

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

Please join us for

***Women in the Western Theater,*
our biggest and boldest conference to date!**

Read all about it:

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

Register here:

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

Registration Deadline is July 1

Reserve your room at the Courtyard by Marriot:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1694101202125&key=GRP&app=resvlink>.

The special conference rate is in effect until June 25



Capt. Morgan, CSA

News of Note

Dance Demonstrations.

The Victorian Dance Ensemble of the Civil War Dance Foundation will host dance demonstrations and a civilian artifact display at the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center on **May 25**, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The artifacts will include jewelry, photographs, dance cards, and fans. This event is free and open to the public.

The Civil War Dance Foundation is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

National History Day Showcases.

On **June 12**, the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, will host the National History Day Exhibit Showcase, wherein open spaces on all three floors will be taken over by 50 table-top displays created by middle and high school students competing in the 2024 National History Day national contest. [National History Day Exhibit Showcase | National Museum of American History \(si.edu\)](#)

On the same date, across the street at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, documentaries created by National History Day students will be screened in the theatre. [National History Day at NMAAHC Student Documentary Showcase | National Museum of African American History and Culture \(si.edu\)](#)

The exhibits and documentaries represent topics relevant to the state and local communities of the students and reflect the 2024 theme of “Turning Points in History.”

SWCW is a proud supporter of National History Day.



Celebration of Life.

On **June 21** at 11 a.m., a Celebration of Life will be held for Mary and Thaddeus Newton, at Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, Connecticut. The

couple wed on Valentine's Day 1837, after which Mary worked tirelessly to free her husband from enslavement, and ultimately brought him north to freedom. Both of their sons went on to fight for the freedom of all enslaved people by serving in the United States Colored Troops. The celebration of their love and life will conclude with the unveiling of a new gravestone for Mary and Thaddeus, as well as the installation of a military headstone for their son, Stephen, who died fighting for his country. To register for this event, click here: [The Newton Family: A Celebration of Life Tickets | Alex Breanne Corporation \(simpletix.com\)](#)

GAR Museum on YouTube.

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum is posting its Zoom Sunday lecture series videos online. One of their more recent offerings is "Higher Power Calling: Harriet Tubman and Pennsylvania's Underground Railroad" presented by Dr. Nilgun Anadolu-Okar, Professor of African American Studies at Temple University. Enjoy it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlHu3hKWuZg&t=62s>

The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.

Civilians in the Civil War Lecture Series.

The North-South Skirmish Association is launching a series of monthly online lectures relating to civilians in the Civil War. These will be broadcast May - September on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Visit their website for the Zoom link: [150th Civilian Events — North South Skirmish Association \(n-ssa.org\)](#)

These civilian lectures are part of the lead-up to the 150th National Skirmish in October, and a special task force has formed to create civilian-themed offerings at the event, including a History Fair modeled on Civil War Sanitary Fairs. The Civilian Events Task Force very much welcomes folks willing to share their own research on civilian lives and roles, and they have opportunities for all skills,

energy levels, and availability. If you are interested in participating, please contact SWCW President Emerita Juanita Leisch at lesandjuanita1@hushmail.com.

Research Resource

Published Diaries, Journals, and Letters of Southern Women

(Third in a Three-Part Series)



Agnes Lee

Growing Up in the 1850s: The Journal of Agnes Lee

The Journal of Julia LeGrand: New Orleans, 1862-1863

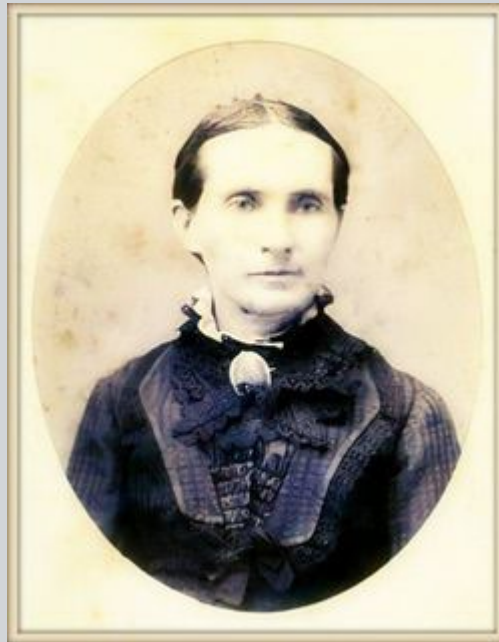
*A Woman's Civil War: A Diary,
with Reminiscences of the War, from March 1862*

