

## Civil War Materials for Young People at Madison County Public Library

The Civil War was fought in America from 1861-1865 between Northern Unionists and Southern Secessionists. There have been many, many books written about this war. This list contains books that are among the best. They are available at the public library. Included is also a short list of excellent websites.

### Nonfiction Books

***To Be A Slave*** by Julius Lester (326/Les in Berea and YAPBC/Les on Bookmobile) A compilation, selected from various sources and arranged chronologically, of the reminiscences of slaves and ex-slaves about their experiences from the leaving of Africa through the Civil War and into the early twentieth century.

***Thank You, Sarah : The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving*** by Laurie Halse Anderson (J394.2649/And in Berea and Richmond) Relates how Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and author, persuaded President Lincoln to transform Thanksgiving Day into a national holiday.

***The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales*** by Virginia Hamilton (J398.2/Ham in Berea and Richmond) Retold Afro-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope.

***The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities*** by Janis Herbert (J973.7/Her) Recommended by the Civil War Preservation Trust, a non-profit organization devoted to 'the preservation of America's hallowed ground and the education of the public about the critical role Civil War battlefields played in shaping our history.'

***Now Is Your Time! : The African-American Struggle for Freedom*** by Walter Dean Myers (J973/Mye in Berea)

***You Are the President II: 1800-1899*** (J/973.5/Aas in Berea): Chapters 5 “Secession: February 1861” and 6: “Slavery: July 1862”. The reader is faced with real situations faced by US presidents, and asked to solve each crisis. Includes information about what the actual president chose and the result of his decision. (See also ***You are the General II: 1800-1899***, J/ 335.4/Aas in Richmond.)

***Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent : How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War*** by Thomas B. Allen (J973.7/All in Berea)

***A Confederate Girl: The Diary of Carrie Berry, 1864*** (J973.7/Ber in Berea) Excerpts from the diary of Carrie Berry, describing her family's life in the Confederate south in 1864. Supplemented by sidebars, activities, and a timeline of the era.

***The Underground Railroad*** by Raymond Bial (J973.7/Bia in Berea and Richmond) Full color photographs of the relics of slavery in America illustrate this brief explanation of the institution of slavery and those who suffered under it.

***For Home and Country: A Civil War Scrapbook*** by Norman Bolotin (J973/7/Bol in Berea) Offers largely visual information, making it ideal for browsing. It concentrates on the social effects of the war.

***The Horrors of Andersonville : Life and Death Inside a Civil War Prison*** by Catherine Gourley (J973.7/Gou in Richmond)

***You Wouldn't Want to Be in the First Submarine!: An Undersea Expedition You'd Rather Avoid*** (J/973.7/Gra in Berea, Richmond and Bookmobile), by Ian Graham.

***Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad*** (J/973/7/Mar in Berea), a graphic history by Michael Martin, Dave Hoover, and Bill Anderson.

***Days of Jubilee : The End of Slavery in the United States*** by Pat McKissack (J973.7/McK in Berea)

***Fields of Fury : The American Civil War*** by James M. McPherson (J973.7/McP in Berea and Richmond)

***A Savage Thunder : Antietam and the Bloody Road to Freedom*** by Jim Murphy (J973.7/Mur in Berea and Richmond)

***Duel of the Ironclads : the Monitor vs. the Virginia*** by Patrick O'Brien (J973.7/Obr in Berea)

***The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*** (J/973.7/Olsb in Berea), a graphic history by Melchisedech Olson, Otha Zachariah, and Edward Lohse.

***Behind the Blue and Gray : The Soldier's Life in the Civil War*** by Delia Ray (J973.7/Ray in Richmond)

***I'll Pass for Your Comrade : Women Soldiers in the Civil War*** by Anita Silvey (J973.7/Sil in Richmond) Explores the unknown number of women who fought in the US Civil War disguised as men.

***Welcome to Addy's World, 1864: Growing Up During America's Civil War*** by Susan Sinnott (J973.7/Sin in Berea) Describes the conditions of African Americans in the North and the South during and immediately after the Civil War.

