

Title of Unit:

Women in the Civil War

Vital theme of the unit:

Students will learn how women were important in the war effort, through support at the home front, as soldiers and spies, and in the medical field.

Author and contact information:

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Grade Level:

Intermediate – Fourth or Fifth Grade

Curriculum Standards Addressed:

4.5.3; 4.6.2; 5.5.1; 5.1.2; 5.5.7; 5.5.10; 5.6.2; 5.6.3; 5.6.5;

Technology Used:

Primary Source Materials Provided in Lessons:

Lenoir Funeral Invitation
Letter from Hattie Lenoir to Henrietta Lenoir
Pictures of Lenoir Family Gravestones

Greenhow, Rose O’Neal Papers, Duke University, Special Collections Library Online Archival Collection. 1996. <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

November 17, 1861. Washington, D.C. From Rose Greenhow to William H. Seward, Secretary of the State. News clipping of a letter to Seward, obtained by the Richmond Whig, details her imprisonment and offers an impassioned protest of the current state of the government.

October 1, 1864. News clipping, presumably from the *Wilmington Sentinel*, describing Greenhow’s funeral complete with details of the reactions of the Wilmington townspeople and the service itself.

November 29, 1861 News clipping, (source unknown) which describes “Fort Greenough” the brick building in which Rose Greenhow was imprisoned for 3 months. (MJ Solomon Scrapbook, Special Collections Library, Duke University).

Thompson, Sarah E. Papers, 1859-1898, Duke University, Special Collections Library Online Archival Collection. 1996. <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

January 15, 1878. Washington, D.C. From S.G. Carter. A testimonial concerning Sarah Thompson's wartime service.

May 7, 1898. Washington D.C. Army Nurse's Pension Certificate. The certificate issued to Sarah Thompson when she was granted a pension.

Music (Optional): "Hard Times Come Again No More – Found on CD Recording *Songs of the Civil War* – may also be found on many other recordings

Unit introduction and overview of instructional plan:

Over the course of this unit, students will gain understanding of the roles of women in the Civil War through lessons that go beyond the lessons taught in the textbook. The lessons are based on events and issues that may not necessarily be covered in the textbook. An example of this is the events involving a local history event. Similar items addressed in the unit are covered in the CRT Assessment and the Chapter Assessments of our Social Studies textbook.

The unit will be taught during the Social Studies periods, for three homeroom classes, as our elementary school is semi-departmentalized in fourth grade. Students will address questions that will lead to the understanding of concepts taught in the unit. These include:

- How did women cope with tragedies in daily life during the American Civil War Period?
- What contributions did Rose Greenhow make in the Confederate efforts to win the war?
- How did Sarah Thompson exhibit bravery and loyalty to the United States?

This unit will be taught within the time allotted on the Curriculum Map for the study of the American Civil War, Chapters twelve and thirteen in the Social Studies textbook. The time allotted is approximately four weeks to teach both chapters, the unit will be taught in the period of one to two weeks. Each lesson will be taught as it correlates to the lessons in the chapters.

Suggested Classroom Library:

These items are collected for study involving the Civil War era. Starred (*) items are exceptionally good.

Reference Books:

*Bolden, Tonya, *Portraits of African American Heroes*. 2003, Dutton Children's Books

Flato, Charles, *The Golden Book of the Civil War*. 1961, American Heritage Publishing

Herbert, Janice, *Civil War for Kids: a History with 21 Activities*. 1999, Chicago Review Press

*McPherson, James M., *Fields of Fury: the American Civil War*. 2002, Atheneum Books For Young Readers

*National Park Service, *Underground Railroad*. 1999 U.S. Department of Interior

Sandler, Martin W., *Civil War: a Library of Congress Book*. 1996, Harper Collins

Chapter and Picture Books/Read-Alouds:

*Picture Book of... Series by David Adler (Scholastic Books)

Harriet Tubman

*National Geographic Reading Expeditions Library

Blue or Gray? A Family Divided

The Anti-Slavery Movement

*If You... Series (Scholastic Books)

If You Lived at the Time of the Civil War

If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad

*America Series Journals/Diaries (Scholastic Books)

A Picture of Freedom - Diary of a Clotee, a Slave Girl (1859)

A Light in the Storm - The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin (1861)

My Brother's Keeper - Virginia's Diary (1863)

When Will This Cruel War Be Over? - Civil War Diary of Emma

Thompson (1864)

*Houston, Gloria, *Bright Freedom's Song*. 1998, Silver Whistle Books, Harcourt & Brace
(Read privately first!)

*McGovern, Ann, *Wanted Dead or Alive": the True Story of Harriet Tubman* (Original Title: Runaway Slave). 1965 Scholastic Books

*Lester, Julius, *From Slave Ship to Freedom Road*. 1998, Puffin Books

Weiss, Ellen, *Hitty's Travels: Civil War Days*. 2001, Aladdin Paperbacks

Video:

*The Civil War: A Concise History

*Civil War Series by Ken Burns (PBS) (Viewer Discretion Advised)

*Civil War Journal (History Channel)

Not for Ourselves Alone: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (PBS)

*A Picture of Freedom (Scholastic) (Goes with Dear America)

Race to Freedom: The Story of the Underground Railroad

Saga of Slavery

*Underground Railroad (History Channel) (Viewer Discretion Advised)

Music/Multimedia (CD):

Bobby Horton's Civil War Songs Series

*Steal Away: Songs of the Underground Railroad (Appleseed Recordings)

Soundtrack from PBS Civil War Series

*United and Divided: A Young Nation through the Civil War (Book and CD Set Narratives and Lyrics with Posters). This can be used from Revolutionary War to Civil War!

Reference Bibliography:

Ash, Stephen V. *A Year in the South 1865*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.