Diary of a Southern Refugee during the War, by a Lady of Virginia

From the Pen of a She-Rebel: The Civil War Diary of Emilie Riley McKinley

Old Times In Dixie Land: A Southern Matron's Memoirs

How It Was: Four Years Among the Rebels



Elizabeth Scott Neblett

Sarah Morgan: The Civil War Diary Of A Southern Woman

*A Rebel Wife in Texas: The Diary and Letters
of Elizabeth Scott Neblett, 1852--1864*

*Ada's Journal and Emma's Letters:
The Civil War Era Journal and Letters of Emma Peck*

*The Civil War Diary of Clara Solomon:
Growing Up in New Orleans, 1861-1862*

*The Secret Eye: The Journal of
Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas, 1848-1889*

*A Refugee at Hanover Tavern:
The Civil War Diary of Margaret Wight*

*The Diary of Nannie Haskins Williams: A Southern Woman's Story
of Rebellion and Reconstruction, 1863--1890*



Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas

Silent Auction!

SWCW will hold our traditional Silent Auction at the Saturday evening banquet during the 24th *Conference on Women and the Civil War*.

Proceeds from the auction benefit our scholarship funds.

We are seeking donations for the auction.

Books, Civil War related items, handmade crafts, wine and spirits, paper goods, and offers of services are all popular auction items.

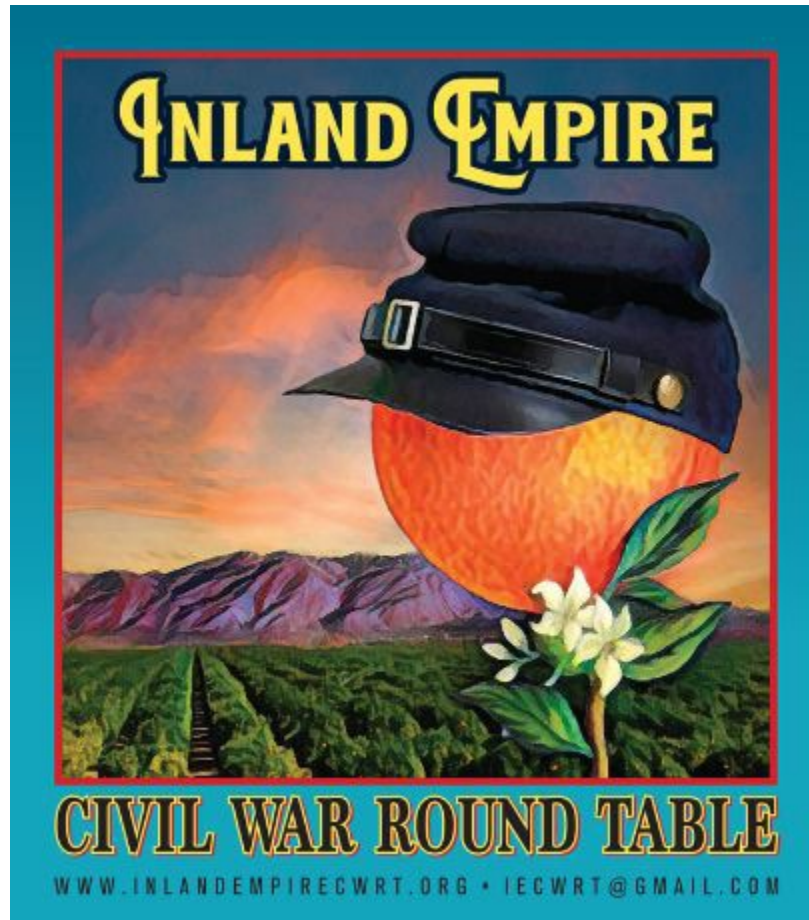
If you have an item or service you wish to donate, please contact our Auction Coordinator, Ashley Sonntag, at ashleysonntag@gmail.com.

SWCW is a 501(c)3 organization, and your auction donation is tax-deductible. SWCW will provide documentation of your gift.

Society Notices

Introducing Our Newest Organizational Partner

We are so pleased to announce that the **Inland Empire Civil War Roundtable** is an Organizational Partner of SWCW.



Winner of the First International CWRT Congress Phoenix Award, the Inland Empire CWRT believes that the future is better if we learn from the past. Their mission is to provide a forum where those with an interest in the history of the American Civil War era can meet to study, discuss, and learn about the war that shaped our nation; the men and women of the era; and the sacrifices made on the battlefield and the homefront.

