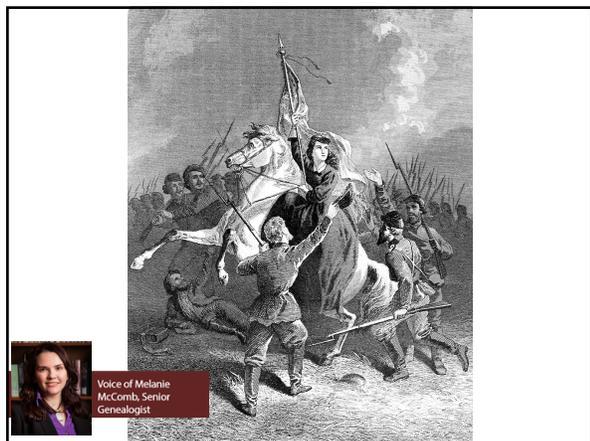




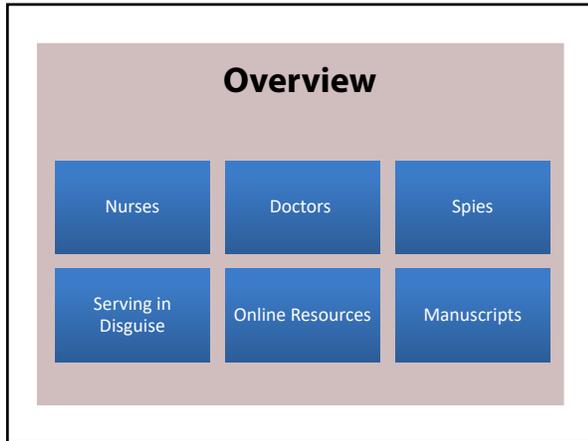
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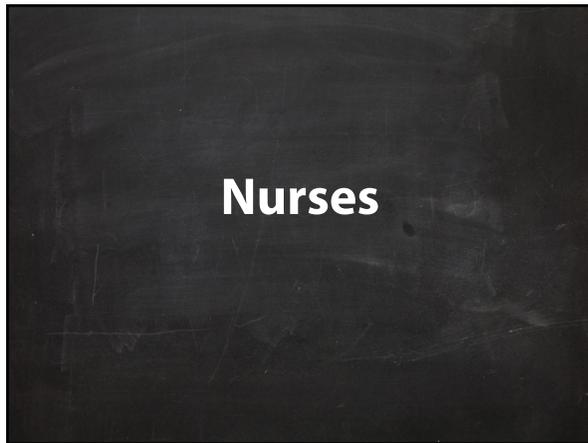
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5

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

6

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



7

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

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



12

Ann (Bradford) Stokes



Photo # NH 5387 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.

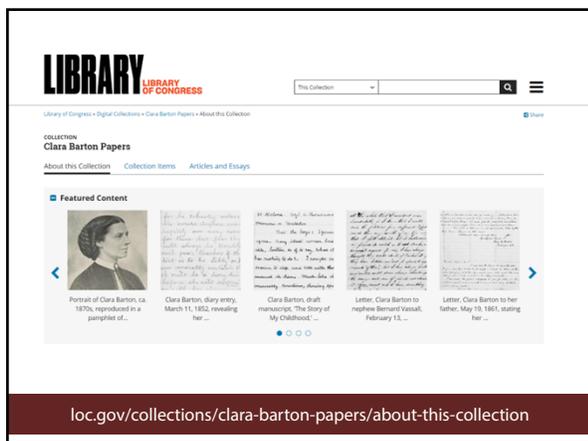
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Clara Barton

