

The Calling Card



The monthly e-newsletter of the
Society for Women and the Civil War
<http://www.swcw.org>

**The 2024 Conference on
Women and the Civil War**

**Registration is open for *Women in the Western Theater*,
our biggest conference yet!**

Find all the exciting details here:

[SWCW 2024 Conference - Society for Women and the Civil War](#)

Register here, for the same conference fee as 2023:

[SWCW Conference 2024 Registration - Society for Women and the
Civil War](#)

Reserve your hotel room by **June 25**
to take advantage of the discounted rate.

Conference registration deadline is **July 1**.



Evangelist Amanda Berry Smith (1837-1915) --
one of the extraordinary women featured at the conference.

News of Note

A Family at War: Gender and Power on the Confederate Home Front -- A Presentation by the American Civil War Round Table in the United Kingdom.

By focusing closely on one lower-class white family from South Carolina and the ways in which they experienced the U.S. Civil War, this talk by Patrick Doyle, Lecturer in U.S. History at Royal Holloway, University of London, will consider how the loss of men to the army destabilized understandings of familial and gendered power on the Confederate home front. We will hear plenty about the everyday struggles and frustrations these circumstances created, as many ordinary folk came to see the “real” war as the one for sustenance and stability at home. The talk will also ponder whether the tendency to view the Confederate home front as an environment almost entirely bereft of white men has perhaps distorted our understanding of some facets of life behind the lines in the seceding states.

Programs presented by the CWRT of the UK are open to non-members. This presentation will air live on Zoom on **May 11** at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. To register, follow this link: [Home and Away - The Confederate Home Front | acwrt.org.uk](https://www.acwrt.org.uk) and use the special code **SWCWMAY2024** for complimentary access.

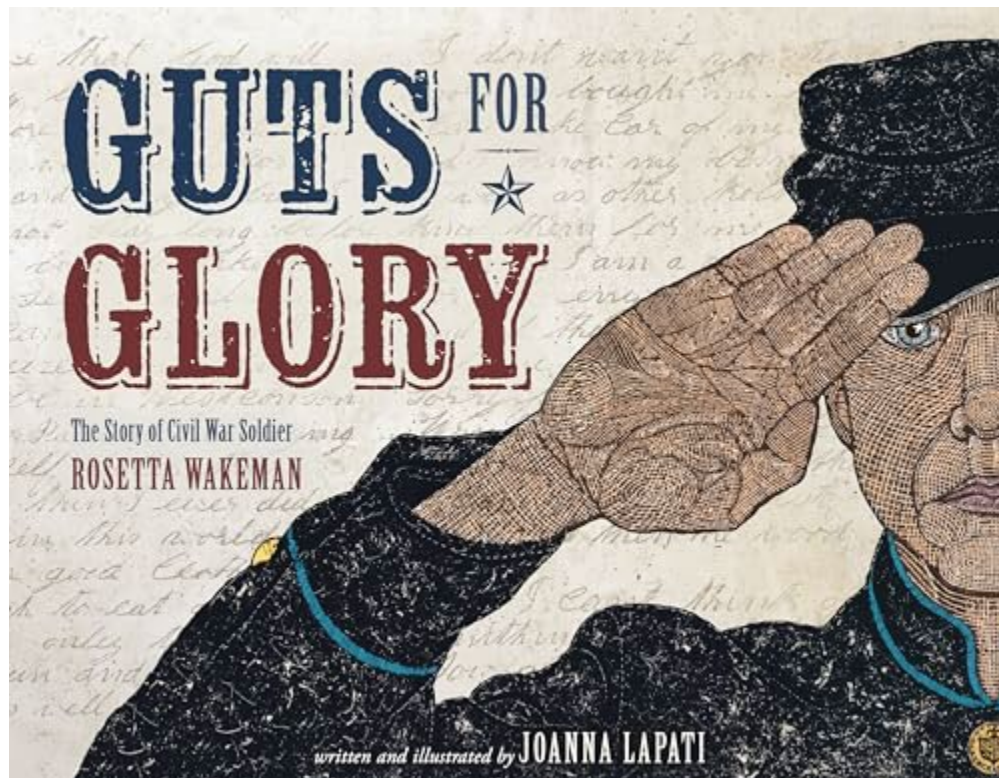
New Marker Honors Cornelia Hancock.

