



DR. ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE

Spanish-American War

Birth: November 4th, 1864,
Washington, D.C.

Death: October 5th, 1940,
Washington, D.C.

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE

- Family had money and supported her education
- Went to schools in England and Switzerland
- Married W.J. McGee

CAREER

- Studied medicine at Columbian College and worked as a doctor in Washington, D.C.
- Reviewed volunteer nurse applications for the army during the Spanish-American War
- Worked to raise awareness about women who served as nurses

LEGACY

- Raised the standards for nursing in the military and helped create the U.S. Army Nurse Corps
- Challenged what people thought about women and made things easier for future female doctors and nurses



CLARA LOUISE MAASS

Spanish-American War

Birth: June 28th, 1876
East Orange, NJ

Death: August 24th, 1901, Cuba

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE

- Oldest of nine children
- Parents were German immigrants
- As a teenager, worked to help her family earn money
- Graduated from nursing school at age 19

CAREER

- Worked as a nurse at a hospital before the war
- Served as a nurse during the Spanish-American War
- After the war, she volunteered to help with yellow fever research in Cuba
- She was bitten by an infected mosquito, got sick, and recovered
- August 1901: To test for immunity, she was bitten again
- To test for immunity, she was bitten again and died 10 days later from yellow fever. She was 25

LEGACY

- Died trying to help doctors and scientists know more about disease



ANNA “ANITA” H. CAMPOS

Spanish-American War

Birth: September 8th, 1859,
Cumberland County, NJ

Death: September 2nd, 1899,
Cuba

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE

- Married Charles V. Campos, from Cuba, by 1880
- Lived in Cuba when her son Carlos was born in 1881
- Returned to the U.S. before enlisting as a nurse

CAREER

- Served as a contract nurse during the Spanish-American War
- No information about her nurse training
- Served in Cuba
- Died from malaria in 1899 in Cuba

LEGACY

- First nurse to be buried in Section 21 at Arlington Cemetery
- Section 21 is now known as the “Nurses Section”



NAMAHYOKE “NAMA” CURTIS

Spanish-American War

Birth: 1861

Death: November 25th, 1935

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE

- Went to school in San Francisco
- Married Austin Maurice Curtis, a doctor
- Had no formal nursing training

CAREER

- Active in politics in Washington, D.C.
- Recruited 32 African American women to serve as nurses in Cuba during the Spanish-American War
- Some people thought African Americans were naturally immune to yellow fever

LEGACY

- Cared for sick and wounded in disaster zones
- Was a prominent and respected minority woman during a time of segregation and discrimination



**ANNA
MAXWELL:
“AMERICAN
FLORENCE
NIGHTINGALE”**

Spanish-American War

Birth: March 14th, 1851, Bristol,
NY

Death: January 2nd, 1929, New
York, NY

EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE

- Lived in Canada with her family as a young child
- Graduated from the Boston City Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1880

CAREER

- Supervised nurses at hospitals in Montreal, Boston and New York
- During the Spanish-American War, she and her nurses worked in U.S. military hospitals and made sanitation reforms (clean water, soap, bathrooms)

LEGACY

- Referred to as the “American Florence Nightingale” for her nursing service during the Spanish-American War (1898) and World War I (1917-1918)

1. Attitude Toward Female Nurses



“When you first arrived we did not know what to do with a **contingent** of women in the camp, now we are wondering what we should have done without you.”

- Colonel John Van Rensseler Hoff, chief field surgeon at Camp Thomas to Anna Maxwell, a nurse

Definitions:

contingent: group



2. Attitude Toward Female Nurses



“I believe, as a rule, that the female nurse should never be employed in military hospitals, except under conditions, such as existed during the Spanish-American War, when an enormous army was placed in the field, and overwhelmed with sickness, there being at the time **scarcely sufficient** trained hospital corps men in service to attend to the needs of one army **corps.**”

- Major L. M. Maus, surgeon in charge of the U.S. Hospital at Fort Hamilton, New York, from a letter written in 1899

Definitions:

scarcely sufficient: barely enough

corps: military group



1. Conditions in the Army Camps/Hospitals



“We had no **disinfectant** whatsoever to use. There was not even one **wash basin** in these wards for the nurses to wash their hands. At one time when there was a shortage of water for several days, we were requested “not wash at all.” The three toilets which were supposed to be adequate for the needs of the 200 nurses, were over 500 feet away from their sleeping quarters.”