- 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



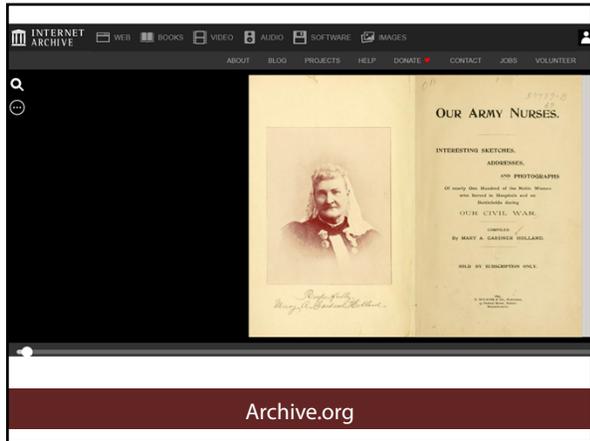
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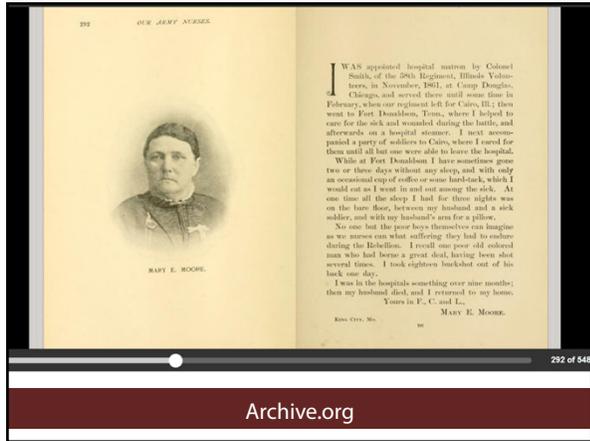
The screenshot shows the 'Clara Barton Papers' collection page on the Library of Congress website. It features a search bar, navigation tabs for 'About this Collection', 'Collection Items', and 'Articles and Essays', and a 'Featured Content' section with four items: a portrait of Clara Barton, a diary entry from 1862, a draft manuscript 'The Story of My Childhood', and a letter to her father from 1861.

loc.gov/collections/clara-barton-papers/about-this-collection

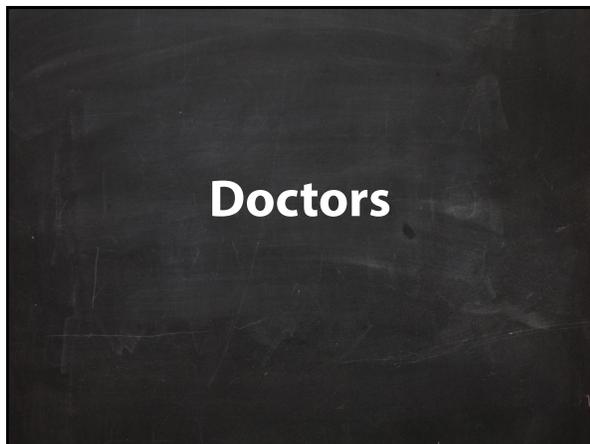
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19



20



21

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

22

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS

United States Sanitary Commission records. Woman's Central Association of Relief records
1861-1866

Creator United States Sanitary Commission
Call number Misc.422266
Physical description 23.31 linear feet (54 boxes, 4 volumes)
Preferred Citation United States Sanitary Commission records; Woman's Central Association of Relief records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library
Sponsor The conservation, arrangement, and description of the collection was made possible by generous funding from the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust.
Repository Manuscripts and Archives Division
Access to materials Request an in-person research appointment.

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 gardeners within the WCAR were Louisa Lee Schuylar (1827-1909) and Eliza Collins (1829-1912). 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.

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LIBRARY
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Blackwell Family Papers

Featured Content

- Photograph, Blackwell and Spafford families, circa 1850s
- Elizabeth Blackwell, "Private Journal," 1850s
- Letter (handwritten copy), Lucy Stone to her mother, Harwich, Mass., 1840
- Letter, Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Anne Isabella Milburne, undated
- Portrait, Elizabeth Blackwell, undated

loc.gov/collections/blackwell-family-papers

24

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

25

ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS

United States Sanitary Commission records
1861-1872 (bulk: 1861-1872)

Creator: United States Sanitary Commission
Call number: Ms/Cd 2305
Physical description: linear feet
Preferred citation: United States Sanitary Commission records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library
Sponsor: The conservation, arrangement and description of the collection was made possible by generous funding from the Robert W. Woodruff Charitable Trust and a grant from the Save America's Treasures program.
Repository: Manuscripts and Archives Division
Access to materials: Request an in-person research appointment.

The United States Sanitary Commission (USSC), 1861-1872, 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, receipts, reports, military service claim files, registers, diaries, financial records, songbooks, 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 Miliary of British India, founded in 1866 by USSC officers and former associates.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL INFORMATION

archives.nypl.org

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THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

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

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 Ronie Mc...

Letter of inquiry from Susan...
Letter of inquiry December 5...
Letter of inquiry by John Bow...
Presentation of the 2010 B...
Wm. S. Bowles Esq. (left) pro...

digitalcollections.nypl.org

27



31

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



32

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

33

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

34

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



35



36

Harriet Tubman

Fort Sumter and Fort Mifflin 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 free man 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. Viewing 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 effect 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 York frequently corresponded with her. *Source: © 2014 National Park Service, Williamsburg, Virginia. All rights reserved.*



nps.gov/civilwar/spies.htm

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Serving in Disguise

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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

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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

40

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 trench latrines were avoided by many soldiers

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Pensions

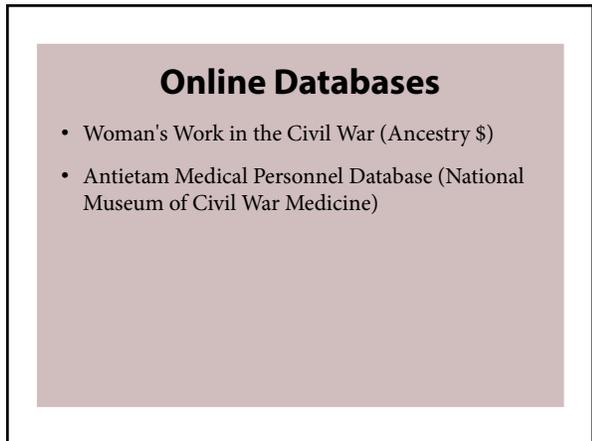
- There are a few documented examples of women receiving pensions
- Examples include:
 - Sarah (Edmonds) Seelye received a government pension in 1886 for her service under the alias "Frank Thompson"
 - Albert D.J. Cashier also received a pension after living her entire life as a man



