



What Would Clara Barton Bring?



People call me a nurse – I scarcely know why. There were no nurses then. Trained nurses were not known. My work was, and chiefly has been to get timely supplies to those needing. It has taught me the value of Things. They have lost all. They want food, clothing, shelter, medicines, and a few calm practical persons to administer them. This seems to have been my work.

- Clara Barton, excerpt from interview published on January 10, 1908, in the New York Sun

The Civil War (1861-1865)

During the Civil War, Clara Barton collected and distributed supplies (food, bedding, clothes, personal items, etc.) in hospitals and on the battlefield for both sides. She wanted to give comfort and relief to men who were fighting for their country. All of these things were distributed by wagon or train to hospitals or battlefields. Clara Barton would go along to organize and distribute the supplies and aid wounded soldiers.

To the right is a list of items she brought to the battlefield. You maybe able to find some of the same items in your home today.

Civil War Supply Shopping List:

1. bread
2. pies
3. canned fruits
4. pickled vegetables
5. jelly
6. prepared soups
7. meal
8. bandages
9. salves
10. combs
11. thread
12. buttons
13. thimbles
14. string
15. sewing kits
16. soap
17. clean shirts
18. handkerchiefs
19. sheets
20. blankets
21. oil and candle lanterns



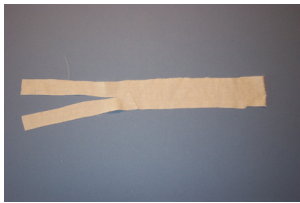
Aftermath of the Johnstown Flood



Supply warehouse at site of Johnstown Flood

The American Red Cross (1881-1904)

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross. This organization assisted victims of war and natural or man-made disasters. Although Clara Barton stored many of her supplies in warehouses, she stored some in her own home for quick access. Her house was full of Red Cross supplies kept in large closets.



Get your Class Involved!

Make your own bandages:

Although Clara Barton was not a trained nurse, she did provide first aid care to those in need. Bandages, which were needed frequently, were made of plain cotton muslin cut into strips and wrapped around the wound.

1. Go to a local fabric store and buy a small amount (1-2 yards) of unbleached white cotton muslin.
2. Cut the muslin into strips about 2 inches wide and 20 inches long.
3. At one end of the strip, cut about 8 inches of the material in half so that two tails are hanging down.
4. Wrap the strip around the wrist so that the two tails hanging down can be tied together to secure the bandage.

Red Cross Supply Shopping List:

1. clothing
2. tools (plows, hammers, nails)
3. bedding
4. blankets
5. thread
6. salt
7. meal
8. bread
9. flour
10. canned meats and fruits
11. Horlicks malted milk
12. seeds (vegetable and fruit)
13. bandages
14. lumber
15. tin forks, spoons, and knives
16. soap
17. oil and candle lanterns
18. fodder (feed for livestock)
19. shoes
20. coal

