

Artifacts in the NPS Museum Collections

Artifacts of Relief: Clara Barton

The Clara Barton National Historic Site preserves the legacy of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross and its president for 26 years. She also founded The National First Aid Association of America Incorporated. Many of the artifacts in the web collection are related to Ms. Barton's assistance during and after the Civil War, and American Red Cross relief efforts. Visit the [park website](http://www.nps.gov/CLBA/) (<http://www.nps.gov/CLBA/>) and the [NPS web collections page](http://go.usa.gov/cksrU) (<http://go.usa.gov/cksrU>) to learn about her selfless exploits and explore artifacts related to her endeavors. Try to answer these questions by exploring the web collection.



Glen Echo

- **Part 1:** Before Clara Barton had knowledge of the International Red Cross, she was working tirelessly to aid wounded Confederate and Union Civil War soldiers. After the Civil War she spent 4 years searching for soldiers missing in action (MIA). Search the web collection for 4 - 6 items that illustrate this aspect of her career. Imagine these items together in an exhibit. Write a 3-5 sentence exhibit paragraph detailing her contributions to soldiers and their families during and following the war.
- **Part 2:** Clara Barton's home at Glen Echo was also the American Red Cross national headquarters. A photograph of a hotel has this inscription on the back: "...House at Glen Echo built from these timbers." Can you find this photograph? This hotel was related to one of the Red Cross' most successful relief efforts. What was this relief effort? Search the web collection and find at least two additional artifacts related to relief efforts. For what kind of calamities did the Red Cross provide relief? What do these relief efforts tell you about the purpose of the American Red Cross? Think in terms of the people and places for which relief was provided.
- **Part 3:** One of Ms. Barton's favorite quotes was: "You have never known me without work; while able, you never will. It has always been a part of the best religion I had." She often used this quote in Christmas cards to her closest companions. Find two Christmas cards containing this quote in the web collection. What type of training does she advocate in both of her cards? Who does she believe will benefit from this training and how?
- **Part 4:** Find the catalog item CLBA 1519 - First Aid Kit. What items can you identify? How do you think these items were used? Compare these items to those in a present day First Aid Kit. What items are different? What items are similar? Create a new 2-3 sentence exhibit label for artifact CLBA 1519, First Aid Kit using what you have learned from Clara Barton's Christmas cards?

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National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Artifacts of Relief: Clara Barton: Answer Sheet

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Class:** _____

Part 1:

Part 2:

Part 3:

Part 4:
