

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

Women in Government Service

July 28-30, 2023

U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle,

Pennsylvania

Conference Highlights

US Army Heritage & Education Center:
opportunities for research
Living History encounters along the Heritage Trail

Lectures:
Modern looks at Civil War nurses
The overlooked role of African-American nurses
Dorothea Dix and her legacy
Women spies in Richmond, Virginia

Presentation:
Civil War dresses in the collection of the Shippensburg Fashion Archive

Social Time and Networking:
Evening Hospitality Suite
Saturday Evening Banquet and Silent Auction

More information here:
[Details for the 2023 Conference - Society for Women and the Civil War](https://www.swcw.org)
([swcw.org](https://www.swcw.org))

Register Now:
[2023 Conference Registration - Society for Women and the Civil War](https://www.swcw.org)
([swcw.org](https://www.swcw.org))

Space is limited!

Presented by
the Society for Women and the Civil War
in partnership with the Old Baldy CWRT



Conference Spotlight

Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Founded in 1751, the Borough of Carlisle has a rich history worth exploring.

Old Public Graveyard

[Old Public Graveyard | Carlisle, PA 17013 \(visitcumberlandvalley.com\)](https://www.visitcumberlandvalley.com/old-public-graveyard)

Visit the final resting place of Mary Hays McCauly, better known as Molly Pitcher.

Carlisle Barracks

[Carlisle Barracks | Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013 \(visitcumberlandvalley.com\)](https://www.visitcumberlandvalley.com/carlisle-barracks)

Established in 1757 -- the second oldest Army installation in the U.S. -- the Barracks boasts a 1777 powder magazine. The Barracks was also home to the controversial Carlisle Indian School. Today, it is home to the U.S. Army War College. The grounds are available for self-guided tours.

Historic District

[Carlisle Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, Cumberland County, PA 17013 \(livingplaces.com\)](#)

The Carlisle Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, is an intact collection of architecturally significant residential, commercial and public buildings constructed primarily between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Located in the center of Carlisle Borough, the district includes most of the original town plan.

The Cumberland County Historical Society

[Cultivating Community through our Past - Cumberland County Historical Society](#)



"THE REBELS SHELLING THE NEW YORK MILITIA IN THE MAIN STREET OF CARLISLE,
PENNSYLVANIA."

SKETCHED BY THOMAS NAST, HARPER'S WEEKLY, 25 JULY 1863.

News of Note

The Fearless and Proud Podcast.

Hosted by Gerri Willis, Season 1 of this new podcast is all about women in the Civil War. It's available on most podcast platforms.

YouTube Recommendations.

Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable, the co-sponsor of the 2023 Conference on Women and the Civil War, posts their Roundtable lectures on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/@oldbaldycivilwarroundtable86>. Two presentations of interest to SWCW members are “Unexpected Bravery of Women and Children of the Civil War” (June 9, 2022) and “Faces of Civil War Nurses” (October 24, 2020).

Old Baldy member Joseph F. Wilson has recently posted his newest documentary, *Civil War Prisons: The Ugly Truth*. Watch it here: [Civil War Prisons - The Ugly Truth - YouTube](#)

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker - Her Story in Print.

Volume 2, Issue 3 of the Association of the United States Army's series of graphic novels portraying Medal of Honor Recipients features Dr. Walker. Read it here: [AUSA-Medal-of-Honor Vol2-Issue3 Mary-Walker.pdf](#)

For children, the award-winning *Mary Walker Wears the Pants: The True Story of the Doctor, Reformer, and Civil War Hero*, by Cheryl Harness (author) and Carlo Molinari (illustrator), is available wherever books are sold.



Research Resource

The National Museum of Health and Medicine

[National Museum of Health and Medicine \(NMHM\)](#)

The National Museum of Health and Medicine was established during the Civil War as the Army Medical Museum, a center for the collection of specimens and artifacts for research related to trauma and pathology. The museum's mission to preserve and explore the impact of military medicine spans more than 150 years and includes each major U.S. armed conflict.

However, military medicine does not exist in a vacuum, and it is the museum's vision to preserve, inspire, and inform the history, research, and

advancement of military as well as civilian medicine through world-class collections, digital technology, and public engagement.



The Museum currently has two exhibits of particular interest to SWCW members: *Civil War Medicine* and *The Final Hours of President Abraham Lincoln*. The Museum is located in Silver Spring, Maryland. Information about visiting the museum is located on their website.

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

Follow the Society on Social Media.

SWCW is now on Instagram! Connect with us here: [Society for Women and the Civil War \(@swcw61to65\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

SWCW has also launched a new Facebook page -- check it out here: [Society for Women and the Civil War | Gettysburg PA | Facebook](#)

Notice for SWCW Members.

The newest issue of our quarterly journal, *At Home and In The Field*, has been posted to the members-only section of our website. If you did not receive the email notification of this posting, as well as the quarterly password change, please email us.

Woman of the Month

Augusta Jane Evans Wilson

author and nurse, CSA



Born May 8, 1835 in Columbus, Georgia

Died May 9, 1909 in Mobile, Alabama

Buried at Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama

Augusta Jane Evans was the first-born child of Sarah and Matthew Evans. She was educated at home by her mother, and was a voracious reader throughout her childhood. When Augusta was five or six, her father declared bankruptcy and lost the family plantation. The Evans family moved to Alabama, and then on to San Antonio, Texas, arriving in 1845 during the Mexican War. By 1849, the family had moved again, to Mobile, Alabama.

In 1850, at the age of 15, Augusta wrote her first novel, *Inez: A Tale of the Alamo*, and she presented the manuscript to her father for Christmas. It was published anonymously in 1855. She wrote her next novel, *Beulah*, at the age of 18. Published in 1859, *Beulah* was a success, selling more than 22,000 copies in its first year. The proceeds of the novel enabled the Evans family to purchase a home in Mobile.

When the Civil War broke out, Augusta's brothers joined the 3rd Alabama Infantry while Augusta used her literary skills for Confederate propaganda. She also worked as a nurse at Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay. Her third novel, *Macaria*, was written during the war and published in 1864 -- the manuscript being smuggled to her publisher in New York.

Augusta's most successful novel, *St. Elmo*, was published in 1866, and would later be adapted for both stage and screen. In 1868 she married Confederate veteran Colonel Lorenzo Madison Wilson, who was 27 years her senior. By this time, Augusta had also risen to the pinnacle of Mobile society. Her next novels included *Vashti* (1869), *Infelice* (1875), and *At the Mercy of Tiberius* (1887). Colonel Wilson died in 1892. Augusta wrote two more novels before her death, *A Speckled Bird* (1902) and *Devota* (1907).

Augusta was the leading author of 19th century domestic fiction, a celebrated

writer with a strong following. She was the first woman author to earn more than \$100,000 from her novels -- a record that would only be broken by Edith Wharton. Augusta's literary style was heavily Victorian in its elaborate and traditional romantic idealism, with moralistic and intelligent heroines. Although critics called her work pedantic and pretentious, she stayed in print well into the 20th century. Her wartime novel *Macaria* was republished in 2018. Augusta was inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame in 1977.

Solicitations

The Calling Card accepts submissions.

We request 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



