

# Civil War Research: Tracing Union and Confederate Ancestors

## *Class 3: Women in the Civil War*

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



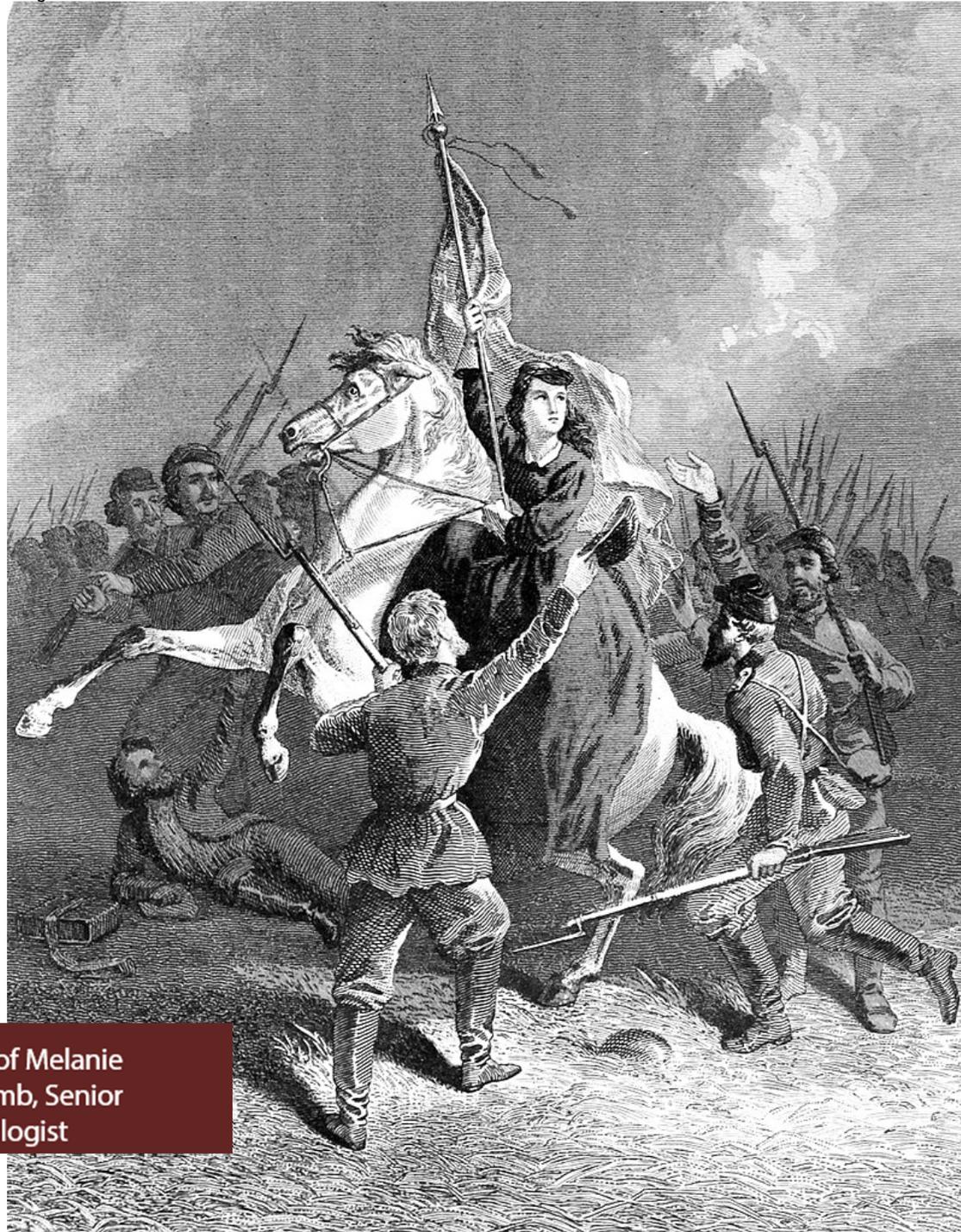
American Ancestors®  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist



Voice of Melanie  
McComb, Senior  
Genealogist

# Overview

Nurses

Doctors

Spies

Serving in  
Disguise

Online Resources

Manuscripts

# Nurses

# Roles Available to Women

- Nursing was not primarily a woman's occupation
- Before the Civil War, males served as medical stewards (male nurses)
- Women could serve as cooks and laundresses
- In June 1861, Sanitary Commissions and Relief Societies started recruiting women to work in hospitals

# Dorothea Dix

- First superintendent of U.S. army nurses in June 1861
- Over 3,000 nurses served the Union during her tenure
- National Association of Army Nurses of the Civil War was founded in 1881 by Dix



# U.S. Army Nurse Requirements

- Between the ages of 35 and 50 years old
- Good health
- Good moral standards
- "Not too attractive"
- Willing to dress "plainly"
  - No hooped skirts
  - Black or brown dresses
  - No cosmetics or jewelry
- Commit to 3 months service minimum
- Follow regulations and directions of supervisors

# Other Ways to Pursue Nursing

- If they volunteered in Union hospitals, regional organizations could certify the women as official nurses
- Catholic nuns
- Starting in 1863, they could be selected by surgeons

# Pay Roll

- For those “regularly mustered into service,” \$12/month
- Hospital matron was paid \$6/month until 1863; the pay was then increased to \$10/month
- Contract nurses were paid \$13/month

# African American Nurses

- Were basically confined to menial labor jobs
- Worked among the most "dangerously ill" patients in convalescent homes and government hospitals
- Were hired out to Confederate hospitals by their enslavers
- Cared for African American soldiers
- The U.S. Navy recruited several African American women to serve on the hospital ships

# Catholic Nuns

- It's estimated over 600 Catholic nuns served as nurses in military hospitals throughout the Union and Confederacy
- From 21 religious orders, which included Daughters of Charity, Sisters of Mercy, and Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Cooked, cleaned, dressed wounds, assisted in surgeries, and kept the hospitals running





DAUGHTERS  
of CHARITY  
PROVINCE OF ST. LOUISE

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# Provincial Archives of the Daughters of Charity

APRIL 15, 2013

Reprinted from the  
Mid-Atlantic Archivist Newsletter  
Spring 2013

Emmitsburg, MD—In July of 2011, the Daughters of Charity merged four of their provinces into one: the Province of St. Louise. While it was decided that the administrative offices would be in St. Louis, all of the archives would be housed in Emmitsburg, MD., where in 1809 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton founded their order as the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's. A committee comprised of the archivists from the four provinces—Emmitsburg, St. Louis, Albany and Evansville (IN)—was tasked with designing a new repository that would accommodate all of the current collections as well as allow room for growth for the new province's records and artifacts.

In early November 2012, the staff at Emmitsburg moved their materials into the new repository. Over the next three weeks, Fry Wagner, archives and library movers from St. Louis, brought the other three collections to Maryland. As incredible as it now seems, the first of some 10,000 boxes were put on the new shelves on Nov. 5; the last ones from



The new reading room at the Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives



High density

[daughtersofcharity.org/provincial-archives-of-the-daughters-of-charity](http://daughtersofcharity.org/provincial-archives-of-the-daughters-of-charity)

## CIVIL WAR

 Print  Add to Research List

 More

Found 6 record(s)

	TITLE	LEVEL NAME	SUBJECT	TEMPLATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Angels of Mercy: An Eyewitness Account of Civil War and Yellow Fever by a Sister of Mercy		Civil War	Rare Books
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grand Army Women - The GAR And It's Female Organizations		Civil War	Rare Books
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gettysburg's Lost Love Story		Civil War	Rare Books
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Rebel Yell & the Yankee Hurrah		Civil War	Rare Books
<input type="checkbox"/>	Battlefield Angels: The Daughters of Charity Work as Civil War Nurses		Civil War	Rare Books
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military Service - Civil War	Collection	Civil War, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul - United States, Frederick (Md.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865, Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863, Gettysburg National Military Park (Pa.), Nursing - Religious aspects - christianity, Nursing - United States - History, Philadelphia (Pa.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865, Richmond (Va.) - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Hospitals, Richmond (Va.) - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Medical care, Saint Louis (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865, United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Hospitals, United States - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Medical care, United States - History - Civil War - 1861-1865 - War work - Catholic Church, United States - History - Civil War - 1861-1865 - Women, Vicksburg (Miss.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865, Washington (D.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	Manuscripts

daughtersofcharity.org



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# 'Balm of Hope' Tells Daughters of Charity Civil War Nurses' Stories

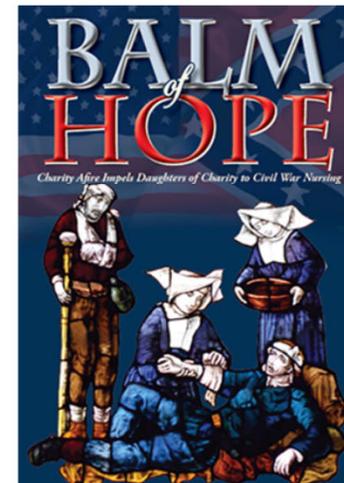
AUGUST 31, 2015

Stories from Daughters of Charity who served in the Civil War as nurses are compiled and shared in *Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels Daughters of Charity Civil War Nurses*, a new publication by Sister Betty Ann McNeil, D.C.

Sister McNeil's discovery of 500 pages of handwritten memoirs by Daughters of Charity Civil War nurses led her into a multi-year project to transcribe, annotate, index and publish *Balm of Hope*. This compendium includes:

1. Notes of the Sisters' services in military hospitals
2. Civil War recollections and accounts
3. Correspondence

The text invites readers to listen to courageous women reminisce in their own words about nursing amid the ravages of war.



daughtersofcharity.org

# Ann (Bradford) Stokes

Photo # NH 55837 USS Red Rover, by F. Muller



- First African American woman to serve on a U.S. military vessel (*USS Red Rover*)
- Among the first women to serve as a nurse in the U.S. Navy
- Served under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Cross nuns
- In 1890, she applied and received a disability pension.

# Clara Barton

- Provided nursing care and supplies to soldiers during the Civil War
- Earned the nickname "Angel of the Battlefield"
- After the war, opened the Office of Missing Soldiers to reconnect 20,000 soldiers with their families
- In 1881, she founded the American Red Cross



COLLECTION

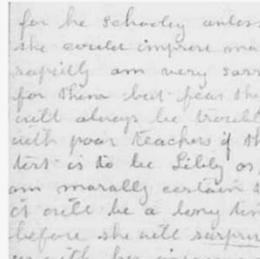
## Clara Barton Papers

[About this Collection](#) [Collection Items](#) [Articles and Essays](#)

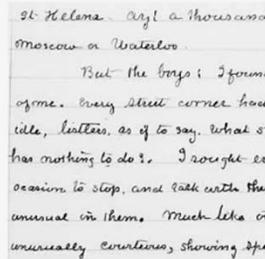
### Featured Content



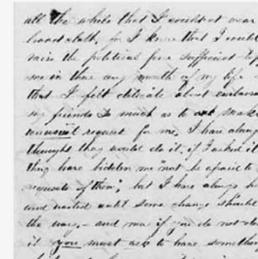
Portrait of Clara Barton, ca. 1870s, reproduced in a pamphlet of...



Clara Barton, diary entry, March 11, 1852, revealing her ...



Clara Barton, draft manuscript, 'The Story of My Childhood,' ...



Letter, Clara Barton to nephew Bernard Vassall, February 13, ...



Letter, Clara Barton to her father, May 19, 1861, stating her ...



[loc.gov/collections/clara-barton-papers/about-this-collection](https://loc.gov/collections/clara-barton-papers/about-this-collection)

The screenshot shows the Internet Archive website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for INTERNET ARCHIVE, WEB, BOOKS, VIDEO, AUDIO, SOFTWARE, and IMAGES. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for ABOUT, BLOG, PROJECTS, HELP, DONATE (with a red heart icon), CONTACT, JOBS, and VOLUNTEER. On the left side, there are search and menu icons. The main content area displays a scanned document. The document is a title page for a book titled "OUR ARMY NURSES." The text on the page includes: "INTERESTING SKETCHES, ADDRESSES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS Of nearly One Hundred of the Noble Women who Served in Hospitals and on Battlefields during OUR CIVIL WAR. COMPILED By MARY A. GARDNER HOLLAND. SOLD BY SUBSCRIPTION ONLY." There is a portrait of a woman in a dark dress with a white collar and a white sash. Below the portrait is a handwritten signature: "Respectfully Mary A. Gardner Holland." At the bottom right of the page, it says "1865 WILKINS & CO., Publishers, 53 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts." There are some handwritten notes in the top right corner of the document, including "OB" and "57757-13 67".

Archive.org



MARY E. MOORE.

I WAS appointed hospital matron by Colonel Smith, of the 58th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, in November, 1861, at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and served there until some time in February, when our regiment left for Cairo, Ill.; then went to Fort Donaldson, Tenn., where I helped to care for the sick and wounded during the battle, and afterwards on a hospital steamer. I next accompanied a party of soldiers to Cairo, where I cared for them until all but one were able to leave the hospital.

While at Fort Donaldson I have sometimes gone two or three days without any sleep, and with only an occasional cup of coffee or some hard-tack, which I would eat as I went in and out among the sick. At one time all the sleep I had for three nights was on the bare floor, between my husband and a sick soldier, and with my husband's arm for a pillow.

No one but the poor boys themselves can imagine as we nurses can what suffering they had to endure during the Rebellion. I recall one poor old colored man who had borne a great deal, having been shot several times. I took eighteen buckshot out of his back one day.

I was in the hospitals something over nine months; then my husband died, and I returned to my home.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

MARY E. MOORE.

KING CITY, MO.

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# Doctors

# Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell

- First woman to receive a medical degree in the United States
- Elizabeth, along with her sister Dr. Emily Blackwell, founded the Women's Central Association of Relief (WCAR) in New York City

## United States Sanitary Commission records. Woman's Central Association of Relief records

1861-1866

[OVERVIEW](#)
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[PRINTABLE \(PDF\) VERSION](#)
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### Collection Overview

Biographical/historical information

Scope and arrangement

Administrative information

Using the collection

#### Additional Resources:

- [USSC records finding aid](#)  
 Overview of all the series in the USSC records.

<b>Creator</b>	<a href="#">United States Sanitary Commission</a>
<b>Call number</b>	MssCol 22266
<b>Physical description</b>	23.31 linear feet (54 boxes, 4 volumes)
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	United States Sanitary Commission records. Woman's Central Association of Relief records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library
<b>Sponsor</b>	The conservation, arrangement, and description of the collection was made possible by generous funding from the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust.
<b>Repository</b>	Manuscripts and Archives Division
<b>Access to materials</b>	<a href="#">Request an in-person research appointment.</a>

The Woman's Central Association of Relief (WCAR) was founded in April 1861 in New York City, officially becoming a branch of the USSC on June 24. Its primary function was the procurement of supplies, obtained from an extensive network of contributing aid societies. The WCAR also participated in other war relief efforts, such as fundraising, registering female nurses for work in military hospitals, and helping to direct returning, discharged soldiers and soldiers' families to local relief agencies for assistance. The Woman's Central Association of Relief held its final meeting on July 7, 1865, although it continued to receive supplies into October. Two prominent organizers within the WCAR were Louisa Lee Schuyler (1837-1926) and Ellen Collins (1828-1912). The Woman's Central Association of Relief Archives, 1861-1865, primarily document the supply procurement and distribution activities of the WCAR and consist of correspondence, minutes, reports, supply records, and directories listing associate managers.



This Collection [dropdown] [search icon] [menu icon]

Library of Congress » Digital Collections » Blackwell Family Papers » About this Collection

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### COLLECTION Blackwell Family Papers

About this Collection   Collection Items   Articles and Essays

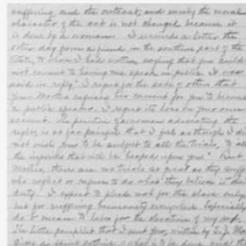
#### Featured Content



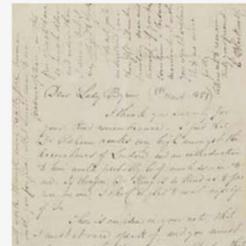
Photograph, Blackwell and Spofford families, circa 1890s (back ...