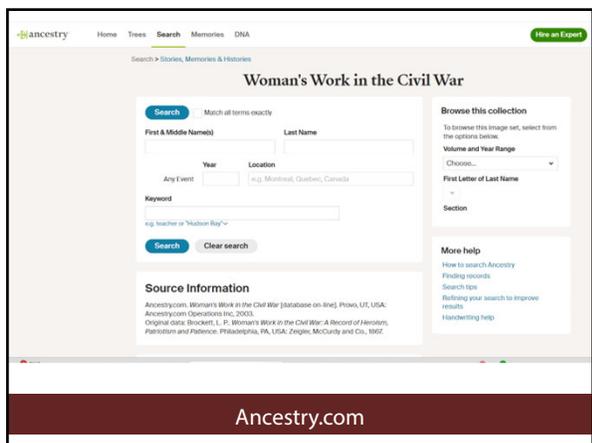
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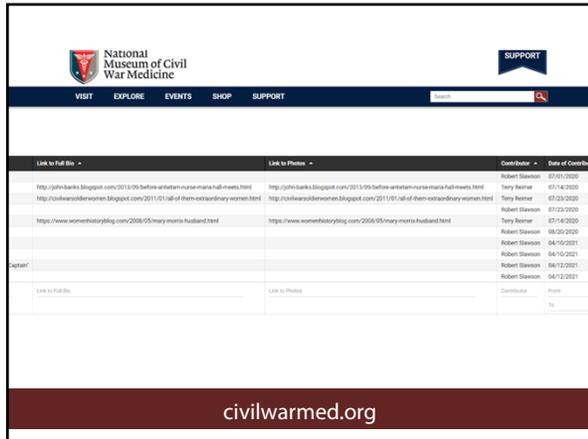
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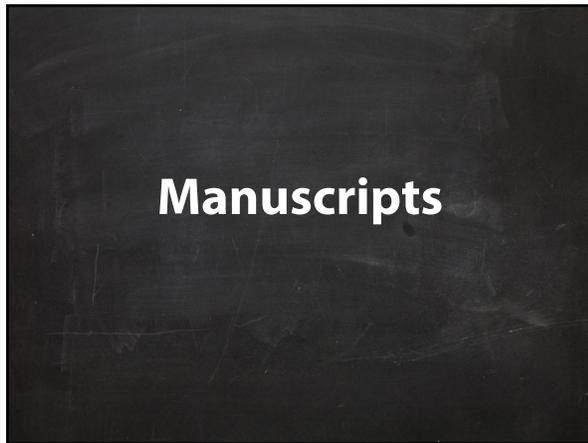
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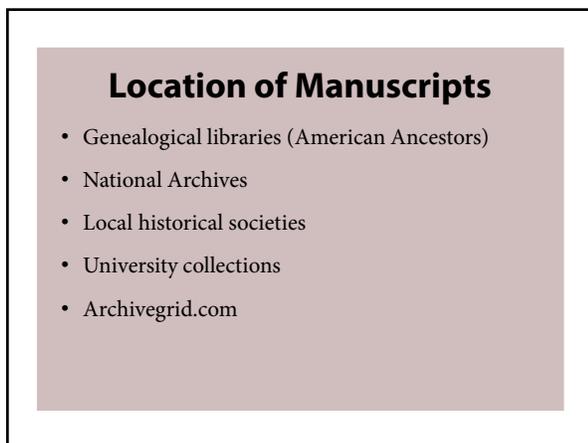
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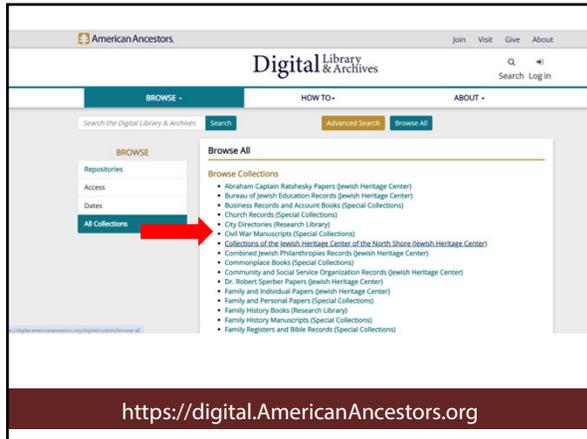
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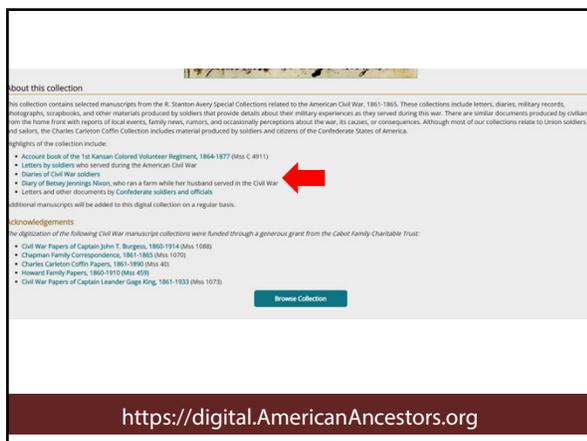
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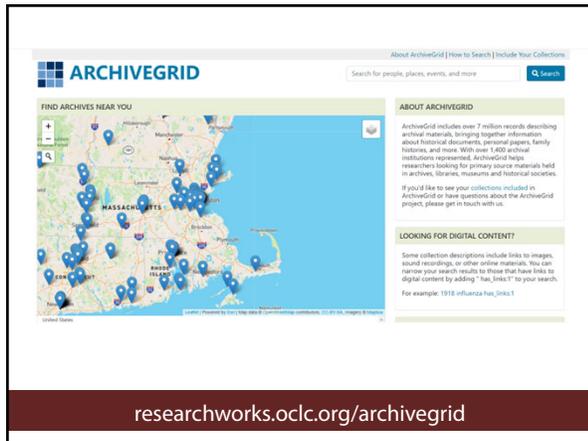