The town of Culpeper, Virginia, in coordination with Civil War Trails, has unveiled a new marker in front of the Shiloh Church at Brandy Station, telling the story of Union Civil War nurse Cornelia Hancock, who worked at the field hospital located near the church.

Civil War Trails is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

Book of Note: *Guts for Glory: The Story of Civil War Soldier Rosetta Wakeman.*

Written and illustrated by Joanna Lapati, *Guts for Glory* is a beautifully illustrated and meticulously researched picture book about the life and times of Rosetta Wakeman, who served in the Union Army under the alias of Lyons Wakeman. Published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, the title is available wherever books are sold.



Lincoln Presidential Foundation Opens First Youth Exhibit at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Lincoln's Springfield explores the story of six diverse members of Lincoln's community. The exhibit is designed for audiences aged 10 - 14, and is free and open to the public. To learn more about the exhibit, click here: [Upcoming Events | Lincoln Presidential Foundation\(LPF\), Springfield](#)

New Video from the American Battlefield Trust.

Civilian Life During the Civil War features a discussion by **Sarah Kay Bierle** and **Jonathan Noylas** about civilians affected by the battles that took place in their towns and on their farms. Enjoy it here: [Civilian Life During the Civil War \(youtube.com\)](#)

Sarah and Jonathan were speakers at *Resilient Women of the Civil War*, the 21st Conference on Women and the Civil War. The American Battlefield Trust is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

Research Resource

Published Diaries, Journals, and Letters of Southern Women

(Second in a Three-Part Series)



Carrie Berry

A Confederate Girl: The Diary of Carrie Berry, 1864

*A Woman in a War-Torn Town: The Journal of Jane Howison Beale,
Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1850-1862*

A Confederate Nurse: The Diary of Ada W. Bacot, 1860-1863

The War-Time Journal of a Georgia Girl, 1864-1865

A Promise Fulfilled: The Kitty Anderson Diary and Civil War Texas, 1861

A Maryland Bride in the Deep South: The Civil War Diary of Priscilla Bond

Memoirs of a Southern Woman "Within the Lines"



Lucy Breckinridge

Lucy Breckinridge of Grove Hill: The Journal of a Virginia Girl, 1862-1864

*A Plantation Mistress on the Eve of the Civil War: The Diary of Keziah
Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard, 1860-1861*

*Shadows on My Heart: The Civil War Diary of Lucy Rebecca Buck of
Virginia*

*A Woman's Wartime Journal: An Account of Sherman's Devastation of a
Southern Plantation*

The Diary of a Civil War Bride: Lucy Wood Butler of Virginia

Torn by War: The Civil War Journal of Mary Adelia Byers

A Belle of the Fifties

*A Rebel Came Home: The Diary and Letters of Floride Clemson, 1863-
1866*



Lucy Buck

Volunteer Sought for Publication Support

The Society is seeking volunteers to assist with publication formatting and pdf conversion of our quarterly e-journal,
At Home and in the Field.

If you can help, please contact us via swcw1865@gmail.com,
with *Volunteers* in the subject field. Thanks!

Society Notices

Have You Visited Our Website Lately?

[Society for Women and the Civil War - Home \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

Our webmistress, the indefatigable **Susan Youhn**,
has been hard at work updating and adding new content.

Find your next good read here:

[Authors List - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

Time on your hands?

[Society Volunteer Opportunities - Society for Women and the Civil War
\(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

Are you a researcher? Check out our growing list of women's diaries:

[cw-womens-diaries list jmw 240103.pdf \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

Do you reenact? This might be helpful:

[civ-guidelines_scott_denton_burgess_w-credits_211022.pdf \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)

And for SWCW members:

[Members' Page - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://swcw.org)



The History of SWCW

In 1995, **Eileen Conklin** and **Betsy Estilow** – good friends and Civil War researchers and authors – were concerned that presentations about women in the American Civil War were absent from scholarly conferences. So, they decided to organize their own conference dedicated to women's lives and roles during the great sectional conflict. They recruited a group of

like-minded cohorts, and the result was the First Conference on Women and the Civil War, held at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland in June 1997. The response was overwhelming, and four annual conferences followed.