Elizabeth Blackwell, "Private Journal," 1836.



Letter (handwritten copy), Lucy Stone to her mother, Hannah ...



Letter, Elizabeth Blackwell to Baroness Anne Isabella Milbanke ...



Portrait, Elizabeth Blackwell, undated.

[loc.gov/collections/blackwell-family-papers](https://loc.gov/collections/blackwell-family-papers)

# U.S. Sanitary Commission

- National version of the WCAR
- Oversaw nurse training, coordinated volunteer efforts, and provided hospital and kitchen services at the battlefield
- Most of the officers and agents were men
- Women were mostly volunteers

## United States Sanitary Commission records

1861-1879 [bulk 1861-1872]

- OVERVIEW**
- DETAILED DESCRIPTION
- PRINTABLE (PDF) VERSION
- CONTACT THE DIVISION

<b>Collection Overview</b>
Biographical/historical information
Scope and arrangement
Administrative information
Key terms
Using the collection

<b>Creator</b>	United States Sanitary Commission
<b>Call number</b>	MssCol 3101
<b>Physical description</b>	linear feet
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	United States Sanitary Commission records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library
<b>Sponsor</b>	The conservation, arrangement and description of the collection was made possible by generous funding from the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust and a grant from the Save America's Treasures program.
<b>Repository</b>	Manuscripts and Archives Division
<b>Access to materials</b>	<a href="#">Request an in-person research appointment.</a>

The United States Sanitary Commission (USSC), 1861-1879, was a civilian organization authorized by the United States government to provide medical and sanitary assistance to the Union volunteer forces during the United States Civil War (1861-1865). As the USSC broadened the scope of its work during the war, Regular troops, sailors and others also benefited from its services. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, minutes, reports, military service claim files, registers, diaries, financial records, scrapbooks, posters, illustrations, photographs, printed matter, maps, ephemera and artifacts concerning the Commission's sanitary, medical and relief work during the Civil War, as well as its post-war relief work and publication activities. The collection also includes the records of the American Association for the Relief of the Misery of Battle Fields, founded in 1866 by USSC officers and former associates.

### BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Search > Filtered search

Show Only Public Domain

271 results found | Filtering on: **Name:** United States Sanitary Commission

- ▶ TOPIC
- ▶ NAME
  - United States Sanitary Commission
- ▶ COLLECTION
- ▶ PLACE
- ▶ GENRE
- ▶ PUBLISHER
- ▶ DIVISION
- ▶ TYPE

DATE RANGE

Start to End

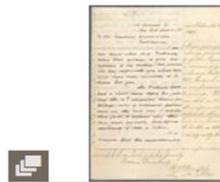
Sort by:  Title  Date created  Date digitized  Sequence



Letter of inquiry by Emily M...



Letter of inquiry by A. Bowen...



Letter of inquiry by John Hen...



Letter of inquiry by Sgt. Cha...



Letter of inquiry by Annie Me...



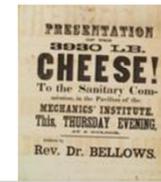
Letter of inquiry from Susann...



Letter of inquiry, December 5...



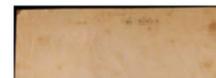
Letter of inquiry by John Bow...



Presentation of the 3930 lb. ...



Wm. B. Bowles, Esq. [left pro...



Feedback

digitalcollections.nypl.org

United States Sanitary Commission, Cleveland Branch (Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio) Records

[Descriptive Summary](#)

[History of the United States Sanitary Commission, Cleveland Branch \(Soldiers' Aid Society of](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Statement of Arrangement](#)

[Restrictions](#)

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[Detailed Description of The Collection](#)

[Dated and undated manuscript items relating to the work of the United States Sanitary Commission](#)

[Reports and abstracts of reports](#)

[Acknowledgements of hospital equipment received from the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern](#)

[Military claims and official discharge documents and correspondence \(this material has no special](#)

[Bank drafts, tickets, and passes](#)

[Miscellany relating to the United States Sanitary Commission](#)

[Bound volumes of correspondence to the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio from Ohio branches](#)

[Bound volumes of correspondence from other cities \(non-Ohio\), departments and districts](#)

[Bound volumes of correspondence of claimants to the Free Claim Agency of the Soldiers'](#)

[Bound correspondence and other documents between United States federal government agencies](#)

[Bound volumes of correspondence received relating to the work of the Department of Special](#)

[Bound volumes of correspondence from camps, hospitals, and homes in Ohio; clerks and field agents](#)

[Bound record volumes of varying in size and depth, arranged according to size in a series of boxes](#)

[Bound record volumes not housed in containers; volumes are arranged according to appearance, size](#)

## Finding aid for the United States Sanitary Commission, Cleveland Branch (Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio) Records

**Title:** United States Sanitary Commission, Cleveland Branch (Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio) Records

**Repository:** Western Reserve Historical Society  
Phone: 216-721-5722  
<http://www.wrhs.org>

**Creator:** United States Sanitary Commission, Cleveland Branch

**Dates:** 1842-1878

**Bulk dates:** 1861-1869

**Quantity:** 22.00 linear feet (41 containers, 41 oversize volumes, and 1 wrapped package)

**Abstract:** The United States Sanitary Commission (Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio) was established in 1861 in Cleveland, Ohio, to provide for the physical needs of soldiers by improving camp hygiene and diets, collecting and disbursing hospital stores, inspecting hospitals and other medical facilities, caring for sick and wounded soldiers, registering and burying the dead, building and supporting a soldiers home, and conducting a special relief system and employment service. The collection consists of correspondence, reports, memoranda, receipt, cash, and memoranda books, acknowledgements of equipment received, bank drafts, insurance policies, newspaper clippings, and other papers. Includes invoices and other papers concerning the Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair, 1864, and a memoir of Caroline Younglove Abbott concerning the work of the organization.

**Identification:** MS 1012

**Location:** closed stacks

**Language:** The records are in English

# Dr. Mary Edwards Walker



- At first only allowed to practice as a nurse in temporary hospitals set up around Washington
- In 1863, her request to practice as a surgeon was accepted
- 1st Woman Army Medical Officer
- In 1864, she was captured by Confederate troops as a suspected spy
- The only woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor

## Syracuse University

Libraries  
Special Collections Research Center

### Table of Contents

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## Mary Edwards Walker Papers



An inventory of her papers at Syracuse University

### Overview of the Collection

**Creator:** Walker, Mary Edwards, 1832-1919.

**Title:** Mary Edwards Walker Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1799-1990

**Bulk Dates:** 1860-1919

**Quantity:** 4 linear ft.

**Abstract:** Papers of the physician, social reformer, native of Oswego, N.Y. Advocate of dress reform and women's suffrage. Collection includes correspondence (1833-1913), mainly from Dr. Walker's lecture tour of Britain in 1866-67 and from her Civil War service, 1862-65; legal and financial documents, including deeds, wills, and material concerning her divorce and employment at the Federal Pension Office; photographs; and writings, including material on the trial of Frank C. Almay in 1891, lectures, pamphlets, and reminiscences.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Special Collections Research Center,

Syracuse University Libraries

222 Waverly Avenue

Syracuse, NY 13244-2010

<https://library.syracuse.edu/special-collections-research-center>

[library.syracuse.edu/digital/guides/w/walker\\_me.htm](https://library.syracuse.edu/digital/guides/w/walker_me.htm)

# Spies

# Elizabeth Van Lew

- Operated an espionage ring in Richmond, VA
- Provided food and clothing to the prisoners of Libby Prison and collected intelligence
- Helped facilitate the escape of many men with the assistance of prison clerk Erasmus Ross
- Recruited by Union General Benjamin Butler as a spy; sent coded message to Union officers using invisible ink and hiding reports in hollowed out eggs or vegetables
- In 1869, she was appointed Postmaster of Richmond by President Grant