Augustus, Gerald L. *The Loudon County Area of East Tennessee in the War 1861-1865*. Paducah: Turner Publishing Company, 2000.

Blanton, Deanne, and Cook, Lauren M. *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*. New York: Vintage Books, 2002.

Garrison, Webb. *Amazing Women of the Civil War*. Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1999.

Gwin, Minrose C. Ed. *A Woman's Civil War: A Diary with Reminiscences of the War, from March 1862 Cornelia Peake McDonald*. New York: Gramercy Books, 1992.

Hesseltine, William B. Ed. *Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey Autobiography and Letters*. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1954

Myers, Robert Manson. *The Children of the Pride: A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1984.

Women in the Civil War

American citizens were thrown into a tumultuous five-year tailspin known as the Civil War. People in the opposing regions called the confrontation by other titles, such as the War Between the States, the War of the Rebellion, the War of Northern Aggression, and a personal favorite - the Recent Unpleasantness. Whatever the name, it was war; therefore, women were impacted by the ravages of war, whether they were standing by on the home front, serving in the ranks as soldiers and spies, or treating the sick and wounded in makeshift hospitals.

Women on the Home Front

When war erupted, American women were faced with the prospect of having to see their husbands, fiancés, and sons march off to fight fellow Americans. Many families had ties to either side, so these women had to make choices and sacrifices. Their ways of life were threatened and reactions to the war differed with regional affiliation. The most famous women at this time were the wives of the political and military leaders of the period: Mary Todd Lincoln, Julia Dent Grant, Varina Davis, and Mary Custis Lee. The common woman had to cope with the upheaval of daily life, and we are able to perceive their ordeal through diaries and correspondence. Their opinions of the conflict were reflected in their writings.

Mary Jones, who resided in Georgia, wrote often to her son, Lt. Charles C. Jones, Jr. during his service in the Confederate army. In 1862, after the fall of Fort Pulaski, she wrote, “I see no hope for Savannah but in the special mercy and goodness of God; and my only comfort springs from the hope that he will deliver us in the day of battle from our inhuman foes.” In the same letter, she sends “howdies” from the slaves (Myers, pp. 230-231). She wrote about events at home involving family members and slaves, concerns about his safety and nutrition, and news

from other cities in the south. After the war, widowed and destitute, she died at the home of her daughter, in New Orleans in 1868.

Mrs. Cornelia McDonald and her seven children would flee their home in Winchester, Virginia in November of 1863, after the occupation of Federal forces. Her husband, Angus, was an officer in the Confederate army, in spite of his age of sixty-five. She wrote in her diary in June 1864, of three-year-old Hunter crying and when asked what was the matter, he replied, “The Yankees are coming to our house and they will take all our breakfast, and will capture me and Fanny” (Gwin, p. 187). Fanny was his sister’s doll and considered by him to be a member of the family. She depended heavily upon her husband’s pay, which would eventually end when her husband died in Richmond. She received a letter to come to him in his sickness in December of 1864, but arrived one day too late to see him alive (Ash, p. 8). She would write of her shock at his death. When she arrived in Richmond, “Mrs. Holliday came out of a room, and in her usual unthinking way pointed to an open door and asked me if I would go in there now. I went, and the object I first saw was my husband’s corpse, stretched on a white bed with a large green wreath around his head and shoulders, enclosing them as in a frame!” (Gwin, pp. 215-216). The death of her husband thrust Mrs. McDonald into poverty, especially with the decline of the Confederacy. She found it difficult to admit she was unable to maintain the lifestyle to which she had been accustomed. She said, “I shrank from seeming ... poor” (Ash, p. 36). She also worried that her oldest son, Harry, would soon be old enough to join the war. She did see Harry march off after outfitting him properly as a soldier. She did so by selling her last piece of good clothing for a piece of poor-quality gray cloth, “the kind used for slave clothing before the war”. He joined the ranks just in time to be involved in Lee’s retreat and surrender at Appomattox. (Ash, pp. 100-101). She did overcome poverty; however she would not regain her husband’s estate.

She would eventually move to Louisville, Kentucky in 1873, and would die at the age of eighty-seven in 1909 (Ash, 240-241).

Henrietta Ramsey Lenoir, wife of Dr. Benjamin Ballard Lenoir, was faced with maintaining the family business, while coping during the advance of Federal troops through East Tennessee. Her father, Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey, reported of Sanders' Raid in June 1863 while visiting his daughter at Lenoir's Station, Roane County. His visit was interrupted by reports of Federal troops in Kingston on their way to Knoxville. "Mrs. Lenoir... walked through the back door and looking along the road towards Kingston saw a cavalry force riding rapidly towards her gate. Supposing them to be Confederates retiring before the Federal forces she inquired artlessly: 'Are you escaping from the Yankees?' One of them, perhaps Colonel R.K. Byrd, who knew her, replied, "We are the Yankees, themselves.' " He also reported how she went to the family-owned store and removed the money from the safe, being allowed to pass through the Federal troops wearing a simple disguise of a garden hat, thus saving the funds. Ramsey attributed the success of the endeavor to the gentlemanly manners of the officers (Heseltine, pp 106-110). Mrs. Lenoir lost two young sons during the war due to a diphtheria outbreak. A funeral invitation dated October 15, 1863 informed friends of the Lenoir family that both boys would be remembered together (Ramsey Papers, Notice). A letter from her sister-in-law, Hattie Lenoir, expressed sympathy at her loss and encouraged Henrietta to visit her (Ramsey Papers, Letter, n.d.). The stress of war would prove to be too much for Mrs. Lenoir. Following the capture of Dr. Lenoir in Knoxville and the death of her children, she became depressed, a condition worsened by the birth of another son. She would die at the age of thirty (Augustus, p. 38).

