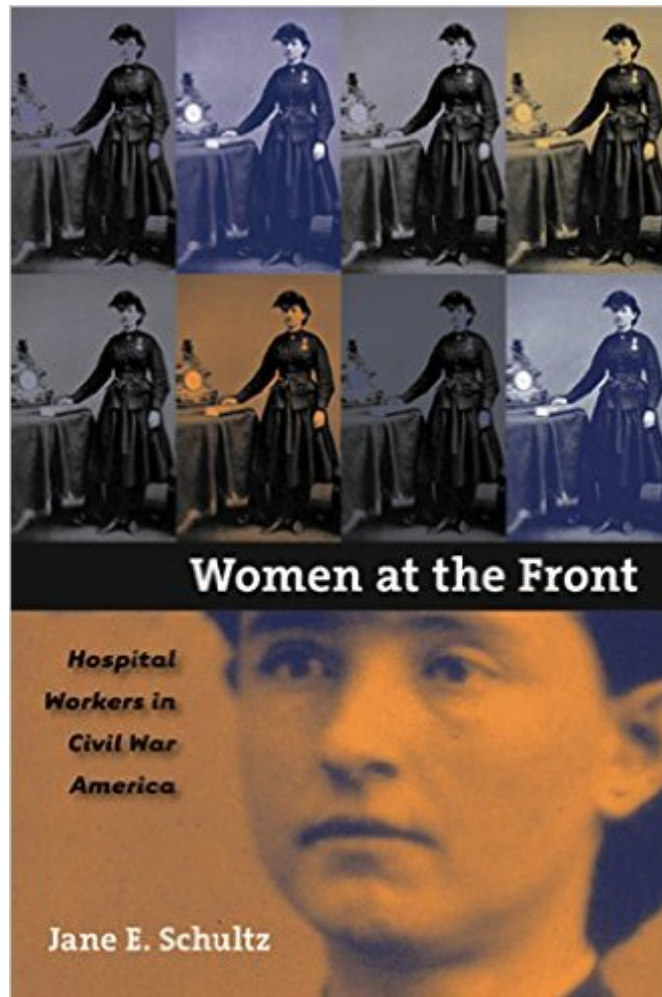


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# Women At The Front: Hospital Workers In Civil War America



## Synopsis

As many as 20,000 women worked in Union and Confederate hospitals during America's bloodiest war. Black and white, and from various social classes, these women served as nurses, administrators, matrons, seamstresses, cooks, laundresses, and custodial workers. Jane E. Schultz provides the first full history of these female relief workers, showing how the domestic and military arenas merged in Civil War America, blurring the line between homefront and battlefield. Schultz uses government records, private manuscripts, and published sources by and about women hospital workers, some of whom are familiar--such as Dorothea Dix, Clara Barton, Louisa May Alcott, and Sojourner Truth--but most of whom are not well-known. Examining the lives and legacies of these women, Schultz considers who they were, how they became involved in wartime hospital work, how they adjusted to it, and how they challenged it. She demonstrates that class, race, and gender roles linked female workers with soldiers, both black and white, but became sites of conflict between the women and doctors and even among themselves. Schultz also explores the women's postwar lives--their professional and domestic choices, their pursuit of pensions, and their memorials to the war in published narratives. Surprisingly few parlayed their war experience into postwar medical work, and their extremely varied postwar experiences, Schultz argues, defy any simple narrative of pre-professionalism, triumphalism, or conciliation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Recently, I've been working on family history and found that one of my ancestors was a nurse in the Civil War. This connection peaked my interest in this fascinating aspect of Civil War life. **WOMEN AT THE FRONT: HOSPITAL WORKER IN CIVIL WAR AMERICA** was effective in providing the background information I needed to bring my family history alive. This well-researched book provides background information about the roll of women. Then provides indepth biographies on selected women.

If one wishes a very good history regarding women during the Civil War and their service in the hospitals, as well as the story of women after the war, then this is a book to read. The information is not only informative but well presented. The story of women and their treatment is rending, yet at the same time admirable because of their determination during and after the war to show that women were ore than show pieces or slaves to the men, having babies and just taking care of the home.

What a book! Dr Schultz has spent much time and effort and the resulting book is wonderful. The resources quoted and listed contain a wealth of information and her new perspective is thought-provoking even if you don't agree! Great resource for the true researcher. Wish I had written this one. Linda Estupinan Snook

What a great book. Describes the trials of women working during the Civil War. Many of their hardships were just because they were women. Beside the medical difficulties they even had to worry about feeding their patients.

This is an indepth review of the nurses in general. I was looking more for a one person story. This a lot of information about what ladies battled in their quest to be useful in the war.

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