# Mary Jane Richards

- Previously enslaved by Van Lew's family, but freed by Elizabeth
- Sent to the North to be educated, then returned to assist Van Lew
- Obtained a position in the Confederate White House, posing as an enslaved person
- Memorized the documents seen in Jefferson Davis's office and eavesdropped on conversations
- After the war, she worked for the Freedmen's Bureau as a teacher
- In 1995, she was inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame

# Elizabeth Van Lew Papers

- Held at the Library of Virginia and the New York Public Library
- Library of Virginia collection includes a letter from M.J. Denman (Mary Bowser) to Elizabeth, an African American part of the spy ring
- New York Public Library collection includes her journal and a cipher she used to send coded messages to Union commanders

# Rose Greenhow

- Wealthy socialite and widow who lived across the street from the White House
- Organized a spy ring where she relayed information using ciphers, Morse code, and sewing messages into secret pockets and tapestries
- When she was put under house arrest for spying, she used her 8-year-old daughter “Little Rose” to transmit messages on candy wrappers
- In 1862, Rose and her daughter were held in the Old Capitol Prison for months before being deported to Richmond





National Park Service

SEARCH MENU



# The Civil War

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*NPS.gov / Home / People / Spies*

## Spies

In a war where one's appearance and speech did not give away one's loyalty, espionage and the black market thrived. This was particularly true in border areas, where the people's sympathies were divided. Many former slaves and some southern Unionists provided valuable local knowledge to Union forces. Confederate women spies, such as "Rebel Rose" Greenhow of Washington, D.C., and Belle Boyd of Virginia were particularly celebrated for their exploits in a Romantic age.



[nps.gov/civilwar/spies.htm](https://nps.gov/civilwar/spies.htm)

PERSON

## Harriet Tubman

[Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park](#), [Harriet Tubman National Historical Park](#), [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park](#), [Reconstruction Era National Historical Park](#)

Born into slavery on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1822, Tubman was named Araminta by her enslaved parents, Ben and Rit Ross. Nearly killed at the age of 13 by a blow to her head, "Minty" recovered and grew strong and determined to be free.

Changing her name to Harriet upon her marriage to freeman John Tubman in 1844, she escaped five years later when her enslaver died and she was to be sold. One hundred dollars was offered for her capture. Vowing to return to bring her family and friends to freedom, she spent the next ten years making about 13 trips into Maryland to rescue them. She also gave instructions to about 70 more who found their way to freedom independently.

Tubman successfully used the skills she had learned while working on the wharves, fields and woods, observing the stars and natural environment and learning about the secret communication networks of free and enslaved African Americans to affect her escapes. She later claimed she never lost a passenger. The famous abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison called her "Moses," and the name stuck.

A lifelong humanitarian and civil rights activist, she formed friendships with abolitionists, politicians, writers and intellectuals. She knew Frederick Douglass and was close to John Brown and William Henry Seward. She was particularly close with suffragists Lucretia Coffin Mott, Martha Coffin Wright, and Susan B. Anthony. Intellectuals in New England's progressive circles, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison, Bronson Alcott, Harriet



[nps.gov/civilwar/spies.htm](https://nps.gov/civilwar/spies.htm)

# Serving in Disguise

# How did Women Disguise Themselves?

- Both the Union and Confederate armies forbade women from enlisting; recruiters did not require proof of identity
- Women assumed masculine names and dressed as men
  - involved binding their breasts, padding the waists of their pants, and cutting their hair short

# Physical Exams

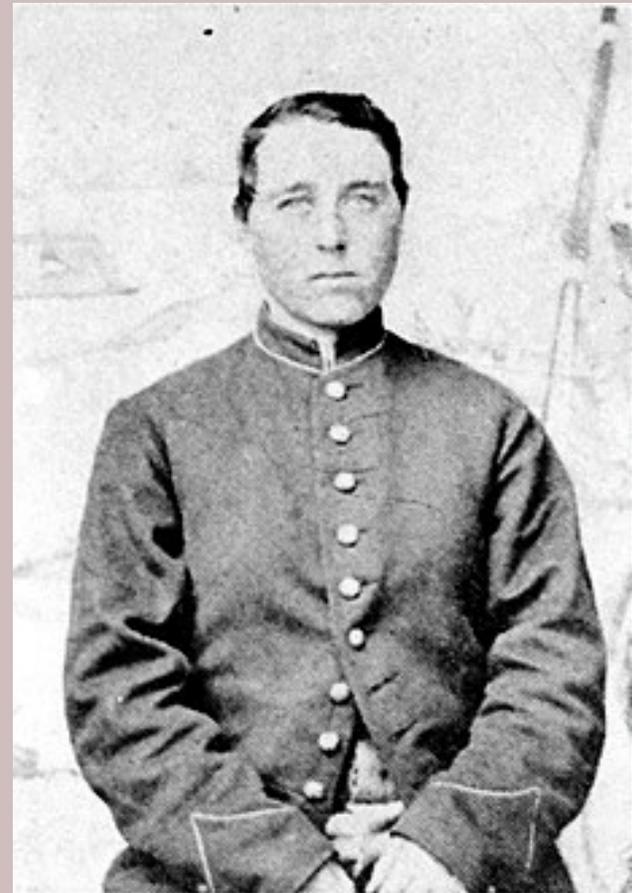
- Recruiters looked for physical handicaps such as deafness, poor eyesight, or "lameness"
- Recruits were rarely ordered to strip during these exams
- It is estimated approximately 750 women enlisted

# How did Other Soldiers Not Notice?

- Many underage men lacked facial hair
- Victorian standards were also in effect for men as well:
  - Soldiers slept in their clothes
  - Bathed in their underwear
  - Didn't change their underclothes for several weeks
  - The open trenched latrines were avoided by many soldiers

# Pensions

- There are a few documented examples of women receiving pensions
- Examples include:
  - Sarah (Edmonds) Seelye received a government pension in 1886 for her service under the alias "Frank Thompson"
  - Albert D.J. Cashier also received a pension after living her entire life as a man



# Online Resources

# Online Databases

- Woman's Work in the Civil War (Ancestry \$)
- Antietam Medical Personnel Database (National Museum of Civil War Medicine)

Search > Stories, Memories & Histories

## Woman's Work in the Civil War

**Search**  Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

Year  Location

Any Event

Keyword

**Search** **Clear search**

### Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

#### Volume and Year Range

Choose...

#### First Letter of Last Name

#### Section

### Source Information

Ancestry.com. *Woman's Work in the Civil War* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2003.  
Original data: Brockett, L. P. *Woman's Work in the Civil War: A Record of Heroism, Patriotism and Patience*. Philadelphia, PA, USA: Zeigler, McCurdy and Co., 1867.

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- [How to search Ancestry](#)
- [Finding records](#)
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- [Refining your search to improve results](#)
- [Handwriting help](#)

## Woman's Work in the Civil War

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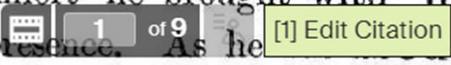
## Woman's Work in the Civil War

Womans Work in the Civil War > II Ladies who Ministered to the Sick and Wonded > Mrs Cordelia A P Harvey

### MRS. CORDELIA A. P. HARVEY.

---

HE State of Wisconsin is justly proud of a name, which, while standing for what is noble and true in man, has received an added lustre in being made to express also, the sympathy, the goodness, and the power of woman. The death of the honored husband, and the public labors of the heroic wife, in the same cause—the great cause that has absorbed the attention and the resources of the country for four years—have given each to the other a peculiar and thrilling interest to every loyal American heart.

It will be remembered that shortly after the battle of Shiloh, Governor Harvey proceeded to the front with supplies and medical aid to assist in caring for the wounded among the soldiers from his State, after rendering great service in alleviating their sufferings by the aid and comfort he brought with him, and reviving their spirits by his presence. As he  to embark at Savannah for home, in passing from one boat to another.

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Museum of Civil  
War Medicine

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## Primary Sources

Primary sources are how we know what we know about history. You can access two different types of Civil War primary sources from this page. Our curated bibliographies have primary sources related to Civil War medicine organized by topic ranging from nursing to battlefield evacuation and more. The searchable databases allow researchers to find the names of medical personnel who served at Antietam, patients treated in Frederick after Antietam, and those who appeared on Clara Barton's published Rolls of Missing Men.

