Society for Women and the Civil War - Contributions by Women During the American Civil War - Image Key











- 1- Civil War civilian nurse, probably Louisa May Alcott, in an illustration from Alcott's Hospital Sketches, 1885.
- 2- Sisters of Mercy nuns and US Army hospital staff. With few exceptions, Roman Catholic orders of nuns were the war's only professionally trained nurses and served in hospitals for both armies.
- 3- Unidentified Confederate nurses.
- 4- Civil War nurse Annie Bell in the Nashville US Army Hospital, 1864. Image issued by the US Sanitary Commission for its 1865 Northwest Sanitary Fair in Chicago, it is one of the most iconic, and most-reproduced, images of Civil War women.
- 5- Clara Barton, individual nurse and philanthropist, who founded the American Red Cross after the war.









- 1- Unidentified woman correspondent in illustration from the American Fashionable Letter Writer, Merriam, Moore, Troy, New York, 1850.
- 2- "Reply to the Volunteer Zouave by a Baltimore Lady", pamphlet and poem by Fannie Harwood or Miss. N. Lemmon, 1862.
- 3- "Maryland, My Maryland", anthem and later, Maryland state song, composed by Jennie and Hettie Cary of Baltimore, 1861.
- 4- Secessionist-supporting Baltimore woman wearing a patriotic apron-version of an early Confederate flag while walking past Federal troops. Cover of Harper's Weekly magazine, 7 September 1861.









- 1- Some of nearly 400 women mill workers of Roswell, Georgia, taken prisoner by LTG Sherman in July 1864 and permanently deported to federally controlled territory in the north. Women and children ordnance workers in both nations were subject to injury and death from explosions.
- 2- Maria Mitchell, scientist, astronomer and professor. She was the Astronomy Editor for Scientific American magazine, the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Science, and, beginning in 1849, the first US woman federal civilian employee.
- 3- Elizabeth Jarvis Colt, widow of Samuel Colt. Mrs. Colt was the real genius behind Colt weapons manufacturing and ran the company on her own after Mr. Colt's 1862 death.

4-Women federal civilian employees of the US Treasury Department, shown in an 18 February 1865 Harper's Weekly magazine illustration. Women served in the same role for the Confederate States, hand-signing currency.











- 1- Rose O'Neal Greenhow, widowed Confederate spy whose intelligence provided to Confederate forces was perhaps the most important factor in their victory at First Manassas/Bull Run. She and her young daughter were imprisoned in the Old Capitol Prison in Washington. She was later killed in a shipwreck while smuggling gold to the Confederate States: when her blockade-running ship was captured by the US Navy, she attempted to reach shore by a small boat and was drowned by the weight of the gold.
- 2- Believed to be Kate Warne, senior Pinkerton agent and head of Pinkerton's Female Detective Bureau. She discovered the Baltimore plot to assassinate President-elect Lincoln on his way from Illinois to his inauguration and escorted him and his family to safety in Washington.
- 3- Harriet Tubman, federal spy, guide, and Underground Railroad conductor.
- 4- Unidentified Confederate women smugglers.
- 5- US Army laundress, sometimes identified as Mary Kilraine Craven Comuskey, assigned to the 5th US Artillery Regiment, with her soldier husband and children in the field. One of the most iconic images of women military employees.









- 1- US Sanitary Commission logistics center, operated by the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, in Cleveland, Ohio, 1865.
- 2- Women knitting socks and sewing shirts for soldiers, in a detail from Winslow Homer's illustration "The Influence of Woman", Harper's Weekly, 6 September 1862. The collage-style engraving, showing a variety of contributions, is one of the most famous illustrations of the Federal war effort.
- 3- Aid society members delivering food and comfort supplies to a hospital in Hagerstown, Maryland, in an illustration from Harper's Weekly, 11 October 1862.
- 4- US Sanitary Commission post-war Baltimore Sanitary Fair fundraiser, 1864, illustration from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 14 May 1864.

Primary sources for images:

US Archives

- "Women on the Border: Maryland Perspectives of the Civil War" http://www.lib.umd.edu/civilwarwomen/index.html
- "Civil War Women: Women of the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras 1849-1877" http://civilwarwomenblog.com/
- "Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio", The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History http://ech.case.edu/cgi/article.pl?id=SASONO
- "Hospital Nuns: From the Civil War to Today", Irish America http://irishamerica.com/2013/08/hospital-nuns-from-the-civil-war-to-today/