

## Life of Clara Barton

### I. Early life, 1821 - 1836

A. Born Oxford, Massachusetts, on Christmas Day, 1821

B. Family greatly influenced later life

1. Four older brothers & sisters
  - a) Taught her to read and do math at three years of age
  - b) Taught her to ride a horse as well
2. Father, an army captain under General "Mad Anthony" Wayne
  - a) Taught her about military rank
  - b) Explained meaning of infantry, cavalry, and artillery
  - c) Played war games with her
  - d) Gave her lifelong concern for welfare of others
3. Clara Barton's mother
  - a) Taught her how to cook
  - b) Taught her to care for sick and injured

### II. Period between 1836 and 1862

A. Became teacher at fifteen

1. Very successful
2. Taught eighteen years
3. Left teaching because of ill health

B. Became government clerk in Washington (1854)

1. First woman employed by Congress to do man's work
2. Made many friends among Congressmen
3. Listened to Congressional debates
  - a) Became best-informed woman in country
  - b) Learned how to present arguments and make speeches

### **III. During Civil War, 1862 – 1865**

- A. Nursed wounded in Washington hospitals**
  - 1. Learned of need for nurses on battlefields
  - 2. Soldiers begged help in speeding up medical supply wagon
- B. Given permission to go to front with Army of Potomac in 1862**
  - 1. Provided food, medical supplies, and cared for wounded
  - 2. Organized and directed supply trains
  - 3. Served in many battles under fire
    - a) Second Battle of Bull Run
    - b) Antietam
    - c) Fredericksburg

### **IV. After Civil War in 1865 to 1912**

- A. Organized Bureau of Records as help in locating missing in action**
- B. Had graves of over 12,000 soldiers identified and marked**
- C. Toured Europe**
  - 1. Led program to give food and supplies in Franco-Prussian War
  - 2. Learned about Red Cross founded in Switzerland
    - a) Began with twelve nations signing Geneva Treaty in 1864
    - b) Purpose to help care for wounded during war
- D. Returned to United States 1873 to urge U.S. to join Red Cross**
  - 1. Worked nine years promoting idea
  - 2. 1882 President Arthur signed Geneva Treaty
  - 3. Appointed Clara Barton president of American Red Cross
- E. Died April 12, 1912**