So go ahead, check out the primary sources the Museum has compiled and see what you can discover about Civil War medicine.



civilwarmed.org



Home » Civil War Surgeons

# Antietam Medical Personnel Database

This is a crowdsourcing database project about Civil War surgeons, stewards, nurses, and other medical personnel who served at the Battle of Antietam. If you have a name and information on a surgeon for our database, you can [submit it here](#).

**SUBMIT NEW INFORMATION TO THE DATABASE**

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Search:

wdt_ID	Battle	Last Name	First Name and Middle Initial	Rank/ Role	Regiment/ Assoc	Hospital	Service Start Date	S
1	Antietam	Howard	Benjamin	Surgeon	US Medical Staff	Susan Hoffman Farm; Pry House	5 /22/1861	1:
2	Antietam	Letterman	Jonathan	Medical Director	Army of the Potomac		6 /29/1849	1:
3	Antietam	McGuire	Hunter Holmes	Surgeon	CS Medical Staff	Smith Farm (W. end of Sharpsburg)	7 /15/1861	0:
4	Antietam	Baruch	Simon	Surgeon	CS Medical Staff	Disciples Church, Boonsboro	4 /1 /1861	0:





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Search: nurse

wdt_ID ^	Battle ^	Last Name ^	First Name and Middle Initial ^	Rank/ Role ^	Regiment/ Assoc ^	Hospital ^	Service Start Date
99	Antietam	Davis	Angela	Volunteer Nurse	Civilian	Funkstown, MD	
100	Antietam	Hall	Maria	Volunteer Nurse	Civilian	Smoketown	
102	Antietam	Holstein	Anna	Volunteer Nurse	Philadelphia Ladies	Adam Michael House, Sharpsburg; John Hamilton Smith House	
103	Antietam	Holstein	William H.	Volunteer Nurse	Civilian		
104	Antietam	Husband	Mary Morris	Volunteer Nurse	Civilian	Smoketown	
107	Antietam	McMahon	Margaret	Volunteer Nurse	Civilian	Burkittsville, MD	
121	Antietam	Barlow	Arabella	Nurse		Smoketown, Keedysville	
125	Antietam	Harris	(Mrs. John)	Nurse		Smoketown	
126	Antietam	Kennedy	Anna	Nurse		Smoketown and Hagerstown	
127	Antietam	Lee	Mary	Nurse		Smoketown	
wdt_ID	Battle	Last Na...	First Name and Middl...	Rank/ Role	Regiment/ As...	Hospital	Service Start ...





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Service End Date ▲	Comments ▲	Sources ▲
		Ernst, "Too Afraid to Cry"
	Later served as nurse at the Naval Academy Hospital in Annapolis, MD	Ernst, "Too Afraid to Cry"; Nelson, "As Grain Falls"
	Wife of William Holstein	Nelson, "As Grain Falls"
	Husband of Anna Holstein	Time-Life, "Voices of Antietam"
	Served as a nurse throughout the war	Nelson, "As Grain Falls"
	Mostly aided wounded from South Mountain	Reese, "Sealed with Their Lives"
	Followed her husband, Gen. Francis Barlow; joined the USSC in 1862; nursed her wounded husband twice; died of disease July 27, 1864	Nelson, "As Grain Falls"; emergingcivilwar.com
	Instrumental in setting up the Ladies Aid Society of Philadelphia	Nelson, "As Grain Falls"
	Was from Hagerstown (Rochester House); also took in and nursed Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.; born 1820, died 1900	Nelson, "As Grain Falls"; Ernst, "Too Afraid to Cry"; Holmes, "My Hunt after
	Part of Ladies Aid Society; also served at Gettysburg, Petersburg, and Richmond	Nelson, "As Grain Falls"; Vaughn, "Heroines of the Rebellion"
from	Comments	Sources
to		

civilwarmed.org



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	<a href="http://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com/2011/01/all-of-them-extraordinary-women.html">http://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com/2011/01/all-of-them-extraordinary-women.html</a>	<a href="http://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com/2011/01/all-of-them-extraordinary-women.html">http://civilwarsoldierwomen.blogspot.com/2011/01/all-of-them-extraordinary-women.html</a>	Terry Reimer	07/23/2020
			Robert Slawson	07/23/2020
	<a href="https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2008/05/mary-morris-husband.html">https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2008/05/mary-morris-husband.html</a>	<a href="https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2008/05/mary-morris-husband.html">https://www.womenhistoryblog.com/2008/05/mary-morris-husband.html</a>	Terry Reimer	07/14/2020
			Robert Slawson	08/20/2020
			Robert Slawson	04/10/2021
			Robert Slawson	04/10/2021
Captain"			Robert Slawson	04/12/2021
			Robert Slawson	04/12/2021
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				<a href="#">To</a>



# Manuscripts

# Location of Manuscripts

- Genealogical libraries (American Ancestors)
- National Archives
- Local historical societies
- University collections
- [Archivegrid.com](https://www.archivegrid.com)

The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and links for 'Join', 'Visit', 'Give', and 'About'. Below this is the main header with the site title 'Digital Library & Archives' and search options 'Search' and 'Log in'. A secondary navigation bar contains 'BROWSE', 'HOW TO', and 'ABOUT'. The main content area features a search bar and buttons for 'Advanced Search' and 'Browse All'. On the left, a 'BROWSE' sidebar lists 'Repositories', 'Access', 'Dates', and 'All Collections', with a red arrow pointing to the 'All Collections' link. The 'Browse All' section displays a list of collections, including 'Abraham Captain Ratshesky Papers', 'Bureau of Jewish Education Records', 'Business Records and Account Books', 'Church Records', 'City Directories', 'Civil War Manuscripts', 'Collections of the Jewish Heritage Center of the North Shore', 'Combined Jewish Philanthropies Records', 'Commonplace Books', 'Community and Social Service Organization Records', 'Dr. Robert Sperber Papers', 'Family and Individual Papers', 'Family and Personal Papers', 'Family History Books', 'Family History Manuscripts', and 'Family Registers and Bible Records'.

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Browse Collections

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- Bureau of Jewish Education Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Business Records and Account Books (Special Collections)
- Church Records (Special Collections)
- City Directories (Research Library)
- Civil War Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- [Collections of the Jewish Heritage Center of the North Shore \(Jewish Heritage Center\)](#)
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Commonplace Books (Special Collections)
- Community and Social Service Organization Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Dr. Robert Sperber Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Family and Individual Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Family and Personal Papers (Special Collections)
- Family History Books (Research Library)
- Family History Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- Family Registers and Bible Records (Special Collections)

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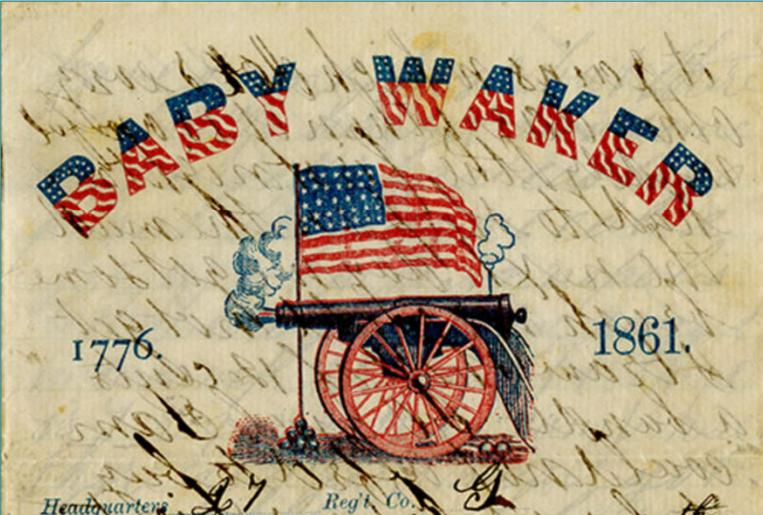
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## About this collection

This collection contains selected manuscripts from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections related to the American Civil War, 1861-1865. These collections include letters, diaries, military records, photographs, scrapbooks, and other materials produced by soldiers that provide details about their military experiences as they served during this war. There are similar documents produced by civilians from the home front with reports of local events, family news, rumors, and occasionally perceptions about the war, its causes, or consequences. Although most of our collections relate to Union soldiers and sailors, the Charles Carleton Coffin Collection includes material produced by soldiers and citizens of the Confederate States of America.

