

# **The Wisconsin Angel: The Woman Who Redefined the Frontiers of Healthcare During the Civil War**

Junior Group Website Division

Website Word Count: 1,191

Process Paper Word Count: 427

## **Process Paper**

### **How We Chose Our Topic:**

At first, we were drowning with the number of ways we could go about this frontier. But, as we tried to lessen them, women empowerment stood out. We could have gone with this general topic, but those were too many women activists about whom to write. So, we explored another subject we were both vehement about, healthcare. We want to be doctors when we grow up, so we thought it would be the perfect topic. Cordelia Harvey was a woman who showed an aptitude for healthcare and woman empowerment. We delved further into her history and found a woman who helped the soldiers in the civil war and represented the power of women.

### **How We Conducted Our Research:**

Finding information about Cordelia Harvey was not an easy feat. The telegraph was invented only 20 years after she was born, and photographs and videos were rare. First, we did a basic search of Cordelia Harvey in which we learned about the main events and impacts in Cordelia's life. Once we took notes, we focused more on certain aspects, including her meetings with President Lincoln. Searching for quotes and images was a tortuous task, but we finally concluded. There were few pictures on the web, but we managed to procure some.

### **How We Chose Our Project Type:**

Previously, we had two main project-type choices: a documentary or an exhibit. After careful consideration, we ruled out the exhibit as we felt it was hard to get our point across. Next, we turned to the documentary. We felt that this wasn't a good way to get across information about Cordelia Harvey as she lived in a time when there were no recordings. So,

we turned to the next best way to get our information across: the website. It was perfect for inputting pictures and getting information across in a structured way.

**How Our Project Relates to the Theme of Frontiers in History:**

We felt that the theme “Frontiers in History” referred to limits of understanding that were surpassed in history. Cordelia Harvey is a person who surpassed the limit of understanding in both healthcare and women’s status. This relates to the theme in many ways, one of which is that lot of male people were underestimating women. Cordelia Harvey helped prove them wrong by showing that women could take up the work the men had left behind, their work, and still help in the war as well. She also passed healthcare frontiers by giving the soldiers the treatment they needed which was rare at the time.