***Civil War*** by John E. Stanchak (J973.7/Sta in Berea)

***Under Siege! : Three Children at the Civil War Battle for Vicksburg*** by Andrea Warren (J973.7/War in Richmond and on Bookmobile)

***Lincoln Tells a Joke: How Laughter Saved the President (and the Country)*** by Kathleen Krull (J 973.7092 Kru in Berea)

***Lincoln's Flying Spies : Thaddeus Lowe and the Civil War Balloon Corps*** by Gail Jarow (J973.741/Jar in Richmond)

***Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters*** by Patricia C. McKissack (J975/McK in Richmond) Describes the customs, recipes, poems, and songs used to celebrate Christmas in the big plantation houses and in the slave quarters just before the Civil War.

### **Biographies:**

***Clara Barton*** by Joeming W. Dunn (JB/Bar in Berea) Biography of the woman who became famous as a nurse to wounded soldiers during the Civil War, and who later founded the American Red Cross.

***John Brown : His Fight for Freedom*** by John Hendrix (JB/Bro in Berea and Richmond)

***Dave, The Potter*** by Laban Carrick Hill (JB/Dav in Berea and Richmond)

***Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Woman*** by Marissa Moss (JB/Edm in Richmond)

***Abe Lincoln Goes to Washington, 1837-1865*** by Cheryl Harness (JB/Lin in Richmond)

***Abe Lincoln Remembers*** by Ann Warren Turner (JB/Lin) A simple description of the life of Abraham Lincoln, presented from his point of view.

***Abe's Honest Words : The Life of Abraham Lincoln*** by Doreen Rappaport (JB/Lin in Berea)

***Abraham Lincoln for Kids: His Life and Times with 21 Activities*** by Janis Herbert (JB/Lin in Richmond)

***Lincoln: A Photobiography*** by Russell Freedman (JB/Lin in Berea and Richmond) In this Newbery Medal winner, Freedman assembles pieces of history to tell the story of Lincoln, witty storyteller and astute politician who rose to the level of greatness as he bore the nation's tragedy.

***The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary*** by Candace Fleming (JB/Lin in Berea and Richmond)

***Open the Door to Liberty! : A Biography of Toussaint L'Ouverture*** by Anne Rockwell (JB/L'Ou in Richmond)

***Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Beecher Preachers*** by Jean Fritz (JB/Sto in Richmond)

***Only Passing Through*** by Anne Rockwell (JB/Tru in Richmond) Presents a biography of Sojourner Truth, the woman who was born a slave with no status and became one of the most powerful voices in the abolitionist movement.

## **Fiction/Picture Books**

***Gettysburg: The Graphic Novel*** by C.M. Butzer (J973.7/But in Berea)

***The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse*** by J. Patrick Lewis (J811/Lew in Berea)

***The Freedom Business: Including A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa*** by Marilyn Nelson (811/Nel in Richmond)

***Bull Run*** by Paul Fleischman (Aud/JF/Fle in Berea) Through an unflinching narrative of the battle of Bull Run, human faces begin to emerge from the faded pages of history.

***Dadblamed Union Army Cow*** by Susan Fletcher (E/Fle in Richmond) During the Civil War, a devoted cow follows her owner when he joins the Union Army and, despite all his

efforts to send her home, stays with him and his regiment until the end of the war. Based on stories and newspaper reports from the Civil War and full of lively illustrations, this is a true heartwarming tale of one wonderfully dadblamed PERSISTENT cow.

***Gabriel's Horses, Gabriel's Triumph, and Gabriel's Journey (Racing to Freedom*** trilogy) by Alison Hart (JF/Har in Richmond and Berea). This trilogy follows 12-year-old slave Gabriel from the Civil War, through post-war years as he, a newly-freed slave, pursues his dream of becoming a jockey, and finally leaving behind his life as a professional jockey to join his father in the Fifth U.S. Colored Cavalry at Camp Nelson.

***Billy the Rebel: Based on a True Civil War Story*** by Deborah Hopkinson (JF/Hop in Berea). During the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, a mother and son shelter a young Confederate deserter.

***From Slave to Soldier: Based on a True Civil War story*** by Deborah Hopkinson (JF/Hop in Berea) Recommended by the Civil War Preservation Trust. A boy who hates being a slave joins the Union Army to fight for freedom, and proves himself brave and capable of handling a mule team when the need arises.

***Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*** by Deborah Hopkinson (E/Hop in Berea) Clara is taught to sew by another slave on the plantation so that she can work in the big house instead of in the fields. Soon afterward, Clara learns about maps and the Underground Railroad. She constructs a quilt with a map in the pattern so that she'll remember the way to the Ohio River. Other slaves, realizing what Clara is doing, add details to the map. When Clara is ready, she leaves the quilt behind for others to use. She knows the way now.

***Orphan Journey Home*** by Liza Ketchum (JF/Ket in Richmond) The book starts with the decision by Jesse's family to abandon their claim in Illinois and return to Kentucky. Jesse's older brother Moses is infuriated by the decision and threatens to desert the family. When the parents die, however, Moses leads the remnants of the family back to Kentucky where they come face to face with slavery.

***Freedom Stone*** by Jeffrey Kluger (JF/Klu in Berea) With the help of a magical stone from Africa, a thirteen-year-old slave travels to the battle of Vicksburg to clear her father's name and free her family from bondage.

***Cecil's Story*** by George Ella Lyon (E/Lyo in Berea) A boy thinks about the possible scenarios that exist for him at home if his father goes off to fight in the Civil War.

***Civil War On Sunday (Magic Tree House #21)*** by Mary Pope Osborne (JPBC/Osb in Richmond and Berea). Places the Magic Tree House kids Jack and Annie near a battle where they meet Clara Barton, civil war nurse.

***Nightjohn*** by Gary Paulsen (JF/Pau in Berea and Richmond) Twelve-year-old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her how to read, and ***Sarny: A Life Remembered*** (YA/Pau in Richmond) Continues the adventures of Sarny, the slave girl Nightjohn taught to read, through the aftermath of the Civil War during which time she taught other Blacks and lived a full life until age ninety-four.

***Soldier's Heart: A Novel of the Civil War, Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers*** by Gary Paulsen (YA/Pau in Berea and Richmond; Aud/YA Pau in Berea) Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

***The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*** by W. R. Philbrick (JF/Phi and Aud/JF/Phi in Richmond) Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War.

***Pink and Say*** by Patricia Polacco (JF/Pol in Berea and Richmond) Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Recommended by the Civil War Preservation Trust.

***Lightning Time*** by Douglas Rees (JF/Ree in Richmond) Fourteen-year-old Theodore Worth struggles with the decision to leave his home in Boston and join the controversial abolitionist John Brown in the fight against slavery.

***Alec's Primer*** by Mildred Pitts Walter (E/Wal in Berea) A young slave's journey to freedom begins when a plantation owner's granddaughter teaches him how to read. Based on the childhood of Alec Turner (1845-1923) who escaped from slavery by joining the Union Army during the Civil War and later became a landowner in Vermont.

***The Yankee at the Seder*** by Elka Webber (JF/Web) As a Confederate family prepares for Passover the day after the Civil War has ended, a Yankee arrives on their Virginia doorstep and is invited to share their meal, to the dismay of ten-year-old Jacob. Includes historical notes about Corporal Myer Levy, on whom the story is based, and his prominent Philadelphia family.

***Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*** by Karen B. Winnick (E/Win in Berea and Richmond) Recommended by the Civil War Preservation Trust. The true story of Grace Bedell, who suggested that Abraham Lincoln grow a beard.

## **Educational Websites:**

The Civil War Trust is America's largest non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields. The website contains stories, maps, games, puzzles, and even a Civil War coloring book. It also contains a list of recommended websites for youth interested in the Civil War.

<http://www.civilwar.org/education/students/>

Brain Pop provides animated, curriculum-based content for kids. The site features interesting videos, games, and activities to help children learn about the Civil War.

<http://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/freemovies/civilwar/>

The Library of Congress presents timelines with related anecdotes about the causes, battles, and people of the Civil War.

[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/civil/jb\\_civil\\_subj.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/civil/jb_civil_subj.html)

American Slave Narratives: The University of Virginia's web site with short excerpts from interviews of former slaves.

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/wpa/wpahome.html>

National Geographic's Web Site on the Underground Railroad:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/j1.html>

Primary Documents related to US Slavery:

<http://www.bungi.com/cfip/slavery.htm>

**Compiled on May 4, 2012 by Abbie Harris, Branch Librarian, Madison County Public Library, Berea, Kentucky.**