
Challenges of Health Care in the Civil War

Bierce, Colfax, George, Squibb, and
the Sisters of Providence

Lesson Plans for grades 4-5

June, 2001

The Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum
An Indiana War Memorials Museum

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INTRODUCTION

This series of lessons will help students discover the stories of the people and places who contributed to the health and healing of the Indiana's soldiers. The medical profession faced many challenges during the Civil War. The lessons involve academic standards in social studies, math, language arts, and fine arts and may be used as part of an interdisciplinary unit. According to the reading level of the student some lessons may be read aloud, while others may be assigned for individual reading. The teacher may also use the readings as background material for the unit. The **activity suggestions** will help students focus on the men and women who served. The **discussion questions** will help the teacher to explore and contrast present day medical practices with the accepted practices of the time.

Objectives

- ⇒ Students will be able to identify contributions of two Hoosier citizens.
- ⇒ Students will be able to summarize the ways in which the state of medical knowledge adversely affected the health of the Civil War soldier.
- ⇒ Students will examine primary sources and interpret how injuries and illness were treated in the Civil War.

Academic Standards

Social Studies

TO BE DROPPED IN LATER

Language Arts

Reading Comprehension — evaluate new information and form a hypothesis; use appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes.

Writing Application — write an informational report.

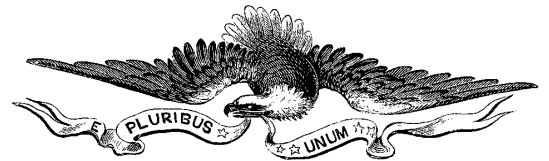
Listening and Speaking — make a narrative presentation.

Math

Estimate and measure using customary units.
Collect, organize, *analyze and interpret* data.

Fine Arts

Create a two-dimensional drawing or to scale three-dimensional project.



SUMMARY

The Civil War presented many challenges for the surgeons, nurses, and other healthcare providers. In the mid-1800s, standardization of schooling and care did not exist. Medical colleges and apprenticeships to a doctor taught the skills necessary to become a surgeon. Men dominated all parts of the medical field. Even nursing was initially a job for men. Hospitals were called pest houses because they treated victims of **pestilence**.¹ Sanitary regulations were non-existent.

During this time war produced masses of wounded and dying men who overwhelmed the regular Army Medical Corps and private hospitals. The chance of a Civil War soldier not going home alive was about one in four. Disease took more lives than the famed Minie ball. Bacteria and germs were not yet known to cause diseases and infections. In all, supplying and caring for the ill and wounded soldier was a tremendous task.



Is it possible that any Soldier can be so foolish as to leave the city without a supply of HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS? Whoever does so will deeply regret it. These medicines are the only certain cure for Bowel Complaints, Fevers, Sores, and Scurvy. Only 25 cents per box or pot.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Jefferson General Hospital near Port Fulton in Clark County was the third largest military hospital in the United States with 5,200 beds.
- In 1862, the Rotunda and Congress were used as a hospital.
- There were 208,367 Hoosier soldiers who served in the Civil War. Of these men, 24,418 were killed or died during the war.²
- "According to the US Sanitary Commission Report of 1861, three quarters of the soldiers discharged from the Union Army should never have been enlisted."³
- "During the first year, one-third of the Union Army was on sick call."⁴
- "There were 6,000,000 cases of disease in the Federal Armies, which means that, on average, every man was sick at least twice."⁵
- In the Union Army, three out of five soldiers died from disease or other illness.⁶
- In the Confederate Army, two out of three soldiers died from disease or other illness.⁷
- Eleven percent of women medical workers were African American women.
- At the beginning of the war there were about 100 doctors in the army. By the end of the war 13,000 doctors served in the Union Army Medical Corp.
- Only the president or state governor could give a surgeon a commission.

¹ All words in bold are found in the vocabulary at the end of the lesson set.

² W. H. H. Terrell, *Report to the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, vol. 1*, (1869; reprint, *Indiana in the War of Rebellion*, Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Society, 1960), 563 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

³ Stewart Brooks, *Civil War Medicine*, (Springfield, IL: Charles A. Thomas, n.d.), 8.

⁴ Brooks, 6.

⁵ Arville L. Funk, *Hoosiers in the Civil War* (privately printed, 1967; reprint, Hanover, IN: Nugget Publishers, 1993), 5.

⁶ Brooks, 6.

⁷ Ibid.

LEST WE FORGET THE WOMEN AND MEN WHO CARED FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

There were five men for every woman nurse in the Union Army. Their pay was \$11.00 to \$12.00 per month. At the Indianapolis Military Hospital the pay was forty cents per day. Most nurses worked at a **general hospital**. Able-bodied patients performed many nursing duties there also. Before a battle, Regimental Commanders assigned 30-40 soldiers to be nurses and **litter (stretcher) bearers** for **field hospitals**. Some of these soldiers were men who did not want to fight. Toward the close of the war, training was set up for people who became nurses.

Over 20,000 women on both sides worked in military hospitals.⁸ Up to half of these women served as nurses. Some of the well-known names in the Union Army were: "Mother" Mary Bickerdyke, Clara Barton, Dorothea Dix, and Louis May Alcott. Their backgrounds varied. Dorothea Dix recruited only middle class, white women, (ages 35 to 50) who lived in the Washington, D.C. area. In Indiana and other states Ladies Aid Societies enlisted local women. Many working-class women followed family members to camps and hospitals. African American women, both **contraband** and free, performed various duties including nursing.

The Sisters of Charity were one order of Catholic Sisters who served as nurses during the Civil War. Often other orders were called by this name. Many surgeons requested their help because they had training in nursing the ill.⁹

The work day for nurses began at six o'clock in the morning and went until midnight. The duties ranged from housekeeping and cooking to washing, feeding, and changing the bandages of the soldiers. Women who could write sometimes spent one-fourth of their day writing letters for the patients.

The Military Agency at Indianapolis sent two hundred and fifty women as nurses to **general** and **field hospitals** during the Civil War. Mrs. Harriet R. Colfax, a widow from Michigan City, helped her mother nurse her **invalid** father. She served two and a half years in St. Louis, Jefferson Barracks, and on the **hospital ship** the Louisiana.¹⁰ Mrs. E. E. George, of Fort Wayne, obtained supplies for the Indiana Sanitary Commission. She also served in hospitals in Tennessee and in Georgia. In Wilmington, North Carolina she both supervised the making of clothing and nursed the ill. While there, she contracted **typhoid fever** and died.¹¹



⁸ Wynell Burroughs, Jean Mueller, and Jean Preer, "In Times of War Teaching with Documents Surgeon General's Office," *Social Education* (January, 1988): 39.

⁹ Sister Mary Roger Madden, *The Path Marked Out* (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, 1991), 115-118.

¹⁰ L. P. Brockett, *Women's Work in the Civil War: A Record of Heroism, Patriotism and Patience*, (Philadelphia: Zeigler, McCurdy & Co., Boston: R. H. Curran, 1867; reprint Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1993), 395-399.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 511-513; Frank Moore *Women of the War: Their Heroism and Self-sacrifice*. (Blue/Gray Books, 1997), 45-49.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Read aloud the following descriptions of Nurses' duties in Union hospitals.

"I have covered crutches, ripped up arm slings, washed and made them over, gone to the commissary with order from doctor for material for pads for wounded or amputated limbs, and manufactured the same."¹²

Elvira Powers May, 1863, Union Hospital, Jeffersonville, Indiana

"They've come! They've come! Hurry up, ladies — you're wanted."

"Who have come? The rebels?"

"Bless you, no child; it's the wounded from Fredericksburg;..."

"What shall we do?"

"Wash, dress, feed, warm and nurse them for the next three months, I dare say. Eighty beds are ready, and we were getting impatient for the men to come. Now you will begin to see hospital life in earnest."¹³

Louisa May Alcott, Union Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Compare and contrast the daily experiences recorded in the diary of Elvira Powers to those found in *Hospital Sketches* by Louisa May Alcott. Ask a nurse to visit the class to discuss medical practices in general and military hospitals of today.

ACTIVITIES

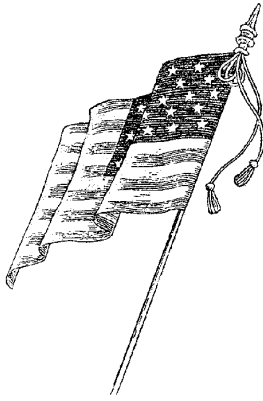
1. Harriet Colfax's family was at first against her decision to be a nurse. Divide the class into three groups representing Harriet, her mother, and her father. Make a list of the reasons to support or not support Harriet's decision. Ask each student to write a letter defending their group's decision. Select three students to portray the family members in a skit. The students should write or speak their feelings and the reasons why Harriet should or should not become a nurse.
2. Make a recruiting poster for nurses. Use either the qualifications Dorothea Dix outlined for nurses in Circular # 8 ([Worksheet 1](#)) or qualifications for a nurse today.



¹² Jane Schultz, "Are We Not All Soldiers: Northern Women in the Civil War Hospital Service" *Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies* ed. by Jack Salzman (Cambridge University Press, vol. 20), 44.

¹³ Louisa May Alcott, "Hospital Sketches," in *In Hospital and Camp* by Harold Elk Straubing (Harrisburg, Pa: Stackpole Books, 1993), 111.

PEST HOUSES AND OTHER PLACES TO HOUSE THE SICK AND WOUNDED



Public hospitals in 1860, if they existed, were small. Most were dirty and infested with rats. Their main use was for isolating poor people who had **smallpox** and other **eruptive fevers**.

The Union had no army hospitals to treat the wounded after the First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas Junction. By 1865 the Union had 204 hospitals with 136,894 beds. The two types of hospitals were the **field hospital** and the **general hospital**. Indiana had **general** or **army hospitals** in Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Evansville, New Albany, and Madison. For a short time there was a hospital in Vincennes.

The **Sisters of Providence** was a group of religious women who settled on the Wabash River near Terre Haute in 1840. Their leader, Mother Theodore Guerin, studied medicine and pharmacy in France. As was the “Rule”, Sisters were “expected to have a knowledge of the elements of pharmacy so as to render service when necessary.”¹⁴ In May of 1861, a **measles** epidemic threatened the soldiers at Camp Morton. Because of their informal nursing training, Governor Morton asked the **Sisters of Providence** for assistance. A recently built \$30,000 hospital stood vacant in Indianapolis. *The Daily Journal* of June 18, 1861, described their work this way: the Sisters “took charge of the cooking, cleaning, washing and general housekeeping.” The hospital needed a thorough cleaning before it could be used so their first request, was for “men who knew dirt when they saw it.” After the rooms were cleaned to the walls, patients took up residence.

Just behind the scene of the battle was the **field hospital**. Slightly wounded men, who were able, walked here. Others had to be carried by **litter bearers** on stretchers or in carts. At this primary station the bleeding was stopped, wounds were bandaged, and **opiates** were administered. Regimental surgeons with boxes of medications treated the soldiers as they arrived. Within a few days, they evacuated those who were able to travel to a **general hospital**.

General hospitals early in the war and **field hospitals** near the battle scene utilized any convenient building. This could be a mill, church, school, or farm house, even a stable might be used. Boards placed across chairs or benches became the flat surface for an operating table. In the beginning each regiment set up a hospital and treated only members of its own unit. This proved very inefficient and wasteful of resources. Over the first two years regimental hospitals combined to make brigade and then division and finally by 1863 corps

¹⁴ Ibid., 65.

level hospitals. A division hospital served seven to eight thousand (7,000-8,000) soldiers. It took about 20 wagons to carry the tents, supplies, and equipment necessary for a hospital.

Two styles of **general hospital** plans became popular during the Civil War. The pavilion style had a number of buildings attached to a central area for cooking, laundry, and administration. The isolated style had separate buildings or huts similar to the ones used during the Crimean War by the British. In all the hospitals, fresh air was thought to be healthy. There were lots of windows that were regularly thrown open in all seasons. Foul air was called “**noxious effluvia**”. As the war years lengthened, improvements in sanitation did away with much of this bad air.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss the **field hospital** described by Ambrose Bierce and the **general hospital** Hiram R. Martin. What are the similarities and differences? Which is like a modern hospital?

Hidden in hollows and behind clumps of rank brambles were large tents, dimly lighted with candles, but looking comfortable. The kind of comfort they supplied was indicated by pairs of men entering and reappearing, bearing litters; by low moans from within and by long rows of dead with covered faces outside. These tents were constantly receiving the wounded, yet were never full; they were continually ejecting the dead, yet were never empty. It was as if the helpless had been carried in and murdered, that they might not hamper those whose business it was to fall tomorrow.¹⁵

Ambrose Bierce, 9th Indiana Volunteers
Field Hospital between Pittsburgh Landing and Cornith

I had a good many calls to make upon the Dr. I was troubled with Diarrhoea considerably, and had an attack of Intermittent fever. I commenced vomiting in the night, and by morning I was unconcious, and was carried on a stretcher to the Regimental Hospital which was a large square tent.... I remained there I think a week or so, and was so sick that they transferred me to the general Hospital at Mumfordsville. My disease diagnosed as Pneumonia. This hospital was formerly used as a Tobacco warehouse, and there were perhaps 100 cots on the floor I was on.... The care I received was fair, but it was not very cheering to wake up in the morning and find your nearest bunk mate had died during the night and had been carried out but such was the case many times.¹⁶

Hiram R. Martin, Co. G. 29th Ind. Volunteer Infantry

¹⁵ Ambrose Bierce, *The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce* (New York and Washington: The Neale Publishing Company, 1909), 246-247.

¹⁶ Guy R. Everson, ed., “Service Afield and Afloat: a Reminiscence of the Civil War” *Indiana Historical Magazine of History*, LXXXIX no. 1 (March 1993), 43.

ACTIVITIES

1. Using the article from the Indianapolis *Daily Journal* (Worksheet 2) make a math problem answering the following questions:
 - ⇒ What was the total number of cases treated?
 - ⇒ What percentage of soldiers treated at the hospital had **measles**?
 - ⇒ What were the top five reasons to be treated in the hospital? Make a bar graph with the percentages.
2. Draw the blue print on the blackboard or construct a model of a pavilion or isolated hospital using the Federal army Circular of July, 1864, as building specifications.

Each ward (building) should be ridge-ventilated pavilion, 187' by 24' by 14' high at the eaves(eaves), equipped with a room at one end for nurses and a room at the other end for medicines and other supplies. A ward so constructed was supposed to accommodate sixty patients allowing more than 1,000 cubic feet....The Federals embellished the pavilion concept at Jefferson General Hospital (Jefersonville, Indiana) where no less than twenty four huge rectangular wards radiated out from a half mile circular corridor. Ancillary features included huge kitchens, laundries, operating rooms, pharmacies, food cellars, ice houses, and a 'dead house.'¹⁷

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¹⁷ Brooks, 47.

SUPPLIES AND THE INDIANA SANITARY COMMISSION

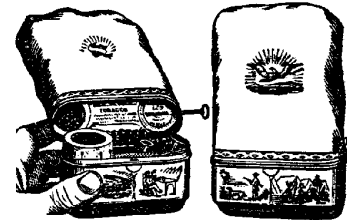
At the beginning of the war, the collection and transportation of medical supplies was a problem. In July of 1861, the Union government established the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Their charge was to monitor hospitals. They soon began to collect and distribute supplies also. In October 1861, Governor Morton made an appeal to the women of the state. Could they give "an hour of each day for a week"¹⁸ to make socks, woolen gloves or mittens, woolen shirts and **drawers**? The Indiana Sanitary Commission, established in February of 1862, collected and transported supplies to Indiana soldiers.

During the war, volunteers contributed over \$600,000 to support the Indiana Sanitary Commission. Sanitary Fairs became a social occasion during the last two years of the war. Held at the same time as neighborhood, county or state agricultural fairs, they collected both money and goods for Indiana soldiers. In addition the Legislature appropriated funds.

Early in the war, Governor Morton shipped supplies directly to the army by boats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Their charge was "to carry relief to suffering soldiers, wherever from and wherever found."¹⁹ At each port, agents sought Indiana troops in camp and hospitals. The supplies, however, were not limited to the use of Hoosier soldiers.

Soldiers wrote home for kraut or pickles in part because they were suffering from **scurvy** caused by a lack of vitamin C. In most cases relatives and friends sent canned and fresh foods to their local county seat. From there the goods went to Indianapolis or a port. Fresh fruits and vegetables were not always available because storage facilities needed ice. When ice was in short supply, fresh commodities spoiled.

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A *liberal Discount* to *Dealers*. *Single Cases* sent by mail or *Express*, *paid*, on receipt of price and 25 cents.

¹⁸ Terrell, 399.

¹⁹ Frank B. Goodrich, "The Tribute book", p. 319, in *Sanitary Fairs*, by Alvin Robert Kantor and Marjorie Sered Kantor (Glencoe, IL: S.F. Publishing, 1992), 181.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Hand out the list of the excerpts from the Indiana Sanitary Commission Report. (Worksheet 3) Ask students to sort the items sent by type of food, personal items (bedding, clothing, etc.) and medical supplies. Discuss how the food and medical supplies affected the health, comfort, and welfare of the soldier. If basic needs were provided by the army, why would these supplies be needed? For an extra research project, assign the following task: How does this list compare with what the Red Cross sends to soldiers today?

ACTIVITIES

1. Organize a food drive for your school.
2. Choose one form of transportation (boat, railroad cars, two-wheeled carts or four-wheeled wagons) to ship supplies to soldiers. Map a route from Indianapolis to Chattanooga or Nashville, Tennessee. Write an essay on why one route would be favored over another route.



Weight 9½ pounds, price \$6 00. Sold by Dealers in Military Goods throughout the country. Wholesale Depot, No. 4 Platt Street, New York.
Send for Circulars. **MILLIGAN BROS.**

THE KNOWN AND THE UNKNOWN – WOUNDS AND DISEASES

Illness in the army was dangerous because of three factors. The first was exposure to contagious diseases. Ninety percent of the men who joined the army in Indiana listed farmer as their occupation. Living close to home all their lives, these men had not been exposed to childhood diseases of **measles**, **chicken pox**, or **mumps**. Being in close quarters, they ate the same diet and used the same poor sanitation facilities. Thus, they shared the same diseases.

The second reason was ignorance of how to treat disease. Doctors at this time were not aware of how germs could spread from an infected person by coughing, touch, or contact with contaminated clothing or instruments. Many hospital facilities, especially **field hospitals**, were very crowded and not particularly clean. Consequently, contagious diseases such as **typhus**, **typhoid fever**, **mumps**, and **measles** spread easily from soldier to soldier.

The third reason for disease was poor camp conditions, specifically the poor diet, contaminated water, lack of sanitation and hygiene. In the mid-19th century people did not know about the connection between cleanliness and infection. Surgeons did not realize the importance of washing their hands or medical instruments before treating a new patient. It was not uncommon for doctors to use their fingers to inspect or clean gunshot wounds. Surgeons between patients wiped their medical instruments on aprons they wore to protect their clothing. Water was always in short supply. Instruments would likely be washed only at the end of each day. This practice led to infections. Many men died of these infections because **antibiotics** had not yet been discovered.

A new invention, the Minie ball, named for its French inventor, was shaped in such a way that it traveled faster and more accurately than the round musket balls of the past. To make matters worse, the lead Minie ball flattened when it hit a target. This caused a gaping wound, fracturing the bone. Ninety-four percent of all wounds were caused by the Minie ball.

Amputation was the common surgery for an arm or leg hit by a Minie ball. Surgeons were nick-named “sawbones,” because in order to save a victim’s life it was believed that a limb should be **amputated** immediately. This did help to prevent infection. A study of the time supported this practice. A soldier had a one in four chance of dying from disease after an **amputation** occurred.²⁰



Metallic Artificial Legs.

Made of Corrugated Brass or other Metals.
Patented Jan. 6th, 1863, by the Universal
Joint and Artificial Limb Co.

Weight only Four Pounds.

Soldier's price, \$50; Civilian's, \$75. Send for a Circular. J. W. WESTON, Agt., 491 Broadway, N. Y.

²⁰ Burroughs, 41.

Cloth bandages were made from any available cloth. In battle a dirty handkerchief or torn shirt often substituted for clean bandages. At the Battle of Antietam, which was fought in a corn field, corn leaves replaced bandages. The favorite dressing was **lint**, the cotton ball of the time. The **lint** would be placed on the wound. A sheet of cheesecloth or muslin covered the **lint**. Adhesive plaster held the bandage in place.



Fever accompanied many diseases such as malaria, **measles**, **mumps**, **typhus**, **typhoid fever**, and **pneumonia**. There were no **antibiotics** or penicillin to fight diseases and their complications. A **vaccine** existed for **smallpox**, but for no other disease. Of all the medicine used, **quinine** was most effective for malaria but was given only in small doses because it was expensive. Onions helped to reduce **diarrhea**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Compare medical knowledge at the time of the Civil War to what is known by the students. Either read Chapter 4 in *Behind the Blue and Gray*, by Delia Ray and make a list of what students have been taught about germs and sanitation. Or visit a VA or local hospital and discuss with the staff the question of sanitation, diet, and diseases in hospitals today. Discuss the advances in medical training and finding cures for diseases that killed during the Civil War.

ACTIVITIES

1. Demonstrate for students how to make **lint** for bandages. Take a worn piece of cotton fabric and stretch it over an upside-down plate. Use a table knife to scrape the fabric, creating **lint**. Collect other fabrics: wool, linen, polyester, leather, or fabric blends. Weigh the results. Make a chart to show the results of doing the same **lint**-making demonstration on the other fabrics. Discuss why different fabrics produce different amounts of **lint**. Discuss how **lint** worked as a bandage.
2. Compose Valentines for Veterans and send them to a local Veterans' Administration Hospital.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY - DOCTORS

Governor Morton, like all governors, commissioned or assigned surgeons and assistant surgeons to regiments. Each regiment had a Surgeon and an Assistant Surgeon. The governor of the state and the medical board determined the qualifications. Often regimental leaders chose men whom they knew. Here is a letter recommending such a person, reproduced exactly as it was written:

His Excellency Govr Morton South Bend Ind June 3rd 1861
Dr C Bracket of Rochester Ind is a candidate for Surgeon of one of the Inds Regts, and I very cheerfully bear testimony to his superior qualifications for the position. He is one of the very best Surgeons and Physicians in Northern Ind has had sixteen years of experience; has one of the best sets of Instruments for field practice in the State; speaks the German fluently & his Appt as Surgeon or Asst Surgeon would be a great acquisition to the service.
Respt yours
Schuyler Colfax²¹

Many older physicians learned to practice medicine through an apprenticeship to a doctor. Younger doctors usually had a medical school diploma. There was no set of standards for either. Modern residency programs were uncommon. Only Massachusetts allowed a surgeon to dissect cadavers. Women were expected to take care of the ill at home, but few studied to become doctors.

All doctors in the army were called “surgeons”. In camp they took care of the illnesses caused by poor diet, lack of cleanliness, and infectious diseases. When a battle was near, the Assistant Surgeon chose a spot for the **field hospital**. Here in a tent or an abandoned building he stopped the flow of blood and bandaged the wounded. He took several **orderlies** with him to serve as **litter** (stretcher) **bearers**. The Surgeon waited at the Regimental or later the Division Hospital for the cases that required surgery. Here bones that were fractured beyond repair were **amputated**. By Union **amputation** records, there were 29,980 reported cases during the entire Civil War:²²

	Cases	Deaths
Fingers	7,902	198
Forearms	1,761	245
Upper arms	5,540	1,273
Toes	1,519	81
Legs	5,523	1,790
Amputation at thigh	6,369	3,411
“ at knee joint	195	111
“ at hip joint	66	55
“ at ankle	161	119

²¹James W. Wheaton, comp., *Surgeon on Horseback The Missouri and Arkansas Journal and Letters of Dr. Charles Bracket of Rochester, Indiana 1861-1863* (Indianapolis, IN: Guild Press of Indiana, Inc., 1998), 2.

²²Brooks, 127.

Surgeons' duties included more than the term applies to today. Several drugs proved indispensable. **Quinine, morphine, and chloroform** were the most common of these medications. The Surgeon General supplied these drugs to the regiments. Edward R. Squibb formed a pharmaceutical company to manufacture drugs. His company provided a set of 52 bottles of medications for \$110. The bottles were numbered, not labeled. Some medicines like mercury pills are now known to be poisonous. Others like ipecac, used to induce vomiting, are still in use today.

For the first time anesthetics, such as **chloroform**, were widely used during surgery. An alternative to **amputation**, called surgical resection or excision, cut away the bone from the injured limb. The two remaining pieces were rejoined. The arm or leg was shorter, but still remained useful. This procedure was more successful with arms than with legs.

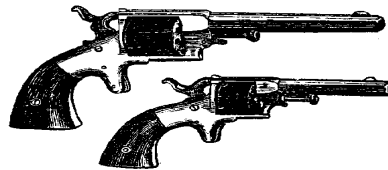
DISCUSSION QUESTION

View the opening scenes of the movie *Dances with Wolves* showing the hospital scene. Discuss the issue: Lt. John Dunbar should have stayed to have his leg **amputated**. (This 2-minute video clip is graphic and should be previewed by the teacher.)

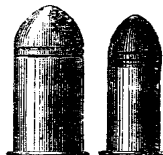
ACTIVITIES

1. Calculate the percentages of deaths from each type of **amputation** case. Make a graph to show the results. (Worksheet 4)
2. Dr. W. M. Wishard was a Civil War surgeon who worked closely with the Indiana Sanitary Commission. Mr. Fred Schaefer composed a fictional letter that Dr. Wishard could have written asking for supplies (Worksheet 5). Mr. Schaefer is a member of the Indiana Civil War Medical Society and is a Civil War reenactor. Make a list of questions you would like to ask a Civil War surgeon. Read the letter from the surgeon. Write the answers to the questions.

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Navy Size Copper Water-proof Cartridge.



No. 33, or 4in. Copper Water-proof Cartridge.

The Six, or Navy Size, carries a Ball weighing 58 to the lb., and the No. 33, or 4in. Revolver, a Ball 50 to the lb. By recent experiments made in the Army, these Revolvers were pronounced the best and most effective weapons in use. For particulars call or send for a Circular to
MERWIN & BRAY, Sole Agents,
No. 245 Broadway, N. Y.

VOCABULARY

- amputate** – to cut off an arm or leg
- antibiotic*** – produced by microorganisms or synthetically (e.g., penicillin) and used to inhibit or destroy other viruses or bacteria²³
- chicken pox*** – infectious viral disease, especially in children, characterized by a rash of small blisters
- chloroform** – colorless liquid used as an anesthetic
- diarrhea*** – abnormally frequent, loose bowel movements caused by digestion difficulties, nervous shock, or tension
- drawers** – clothing worn under the wool pants
- eruptive fevers** – **measles** and scarlet fever
- field hospitals** – hospital near the scene of the battle
- general hospitals** – Pavilion style, series of buildings around a central corridor; Isolated plan, each building was separate
- hospital ship** – carried the wounded to a **general hospital**
- immunity*** – ability of an organism to resist infection, through the presence of antibodies and white cells
- lint** – soft, material made by scraping or picking apart old woven linen
- litter-bearer** – soldiers assigned to carry wounded on stretchers to **field hospitals**
- measles*** – acute, contagious, viral disease characterized by red spots on the skin, fever, cough, and runny nose
- morphine*** – addictive drug, made from opium, used to kill pain
- mumps*** – highly contagious, viral disease marked by swelling of the parotid salivary glands in the face
- opiates** or pain killers – derived from the opium poppy, but whisky was the primary pain killer
- orderlies** – men assigned by their commanding officer to assist the Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon
- pestilence** – very contagious diseases
- pneumonia** – inflammatory disease of one or both lungs, caused by bacteria
- quinine** – drug derived from the cinchona bark, used to treat malaria
- smallpox** – contagious virus with skin eruptions, the saying, “a pox upon you” came from this disease
- typhoid fever*** – contagious disease spread by milk, water, or solid food contaminated by feces of typhoid victims or carriers
- typhus*** – name given three types of infectious diseases caused by parasitic microorganisms, disease spread by body lice, personal contact, or by the rat flea
- vaccine*** – preparation that is given to produce **immunity** from a particular disease

²³ All starred definitions are from Microsoft Encarta 95 (1994) and Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

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Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum – home page

www.state.in.us/iwm/civilwar/index.html

Located in the base of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on the Circle in Indianapolis, this web site offers a virtual tour of the museum, directions to the museum, volunteer information, and a number of valuable links to other sites.

Discovery School's Puzzlemaker

www.puzzlemaker.com

Create crossword puzzles, word searches, math puzzles, and mazes from your vocabulary. Includes clip art.

National Museum of Civil War Medicine – home page

www.CivilWarMed.org.

Museum in Frederick, Maryland with museum store and student resources.

United States Sanitary Commission site

<http://www.netwalk.com/~jpr/>.

Mostly text including letters, orders, newspaper ads, salaries, Sanitary Fairs, amputations, poems, and patterns for bandages, a hospital shirt, slippers, and drawers.

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Rowe, Glen. Roweclan Haversack . Addison, IL.
Dual-packs of stationary and stamps. Order direct: 309 Addison
Rd. Addison, IL 60101

Worksheet 1

WANTED UNION NURSES

Circular No. 8

Washington, D. C., July 14, 1862

No candidate for service in the Women's Department for nursing in the Military Hospitals of the United States, will be received below the age of thirty-five years, nor above fifty.

Only women of strong health, not subject of chronic disease, nor liable to sudden illnesses, need apply. The duties of the station make large and continued demands on strength.

Matronly persons of experience, good conduct, or superior education and serious disposition, will always have preference: habits of neatness, order, sobriety, and industry, are prerequisites.

All applicants must present certificates of qualification and good character from at least two persons of trust, testifying to morality, integrity, seriousness, and capacity for care of the sick.

Obedience to rules of service, and conformity to special regulations, will be required and enforced.

Compensation, as regulated by act of Congress, forty cents a day and subsistence. Transportation furnished to and from the place of service.

Amount of luggage limited within small compass.

Dress plain, (colors brown, grey, or black,) and while connected with the service without ornaments of any sort.

No applicants accepted for less than three months' service: those for longer periods always have preference.

D. L. DIX

Approved,
William A. Hammond.
*Surgeon General.*²⁴

²⁴ Wynell Burroughs, Jean Mueller, and Jean Preer, "Teaching with Documents Surgeon General's Office" *Social Education* (January, 1988): 67.

Worksheet 2

HOSPITALS AND DISEASES

Name _____

Here is the Report of the Surgeons of the Military Hospital in Indianapolis as published in the Indianapolis Daily Journal on Friday, August 16, 1861.²⁵ Use this information to answer the following questions:

- ⇒ What was the total number of soldiers treated? _____
- ⇒ What percentage of soldiers treated at the hospital had **measles**? _____
- ⇒ What were the top five reasons to be treated in the hospital? Make a line or bar graph with the percentages.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Measles	430	
Varioloid.....	1	
Intermittent Fever.....	52	
Remittent Fever.....	13	
Bilious Fever.....	25	
Typhoid Fever.....	7	
Catarrhal Fever.....	2	
Bronchitis.....	1	
Pleurisy.....	1	
Pneumonia.....	26	
Congestion of the Brain.....	1	
Cholera Morbus.....	2	
Dysentery.....	26	
Obstinate Diarrhea.....	28	
Delirium Tremens.....	5	
Acute Rheumatism.....	4	
Mumps.....	4	
Neuralgia.....	1	
Inflammation of the Tonsils.....	1	
Inflammation of the Liver.....	1	
Bad Rupture.....	1	
Sun Stroke.....	1	
Erysipelas.....	1	
Burn.....	1	
General Debility.....	1	
Diseases of the Eye.....	8	
Private Diseases.....	7	
Fracture of the Thigh.....	1	
Gun Shot Wounds and Other Injuries..	8	

²⁵ Sister Mary Theodosia Mug, *Lest We Forget the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods in Civil War Service* (St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN: Providence Press, 1931), 25-26.

Worksheet 3

SUPPLIES FROM HOME

Name _____

Here is a list of supplies shipped from Indiana to Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee. On a separate sheet of paper, sort this list into three groups: medical supplies, food, and personal items. (All spelling and capitalization are from the report to the US Sanitary Commission.)

Shipped to Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 10th, 1864 care Dr. Daniel Meeker

28 pillows	65 gallons kroust	42 handkerchiefs
118 pillow cases	20 gallons apple butter	320 pounds dried apples
75 sheets	220 pounds butter	80 lbs. small fruit, dried
7 comforts	150 pounds crackers	63 cans fruit
46 towels	70 pounds dried beef	20 gallons pickles
7 coats	184 pairs socks	17 pounds lint
164 shirts	50 pairs mittens	239 bandages
116 pairs drawers	20 pairs slippers	26 pads and cushions
		65 pounds rags

Shipped to Chattanooga, Tenn. June 27, 1864, care J.H. Turner

80 pillows	1 barrel flour	134 bottles ale
160 shirts	25 bandages	120 " wine
40 housewives	33 arm slings	310 pounds farina
51 lbs small fruits, dried	1114 magazines and papers	700 " crackers
6187 pounds dried apples	24 plates	209 " hominy
2 boxes lemons	15 dishes	20 gal. Molasses
45 gallons pickles	8 pillow cases	8 pounds lint
131 bottles brandy	100 pairs drawers	152 pounds rags
15 bottles corn starch	35 handkerchiefs	12 coffee pots
8 bottles dried herbs	12 pounds soap	15 tea pots
273 dozen eggs	500 " dried peaches	74 pounds concentrated milk
10 pounds dried beef	220 cans fruit	91 pads and cushions
10 bushels corn meal	3 bushels potatoes	

Worksheet 4

DOCTORS

Name _____

Doctors in the army were called surgeons. In camp they took care of the illnesses caused by poor diet, lack of cleanliness, and infectious diseases. When a battle was near, the Assistant Surgeon chose a spot for the **field hospital**. Here in a tent or an abandoned building he stopped the flow of blood and bandaged the wounded. He took several **orderlies** with him to serve as **litter** (stretcher) **bearers**. The Surgeon waited at the Regimental, or later the Division, Hospital for the cases that required surgery. Here bones that were fractured beyond repair were **amputated**. By official Union **amputation** records for the entire Civil War, there were 29,980 reported cases.²⁶

	Cases	Deaths	Percentage
Fingers	7,902	198	3%
Forearms	1,761	245	
Upper arms	5,540	1,273	
Toes	1,519	81	
Legs	5,523	1,790	
Amputation at thigh	6,369	3,411	
" at knee joint	195	111	
" at hip joint	66	55	
" at ankle	161	119	
Total	29,980	7,283	

◇ What is the percent of deaths from each type of amputation case?

Fingers	_____
Forearms	_____
Upper arms	_____
Toes	_____
Legs	_____
Amputation at thigh	_____
" at knee joint	_____
" at hip joint	_____
" at ankle	_____

◇ Make a bar or line graph to show your results.

²⁶ Stewart Brooks, *Civil War Medicine* (Springfield, IL: Charles A. Thomas, n.d.), 127.

Worksheet 5

"LETTER TO A SURGEON"

a fictional account
by reenactor Fred Schaefer, Indianapolis

Headquarters, General A. Stone>
Quarter-Master Vicksburg, Miss> >
May 15, 1863>

>
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT< > >
SANITARY REPORT< >

General: I have the honor to submit the following report for acquisition of store supplies, to a Mr. William Hannaman, Chief Agent of Indiana Sanitary Commission, located in Indianapolis, Indiana.<

>
I Dr. Wm. H. Wishard of Johnson Co. a contract surgeon in charge of the 83rd Ind. Regimental Hospital, sent a previous report April 25, 1863 asking for sanitary supplies, which have not been issued at this time of writing.<

>
As of this day, our hospital has nearly 30 patients poorly fed and clothed, our supplies are almost exhausted, and our soldiers' general condition deplorable.< >

<
We are still experiencing a shortage of bandages and arm slings, forcing us to use rags in their place. I've been told by you Gen. Stone that the steamer "City of Madison" sanitary ship will be sent and hopefully by here by the fourth of July. I am submitting a list of food, clothing and supplies we need for our regiment and hospital.< >

<
40 barrel potatoes, 10 barrels onions, 10 of turnips, 20 barrels green apples, 6 barrels of dried apples, 2 barrels of cabbages, 20 dozen cans of fruit, 1 box of bottled spirits, 200 bandages, 15 pound of lint, 30 arm slings, 100 pairs of socks, 100 pounds of crackers< >

<
General Stone: I hope this report makes it to Mr. Hannaman and his Sanitary Commission.<

<
I wish I could describe to you all I have witnessed tonight. Since dark I have been nearly a mile from our camp to visit our quartermaster, and on my return I thought of home and its quiet scenes compared with what I see about me. The moon is just rising; the whole country is enveloped in clouds of smoke and dust; camp-fires are on every hill and in every hollow for miles around. The incessant roar of cannon and constant crack of muskets from our sharpshooters keep up such a din and confusion as are rarely heard.<

<
I talked with some Rebel deserters today who came out last night. They told me the Rebel generals say they will have to surrender, but we will not celebrate in Vicksburg.< >

Our men are working day and night to have our heavy cannon in position to open fire tomorrow morning. "Many poor fellows will take their last look at this green earth that day."<

<
As we anxiously await shipment of our supplies, Mr. Hannaman, Godspeed to you and the "City of Madison."<

<

Your Obedient Servant,< >
William H. Wishard, M.D.<
Surgeon