

Researching Women in Civil War Medicine

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Part 1 Introduction to Historical and Social Context

- A. Background reading in history
 - Understanding the mid 19th century as a turning point in history
 - Scientific discoveries, industrialization, westward migration, transportation expanding
 - Opportunities for women
- B. Challenges for wartime
 - State of medicine and hospitals, care for the sick and injured
 - Military leaders and established processes
 - Prevailing attitudes and beliefs at large
 - Emerging roles for women
 - Battlefield conditions

Part 2 Finding the Records for Women Who Served

- A. Formalized nursing agencies
- B. Demographic profile of women who served
- C. General overview of records and sources
- D. Examples
 - U.S. Sanitary Commission
 - HistoryHub (NARA)
 - Library of Congress (LOC)
 - Fold3
 - Histories, diaries and letters
- E. Underused resources
- F. Summary

Part 3 Individual Research Approach

- A. Research Approach
- B. Using good genealogy principles
- C. Examples of my own search
 - Spreadsheet of my ancestral candidates
 - Some recent finds on my quest
 - Next steps
 - Your ideas?

Articles General Interest

Katie Lange. *Civil War Pioneers: Meet Some of America's First Female Nurses* (<https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/3718960/civil-war-pioneers-meet-some-of-americas-first-female-nurses/> accessed 20 July 2024).

Paige Gibbons Backus. *Female Nurses During the Civil War: Angels of the Battlefield* (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/female-nurses-during-civil-war>: accessed 20 July 2024).

Unit history New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, 1860 - 1865. (<https://www.fold3.com/image/677300181/1861-1865-history-page-329-unit-history-us-new-hampshire-volunteer-regiments-1861-1865>, accessed 20 July 2024).

The Union's "Other Army": The Women of the United States Sanitary Commission. (https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/Elizabeth%20Robertson_0.pdf: accessed 20 July 2024).

Manuscript Collections

Library of Congress Manuscript Collection. John R. Sellers, compiler. 1986. *Civil War Manuscripts: A Guide to Collections in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress*, Washington: Library of Congress, 1986; Z1242.L48 1986. (<https://guides.loc.gov/american-women-manuscript/health-and-medicine/civil-war>)

US Sanitary Commission records 1861-1879 (bulk 1861-1872). New York Public Library, Archives & Manuscripts, Collection Overview (<https://archives.nypl.org/mss/3101>)

Books

Denney, Robert E. *Civil War Medicine; Care & Comfort of the Wounded*. New York: Stirling PublishingCo., 1995.

Massey, Mary Elizabeth. *Women in the Civil War*. 1966. Reprint, location, Bison Book Edition. University of Nebraska Press, 1994.

Hicks, Robert D., editor. *Civil War Medicine A Surgeon's Diary*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, Office of Scholarly Publishing, Herman B Wells Library 350, 1320 East 10th Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47405 USA. 2019

Holland, Mary A. Gardner, compiler. *Our Army Nurses: Interesting Sketches, Addresses, and Photographs, Of nearly One Hundred of the Noble Women who Served in Hospitals and on Battlefields during Our Civil War*. Boston: B. Wilkins & Co., 1895. Reprint, Published by Forgotten Books, 2012. www.forgottenbooks.org

Oates, Stephen B. *A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War*. New York: The Free Press, A Division of Simon & Schuster Inc., 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, 1994.

Jaquette, Henrietta Stratton, editor. *Letters of a Civil War Nurse, Cornelia Hancock, 1863-1865*, 1971. Reprint, University of Nebraska Press, 1998.

Harwell, Richard, editor. *Kate The Journal of a Confederate Nurse*. Reprinted Louisiana State University Press, 1987.

Straubing, Harold Elk, compiler. *In Hospital and Camp, The Civil War through the Eyes of Its Doctors and Nurses*. 1993. Reprint, Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, 2014www.stackpolebooks.com

Tutorials and How-to-Use helps

LOC tutorial

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/video-tutorials.html>

Fold3

<https://www.fold3.com/help/search>

National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/research/start/faqs.html>