Women's History Month Booklist
March 2011
Our History is Our Strength

The National Women's History Project celebrates the contributions of women throughout history and around the world. Although women's history is intertwined with the history shared with men, several factors - social, religious, economic, and biological - have worked to create a unique sphere of women's history.

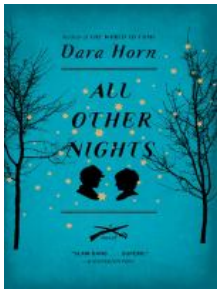
The month developed from March 8th already being International Women's Day (first established in 1911) into a history week and in 1987, thanks to lobbying by a coalition lead by the National Women's History Project, to encompassing the entire month.

This year's booklist recognizes the contributions of women during the Civil War in commemoration of its sesquicentennial. Even when women are acknowledged and recognized in their own lifetimes, they are frequently left out of our history books. Please join NPL in celebrating the recognition of women's historic achievements and the significant role of women in history and contemporary society.

The following is a selected list of books, videos, and websites that will help you learn more about women in history. All books and videos are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online at any of the public computer stations located in the library or from home.

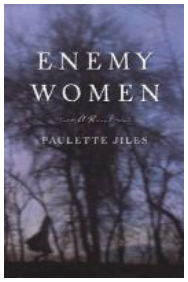
ADULT FICTION

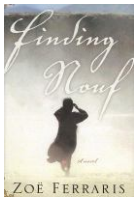
The following is a selected list of fiction books that provide an insight into women's experience in history as well as the Civil War through literature and storytelling.



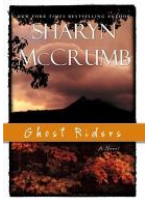
All Other Nights: A Novel
(Dara Horn) In this fast-paced historical thriller, a Jewish Union spy selected to assassinate his own uncle who is plotting to assassinate President Lincoln must also marry a feisty Confederate spy to break a code used by the south. This is a page-turner is rich with genuine romance and the history of America (North and South) written with strong women characters.

Enemy Women
(Paulette Jiles) For the Colleys of southeastern Missouri the War Between the States is a plague that threatens devastation despite the family's avowed neutrality. For eighteen-year-old Adair Colley it is a nightmare seen at its most terrible on the day the Union Militia arrives to set her house on fire, driving her brother into hiding and dragging her widowed father away, beaten and bloodied. Left to care for two young sisters, Adair sees no road but the one that leads away, and they start out on foot into the winter mountains in search of a safe haven

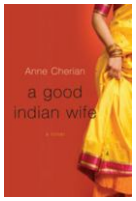




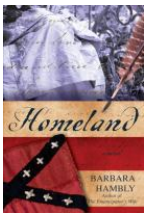
Finding Nouf
(Zoë Ferraris) Stumbling upon the drowned body of Nouf, the teenage daughter of a prominent, wealthy Saudi Arabian family, Nayir, a desert guide hired by her family to search for her, feels compelled to discover what really happened to her.



Ghost Riders: A Novel
(Sharyn McCrumb) A sweeping novel that juxtaposes the legends of the Civil War with the lives of the modern-day mountain folk immortalized in her award-winning books.



A Good Indian Wife
(Anne Cheritan) With a girlfriend and a promising career back in San Francisco, the last thing Neel needs is an arranged marriage. Leila is a thirty-year-old teacher in Neel's family's village who has watched too many prospective husbands come and go to think her newest suitor will be any different. She is well past prime marrying age; her family has no money for a dowry; and then there's the matter of an old friendship with a Muslim boy named Janni.



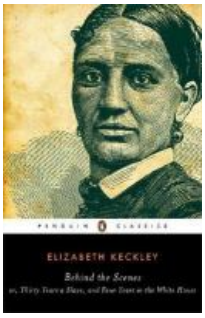
Homeland: A Novel
(Barbara Hambly) A novel about two women, who write about books and art, about loss and longing, about their future and the future of their country. About love. About being a woman in nineteenth-century America. About the triumphant resilience of the human spirit.

ADULT NONFICTION

The following is a selected list of nonfiction books that provide an overview of the women's experience in world history with attention to the Civil War.

Amelia Earhart: The Turbulent Life of an American Icon
(Kathleen C. Winters) This novel is a well researched account of Earhart's life as well as her credentials as a pilot. The author does not embellishing the romanticism of Earhart's fame, and sticks to the written accounts of both friend and foe.

