



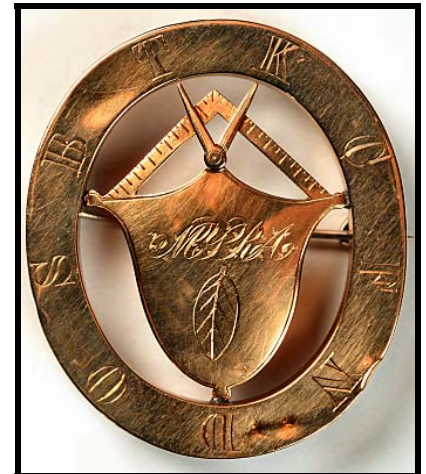
Clara Barton A Lifetime of Service

You must never so much as think whether you like it or not, whether it is bearable or not; you must never think of anything except the need, and how to meet it.



During Miss Barton's long lifetime of service, she was honored by powerful leaders of world nations, lone survivors of American disasters, the rich and the poor. The world's admiration of Clara Barton is strikingly evident in the collection of medals and jewels that are preserved as part of the Clara Barton collection at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The medals collection consists of 35 containers and is represented here in cooperation with the Library of Congress and with grateful appreciation to Barbara Bair, Historian, Manuscript Division and Bruce Douglas, Photographer, Clara Barton National Historic Site, Volunteer in Parks Program.

At the onset of the Civil War, Miss Barton was living in Washington, D.C. She began her relief and supply work by helping the soldiers quartered in the Capital City's camps, forts and hospitals. She had stated, *"What could I do but go with them, or work for them and my country? The patriot blood of my father was warm in my veins."* During the winter of 1861-1862, Miss Barton's father became gravely ill. She returned to Massachusetts and stayed by his side. They talked of the war and of her work with the soldiers in Washington. She wanted to provide for the wounded on the battlefields, but as a woman, she was afraid. Her father alleviated her fears and she later confided, *"As a patriot he bade me serve my country with all I had, even my life if need be; as the daughter of an accepted Mason, he bade me seek and comfort the afflicted everywhere, and as a Christian he charged me to honor God and love mankind."*



Stephen Barton presented his daughter his gold Masonic emblem, asserting that she was to wear it. After his death, Miss Barton returned to Washington, D.C. and pursued a new direction for her relief work. She obtained travel passes and headed for the battlefields. Emboldened by her father's sentiments, she faced her relief efforts with a new courage. Clara Barton wore her father's Masonic pin throughout the Civil War and later recalled, *"My father gave it to me when I started to the front, and I have no doubt that it protected me on many an occasion."*

During the Civil War, Miss Barton worked as an independent civilian. She had not yet founded the American Red Cross nor was she aware of the International Red Cross. Many years later, Miss Barton would be honored by veterans' organizations and accorded honorary memberships in Civil War remembrance organizations.



In 1869, on the advice of her doctor, Miss Barton traveled to Europe for a much needed rest. While visiting Geneva, Switzerland, Miss Barton learned of the International Red Cross, a newly formed war relief organization. The International Red Cross was organized during conferences held in 1863 and established in 1864. Twelve nations originally ratified the Treaty of Geneva. Miss Barton was amazed to learn that the United States government had rejected the idea of the war relief organization and had not joined, even while she toiled as a private citizen to supply the needs of the wounded on the American battlefields during the Civil War.

When the Franco-Prussian War began in 1870, Miss Barton worked under the sponsorship of the International Red Cross and the German Red Cross. During this service, Clara Barton befriended Louise, the Grand Duchess of Baden (Germany). Grand Duchess Louise was the daughter of Kaiser Wilhelm I and the Empress Augusta. She was a noted philanthropist and was credited with founding the German Red Cross. She advocated women working in disaster relief and supported the establishment of nursing schools. This friendship was a lifelong influence on Miss Barton.



The Grand Duchess gave Miss Barton her first Red Cross pin, issued her a railroad pass and sent her to Strasbourg. Miss Barton wore this pin throughout her second war relief experience, the Franco-Prussian War.



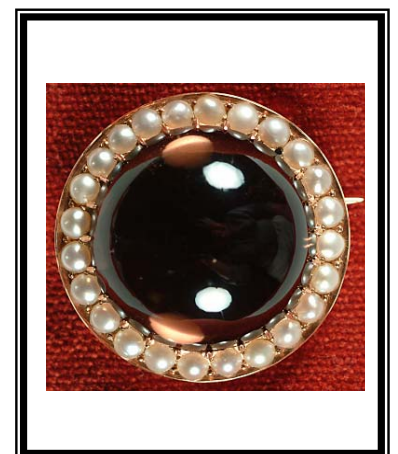
This was a remarkably important period of Miss Barton's life because the knowledge she gained here was vastly different from her Civil War experience. During the Civil War, Miss Barton concentrated on the relief of wounded **soldiers** on battlefields. This caused her to follow the U.S. Army, work in temporary areas and move on. Occasionally, for rest or to resupply, she returned to Washington, D.C., where the city's buildings and supply centers were untouched by battle conditions. Miss Barton's position with the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War had her working mostly with the **victims** of war; women, children, the elderly or sick, left behind in cities where the fighting had destroyed homes, factories, stores and nearly everything that offered a normal lifestyle. In the foreign surroundings of Strasbourg, Paris, Bescançon and Belfort, Miss Barton labored to restore a sense of community, survival and recovery. She worked among wretched, starving people with whom she was not even able to speak to without the assistance of a translator.

After her first inspection of the burned and wrecked city of Strasbourg, she realized more than six thousand people were homeless and many others were ill from starvation, typhoid fever or smallpox. The city was under siege for nearly two months before it fell to the German Army. Miss Barton stated, *"I came suddenly into the midst of such an accumulation of woe - want & misery that there was not a moments [sic] time for anything besides attempting to relieve it."*

Miss Barton spent several days distributing soup to survivors in Strasbourg. As she worked, she became aware that a different approach was needed if these people were to recover from their circumstances. She developed a plan to restore work and employment in the city; a plan that would begin the recovery process for the local economy as well. She explained to her friend, Grand Duchess Louise, that constantly handing out food would, *"make of them permanent beggars and vagrants, thus doing for their morale all that the bombardment had done for their physical condition."* Miss Barton organized the city's women and established sewing workrooms. So successful were the workrooms that, within six months, women were sewing nearly every type of clothing and receiving pay for their work. Clothing supplies for the residents of the city were met. The Strasbourg seamstresses supplied the clothing needs of the neighboring farming communities and the neighboring farming communities supplied the food needs of the city.

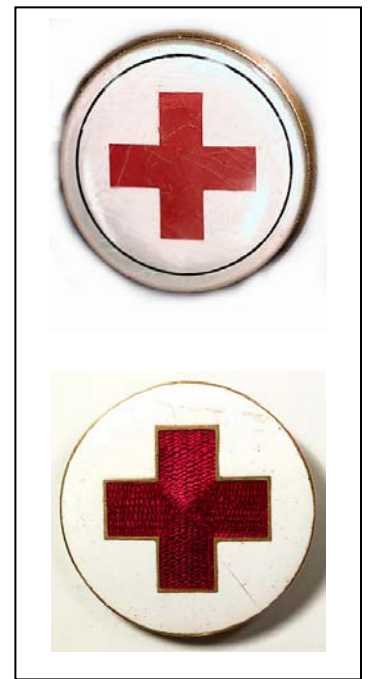
Miss Barton's leadership and accomplishments greatly elevated her position in the community. When she began her relief work, she had been looked upon as a foreigner and was treated with distrust. When she left Strasbourg, at the end of her efforts, the residents honored her with a great party and festivities. She was greeted and cheered by every attending guest. Miss Barton described the event stating, *"they did talk, and laugh and cry for joy - and such a time some hundreds of poor women almost beggars I think never had - It was worth going a mile to see."*

Miss Barton's work with the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War contributed to her international legacy. Kaiser Wilhelm I and the Empress Augusta recognized Miss Barton's accomplishments and honored her contributions to the war relief efforts with several awards. The Grand Duke and Duchess of Baden also accorded Miss Barton official recognition and presented her with awards and gifts. The amethyst pansy brooch and smoky topaz brooch presented to Miss Barton by her dear friend, the Grand Duchess Louise, became her most cherished possessions.

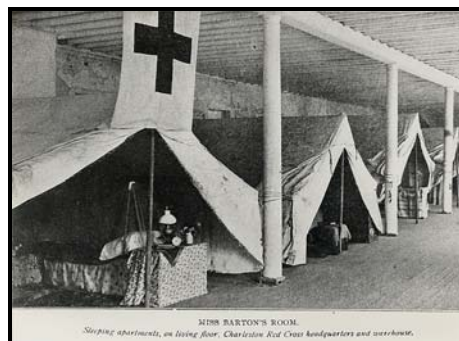


When twelve nations originally signed the Treaty of Geneva in 1864, establishing the International Red Cross, the main focus was the relief of the sufferers of war or the victims of warfare. Miss Barton's work during the Franco-Prussian War was unique in its methodology but successful in its application. She brought relief to the innocent victims of war in a manner that not only encouraged survival of individuals but also stimulated the recovery and growth of the community as a whole. This would later become the basic philosophy behind the work of the American Red Cross. But first America needed a Red Cross society and Miss Barton needed to persuade the United States government to accept and ratify the Treaty of Geneva.

As Miss Barton's insight brought a new approach to the relief efforts in Strasbourg, so, too, she brought a new approach to the concept of a Red Cross Society for America. She stated, *"War, although the most tragic, is not the only evil that assails humanity...The American Society of the Red Cross asked to have included in its charter the privilege of rendering such aid as it could in great calamities, as fires, floods, cyclones, famines and pestilence."* Clara Barton established the American Red Cross in 1881 and expanded the mission to include peacetime and natural disaster relief. The United States Congress ratified the Treaty of Geneva in 1882.



