

# *Civil War at Home*

Civil War: April 12, 1861 – April 9, 1865

By: Ashley Harper

# Elizabeth Blackwell



Elizabeth Blackwell was born on February 3, 1821 in Bristol, England. She lived there until about the age of 11 when in August of 1832 her family sold everything except for pride possessions and sailed on a ship to New York, USA. Elizabeth and her family then began working with abolitionists in America. At one point her family lived in a house where they would help hide and house runaway slaves for several weeks trying to help them escape.

Blackwell never believed or had interest in getting married because she didn't believe in the stereotype wife role. She wanted to work and was many times discriminated for it. Back during the era she lived in very few women did work and there were very few jobs open to women.

A female doctor was practically unheard of. Elizabeth had a desire to be one after a dying friend told her that her ordeal would have been so much better had she had a female physician. Elizabeth was then interested in the medical business, and it was very hard to be a women in that business, but she did it and she went to school. While in school she faced many people who did not agree with what she was doing. Many times in college she would have to sit alone and miss out on labs. Local people would shun her for being a "bad" woman and defying her gender role. Through it all, Elizabeth got through college and was the first woman to earn her medical degree.

When the Civil War broke out Elizabeth Blackwell wanted to use her knowledge to help improve battlefield conditions. Blackwell was very much a large supporter of the North, which was a large part of her abolitionist background. She wanted to help in the war effort and she felt the knowledge she had

*"It's not easy to be a pioneer-- but oh, is it fascinating!"*

*Elizabeth Blackwell*

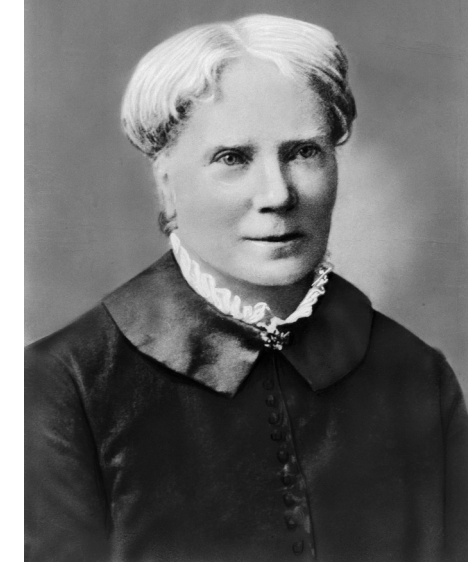
of many things medical would largely benefit the North. In 1861, she was able to help recruit 4,000 women to be able to form the Women's Central Association of Relief (WCAR). She had hopes that it would become a national network of trained nurses and volunteers who would help

care for the wounded. Yet again, it was hard for Elizabeth to do that because officials weren't ready to hand so much over to the women. WCAR never became national like Elizabeth hoped, but it for sure did make an impact.

Blackwell also worked with her sister and a woman named Dorothea Dix to help train many women to be nurses. Up to that point most battlefield nurses were untrained. With the training from the Blackwell sisters and Dorothea Dix, the nurses knew proper sanitation and technique that helped to cut down on the spread of disease in army camps and hospitals. It still had a long ways to go but it helped to shift the battlefield medical care in the right direction.



*The Blackwell Family*



# Clara Barton



Clara Barton was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on December 25, 1821. Her full name is Clarissa Harlowe Barton. She was the youngest of five kids, with 2 sisters and 2 brothers.

In 1839, Clara began teaching school and her school actually won an award for discipline. Clara Barton wasn't paid much being a teacher, and on top of that, she was paid even less than a man was as a teacher. Clara Barton said, "I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man's work for less than a man's pay." In 1852, she founded and taught in the first public school in Bordentown, New Jersey.

Clara then gave up her teaching job in 1854 and accepted a job in Washington, D.C. as a copyist at the United States Patent Office. It was one of the few jobs in the government that actually hired women. She eventually worked up to earning a salary equal to a man's. People were very angry with that and she ended up losing her job in 1856.

