Schedule

Friday, June 3, 2005
12:00 – 4:00 Registration Open
12:00 – 5:30 Vendors Open
12:30 – 4:00 Workshops

These workshops will be filled randomly as we receive the registrations. Every effort will be made to accommodate your first choice based upon how fast the workshop sessions fill up. "Using Special Collections" only has a limited number of slots in each session due to space limitations of the facility.

Session 1: 12:30 – 2:00
Using Special Collections - Joyce Nester, Special Collections Librarian Virginia Tech. There are libraries everywhere and at every level that contain wonderful, and often undiscovered, resources that are sometimes referred to as "special collections." Using the University Libraries Special Collections Department as a model, we will explore techniques to find and use unique collections of books, manuscripts and objects wherever they may exist.

Copyrights, "Copywrongs" - Susan Anthony, a copyright and trademark attorney. Using copyright dilemmas from her own work as a historian in mid-19th Century American weddings, Susan’s workshop is a must for anyone who is a researcher, writer or presenter of Civil War history.

Session 2: 2:30 – 4:00
Using Special Collections Repeat of Session 1
Writing Women’s Biographies - A panel discussion by Bill Christen, Sara Bartlett, Virginia Mescher and moderated by Meg Galante-DeAngelis. Each panel member will briefly describe a different method of writing about women. Bill Christen will speak about writing for a researcher, writer or presenter of Civil War history.

4:15 – 5:15 Society for Women and the Civil War Annual Meeting plus a “Meet the Board” Social

Saturday, June 4, 2005
7:30 – 8:30 Late Registration
7:30 – 6:00 Vendors Open
8:45 – 9:30 Confederate Women and the Cult of Sacrifice. Women in the South during the Civil War faced special hardships, usually with courage and determination. This contributed to an emerging "cult of sacrifice" in which women took great pride in surviving tremendous hardships and almost reeled in the sacrifice they made for the Southern Cause. Those hardships became the foundation for the postwar glorification of Southern womanhood. William Davis

9:30 – 10:15 Patriotism and Practicality: Civil War Era Homespun Dresses. Although "Hurray for the Homespun Dress" became a popular rallying cry for young Southern women during the Civil War, the actual prevalence of hand-loomed garments remains controversial. This talk utilizes period quotes, statistics and slides of surviving dresses to examine what prompted new or continued reliance upon what was an old-fashioned source of textiles. Vicki Berth

10:15 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:30 Elizabeth Phelps’s Gothic Civil War: A Northern Writer Communing with the Spirits of the Dead. New England writer, Elizabeth Phelps Ward (1844-1911), overcame personal sorrow and communal grief wrought by the Civil War by tapping into the spirit world. By encountering the ghosts of the departed, she discovered a spiritual and feminist philosophy that brought solace. Monika Elbert

11:30 – 12:15 Mary Martha Reid and the Florida Hospital in Richmond. Reid, the widow of a former Florida governor, served as matron of the Florida Hospital in Richmond for much of the Civil War. Her dedication led to her being referred to as the “sorceress” of the Florida soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia and contributed to the Florida Hospital having one of the best survival rates among the Confederate medical facilities in the capital city. David Coles

12:15 – 1:45 Lunch

1:45 – 2:30 The Union Army vs. Mary Jane Green: The Rebel Who Would Not be Tamed. Mary Jane Green started her career carrying Confederate mail through Union lines, progressed to being a spy, and then became an expert at destroying the Union telegraph lines. Although arrested several times, there was nothing that the Provost Marshal could do that would break this woman’s spirit. Wendy King

Recognizing the Efforts of Women 1861-1865
Jointly Sponsored by The Society for Women and the Civil War and Virginia Center for Civil War Studies
http://www.conted.vt.edu/cwwomen/
Sunday, June 5, 2005

Special Tour of Smithfield Plantation
12:00 – 3:00
Bus transportation provided
This is a special combination of tours offered by Smithfield Plantation just for conference attendees.

House Tour
Come tour Historic Smithfield Plantation, the 1774 home of Colonel William Preston. Costumed interpreters will guide you through seven rooms of this beautiful home. The interpretation covers three generations of the Preston family, and for our conference audience, will include information about the women of the household and information about the Preston family’s involvement in the Civil War. Tour time is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Cemetery Tour
Visit the Preston family cemetery located near Historic Smithfield. This cemetery is private and is not normally open to the public. The earliest knowngrave is 1780. Tours guides from Smithfield will explain recent archaeological work done at the site and will share stories of those buried at the site. Tour time is approximately one hour.

Additional Information
For further information please call SWCW at 540/581-4518 or e-mail athomeandinthefield@yahoo.com. Additional information is also available on the web at http://www.swift.org.