Women as Soldiers and Spies

Many women were not content to stay at home while their loved ones marched off to war. Women soldiers were present at nearly every battle in the war. It is not revealed how they were able to disguise personal hygiene; many times these soldiers were not discovered to be women until they were wounded or killed in battle. At the battle of Stones River, a woman named Frances Clayton watched her husband die in front of her. She had enlisted with him. Stepping over his body, she continued to fight in the battle, but left the army after his death (Blanton and Cook, pp. 10-11). Other women who were soldiers were discovered after exhibiting no knowledge with the wearing of pants after only having experience with dresses. Also the drudgery of soldier life was not as romantic as they had imagined, resulting in their asking permission to leave ranks after revealing their true sex. Still others made mistakes by acting too feminine in the camp. Public opinion generally proclaimed these women as being crazy and having unacceptable behavior. Yet these ladies were proud of their contributions to the war effort.

At the Illinois monument in Vicksburg National Battlefield, there is listing of a private named Albert D. Cashier of the 95th Illinois Infantry. Cashier, born Jennie Hodggers, mustered out in August 1865 with the rest of the unit, having served a full three-year enlistment. She decided to spend the rest of her civilian life as a man, realizing that there were more opportunities as a man. Cashier was granted a war pension, without ever revealing her secret. She served at many jobs and was not discovered until 1911 when an accident resulted in a broken thigh and in the process of treatment, her secret was discovered. The doctor promised to be silent so that Albert could retire to the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Home with her identity protected. The ruse was revealed in 1914 because Cashier had become increasingly sick and too

senile to remain at the retirement home and would be institutionalized. The story was published in newspapers and some citizens felt outraged at the apparent fraud by the woman to get a war pension. The Pension Board eventually ruled that Cashier had not defrauded the government and would continue to receive pension checks (Blanton and Cook, pp. 170-176).

Sarah E. Thompson lived in Greene County, Tennessee and was married to Sylvanius Thompson in 1854. She worked with her husband assembling and organizing Union sympathizers in East Tennessee. In 1864, Sarah's husband was attacked and killed by a Confederate soldier. Sarah continued to work for the Union, delivering dispatches and information to the Union soldiers. When General John Hunt Morgan, CSA and his men were in Greeneville, Sarah managed to get word to the Union forces of his location. Samuel G. Carter wrote a testimonial letter in 1878 documenting Sarah Thompson's contribution to the war effort. "She rode up to my No. 2s (at Knoxville) to report that she had come alone from Greeneville (70 miles distant) ... for the purpose of giving me information in regard to the movement of the Confederate forces in that vicinity. She undertook the long and dangerous journey from her love for the cause of the Union and her hatred of the rebellion and, as I believe, without thought of recompense or reward. I have been informed that Mrs. Thompson gave the intelligence of Gen. John Morgan's position to Gen. Gilem, which led to the defeat and death of that noted rebel leader" (Thompson Papers, January 15, 1878). Sarah served as an army nurse in Knoxville, Tennessee and Cleveland, Ohio. She lectured about her experiences during the war as an effort to combat poverty. As a result of her heroic endeavors, she was finally granted an Army Nurse's Pension of \$12 a month by a special act of Congress in 1897 (Thompson Papers, May 7, 1898). She died in 1909 and was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery (Duke University Library).

Perhaps one of the best-known spies during the war is Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a leader in Washington society and a passionate secessionist. She is given credit for successfully winning battles through espionage. She was captured and imprisoned for her efforts, first held in her own home, then later in the Old Capital Prison. In a letter addressed to William H. Seward, she wrote, "For nearly three months I have been confined, a close prisoner, shut out from air and exercise, and denied all communication with family and friends. 'Patience is said to be a great virtue', and I have practiced it to my utmost capacity of endurance. My object is to call your attention to the fact: that during this long imprisonment, I am yet ignorant of the causes of my arrest; that my house has been seized and converted into a prison by the Government; that the valuable furniture it contained has been abused and destroyed; that during some periods of my imprisonment I have suffered greatly for want of proper and sufficient food," (Greenhow Papers, November 17, 1861). In a news clipping, the confinement of Rose Greenhow was described as a tedious experience and implies that she is not able to go out at all, not even to church (Greenhow Papers, November 29, 1861).

Mrs. Greenhow continued to send illicit correspondence during her confinement, surprisingly hidden in such places as another woman's hair bun. After release from her second prison term, she was exiled to the Confederate states. She toured Britain and France in an effort to gain support for the Confederate cause. She published her memoirs, which were widely read throughout Europe, and gained sympathy among the ruling classes. She boarded a British blockade-runner, the *Condor*, which ran aground at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. In an attempt to outrun a Union gunboat, Mrs. Greenhow got in a rowboat, which capsized. She drowned when she was dragged down by the weight of the gold she had received in payment of her book. She was buried with full military honors in October 1864, in the Oakdale Cemetery in

Wilmington, North Carolina. A news clipping described her funeral service as “a touching tribute to the heroism and patriotic devotion of the deceased, as well as a solemn warning on the uncertainty of all human projects and ambition, even though of the most laudable character,” (Greenhow Papers, October 1, 1864). Her coffin was wrapped in the Confederate flag and carried by Confederate soldiers. Her grave marker identifies her as a carrier of dispatches to the Confederate Government (Duke University Library).

Women as Angels of Mercy

Perhaps the most well known contributions that women made in the Civil War were the roles of caretakers and healers behind the lines of battle. Many women served as nurses during the war, and one woman had the distinction of being a surgeon.

Clara Barton began her career in the United States government not as a nurse, but as a worker in the U.S. Patent Office. The Capitol building was being used as a hospital to treat the wounded Union soldiers. Barton passed the sick and wounded men on her way to her workplace and was overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of suffering individuals. She began treating them, and gradually became a self-appointed nurse to the sick and wounded. A former teacher, she was working as a confidential clerk for Charles Mason at a salary of \$1,400 per year. She could possibly have been the first woman in a government white-collar position.

