

Mary Walker's Fight for the Women of America

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Research Paper

Senior Division

1600 Words

Mary Edwards Walker was a physician who broke down walls for other women. She revolutionized the way most women in the United States work, and even live by fighting for women's dress reform and becoming the first female surgeon recorded in the United States. She volunteered in the American Civil War and faced social laws head-on, she defied all odds when she was the first woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.¹

Walker suffered so other women wouldn't have to. She voiced her opinions with great conversance in medicine and law for the interest of fellow suffragettes.² Most men and some women found Mary Walker's ideals impolite and odd.³

" By what chemical process does a proud, ambitious girl of more than average intelligence coagulate into a freak? "

-The Bold Women: *Helen Beal Woodward*, pg. 290-⁴

¹ Lange, Katie, et al. "Meet Dr. Mary Walker: The Only Female Medal of Honor Recipient." *Www.army.mil*, U.S. ARMY, 7 Mar. 2017, www.army.mil/article/183800/meet_dr_mary_walker_the_only_female_medal_of_honor_recipient.

² Woodward, Helen Beal. *Bold Women*. Books for Libraries Press, 1971.

³ Sprig, Rosa. "Letter to Dr. Mary Walker from Rosa Sprig (Correspondence)." Received by Dr. Mary Walker, 23 Jan. 1870. *A Female Civil War Surgeon: How Dr. Mary Is Remarkable. Doctor or Doctress?: Explore American History through the Eyes of Women Physicians.* , lcdc.library.drexel.edu/islandora/object/islandora:1494.

⁴ Woodward, Helen Beal. *Bold Women*. Books for Libraries Press, 1971.

Mary E. Walker's childhood was unlike other young girls in the 19th century; she was raised in an Abolitionist family, and given the unorthodox privileges of education and support to pursue professional careers, despite being female.⁵ During this time, women were living a second-class life, without the right to vote and denied the request to their land, wages, and even the ability to sign a contract.⁶

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As an advocate for women's health, suffrage, and dress reform, Walker would not quietly stand by. She wrote to the people and took progressive action against these laws unfit with the Constitution. She composed *Hit*,⁸ a book that voiced opposition to societal standards on women's dress reform and marriage that would later seem *ludicrous*. She was ready to address this degrading criterion for the unspoken women of trial and suffering.⁹¹⁰ Which, ultimately, broke down these invisible cultural rules against women and became a role model for feminists today.

Walker was among the first wave of women to graduate with a Doctorate of Medicine, only she wouldn't settle for just being a physician.¹¹ Unlike Elizabeth

⁵ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

⁶ Walker, Mary Edwards. *Hit*. United States, American News Company, 1871.

⁷ "Abolitionist Movement." *History of U.S. Woman's Suffrage*, www.crusadeforthetvote.org/abolition.

⁸ Walker, Mary Edwards. *Hit*. United States, American News Company, 1871.

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ Walker, Mary Edwards. *Woman Suffrage Hearings Before Before the Committee on the Judiciary; House of Representatives, Sixty-Second Congress, Second Session*. 1914.

¹¹ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

Blackwell, who was the first female physician of the United States,¹² Walker immediately reached for a higher standard and became the first female surgeon of the United States.¹³¹⁴¹⁵ Her actions denoted the first steps to let women's positions on the workforce become more natural and welcomed.¹⁶

She met her husband through her education and proceeded to become progressive in every step of life she took.¹⁷ At her wedding, she refused to wear a traditional wedding dress and adjusted to a short skirt with trousers underneath it. She removed the word 'obey' in her vows, and kept her maiden name after marriage with the argument that she was not owned by anyone.¹⁸¹⁹

Ultimately, Walker had caught her husband having multiple affairs, even having a child in the result of one.²⁰²¹ When she brought up divorce to him, he

¹² Michals, Debra. "Elizabeth Blackwell." *National Women's History Museum*, 2015, www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/elizabeth-blackwell.

¹³ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

¹⁴ Woodward, Helen Beal. *Bold Women*. Books for Libraries Press, 1971.

¹⁵ "Ready for Mischief - Dr. Mary Walker and the Civil War." *National Museum of Civil War Medicine*, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 25 Aug. 2017, www.civilwarmed.org/walker/.