During the twenty-three years that Miss Barton presided over the American Red Cross, the organization was responsible for over eighteen peacetime relief efforts as well as relief work during the Spanish - American War. Local chapters of the American Red Cross were established from New York to New Orleans. American Red Cross assistance had reached the burnt out remnants of the Michigan wilderness settlements to the impoverished and famine stricken sufferers of the Russian Empire. Miss Barton organized relief efforts amid the mud and muck of the Johnstown (Pennsylvania) Flood, the barren wreckage of the hurricane stricken regions of the Sea Islands, South Carolina and the strange and unfamiliar surrounding of Constantinople, Turkey.





The American Red Cross relief work conducted in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, following the 1889 flood was the single largest field of disaster that the young organization had faced in its eight years of service. More than two thousand people were killed by the disaster and thousands were left homeless. Miss Barton wrote of her experience,

“I cannot lose the memory of that first walk on the first day. The wading in mud, the climbing over broken engines, cars, heaps of iron rollers, broken timbers, wrecks of houses, bent railway tracks, tangles with piles of iron wire, bands of workmen, squads of military - the getting around bodies of dead animals, and often people being borne away. The smouldering fires, and drizzling rain...”

“For five weary months it was our portion to live amid these scenes of destruction, desolation, poverty, want and woe; sometimes in tents, sometimes without; in rain and mud, and a lack of the commonest comforts, until we could build houses to shelter ourselves and those around us.”



For five months, Miss Barton and her little team of fifty Red Cross workers distributed supplies, provided shelters, built houses, gave out clothing, organized work teams and created work committees. All this ensured that the recovery efforts would continue after the Red Cross left the field of service. The American Red Cross had provided for the needs of twenty-five thousand people.

Out of gratitude, Miss Barton was presented a gold and platinum locket bearing diamonds and a sapphire. On the reverse it stated, *“To Our Friend in Need Miss Clara Barton from the Ladies of Johnstown Oct 24 1889.”*

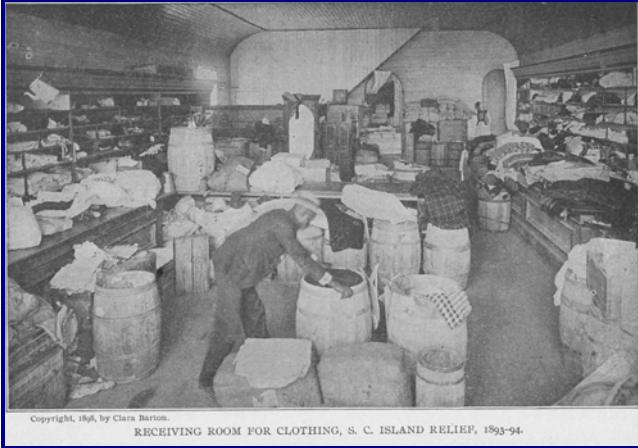


Following the Johnstown Flood relief effort, the American Red Cross was busy with fires in Wisconsin, drought in South Dakota, storms and flooding across Kentucky, Texas and Iowa. Food and medical supplies were distributed throughout famine stricken regions of the Russian Empire in 1892 and the following year, a severe hurricane devastated the coastal farming communities of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

The devastation caused by the 1893 hurricane and storm surge surpassed that which the American Red Cross had faced as a result of the Johnstown Flood. It was estimated that over 5,000 people were killed; thousands of acres of unharvested crops were ruined, entire farms washed over, and more than 30,000 survivors needed relief. Miss Barton reported, *“...all vegetable growth destroyed, all animals, even to fowls, swept away, all fresh water turned to salt - not even a sweet well remaining - not one little house in five hundred left upright...”*

During ten months of work, thousands of houses were built or repaired; fresh water wells were cleaned; hundreds of miles of drainage ditches dug; roads and bridges rebuilt; free schools established; stray farm animals returned to farmers; nets or assistance repairing boats given to fishermen; seeds for "sea island cotton" (the main cash crop) were obtained and distributed and *“nearly five tons of garden seeds”* distributed. Vegetable gardens soon began *“producing all varieties of vegetables.”*

The work accomplished with the victims of the Sea Islands Hurricane of 1893 went beyond survival and basic recovery efforts. The American Red Cross was a leader in community education and economic reform. Free schools were established for the education of the children, but American Red Cross relief workers also provided instruction in proper business methods and financial management for the farmers and fishermen of the region. Appropriate farming technology: the use of drainage ditches; the importance of fencing out livestock; recommendations of planting early crops and the use of hot beds and fertilizers were demonstrated and stressed.



Copyright, 1895, by Clara Barton.
RECEIVING ROOM FOR CLOTHING, S. C. ISLAND RELIEF, 1893-94.

Just as Miss Barton had organized sewing workrooms in Strasbourg, the women of the Sea Islands were organized into "sewing circles." In a few months, the island residents were so well clothed, that over 20,000 garments were shipped to stricken residents on the mainland.

Miss Barton ensured that women were paid for their work *"in the same manner and at the same rate as men."* This was unusual for the times but not for the manner in which Miss Barton organized her relief efforts. Miss Barton supplied aid to all in need and she treated all survivors with dignity and equanimity.

After the Civil War, the Sea Islands had been settled predominately by former slaves and free African-Americans. Many of these individuals were skilled in planting and raising cotton, so as they settled into their new way of life, they established cotton farms. Miss Barton recognized the importance of the "sea island cotton" as a cash crop. Therefore, she arranged for seed supplies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in order to replace that which had been destroyed by the storm. She also emphasized the importance of early crops that would meet both the food and the economic needs of the community.

Miss Barton acquired 1,000 bushels of white potatoes for use as seed potatoes. This idea met with resistance, because there was still an immediate need for food and these potatoes were worth five dollars per barrel. Miss Barton arranged for the local women to work by collecting the potato eyes and sprouts. These were distributed for planting. The result was a fine early crop that provided an abundant food supply and started the process of community self-sufficiency. Over 2,200 bushels of corn were also distributed for planting and they, too, yielded excellent crops. Miss Barton stressed the importance of planting a variety of vegetable crops and fruit trees. She wrote,



Copyright, 1895, by Clara Barton.
WOMEN CUTTING POTATOES FOR PLANTING—SEA ISLAND RELIEF, S. C., FEBRUARY, 1894.

"A good garden and a variety of crops are as necessary for the prosperity of a farmer as they are for his health. Every Sea Islander should plant now a few fig cuttings and a few grape cuttings, and such fruit trees as he may be able to get; peaches, pears, pecans. In a few years these plantings (if protected from the goats, pigs and cattle) will give plentiful fruit through the 'dry season' (particularly the fig), and the grapes and other fruit will be a luxury and profit in their season, besides keeping the people in health."



Miss Barton was proud of the success of the Sea Islands relief work. She stated, *"It is probable that there are few instances on record where a movement toward relief of such magnitude, commenced under circumstances so new, so unexpected, so unprepared and so adverse, was ever carried on for such a length of time and closed with results so entirely satisfactory to both those served and those serving, as this disaster..."* The American Red Cross provided immediate survival needs and educated the survivors affording complete community recovery.

So successful were American Red Cross efforts during disaster relief that the International Red Cross modified the original mission of the organization from providing exclusively war relief to include peacetime and disaster assistance. This change occurred in 1884. The International Red Cross honored Miss Barton's accomplishments and the American Red Cross by adding the "American Amendment" to the Treaty of Geneva. Three times during Miss Barton's American Red Cross presidency, she served as the leader for international peacetime relief efforts.

During the 1892 Russian famine relief, Miss Barton remained in America, where she coordinated donations and shipping logistics. The American Red Cross was not the only charitable organization responding to the desperate need of the Russian people, but the organization's reputation and Miss Barton's appeal yielded considerable support. American railroads shipped grain from Midwest farms to the port in New York free of charge. Telegraph companies provided free wire service. Donations of \$12,500 provided funds to hire a ship. Supplies totaling 117,000 bushels of shelled corn, 11,033 bags of flour and meal and additional amounts of wheat, rye, bacon, canned goods and medicine were shipped to Russia. Dr. Julian B. Hubbell, American Red Cross Chief Field Agent, was dispatched and supervised the fieldwork. Red Cross workers delivered supplies throughout the stricken areas by rail, caravans and river transport. American Red Cross aid reached famine affected regions spanning 3,000 miles throughout the Russian Empire.



Ten years later, in 1902, Miss Barton traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, as a representative of the American Red Cross at the Seventh International Conference of the Red Cross. At the conference, Miss Barton was officially praised and decorated. Because of her efforts during the Russian famine, Czar Nicholas II awarded her the Silver Cross of Imperial Russia.



Miss Barton's involvement in the Russian Famine arose from a clamor by the American people to relieve the suffering of the Russian people. During the Russian Famine relief work, American aid had been welcomed and the American Red Cross had worked throughout the Russian Empire in cooperation with the Russian Red Cross. Miss Barton's second international peacetime relief effort also arose from the outcry of the American people, but she faced a much greater challenge. In 1896, Clara Barton and a small group of American Red Cross workers arrived in Constantinople [Istanbul], Turkey and she confronted the ministers of a government that was distrustful of foreign intervention and had refused the assistance of the Red Cross.