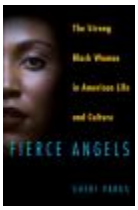
Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House
(Elizabeth Keckly) Part slave narrative, part memoir, and part sentimental fiction Behind the Scenes depicts Elizabeth Keckley's years as a slave and subsequent four years in Abraham Lincoln's White House during the Civil War. When originally published in 1868 it was attacked as indecent for its lack of loyalty. It remains extraordinary for its poignancy, candor, and historical perspective.

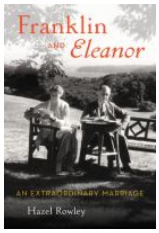


Civil War Wives: The Lives and Times of Angelina Grimke Weld, Varina Howell Davis, and Julia Dent Grant
(Carol Berkin) In the life stories of three accidental heroes, women whose marriages provided them with position and perspective they would not otherwise have had, one of the nation's premier historians offers a unique understanding of the tumultuous social and political landscape of their time. (Available in the Sergeant Memorial Collection.)

Confederate Heroines: 120 Southern Women Convicted by Union Military Justice
(Thomas P. Lowry) During the Civil War, southern women fought a war within a war. While most of their efforts involved legal activities, many women in the Confederacy challenged Federal authority in more direct and dangerous ways. Here are their stories, many in first-person testimonies.

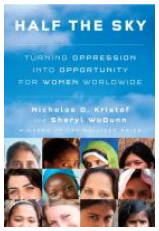
Fierce Angels: The Strong Black Woman in American Life and Culture
(Sheri Parks)
Parks argues that black women in popular American culture are portrayed as women who will endure all hardships to address the needs of others. This image carries the toll of women bearing enormous responsibilities with little power and control.





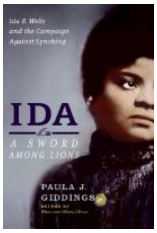
Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage
(Hazel Rowley) In this groundbreaking new account of the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the author explores the many dimensions of one of the most scrutinized and celebrated political partnerships in American history.

Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon, and the Journey of a Generation *(Sheila Weller).* This epic triple biography examines the careers and personal lives of three icons of American popular music: Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon. While pioneering in the music business, they also found themselves inevitably in similar roles in the women's movement and all in the midst of the turbulent 1960's.

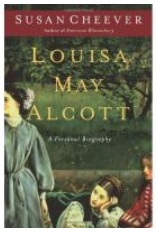


Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide
(Nicholas D. Kristof). Through personal stories from women they have interviewed, the authors tell us that the key to the improvement of human rights for women worldwide lies in unleashing women's potential with regard to economic progress. This study should galvanize support for needed reforms on all levels.

Ida: A Sword Among Lions
(Paula J. Giddings) In this eagerly awaited biography, Paula Giddings brings to life the irrepressible personality of Ida B. Wells as she became a national crusader in the struggle against lynching; a practice that imperiled not only the lives of black men and women, but also a nation based on law and torn apart by racial matters.

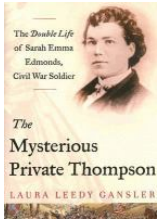


Journey to Bloomfield: Lives and Letters of 19th Century Virginia Families
(Cordelia Grantham Sansone) The letters of the Carper family paint a picture of life throughout the late 1850s through the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 and the war itself in and around Washington, DC. (Available in the Sergeant Memorial Collection.)

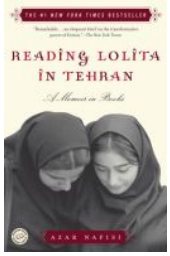


Louisa May Alcott: A Personal Biography
(Susan Cheever) This comprehensive and definitive biography sheds new light on of life of Louisa May Alcott who never intended to write *Little Women*. She had dismissed her publisher s pleas for such a novel. Written out of necessity to support her family, the book had an astounding success that changed her life, a life which turned out very differently from that of her beloved heroine Jo March.

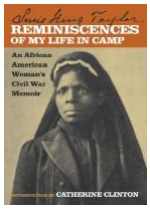
The Mysterious Private Thompson: The double life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier



(Laura Leedy Gansler) Sarah Edmonds was a medical orderly, spy and courier while posing as a man during the Civil War in the Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry. After the war she settled in Texas, married, raised two adopted children and eventually claimed a pension under her wartime name, with the enthusiastic support of most of her old comrades.



Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books
(Azar Nafisi) More than just a memoir of a group of young women meeting, reading, and discussing forbidden works of Western literature in Tehran, this book tells the story of the beginnings of the revolution in Iran; protests, demonstrations, and the wide-spread discontent among the Iranian people. Here, too, is a glimpse into the lives of women in that place at that time in the Middle East.



Reminiscences of My Life in Camp: An African American Woman's Civil War Memoir
(Susie King Taylor) She learned to read and write in secret, at the risk of her own life. She became a nurse and teacher with no formal training so African American soldiers in the Civil War could receive some sort of medical care and perhaps the advantage of literacy.
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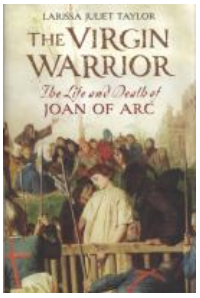
Stealing Secrets: How a Few Daring Women Deceived Generals, Impacted Battles, and Altered the Course of the Civil War
(H. Donald Winkler) Describes how both sides of the Civil War used women as spies. He draws from memoirs, journals, letters, newspaper articles, and other research to document the spy work of women.

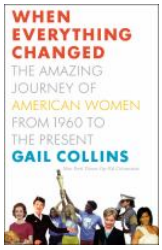
A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s
(Stephanie Coontz) Chronicles the impact of Betty Friedan's landmark feminist book *The Feminine Mystique* on stay-at-home married women of the early 1960s, who had become dissatisfied with domestic life.

The Virgin Warrior: The Life and Death of Joan of Arc
(Larissa Juliet Taylor) The author paints a vivid portrait of Joan: charismatic, determined, sometimes difficult and inflexible in leadership, yet driven by the heart of the young peasant girl, capable of electrifying those around her. Though fierce in battle and well aware of the symbolism of her quest, she was still untouched by much that was the worldly and was often confused by political circumstances around her.



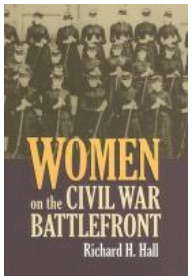
Women of the War: Their Heroism and Self-Sacrifice
(Frank Moore) A reprint of the 1867 book that is considered an important archival document of women in the Civil war written very soon after its conclusion.

We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese
(Elizabeth M. Norman) The most comprehensive account ever told of this event tells the story of the capture and captivity of the ninety-nine World War II nurses known as the "Angels of Bataan" who endured unspeakable pain and torture in a squalid prisoner-of-war camp on the Japanese-held island of Corregidor.



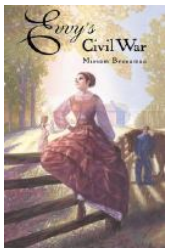
When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present
(Gail Collins) Covering politics, fashion, popular culture, economics, work, families, and sex, *New York Times* columnist and bestselling author Collins brings to print a comprehensive mix of oral history and research to describe what has happened in every realm of women's lives since the 1960's.

Women on the Civil War Battlefront
(Richard H. Hall) The most accurate and up-to-date survey available of women who were determined to serve during the Civil War.



JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION

The following is a selected list of juvenile and young adult (YA) fiction books that provide an overview women and their experience in the Civil War through historical fiction and stories.

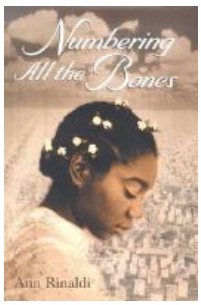


Evvy's Civil War (YA)
(Miriam Brenaman) Evvy knows she can do whatever men do and still be a true woman if only the rest of the world would give her a chance. When the Civil War breaks out, battle looms close to the family's plantation, and Evvy begins to discover just how strong she really is.

My Vicksburg
(*Ann Rinaldi)* During the siege of Vicksburg, thirteen-year-old Claire Louise struggles with difficult choices when family and friends join opposing sides of the war.

Dear Ellen Bee: A Civil War Scrapbook of Two Union Spies
(Mary E. Lyons) A scrapbook kept by a young black girl details her experiences and those of the older white woman, "Miss Bet," who had freed her and her family, sent her north from Richmond to get an education, and then worked to bring an end to slavery. This fictional story for readers in grades 5-8 is told though letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs and is based on the life of Elizabeth Van Lew.

