

THE CALLING CARD – AUGUST 15, 2022

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

SWCW 2022 Conference a Resounding Success!

On behalf of our SWCW Board of Directors and Regents, please let me offer our thanks to all who participated in our July 2022 annual conference learning about the Civil War experience of the women of the Shenandoah Valley!

This return to live conferences was the culmination of three and a half years of intensive planning and coordination, and, as verified by attendees, it paid off in what we believe was our best ever event. We owe great thanks for extensive efforts by board members, regents and our member-volunteers. Aiding our success was the gracious co-sponsorship of the McCormick Civil War Institute; the publicity support of organizational partners and friends -- the CWRT Congress, Old Baldy CWRT, *Homefront Herald*, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Civil War Trails, and the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; and the technical equipment support of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and the Civil War Historical Impressions reenactor organization.

Many thanks are due to our speakers -- Dr. Jonathan Berkey, Juanita Leisch Jensen, Raylene Hlavaty, Emily Lapisardi, Ashley Sonntag, Susan Wall, and Jess Pritchard-Ritter -- and to our exhibitor Dr. Bob Roger. Expanded versions of speaker presentations are included in our 31 July 2022 issue of *At Home and in the Field*.

Our silent auction reaped the largest-ever amount of funding for our scholarships, due to the generous contributions from auction item donors.

This was a tremendous team effort, and we are so very gratified by the overwhelmingly positive accolades from attendees. Please be certain that the 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 in Government Service*, at the US Army Military History Institute/Army Heritage and Education Center, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on July 28-30, 2023!

J. White
President



2022 Conference attendees at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia

2022 Conference Volunteers

Lin Russell, Volunteer Coordinator

Ellen Bowen

Remy Caimi

Maria Carrillo Colato

Betsy Estilow

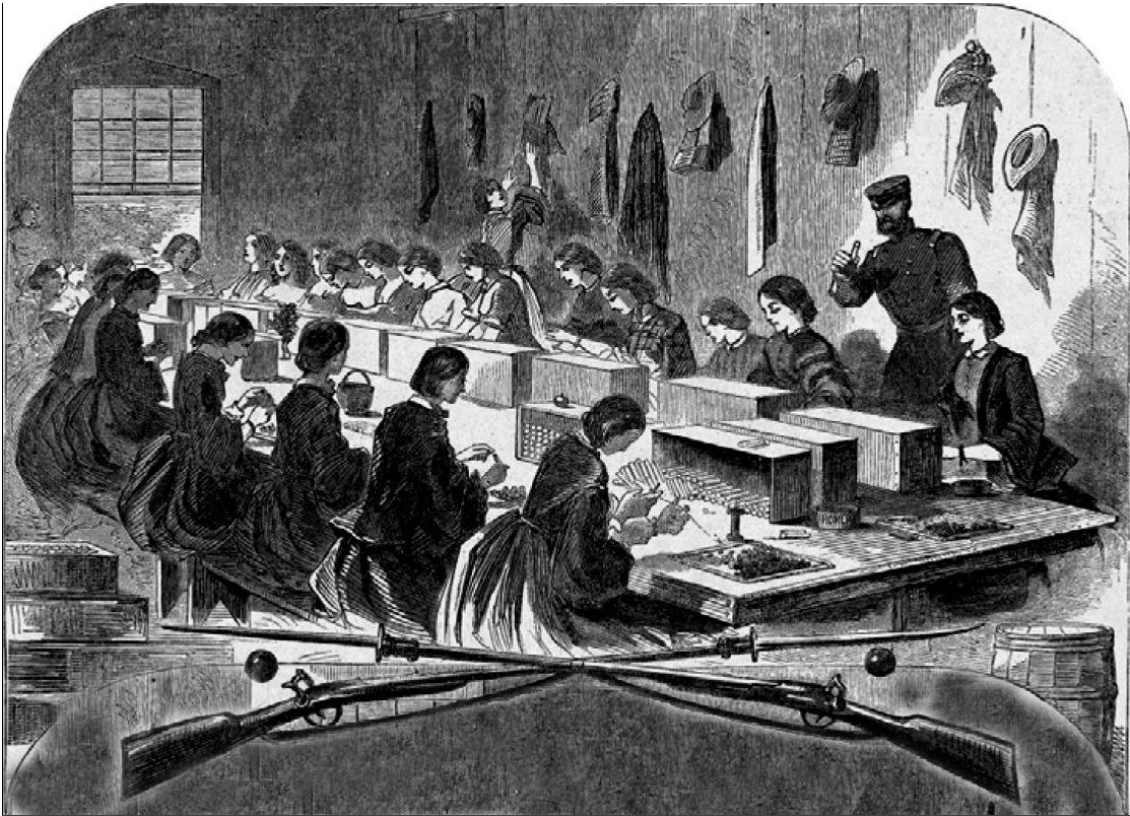
Vicky Fike

Nancy Hill

Ann Kilian
Tish Richard
Rebekah Thomas

2022 Silent Auction Donors

DeAnne Blanton
David D. Finney
Juanita Leisch Jensen
Ann Kalata
Steve Magnusen
Rebekah Thomas
Janet Whaley
J. White
Walter Wilson



Filling Cartridges. Women working at the U.S. Arsenal, Watertown, Massachusetts. From Harper's Weekly, July 1861.

Call for Presentations

For the past twenty-five years, the Society for Women and the Civil War has proudly hosted its annual conference focused upon the lives of women during the Civil War era. Each year, it invites professional and amateur historians, scholars, members of the Society, and members of the public to join us in celebrating women's contributions to our country's history, showcasing original and innovative research.

SWCW's 2023 conference, July 28-30, will be based at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The theme will be *Women in Government Service*. The Society invites proposals for presentations examining

the lives, service and contributions of USA and CSA women in local, regional and national government operations.

Potential speakers should submit by electronic means: a synopsis of the presentation; a bibliography of sources; and a personal biography.

Submissions will be evaluated principally upon the following criteria: originality of topic; relevance of the topic to the conference theme; quality of research; quality of presentation; and anticipated attendee interest in the topic.

For all the details on this Call for Presentations, visit our website: [Call For Papers 2023 - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

Submissions -- and questions -- should be sent to swcw1865@gmail.com, ATTN: 2023 Conference Speaker Proposals.

Those chosen to make presentations will receive a complimentary conference registration as well as complimentary lodging on Friday and Saturday night. Speakers will also receive a one-year courtesy membership in SWCW.

**Deadline: All submissions must be RECEIVED
by November 1, 2022.**

Presentation submission indicates the willingness to speak if selected by the SWCW conference committee.



Women Working in the U.S. Treasury Department, Civil War

News of Note

160th Anniversary of the Battle of Second Manassas.

The National Park Service will commemorate the battle with a variety of programs and activities from August 25-30 at the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia. **SWCW member Lisa Samia**, who was also the 2021 Artist-in-Residence at the Park, will be one of the featured presenters during the anniversary commemorations. Join her at the Stone House on August 26 at 6 p.m. or August 27 at noon, where she will share her poetry inspired by the battlefield. For more information about the commemoration, click here: [160th Anniversary Commemoration of Second Manassas - Manassas National Battlefield Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/manassas/learn/160th-anniversary-commemoration-of-second-manassas-manassas-national-battlefield-park)

Research Resource:

The National Museum of the U.S. Army

[National Museum of the United States Army \(thenmusa.org\)](https://thenmusa.org)

With collections dating back to the Revolutionary War, the National Museum of the United States Army provides the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions through the eyes of the American Soldier. The Museum is located at Ft. Belvoir in Alexandria, Virginia.

The National Museum of the U.S. Navy

[National Museum of the US Navy](https://www.history.navy.mil/)

With collections dating back to 1800, the National Museum of the U.S. Navy collects, preserves, displays, and interprets historic naval artifacts and artwork to inform, educate, and inspire naval personnel and the general public. The Museum is located at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC.

Society Notices

New Market Audio Tour Features SWCW-Sponsored Stop

In the fall of 2020, SWCW mounted a fundraising campaign for sponsorship of a stop on a planned audio tour of New Market, Virginia, being developed by our Organizational Partner, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

(SVBF). The successful fundraising effort allowed SWCW to sponsor the stop – *Civil War to Civil Rights*. The 2.5-minute recording, which prominently features an announcement of the Society’s sponsorship at the beginning, tells the story of Jessie Rupert, and her work during and after the Civil War to educate black students. It’s a stirring story about Rupert, who stood up to the KKK with a pistol when they threatened her. It is this kind of story that perfectly fits within the Society’s mission to honor Civil War-era women.

The building she used for her schoolhouse and home still stands in New Market at 9401 Congress Street. The SVBF is currently negotiating for purchase of this building for use in their programming and interpretation efforts. While the full Audio Tour has not yet been completed, you can check out the tour stop narrative by dialing 504-732-9586 and selecting Stop #4, or by clicking on the QR Code in the flyer about our stop: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X6wbcyaaai3qXXN-s27UtY7qorhfjsoom/view?usp=sharing>



Jessie Rupert's home and school as it looks today.

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

Woman of the Month

Jessie Haining Rupert

nurse and teacher



Born near Dumfries, Scotland on May 15, 1831

Died at New Market, Virginia on March 17, 1909

Buried in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in New Market

Jessie Hanning was born near Dumfries, Scotland on May 15, 1831. Youngest of 10 children, she came to America at an early age but was orphaned by the age of seven. Educated at private academies in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, she was taught to oppose slavery and practice Christian charity to all.

She moved to Lexington, Virginia, after graduation and became the principal of Ann Smith Academy near VMI. She also taught Sunday School to enslaved children along with a gentleman named Thomas Jackson. In 1858, Jessie moved to New Market to run the New Market Female Seminary. There she

became friends with the local Justice of the Peace, Solomon Rupert, and they later married in 1861, much to the dismay of his Southern family because he was marrying a "Yankee" woman. They later raised two sons, Charles and Frank Rupert.

When the Civil War broke out, the citizens of New Market embraced the Southern cause with enthusiasm, but not Jessie. She promptly burned a rebel flag that the townspeople put up at her school; they took down the United States flag that had hung in its place. As a result, an angry mob gathered at the school and to protect her, Solomon put her in the city jail. The townspeople insisted that she be taken to the Confederate Commander in the Valley for punishment for burning their flag. Arriving at the General's Headquarters nearby, she was surprised to see the Commander was her old friend from Lexington, now known as "Stonewall" Jackson. He welcomed her warmly and sent her home with an armed guard. The townspeople were astonished that Jackson was her personal friend; they left her alone after that.

After the battle of New Market on May 15, 1864, the battlefield was covered with injured soldiers. The townspeople refused to help the Union soldiers, leaving them out in the elements to suffer while giving their Southern boys care and shelter. Jessie wanted to help them so she appealed to a Confederate captain in the town to allow a warehouse to be opened up so the Union men could be properly taken care of. He complied, and the Union soldiers were given food, shelter and as much medical care as Jessie and her husband could manage. The soldiers of the 34th Massachusetts Infantry were so grateful for Jessie's care and kindness, they began to call her Daughter of the Regiment. Decades later, Jessie still kept in touch with many of the men and even attended some of their reunions. Jessie did so much for the Union cause in New Market that Federal troops agreed not to destroy the town, even though the townspeople

were clearly sympathetic to the Confederacy.

Sadly, in 1867, suffering from depression, Solomon took his own life. Jessie lost her job at the Seminary, but with financial assistance from the Freedmen's Bureau and the American Missionary Society, she built a new school where she taught white children during the day and black children at night. Threatened by the Klan for teaching black children, Jessie stood her ground. She slowly won over the townspeople by her acts of charity. The school building still stands today on Congress Street in the center of town. In later years, she supported herself by giving lectures to New England audiences, talking about how a Yankee woman survived living in a Southern town during the Civil War.

On March 17, 1909, Jessie passed away and was buried next to her beloved Solomon in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in New Market. At her funeral, the minister spoke these words: "Here lies one who fed the hungry, though herself suffering, gave aid to the distressed though surrounded by enemies, loved all and who lived to hear her former enemies call her The Angel of the Shenandoah."

This month's essay was contributed by
SWCW member **Karen Connair.**

***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 notifications about educational and archival resources.

The Calling Card is actively seeking essays for our Woman of the Month feature.

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.

If you enjoyed this issue of *The Calling Card*,
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