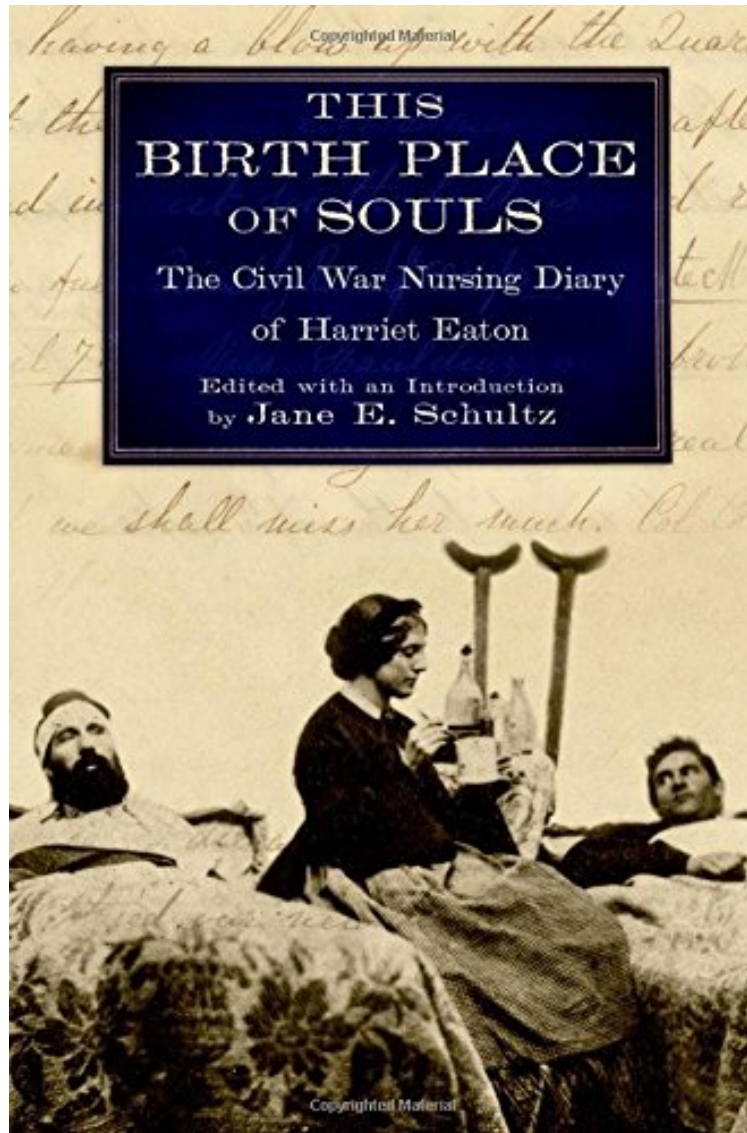


(Download) This Birth Place of Souls: The Civil War Nursing Diary of Harriet Eaton

This Birth Place of Souls: The Civil War Nursing Diary of Harriet Eaton

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From Oxford University Press : This Birth Place of Souls: The Civil War Nursing Diary of Harriet Eaton before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Birth Place of Souls: The Civil War Nursing Diary of Harriet Eaton:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great History, Great Story!By WhiteCatWritingIn a meticulously researched and well framed approach, J Schultz presents the diary of a woman who experienced the Civil War so

directly, so profoundly that even those immersed in the letters and personal accounts from that period will find this truly compelling material. The quality of the writing is exceptional and the context presented to help inform the reader prior to absorbing the actual diary entries is thorough and intriguing. The one drawback is perhaps Schultz's interpretation that the role of the nurse was essentially the migration of female domestic labor into a more professional sphere. While there is some truth in this assertion, it tends to minimize the important advances in nursing, especially as the war dragged on: the beginnings of collaborative models with physicians, the recognition of administrative skill/expertise, the ascendancy of patient advocacy, the emerging role of nurse-family interactions. Much of what we do as RNs today tracks back to women such as Harriet Eaton, and we owe much to her and her contemporaries, most of whom we will never hear in their own voices - as Schultz enables us to do here. Personally I advocate a less conservative interpretation of their contributions but ultimately, the availability of this material will help the reader make his/her own - and better informed - decision about the Civil War origins of US nursing. I agree that \$ 75 is an outrageous price for this book, but savvy book shoppers can find cheaper copies, including paperback, for significantly less. Harriet herself no doubt would encourage thrifty shopping! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the best primary sources of its kind to appear in recent ...By John Hennessy Much of what we read in the way of primary sources is polished and improved. Eaton's diary is immediate, sometimes raw, and just flat-out absorbing. This is one of the best primary sources of its kind to appear in recent years, and editor Jane Schultz knows her topic as well as anyone on earth. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sheds new light on the role women played during the ...By Lynda L. Sudlow Sheds new light on the role women played during the American Civil War. The transcription of the diary of Harriet Eaton is further enhanced with additional explanatory notes and photos. Fascinating reading!