The Inland Empire CWRT is based in California, but open to anyone interested in the Civil War era. Monthly presentations are always available on Zoom. Inland Empire also publishes a monthly newsletter for their members.

To learn more about the Inland Empire CWRT, and see all they have to offer to

Civil War discourse and scholarship, check out their website: [MENU](#)
(inlandempirecwrt.org)

DONOR LIST

Betsy Estilow

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 \(swcw.org\)](#). SWCW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

The SWCW Membership Guide has recently been updated.

It's located at the Members' Page on our website:

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

Woman of the Month

Christiana Babcock Carteaux Bannister

1819 - 1902

Entrepreneur and Abolitionist



Portrait of Madame Carteaux, painted by her husband, the artist Edward Mitchell Bannister

Christiana Babcock was born in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Her family's ethnicity was African American and Indigenous Narragansett. Nothing is known of her childhood, although it is apparent that she received an education.

At some point in early adulthood, Christiana moved to Boston and opened a milliner's shop. The Boston City Directory of 1846 showed her married to Desiline Carteaux, a cigar maker originally from the French Caribbean. The couple lived on Beacon Hill in the heart of Boston's African American community. The marriage did not last, and by 1851, Christiana was either divorced or widowed. She opened a hairdressing salon, operating professionally as Madame Carteaux. Her clientele was primarily men.

Like many black barbershops and hair salons of the era, Christiana's establishment became a hub of community and abolitionist activity. The Histrionic Club, an African American theater group, rehearsed in the space above her salon.

Around 1853, Christiana employed an aspiring artist, Edward Bannister, as a hairdresser in her salon. Edward, a native of New Brunswick, Canada, claimed Scottish ancestry on his mother's side. His father was from Barbados. Edward was handsome, ambitious, and gregarious. He and Christiana wed in 1857. She was 37 years old, and Edward was seven years her junior.

Christiana's salon was hugely successful, as she consistently innovated hair care for men and began advertising her services to women. Her salon offered haircuts, hair styling, and wig making. Christiana created her own line of exclusive hair care products, including "restoratives" for thinning hair or graying hair, and specially blended shampoos. She offered hair coloring "in a private room" at her salon, and also introduced at-home services for ladies. Christiana's business was so successful that she easily supported both herself and her husband as he struggled

to make a name for himself in the art world. During this time, Christiana and Edward were also active in the Underground Railroad in Boston.

In 1863, Christiana was elected President of the Colored Ladies Relief Committee, an organization which gathered funds and supplies for the support of the soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts (Colored) Infantry. In 1864, Christiana's committee was renamed the Colored Ladies Sanitary Committee, to better advertise the Colored Ladies Fair they organized for the summer, to benefit the widows and orphans of the 54th. Edward painted a portrait of Colonel Shaw, entitled "Our Martyr" for the fair's raffle.

In 1869, Christiana and Edward moved to Providence. It is unclear why they left Boston, but perhaps it was the growing racial unrest in the city. Christiana opened a new salon under the name Madame Carteaux, Hair Doctress, and catered to the society women of the city. Edward opened a portrait studio, which quickly became successful. In 1876, his landscape painting, *Under the Oaks*, won first prize at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. In 1880, he cofounded the Providence Art Club. The couple were so successful in their individual pursuits that they spent their summers at Narragansett Bay.

Christiana became involved in community efforts in Providence, most notably as a fundraising agent for the proposed Home for Aged Colored Women. Being well-connected to the upper echelons of society, Christiana was a perfect choice for the role. The Home opened in 1890. Christiana remained a fund agent and personal donor for the Home until 1899, which is the year that she closed the doors of her salon and retired.

Edward dropped dead on January 9, 1901, during a prayer meeting at his church. Near his grave at Providence's North Burial Ground, a group of white artists erected a granite boulder in his honor. A year later, an infirm Christiana moved into

the Home for Aged Colored Women. Sadly, she soon became "violently insane" and was transferred to Howard's Asylum (formally known as the State Hospital for the Insane). Christiana was presumably housed with other elderly inmates suffering from various forms of dementia. She died on December 29, 1902, and was buried next to Edward. Her grave remains unmarked.

Christiana Bannister left a profound legacy. She was the muse and financier of Edward Bannister, one of North America's most important black painters. She overcame racial and gender prejudice to become an immensely successful businesswoman. And she lent her talents and resources to the betterment of those less fortunate.

-- DeAnne Blanton

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

