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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

*The Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing all of the 2023
conference registrants on Friday, July 28!*

Call for Conference Volunteers

It takes a society to smoothly run a conference!

SWCW is requesting volunteers for the following tasks during the conference:

- assisting mobility-challenged attendees at check-in and check-out
- assisting at Friday registration
- working the Silent Auction
- helping with set-up and tear-down of various activities
- distributing boxed lunches on Saturday

If you want to help out, please contact us at swcw1865@gmail.com

DONOR LIST

Many thanks to the following conference registrants
who donated to the SWCW Scholarship Funds:

Doris Hayden

Ann Kilian

Lin Russell

Janet Whaley

Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund or Scholarship Fund should visit our website at [Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War (swcw.org)). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



"A token of love from me, to thee."

S. M. Douglass

Sarah Mapps Douglass, "A token of love from me, to thee," c. 1833. Watercolor and gouache. Amy Matilda Cassey Album, Library Company of Philadelphia.

News of Note

Lost in the Mail: Dead Letter Office Photos.

By the mid-19th century, the majority of the clerks in the Dead Letter Office of the U.S. Postal Service were women and retired clergy. Read about their wartime work in this recent blogpost by the American Battlefield Trust: [Lost In the Mail: Dead Letter Office Photos | American Battlefield Trust \(battlefields.org\)](#)

Upcoming Events.

The Battle for Klickitat Creek will be held August 5-6 at the Klickitat Prairie Park in Mossyrock, Washington. This event will feature both military and civilian camps. Details here: [Battle for Klickitat Creek | WCWA](#)

Remembering Portsmouth in the Civil War will be held September 2 at Haven Park in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. This event will feature both military and civilian impressions. Details here: [Remembering Portsmouth in the Civil War – portsmouthnh400](#)

The Central Virginia Battlefield Trust's *2023 Symposium* will be held October 6-8 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. SWCW member **Sarah Kay Bierle** is one of the historians speaking at the event. The symposium will also feature a visit to the privately owned Moss Neck estate (site of Gen. Stonewall Jackson's 1862-1863 winter headquarters). Details here: [CVBT | 2023 Annual Conference](#)

Research Resource

The US Army Heritage and Education Center

[USAHEC Home \(armywarcollege.edu\)](http://armywarcollege.edu)

SWCW is honored to be hosting our 23rd Conference at USAHEC.

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center engages, inspires, and informs the Army, the American people, and global partners with a unique and enduring source of education and thought. The Center maintains the knowledge repositories that support scholarship and research about the U.S. Army and its operating environment. USAHEC is open to the public for tours and research.

The extensive USAHEC archival collection includes unit histories, oral histories, soldier diaries, training manuals, extensive photographs, and more than 400,000 books and 70,000 objects.



USAHEC Visitors Guide: [Visitor-Guide.pdf \(armywarcollege.edu\)](https://www.armywarcollege.edu/usahec/visitors-guide.pdf)

In-person research is permitted by appointment only:

[Space Availability - USAHEC - LibCal - U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center](#)

For FAQ or to send an online reference inquiry:

[Find Your Answer - USAHEC Find Your Answer \(libanswers.com\)](https://libanswers.com/usahec)



Sarah Mapps Douglass, *Forget Me Not*, c. 1843. Graphite drawing. Martina Dickerson Album, Library Company of Philadelphia.

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.



Lady, while you are young and beautiful
"Forget not" the slave, so shall "Heart's Ease"
ever attend you. S. M. D.

Sarah Mapps Douglass, *Lady while you are young, and beautiful...*, ca. 1836–37.
Watercolor and gouache. Elizabeth Smith Friendship Album, Moorland-Spingarn
Research Center, Howard University.

Woman of the Month

Sarah Mapps Douglass

Abolitionist, Educator, Writer, Artist



Born September 9, 1806 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Died September 8, 1882 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Buried at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Pennsylvania

Sarah Douglass was born into a prominent Quaker abolitionist family in Philadelphia. She received an excellent education as a child, and later attended college in New York City. She returned to Philadelphia in 1825 and began her career as a teacher. In 1833, she founded her own school for African-American girls. Her standards were high and the curriculum was rigorous -- she was committed to teaching her girls subjects that had previously been reserved for boys, including mathematics and the sciences. In 1854, her school merged with the Institute for Colored Youth (now Cheyney State University). Sarah remained the head of the primary department until her retirement in 1877. During her tenure at the Institute, Sarah enrolled at the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania and studied anatomy, female health, and basic medical training; she incorporated these subjects into her curriculum.

In addition to teaching, Sarah was a life-long activist and writer. She contributed articles to *The Liberator*, *The Colored American*, and the *Anglo-African Magazine*. In 1831, Sarah was a founding member of the Female Literary Association, a group of African-American women dedicated to improving themselves through literary pursuits, and thereby acquiring the skills to enhance their communities and fight for equal rights for all people of color. In 1833, Sarah and her mother were founding members of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, an interracial organization dedicated to total abolition as well as political and legal rights for African-Americans. Sarah also helped found the Stephen Smith Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons, and after the Civil War, she served as Vice President of the Women's Pennsylvania Branch of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission in support of the care of formerly enslaved children.

Sarah was also a self-taught artist. Her known extant work is only eight botanical drawings, often accompanied by poetry, and preserved in the

antebellum friendship albums of four women. These works are one of the earliest surviving examples of signed paintings by an African-American woman. It is probable that Sarah was more prolific in her artistic pursuits, but upon her death, she inexplicably requested that her private archives and personal correspondence be destroyed. She died in 1882, one day before her 76th birthday.



Fuchsia.

7. 15. 46.

S. M. D.

Sarah Mapps Douglass, *Fuchsia*, July 15, 1846. Watercolor. Mary Anne Dickerson Album, Library Company of Philadelphia.

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



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