Highlights of the collection include:

- [Account book of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment, 1864-1877](#) (Mss C 4911)
- [Letters by soldiers](#) who served during the American Civil War
- [Diaries of Civil War soldiers](#)
- [Diary of Betsey Jennings Nixon](#), who ran a farm while her husband served in the Civil War
- Letters and other documents by [Confederate soldiers and officials](#)



Additional manuscripts will be added to this digital collection on a regular basis.

## Acknowledgements

*The digitization of the following Civil War manuscript collections were funded through a generous grant from the Cabot Family Charitable Trust:*

- [Civil War Papers of Captain John T. Burgess, 1860-1914](#) (Mss 1088)
- [Chapman Family Correspondence, 1861-1865](#) (Mss 1070)
- [Charles Carleton Coffin Papers, 1861-1890](#) (Mss 40)
- [Howard Family Papers, 1860-1910](#) (Mss 459)
- [Civil War Papers of Captain Leander Gage King, 1861-1933](#) (Mss 1073)

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## Diary of Betsey Jennings Nixon

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### Diary of Betsey Jennings Nixon, Transcription, Page 25

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March 31st 1861 Our wedding day that has brought us nothing but happiness, although cares will creep in. Fathers folks talk some going to housekeeping in Clarksville. I am getting ready to go home. I want to start about the 20th Apr. or a little earlier if I can and stop in Pulaski and at Grandfathers. Uncle Calvin married Beulah Love, of Hubbard O. one of the nicest ladies. Grandmother lives with them. Our money is Va. money and the country is so much unsettled that we cannot change it here but after I get to the river I suppose it will be good. They wont take anything here now but good old Penna. but I guess it will be safe to start with it.

Apr 21st On the canal Boat. Milo brought me down to Andy's at Pulaski. The children had a good time. We went down to the Lock to let Willie get on there. Sam is quite a big boy. Oh how I do feel to let Milo go back without me. When it come to the last - I could not have done it, only that Ma is not well and says there was a surprise awaiting me, if she had not missed her guess, and she would expect me without fail the last of Apr. but I never had such feelings in all my life. What if we were never to meet again. I was to be gone about six weeks. I should have said four but he thought the house would not be done by that time. Oh, what shall I do without him; and what will he do without me. Mrs. Tottens father was quite sick when I left. He thinks no one can nurse him like Milo. Milo could hardly let me go. I wish I had not gone.

Newcastle Pa. Apr. 21 1861 The Dispatch came this evening that the Rebels had fired on Fort Sumter. Oh, every body is so much excited. Some of the Sankeys that live near here, once moved to our place but they did not stay long. Some of them are good singers but great attention is paid to singing here in Pa. Nancy Myers Ma's little girl is dead. She died with typhoid fever. Eddy was very bad too but he recovered.

Marietta, Ohio Apr 27th. I got safely home at last but with a good deal of trouble. When I got to Rochester, Pa. I thought I should have turn back after all. The Steamboats have been fired into on the Va. side, but they thought as the Emma Graham was up that she would risk the trip down. She di not come but the Sally List came and I came on her. And after I got on board, I was in another fix at the Hotel, they said the Richmond Va. money was good & took it but the Boat di not like to. Two days ago the clerk said it was as good as the gold but he finally compromised and we got it settled. Next week it may be as good as ever if Va. does not secede but all think the whole state will go. Found Aunt Ruths folks & Aunt Delila Reckands folks well. Willie was as good as a boy could be on the journey. Irvie is always good but mischievous, never cries. Oh that I could see a certain man tonight that staid alone in Greenville. Pa says Irvie my be very pretty but Willie boy "takes the cakes."

Apr. 30 At Father Wilsons, it was just the other way. Irvie was the one. Ed Jones was out here. John Carters brother. He is going to marry Sallie Pitzer. He has

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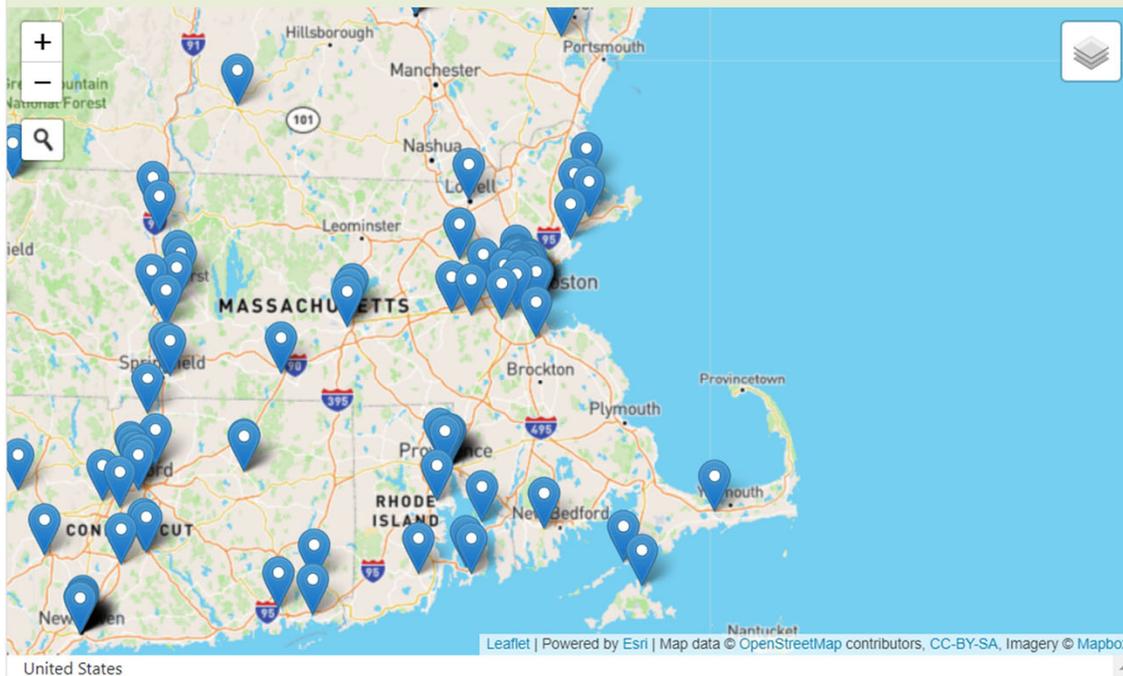
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"Civil War" doctors women



## 464 "Civil War" doctors women

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

Records 1 to 10 of 464 **1** 2 3 4 5 > >> Show: 10

### Papers, 1865-1872

Moore, Frank, 1828-1904

Duke University - David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Primarily letters (chiefly 1866) to Moore used by him in the preparation of his book, *Women of the war* (1866), relating to the work performed by Northern women as fund-raisers, nurses, doctors, spies, and soldiers. Correspondents include former patients, relatives, co-workers, and the women themselves, most of whom served under the auspices of the U.S. Christian Commission or the U.S. Sanitary Commission