Miss Barton stated, *"The necessity for immediate action was urged; human beings were starving and could not be reached, hundreds of towns and villages had not been heard from since the fire and sword went over them, and no one else was so well prepared for the work of field relief, it was said, as ourselves. It was urged that we had a trained force of field workers, and as Turkey was one of the signatory powers to the Red Cross Treaty of Geneva, having given its adherence as long ago as July, 1865, it must consequently be familiar with its methods and humanitarian ideas."* She further stated, *"By the obligations of the Geneva Treaty, all national controversies, racial distinctions, and differences in creed must be held in abeyance and only the needs of humanity considered. In this spirit alone can the Red Cross meet its obligations as the representative of the nations and governments of the world acting under it."*

The relief effort could not commence unless Miss Barton could secure permission from the rulers of the Ottoman Empire for American Red Cross workers to travel throughout the stricken regions. She stated that her *“first step was to procure an introduction to the government which had in one sense refused”* her organization's admittance to the country. Miss Barton met with the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tewfik Pasha. She reported that he said, *“We know you, Miss Barton; have long known you and your work. We would like to hear your plans for relief and what you desire.”*

Miss Barton outlined the plans for the American Red Cross assistance stating,

“that our object would be to use the funds ourselves among the people needing them wherever they were found, in helping them to resume their former positions and avocations, thus relieving them from continued distress, the State from the burden of providing for them, and other nations and people from a torrent of sympathy which was both hard to endure and unwholesome in its effects; that I had brought skilled agents, practical and experienced farmers whose first efforts would be to get the people back to their deserted fields and provide them with farming implements and material wherewith to put in summer crops and thus enable them to feed themselves. These would embrace plows, hoes, spades, seed-corn, wheat, and later, sickles, scythes, etc., for harvesting, with which to save the miles of autumn grain which we had heard of as growing on the great plains already in the ground before the trouble; also to provide for them such cattle and other animals as it would be possible to purchase or to get back; that if some such thing were not done before another winter, unless we had been greatly misinformed, the suffering there would shock the entire civilized world.”

As the interview was concluding, she stated, *“‘We have’, I added ‘brought only ourselves, no correspondent has accompanied us, and we shall have none, and shall not go home to write a book on Turkey. We are not here for that. Nothing shall be done in any concealed manner.*

All dispatches which we send will go openly through your own telegraph, and I should be glad if all that we shall write could be seen by your government.



I cannot, of course, say what its character will be, but can vouch for its truth, fairness and integrity, and for the conduct of every leading man who shall be sent.

I shall never counsel nor permit a sly or underhand action with your government, and you will pardon me, Pasha, if I say that I shall expect the same treatment in return -

such as I give I shall expect to receive.’



Almost without a breath he replied – ‘And you shall have it. We honor your position and your wishes will be respected. Such aid and protection as we are able to, we shall render.’

I then asked if it were necessary for me to see other officials. ‘No,’ he replied, ‘I speak for my government,’ and with cordial good wishes, our interview closed.”

The interview with the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs concluded and the Turkish-Armenian Relief Effort proposed by the American Red Cross was sanctioned. The strength of character, personal integrity and reputation of one American woman, Clara Barton, succeeded in opening the gates of the Ottoman Empire, previously closed to the world of humanitarian assistance. Miss Barton had accomplished what even the International Red Cross had been unable to negotiate.

This did not guarantee that the invitation would remain open. Miss Barton's role during the Turkish-Armenian Relief Effort was one of great diplomacy. Miss Barton found that her constant presence in Constantinople was required. Regional officials as well as individuals interested in the actions of the American Red Cross continuously called upon her for reports and updates. It was stated that Miss Barton, *“has shown a rare faculty in getting on well with everybody.”* Considering her position as a foreigner, an American woman, responsible for organizing the safe passage of her field workers and coordinating with the authorities of the Turkish Army, Kurdish irregulars, Armenian villagers, Christians and Muslims, this was a remarkable feat.

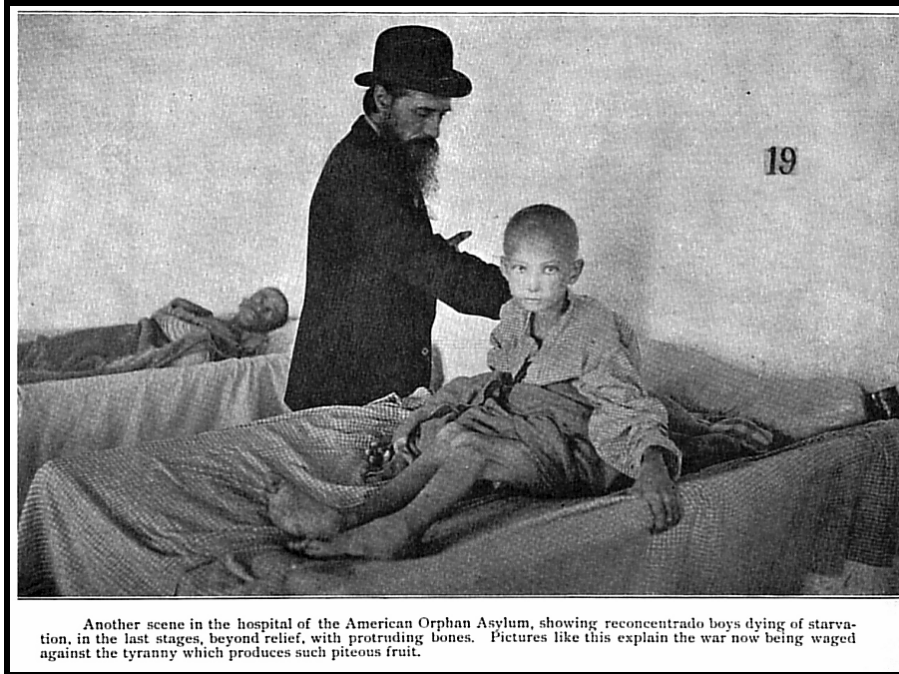
Miss Barton also needed to appease the sentiments of American donors who expressed a desire that the collected funds benefit only the suffering Armenians. This was not in the spirit of Red Cross work and Miss Barton struck a delicate balance between using such funds for indiscriminate assistance and supplying the needs of sufferers throughout the region regardless of nationality.



During four months of field relief, the American Red Cross agents traveled from Constantinople inland to Alexandretta, Killis, Aintab, Marash, Zeitoun, Birejik, Oorfa, Diarbekir, Farkin, Harpoot, Palou, Malatia, Arabkir, Egin, Sivas, Tokat, Samsoun and back to Constantinople. Regardless of the strange surrounding, unfamiliarity with the language and customs; despite the causes of destruction and the political differences driving the civil unrest and uprisings, the mission of the American Red Cross remained constant.

Miss Barton's adherence to impartiality, her *“careful and constant oversight and direction”* impressing upon her field agents the need for *“honesty, integrity and singleness of purpose”* resulted in a remarkably successful relief effort. Her field agents worked in hostile territories during uncertain times and returned safely. They had responded to the conditions created by famine and epidemics and relieved the suffering that had been caused by decades of political and religious strife. Miss Barton was honored by her own American Red Cross field agents and American donors organized for the Armenian relief cause as well as both the Ottoman Empire's Sultan Abdul Hamed and His Royal Highness, Guy de Lusignan, Prince of Jerusalem, Cyprus and Armenia.

In 1898, Clara Barton led an American Red Cross expedition to Cuba. Cuba was struggling for independence from Spain. In order to suppress the rebellion, Cuban civilians, especially women, children and the elderly, were rounded up and held in camps. The lack of proper sanitation, medical supplies and food combined with great overcrowding caused widespread disease, starvation and death. The news of the suffering “reconcentrados” created public sympathy and an outcry for action.



Another scene in the hospital of the American Orphan Asylum, showing reconcentrado boys dying of starvation, in the last stages, beyond relief, with protruding bones. Pictures like this explain the war now being waged against the tyranny which produces such piteous fruit.

On February 9, 1898, Clara Barton and the American Red Cross arrived in Havana, Cuba. Miss Barton stated that the American Red Cross was there “to do unobtrusively the little that could be done for the lessening of the woes of a small island of people.” She emphasized that the citizens of Cuba had been devastated by “adverse circumstances, racial differences, the inevitable results of a struggle for freedom, the fate of war, and the terrible features of a system of subjugation.”

Miss Barton immediately organized the relief work. Medical supplies, food and clothing were distributed. Warehouses were inspected, ships laden with supplies unloaded, distribution centers opened, hospitals supplied, orphanages established and living quarters for relief workers were secured.



Copyright, 1898, by The Christian Herald.
“I AM WITH THE WOUNDED.”—Clara Barton's cable message from Havana.

On February 15, 1898, the American Battleship, the *U.S.S. Maine*, exploded while anchored at the harbor in Havana, Cuba. The explosion killed 266 of the 354 crew members. “I am with the wounded,” read the cable Clara Barton sent to President William McKinley.

While the explosion of the *U.S.S. Maine* was under investigation, President McKinley called for the immediate withdraw from Cuba of all American citizens. Miss Barton's humanitarian efforts were suspended. The exact cause of the explosion remains a mystery but, in 1898, the U.S. Navy Board of Inquiry blamed the explosion on a Spanish mine. This incident provided the catalyst for America to declare war against Spain and enter into the conflict for Cuba's independence.

Although the American Red Cross was recalled from Cuba, Miss Barton did not remain idle. She busied herself making preparations to return and, with the possibility of America's involvement in warfare, she prepared her organization for war relief. When, on April 25, 1898, the U.S. Congress declared war against Spain, Clara Barton and the American Red Cross were ready.

Miss Barton set sail aboard the steamship the *State of Texas*, which was laden with relief supplies and food. When she arrived in Florida, she found the American Red Cross passage to Cuba was barred by the blockade imposed by the United States Navy. Miss Barton addressed her purpose to Admiral Sampson writing,

"S. S. 'STATE OF TEXAS,' *May 2, 1898*

ADMIRAL WILLIAM T. SAMPSON, U.S.N.,

Commanding fleet before Havana:

ADMIRAL: but for the introduction kindly proffered by our mutual acquaintance, Captain Harrington, I should scarcely presume to address you. He will have made known to you the subject which I desire to bring to your gracious consideration.

Papers forwarded by direction of our government will have shown the charge entrusted to me, viz: To get food to the starving people of Cuba. I have with me a cargo of fourteen hundred tons, under the flag of the Red Cross, the one international emblem of neutrality and humanity known to civilization. Spain knows and regards it.

