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| WOMEN OF THE CIVIL WAR |
| Mary Edwards Walker |

*Introduction: Mary Edwards Walker was one of the most inspiring women of the civil war and for women in the medical field*

Directions: As you Read think about Mary Edwards Walker then answer the questions that follow.

Mary Edwards Walker (26 November 1832 – 21 February 1919)

Mary Edwards Walker was born in Oswego, New York on November 26, 1832. She was the youngest of seven and the child of Alvah (Father) and Vesta (Mother) Walker. Her parents raised her on non-traditional gender roles on her family’s farm. For example, her mother would do hard labor while her father would do household chores. This demonstrated Mary’s independence and sense of justice mentality.

Mary went to Syracuse Medical College and graduated in 1855. That same she married Albert Miller, a fellow classmate, right before her 23rd birthday. Mary was **destined** to work in the medical field and she worked hard to get out into the world. She wanted to lend her aid to Union army so after the war started she went to Washington and attempted to volunteered to help. But she got denied because officials thought it was unnatural for a female to supervise the health of men

Mary did not give up on wanting to volunteer to care for the soldiers in the Union army. She went to the Army of Potomac and asked to help. She almost got denied once again but the officials took her help because they were very overwhelmed and desperate for medical attention on their soldiers. By doing this she proved her worth and determination of wanting to provide aid during the violent war that was splitting up her country.

After the war she went on to earn Medal of Honor and has been the only female to earn this high award. When Andrew Johnson had given her this award even though she was considered a civilian who had never been a commissioned officer in military service. Unfortunately, her civilian status was the reason her medal got **rescinded** from her in 1917. She never took it off her and kept it on her for the rest of her life. In 1919 she died in her hometown of Oswego at age 87.

After her life her medal eventually got restored. In 1977, president Jimmy Carter restored her Medal of Honor in her name along with the efforts of her family.

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| Questions to Think About |  |  |

1. Why were Mary’s parents different from average parents of her childhood?
2. What army took her help?
3. What does rescinded means?
4. Which President restored her Nobel Peace Prize and in what year?