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

### New England Hospital for Women and Children records

Smith College - Neilson Library

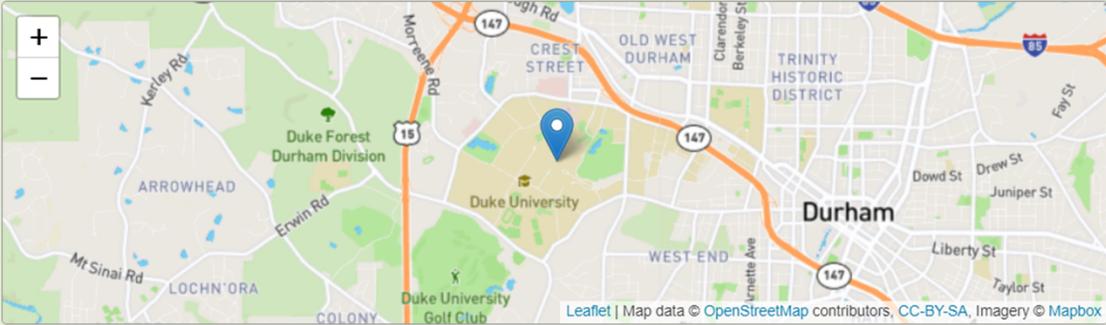
Women's hospital. This hospital was, for more than a century, a teaching hospital for women doctors and a place where women could receive treatment from them. It was the first hospital in Boston to offer obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatrics all in one facility. Material includes memoranda, written histories, photographs and scrapbooks. Also documented are such topics as a 1915 controversy over abortion, using chloroform as an anesthetic, and African American interns. The collection includes several hundred letters collected for their autograph value for fund-raising fairs. The letters do not relate to the Hospital; content includes woman suffrage, abolition, freedmen's education, literature, and Civil War relief. Notable correspondents include: Louisa May Alcott, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Stone Blackwell, Elizabeth Blackwell, Lydia Maria Child, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Julia Ward

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## Papers, 1865-1872

### Moore, Frank, 1828-1904

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Primarily letters (chiefly 1866) to Moore used by him in the preparation of his book, *Women of the war* (1866), relating to the work performed by Northern women as fund-raisers, nurses, doctors, spies, and soldiers. Correspondents include former patients, relatives, co-workers, and the women themselves, most of whom served under the auspices of the U.S. Christian Commission or the U.S. Sanitary Commission

Author, of New York, N.Y.

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Gaylord, William Luther, 1831-1882  
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Papers, 1863-1920 and n.d. (bulk 1863)  
Manning, Sarah  
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Tilmon F. Baggarly papers, 1860-1879  
Baggarly, Tilmon F.,  
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Dantzler, Absalom F., -1862  
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The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Duke University Libraries website. On the left is the logo with 'DUKE UNIVERSITY' above 'LIBRARIES'. On the right are links for 'My Accounts', 'Ask a Librarian', and a search box. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Rubenstein Library > About Us > Contact Us'. A yellow banner at the top of the main content area reads 'Rubenstein Library Reading Room Closed June 29 to July 10' with a close button. Below the banner is the 'Contact Us' heading. Underneath is the 'General contact information' section, which includes a list of contact options: 'Contact us via email', 'Research Services Phone: (919) 660-5822', 'Administrative Offices Phone: (919) 660-5820', 'Fax: (919) 660-5934', and 'Mailing Address:'. The mailing address is partially visible as 'David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library'. On the left side of the page is a vertical menu with links for 'Collections', 'Research', 'Instruction', 'About Us', and 'Visit'. Below this menu are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram under the heading 'Connect With Us'. At the bottom of the menu is 'Today's Hours' listed as '9am - 6pm' with a link for 'Hours by Month'. On the right side of the page, there is a photograph of a tree-lined walkway in front of a brick building.

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# National Archives (Union Records)

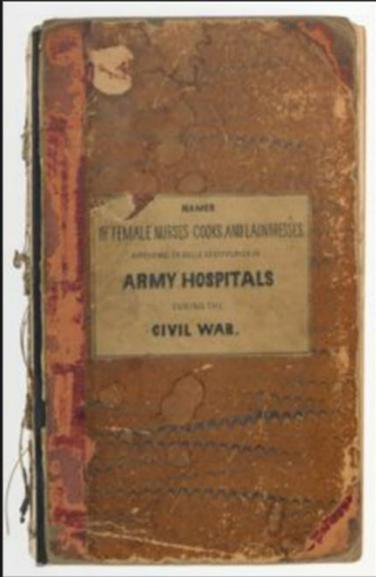
- Office of the Surgeon General (Army) - RG 112
- Adjutant General's Office – RG 94
  - Service Records
- Bureau of Naval Personnel – RG 24
- Department of Veterans Affairs – RG 15
  - Pension Files

# List of Female Nurses, Cooks, and Laundresses Employed in Army Hospitals During the Civil War

NAID: 28277783 | Textual Records | 40 Images | 1 File

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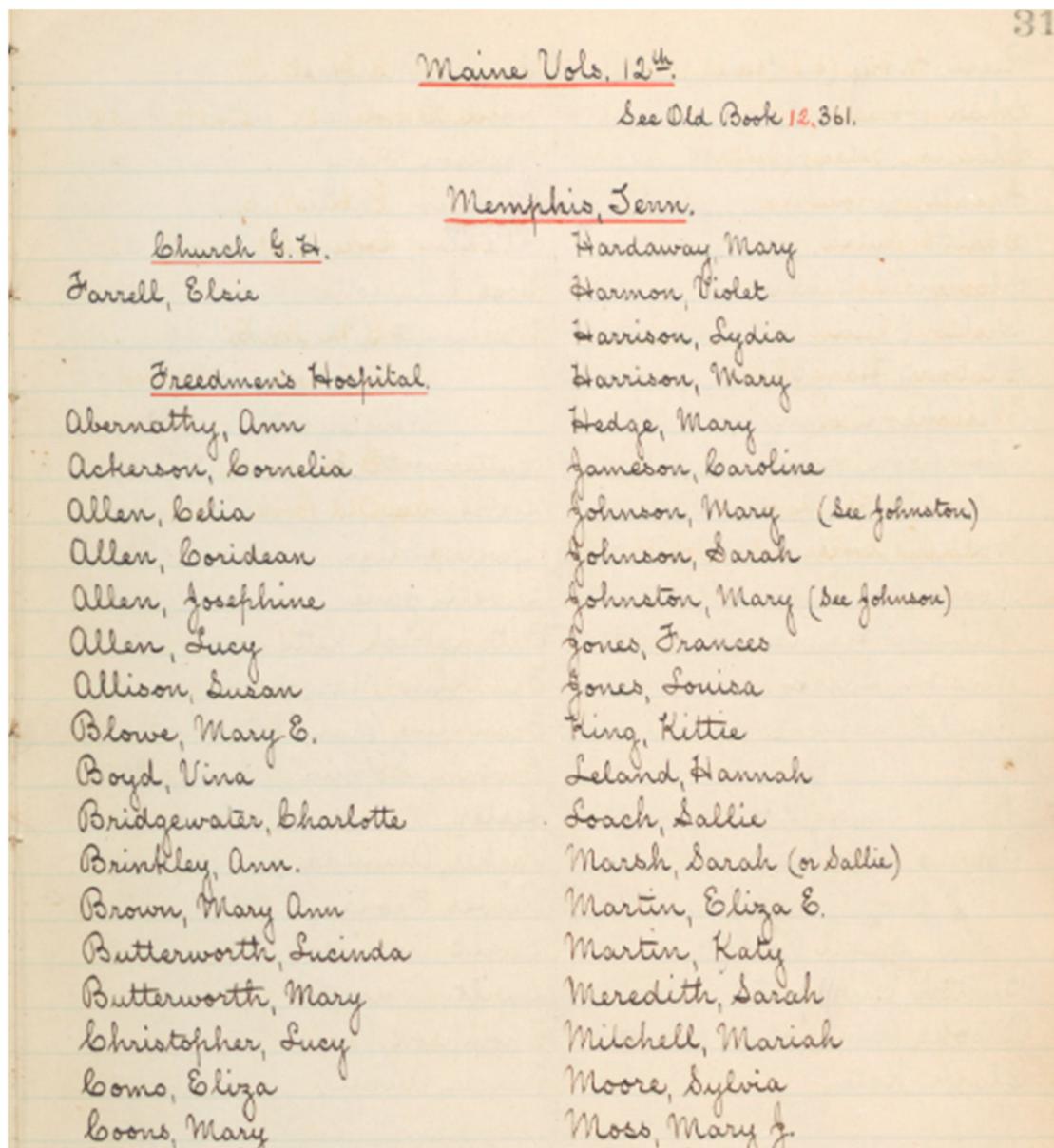


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Names of Female Nurses Cooks and Laundresses Appearing on Rolls as Employed in Army Hospitals During the Civil War, NARA, RG112

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Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office

Series **FULLY AVAILABLE ONLINE**

## Carded Service Records of Hospital Attendants, Matrons and Nurses, 1861–1865

**Creator: War Department. The Adjutant General's Office. 1821-4/28/1904 (Most Recent)**

NAID: 655658 | Textual Records | Collected: 1861–1865

Search within this Series | 1,020 File Units

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This Series is fully available online.

