was shown by the service she gave.”



Sarah E. Thompson Grave Marker

The collection of Sarah Thompson’s personal papers is held in the Special Collections Library of Duke University. Selections from the archive are available online at <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/scriptorium/thompson/sarahindex.html>. Other sources available upon request.

Note: most secondary sources report Sylvaniaus’ enlistment in a different cavalry unit, at a different date. The information in this article is taken directly from Sarah Thompson’s personal handwritten testimony, as contained in her papers cited above.

Partner Organizations Spotlight



Civil War Trails is the world's largest open air museum. Ever-growing, they currently offer more than 1,350 sites to explore across six states. At each site their signature directional signs welcome you, and a Civil War Trails branded interpretive sign provides the fuel for you to imagine the historic events as they happened. Each site is promoted internationally through the distribution of brochures and partnerships with 500+ municipalities. While the majority of the Civil War Trails signs are the only amenity on the landscape, a number of the sites include museums or parks with staff and frequent programming.

Civil War Trails offers something for everyone. You can drive the Gettysburg campaign turn-by-turn, visit Frederick Douglass's birthplace, hike to Confederate artillery positions on mountaintops, or explore quaint downtowns. Besides the history which unfolds around

each bend, you'll also find local wineries, B&Bs, live music, antiques, and breathtaking vistas.

For more information on upcoming events at participating sites, check out their Facebook page

at (<https://www.facebook.com/civilwartrails/events/>). For information on the organization, membership, or how you or your group can sponsor a Civil War Trails sign, please go to the website at www.civilwartrails.org.

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.

Research Requests

Women Serving in the US Navy or US Revenue Cutter Service.

Is anyone aware of any women who passed as men in order to serve during the Civil War in the US Navy or the US Revenue Cutter Service? Please reply to Jim Knights at jimknights@zoominternet.net.



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