After the battle of Antietam in 1862, Harriet Eaton traveled to Virginia from her home in Portland, Maine, to care for soldiers in the Army of the Potomac. Portland's Free Street Baptist Church, with liberal ties to abolition, established the Maine Camp Hospital Association and made the widowed Eaton its relief agent in the field. One of many Christians who believed that patriotic activism could redeem the nation, Eaton quickly learned that war was no respecter of religious principles. Doing the work of nurse and provisioner, Eaton tended wounded men and those with smallpox and diphtheria during two tours of duty. Eaton struggled with the disruptions of transience, scarcely sleeping in the same place twice, but found the politics of daily toil even more challenging. Conflict between Eaton and coworker Isabella Fogg erupted almost immediately over issues of propriety. Though Eaton praised some of the surgeons with whom she worked, she labeled others charlatans whose neglect had deadly implications for the rank and file. If she saw villainy, she also saw opportunities to convert soldiers and developed an intense spiritual connection with a private, which appears to have led to a postwar liaison. Published here for the first time, the uncensored nursing diary is a rarity among medical accounts of the war, showing Eaton to be an astute observer of human nature and not as straight-laced as we might have thought. This edition includes an extensive introduction by the editor, transcriptions of relevant letters and newspaper articles, and a comprehensive biographical dictionary of the people mentioned in the diary.

"Jane Schultz is arguably the nation's leading expert on Civil War nursing, whose articles and book, *Women at the Front*, have had a profound effect on how scholars--including literary critics and historians--have viewed women's contributions to the [American] Civil War. First-person accounts of northern women nurses (and of northern women in general) during the Civil War remain rare--and so it is a pleasure to see that Schultz has produced this carefully edited and beautifully written volume documenting Harriet Eaton's nursing. This is a great discovery and a significant contribution to Civil War literature."--Alice Fahs, UC Irvine "Jane E. Schultz's meticulous editing of Harriet Eaton's diary and newspaper correspondence provides detailed insights into the backbreaking day-to-day hospital work of a 'roving' Civil War nurse. Eaton's 'sanitary labor' immersed the pious Christian into the world of rickety ambulance wagons and filthy field hospital tents as she cared for Maine's sick and wounded volunteers. Schultz's thorough introductory essay, annotations, and biographical appendix contextualize Eaton's humanitarian/missionary efforts within contemporary New England attitudes towards gender and race. Eaton's determination and diplomatic skills enabled her to navigate the male-dominated military-medical world of her day and minister to the physical and spiritual needs of innumerable suffering soldiers. A major documentary edition and a significant contribution to Civil War medical history."--John David Smith, University of North Carolina at Charlotte "Harriet Eaton's diary vividly brings to life the inner-workings of Civil War field and general hospitals, where army regulars, civilian relief workers, and freed slaves often came to blows about how best to care for the wounded. For eleven months and through two rigorous tours of duty Eaton made nightly journal entries that allow readers to experience the immediacy of triage work in the aftermath of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. In *This Birth Place of Souls*, Jane Schultz thoroughly and ably places Eaton in the context in which she lived and worked, offering us a fascinating snapshot of one nurse's experience and a group portrait of caregivers of all stripes."--Judith Giesberg, Villanova University "A beautifully conceived book."--H-Net s "Until now there has not been a work where both topics are explored together in

depth and detail. EL Schultz's ability to examine and discuss all these character traits and personal issues makes this one of the best works of this genre currently on the market. The content reflects a painstaking level of research to gather, analyze, organize and present the diary in a meaningful manner."--Civil War News

About the Author Jane E. Schultz is Professor of English and Director of Literature at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis where she teaches courses in nineteenth-century literature and culture and in the medical humanities. Her book *Women at the Front: Female Hospital Workers in Civil War America* received Honorable Mention for the 2005 Lincoln Prize.