This series consists of cards on which information from original records, such as hospital registers, rolls and reports, relating to the service of hospital attendants, matrons and nurses. They list the name, hospital muster roll and date of original record, when attached, capacity in which employed, by whom and to what date last paid, whether present or absent, and remarks.

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### Inside this Series



The following table represents the next level of record within this Series, which includes **1,020 File Units**. Each of these records may additionally hold more records.



Note: The table below is a sample of the contents found within this Series. To access more and to search within the Series [click here](#).

Record Title	Level	National Archives ID
 Lon: London, Kate THRU Lonsdale, Sarah	File Unit	75948352
 Da: Dabblers, Susan THRU Dahlmann, E.	File Unit	75897034
 Hos: Hosea, Jeanetta THRU Hovey, Sarah J.	File Unit	75930564
 Hars: Harshberger, Elizabeth THRU Hartzman, Alphonsa	File Unit	75924503
 Lee, E: Lee, Eiline THRU Lee, Louisa	File Unit	75946330

Carded Service Record, Female Nurse, NARA

*S*  
*Emma E. Spicer*  
\_\_\_\_\_, Co. \_\_\_\_\_, Reg't \_\_\_\_\_  
Appears on  
**Hospital Muster Roll**  
of U. S. A. Post Hospital,  
at Lebanon, Ky.,  
for *Sept. 7 Oct.*, 186*3*  
Attached to hospital:  
When *Sept 1*, 186*3*.  
How employed *Female nurse*  
Last paid by Maj. \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_, 186 .  
Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*  
Present or absent *Present*  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Book mark: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Hester*  
Copyright.



Advanced

Record Group 24: Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel



Series

PARTIALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

# Muster Rolls of Naval Ships, January 1, 1860–June 9, 1900

**Creators:**

**Department of the Navy. Bureau of Navigation. 7/5/1862-11/18/1909 (Most Recent)**

**Department of the Navy. Office of the Secretary. 1798-9/1947 (Predecessor)**

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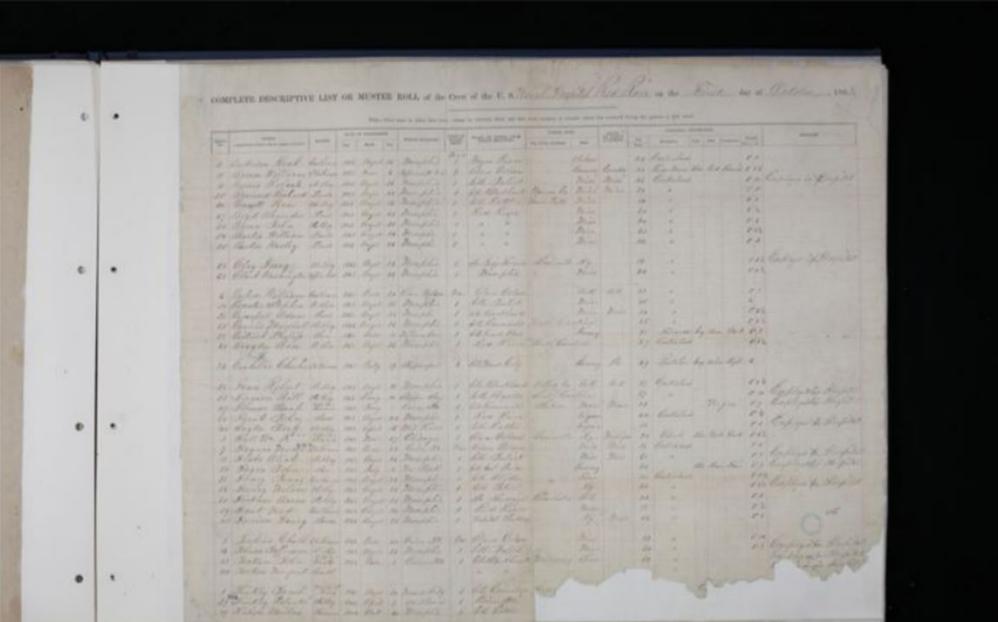
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NAID: 134442589 | Textual Records | Covers: 1862-1879 | 92 Images | 1 File

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57

58

59

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SHIP'S NO.	NAMES. (Alphabetically arranged, with the surname to the left.)	RATING.	DATE OF ENLISTMENT.			WHERE ENLISTED.
			Year.	Month.	Day.	

Hospital	62	Bohannon Fannie	Laundress	1863	Aug	26	Memphis
Hospital	52	Clay Terry	16 Boy	1863	Aug	26	Memphis
Hospital	63	Campbell Ellen	Nurse				Jefferson Co Miss

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TERM OF ENLISTMENT.	PLACE OR VESSEL FROM WHICH RECEIVED.	WHERE BORN.		STATE OF WHICH A CITIZEN.	PERSONAL DATA.	
		City, Town, or County.	State.		AGE. Years.	Occupation.

1	St. Judge Demingo	Louisville	Kentucky	Kentucky	18	11
	Jefferson Co. Miss	Jefferson Co.	Miss	Miss	21	11
1	Memphis	Washington Co.	Miss	Miss	24	11

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Occupation.	Eyes.	Hair.	Complexion.	HEIGHT.		REMARKS.
				Feet.	In.	

*Centraban*

<i>Mulatto</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5½</i>
<i>Mulatto</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Mulatto</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2½</i>
<i>BeK BeK BeK</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>

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# National Archives (Confederate Records)

- Located in Record Group 109, War Department of Confederate Records
- Hospital personnel can be found in the Hospital Rolls, 1861-1865
  - organized by the specific hospital
- For enslaved persons, their first names are listed along with their owners

## Hospital Volumes

Record books relating to medical personnel survive for some Confederate hospitals, especially the larger ones. All of these hospital volumes have name indexes. What follows is a list of the Confederate hospital bound records that might be useful in genealogical research, if the volumes almost exclusively pertain to white employees and officers. While they can prove that a specific individual aided the Confederacy, the volumes do not offer details as to the individual's daily work experiences or family background.

- Record book, Fort Morgan [Alabama] Hospital, 1862–1864 (vol.5)
- Record book, St. Mary's [Dalton, Georgia] Hospital, 1862–1863 (Vol. 4)
- Record book, Pettigrew General Hospital No. 13 [Raleigh, North Carolina], 1864–1865 (Vol. 525)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 2 at Lynchburg [Virginia], 1863–1864 (Vol. 529)

## Hospitals in Richmond:

- Record book, General Hospital No. 4, 1863–1864 (Vol. 181)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 9, 1862–1864 (Vol. 81)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 13, 1862–1865 (Vol. 256)
- Lists of employees, General Hospital No. 21, 1862–1864 (Vol. 13)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 24, 1863–1865 (Vol. 122)
- Record of employees and patients, Chimborazo Hospital, 1861–1864 (Vol. 33)
- Record book, Chimborazo Hospital No. 1, 1863–1864 (Vol. 448)
- Record book, Chimborazo Hospital No. 2, 1864–1865 (Vol. 80)
- Record book, Chimborazo Hospital No. 3, 1862–1864 (Vol. 455 1/4)
- Record book, Chimborazo Hospital No. 4, 1863–1865 (Vol. 317)
- Record books, Chimborazo Hospital No. 5, 1861–1863 (vols. 61 and 220)
- Rosters of employees, Howard's Grove General Hospital, 1862–1864 (Vol. 342)
- Requisitions for supplies and lists of employees, Howard's Grove General Hospital, 1862–1863 (Vol. 355)
- Record of employees and accounts, Howard's Grove General Hospital, 1861–1865 (Vol. 191)
- Letters and orders issued and received and personnel lists, Jackson Hospital, 1861–1865 (Vol. 414 1/2)



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