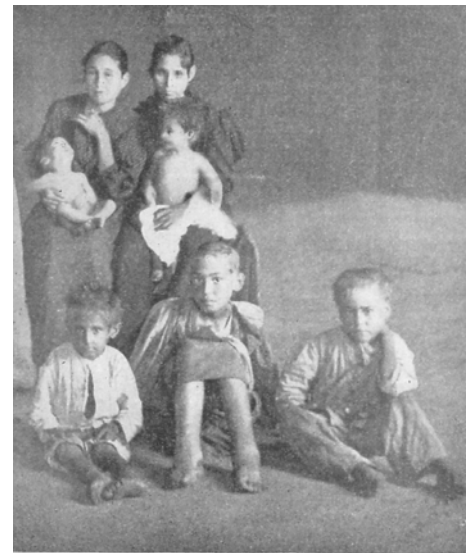
Fourteen months ago, the entire Spanish Government at Madrid cabled me permission to take to, and distribute food to the suffering people in Cuba. This official permission was broadly published; if read by our people, no response was made, no action taken until two months ago, when under the humane and gracious call of our honored President, I did go, and distributed food unmolested anywhere on the island, until arrangements were made by our government for all American Citizens to leave Cuba.

Persons must now be dying there by the hundreds if not thousands daily, for the want of the food we are shutting out. Will not the world hold us accountable? Will history write us blameless? Will it not be said of us that we completed the scheme of extermination commenced by Weyler? I Fear the mutterings are already in the air.

Fortunately, I know the Spanish authorities in Cuba, Captain-General Blanco and his assistants. We parted with perfect friendliness. They do not regard me as an American merely, but as the national representative of an international treaty to which themselves are signatory and under which they act. I believe they would receive and confer with me, if such a thing were made possible.

I hold it good statesmanship to at least divide the responsibility. I am told that some days must elapse before our troops can be in position to reach and feed this starving people. Our food and our force are here, ready to commence at once.

With assurances of highest regard, I am, Admiral,
Very respectfully yours,
Clara Barton."



Copyright, 1898, by Clara Barton.
STARVING IN THE PLAZA.

She received the following reply:

"U.S. FLAGSHIP 'NEW YORK,' FIRST RATE.
KEY WEST, FLORIDA, *May 2, 1898*

MISS CLARA BARTON,

President, American National Red Cross, Key West, Fla.:

DEAR MADAM: I have received, through the senior naval officer present, a copy of a letter from the State Department to the Secretary of the Navy, a copy of a letter of the Secretary of the Navy to the commander-in-chief of the naval force on this station, and also a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the commandant of the naval station at Key West.

2. From these communications it appears that the destination of the steamship 'State of Texas,' loaded with supplies for the starving reconcentrados in Cuba, is left, in a measure, to my judgment.
3. At present I am acting under instructions from the Navy Department to blockade the coast of Cuba for the purpose of preventing, among other things, any food supply from reaching the Spanish forces in Cuba. Under these circumstances it seems to me unwise to let a ship-load of such supplies be sent to the reconcentrados, for, in my opinion, they would be distributed to the Spanish Army. Until some point be occupied in Cuba by our forces, from which such distribution may be made to those for whom the supplies are intended, I am unwilling that they should be landed on Cuban soil.

Yours, very respectfully,

W.T. SAMPSON,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy,

*Commander-in-Chief U.S. Naval Force,
North Atlantic Station."*

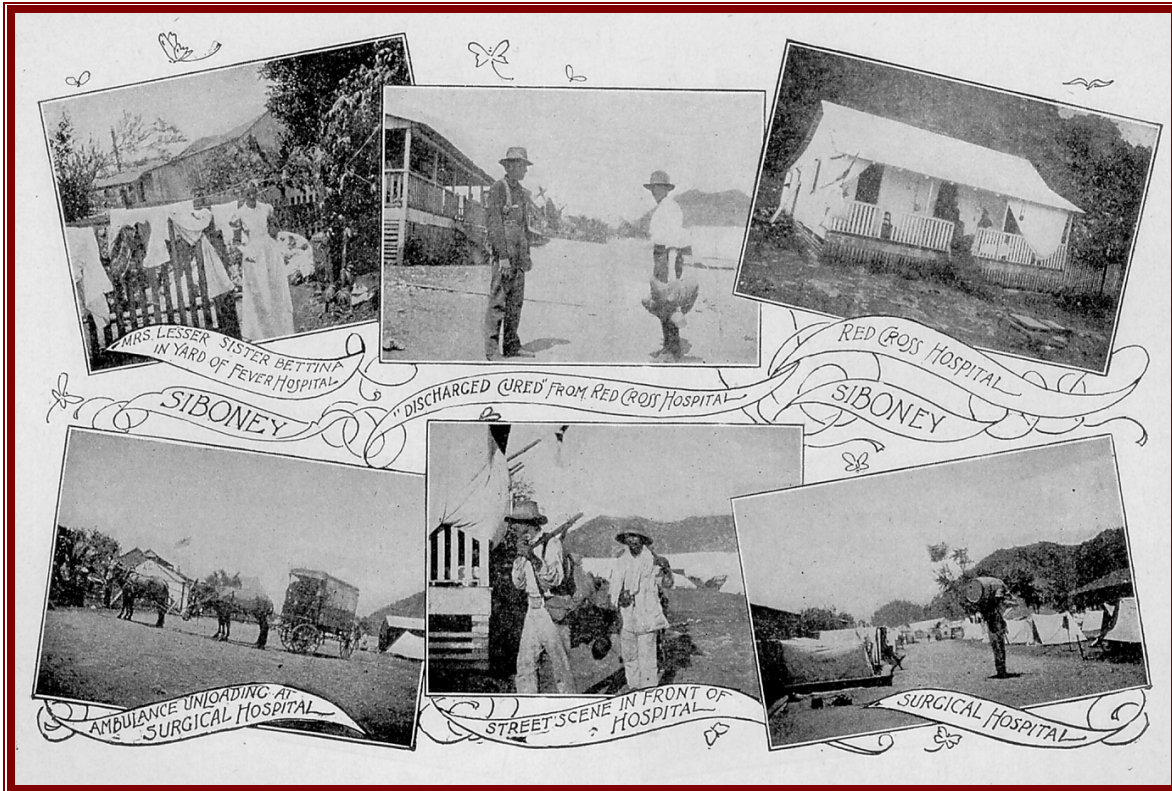
Miss Barton forwarded her appeal directly to Washington, D.C., and, after a few days, received a reply from her nephew, Stephen E. Barton, stating, "*Submitted you message to President and cabinet, and it was read with moistened eyes. Considered serious and pathetic. Admiral Sampson's views regarded as wisest at present. Hope to land you soon.*"

In the months that followed, communications between the American Red Cross, the U.S. Department of State, and the War Department continued to be exchanged. Miss Barton continued to be denied passage for her intended mission. She had also requested permission to follow the U.S. Navy to the front but this request went unanswered. Miss Barton, mindful of the Treaty of Geneva and the original purpose of the Red Cross, advanced towards Cuba and proceeded with war relief. Following the battle at Siboney, she noted in her diary, "*It is the Rough Riders we go to and the relief may be also rough; but it will be ready.*"

Miss Barton found that the War Department was no better supplied nor organized when dealing with the needs of the wounded immediately following a battle than it had been during the Civil War. There was great confusion and lack of organized support for the increasing number of prisoners of war held in U.S. custody. The American Red Cross was well supplied and staffed but Miss Barton found her workers constantly hindered by the American military authorities and, at times, prevented from carrying out the mission of the Red Cross in the field of war relief. She lamented, "*I felt that it was again the same old story and wondered what gain there had been in the last thirty years.*"

She faced the same doubts and discrimination from American military authorities during the Spanish-American War that she had overcome during the Civil War. U.S. Surgeon General Sternberg was opposed to the presence of women during warfare and had initially refused to admit female nurses on the field. Other American commanders shared this opinion. Although Miss Barton and her immediate staff were generally successful in working directly with the wounded, other American Red Cross vessels with female nurses aboard were often detained or prevented from working in areas controlled by the American forces. Miss Barton worked around this by directing the aid to where it was welcomed. If the American military doctors refused Red Cross assistance, she immediately met the needs of the wounded Spanish forces. The role of Red Cross during times of war was to provide neutral assistance and Miss Barton held true to the mission of the organization.

Miss Barton reported the conditions following the fighting at Siboney: *“The hospitals, both American and Cuban, are located on the shore just to the right of us, and have been visited by our men during the night. Some of their surgeons called on us; all seemed interested in the Red Cross, but none thought that a woman nurse would be in place in a soldier's hospital; indeed, very much out of place. I suggested that that decision was hard for me, for I had spent a great deal of time there myself. They appeared to understand that perfectly, or were so polite as not to criticize it, but there seemed to be a later line which could not be crossed. The Cubans, who had just come into camp, were less conventional and expressed a great desire for any assistance we could give them.”*



The war progressed; Miss Barton remained steadfast and determined to fulfill the mission of the Red Cross; relations with the American military authorities slowly improved. In July, Santiago surrendered and Miss Barton again addressed Admiral Sampson with an appeal to aid the civilians of the city. After a few *“anxious days”*, she received Lieutenant Capehart,

“who brought word from Admiral Sampson that if we would come alongside the ‘New York,’ he would put a pilot on board. This was done and we moved on through waters we had never traversed - past Morro Castle, long, low, silent and grim - past Spanish wrecks on the right - past the ‘Merrimac’ in the channel, which Hobson had left. We began to realize that we were alone, of all the ships about the harbor there were none with us. The stillness of the Sabbath was over all. The gulls sailed and flapped and dipped about us. The lowering summer sun shot long golden rays athwart the green hills on either side, and tinged the waters calm and still. The silence grew oppressive as we glided along with scarce a ripple...

Leaning on the rail half lost in reverie over the strange quiet beauty of the scene, the thought suddenly burst upon me: Are we really going into Santiago - and alone? Are we not to be run out and wait aside and salute with dipping colors while the great battleships come up with music and banners and lead the way? As far as the eye could reach no ship was in sight. Was this to remain so? Could it be possible that the commander who had captured a city declined to be the first to enter - that he would hold back his flagship and himself and send forward and first a cargo of food on a plain ship, under direction of a woman? Did our commands, military or naval, hold men great enough of soul for such action?

