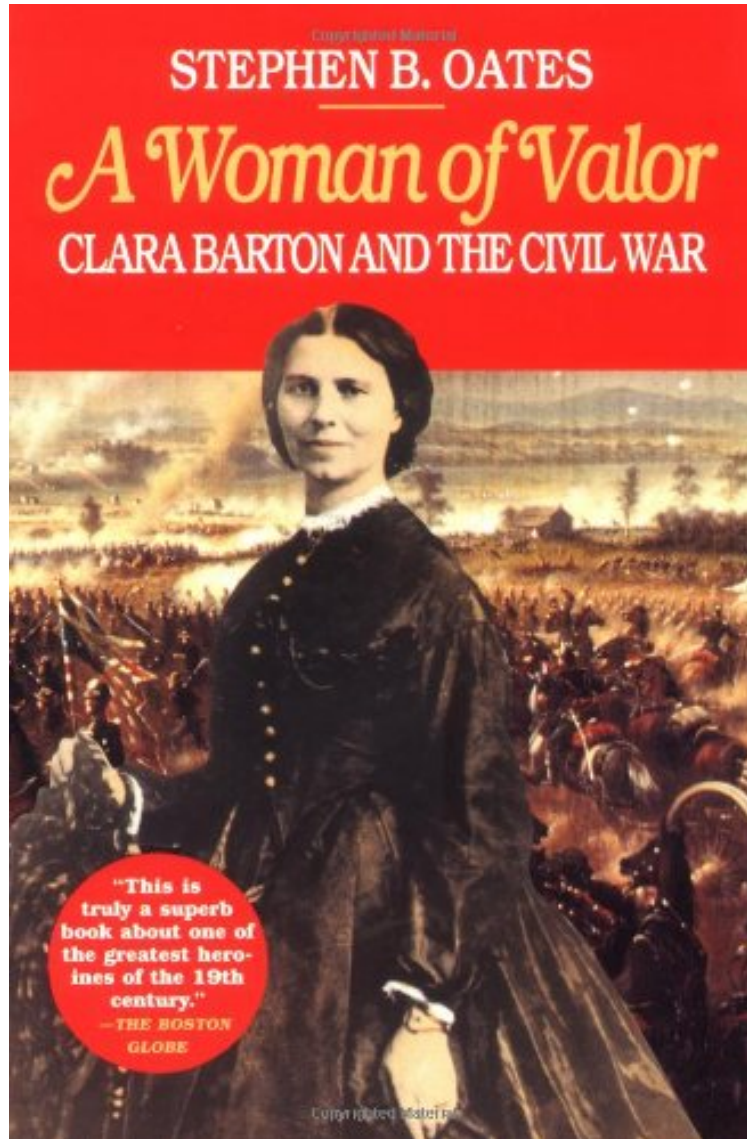


(Free download) Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War

Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War

Stephen B. Oates

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Stephen B. Oates : Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting book By Ann I am still in the process of reading this book with my daughter for a book report. The author has taken information from real people and directly from Miss

Clara Barton's own diaries. It makes for a very interesting story. The reader is guided through the story and all the information about where she is and what is happening is very real. Descriptions abound throughout and the storyteller leaves the reader wanting more. I would say, the only downside is probably that the book is divided into only parts and not chapters. I had to divide the book myself so that we could digest the story in small doses for discussion. One other thing that I did not realize, Miss Barton lead a very storied life and some rather graphics details were included that we did not find tasteful or useful for the report and were therefore omitted from our reading. This, by-the-way was not any of the gory battle scenes, but her love life. On the whole, I have enjoyed the biography thus far and would recommend it for more mature audiences to read.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The unloved, frighten child who founded the Am Red Cross and needed to be neededBy CustomerI used this as a major reference, supported by other works, to write a Chautauqua-style first person script of Clara Barton. I found it useful for my purpose. The narrative of the battles and impoverished medical plans were accurately problematic for the Union at the time of the Civil War.If the objective is to understand Clara's unique role in the Civil War this is a good reference. To understand the battles, it is necessary to review Ken Burns, Civil War documentary along with the book.Clara Barton was insecure individual, unwanted by her mother, and her only memory of a childhood was one of fear - fear of being seen and noticed. Compensating for that developmental problem, she developed an obsession for being needed. Complicated by depression, she ran a single track of frenetic control and needing respect with approval throughout her life.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What a woman!By ravenHistory with gusto! This was an excellent book. I learned so much about the Civil War and some of the important battles as well as about Andersonville. Clara Barton cared for and honored our brave soldiers, north or south, white or black.