When the Civil War started, Clara and her sister, Sally Vassal hurried to help soldiers. She wanted to nurse them like she did to her brother (see story below.) In many battles Clara Barton would be right

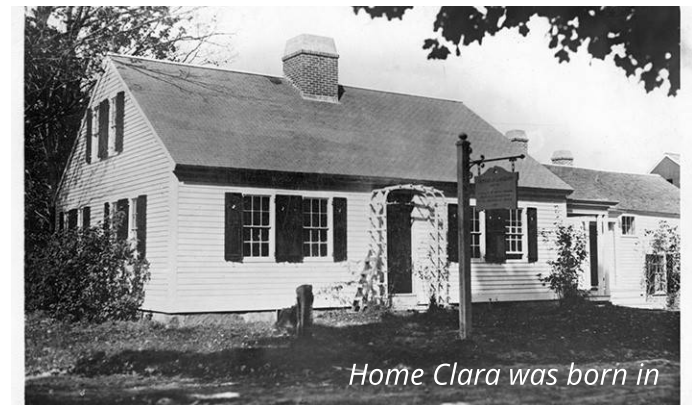
*"I always tried... to succor the wounded until medical aid and supplies could come up- I could run the risk; it made no difference to anyone if I were shot or taken prisoner."*

Clara Barton

there on the battlefield helping soldiers because that's what she felt like was needed and the government was doing that or providing enough medical supplies. Clara wanted to fix that. If the government wasn't going to provide the

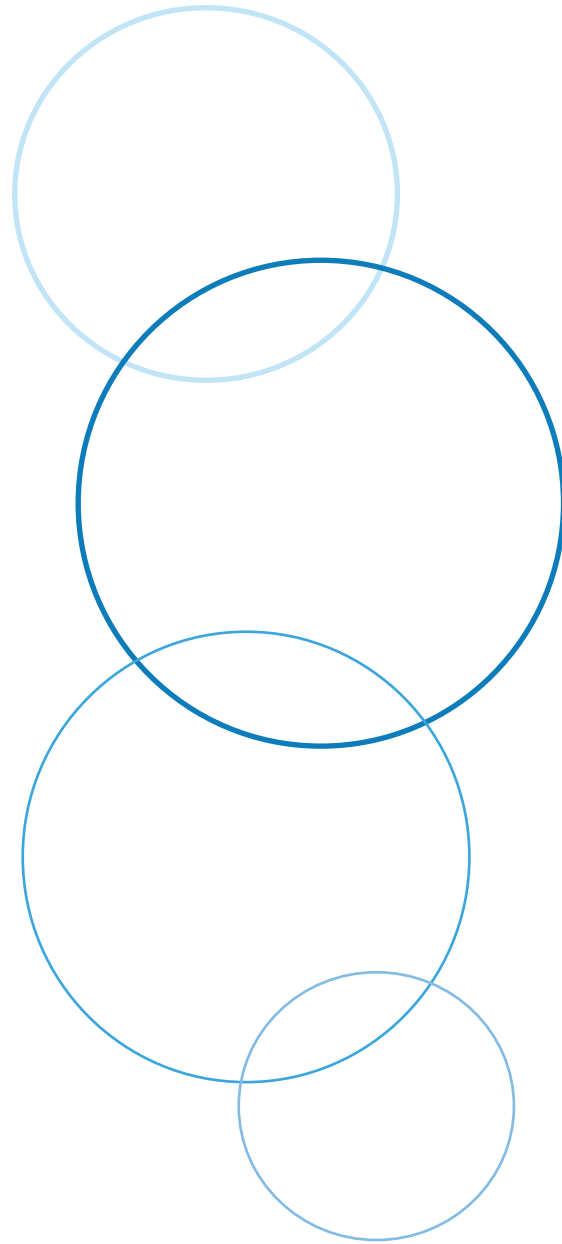
supplies needed in order to win the war, Clara was going to find a way. A woman named Dorothea Dix started hiring female nurses to work in hospitals, and while that was a wonderful step in the right direction, it wasn't enough for Clara. She wanted things to be done in the battlefield. She wanted to provide at the site where they were wounded. She collected food, medicine, bandages and more to take to soldiers.

Even after the war ended, Clara still wanted to help soldiers. Clara Barton helped soldiers all throughout the war and she still wanted to help afterwards. She was an incredible person that kept doing things to help. As many know her for, she went on after the war to form the American Red Cross.



## The Beginnings of Nursing

When Clara was 10, her brother David had an accident. He was at the top of a barn and fell down feet first to the barn floor. At first he seemed to be fine and not hurt, but a few days later, he seemed to develop a headache and a fever. Doctors told him that he had too much blood. This diagnosis wasn't strange in the 1800s. The recommended cure was bleeding by putting leeches on David's body to suck out the "extra" blood. For the next couple of years, Clara rarely left David's bedside. She became quite good at applying leeches to David's skin. David did not get better, despite the constant attention from his young nurse, Clara. The Barton's decided to call in Dr. Asa McCullum, a "steam doctor." They started hydrotherapy and after weeks at the steam clinic, David was completely healed.