It must be true - for the spires of Santiago rise before us...

The American Red Cross relief ship was the first to reach the citizens of Santiago. Later, Admiral Sampson observed the work of the American Red Cross and met with Miss Barton on shore. She asked what orders or directions he had for her and Admiral Sampson replied, *“You need no directions from me, but if any one troubles you let me know.”*

As the military efforts of the Spanish-American War were ending, the relief work with the civilians of Cuba resumed. During 1899, the American Red Cross traversed the island assisting with postwar recovery efforts. The organization was responsible for the establishment of numerous hospitals and orphanages. Miss Barton also was successful in organizing the establishment of a Red Cross Society in Cuba.



Miss Barton’s leadership during the Spanish-American War and the postwar efforts of the American Red Cross in Cuba met with praise from the Spanish government who presented Miss Barton with a medal. Several years later, she received a decoration from the Supreme Assembly of the National Society of the Red Cross of Cuba.



In President McKinley’s address to the United States Congress on December 6, 1898, he stated, *“In this connection it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial appreciation the timely and useful work of the American Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assemblage, and, later, under the able and experienced leadership of the president of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba. Working in conjunction with the governmental authorities and under their sanction and approval, and with the enthusiastic cooperation of many patriotic women and societies in the various States, the Red Cross has fully maintained its already high reputation for intense earnestness and ability to exercise the noble purposes of its international organization, thus justifying the confidence and support which it has received at the hands of the American people. To the members and officers and all who aided them in their philanthropic work, the sincere and lasting gratitude of the soldiers and the public is due and freely accorded.”*



In addition to the many awards that Miss Barton received for specific American Red Cross relief efforts, she also received recognition for her work in the field of humanitarian relief. She was honored by Queen Nathalie of Serbia, the Waffengenosen, a group of German-American soldiers from the Franco-Prussian War, the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Institution, the Red Cross of Belgium and the War Veterans and Sons Association of Brooklyn, New York.



After the Spanish-American War, Miss Barton was honored by newly formed veterans groups. She was named honorary president of **The National Society of the Spanish War**. Initially, she accepted the position, but resigned when she learned that African-American veterans would not be accepted into the society. Clara Barton's strong sense of equality is clearly stated in her resignation, *"today I have received a letter from a friend [Susan B. Anthony] quoting from The New York Tribune of a recent date, a statement of conditions of membership in your society, in the following words, 'Membership is open to all patriotic White Americans...' I beg to call your attention to the fact that the forgoing limitation was never brought to my attention until now. If you will reflect a moment you will see how utterly impossible it would be for me to be connected with any society that upholds the discrimination against people of color on account of their color."*

As a working woman of the 19th and early 20th centuries, Miss Barton experienced social prejudice and discrimination. As a young woman, she had once refused a teaching position unless she received equal pay. She stated, *"I may sometimes be willing to teach for nothing, but if paid at all, I shall never do a man's work for less than a man's pay."* She struggled for her own right to work for her country: first, as a clerk employed at the United States Patent Office; then, during her Civil War battlefield relief efforts and later as President of the American Red Cross - She had once stated, *"as for my being a woman, [you] will get used to that."*

Another issue that was important to Miss Barton was the right to vote, which, as a woman, she did not have. She crusaded for women's rights but took an important stance over the proposed 15th Amendment to the Constitution. As proposed, voting rights could not be denied on account of "race, colour, or national origin." There was a campaign to attach the right for women to vote onto the same Constitutional Amendment. This was very controversial. Miss Barton feared the Amendment would fail if both issues were attacked at once. She publicly stated, *"if the door be not wide enough to admit us all at once-and one must wait - then I am willing."* The 15th Amendment passed granting voting rights to African-American men.



Miss Barton continued to speak at rallies and conventions for women's rights. She was connected to several suffrage associations and was named an honorary member of several other women's organizations. Miss Barton also, for a brief period, held the unique position of Superintendent of the Massachusetts Reformatory Prison for Women. Massachusetts Governor General Benjamin Butler had personally selected her for this position stating that the prison needed a woman, *"of executive ability and kindheartedness, with an honest love of the work of reformation and care of her living fellow creatures."*



Miss Barton's life of service earned her the respect and devotion of individuals world wide. Her reputation of fairness and her sense of equality won her friends as varied as Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. When she attended International Red Cross conferences, she received standing ovations and she was treated like royalty. Her words of compassion, spoken at Grand Army of the Republic Encampments, brought tears to the most hardened of Civil War veterans. It was reported by one observer attending a reunion of Spanish-American War veterans at which both President Theodore Roosevelt and Miss Barton were guests, "*Everywhere she was recognized and the ovation to this little woman was greater than that given to the Chief executive.*"

Clara Barton established the American Red Cross in 1881 on the strength of her personal character and reputation. The public's support of early relief efforts was often given because of trust in Clara Barton's name and leadership. Exemplifying this sentiment, Governor Joseph Sayers of Texas wrote to Miss Barton during the Galveston Hurricane Relief Effort of 1900, "*Your presence amongst us at this trying time, even without the substantial aid which you have rendered, would be indeed a benediction, and it has served to inspire our people with energy, self-confidence and self-determination.*"

The post Spanish-American War period, however, ushered in a new direction for the administrative needs of the American Red Cross. Miss Barton was a hands-on administrator. She thrived on the field relief work of the organization and her management was most often directed from disaster sites. The Spanish-American War period brought to light the administrative problems of trying to direct a growing national relief organization from the cabin of a relief ship. While she was in Santiago, personally directing aid for sufferers there, she was unable to also manage the operations of the organization's numerous local chapters across the United States.

Miss Barton was aware that not everyone agreed with her methods. She stated, "*The paths of charity are over roadways of ashes; and he who would tread them must be prepared to meet opposition, misconstruction, jealousy and calumny. Let his work be that of angels, still it will not satisfy all.*"

Several of the newer members of the Red Cross Board of Control were not satisfied. Mabel Boardman emerged as the main opposition to Miss Barton. There was a growing faction that started a drive to oust Miss Barton as President. For several years, the American Red Cross was embroiled in a power struggle. The organization fractured. It separated into Barton supporters and Boardman supporters. Mabel Boardman launched personal attacks on Miss Barton's character and tried to discredit Clara Barton. Sophia Wells Royce Williams published an article in which she disapproved of the organization's leader stating,

*"The National Red Cross Association in the country has been Miss Clara Barton, and Miss Clara Barton has been the National Red Cross Society... What the United States ought to have is a **National** Red Cross Society... with leading men in our great cities... on its board, with delegates from the Philadelphia college of Physicians and Surgeons, and the New York Academy of Medicine... and the Army, Navy, and Marine Hospital Staff, on its board of surgical and medical control and with a constituency representing the entire country. Instead the country had Miss Clara Barton."*

Theodore Roosevelt, despite receiving American Red Cross supplies and assistance for the Rough Riders at least twice during the Spanish-American War, later wrote that he was, "*by no means favorably impressed by the type of work she did during the Spanish-American War.*" President Roosevelt, who served the American Red Cross as an Honorary Chairman of the Board of Advisors, sided with Mabel Boardman. In 1903, President Roosevelt wrote to Miss Barton requesting that he and his Cabinet officers be withdrawn from the Board of Advisors. Miss Barton replied, "*For twenty years this Red Cross work, so small at first – a mere spark has grown up under our hands until its welcome blaze lighted the footsteps of relief for an entire and direful contest of nations, and of which none better than your honored self know the hardships or the needs.*"

President Roosevelt withdrew his support of Miss Barton as President of the American Red Cross. This, combined with the growing publicity about the internal power dispute that threatened to erode public support of the organization caused, Miss Barton to tender her resignation as President of the American Red Cross. Miss Barton lamented, "*The government which I thought I loved, and loyally tried to serve, has shut every door in my face and stared at me insultingly through the windows.*"

On May 14, 1904, Clara Barton resigned as President of the American Red Cross after twenty-three years. In 1905, she organized The National First Aid Association of America and accepted the position of Honorary President.

In her Christmas Greeting for 1905, Miss Barton wrote, *“This announcement will not surprise you. You have never known me without work; while able, you never will.”*

The concept of The National First Aid Association of America was grounded on a failed attempt to establish a Department of First Aid program within the American Red Cross. Miss Barton explained that *“the work of the association will be along the same lines as those followed by the Red Cross Society, except that it will deal with smaller rather than the great calamities of life.”* She affirmed, *“It is a deplorable weakness of a great people, that they do not know how, in an emergency, to care for the injured.”* The idea was to teach emergency preparedness and first aid response to the masses.

“The first aid is something to which everyone should belong. Everyday in shops & mills there is some horrible accident, & if there is somebody on hand who knew just what to do & how to act, a great deal of good might be done.”



During the next five years, thousands of mill, factory and railroad workers attended First Aid Association lectures. Classes were conducted at YMCAs and public schools and training was provided for fire brigades.

Miss Barton summarized the organization’s accomplishments stating that, *“in more than 2/3 of the states of the Union, the banner of The National First Aid Association of America cheers the eye & comforts the heart. Thousands have studied its wholesome lessons & hundreds have taken its instructions and wear its insignia.”*

Miss Barton’s 1903 attempt to establish the Department of First Aid for the Injured under the American Red Cross was not met with enthusiasm. When the American Red Cross reincorporated in 1905, under the new management, the idea of a first aid program was dropped. By 1910, however, the American Red Cross resurrected the Department of First Aid and was offering instructional classes.

The National First Aid Association of America had established the value of this type of community service program and Miss Barton had laid the foundation that led to the quick success of the organization. Although the American Red Cross had originally snubbed her ideas, the new administrators recognized their value and adopted the program. Miss Barton saw no benefit in competing with the American Red Cross. In spite of her feelings toward the new administrators, she wanted the organization to thrive. She declared, *“It must grow. I want it to, it is my planting. I should rejoice the crop no matter who harvests it.”* Clara Barton retired from The National First Aid Association of America. It later disbanded; the American Red Cross endured.