When the Civil War broke out, Clara Barton wanted more than anything to be a Union soldier, an impossible dream for a thirty-nine-year-old woman, who stood a slender five feet tall. Determined to serve, she became a veritable soldier, a nurse, and a one-woman relief agency operating in the heart of the conflict. Now, award-winning author Stephen B. Oates, drawing on archival materials not used by her previous biographers, has written the first complete account of Clara Barton's active engagement in the Civil War.By the summer of 1862, with no institutional affiliation or official government appointment, but impelled by a sense of duty and a need to heal, she made her way to the front lines and the heat of battle. Oates tells the dramatic story of this woman who gave the world a new definition of courage, supplying medical relief to the wounded at some of the most famous battles of the war -- including Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Battery Wagner, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Petersburg. Under fire with only her will as a shield, she worked while ankle deep in gore, in hellish makeshift battlefield hospitals -- a bullet-riddled farmhouse, a crumbling mansion, a windblown tent. Committed to healing soldiers' spirits as well as their bodies, she served not only as nurse and relief worker, but as surrogate mother, sister, wife, or sweetheart to thousands of sick, wounded, and dying men.Her contribution to the Union was incalculable and unique. It also became the defining event in Barton's life, giving her the opportunity as a woman to reach out for a new role and to define a new profession. Nursing, regarded as a menial service before the war, became a trained, paid occupation after the conflict. Although Barton went on to become the founder and first president of the Red Cross, the accomplishment for which she is best known, *A Woman of Valor* convinces us that her experience on the killing fields of the Civil War was her most extraordinary achievement.

From Publishers WeeklyProlific biographer Oates (Abraham Lincoln) uses both primary and secondary sources in addressing the Civil War career of Clara Barton (1821-1912). He interprets her work as an act of self-discovery and part of a larger trend in which American women were finding a new sense of their collective worth. An "angel of the battlefield" who succored the wounded while under fire, Barton also raised funds and supplies through a network of women's support groups, while challenging the conventional belief that nursing was inappropriate for respectable women. Overcoming her initial inhibitions and demonstrating that women were more broadly capable than had been accepted, Barton, who founded the American Red Cross, opened the door for women in professions and politics during the second half of the 19th century. Oates here makes a useful contribution to women's history and Civil War studies. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalBefore her name became synonymous with the Red Cross, Barton organized drives at the outbreak of the Civil War for badly needed supplies for an army that had almost no idea of the carnage that lay ahead. At the urging of her father, she cast off her qualms about being the only "lady" near so many soldiers and worked on the battlefield to try and save literally fields full of wounded men. By the end of the war she was an honored and loved veteran and a feminist. Although this work brings to light Barton's affair with a married officer, it is not a salacious or even vaguely sensational biography. Like Oates's previous biographies of Lincoln (Abraham Lincoln , LJ 3/15/84) and John Brown (To Purge This Land with Blood , Univ. of Mass., 1984), this is a carefully written and researched work that brings to life both the Civil War and a period of Barton's life that was to affect her forever. Since this is the first biography to do so in any depth, it deserves consideration by most libraries.- Katherine Gillen, Mesa P.L., Ariz.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sA lively account of Clara Barton's life during the Civil War that reveals both the character of this compelling woman and the

awfulness of war. Oates (Abraham Lincoln, 1984; *Let The Trumpet Sound*, 1982) quotes liberally from her voluminous correspondence, much of it apparently written with an eye toward publication. Beginning his story with the opening days of the war, when Barton was working in the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C., Oates gives a vivid portrait of life in the wartime capital. Within months, Clara, as he always refers to her, became a one-woman relief agency, collecting clothing, food, whiskey, and medical supplies from women in her home state of Massachusetts and distributing them to soldiers. She persuaded officials to let her take her supplies onto the battlefield at Antietam, becoming the only Northern female nurse to serve under enemy fire. Later she served at the battles at Fredericksburg and Battery Wagner, and when the fighting ended, she aided in the search for missing soldiers, a task that took her to the notorious Andersonville prison. Oates makes much of her brief fling with a married man, Colonel John Elwell, even providing details of mid-19th-century contraceptive methods, although there is no evidence that Barton or her lover used them. He claims that this is the story Barton wanted told. Maybe, maybe not. Her bravery under fire, her drive and endurance, her sense of duty and propriety, her ability to rouse public support for her relief efforts, and her skill at manipulating the military and political bureaucracies are all shown here, but so are her depressions, her inability to work within existing nursing and relief services, and her outrage when other women infringed on her territory. Splendidly detailed narrative with special appeal for Civil War buffs and lovers of history--and herstory. Includes maps--not seen. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.