During the American Civil War, women on both sides of the conflict, radiating patriotic fervor equal to their male counterparts, contributed to the war effort in countless ways: forming charitable societies, becoming nurses, or even marching off to war as *vivandières*, unofficial attachés to the regiments.

Ronald S. Coddington talks about the experiences of women of all ages and walks of life who provided care during the war as nurses, aid workers, and *vivandières*. Their personal narratives are as unique as fingerprints: each provides a distinct entry point into the larger social history of the brutal and bloody conflict. Using identified tintypes and *cartes de visite* of women on both sides of the war, many of them never before published, Coddington uncovers the personal histories of each intrepid individual. Following their postwar stories, he also explains how the bonds they formed continued long after the cessation of hostilities.