

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

More information here:

[Details for the 2023 Conference - Society for Women and the Civil War
\(swcw.org\)](http://www.swcw.org)

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

Space is limited!

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



Conference Spotlight:

Comfort Suites Downtown Carlisle

This year's conference hotel is centrally located in historic downtown Carlisle, and will be the site of our nightly entertainments, hospitality suite, and Sunday presentations.

Comfort Suites Downtown Carlisle is an amenity-filled hotel, and all rooms are suites with single or double occupancy.

A block of rooms at the special rate of \$139.00 per night + tax has been reserved for conference attendees.

Reserve your room by phone -- (717) 960-1000
or online at:

[Rates & Available Rooms - Comfort Suites Downtown Carlisle](#)
[\(choicehotels.com\)](#)

The rate may be extended to 3 days prior and 3 days after the conference.

Reserve your room with the hotel by **June 16th** for our special rate.

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 lunch boxes on Saturday

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

News of Note

Charlotte Scott Historical Marker Dedication.

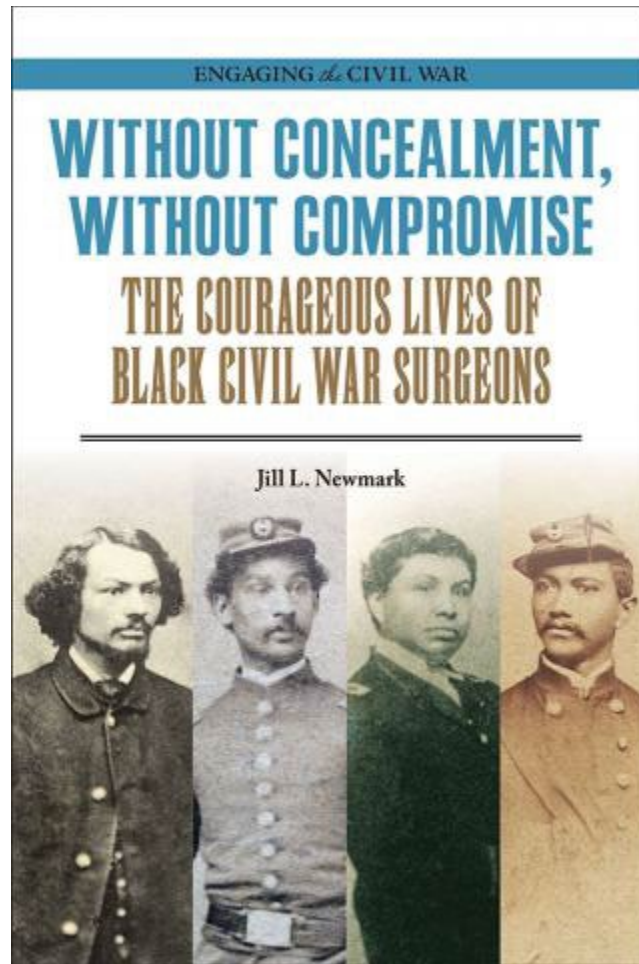
The Civil War Round Table of the Mid-Ohio Valley will host a historical marker dedication ceremony on Saturday, June 17, to recognize Charlotte Scott, a formerly enslaved woman who lived in Marietta at the conclusion of the Civil War, for her initiative, generosity and vision that resulted in the first monument dedicated to the memory of Abraham Lincoln.

The dedication will take place at 1:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church at 308 Front Street in Marietta, Ohio.



**New Book Published by SWCW Member and 2023
Conference Speaker.**

Without Concealment, Without Compromise: The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons, by Jill L. Newmark, was recently published by Southern Illinois University Press. It's available wherever books are sold.



Ms. Newmark will be presenting *Unsung Heroines: Black Nurses of the Civil War* at the 2023 Conference on Women and the Civil War.

2023 Sustainability Conference.

The CWRT Congress will present *Membership Expansion and Retention: the 2023 Sustainability Conference* in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania from August 25-27. Get all the details here: [2023 CWRT Congress](#)

CWRT Congress is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

Smithsonian Open Access.

More than 4.5 million images from across the Smithsonian Institution's

21 museums, nine research centers, libraries, archives, and the National Zoo are available online and free to use. Open the treasure trove here: [Smithsonian Open Access | Smithsonian Institution \(si.edu\)](https://www.si.edu)



Women at the Albany, New York Sanitary Fair
American Art Museum

Research Resource

**The South Carolina Confederate Relic Room
and Military Museum**



Established in 1896, the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum focuses on South Carolina's military history from the Revolutionary War to the present. Located in Columbia, it is open for visitors as well as researchers. Learn all about this museum

here: [Confederate Relic Room \(sc.gov\)](http://ConfederateRelicRoom.sc.gov)

**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

CALLING ALL PAST SWCW CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

We have three important questions for you:

1. Did you attend the SWCW conference in any of the following years? 1998, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019
2. Do you still have your conference notebook from any of these years?
3. Do you have a document scanner at home?

If you answered “YES” to all three of these questions, then we are looking for your help.

We have begun a project to scan and digitally archive the contents of our annual conference binders for wider access and distribution. This involves using your own equipment to scan the contents of a past conference binder into PDF documents to be placed in our online Archive for future reference and research.

If you have one of these binders in your library and are interested in using your own scanner to create these PDF documents, or if you'd just like more information on the time commitment involved, please contact the Chair for the project, Janet Whaley, at janet1860@charter.net.

DONOR LIST

Maria Carrillo Colato

Ann Kilian

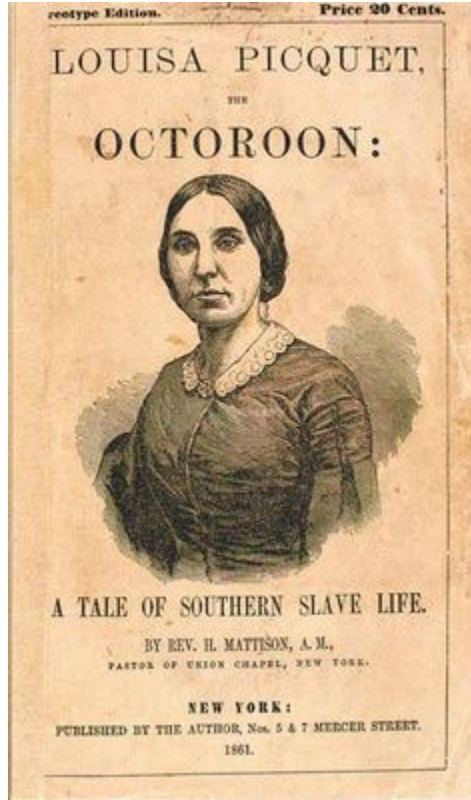
Individuals wishing to donate to our General Fund or Scholarship Fund should visit our website at [Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War \(swcw.org\)](http://Donations - Society for Women and the Civil War (swcw.org)). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Woman of the Month

Louisa Ramsey Picquet

Born in 1828 or 1829 in Columbia, South Carolina

Died August 11, 1896 in New Richmond, Ohio



In honor of Mother's Day, SWCW presents the story of a courageous woman who persevered in the face of incredible odds to rescue her mother from slavery.

Louisa Ramsey was the daughter of Elizabeth Ramsey, an enslaved teenager, and Elizabeth's enslaver, John Randolph. Louisa's date of birth was not recorded. Louisa bore a striking resemblance to Randolph's infant daughter by his wife, and thus he sold Elizabeth and Louisa when the latter was two months old.

Their new enslaver was David Cook, who moved them to Mobile, Alabama, and rented out Elizabeth (and later, Louisa) as domestic servants in a boarding house. Due to Cook's mounting debts, Louisa was sold at auction at the age of

thirteen to John Williams of New Orleans, while her mother was sold to Texan Col. Albert Horton. The separation was devastating for the mother and daughter.

In New Orleans, Louisa was the housekeeper and sex slave for Williams. She gave birth to four children before the age of 18, but only one, her daughter Elizabeth, survived infancy. In 1847, Louisa and her child were emancipated upon the death of Williams. They moved to Cincinnati, Ohio.

To support herself and her daughter, Louisa found employment as a domestic servant. She met a freedman named Henry Picquet, who was raising his daughter Harriet. They married in 1850, and welcomed two more children into their family, Sarah and Thomas. Louisa was happy in her marriage, but felt her family was not complete without her mother, and she set out to find her.

Louisa located her mother in 1858. Colonel Horton conveyed that he was willing to emancipate Elizabeth for the sum of \$1000 -- which is the equivalent to \$36,800 today. Louisa was determined to raise the money. She travelled across the Northeast soliciting donations from churches and abolitionist societies. She arrived in New York City in 1860, and made the acquaintance of the Reverend Hiram Mattison, an abolitionist minister with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mattison was taken with Louisa's life story and her mission to free her mother, and believed that publishing her story would help raise the remaining funds.

Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon: A Tale of Southern Slave Life was published in 1861. Rather than a narrative, it is a series of Louisa's first-person answers to Mattison's questions, which appear transcribed verbatim, along with his own commentary. Louisa was ultimately successful in freeing her mother and bringing her to Cincinnati prior to the publication of the book. A notice in the

Cincinnati Daily Gazette on October 15, 1860 announced that Elizabeth Ramsey had safely arrived in the city.

Henry Picquet served in the Union Army during the Civil War while Louisa supported the family as a laundress. In the post-war years the family moved to New Richmond, Ohio. Henry drew a pension for disability sustained during his service, and after his death, Louisa drew a widow's pension. Louisa died on August 11, 1896 at the age of 70 or 71.

Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon was republished in 2009. It is also available online at [Summary of Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon, or, Inside Views of Southern Domestic Life \(unc.edu\)](#)

-- DeAnne Blanton,
SWCW Board Member and President Emerita

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