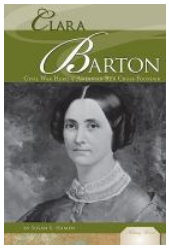
My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Hodgers, Union Soldier
(Lynda Durrant) Jennie Hodgers dressed as a boy for the first time in order to help support her impoverished Irish family with a shepherd's wages. Then her arrival in America confirmed her belief that the world offers better opportunities to young men than to young women. So Jennie maintained her outward identity as Albert Cashier, serving as a grocery clerk in Queens, New York; as a farmhand in Ohio; and as a recruit in the 95th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War serving with loyalty and heroism.



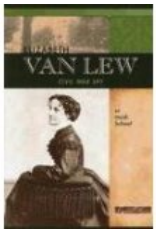
Numbering All the Bones (YA)
(Ann Rinaldi) It is 1864, the Civil War is moving toward an end. President Lincoln has proclaimed his "great measure," and Southern slaves are slowly gaining their freedom. But for thirteen-year-old Eulinda, a house slave on a Georgia plantation, it is the most difficult time of her life. With her trademark attention to detail and historical accuracy, Ann Rinaldi weaves a gripping tale of a girl caught between two worlds.

JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

The following is a selected list of juvenile and young adult (YA) nonfiction books of history, biography, and poetry that provide an overview of women and the Civil War experience in the United States.



Clara Barton: Civil War Hero & American Red Cross Founder
(Susan E. Hamen) Highlights the life and accomplishments of the teacher who organized efforts to bring nursing care to wounded soldiers during the Civil War and who went on to become the founder of the American Red Cross.

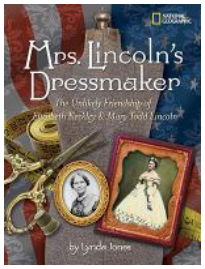


Elizabeth Van Lew: Civil War Spy
(Heidi Schoof) A biography of the Civil War spy who provided Union generals with secret information that helped the North defeat the South.

Great Women of the Civil War
(Lucia Raatma) Presents the life and accomplishments of seven women who lived during the Civil War, including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman.

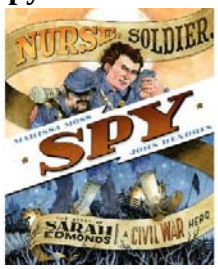
I'll Pass for Your Comrade: Women Soldiers in the Civil War
(Anita Silvey) Explores the secret world of women Civil War soldiers, discussing who they were, why they went to war, how they managed their masquerade, their wartime experiences, and what happened to them afterwards.

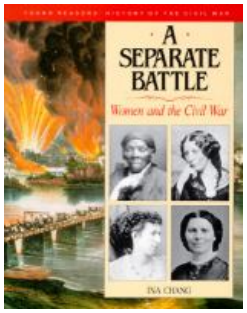
Mary Todd Lincoln: Tragic First Lady of the Civil War
(Mary E. Hull) A biography of the wife of the sixteenth president of the United States, discussing her upbringing, marriage, her role in Lincoln's political career, and the tragedies that marred her life.



Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker: The Unlikely Friendship of Elizabeth Keckley & Mary Todd Lincoln
(Lynda Jones) Describes the relationship of the first lady and her dressmaker, a former slave and author of her own tell-all book *Behind the Scenes*.

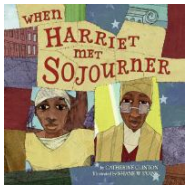
Nurse, Soldier, Spy: the Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Spy
(*Marissa Moss; John Hendrix, ill.)* This fast-paced, high-energy picture book tells the true story of Sarah Emma Edmonds, who at age nineteen disguised herself as a man in order to fight in the Civil War. She took the name Frank Thompson and joined a Michigan army regiment to battle the Confederacy. Sarah excelled as a soldier and nurse on the battlefield. Because of her heroism, she was asked to become a spy. Her story comes to life through the signature illustrations and design of John Hendrix and the exciting storytelling of Marissa Moss.





A Separate Battle: Women and the Civil War
(Ina Chang) Stirring vignettes from such notables as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Clara Barton, Harriet Tubman, Soujourner Truth, and Louisa May Alcott, as well as portraits of lesser known but equally courageous women who rolled bandages at home, nursed injured soldiers near the front, or fought disguised as men, comprise this eye-opening third volume in the Young Readers' History of the Civil War series.

