**Nursing the Wounded**

**Angels of Mercy**

Nurses, both women and men, worked for the Union Army in hospitals and on battlefields. Though most had no formal training, they provided care and comfort to thousands of soldiers and civilians. For many, their participation in the war effort was a family affair. Nurses often served alongside their husbands, wives, sons, and brothers, committed to the bonds of family, community, and country.

**Within These Walls**

**Union & Confederate Hospitals**

African Americans, free and enslaved, provided care for wounded soldiers in Union and some Confederate hospitals. The survival of the military hospital was dependent upon their work. Hospital work represented change and opportunity for many African Americans.

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**Change and Opportunity**

Group working for a relief organization in Washington, D.C., April 1865

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"...there were loyal women, as well as men, in those days who did not fear the shell or the shot, who cared for the sick and dying..." — Susie King Taylor, black nurse with the 33rd United States Colored Infantry, 1902

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www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/bindingwounds
African Americans served as surgeons and nurses during the American Civil War tending to wounded soldiers and civilians. Surgeons were in positions of authority which had never occurred in the United States before, while nurses received paid wages for their work. These men and women came from different backgrounds and life experiences, but their desire to participate in the cause for freedom transcended class, education, and social position. Their participation challenged the prescribed notions of both race and gender, and pushed the boundaries of the role of blacks in America.