- Nurses Helen B. Schuler and Florence M. Kelly on the conditions at Fort Thomas, GA

Definitions:

disinfectant: soap, cleaner

wash basin: a bowl for washing hands
when there are no sinks



2. Conditions in the Army Camps/Hospitals



"[After being assigned to the Army hospital] we had to hustle to . . . get into uniform. . . We worked from 5 o'clock until about 8 o'clock without food of any kind, and when we went to breakfast we would get black coffee and some kind of mush, Indian meal or oat meal, then back to work [until 8 p.m.]. I remember one dinner I went to where there was nothing but boiled cabbage and black coffee."

- Nurse Rose M. Heavren, a nurse, from a speech about her experiences in the Spanish–American War, given in 1950



1. Nursing Requirements & Compensation



Part of a typical letter of reply to nursing volunteer application:

Dear Madam:

Your application of recent date has been received.

All applications from women for hospital positions...are placed on file in this office.

The reserve list is **composed**, however, only of those who have had hospital training...Nurses...must be between 30 and 50 years of age.

They will be paid railroad fare to the place of duty and \$30 a month with board. If **practicable**, **lodging** will be given, but other expenses must be met by the nurse...

Endorsements as to good character and general ability should accompany the application...

Definitions:

composed: made up of

practicable: possible, practical

lodging: a place to live

Endorsement: approval from another person, specifically in a letter to Dr. McGee

- Anita Newcomb McGee, M.D.,

Vice-president General,

D.A.R. Hospital Corps



The next
section
is the same
quotes with
guiding
questions.

(Questions are also available on Jigsaw worksheets)



1. Attitude Toward Female Nurses



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- Colonel John Van Rensseler Hoff, chief field surgeon at Camp Thomas to Anna Maxwell, nurse

Definitions:

contingent: group

As you write your notes, think about:

What was Colonel Hoff’s attitude toward women nurses when the war began?

Did his attitude change? If so, what was his attitude at the end?

How would his attitude be a challenge or an opportunity for the nurses?



2. Attitude Toward Female Nurses



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Definitions:

disinfectant: soap, cleaner

wash basin: a bowl for washing hands
when there are no sinks

As you write your notes, think about:

What problems or challenges did they have at the camp?

What things made the nurses' jobs harder?



2. Conditions in the Army Camps/Hospitals



"[After being assigned to the army hospital] we had to hustle to . . . get into uniform. . . . We worked from 5 o'clock until about 8 o'clock without food of any kind, and when we went to breakfast we would get black coffee and some kind of mush, Indian meal or oat meal, then back to work [until 8 P.M.]. I remember one dinner I went to where there was nothing but boiled cabbage and black coffee."

- Nurse Rose M. Heavren, from a speech about her experiences in the war, given in 1950

As you write your notes, think about:

How much did the nurses have to work?

What kinds of foods did they have to eat?

How do you think they felt about the food they had?