Clara Barton is one of the most highly decorated women in United States history, but she never received a medal from the United States Government. In 1902, a group of Spanish-American War Veterans petitioned Congress to bestow upon her “thanks and a gold medal”. In a meeting with Illinois Senator William Mason, Miss Barton, *“explained that I did not want a medal – had no one to receive it after me – but suggested in its place an annuity [sic] during my life time to help to carry on the work.”* She received neither.

Although Miss Barton’s once stated, *“I would never wear undeserved honors,”* she was sincerely honored by these awards. Visitors to her Glen Echo home frequently asked to see the collection. She often obliged, wearing an assortment of the medals and telling the significance of each. To her, however, the most treasured of all in the collection were not the medals of service, but, the gifts of true friendship. Shortly before her death, Miss Barton wrote to Grand Duchess Louise of Baden (Germany), *“one of my last thoughts and wishes is to tell you of my unchanging love and devotion to you.”*



In addition to the medals and jewels preserved in the Library of Congress collection, Miss Barton was also accorded numerous certificates and a vast assortment of gifts in appreciation of her humanitarian services. She received flags and furniture, seashells and songbirds. Baba, her pet Arabian horse, was given in honor of her service. Families named their children after her. Communities named schools or streets in her honor. Numerous organizations accorded her with honorary memberships and titles. In 1891, she was given a house.

Edward and Edwin Baltzley were building a Chautauqua Assembly and they were planning an adjacent community along the banks of the Potomac River in the Maryland countryside near Washington, D.C. As part of the national Chautauqua movement, the brothers founded Glen Echo, Maryland *“to promote liberal and practical education, especially among the masses of the people; to teach the sciences, arts, languages, and literature; to prepare its patrons for their several pursuits and professions in life, and to fit them for the duties which devolve upon them as members of society.”* The assembly was to include *“a woman’s department”* for the *“advancement of woman, improving and enlarging her scope of usefulness.”* The Baltzley brothers asked Miss Barton to head the Women’s Executive Committee to be comprised of Miss Barton and several other very prominent women. In consideration of her involvement with the Glen Echo Chautauqua, the Baltzley brothers offered her land and construction of a home in the Glen Echo community. She accepted.



Miss Barton’s Glen Echo home evolved from the design of the Red Cross shelters used in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, during the 1889 flood relief effort. The Baltzley brothers deeded property to Miss Barton and supplied materials and labor for the 1891 construction of the house. Miss Barton initially used the building as a warehouse for Red Cross relief supplies. She moved to Glen Echo in 1897 and, at her own expense, remodeled the warehouse so that it could be used both as her home and as the headquarters of the American Red Cross. Miss Barton managed the offices of the American Red Cross from her Glen Echo home from 1897 until 1904. She continued to live in Glen Echo until her death, at age 90, on April 12, 1912. She was buried with her family in Oxford, Massachusetts.

It was reported in the Worcester Evening Post, April 15, 1912, that *“the flag on the common and the national and state flags on City hall are today at half-mast by orders of Mayor David F. O’Connell. This is, so far as can be learned, the first time in the history of the city that the municipal flags were half-masted for an American woman.”* One year later, Miss Barton’s image was used on a medal in honor of the 200th Anniversary of the town of Oxford.

Following her death, early efforts to honor Miss Barton were spearheaded by several of her friends. They formed **The Clara Barton Memorial Association**. Dr. Julian B. Hubbell, former Chief Field Agent for the American Red Cross, who had received title to the Glen Echo home, was one of the original members of **The Clara Barton Memorial Association**.



The Clara Barton Memorial Association was “organized and incorporated for the purpose of erecting at Washington, D.C. a Memorial to **Clara Barton**, Founder and first President of the **American – National Red Cross Society**, and in Commemoration of her Patriotism and Lifelong Devotion to the Relief of Suffering throughout the World.” Their goals included building a grand museum with artifacts and exhibits that promoted her life and accomplishments and preserving her Glen Echo home. Unfortunately, the association had difficulty securing monetary support for their mission and it failed to achieve these goals.

Dr. Hubbell owned the Glen Echo home and he was responsible for many of Miss Barton’s possessions. He was passionately devoted to honoring Clara Barton’s memory but was plagued with financial hardships. Several newspapers exposed his plight. Such articles brought Dr. Hubbell and his cause to the attention of Mabelle Rawson Hiron. Mrs. Hiron approached Dr. Hubbell, purportedly having been in contact with Miss Barton’s spirit during a séance, and offered to solve his problems. (Spiritualism was very popular during the Victorian Era. Both Miss Barton and Dr. Hubbell had delved in the movement.) Dr. Hubbell, desperate to keep alive the memory of Miss Barton, welcomed Mrs. Hiron to the Glen Echo home and, trusting her motives, succumbed to her persuasions. Mrs. Hiron convinced Dr. Hubbell that Miss Barton wished the Glen Echo property deeded directly to her. Dr. Hubbell signed over ownership of the house. Mrs. Hiron threw him out.

Several years of poor management of the property followed. Mrs. Hiron sold some of Miss Barton’s original furnishings to pay off her own personal debts. She also filled the bedrooms of the Glen Echo home, formerly occupied by officers or staff of the American Red Cross, with boarders and tenants of questionable reputations. **The Clara Barton Memorial Association**, angered by what they perceived as Dr. Hubbell’s recklessness and powerless to do anything about Mrs. Hiron, abandoned their cause. Dr. Hubbell silently suffered the indignation of his betrayal by Mrs. Hiron until he was taken in by friends who convinced him that he had been duped and persuaded him to take his case to the courts. In 1920, Dr. Hubbell filed suit against Mrs. Hiron.

After five years of litigation, Dr. Hubbell won his lawsuit. In May of 1926, he returned to the Glen Echo home. The Hiron years had taken a toll on the home. Many original furnishings were gone. The house was in disrepair. Dr. Hubbell again attempted to secure preservation of Miss Barton’s former home. He met with representatives of the American Red Cross seeking to donate the house to the organization if they would agree to establish the house as a memorial to Clara Barton’s lifetime of service. The American Red Cross declined. Dr. Hubbell continued to live in the Glen Echo house until his death on November 19, 1929. He willed all his possessions, including the home, to his twin nieces, Rena Hubbell and Lena Hubbell Chamberlain.

The Hubbell sisters had known Miss Barton and they accepted the responsibility of caring for her Glen Echo home. Rena Hubbell moved in and fashioned several of the rooms into private apartments. Miss Hubbell rented the apartments and smaller bedrooms to boarders and used the rental income for repairs and upgrades. During these years, Miss Hubbell discovered an incredible collection of Miss Barton’s personal manuscripts, diaries, letters and photographs that had been sealed into what had been a breezeway between two rooms. She kept this discovery secret until she found “*someone really competent to write the biography of Miss Barton.*” Rena Hubbell shared the Clara Barton papers with Blanche Colton Williams who incorporated the materials into her 1941 publication, *Clara Barton Daughter of Destiny*.

Rena Hubbell and Lena Hubbell Chamberlain also contacted the Library of Congress, where through their generous donations, the Clara Barton Manuscripts Collection was established. The Clara Barton collection was built between the years 1940 and 1959. In 1953, Miss Barton’s grandniece, Saidee Riccius, and grandnephew, Herman Riccius, contributed additional materials to the Library of Congress Clara Barton collection. It was through their generous contributions that Miss Barton’s numerous medals and jewels were permanently secured under the safeguard of the United States Government. Through the efforts of the Hubbell sisters, Saidee Riccius and her brother Herman Riccius, the Library of Congress Clara Barton Manuscripts Collection now preserves over 62,000 items.

In 1942, the Hubbell sisters sold the Glen Echo property to Mrs. Josephine Franks Noyes. Rena Hubbell stated, *“the responsibility of caring for the apartments and the home were quite heavy. I felt that I had discharged the duties my uncle would have wanted me to after I had made available all the important material for the biography [Clara Barton Daughter of Destiny] and restored the home. I sold it to a personal friend who is almost as interested in it as I was, and I know she will preserve it well. Someday I’m sure that home will become a shrine, and I wanted to be sure it would be in good condition then.”*

Mrs. Noyes and her four sisters continued the practice of taking in boarders and using the rental income to care for the Glen Echo home. Mrs. Noyes and her sisters repurchased some of Miss Barton’s original furnishings that Mrs. Hirons had sold years earlier. When Mrs. Noyes died in 1958, the house passed to her surviving sisters. The Franks sisters carried on the responsibility of making the house a memorial to Clara Barton. They contacted representatives of the American Red Cross and various historical associations. The Montgomery County (Maryland) Chapter of the American Red Cross expressed an interest until it was discovered that the Red Cross charter specifically forbade the use of Red Cross funds for such a purpose. There were various individuals who also were interested in furthering the cause of preserving Miss Barton’s Glen Echo home. These private citizens banded together and formed the **Friends of Clara Barton, Inc.** They purchased the house from the Franks sisters in 1963 for \$35,000.00 and a promise to preserve it.

The **Friends of Clara Barton, Inc.** organized fund raising events and offered tours of the home. They worked with local and national representatives and, in 1965, the house was designated a National Historic Landmark. However, this was not enough and they persisted in their efforts to secure permanent preservation of the home. In 1974, the United States Congress approved legislation establishing Miss Barton’s Glen Echo home as the **Clara Barton National Historic Site**, stating:

“She was a remarkable person who dedicated her life and energies to help others in times of need—both home and abroad, in peacetime as well as during military emergencies. Glen Echo was her home...and this structure illustrates her dedication and concern for those less fortunate than herself”.



On April 29, 1975, a ceremony was held in the main hallway of the house. The **Friends of Clara Barton, Inc.** transferred the deed to the National Park Service and the home where Clara Barton had *“lived and died surrounded by all that went into the daily performance of her work”* was accepted by the United States Government in honor of Miss Barton’s lifetime of service.