¹⁶ Pass, Alexandra R, and Jennifer D Bishop. "Mary Edwards Walker: Trailblazing Feminist, Surgeon, and War Veteran." *Bulletin of the Surgical History Group, 1 Barnard College, New York, NY, Department of Surgery, Stamford Hospital, Stamford, CT*, Clinical Congress 2016, 2016, www.facs.org/-/media/files/archives/2016_shg_poster_papers.ashx.

¹⁷ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1u6LMaOWJUsOc95jFhv0Z5>

²⁰ *ibid*

²¹ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

would refuse, and during the time, divorce was hardly supported and very hard to accomplish, especially if both of the parties didn't consent.²² But Mary Walker did not give in, and she continued to pursue a divorce with plenty of evidence that her husband committed adultery only to be shut down time after time by the court.²³²⁴

After 10 years of perseverance, she managed to achieve her goal of divorcing her husband.²⁵²⁶ This is not the only occasion her determination wasn't defeated. When she left for Washington D.C. in 1861²⁷²⁸²⁹ and applied to the War Department as a military surgeon for the Civil War, she was immediately denied because she was a woman. So, being consistent in her efforts to serve her country, she volunteered at the patent office, like many other women, throughout the Civil War.

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²² Walker, Mary Edwards. *Hit*. United States, American News Company, 1871.

²³ *ibid*

²⁴ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

²⁵ *ibid*

²⁶ "Dr. Mary Edwards Walker." *Obscurehistories*, 2015, <https://www.obscurehistories.com/dr-mary-walker-medal-of-honor-recipient>

²⁷ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

²⁸ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

²⁹ "Changing the Face of Medicine | Mary Edwards Walker." *U.S. National Library of Medicine*, National Institutes of Health, 3 June 2015, cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_325.html.

³⁰ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

³¹ Lange, Katie, et al. "Meet Dr. Mary Walker: The Only Female Medal of Honor Recipient." *Www.army.mil*, U.S. ARMY, 7 Mar. 2017, www.army.mil/article/183800/meet_dr_mary_walker_the_only_female_medal_of_honor_recipient.

When that office became a hospital she was able to use her abilities and serve as an assistant surgeon working without pay. As a female surgeon, she received a lot of abuse and harassment during her career, but to some, like General Sherman and General Thomas³², her work was well respected. While she would never be commissioned, even if her abilities met the requirements, she was accepted in November of 1862 as a volunteer contract field surgeon for the Union Army by the Virginia headquarters MG Ambrose Burnside.³³³⁴

Her work on the field could often be described as dedicated. On multiple occasions, she was seen staying behind enemy lines helping wounded men.³⁵ One of these occasions was when she was captured by the Confederate Army.^{36 37}They accused her of being a spy and imprisoned her for four months, her male attire supposedly constituting as evidence against her.³⁸

³² Pennington, Reina, and Robin Higham. *Amazons to Fighter Pilots: a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

³³ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

³⁴ Pennington, Reina, and Robin Higham. *Amazons to Fighter Pilots: a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

³⁵ "Dr. Mary Walker at Work on the Field." *H-Net*, 1905, networks.h-net.org/dr-mary-walker-work-field.

³⁶ "Changing the Face of Medicine | Mary Edwards Walker." *U.S. National Library of Medicine*, National Institutes of Health, 3 June 2015, cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_325.html.

³⁷ Davis, Kimberly A. "Dr. Mary Edwards Walker: War Surgeon, Suffragette, and Pioneer in Women's Rights." *The Bulletin*, Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons, 22 Aug. 2019, bulletin.facs.org/2019/07/dr-mary-edwards-walker-war-surgeon-suffragette-and-pioneer-in-womens-rights/.

³⁸ Pennington, Reina, and Robin Higham. *Amazons to Fighter Pilots: a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

Yet, after being imprisoned for wearing clothing that resembled men's apparel, she only persisted to fight for women's dress reform. She gave up the bloomer costume and resorted to a modified version of trousers, waistcoat, and top hat to prove that she was not going to conform to society's standards any time soon.³⁹ And several times, after the war, arrests were attempted on her for impersonating a man or appearing to have homosexual tendencies for cross-dressing.⁴⁰

"I don't wear men's clothes. I wear my own clothes."

Mary Edwards Walker⁴¹

The woman of America came to her defense, writing to her and to the editors of newspapers crying out the injustice she was facing. One having been sent anonymously signed 'a Woman,' offered high respect for Mary and supported her progressive movement in dress reform.

"Dr Mary Walker may be noisy, outre, impetuous, and bad-tempered, but she has none of the vices of many of those who hound and persecute her. She neither smokes, chews,

³⁹ Dr. Mary Walker. [191-?] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/90710919/>.

⁴⁰ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

⁴¹ Pass, Alexandra R, and Jennifer D Bishop. "Mary Edwards Walker: Trailblazing Feminist, Surgeon, and War Veteran." *Bulletin of the Surgical History Group, 1 Barnard College, New York, NY, Department of Surgery, Stamford Hospital, Stamford, CT*, Clinical Congress 2016, 2016, www.facs.org/-/media/files/archives/2016_shg_poster_papers.ashx.

drinks whisky, drives fast horses, visits houses of questionable reputation or acquaintances public performances that are subversive to good morals. In all these things those who deride her must certainly concede that she is not 'manly'. She wears a dress that subjects her to ridicule, but I am fully persuaded that in doing so she dares public opinion from a sense of the highest duty. No woman likes to be singular, and it is not pleasant to be followed by a mob. I argue that it shows extraordinary strength of character to bear constant contempt and insult for the sake of principle..."

- A Woman, sent to an editor of Evening Star Sun⁴²

Mary Walker's words as a physician gave weight to the other women trying to say that corsets and the heavy dresses they felt forced to wear, were detrimental to their physical and mental health.⁴³ Benjamin Orange Flower wrote a 32-page pamphlet titled 'Fashion Slaves' to appeal to the reformists' coalition which begs the question *did women feel suppressed by the tyranny of fashion ideals?* It was deemed more hygienic for women to ameliorate their wardrobe with trousers.⁴⁴ Generally, they were more tactical in everyday life and didn't cause a threat to the body.

Another woman, by the name Rosa Sprig, wrote to Mary explaining that her passion for the dress reform was admirable and wished to see it adopted in other places. She gave Mary Walker tips to make her movement more appealing to the

⁴² *Dr Mary Walker, A Woman, In The Star of May 22, 1869,*

file:///C:/Users/labguest/Downloads/Evening_Star_Sun__May_25__1919_.pdf

⁴³ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants.* Ayer, 1985.

⁴⁴ Flower, Benjamin Orange. *Fashion Slaves.* The New York Academy of Medicine, 1892.

people in the country.⁴⁵ Women came together to support this woman who had been prosecuted for being *unladylike*.

Many of her abolitionist movements were disregarded because of what she wore. She was harassed for her occupation and attire, but without a doubt in her mind, she would continue her movement with determination and fight for women's rights. In 1866, she was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor after a recommendation from the generals Sherman and Thomas.⁴⁶⁴⁷ As the first and only woman to receive it, she wore it with pride every day of her life. It was her largest feat, being the only woman in American history to achieve what hundreds of men were given.

Shortly after, she was appointed president of the National Women's Dress Reform Association and worked closely with other well known radical feminists of the 19th century such as Belava A. Lockwood and Amelia Bloomer.^{48 49}Feminist

⁴⁵ Sprig, Rosa. "Letter to Dr. Mary Walker from Rosa Sprig (Correspondence)." Received by Dr. Mary Walker, 23 Jan. 1870. *A Female Civil War Surgeon: How Dr. Mary Is Remarkable. Doctor or Doctress?: Explore American History through the Eyes of Women Physicians.* , lcdc.library.drexel.edu/islandora/object/islandora:1494.

⁴⁶ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

⁴⁷ Pennington, Reina, and Robin Higham. *Amazons to Fighter Pilots: a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

⁴⁸ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

⁴⁹ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

organizations were proud to publicize Mary Walker as a progressive advocate for the women of America.⁵⁰

For the rest of her life, she fought for her beliefs and opened her home to those who were oppressed by society to conform to traditional roles.⁵¹ She even tried after the Civil War ended to be the first woman commissioned, but as she grew older her surgical ability grew weaker.⁵² In 1917, two years before her death, she along with over 900 men had their Medal of Honor revoked.⁵³ Walker was furious, of course, she wouldn't give away a medal she deserved after 51 years of wearing it. She was told, along with the rest of the country, that her medal was repealed because she was a citizen,⁵⁴ but two other contract surgeons who were never commissioned, like herself, got to keep their medal because they were men.⁵⁵ Walker refused to let anyone take the medal away and she wore the honor insignia until she died after a long illness.

⁵⁰ Woodward, Helen Beal. *Bold Women*. Books for Libraries Press, 1971.

⁵¹ Walker, Mary Edwards. *Hit*. United States, American News Company, 1871

⁵² Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

⁵³ Mckinely, James Fuller. " Letter to Mrs. C.W.M. Poynter from Brigadier General James F. McKinley (Correspondence)." Received by Mrs. C.W.M. Poynter, 2 Mar. 1933. *A Female Civil War Surgeon: How Dr. Mary Is Remarkable. Doctor or Doctress?: Explore American History through the Eyes of Women Physicians.*,
lcdc.library.drexel.edu/islandora/object/islandora:1494.

⁵⁴ Pennington, Reina, and Robin Higham. *Amazons to Fighter Pilots: a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

⁵⁵ *Jailed for Wearing Pants and other Heroic Acts: The Story of Mary Walker*, Notorious Narratives, Spotify, December 31st, 2019

Mary Edwards Walker's death was mourned, but she would always be remembered for her heroic acts for the women and men of America. Her legacy lived on throughout history⁵⁶: in WWII a ship named SS Mary Walker, in 1982, a postage stamp was made in celebration of her, a residential home for homeless female veterans, was named after Mary E. Walker.⁵⁷ A medical innovation award was made in the inspiration of her, a surgical award for female surgeons making an impact.⁵⁸ With her aggressive passion that prevailed through bigotry Dr. Mary Walker made an important impact on our world with her direct involvement in abolitionist acts.

"...Dead or alive, it would never occur to Mary Walker that the movement had begun with anybody's pants but her own."

-The Bold Women: *Helen Beal Woodward*, pg. 298-⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

⁵⁷ Levins, Sandy. "Contrary Mary: The Only Female Congressional Medal of Honor Winner." *WednesdaysWomen*, 15 May 2019, wednesdayswomen.com/contrary-mary-the-only-female-congressional-medal-of-honor-winner/.

⁵⁸ "Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award." *American College of Surgeons*, www.facs.org/about-acg/governance/acg-committees/women-in-surgery-committee/edwards-walker.

⁵⁹ Woodward, Helen Beal. *Bold Women*. Books for Libraries Press, 1971.

Appendix A

Photograph 111-B-2078; Dr. Mary Walker; ca. 1860 - 1865; *Mathew Brady Photographs of Civil War-Era Personalities and Scenes, 1921 - 1940; Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Record Group 111; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD. [Online*

Version, <https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/dr-mary-walker>, February 17, 2020]

Mary Edwards Walker with her Congressional Medal of Honor.

1865

Appendix B

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Dr. Mary Walker, who died a few weeks ago in New York state, was a conspicuous figure here fifty years ago, seeking appointment to office and endeavoring to promote her peculiar ideas for women's dress reform. In The Star of May 21, 1869, is a paragraph to this effect:

"Dr. Mary E. Walker, so far having failed to obtain a position under the government, has attacked the gallant Maj. H. C. Whiteley, chief of the secret service division of the Treasury Department, and asks a detective's position in his department. Maj. Whiteley does not see his way clear to make the appointment."

Dr. Walker was not without champions, however. In The Star of May 22, 1869, is a letter to the editor, signed "A Woman," protesting against the ridicule that was being heaped upon the courageous pioneer in dress reform, in part, as follows:

"Dr. Mary Walker may be noisy, outre, impetuous and bad-tempered, but she has none of the vices of many of those who hound and persecute her. She neither smokes, chews, drinks whisky, drives fast horses, visits houses of questionable reputation or countenances public performances that are subversive to good morals. In all these things those who deride her must certainly concede that she is not 'manly.' She wears a dress that subjects her to ridicule, but I am fully persuaded that in doing so she dares public opinion from a sense of the highest duty. No woman likes to be singular, and it is not pleasant to be followed by a mob. I argue that it shows extraordinary strength of character to bear constant contempt and insult for the sake of principle. If she finds that her health is improved by dispensing with yards upon yards of fatiguing cloth to bind upon the muscles and drag in the mud nobody but the dealers in dry goods ought to care for that. I am convinced that if the Empress Eugenie or the courtesans of Paris had set the fashion of trousers and frock coats for women the dress would have been a rage in America at once. Instead of that, the papers coolly announce that the empress of the French gave 50,000 francs for a new spring dress, and forthwith all snob and shoddydom set about finding the most extravagant goods and style, making themselves frights with their loaded, bepattered bodies, and nobody says a word."

* *

Dr Mary Walker, A Woman, In The Star of May 22, 1869

file:///C:/Users/labguest/Downloads/Evening_Star_Sun__May_25__1919_.pdf

The article signed by 'A Woman' fighting in defense of Mary Walker publicly.

Annotated Bibliography

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Primary Sources

"The Case of Dr Mary Walker, Only Woman to Win (and Lose) the Medal of Honor."

***The New York Times*, 1996,**

www.nytimes.com/1977/06/04/archives/the-case-of-dr-walker-only-woman-to-win-and-lose-the-medal-of-honor.html

This newspaper originally published in 1977 goes over the renewing of Mary Edwards Walker's Medal of Honor. It showed me how important this event was for other women and the people of America.

"Dr Mary Walker in Durham." *The Durham Chronicle*, 29 Mar. 1867

This newspaper was written in 1857, when Mary Walker was seen in England. It gives me an idea of how the public of England viewed Walker and her pants.

"Dr Mary Walker's Bloomer." *St. Albans Advertisers*, 29 May 1877.

A newspaper which described a 'mob' for bloomer's led by Mary Walker who spoke with a reporter about how uncomfortable women's clothing could be.

**"Dr. Mary Walker at Work on the Field." H-Net, 1905,
networks.h-net.org/dr-mary-walker-work-field.**

This illustration done in 1905 displays Walker helping a wounded soldier in the field. Seeing it aided me in accurately describing Mary Walker's character during the Civil War.

**Dr Mary Walker, A Woman, In The Star of May 22, 1869,
file:///C:/Users/labguest/Downloads/Evening_Star_Sun_May_25_1919_.pdf**

This is the letter sent in Mary Walker's defense after she was arrested in 1869. This really influenced the tone my paper was written in and gave in-depth understanding of how unspoken women felt.

**Dr. Mary Walker. [191-?] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress,
<www.loc.gov/item/90710919/>.**

This photo of Mary Walker was taken in 1910, just years before she died. She stood talking to a man while wearing slacks and an overcoat. The picture shows that not all men refused to believe women were allowed to wear whatever clothes they wanted.

Herald, Miami, editor. "FIRST WOMAN ARMY SURGEON." *The Miami Herald*, 14 Aug. 1918.

This newsletter article lets the public know that Mary Walker has fallen ill and her heroic acts during the civil war. This influenced me throughout my paper to see throughout my paper to think about who and when the public saw her in a better light.

Mckinely, James Fuller. " Letter to Mrs. C.W.M. Poynter from Brigadier General James F. McKinley (Correspondence)." Received by Mrs. C.W.M. Poynter, 2 Mar. 1933. *A Female Civil War Surgeon: How Dr. Mary Is Remarkable. Doctor or Doctress?: Explore American History through the Eyes of Women Physicians.*, lcdc.library.drexel.edu/islandora/object/islandora:1494.

This document was a correspondence between Brigadier General James Fuller and Poynter to respond that Mary Walker's name was not found in the Medal of Honor recipients list.

"Photos - Brady Civil War." *Mathew B Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs*, NARA, 1860, www.fold3.com/image/260434640.

These photos from the Civil War gave me a more in depth idea of what it was like during the time, giving me good historical context to accurately display the Civil War in this paper.

Photograph 111-B-2078; Dr. Mary Walker; ca. 1860 - 1865; *Mathew Brady Photographs of Civil War-Era Personalities and Scenes, 1921 - 1940; Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Record Group 111; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD. [Online Version, <https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/dr-mary-walker>, February 17, 2020]*

This photo of Mary Walker with her Medal of Honor is in great condition. I used this photo to help me write about Walker in general.

Sprig, Rosa. "Letter to Dr. Mary Walker from Rosa Sprig (Correspondence)." Received by Dr. Mary Walker, 23 Jan. 1870. *A Female Civil War Surgeon: How Dr. Mary Is Remarkable. Doctor or Doctress?: Explore American History through the Eyes of Women Physicians.* , lcdc.library.drexel.edu/islandora/object/islandora:1494.

This letter is a correspondence between Rosa Sprig and Mary Walker who tried to explain to Walker that her efforts were admirable but too aggressive. This gave me a good reference of how Mary Walker worked and what other women thought of her.

Stack, Elizabeth. "Letter to Lida Poynter from Elizabeth Stack (Correspondence)." Received by Lida Poynter, 25 Mar. 1930. *A Female Civil War Surgeon: How Dr. Mary Is Remarkable. Doctor or Doctress?: Explore American History*

through the Eyes of Women Physicians.,

lcdc.library.drexel.edu/islandora/object/islandora:1494.

This letter between Lida Poynter and Elizabeth Stack describes incidents Stack had with Walker. Walker discreetly treated a colored woman even if she would be ridiculed and asked Stack to help. This gave me insight on how determined Walker was to follow her oath as a physician.

Terrence, O. "Dr. Mary Walker, in Trousers, 81; Queen Maud, of Norway, Today."

Trenton Evening Times, 26 Nov. 1913.

A newspaper article celebrating or reminding the public that it was Mary Walker's 81st birthday, still reminiscing on her heroic acts during the Civil War and her general achievements throughout her life.

Walker, Mary Edwards. *Hit*. United States, American News Company, 1871.

Mary Walker wrote a book to voice opposition to the societal standards toward the unspoken women that suffered through trial. Her tone was written to the public to inform and persuade. Her work influenced many women and men during that late 19th century. Her words helped me write this entire paper and gave me a direct understanding of her personality.

Walker, Mary Edwards. *Woman Suffrage Hearings Before Before the Committee on the Judiciary; House of Representatives, Sixty-Second Congress, Second Session*. 1914.

Walker also wrote about the hearings of women in front of the House of Representatives to describe suffering women received during the 19th century and how the justice system wasn't equal towards the sexes.

“Ready for Mischief - Dr. Mary Walker and the Civil War.” *National Museum of Civil War Medicine*, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 25 Aug. 2017, www.civilwarmed.org/walker/.

I considered this site primary due to the photos of Mary Walker and her possessions, courtesy of National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Seeing and reading more about her life helped me generally better understand my topic.

Secondary Sources

“Abolitionist Movement.” *History of U.S. Woman's Suffrage*, www.crusadeforthevote.org/abolition.

This site provides information on women's lives before the abolitionist movements and provides detail that is important to the topic.

Biography.com Editors. “Mary Walker.” *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 28 Aug. 2019,

www.biography.com/activist/mary-walker#receiving-the-congressional-medal-of-honor.

This site gave me specific locations which Walker studied at and provided influential information to write this paper with confidence.

“Changing the Face of Medicine | Mary Edwards Walker.” U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, 3 June 2015, cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_325.html.

This site provided a well put-together timeline, helping me place this paper in chronological order. This short description of Mary Walker’s life and many other women physicians gave me more historical context for the paper.

Davis, Kimberly A. “Dr. Mary Edwards Walker: War Surgeon, Suffragette, and Pioneer in Women's Rights.” *The Bulletin*, Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons, 22 Aug. 2019, bulletin.facs.org/2019/07/dr-mary-edwards-walker-war-surgeon-suffragette-and-pioneer-in-womens-rights/.

This site describes Mary Walker's life as a Suffragette and Military Surgeon. This site just gave me assurance in her actions in the 19th century.

"Dr. Mary Edwards Walker." *Obscurehistories*, 2015,

<https://www.obscurehistories.com/dr-mary-walker-medal-of-honor-recipient>

This site provided dates that weren't always confirmed in other resources. The writing was easy to understand and easily added knowledge to my outview of the topic.

"Highest Medal Restored to War Heroine." *New York Times*, 11 June 1977,

www.nytimes.com/1977/06/11/archives/highest-medal-restored-to-war-heroine.html?_r=0.

This newspaper was written just after Mary Walker had her Medal of Honor reinstated in 1977 by Jimmy Carter. This article spoke volumes about how much the people wanted to be informed about the topic, it influenced my writing within this paper.

Lange, Katie, et al. "Meet Dr. Mary Walker: The Only Female Medal of Honor Recipient." *Www.army.mil*, U.S. ARMY, 7 Mar. 2017,

www.army.mil/article/183800/meet_dr_mary_walker_the_only_female_medal_of_honor_recipient.

This article written for the US Army site gave me confirmation of Mary Walker's Medal of Honor and whether she was officially commissioned or not. This influenced the accuracy of my paper.

**Last, Kathy. "Obituary of Mary E. Walker." *Obituary of Dr. Mary E. Walker, Oswego, NY, Rome Daily Sentinel, 22 Feb. 1919,*
sites.rootsweb.com/~nyoswego/obits/walkermary.html.**

This is Mary Walker's obituary written after her death in 1919. Reading this passage gave me a better view of the public. What the people of the United States thought of her in mourning.

**Lavelle, Maureen. "Living History at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine." *Frederick, MD Things To Do, Dining, Events, Hotels & Travel Guide, 16 July 2016,*
www.visitfrederick.org/event/living-history-at-the-national-museum-of-civil-war-medicine/14129/.**

This article written by Maureen Lavelle applied a more knowledgeable understanding of this topic. It helped me confirm information in the paper that might not have been covered by other resources.

**"MedalOfHonor." *CMOHS.org - Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon (Civilian) WALKER, DR., MARY E., U.S. Army, 2020,*
www.cmoHS.org/recipient-detail/1428/walker-dr-mary-e.php.**

This site provides confirmation and an overall influence of my knowledge on this topic.

Michals, Debra. "Elizabeth Blackwell." *National Women's History Museum*, 2015, www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/elizabeth-blackwell.

An Important figure in Walker's life was Elizabeth Blackwell, having been the first physician it inspired Walker. This site helps the reader better understand the importance of difference between Elizabeth Blackwell and Mary Walker.

Pass, Alexandra R, and Jennifer D Bishop. "Mary Edwards Walker: Trailblazing Feminist, Surgeon, and War Veteran." *Bulletin of the Surgical History Group*, 1 *Barnard College, New York, NY, Department of Surgery, Stamford Hospital, Stamford, CT, Clinical Congress 2016*, 2016, www.facs.org/-/media/files/archives/2016_shg_poster_papers.ashx.

A paper published for the Clinical Congress in 2016 wrote about the trailblazing feminist, Mary Walker. The thesis generally gave me an overall view of her impact on today's society.

Pennington, Reina, and Robin Higham. *Amazons to Fighter Pilots: a Biographical Dictionary of Military Women*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

This book provided confirmation with certain information that might not have been covered in other resources. I learned that many other women fought alongside Mary Walker during the Civil War and it gave me a much better understanding of my topic.

Snyder, Charles McCool. *Dr. Mary Walker: the Little Lady in Pants*. Ayer, 1985.

This book really helped inspire me to look more into Mary Walker as a whole. It gave me a good background of her and her abolitionist family, especially her father Alvah, who was also a physician. It is a purposefully detailed book describing her efforts of becoming a physician, fighting for dress reform, her life as a suffragette and a woman in the Civil war, along with her legacy.

Woodward, Helen Beal. *Bold Women*. Books for Libraries Press, 1971.

A chapter in Bold Women is written about Mary Walker's fight for Women's dress reform, the chapter gave me a lot of detail I would have missed in a lot of websites or articles. It shows unbiased and biased opinions of her along with quotes and other people who worked with her, their opinion of her.