When the battle at Manassas Junction, Virginia took place, Clara knew that she had to go to the battle lines to treat the vast numbers of soldiers in the field. She paid a substitute for her job in Washington from her own salary in order to remain on the payroll at the Patent Office. She advertised for assistance in providing food, clothing, and bandages. She was met with opposition until Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts wrote to the Surgeon General, Alfred Hitchcock, on her behalf. Hitchcock felt that Clara should not go into the field for

nursing wounded men. The assistant quartermaster in charge of transporting supplies took an interest in her plight and issued a pass allowing her to go to the front. Reluctantly, other units began to follow this example. She soon became known as the “Angel of the Battlefield” because of her unfailing determination to treat the wounded where they fell. Still this work was done on a volunteer basis, even though the U.S. Sanitary Commission had a huge staff.

As the war began to draw to a close, Clara realized there was a growing problem with prisoners of war and missing soldiers. She moved to Camp Parole, in Annapolis and was allowed to post notices and interview the parolees from the South. She was allowed to perform this task, yet warned not to get information on which a possible pension could be based. Her intention was to publish a list of men missing from units, and she gained the support of President Andrew Johnson. She moved on to Andersonville Prison and, with the assistance of Dorence Atwater, worked to identify over 16,000 graves. She is best known for her work in a movement that would become known as the American Red Cross. She died in 1912 (Garrison, pp. 165-174).

Dr. Mary Walker was often criticized for her style of dress. She preferred to wear the full uniform of a Federal surgeon, to the amusement and disgust of many officers. This choice was not limited to her service in the war; she had dressed in mannish fashion from young adulthood. Mary Walker was the first female medical student at Syracuse Medical College, being the second woman in the United States to get a medical degree. She was briefly married, obtaining a divorce from her husband, Albert Miller, after four years. She had never taken her husband’s last name. She found it difficult to get patients in private practice, and applied to the U.S. War Department when the war broke out. She was told that she couldn’t possibly serve in field hospitals, so she volunteered as an unpaid nurse. She found ways to cope with the demeaning new duties by seeking ways to improve life for the soldiers in the hospitals. After several unsuccessful

attempts to serve as a field surgeon, General George H. Thomas accepted her as a contract surgeon, a civilian position at a salary of \$80 a month. She was not happy with this position, but the unexpected death of an army surgeon gave her the opportunity to step in and replace the man with the 52nd Ohio regiment.

On April 10, 1864, while on a mission of mercy, Walker was captured by Rebels in northern Georgia and sent to Richmond. When she was exchanged for a Confederate major, she found it was impossible to rejoin her unit. She served in the Women's Prison Hospital in Louisville and an orphanage in Nashville until the end of the war. She appealed unsuccessfully to President Andrew Johnson to be commissioned as a major. After numerous attempts to gain the recognition that she deserved, the War Department offered her a Medal of Honor instead of the commission she so desperately wanted. She traveled on the lecture circuit, proudly wearing her medal near her shoulder. A professional booking agency arranged tours for her to appear with sideshow freaks. Dr. Walker continued to wear men's clothing during civilian life. She would wear a formal suit and top hat and carry a cane.

In 1917, at the age of eighty-five, she was told that she would have to relinquish her precious medal, which she refused to do, even if it meant arrest (Garrison, pp. 47-56). The medal citation was declared invalid until 1977, when President Jimmy Carter reinstated it. She died in 1918 at the age of eighty-six, after a fall on the steps of the Capital.

Through the stories of these women, we can gain an understanding of the sacrifices, courageous acts, and personal endurance that were necessary for survival during the American Civil War. Their bravery, determination, and pioneering spirit would be an inspiration for all women to attempt endeavors such as the American Suffrage Movement. We may well be thankful to them.

Bibliography

Books

Ash, Stephen V. *A Year in the South 1865*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.

Augustus, Gerald L. *The Loudon County Area of East Tennessee in the War 1861-1865*. Paducah: Turner Publishing Company, 2000.

Blanton, Deanne, and Cook, Lauren M. *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*. New York: Vintage Books, 2002.

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Hesseltine, William B. Ed. *Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey Autobiography and Letters*. Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1954

Myers, Robert Manson. *The Children of the Pride: A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1984.

Primary Sources

Greenhow, Rose O'Neal Papers, Duke University, Special Collections Library Online Archival Collection. 1996. <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

November 17, 1861. Washington, D.C. From Rose Greenhow to William H. Seward, Secretary of the State. News clipping of a letter to Seward, obtained by the Richmond Whig, details her imprisonment and offers an impassioned protest of the current state of the government. (MJ Solomon Scrapbook, Special Collections Library, Duke University).

October 1, 1864. News clipping, presumably from the *Wilmington Sentinel*, describing Greenhow's funeral complete with details of the reactions of the Wilmington townspeople and the service itself. (Alexander Robinson Boteler Papers, Special Collections Library, Duke University).

November 29, 1861 News clipping, (source unknown) which describes “Fort Greenough” the brick building in which Rose Greenhow was imprisoned for 3 months. (MJ Solomon Scrapbook, Special Collections Library, Duke University).

Ramsey Papers, University of Tennessee, Special Collections Library. Call # MS 253.

1863 [n.d.] Letter from Hattie Lenoir to her sister-in-law, Henrietta Ramsey Lenoir, Lenoirs, Tenn. (In Ramsey Bible, p. 733).

October 9, 1863. Dr. and Mrs. B. B. Lenoir, Lenoirs, Tenn. Notice of the funeral service of sons, Jimmie and Charlie, to take place that evening. (In Ramsey Bible, p. 726).

