

DECEMBER 15, 2020



The Calling Card

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

<http://www.swcw.org>

**The Board of Directors wishes all of you
the happiest of holidays.**

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

Register Now!

**Our 21st Conference, *The Women of the Shenandoah Valley*,
will be held July 23 - 25, 2021,
in Harrisonburg, Virginia.**

For conference details, click here:

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

To register for the conference, click here:

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

News of Note

Christmas During the Civil War

The **American Battlefield Trust** offers a look at Christmas during the Civil War in an article on its website at

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/christmas-during-civil-war>.

ABT has also published an 1862 Christmas poem by Confederate soldier

William Gordon McCabe describing his thoughts on the

holiday: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/christmas-night-62>

The Civil War Blog, a project of the **PA Historian**, includes several articles about Christmas celebrations during the Civil War period. Check them out

here: [Civil War Blog » Best of Christmas on the Civil War Blog \(gratzpa.org\)](http://www.gratzpa.org/civil-war-blog/best-of-christmas-on-the-civil-war-blog)

The **Blue and Gray Education Society**'s blog features an article by Barbara Noe Kennedy on the role which political cartoonist Thomas Nast played in shaping our perceptions of Christmas in the North during the Civil War. Her article may be found at <https://blueandgrayeducation.org/2020/11/a-political-cartoonists-take-on-christmas-during-the-civil-war/>



Hanukkah Hymn.

Lyrics and music to *Great Arbiter of Human Fate Whose Glory Ne'er Decays*, written by famed South Carolina poet Penina Moise in 1840, can be found at <https://hymnary.org/hymn/SH1904/108>.

Holiday Fundraiser.

The **Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument** is offering a bundled gift of *Honoring Their Memory: Levi T. Scofield, Cleveland's*

Monumental Architect and Sculptor, by Lauren R. Pacini, and a Wendell August Forge Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Ornament. Find the commercial for the holiday bundle here: <https://youtu.be/ax9u04NNofA>. Order your bundle here: <http://artographypress.com>

2020 Giving Tuesday Campaign.

CWRT Congress President Mike Movius reports that, in partnership with the **American Battlefield Trust**, they participated for the first time in a special Giving Tuesday joint campaign. Just under \$2,000 in donations were received, and they are grateful for the support and encouragement. If you were unable to make a contribution during the Giving Tuesday campaign, you can still make a gift to the CWRT Congress before the end of the year at their website: <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/>



Mistresses of the Market: White Women and the Nineteenth Century Domestic Slave Trade.

The **Huntington Library** has posted their 2020 Nevins Lecture online at YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVEU2Bw1Lio>.

Stephanie Jones-Rogers, associate professor of history at University of California, Berkeley, draws upon the testimony of formerly enslaved individuals, the correspondence and account books of slave traders, and a wide range of other material (including travel writing, newspapers and business directories) to show the myriad ways in which white, primarily married, women actively participated in the South's slave market economy, which involved the buying, selling, and hiring of enslaved people.

Winter Seminar Series.

Shenandoah University's **McCormick Civil War Institute** is pleased to present an online Winter Seminar with Director Jonathan A. Noyalas:

- Monday, January 4: *"Worth a Whole Brigade": Rebecca Wright, Tom Laws, and Union Victory in the Shenandoah*
- Thursday, January 7: *"Its Thrill Will Never Die": Sheridan's Ride in War & Memory*
- Monday, January 11: *"It is Natural That Each Comrade Should Think His Corps the Best": Sheridan's Veterans Refight the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign*

To register for these Zoom seminars, email jnyalaso1@su.edu with your name and state of residence no later than **December 20**. The Zoom link for the first session will be sent to registrants at the end of December.

More Zoom Lectures!

The **Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum** is continuing a series of monthly virtual historical programs to extend their outreach. Their next program on January 10 will feature a talk on Thomas Meagher, leader of the Irish Brigade. To participate in their free virtual programs online, RSVP to garmuslib1866@gmail.com. For information on future programs, check their website at www.garmuslib.org.

