

# Clara Barton

1821-1912

*Clarissa "Clara" Harlowe Barton was a nurse, educator, and the founder of the American Red Cross. She was extremely shy as a child but used her strengths of intelligence, determination, and empathy to succeed in a number of different careers. She made a difference in countless lives.*

## Clara Barton's Achievements

### Education and Teaching

Clara taught in a local school starting at age 18, and founded her own school at age 24 for mill workers' children. She also established a free school in New Jersey in 1852.



### US Patent Office

In 1854, Clara became the first woman appointed to a post as recording clerk at the US Patent Office. She was paid the same as her male colleagues- something that did not always happen in the educational system.

### Civil War

In 1861, Clara began providing supplies to Union soldiers; she became known as the "angel of the battlefield." She became head nurse of General Butler's units in 1864 and helped prepare enslaved people for their lives in freedom. She helped locate missing soldiers after the war, marked graves, and testified in Congress about her war experiences.



### American Association of the Red Cross

In 1869, Clara traveled in Europe and learned about the International Red Cross. In May 1881, the American Red Cross was founded and in June 1881, Clara was elected president. She worked with the Red Cross until 1904, when she started the National First Aid Association of America.