Thompson, Sarah E. Papers, 1859-1898, Duke University, Special Collections Library Online Archival Collection. 1996. <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

January 15, 1878. Washington, D.C. From S.G. Carter. A testimonial concerning Sarah Thompson’s wartime service.

May 7, 1898. Washington D.C. Army Nurse’s Pension Certificate. The certificate issued to Sarah Thompson when she was granted a pension.

Unit:

Women in the Civil War

Lesson Title:

“Hard Times Come Again No More”

Grade Level:

Intermediate – Fourth to Fifth Grade

Essential Question related to Vital Theme:

How did women deal with tragedies in daily life during the American Civil War?

Lesson Time:

One to two class periods, each forty-five minutes in length

Curriculum Standards – List:

4.5.3; 4.6.2; 5.5.1; 5.1.2; 5.5.7; 5.5.10; 5.6.2; 5.6.3; 5.6.5;

Technology used and how:

Primary Source Materials Provided in Lesson:

Lenoir Funeral Invitation

Letter from Hattie Lenoir to Henrietta Lenoir

Pictures of Lenoir Family Gravestones

Music (Optional): “Hard Times Come Again No More – Found on CD Recording *Songs of the Civil War* – may also be found on many other recordings

Materials:

Background Information on Henrietta Ramsey Lenoir from pp. 3-4 of “Women in the Civil War”

Essay – provided as a handout

Primary Sources listed above with transcriptions of each

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

Distribute copies or make transparencies of the letter and funeral notice. Give out background information during the lesson while the primary documents and pictures are examined. This can be done in an open discussion class activity, or it can be a paper-pencil assignment. A Document Evaluation form is included in the lesson plan.

Supporting Assignments/Homework:

Students may complete the evaluation worksheet provided in the lesson after reviewing the documents and pictures.

Assessment:

Interpretation of similar information is included in the CRT Assessment and Chapter Tests of the Social Studies series.

Background Information of Henrietta Ramsey Lenoir

Born December 27, 1833 – Died May 23, 1864 (Age 30)

Buried in Lenoir Cemetery in Lenoir City, Tennessee. It is located on the corner of C Street and First Avenue.

Wife of Dr. Benjamin Ballard Lenoir

Daughter of Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey

Lost 2 Sons in 1863

Jimmie - Approximate age 5 years

Charlie – Approximate age 3 years

Dr. Benjamin B. Lenoir was serving in Knoxville with the Confederate Forces in 1863. He was away when boys died.

Henrietta was pregnant with another child at the time of their deaths.

Mrs. Lenoir was able to prevent Union forces from taking money from the safe during their encampment at Lenoir's Station (later known as Lenoir City) by going to the family owned business and taking money out of the safe, unbeknownst to the Union forces. She wore a garden hat to hide her face.

She would have another son after the deaths of her two little boys, but would never fully recover from the birth.

Evaluation of Documents and Pictures Name _____

Letter

1. What did Hattie wish to say in the letter? _____

2. How do you know Hattie had experienced the death of her own children?

3. What did Hattie suggest that Henrietta do?

Funeral Invitation

4. What is unique about this invitation? _____

Pictures

5. Why were the boys included in one tombstone? _____

6. Describe the wording of Henrietta's tombstone. _____

7. How do you know Harriette Lenoir had small children to die? _____

8. Why are there so many small tombstones in the cemetery?

Documents and Pictures

Lenoir Family Grave Stones



Two Little Boys



Dr. BB Lenoir



Harriette Osborne Lenoir



Harriett's Children

Harriette's Husband



Henrietta Ramsey Lenoir



Lenoir Family

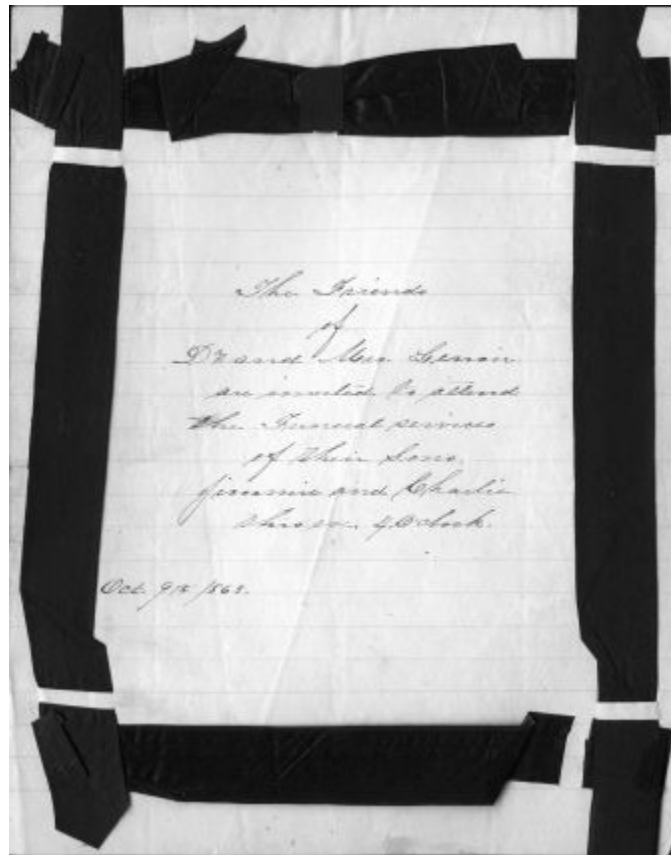


(Transcription)

Funeral Notice October 9, 1863

The Friends
of
Dr. and Mrs. Lenoir
Are invited to attend
The Funeral services
of their Sons,
Jimmie and Charlie
this eve. 4 O'clock

October 9, 1863



Dear Eliza, I received your kind note by
 Mr. Rogart, & was indeed glad to hear
 from you; we are so cut off from all
 our friends, that it is a bliss to have any
 lines from them. I have thought a great
 deal of you since you took your darling little boy,
 & I never quit till you that you had my
 warmest, heart-felt sympathy. I too have
 passed thro' the "deep waters" of affliction, &
 have sometimes thought that surely no one
 ever had such trials, but I know that you
 have been more cruelly afflicted than I
 losing both your children at once; &
 your bright, beautiful little Jimmie was
 so much older than either of mine; & every
 day strengthens the tie & imparts new beauty
 to an mother's heart. I know full well how
 dark & desolate you have sometimes been
 it is for you to get an interest in anything.
 The worst sorrows are so hard for human
 nature to bear, let us try to feel dear Eliza
 that the "Hands that inflict" their "death all
 things well" - let us try to think of our
 worst ones as lying "lathen from the evil
 to come" - I wish you could have
 been for a while - I know the change

would do you good. Come down if
you can. I am entirely well again
in my knee is well. He is a bunch of
strange children than either or of others.
Mr B. is waiting. I must stop.
Write me -
Yours affectionately
W. Halliwell

Unit:

Women in the Civil War

Lesson Title:

“Rose O’Neal Greenhow, Confederate Spy”

Grade Level:

Intermediate – Fourth to Fifth Grade

Essential Question related to Vital Theme:

What contributions did Rose Greenhow make in the Confederate efforts to win the war?

Lesson Time:

One to two class periods, each forty-five minutes in length

Curriculum Standards – List:

4.5.3; 4.6.2; 5.5.1; 5.1.2; 5.5.7; 5.5.10; 5.6.2; 5.6.3; 5.6.5;

Technology used and how:

Primary Source Materials Provided in Lesson:

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Online Archival Collection. 1996. <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

November 17, 1861. Washington, D.C. From Rose Greenhow to William H. Seward, Secretary of the State. News clipping of a letter to Seward, obtained by the Richmond Whig, details her imprisonment and offers an impassioned protest of the current state of the government.

October 1, 1864. News clipping, presumably from the *Wilmington Sentinel*, describing Greenhow’s funeral complete with details of the reactions of the Wilmington townspeople and the service itself.

November 29, 1861 News clipping, (source unknown) which describes “Fort Greenough” the brick building in which Rose Greenhow was imprisoned for 3 months. (MJ Solomon Scrapbook, Special Collections Library, Duke University).

Materials

Background Information on Rose O’Neal Greenhow from pp.6-7 of “Women in the Civil War” Essay – provided as a handout

Primary Sources listed above with transcriptions of each

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

Distribute copies or make transparencies of the letter and funeral notice. Give out background information during the lesson while the primary documents and pictures are examined. This can be done in an open discussion class activity, or it can be a paper-pencil assignment. A Document Evaluation form is included in the lesson plan.

Note: Teachers will need to use discretion in the full use of the document, due to sensitive nature of material contained within the letter.

Alternative selection: Fort Greenough News-clipping

Supporting Assignments/Homework:

Students may complete the evaluation worksheet provided in the lesson after reviewing the documents.

Assessment:

Interpretation of similar information is included in the CRT Assessment and Chapter Tests of the Social Studies series.

Background Information on Rose O'Neal Greenhow

Born in Montgomery County, Maryland 1817. Died 1864 off the coast of North

Carolina. Buried at Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina.

She was a leader in Washington society, Confederate sympathizer and passionate secessionist.

Jefferson Davis gave her full credit for the successful Confederate battle at Manassas.

She was first imprisoned in her own home when caught spying for the Confederacy.

She was later imprisoned in Old Capital Prison.

While imprisoned, she still sent correspondence to Jefferson Davis and Confederate generals, though many unusual means. Once she sent a letter in a visitor's hair bun.

She was sent to Britain and France in an effort to gain support for the Confederacy. Her memoirs were published while she was in Europe. She made a great deal of money, paid in gold, from the sale of her book.

On her way back to the states, aboard the *Condor*, she attempted to escape capture by the Union forces guarding shores against blockade-runners. She boarded a rowboat, which capsized, and she was dragged under water by the weight of the gold hidden in her dress.

Her body was recovered off the shore of North Carolina on October 1, 1864. The

Confederate government with full military honors buried her. Her coffin was draped in a

Confederate flag and carried on the shoulders of a staff of Confederate soldiers.

Rose Greenhow Documents

Name _____

Letter to Seward

1. How long had Mrs. Greenhow been imprisoned at this writing? _____
2. When was she arrested? _____
3. Whom did she compare herself to in this situation? _____

“Fort Greenough” (Alternative Selection)

1. What is the address of Rose Greenhow? _____
2. How is the sentinel described? _____
3. How does the house appear to the writer? _____
4. How is the imprisonment described? _____

Obituary Notice

5. When was her body recovered? _____
6. How many homes were considered to hold the body? _____
7. What was draped over the coffin? _____
8. What appeared just as the coffin was lowered? _____
9. What rank were many of her pallbearers? _____
10. What historical character is compared with her? _____

THE LATE MRS. ROSE A. GREENHOW.

We have received the following letter, detailing the last rites of respect to the lady whose name is above written:

"On Saturday morning, October 1, a dispatch was received in Wilmington, by Mrs. De Proenca, President of the Soldiers' Aid Society, stating that the body of Mrs. Greenhow had been recovered from the sea at Fort Fisher, and would be sent to town for interment. The ill-fated lady—a passenger in the steamer *Cosudar*, which got aground in attempting to run in at New Inlet—was drowned in trying to reach the shore in a small boat, which swamped on the 'rips'."