Research Resource:

The Center for American War Letters at Chapman University

The Center is a unique and extensive manuscript collection of war letters from every American conflict, beginning with handwritten missives composed during the Revolutionary War and continuing up to emails sent from Iraq and Afghanistan. These personal war-related correspondences are a vital record of the collective memory of the American people, as witnessed and articulated by service members, veterans, and their loved ones, who experienced these wars firsthand. The Center for American War Letters is committed to the ongoing collection, preservation, and promotion of these incomparable records of the American experience. The Center accepts donations of war letters in private possession. For more information about the collection, visit their website: [The Center for American War Letters | Legacy Project | Chapman University](#)

To read the story of how the collection began, check out this excellent article in *Smithsonian*: [The Unprecedented Effort to Preserve a Million Letters Written by U.S. Soldiers During Wartime | History | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

Society Notices



A Message From Our Outgoing President.

As my current term of three years as President of the Society for Women and the Civil War is coming to an end, I am stepping down from my leadership role and will move to an At-Large role on The Board of Directors.

The Society has accomplished much in the past three years. The Board moved to a monthly meeting schedule to handle new and old business in a timely manner, and we adopted new by-laws for our organization. (These by-laws are published on the Members Only page of our website.)

My biggest goal as President was to improve on the myriad aspects of our organization. We revamped our website and added multiple informative new webpages. We also reimagined and expanded our quarterly journal, *At Home and in the Field*, to make it more dynamic and relevant to the interests of our membership. And our membership has more than doubled! We also expanded our monthly e-newsletter, *The Calling Card*, which is currently distributed to more than 2,000 readers monthly, thanks to our outreach initiatives.

During my tenure, the Society produced two annual conferences, *Rebuilding Lives After the War* in 2018, and *Women of the Peninsula* in 2019. We planned a conference for 2020, but unfortunately had to cancel it due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are now in the midst of producing a conference in 2021, *Women of the Shenandoah Valley*.

The Society is also hard at work on our signature database, the *National Registry of Women's Service in the Civil War*. This is a huge undertaking, and we are proud of this effort. The searchable database currently has nearly 4,000 names, with more to come. The Registry will be available soon on our website.

I am grateful for all the enthusiasm and support I received as President, and I thank the membership and the Board for their expertise and cooperation in achieving our goals for both the organization at large, and for our annual conference.

Susan Youhn

Announcing the Board of Directors of the Society for Women and the Civil War, for the term beginning January 1, 2021:

President: J. White

Vice-President: Janet Whaley

Treasurer: Gary Ryan

Secretary: Tabitha Miller

Board Members: DeAnne Blanton, Mary Louise Daley, Dianne Kauffman, Jim Knights, Laurel Scott, and Susan Youhn



Success!

The Society will sponsor one of the tour stops, "The Civilians of New Market," on the forthcoming audio tour of New Market Battlefield, developed by the **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation**. Our organization will be mentioned at the beginning of the audio tour stop, which is slated to debut in Spring 2021.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this sponsorship.

2021 Membership Campaign

Now is the time to join us for the first time,
or to renew your annual membership.

Just go to our website:

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

Our membership year runs from January - December*

*Exclusive benefits of membership include a discounted rate on our annual conference, a members-only page on our website, and access to our quarterly journal, *At Home and In the Field*.*

The Society for Women and the Civil War is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. ***Membership dues are tax-deductible, and they enable us to fulfill our mission.*** We are 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.

*New members who joined from October - December 2020
do not need to renew for 2021.



BONNIE MANGAN MEMORIAL FUND

In April, SWCW lost one of our founding members and most stalwart supporters. To honor her memory, the SWCW has established **The Bonnie Mangan Memorial Fund**. Donations to this special fund will be forwarded to Encore Learning, a non-profit organization in Arlington, Virginia, which offers college-level noncredit courses and events to meet the continuing educational and social interests of those over age 50. Bonnie was both a participant and guest lecturer in Civil War women's history with Encore Learning.

We are accepting donations in any amount at the "Donations" page of our website, <http://www.swcw.org/donations.html>, or you can send a check to our mailing address at SWCW – Mangan Memorial Fund – P. O. Box 3117 – Gettysburg, PA 17325. We appreciate your help in honoring all that Bonnie did for our Society.

