Kirkland Town Library

1864 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by:

Barbara Owens
The Civil War brought turmoil and change for Clinton and its citizens, but the community continued to grow and prosper similar to what happened to Addy and her family. The Village of Clinton began the 1860s with a population of 1,174 people and ended the decade with a population of 1,580.
In the early 1800s, slavery was a hotly debated topic; people either strongly opposed it or were in favor of the practice. Slave owners existed around the country, even in Upstate New York.

At right is a bill of sale for a slave girl named Patience, who was sold in Trenton, NY, about 20 miles north of Clinton. This document may have been similar to the bill of sale written for Addy’s father and brother. Photo courtesy of Oneida County Historical Society

By the 1860s, many people in the area had become abolitionists. They did not believe that anyone should “own” another human being.
Clinton was home to Henry Howard, a former slave. Mr. Howard escaped from Maryland and went to Philadelphia as Addy’s family had done. Eventually he moved to Clinton, where he would live for the rest of his life.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. It stated “all persons held as slaves are and henceforward shall be free.” It also said the government would allow African-Americans into the military. Mr. Howard volunteered and served as a soldier in the Civil War. He is buried in the Old Burying Ground on Kirkland Avenue.

William Williams was another former slave who lived in Clinton and proudly served his country. He was a cook in the Union Army. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Sunset Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Howard, Mr. Williams and Addy’s brother Sam were among the more than 200,000 African-Americans who fought in the Civil War.
With the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, more than 300 men from Clinton enlisted on the Union side. One Hamilton College student fought for the Confederacy. Since there were no phones, people kept in touch through letters. Letters from the battlefield took a long time to reach family and friends back in Clinton. Soldiers also wrote to request changes in their appointments.

James Bronson, a Clinton resident, first wrote a letter home right-handed but then had to write with his left hand after a battlefield injury resulted in the loss of his right arm. He suffered the same injury as Addy’s brother Sam.
Citizens of Clinton helped the soldiers as much as they could during the war. They sent supplies such as food, clothing, medicine, and bandages. After receiving news of the great battle at Gettysburg, Clinton resident J.S. Avery, Esq., left his home to take care of the wounded and look after the welfare of our Clinton troops.

Clara Barton was another person with ties to Clinton who helped the wounded at Gettysburg. She had attended school at the Clinton Liberal Institute, which was originally located on Chestnut Street. During the Battle of Gettysburg, she became known as the “Angel of the Battlefield.” Later she became even more famous as the founder of the American Red Cross.
Back home, the community of Clinton experienced its own challenges. On March 27, 1862, a fire broke out on West Park Row which destroyed the original businesses, which were built of wood. Since Clinton did not have a fire department at this time, the Village Board decided to organize the first Clinton Fire Department in 1866.
Clinton was known as “schooltown” because of the many schools that existed here. The Houghton Seminary and the Cottage Seminary were both founded on the grounds of the current Clinton Middle School in 1861. These schools accepted students from all over the nation. Similar to Addy’s school in Philadelphia, they were not segregated by nationality or racial group.

Houghton Seminary; Clinton Historical Society
By 1865, with the increase in population, Kirkland had eight churches serving Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Universalists, Methodists, Baptists, and Episcopalians. There were many reports of local churches aiding escaping slaves who used the Underground Railroad. The first church in Clark Mills, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, laid its cornerstone in 1863. In Clinton, St. James Church was dedicated in 1865.
Growth of Clinton

More businesses and many new homes being built to accommodate the growing population. Elm Street was developed in 1861 and Prospect Street was opened in 1864. A grocery store built at 36 College Street changed hands several times and is now known at Don’s Rok. With train service arriving in Clinton in 1866, a new train station was built on Water Street, now Kirkland Avenue, near the current Clinton House Apartments.

After the war, many Clinton families were reunited with loved ones, as was Addy’s family, and there was much hope for the future.
Suggested Reading

**Easy Fiction**

*Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco
(Easy POL)

**Juvenile Fiction**

*A Light in the Storm: the Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin* by Karen Hesse
(J Fiction HES, Dear America Series)

*Civil War on Sunday* by Mary Pope Osborne
(J Fiction OSB, Magic Tree House Series)

*The River Between Us* by Richard Peck
(J Fiction PEC)

*Silent Thunder: a Civil War Story* by Andrea Davis Pinkney
(J Fiction PIN)

**Juvenile Nonfiction**

*Scholastic Encyclopedia of the Civil War* by Catherine Clinton
(J 973.7 CLI)

*Civil War* by John E. Stanchak
(J 973.7 STA)

*Mr. Lincoln’s High-Tech War: how the North Used the Telegraph, Railroads, Surveillance Balloons, Ironclads, High-Powered Weapons, and More to Win the Civil War* by Thomas B. Allen
(J 973.7 ALL)

*Elizabeth Van Lew: Civil War Spy* by Heidi Schoof
(J 973.785 VAN)

*Behind Rebel Lines: the Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds Civil War Spy* by Seymour Reit
(J B EDMONDS)

**Young Adult**

*Soldier’s Heart: a Novel of the Civil War* by Gary Paulsen
(YA Fiction PAU)

*The Civil War: a History in Documents* by Rachel Filene Seidman
(YA 973.7 SEI)
Addy’s Accessories

- Book
- Pajamas
- Comb
- Bonnet
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To learn how you can sponsor a doll or its accessories contact Anne Debraggio, Director of Kirkland Town Library, at: adebraggio@midyork.org.

To learn more about the program visit http://kirklandtownlibrary.org/americangirldolls/

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