A fellowship formed among speakers and attendees during those first five years of the conference. Recognizing the need to nurture and grow this community -- of writers, researchers, museum specialists, park rangers, docents, librarians, archivists, conservators, scholars, historians, reenactors, academics, students, history enthusiasts, and many experts in their chosen fields -- the members of the conference committee formed and incorporated the Society for Women and the Civil War in 2002.

Since its inception, the Society has been governed by by-laws, and administered by a revolving and diverse volunteer Board of Directors elected from our community. To assist and advise the Board, and to enhance our community-building efforts, the Society created a Regents program. The Regents serve as SWCW liaisons in geographic regions of North America, Asia, and Europe, focusing on mission fulfillment and member support.

The mission of the Society is 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.

The Society has continued to produce conferences showcasing the best research into the lives and accomplishments of women during the Civil War era. But it does so much more. Our quarterly e-journal, *At Home and*

in the Field, launched in 2003, brings our community fresh information about Civil War women in-between the conferences, and provides a platform for both new and seasoned writers. Our monthly e-newsletter, *The Calling Card*, launched in 2011, brings its readers news from the Civil War and Women's History communities, and serves as the main vehicle for keeping our audience informed of the activities of the Society and the accomplishments of our members. In 2020, a "Woman of the Month" feature was added to *The Calling Card*.

To support the members of the Society, a scholarship program was established in 2008. It has grown to four individual scholarships, supporting the research and training of high school students, college students, reenactors/living historians, and educators. The Society also offers an author mentorship program, connecting first-time member-authors with already-published SWCW members and associates, and providing continuing support through the publication process. Additionally, we maintain an author's list on our website to promote the work of Society members and conference speakers.

In 2018, the Society achieved 501(c)3 status, allowing us to broaden the scope of our work and to accept tax-exempt donations to support that work. The Society's biggest initiative to date began that same year: The National Registry of Women's Service in the Civil War. The Registry identifies women who served their nations during the Civil War; maintains their identities in a searchable database; and supports that database with documentation files. The Registry is being populated by SWCW Board Members and volunteers. SWCW looks forward to making the Registry available to the public in the near future.

In 2020, the Society established an Organizational Partnership program which formally recognizes its working relationships with other organizations which have like-minded missions, and cooperate with the Society in mutually-beneficial efforts. With the success of this program, the Society began an outreach program for relationships with international organizations in 2023.

The Society for Women and the Civil War will continue to find innovative ways of fulfilling our mission. As we survey the scholarly landscape, we note with pride that more Civil War-themed conferences and forums are addressing women in their offerings, and we believe that we have been influential in this regard. We also believe that there is still much more to learn about women's lives and roles, and we look forward to continuing our leadership in bringing these stories to the forefront.

Woman of the Month

Kate Warne



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, founder of the agency, 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 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 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 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 an essential 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."

-- J. White



Submissions Requested

The Calling Card accepts notices of the achievements of our members; activities of the Civil War & Women's History communities; educational and archival resources; and essays for our Woman of the Month column.

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.

Editor: DeAnne Blanton, SWCW Board Member and President Emerita



If you enjoyed this issue of *The Calling Card*,
please consider forwarding to a friend.

To subscribe to *The Calling Card*, visit our website at [Society for Women
and the Civil War - Home \(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org) and click *The Calling Card* link.

SWCW does not sell our distribution lists

Back issues of *The Calling Card* are available on our website:
[Newsletter Archive - The Calling Card - Society for Women and the Civil War
\(swcw.org\)](https://www.swcw.org)

Copyright © 2024 Society for Women & the Civil War, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Society for Women & the Civil War

PO Box 3117

Gettysburg, PA 17325-0117

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