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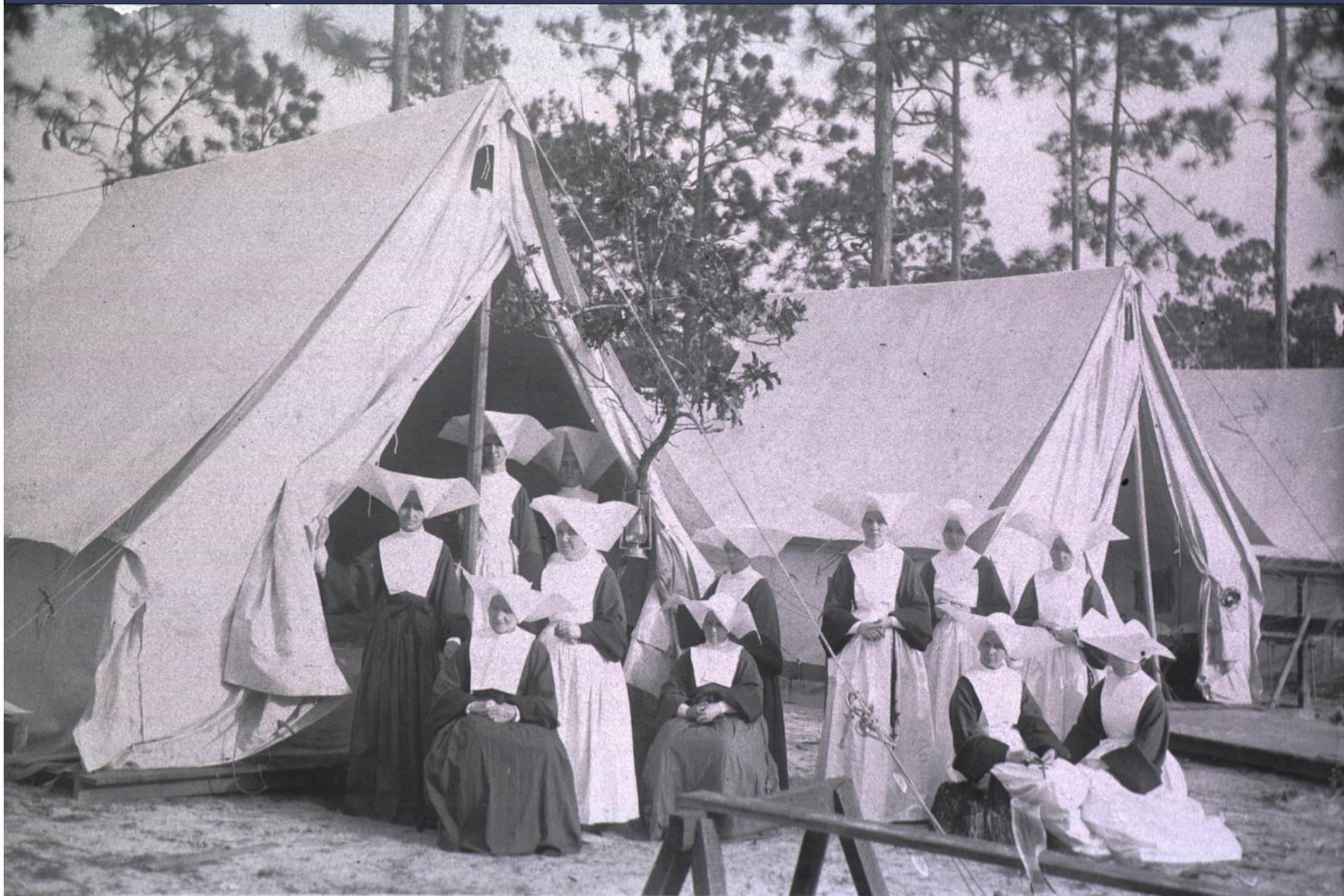
As you write your notes, think about:

What did you have to do to get a job as a nurse?

Compensation is money and anything else you get paid for working. Nurses were compensated with more than just money. What did they earn?



Image 1: Spanish American War Nurses



View of nursing nuns seated in front of tents in 1898. US Army 3rd Division Hospital, 7th Army Corps. (NIH: U.S. National Library of Medicine)

Image 2: Spanish American War Nurses



View of contract nurses in uniform; second group to leave New York in 1898. (NIH: U.S. National Library of Medicine)

Image 3: Spanish American War Nurses



Details unknown. (NIH: U.S. National Library of Medicine)

Image 4: Spanish American War Nurses Monument

Back of Monument



Front of Monument



Spanish American War Nurses Monument in Arlington National Cemetery. Built by the Society of Spanish American War Nurses in 1905. (Left: LOC/Carol M. Highsmith, ca. 1980-2006; Right: ANC Education/Leah Baer, 2019)

