

Profiles in Leadership



Clara Barton



Clara Barton

Born: 1821 Died: 1912

Clara Barton

Born on Christmas day in 1821 in Oxford, Massachusetts.

Her father, a farmer, had also been a soldier and he instilled in his daughter a lifelong interest in the military.

When she was 11, she nursed her brother who was badly injured. Day and night for two years she attend him.

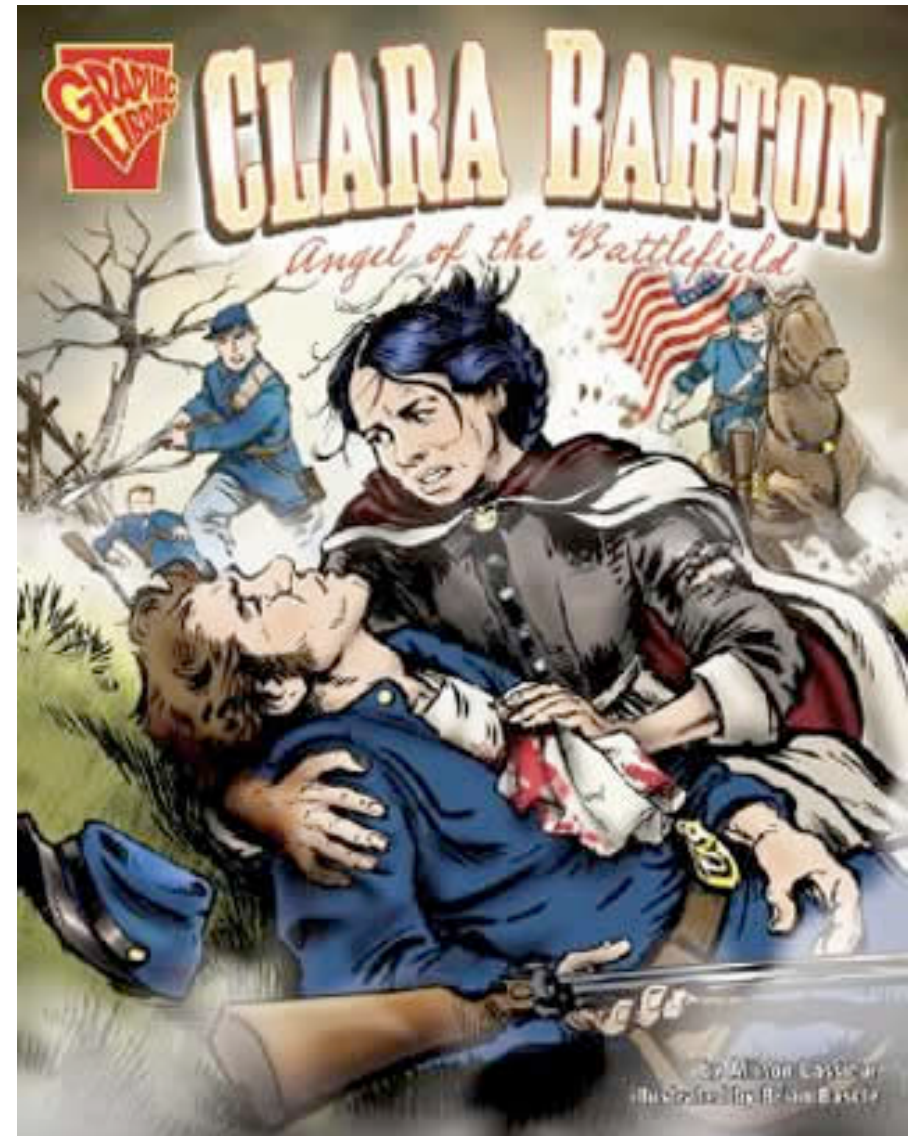


Clara Barton

At age 15, Barton began an 18-year period of teaching.

In April 1862, after the First Battle of Bull Run, Barton established an agency to obtain and distribute supplies to the wounded soldiers.

In July 1862, she was allowed to travel behind the lines, and help aid and nurse the soldiers back to health.



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As a result of her work on the battlefield, she became known as the “Angel of the Battlefield”. She experienced first hand the horrors of war on sixteen different battlefields of the Civil War.



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After the war, in 1869, she traveled to Europe and learned about the Red Cross as outlined in the Treaty of Geneva.

Twelve nations signed the treaty but the United States had not. When she returned to the United States she began a campaign to have the US join and vowed to establish the Red Cross in the United States.

The United States eventually signed the Geneva Agreement in 1882.

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Barton expanded the original concept of the Red Cross to include assisting in any great national disaster. This service brought the United States the “Good Samaritan of Nations” label.

Barton was the President of the American Red Cross for twenty two years.



Clara Barton

Clara Barton was one of America's greatest heroines - a true patriot and philanthropist who, when she saw a practical need, gave every ounce of her strength to address it.



Clara Barton

She died at the age of 91 in 1912 and her body was taken to Oxford for burial.

