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# COURAGEOUS MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CIVIL WAR

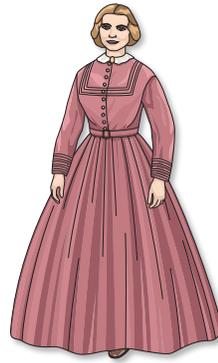


**A**braham Lincoln (1809–1865) was born in a small Kentucky cabin, and his life was filled with hard work and accomplishment. Books were in short supply at home, so he studied every book he could borrow. He worked as a farmer, rail-splitter, boatman, shopkeeper, postmaster, surveyor, and lawyer. He was the only president to receive a patent for an invention. Lincoln's sense of fairness,

shrewdness, and honesty made him one of the most successful lawyers in Illinois. He served in the Illinois legislature and later was elected to one term in the U.S. House of Representatives. As the 16th president of the United States, he helped preserve the Union during the American Civil War and brought about the emancipation of the slaves. His Gettysburg Address is one of the most significant speeches in American history. President Lincoln was assassinated six days after General Robert E. Lee and his Confederate army surrendered to the Union army at Appomattox, Virginia.

**C**lara Barton (1821–1912) is one of the most recognized pioneers and humanitarians in American history. She was a teacher during a time when most teachers were men and was later one of the first women to work for the U.S. government.

Moved by seeing the first troops return from battle while she was a clerk at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C., in 1861, she was determined to help soldiers in need. During the war, she risked her life to bring supplies and relief to the soldiers in the field. She felt that she was most helpful on the battlefields, where the suffering was the greatest.



She became skilled at collecting, organizing, and distributing supplies for the needy army through hospitals and on the field of battle. While visiting Europe, she volunteered with the International Red Cross in the war zone during the Franco-Prussian War. In 1881, she founded the American Red Cross and led it for 23 years.



**T**he Confederate Army, created by an act of the Provisional Confederate Congress in 1861, consisted of several armies that represented the Southern slaveholding states. Most soldiers served as volunteers and were organized by military specialty into infantry, cavalry, and artillery. They hoped to aid the Confederacy in establishing independence from the United States. The army was initially led by Confederate President Jefferson Davis and lacked an overall military commander. Because of insufficient coordination among the Southern armies, the organization and movement of supplies and resources were difficult



to manage. The railroads were deficient, and various Southern state governments did not support the war effort with adequate numbers of troops or financial aid. The Confederate armies began to surrender in April 1865, and the Confederacy's government was dissolved in May 1865.

**F**rederick Douglass (1818–1895) was a writer, orator, and statesman who escaped from slavery and became a leader of the abolitionist movement. Living through the hardship of family separations motivated Douglass to receive an education in order to escape the life of a slave. Around the age of twenty, dressed in a sailor's uniform given to him by his future wife, he fled by train to the home of an abolitionist.



His career in public speaking began at the time he became a lecturer for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. He traveled to Ireland and Britain giving lectures for several years. Douglass published his own periodical, the *North Star*, and produced several abolitionist newspapers used to influence public opinion in the North to fight against slavery. He joined the efforts of Susan B. Anthony and others to demand women's right to vote. Although he criticized the Mexican War and those who favored it, he was a strong defender of the Union cause in the Civil War.