"A hundred houses were open to receive the lady, but a meeting of the Soldiers' Aid Society being hastily convened, it was judged proper to have the funeral obsequies as public as possible, to which end the chapel attached to Hospital No. 2 was beautifully arranged, by order of the surgeon in charge, Dr. Hicks, and here it was proposed the corpse should lie in state."

"On the arrival of the steamer *Cape Fear*, which was appointed to convey the remains to town, the ladies lined the wharf, closing round and receiving into their midst the heroic form of her who had been so zealous, so devoted, and so self-sacrificing an adherent of the cause fought to all their hearts. She was then carried to the chapel, where a guard of honor was stationed at the door."

"It was a solemn and imposing spectacle. The profection of wax lights round the corpse; the quantity of choice flowers in crosses, garlands and bouquets, scattered over it; the silent mourners, who-robed, at the head and foot, the tide of visitors, women and children, with streaming eyes, and sobs, with bent heads and hushed steps, standing by, paying the last tribute of respect to the departed heroine. On the bier, draped with a magnificent Confederate flag, lay the body, so undraged as to look like a calm sleeper, while above all rose the tall ebony cross-staff, emblem of the Faith she embraced in happier hours, and which, we humbly trust, was her consolation in passing through the dark waters of the river of death."

"She lay there until 2 o'clock of Sunday afternoon, when the body was removed to the Catholic Church of St. Thomas. Here the funeral oration was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Corsoria, which was a touching tribute to the heroism and patriotic devotion of the deceased, as well as a solemn warning on the uncertainty of all human projects and ambition, even though of the most laudable character."

"The coffin, which was as richly decorated as the the resources of the town admitted and still covered with the Confederate flag, was borne to Oak Hill Cemetery followed by an immense funeral cortege. A beautiful spot on a grassy slope, over-shadowed by waving trees and in sight of a tranquil lake was chosen for her resting place. Rain fell in torrents during the day, but as the coffin was being lowered into the grave, the sun burst forth in the brightest majesty, and a rainbow of the most vivid colour spanned the horizon. Let us accept the omen not only for her, the quiet sleeper, who after many storms and a tumultuous and checkered life came to peace and rest at last, but also for our beloved country, over which we trust the rainbow of hope will ere long shine with brightest dyes."

"The pall-bearers were Colonel Tansill, chief of staff to General Whiting, Major Vanderhorst, J. M. Sears, Esq., Dr. de Proenca, Dr. Hicks and Dr. Hedway."

"General Whiting and Captain U. B. Polinder, representing the two services were prevented from acting as pall-bearers, the former by reason of absence, the latter in consequence of illness."

"The ladies of the Wilmington Soldiers' Aid Society would have performed the last office for any one coming to them under similar and extraordinary circumstances, but with how much greater respect and affection for her who endured imprisonment, sickness, losses of various kinds, and finally death itself, through devotion to the holy cause which was the very life spring and breath of her existence."

"At the last day, when the martyrs who have with their blood sealed their devotion to liberty shall stand together firm witnesses that truth is stronger than death, foremost among the shining throng, coequal with the Rolands and Joan d'Arcs of history will appear the Confederate heroine, Rose A. Greenhow."

News Clipping

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We have received the following letter, detailing the last rites of respect to the lady whose name is above written:

"On Saturday morning, October 1, a dispatch was received in Wilmington, by Mrs. De Prosser, President of the Soldiers' Aid Society, stating that the body of Mrs. Greenhow had been recovered from the sea at Fort Fisher, and would be sent to New York for interment. The ill-fated lady—a passenger in the steamer *Coedon*, which got aground in attempting to run in at New Inlet—was drowned in trying to reach the shore in a small boat, which swamped on the 'rips.'

"A hundred homes were open to receive the lady, but a meeting of the Soldiers' Aid Society being hastily convened, it was judged proper to have the funeral obsequies as public as possible, to which end the chapel attached to Hospital No. 4 was beautifully arranged, by order of the surgeon in charge, Dr. Micks, and here it was proposed the corps should lie in state.

"On the arrival of the steamer *Cape Fear*, which was appointed to convey the remains to town, the ladies lined the wharf, clustering round and receiving into their midst the lifeless form of her who had been so zealous, so devoted, and so self-sacrificing an adherent of the cause dearest to all their hearts. She was then carried to the chapel, where a guard of honor was stationed at the door.

"It was a solemn and imposing spectacle. The profusion of wax lights round the corpse; the quantity of choice flowers in vases, parlours and bouquets, scattered over it; the silent mourners, sub-robot, at the head and foot; the tide of visitors, women and children, with streaming eyes, and sobs, with bent heads and hushed steps, standing by, paying the last tribute of respect to the departed heroine. On the bier, draped with a magnificent Confederate flag, lay the body, so untraged as to look like a calm sleeper, while above all rose the tall ebony crucifix, emblem of the Faith she embraced in happier hours, and which, we humbly trust, was her consolation in passing through the dark waters of the river of death.

"She lay there until 2 o'clock of Sunday afternoon, when the body was removed to the Catholic Church of St. Thomas. Here the funeral oration was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Corcoran, which was a touching tribute to the heroism and patriotic devotion of the deceased, as well as a solemn warning on the uncertainty of all human projects and ambition, even though of the most laudable character.

"The coffin, which was as richly decorated as the resources of the town admitted and still covered with the Confederate flag, was borne to Oak Hill Cemetery followed by an immense funeral cortege. A beautiful spot on a grassy slope, overshadowed by waving trees and to sight of a tranquil lake was chosen for her resting place. Rain fell in torrents during the day, but as the coffin was being lowered into the grave, the sun burst forth in the brightest majesty, and a rainbow of the most vivid colour spanned the horizon. Let us accept the omen not only for her, the quiet sleeper, who after many storms and a tumultuous and checkered life came to peace and rest at last, but also for our beloved country, over which we trust the rainbow of hope will ere long shine with brightest eyes.