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

Woman of the Month

Lydia Maria Francis Child

Writer, Educator, Women's Rights Activist and Abolitionist, United
States of America



Born February 11, 1802, in Medford, Massachusetts;
Died October 20, 1880, in Wayland, MA;
Buried in North Cemetery, Wayland, MA.

Lydia Maria Child was a writer, editor of a children's journal, and a teacher. She was a dedicated abolitionist, an activist for the rights of women and Native Americans, and an opponent of American expansionism.

Her 1828 manual and cookbook, *The American Frugal Housewife*, was an immensely influential basic reference for homemakers. In 1833, her book, *An Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans*, was the first anti-slavery book printed in America. In 1834, she published *The Girl's Own Book*, the contents of which can be considered a precursor to the Girl Scout Handbook. That book and her other popular works, *The Mother's Book*, and *The Family Nurse* remain in print today and serve as excellent references for living historians and reenactors.

Of all of her writings, including during the Civil War, she is most known for the poem *Over the River and Through the Wood*, which was composed

for inclusion in the 1844 book *Flowers for Children*, Volume 2. It has two variations: one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. The composer of the music for the poem is unknown. We offer it here for your seasonal pleasure.



Over the River and Through the Wood

Over the river, and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go;
the horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,
to Grandfather's house away!
We would not stop for doll or top,
for 'tis Christmas Day.

Over the river, and through the wood—
oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose
as over the ground we go.

Over the river, and through the wood—
and straight through the barnyard gate,
We seem to go extremely slow,
it is so hard to wait!

Over the river, and through the wood—
When Grandmother sees us come,
She will say, "O, dear, the children are here,
bring a pie for everyone."

Over the river, and through the wood—
now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

Over the river, and through the wood,
with a clear blue winter sky,
The dogs do bark, and children hark,
as we go jingling by.

Over the river, and through the wood,
to have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ding!",
Hurrah for Christmas Day!

Over the river, and through the wood,
no matter for winds that blow;
Or if we get the sleigh upset
into a bank of snow

Over the river, and through the wood,
to see little John and Ann;
We will kiss them all, and play snow-ball
and stay as long as we can.

Over the river, and through the wood,
trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground like a hunting-hound!
For 'tis Christmas Day.

Over the river, and through the wood,
Old Jowler hears our bells.
He shakes his pow, with a loud bow-wow,
and thus the news he tells.

Partner Organizations Spotlight

The American Battlefield Trust



The **American Battlefield Trust** is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit organization has protected more than 53,000 acres of battlefield land associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. Through its divisions and predecessor organizations, the Trust has spent more than 30 years at the forefront of the fight to protect some of the most important landscapes in this nation's history and to help educate the public about the formative events of the country's first century. Learn more about the organization and take part in preserving American History.

<http://www.battlefields.org>

Some of the American Battlefield Trust's current efforts and upcoming events are:

- [Two Virginia Taverns Preservation Effort](#). Started November, 2020
- [Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Western Theater](#). New book released in November 2020, second in a series

- YouTube video release: "[The Battle of Perryville, Polk Attacks: Civil War Kentucky](#)" November 2020, from the Western Theater of the Civil War Tour
- Annual Conference, "[The Wars that Forged America](#)," June 2 - 6, 2021 in Chantilly, VA
- National Teacher Institute, "[Rockets' Red Glare: Making History Relatable](#)," July 15 – 18, 2021 in Baltimore, MD

ERRATA – Organizational Partnership Program Debuts

In our last issue, we listed the names of two of our Organizational Partners incorrectly. We apologize for these errors. The correct names should be:

CWRT Congress
Shenandoah Valley Civil War Era Dancers

We are proud to announce the addition of a new page on our website, showcasing the Organizational Partnerships the SWCW has developed.

<http://www.swcw.org/organizational-partnerships.html>

We encourage you to check out these fine groups and support them in their efforts.

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, and notifications about educational and archival resources.

Please send your submissions to 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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