# Harriet Tubman

**H**arriet Tubman was born into slavery and born in a slave cabin on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in about 1820, birth date unknown. They didn't usually keep track of things like slave's birthdays because they were considered more like property not people. Harriet Tubman's birth name was actually Araminta Ross. Many slaves would change their names later after escaping.

Harriet grew up very much against slavery and she made many attempts to escape. She also suffered a head injury from one of her owners and continued to have seizures and "visions" because of it. It became hard for Harriet Tubman to be sold after her owner's death and she had a hard time because she didn't want to be separated from her family, so it gave her even more motivation to escape.

Harriet Tubman was ready to make an escape. She set off one night on her journey to become free. It was ninety miles between Maryland and Pennsylvania. She didn't have anyone to help her so she had to find her own way. She used the North Star to guide her there. She had to travel through the night so slave owners could not catch her.

After her escape, she went on to help and was a captain of the Underground Railroad to help other slaves become free. She made many journeys back to help others slaves escape while helping.

Throughout the Civil War, she served as a spy, a scout, nurse, cook and more. Her experience with the Underground Railroad was very helpful because it helped her to know the land well. Although she

was unable to enlist in the Union Army to fight that way because she was black and female, she was still very determined to help the United States. She did as much as she could to support the Union in order to help get rid of slavery.

*"God won't let Master Lincoln beat the South till he does the right thing."*

*Harriet Tubman*

She set out to raise funds, and she ended up becoming very well known. She also believed that African Americans should be given a role in fighting and that by not freeing the slaves President Lincoln was holding back a major Union victory.

Tubman was recruited several times through the Civil War to work under many troops and different groups. She would go with them and she was actually at a few different battles.

Harriet Tubman did as much as she could to help slaves get their freedom through the Underground Railroad and by supporting and helping the Union Army.



*Memorial about Harriet Tubman*



HARRIET TUBMAN.



# Frederick Douglass

**F**rederick Douglass was born into slavery when it was very universal in the south. He was born in Tuckahoe, Maryland. He was born in February of 1818. His full name was Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. Frederick had hardly any memory of his mom because she died when he was young, although he didn't live with her before hand. His father was a white man but he didn't know who his father was either. His father was believed to be his mother's owner who was Captain Aaron Anthony, but he was not sure of it. Frederick was raised by his grandmother, named Betsy Bailey. He was raised by his grandmother because when females are considered too old to work, they have to prove their worth by helping to raise the next generation of slaves.

Frederick went through a few different slave owners, but when Frederick grew older, he had an agreement with one of his owners, Hugh Auld to let him work part time in other places. Frederick hoped to save enough

money to buy his freedom. With is freedom came manumission papers, which every black person had to carry. Manumission papers were proof that he was a free man and not an escaped slave. If he didn't have that he would have the risk of being enslaved again. His owner who was then Thomas Auld, told him that if he wasn't freed by his twenty-fifth birthday that he would free him. Frederick didn't believe he would though. Later, Hugh Auld insisted on Frederick coming back to him. That was when Frederick began really contemplation running away. (see story below)

After Frederick escaped he had to many things to hide his identity. For example, when he got married to Anna Murray, he put his last name on the marriage certificate as Johnson instead of Douglass.

Just over 20 years after his escape, the Civil War began. Douglass was then a slavery abolitionist and he saw the war as a chance to end slavery. During the war Douglass was worried

that the North was going to compromise with the South. Douglass argued that the war was more than just union and state's rights. He knew Abraham Lincoln pretty well and he would talk to him about the issue. He saw this as the conflict needed in order to end slavery in America. He knew that his freedom was going to have to be won off of the battlefield. He recruited some African-Americans to fight in the union army which included two of his sons. Douglass continued to write and speak against slavery, arguing for a much higher purpose in this war.

*"I saw in this war the end of slavery and truth requires me to say that my interest in the success of the North was largely due to this belief."*

*Frederick Douglass*

## The Great Escape

On September 3, 1838, Frederick took money he had tucked away and borrowed from his really good friend, Anna Murray. Anna Murray was said to have sold her feather bed to get money for Frederick to be able to buy a train ticket to Delaware. Frederick dressed up as a seaman, in a red shirt, a black kerchief, and a sailor's hat. Frederick got on the northbound train and headed back to the "Negro Car." He sat down holding his breath while the conductor collected tickets and looked at the papers for all black passengers. Frederick had also borrowed a retired seaman's protection papers. The papers didn't match Frederick's description, but the conductor didn't even give the papers a second glance. As Douglass continued his journey north, he also took a steam boat from Wilmington, Delaware, to Philadelphia Pennsylvania, then another train to New York City. He was excited to be in New York, but he still had to be careful.



*Anna Murray*