Image 5: Ward Tent, Sternberg General Hospital, Manila, Philippines



Nurses and Army personnel in hospital ward tent (a section of the hospital) in Manila, Philippines. (NIH: U.S. National Library of Medicine)

Image 6: Transporting Wounded, Spanish-American War



Wounded soldiers are transported on stretchers and in horse-drawn ambulances during the Spanish American War. (NIH: U.S. National Library of Medicine)

Image 7: Nurses' Dormitory



Dormitory C (a cabin for sleeping) at Sternberg General Hospital, Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, Georgia during the Spanish American War. (U.S. Army)

Image 8: Hospital Ward



“Pavilion D” Hospital Ward (a section of the hospital), Sternberg General Hospital, Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, Georgia during the Spanish American War. (U.S. Army)

GUIDING QUESTIONS: IMAGES

Choose one (1) image to start with. Look at the picture, read the title and the caption. Then use the reflection questions to help you write your notes.

What do you see in the picture?

Where was the picture taken? Is this somewhere that the nurses would work or sleep?

What questions do you have after looking at the picture?

What can you learn about the working or living conditions of the nurses from the picture?



Name:

JIGSAW: IMAGES

Choose one (1) image and answer the following questions:

Image Number:

What do you see in the picture?

What questions do you have after looking at the picture?

What can you learn about the working or living conditions of the nurses from the picture?

Choose a second (2) image and answer the following questions:

Image Number:

What do you see in the picture?

What questions do you have after looking at the picture?

What can you learn about the working or living conditions of the nurses from the picture?

COMPARISON:

Compare the two pictures: What's different between them? What's the same?

What would be *challenging* about the conditions?

What *opportunities* might the nurses have because of the conditions?



Name:

JIGSAW: NURSE PROFILE CARDS

Choose one (1) woman and answer the following questions:

Name of woman:

What's something about this woman that stood out to you?

What was her role during the Spanish—American War?

Choose a second (2) woman and answer the following questions:

Name of woman:

What's something about this woman that stood out to you?

What was her role during the Spanish—American War?

COMPARISON:

Compare the two women. How are their experiences similar? How are they different?

How could their experiences change people's attitudes toward women working as nurses or in other jobs?

What *challenges* did they face?

What *opportunities* did they have?



Name:

JIGSAW: ATTITUDES TOWARD FEMALE NURSES

QUOTE 1:

Colonel Hoff's opinion changed. What was his opinion before and after the war?

The writer doesn't say, but what could have caused his opinion to change?

QUOTE 2:

Major Maus's opinion of female nurses did not change. What was his opinion?

The writer doesn't say, but why do you think his opinion didn't change?

REFLECT:

Think about the attitudes of each writer. How could one of the attitudes be an *opportunity* for the nurses?

How could one of the attitudes be a *challenge* for the nurses?



Name:

JIGSAW: CONDITIONS IN THE ARMY CAMPS/HOSPITALS

Working as a group, use all both quotes to answer the following questions with specific details from the quotes:

What were some of the duties of the nurses?

What were their living quarters like?

a. What were the sanitation conditions like (bathrooms, cleaning, clean water, soap)?

b. What were meals like?

What were some of the *challenges* faced by the nurses?

What would you find difficult if you were living and working with these nurses?

Could any of these circumstances be considered an *opportunity* for the nurses?



Name:

JIGSAW: NURSING REQUIREMENTS & COMPENSATION

Working as a group, use the quote to answer the following questions with specific details:

Dr. McGee lists different requirements nurses had to meet to get a job as a nurse in the Army. What are 3 of those requirements?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Dr. McGee also explains compensation. Compensation includes money paid and any other benefits. What money and benefits can nurses expect?

Money:

Other benefits:

How could the requirements or compensation be considered either an *opportunity* or a *challenge*?

Could any of them be both?

Opportunities for women:

Challenges of nursing:

Image:

Opportunities for women:

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Image: