

THE CALLING CARD – SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

The Calling Card



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

<http://www.swcw.org>

The 2023 Conference on Women and the Civil War

Save the date!

The 23rd Conference on Women and the Civil War,

Women in Government Service,
will be held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on July 28 - 30, 2023.



Women Treasury Department Workers, Civil War

The Society is accepting presentation proposals for this conference --
please see our [Call for Presentations](#) on our website:

[Call For Papers 2023 - Society for Women and the Civil War](#)
(swcw.org)

News of Note

158th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek.

Tickets are now available for this two-day event, October 15 - 16, which

will feature a recreation of the battle; music; symposia; and medical and civilian demonstrations. Sutlers and food vendors will also be onsite. Visitor information and reenactor registration is here: ccbf.us/reenactment-information/

Library of Congress Story Map: Susie King Taylor.

Follow the life of Susie King Taylor, the first African-American Civil War nurse and author of the only Civil War narrative written by a Black woman, through the use of objects in the Library of Congress collections. [Susie King Taylor \(loc.gov\)](https://www.loc.gov/storymaps/susie-king-taylor)



GAR Museum Sunday Zoom Lecture Series.

The Grand Army of the Republic Museum recently announced their First

Sunday Series. These free online lectures are scheduled on the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. Eastern Time. SWCW members may be particularly interested in the program for October 2, *Philadelphia Military Hospitals*. For the full list of lectures, and to reserve a spot, visit their website: [future events \(garmuslib.org\)](http://futureevents.garmuslib.org)

Research Resource:

Women and the Civil War: An Annotated Bibliography

by Theresa McDervitt

Women and the American Civil War

An Annotated Bibliography

Theresa McDevitt

The first reference work to draw together the stories and studies of women in the American Civil War, this annotated bibliography offers access to the literature that documents the history of women who experienced the war, changed it, and were changed by it. Offering nearly 800 entries, it lists both primary and secondary sources, classic and current works, and items in print and available on the Internet. Drawing together more than one hundred years of writings, *Women in the American Civil War: An*

Annotated Bibliography is an invaluable resource for readers and researchers interested in this topic.

Sections in the bibliography list sources on such diverse topics as women as nurses and medical relief workers, women's changing economic roles, their lives as refugees, as spies and scouts, or in military camps. It also looks at the literature on the miscellaneous topics of women in public, wives of politicians and military commanders, family life, and women on the wrong side of the law.

[Women and the American Civil War: An Annotated Bibliography \(Bibliographies and Indexes in Women's Studies\): McDevitt, Theresa: 9780313321054: Amazon.com: Books](#)

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)

Membership year runs from January - December.

Society Notices

New in Paperback.

Shelby Harriel's *Behind the Rifle: Women Soldiers in Civil War Mississippi* is now available in paperback form from The University Press of Mississippi. Order it here: [Behind the Rifle | University Press of Mississippi \(state.ms.us\)](https://www.upms.edu/behind-the-rifle) Shelby was a speaker at the 2019 Conference on Women in the Civil War.

DONOR LIST

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

Call for Volunteers:

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

The NRWSCW is a primary mission of SWCW.

The Registry identifies women who served their nations during the Civil War; maintains their identities in a searchable database; and supports that database

with files of documentation. We currently need help in documenting the National Archives “Carded Service Records of Hospital Attendants, Matrons and Nurses.” Full training will be provided for volunteers on this task. Contact us through the website link: [Society Volunteer Opportunities - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://www.swcw.org)

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

Woman of the Month

Kate Mullany Fogarty

Laundress, Labor Activist and Union Organizer



Kate Mullany was born in Ireland in 1845, and emigrated with her family to New York as a child. When her father passed away, the teenaged Kate went to work in one of the many Troy, New York collar laundries in order to support her family. The laundresses typically worked 12 - 14 hours a day washing,

starching, and ironing collars. It was dangerous work, as the laundresses used boiling water, harsh chemicals, and hot irons in poorly ventilated and extremely hot buildings. Burns were common. As laundry work was primarily a female occupation, the wages were low. Kate reportedly earned \$3 a week.

In 1864, at the age of 19, and inspired by the successful Union organizing of local tradesmen in Troy, Kate began organizing her fellow laundresses, forming the Collar Laundry Union, the first all-female labor union in the United States. Nearly 3,000 women worked in Troy's laundries; Kate successfully organized about 300 of them into her union. On February 23, 1864, the women of the Collar Laundry Union went on strike, demanding a 25% pay raise. After 5 days, their demands were met. The strike was a success.

Under Kate's leadership, the Collar Laundry Union grew in membership, and the resulting treasury enabled the Union to provide benefits to its members beyond collective bargaining, such as financial support when members were too ill to work. In 1866, a second strike netted a significant pay increase for the women to \$14 a week.

In 1868, Kate was tapped to be the women's organizer for the National Labor Union, the first national labor federation in the United States. She was later elected Vice-President of the organization. The National Labor Union dissolved in 1873, but paved the way for later national unions such as the American Federation of Labor.

Kate married John Fogarty in 1869, but stayed active in labor organizing until her death on August 17, 1906. She is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Troy.



The Kate Mullany house (pictured above), at 350 8th Street in Troy, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1998, and is the home of the American Labor Studies Center, a non-profit organization that promotes the study of labor history.

In 2000, Kate Mullany was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

***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 soliciting 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.

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(swcw.org)

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