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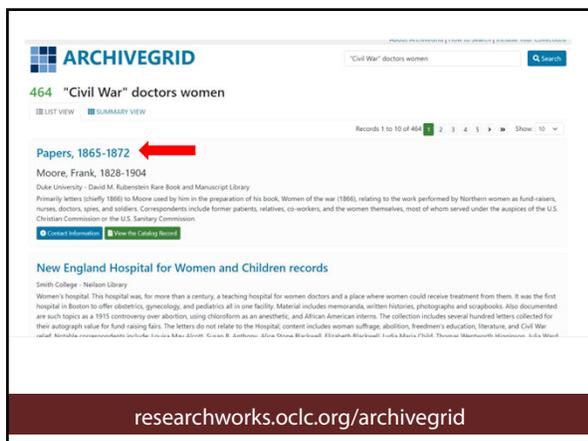
<https://digital.AmericanAncestors.org>

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researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid

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Papers, 1865-1872
Moore, Frank, 1828-1904

Details
 187 items
 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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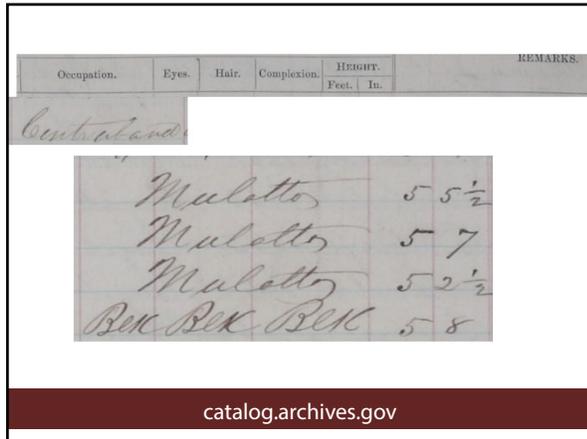
library.duke.edu/rubenstein/about/contact

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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

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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

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Hospital Volumes

Record books relating to medical personnel survive for some Confederate hospitals, especially the larger ones. All of these hospital volumes almost exclusively pertain to white employees and officers. While they can prove that a specific individual aided the Confederates, they 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, Pettegrew 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:

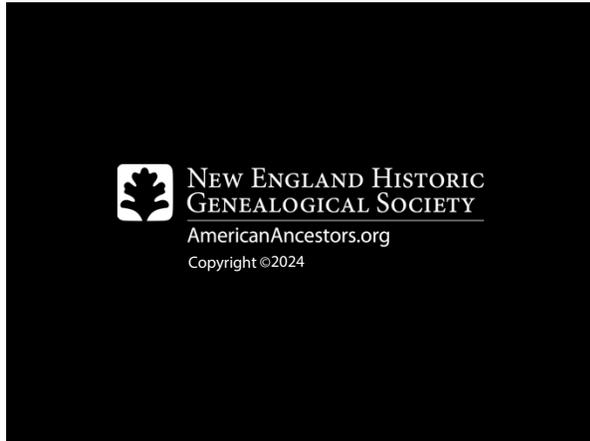
- Record book, General Hospital No. 4, 1863-1864 (Vol. 181)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 9, 1862-1864 (Vol. 81)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 13, 1862-1865 (Vol. 256)
- Lists of employees, General Hospital No. 21, 1862-1864 (Vol. 13)
- Record book, General Hospital No. 24, 1863-1865 (Vol. 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)

Archives.gov

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