When Harriet Met Sojourner
(Catherine Clinton) Despite their overlapping work, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman only met one time, and their conversation was not recorded, but this biography of two powerful civil rights leaders imagines what may have happened during their encounter in Boston in 1864.



DVDs

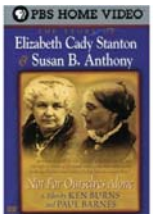
The following is a selected list of historical videos that provide a look at women and the Civil War experience in the United States.

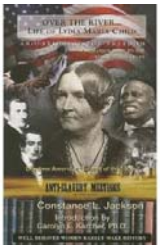
Cold Mountain
(Miramax Films) Inman, a young Confederate soldier, who is injured during the explosive 1864 battle of Petersburg, Virginia, is struggling to make his way home to Cold Mountain, N.C., where his beloved Ada awaits him. In Inman's absence, Ada befriends Ruby, who helps her keep up her late father's farm. Based on the book by Charles Frazier.

Gone with the Wind
(Selznick International Picture) Based on the novel by Margaret Mitchell, this is a romanticized epic of the South's fight to maintain its way of life during the Civil War years. Scarlett O'Hara and her family are amongst the ladies and gentlemen at the Twelve Oaks Plantation's ball before the Civil War begins. As the South finally crumbles around her, Scarlett devises a way to overcome starvation in order to save herself and her family.

Little Women
(NBC Universal. Set in New England during the Civil War, this story, based on the novel of the same name by Louisa May Alcott, chronicles the lives and loves of Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth, four sisters who must rely on each other for strength in the face of tragedies both large and small, after their father leaves for battle.

Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony
(Ken Burns and Paul Barnes) Presents the history of women's suffrage in the United States through the dramatic, often turbulent friendship of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan Anthony. Part 1 covers the years from their youth up to the establishment of the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1868. Part 2 spans the period from 1868 to the passage in 1919 of the 19th amendment to the Constitution which gave women the vote.





Over the River: Life of Lydia Maria Child, Abolitionist for Freedom
(Constance L. Jackson) A look at the life of Lydia Maria Child, who in the 19th century was "a popular writer of children's literature and domestic advice whose books were burned when she entered the battle to abolish slavery and published An appeal in favor of that class of Americans called Africans. Despite increasing hardships in her personal life, she would become on of the country's most eloquent voices for human dignity.

ONLINE DATABASES

Use your Norfolk Public Library card number for access to these resources found on our database page <**www.npl.lib.va.us/reference/reference.html**> to learn more about women's history.

Biography Resource Center
Includes full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals. A gender-searchable resource based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death year, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or combine criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search.

Encyclopedia of World Biography
Approximately 7,000 biographies on notables from every part of the world and from all time periods. Includes thousands of photos, a consolidated index, and more.

Encyclopedia Virginia
A chronicle of the state's history, politics, and geography through the perspectives of all the ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse peoples who have lived there.

World Book Online Reference Center
Containing every article from the 22-volume print set plus thousands more. This database has state-of-the-art multimedia, maps, editor-reviewed Web sites, and more.

WEBSITES

The following is a selected list of websites that provide an overview of women's history.

Biography.com
www.biography.com/womens-history/index.jsp Timelines, videos, history and educational information about the contributions of women in history.

History.com
www.history.com/content/womenhist Achievements, history, videos, timelines and trivia in regard to women's history month.

Virginia Women in History 2010
www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2010/ Features Virginia women who have been overlooked by history books.

National Women's History Project
www.nwhp.org A resource for promoting Women's History and celebrating Women's History Month.

National Women's Museum
www.nwhp.org/ A multimedia resource of photographs, essays, recordings, documents and a virtual museum collection about women's contributions to history.

Library of Congress
http://womenshistorymonth.gov/ The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join together with one website in paying tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society.

Smithsonian Education
www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/whm/index.html A multimedia resource of photographs, essays, recordings, documents and a virtual museum collection about women's contributions to history for educators and students. This year features *Women Breaking Musical Barriers*.

FOR MORE INFORMAITON

To learn more about women's history, visit any Norfolk Public Library location and ask for more suggestions about books to read and places to find information.

Norfolk Public Library
235 E. Plume Street, Norfolk, VA 23502; 757-664-READ