"The pall-bearers were Colonel Yarnall, chief of staff to General Whiting, Major Vanderhorst, J. M. Seims, Esq., Dr. G. P. Prescott, Dr. Micks and Dr. Hedgway.

"General Whiting and Captain U. B. Folsom, representing the two services were prevented from acting as pall-bearers, the former by reason of absence, the latter in consequence of illness.

"The ladies of the Wilmington Soldiers' Aid Society would have performed the last office for any one coming to them under similar and circumstances, but with how much greater respect and affection for her who endured imprisonment, sickness, losses of various kinds, and finally death itself, through devotion to the holy cause which was the very main spring and breath of her existence.

"As the last day, when the martyrs who have with their blood sealed their devotion to liberty shall stand together firm witnesses that truth is stronger than death, foremost among the shining throng, coequal with the Robards and Jean d'Arc of history will appear the Confederate heroine, Rose A. Greenhow."

Unit:

Women in the Civil War

Lesson Title:

“A Brave Woman, Indeed: Sarah Thompson, Union Spy and Army Nurse”

Grade Level:

Intermediate – Fourth to Fifth Grade

Essential Question related to Vital Theme:

How did Sarah Thompson exhibit bravery and loyalty to the United States?

Lesson Time:

One to two class periods, each forty-five minutes in length

Curriculum Standards – List:

4.5.3; 4.6.2; 5.5.1; 5.1.2; 5.5.7; 5.5.10; 5.6.2; 5.6.3; 5.6.5;

Technology used and how:

Primary Source Materials Provided in Lesson:

Thompson, Sarah E. Papers, 1859-1898, Duke University, Special Collections
Library Online Archival Collection. 1996.

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/>

January 15, 1878. Washington, D.C. From S.G. Carter. A testimonial concerning Sarah Thompson’s wartime service.

May 7, 1898. Washington D.C. Army Nurse’s Pension Certificate. The certificate issued to Sarah Thompson when she was granted a pension.

Materials

Background Information on Sarah E. Thompson from pp. 5-6 of “Women in the Civil War” Essay – provided as a handout

Primary Sources listed above with transcriptions of each

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

Distribute copies or make transparencies of the letter and pension certificate. Give out background information during the lesson while the primary documents and pictures are examined. This can be done in an open discussion class activity, or it can be a paper-pencil assignment. A Document Evaluation form is included in the lesson plan.

Supporting Assignments/Homework:

Students may complete the evaluation worksheet provided in the lesson after reviewing the documents.

Assessment:

Interpretation of similar information is included in the CRT Assessment and Chapter Tests of the Social Studies series.

Background Information on Sarah E. Thompson

Born February 11, 1838 in Greene County, Tennessee. Died April 21, 1909 in Washington, D.C. at age 67. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Married to Sylvanius Thompson in 1854, with 2 children. Sylvanius served in the 1st Tennessee Cavalry, USA and as a recruiter for the Union Army. Sarah worked alongside him. In 1864, a Confederate soldier killed Sylvanius.

Sarah continued to work for the Union, delivering dispatches and recruiting for the Union Army. She slipped away and alerted Union officers of General John Hunt Morgan's location, riding 70 miles alone to do so. This led to the capture and death of General Morgan.

She then served as an army nurse in Knoxville, Tennessee and in Cleveland, Ohio.

She married Orville J. Bacon in 1866 and had 2 more children. The Bacons later divorced, and she married James Cotton in the 1880s. Cotton died and she struggled to support her family.

She was awarded a pension of \$12 a month by a special act of Congress in 1897. She died in Washington D.C. after being hit by an "electric car" (street car).

Sarah Thompson Documents

Name _____

Letter

4. Why was this letter written? _____

5. Who is the writer? _____

6. How far had Mrs. Thompson ridden? _____

4. What was the result of her mission? _____

Pension Certificate

5. Who signed the document? _____

6. What is the number of the certificate? _____

7. What must she do to receive the pension? _____

8. Did she have an attorney? _____

9. What department originated the certificate? _____

10. What is the date of the certificate? _____

Washington, D.C.

January 15, 1878.

In 1864, while Pres. M. Grant at E. Tenn., with my Hd. Qrs. at Knoxville, I became acquainted with Mrs. S. E. Thompson, a resident of Johnson County. She rode up to my Hd. Qrs. (at the time of my first meeting her) to report that she had come across a line of horse & mules (70 miles distant) which she left the day before, for the purpose of giving me information in regard to the movement of Confederate forces in that vicinity. She undertook this long and dangerous journey from her home for the cause of the Union, and her hatred of the rebellion, and, as I believe, without thought of recompense or reward. I have been informed that Mrs. Thompson gave the intelligence of Gen. John Morgan's position to Gen. Gillum, which led to the defeat and death of that noted rebel leader.

Mrs. Thompson's husband was killed while on recruiting service within the

Sarah Thompson , Army Nurse Pension

ARMY NURSES' PENSION
ACT APR 5, 1892

Special Act.

CERTIFICATE DIVISION

2-1824

NOTICE OF ISSUE AND FEE

Department of the Interior,
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

Washington, D. C., *May 7, 1892.*

Madam:

*Enclosed is transmitted a certificate, No. 170, for
Orig. pension, issued this day in your favor, accompanied
by a voucher for the amount now due and payable thereon.*

*You should execute the voucher in accordance with the printed
instructions, and return it to the pension agent at Washington,
who will then send directly to your address, a
check for the pension due.*

Your recognized attorney is W. H. Atty

*whose fee
is payable by the pension agent*

very respectfully,

W. H. Grand

Commissioner

Sarah E. Cotton

Wash.

D. C.