Clara Barton A Lifetime of Service List of Illustrations

Page 1

- ◆ Cover of red leather box for the International Red Cross medallion. Embossed, "LE COMITE INTERNATIONAL A MISS CLARA BARTON GENEVE 1882." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Interior lid of box for the International Red Cross medallion. Embossed, "POUR SERVICES RENDUS A LA CROIX ROUGE." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Gold Masonic Emblem presented c. 1862 by Miss Barton's father, Stephen Barton. Worn by Miss Barton during the Civil War. Stephen Barton was a member of the Olive Branch Lodge of Oxford, Massachusetts. Clara Barton NHS staff have been unable to determine the meaning of the front markings and initials. Engraved on rear, "Clara Barton". clba/lc project.
- ◆ Grand Army and Woman's Relief Corps medal presented in 1886. Miss Barton accorded honorary membership. Marked on front, "F.C.L. WOMANS RELIEF COPRS 1883", inscribed on rear, "PRESENTED TO Clara Barton by Fourth National Committee W.R.C. SAN FRANCISCO CA AUG 2 – 7 – 1886." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Clara Barton Lodge of the Sisters of the G.A.R. of Gloucester, Massachusetts medal presented in 1890. Marked on front "S. of G.A.R. 1870", inscribed on rear, "Presented to Clara Barton by Clara Barton Lodge S. of G.A.R. Gloucester, Mass. Aug. 22nd 1890." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Grand Army of the Republic pin presented in 1904 at the 38th National Encampment. Marked on front, "COMRADES TO ARMY NURSES 38TH NAT. ENC. GAR 1904." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Sanitary Commission Silver Cross. Marked on front, "U S SANITARY COMMISSION ARMIES POTOMAC AND JAMES AUXILIARY RELIEF CORPS 1864-5" and on rear, "1907 A M SPERRY TO CLARA BARTON FACSIMILE IN MEMORIAM 1864-5." clba/lc project.

Page 2

- ◆ Historic view of "German Official Red Cross Field Badge" and modern view of same showing worn condition. Small cross marked with " 1870 1871." Pin engraved on rear, "Clara Barton Presented by R.H. the Grand Duchess of Baden." Worn by Miss Barton during Franco-Prussian War. clba/lc project.

Page 3

- ◆ Silver medal (front) presented by Augusta, Empress of Germany, 1885. Marked on front "IMPERATRIX REGINA AUGUSTA." clba/lc project.
- ◆ "Iron Cross of Germany," Marked on rear with a crown, the initials "W" and "A" and "1870 1871." Clara Barton included a photograph of this medal in her 1898 publication *The Red Cross in Peace and War*. In her book she described it as, "The Iron Cross of Merit presented by Emperor William I. and Empress Augusta, in recognition of services in the Franco-German War of 1870-71." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Silver medal (rear) presented by Augusta, Empress of Germany, 1885. Marked on rear, "IN NECESSARIIS UNITAS, IN DUBIIS LIBERTAS, IN OMNIBUS CARITAS." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Royal Jewel of red topaz set in gold brooch with Red Cross design presented by Empress Augusta, 1887. Inscribed on front, "God bless the red cross" and on rear, "Clara Barton From H. M. AUGUSTA Empress of Germany." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Gold knot brooch presented by Louise, Grand Duchess of Baden c. 1897, with the sentiment, "An unbroken friendship of twenty-six years deserves to be tied by a knot of gold." clba/lc project.
- ◆ "Gold Cross of Remembrance" presented by the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden, 1871, for Franco-Prussian War services. Rear markings include symbols of a crown, a cross, a family shield and dates "1870 1871." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Royal jewel of amethyst with pearl set in gold form of a pansy, presented by Grand Duchess Louise, 1884. Inscribed on rear, "Clara Barton Presented by her R. H. the Grand Duchess of Baden." The amethyst pansy was one of Miss Barton's most cherished possessions and it is the single item of her collection that she is most often shown wearing in her later photographs. clba/lc project.
- ◆ Clara Barton photographed c. 1884 wearing the amethyst pansy, [altered to show color] the "Iron Cross of Germany", the "Gold Cross of Remembrance" and the "Serbian" decoration. clba collection.
- ◆ Royal jewel of smoky topaz surrounded by pearls, presented by Grand Duchess Louise, 1887. Inscribed on rear, "Clara Barton Presented by her R. H. the Grand Duchess of Baden." clba/lc project.

Page 4

- Official medal of the International Red Cross presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Front marked “ANIMA VULNERATORUM CLAMAVIT 22 AUGUSTUS 1864” and also with symbol of Red Cross flag, “1870” and “JOB.XXIV.12” Reverse marked with the crests and names for “Geneve” and twenty nations, also “XXVI. OCT.1863 S.DEVRIES, LA MAYE.” Clara Barton included a photograph of this medal in her 1898 publication *The Red Cross in Peace and War*. In her book she described it as, “The Geneva Medal of Honor presented by the Comité International in recognition of services in securing the adhesion of the United States to the treaty of the Red Cross.” clba/lc project
 - Clara Barton photographed c. 1878 wearing one of her Red Cross pins, [altered to show color] clba collection.
 - Two Red Cross pins. Top Red Cross pin marked on rear “1870”. Bottom American Red Cross pin was presented by Miss M. E. Almon of Newport, Rhode Island c. 1898 and is engraved on rear, “Clara Barton from MEA.” clba/lc project.
 - Historic view of the American Red Cross infirmary and warehouse complex in Johnstown, Pennsylvania during the 1889 flood relief effort. clba collection.
 - Historic view of American Red Cross tents constructed inside a warehouse during the Sea Islands Hurricane relief efforts of 1893 – 1893. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Captioned, “MISS BARTON’S ROOM. Sleeping apartments, on living floor, Charleston Red Cross headquarters and warehouse.” clba collection.
 - Historic view of Constantinople, Turkey during 1896 Turkish-Armenian relief effort. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Captioned, “VIEW FROM RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS, CONSTANTINOPLE.” clba collection.
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Page 5

- Historic view of damage in downtown Johnstown, Pennsylvania caused by the flood of May 31, 1889. clba collection.
 - Historic view of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Original publication captioned, “TYPICAL SCENE AFTER THE FLOOD AT JOHNSTOWN, PA., MAY 30 [sic], 1889.” clba collection.
 - Gold locket set with diamonds and sapphire presented by the ladies of Johnstown at the close of the American Red Cross relief efforts. Engraved on rear, “To Our Friend in Need Miss Clara Barton from the Ladies of Johnstown Oct 24 1889.” Locket currently empty. clba/lc project.
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Page 6

- Historic view from Sea Islands, South Carolina Hurricane relief effort. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Captioned, “RECEIVING ROOM FOR CLOTHING, S. C. ISLAND RELIEF, 1893-94.” clba collection.
 - Historic view from Sea Islands, South Carolina Hurricane relief effort. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Captioned, “WOMEN CUTTING POTATOES FOR PLANTING – SEA ISLAND RELIEF, S. C., FEBRUARY, 1894.” clba collection.
 - Gold medal of the Vanderbilt Benevolent Association of South Carolina presented to Miss Barton as she was accorded honorary membership in the association. Marked on front with layered initials V, B and A and “May 8th 1886”. Engraved on rear, “A. C. Kaufman to Clara Barton July 9, 1894.” clba/lc project.
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Page 7

- Clara Barton photographed in 1902 while attending the Seventh International Conference of the Red Cross in St. Petersburg, Russia. She is wearing [altered to show color] one of her Red Cross pins, the amethyst pansy and the Silver Cross of Imperial Russia. clba collection.
- Silver Cross of Imperial Russia presented from Czar Nicholas II. Miss Barton noted the occasion in her diary, “Tuesday, June 3, 1902 St. Petersburg. ... Went to lunch and the court chamberlain came and delivered to me the Decoration of the Emperor and the letter accompanying it. This was at the lunch in the Conference building (Hall of Nobles).” Markings on front of medal are translated as, “For the care of the wounded and sick of belligerent armies”. Presented to Miss Barton in a red leather box embossed on the cover with gold, translated as “The order of the Red Cross of the Second degree”. clba/lc project.
- Silver and red enamel insignia presented to Miss Barton in commemoration of the American Red Cross 1896 Turkish-Armenian relief efforts. Marked on front, “ARMENIA 1896”. clba/lc project.

Page 8

- ◆ Solid silver inkstand, presented to Clara Barton by Spencer Trask, in 1896, at the time of her departure for Constantinople, Turkey. Spencer Trask was one of the founding members of the National Armenian Relief Committee. clba/lc project.
- ◆ Sealing wax set of gold and ivory presented to Clara Barton by Mrs. Charles T. Raymond, in 1896, at the time of her departure for Constantinople, Turkey. Mrs. Raymond was President of the New York Red Cross Hospital. clba/lc project.
- ◆ A view of the imprint area from the sealing wax set stamp and an impression from the stamp on red wax. Stamp imprinted with the representation of a Red Cross arm band and marked "CLARA BARTON". clba/lc project.

Page 9

- ◆ Silver and red enamel insignia with a diamond set in the star presented to Miss Barton by her Red Cross field staff in commemoration of the 1896 Turkish-Armenian relief efforts. Marked on front, "ARMENIA 1896". Engraved on rear, "TO OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT CLARA BARTON FROM HER FIELD STAFF G.H. PULLMAN J.B. HUBBELL E.M. WISTAR C.K. WOOD". clba/lc project.
- ◆ Turkish decoration of Shefaket set with diamonds and other jewels conveyed to Clara Barton by Sultan Abdul Hamed in 1897. Clara Barton included a photograph of this medal in her 1898 publication *The Red Cross in Peace and War*. In her book she wrote, "Some months after returning home I received through our State Department at Washington the Sultan's decoration of Shefaket and its accompanying diploma in Turkish"...She included the translation of the diploma, "As Miss Barton, American citizen, possesses many great and distinguished qualities and as recompense is due to her, I am pleased therefore to accord to her the second class of my decorations of Shefaket." clba/lc project.
- ◆ Armenian decoration, ORDRE DES CHEVALIERS DE MÉLUSINE, bestowed by His Royal Highness, Guy de Lusignan, Prince Royal of Jerusalem, Cyprus and Armenia in 1896. Clara Barton included a photograph of this medal in her 1898 publication *The Red Cross in Peace and War*. In her book she wrote, "I have received a decoration, officially described as follows: Brevet of Chevalier of the Royal Order of Melusine, founded in 1186, by Sibylle, Queen and spouse of King Guy of Jerusalem, and reinstated several years since by Marie, Princess of Lusignan. The Order is conferred for humanitarian, scientific and other services of distinction, but especially when such services are rendered to the House of Lusignan, and particularly to the Armenian nation. The Order is worn by a number of reigning sovereigns, and is highly prized by the recipients because of its rare bestowal and its beauty. This decoration is bestowed by His Royal Highness, Guy of Lusignan, Prince of Jerusalem, Cyprus and Armenia. Marked on rear, "ORDRE DE MELUSINE 1186". clba/lc project.

Page 10

- ◆ Historic view from the Spanish-American War period showing Dr. Julian Hubbell, American Red Cross Chief Field Agent, examining a child. Captioned, "Another scene in the hospital of the American Orphan Asylum, showing reconcentrado boys dying of starvation, in the last stages, beyond relief, with protruding bones. Pictures like this explain the war now being waged against the tyranny which produces such fruit." clba collection.
- ◆ Historic view from the Spanish-American War period showing an artistic rendering of Miss Barton and Red Cross workers caring for survivors of the U.S.S. *Maine* explosion as Captain Sigsbee, commander of the battleship looks on. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Original publication captioned, "Copyright, 1898, by *The Christian Herald*. 'I AM WITH THE WOUNDED.' – *Clara Barton's cable message from Havana*." clba collection. Cropped from this version of the graphic, but included in the original publication was this poem:

'I am with the wounded,' flashed along the wire
 From the isle of Cuba, swept with sword and fire.
 Angel sweet of mercy, may your cross of red
 Cheer the wounded living; bless the wounded dead.

'I am with the starving' let the message run
 From this stricken island, when this task is done;
 Food and money plenty wait at your command.
 Give in generous measure; fill each outstretched hand.

'I am with the happy,' this we long to hear
 From the isle of Cuba, trembling now in fear.
 May the great disaster touch the hearts of men,
 And, in God's great mercy, bring back peace again.

-- James Clarence Harvey.

Page 11

- Historic view from the Spanish-American War period showing women and children, victims of the conditions of war. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Original publication captioned, "STARVING IN THE PLAZA". clba collection.
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- **Page 12 no graphics**

Page 13

- Historic view from the Spanish-American War period showing scenes of Red Cross relief efforts in Siboney, Cuba. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Original publication captioned, "MRS. LESSER SISTER BETTINA IN YARD OF FEVER HOSPITAL SIBONEY 'DISCHARGED CURED' FROM RED CROSS HOSPITAL RED CROSS HOSPITAL SIBONEY AMBULANCE UNLOADING AT SURGICAL HOSPITAL STREET SCENE IN FRONT OF HOSPITAL SURGICAL HOSPITAL". clba collection.
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Page 14

- Historic view from the Spanish-American War period showing Miss Barton, Dr. Hubbell and Red Cross workers at an orphanage in Catalina, Cuba during the 1899 recovery efforts. clba collection.
 - Spanish decoration of honor conferred to Miss Barton in 1898 by the Spanish Government. Marked on front, "OBCIVES SERVATOS 1864 1876". clba/lc project.
 - Decoration of the Supreme Assembly of the National Society of the Red Cross of Cuba received by Miss Barton in 1911. Marked on front, "INTER INIMICOS CHARITAS". Imprinted on rear, "J. MEDINA BARCELONA". clba/lc project.
 - Pen of gold and mother of pearl presented to Miss Barton by President William McKinley in commemoration of her work in Cuba. By tradition, this pen was used by President McKinley when he signed the first federal incorporation of the American Red Cross in 1900. clba/lc project.
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Page 15

- Serbian decoration conferred by Queen Nathalie of Serbia in 1883 for services to humanity. Marked on rear "1876". Clara Barton included a photograph of this medal in her 1898 publication *The Red Cross in Peace and War*. In her book she described it as, "The Servian Red Cross presented by Queen Natali of Servia." clba/lc project.
- Gold Badge of the "Waffengenosen" an organization of German soldiers from America who took part in the Franco-Prussian War. Presented to Miss Barton in 1885. Front markings include initials [?U], "W", "G", "D", and date "1885". clba/lc project.
- Silver medallion of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association presented to Miss Barton in 1887. Box medallion presented in was marked on inside lining "MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANICS ASSOCIATION 1887." Markings on front include, "BE JUST AND FEAR NOT" and "F.N. MITCHELL SC." and on rear, "MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANICS ASSOCIATION FOUNDED 1795 : INC. 1806 AWARDED AT THE SIXTEENTH EXHIBITION 1887." clba/lc project.
- Belgium decoration conferred to Miss Barton in 1892 by the Red Cross of Belgium. Blue leather box embossed in gold on front marked, "LA CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE A MISS CLARA BARTON". Inside case lining marked, "PAUL DEGREEF GRAVEUR RUE DU MIDI 118 BRUXELLES". Medal marked on front, "CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE". On rear, "HUMANITE DEVOUEMENT INSIGNE DE MÉRITE DECERNÉA," and engraved, "Miss Clara Barton". clba/lc project.
- Medal from the War Veterans and Sons Association of Brooklyn, New York, presented to Miss Barton in April of 1899. Marked on front, "1861-1898" and "FRATERNITY MEANS SOMETHING". Stamped on rear, "C.G. BRAXMAR 10 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK" and engraved, "To Honorary Member Miss Clara Barton From Brooklyn, N.Y. War Vet's. and Son's Ass'n. April 1899." clba/lc project.
- Gold badge of the "Sosis" of New York, presented to Miss Barton as an honorary member in 1890. Marked on front, "Σ Ω Ρ Ε Τ Σ Ι Σ" The Sosis was an organization of women's organizations and clubs and the predecessor of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. clba/lc project.
- Badge of the Loyal Legion of Women of Washington, D.C. Presented to Miss Barton in 1893 as an honorary member. Marked on front, "L.L.W." The D.C. society was organized by Miss Barton's friend, Mary Logan, wife of General John A. Logan an organizer of the GAR. clba/lc project.

◆ **Page 16 no graphics.**

Page 17

- ◆ First Aid button and First Aid pin. Both marked on front, "First Aid The National First Aid Association of America". Back of pin is stamped, "WOOD AND SONS BOSTON". clba/lc project.
- ◆ Colorized portrait of Clara Barton altered from the original black and white historic view. The original photograph was taken c. 1904 by J. E. Purdy of Boston, Massachusetts. The altered view includes digitally layered modern photographs of the amethyst pansy and the smoky topaz over the same positions of the original black and white versions on the image. The color used on Miss Barton's dress was taken from a 1904 woman's dress, but not from one of Miss Barton's original dresses. The choice was based on documentation that Miss Barton wore dresses of burgundy or wine colored fabric, but it is not presently known what color the dress in this photograph was. The shades for Miss Barton's skin tone, eye color and hair color have been assumed. Her eye color was chosen based on documentation that she had brown eyes and the hair color based on descriptions, for this period of her life, with her hair color as black. b&w version: clba collection, altered version: clba collection by VIP B.Douglas.

Page 18

- ◆ Historic view of "No 2 RED CROSS HOTEL", a shelter built in Johnstown, Pennsylvania following the May 31, 1889 flood. This shelter opened July 27, 1889 and was disassembled following the close of the relief effort. Cropped from this version of the graphic, but included in the original photograph was the following handwritten information, "No 2 Red Cross House (Locust St.) 48 x 116 ft 36 rooms besides laundry bath rooms and Dining hall 16 x 100 ft. Johnstown Pa. 1889." clba collection.
- ◆ Historic view of Miss Barton's Glen Echo, Maryland home c. 1898. Published in 1898 in *The Red Cross in Peace and War* written by Clara Barton. Cropped from this version of the graphic, but included in the original publication was the caption, "SUBURBAN HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS." clba collection.
- ◆ Commemorative medal for the 200th anniversary of the town of Oxford, Massachusetts. Front is marked, "200th ANNIVERSARY TOWN OF OXFORD MASS INCORPORATED 1713 OXFORD MASS. 1713 1913". Rear of medal has images as well as inscriptions for, "HER BIRTHPLACE UNIV CHURCH 1792 PUBLIC LIBRARY" and below Miss Barton's image, "CLARA BARTON THE WORLD'S GREATEST NURSE". . clba/lc project.

◆ **Page 19 no graphics**

Page 20

- ◆ Clara Barton photographed c. 1902 at her desk in the American Red Cross office in her Glen Echo, Maryland home. clba collection.
- ◆ Modern view restored Front Parlor of Clara Barton National Historic Site. clba collection.
- ◆ Modern view of front of Clara Barton National Historic Site. clba collection.
- ◆ Modern view of restored Clara Barton's bedroom. It was here on April 12, 1912 that Miss Barton passed away of double pneumonia at age 90. clba collection.
- ◆ Graphic of official National Park Service Arrowhead logo. NPS collection.

List of References

- The Red Cross in Peace and War* by Clara Barton, 1906 edition, American Historical Press.
- Clara Barton Professional Angel* by Elizabeth Brown Pryor, 1990 edition, University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Library of Congress container list and medals folder documentation.
- Clara Barton National Historic Site, Clara Barton diary and letter transcription files.
- Clara Barton National Historic Site, reference library subject files.
- Clara Barton National Historic Site, photograph collection.
- Glen Echo Chautauqua On The Potomac*, by Benjamin Levy, June 15, 1967, National Park Service.
- Clara Barton Daughter of Destiny* by Blanche Colton Williams, 1941, J. B. Lippincott Company.
- Clara Barton A Story of the Red Cross*, by Clara Barton, 1968 reprint edition, Airmont Publishing Company.

