During the Civil War, the U. S. Sanitary Commission became the largest private national agency channeling donated supplies from the home front to Union soldiers. Its efforts on battlefields and in camps, hospitals, and soldiers’ homes significantly reduced the expected death toll in the Northern armies. Under its auspices, women volunteered countless hours of time and donated food and medical supplies eventually valued at $25,000,000.1 Over 7,000 local soldiers’ aid societies, largely run by women, served as auxiliaries of the Sanitary Commission. 2

Intellectual historian George M. Fredrickson, writing in 1965, characterizes the Sanitary Commission as an upper-class organization ruled by a small group of male commissioners who believed that professional experts needed to intervene "between irrational popular benevolence and the suffering to be relieved." Fredrickson contrasts the men’s rational scientific system with the humanitarian, sympathetic, and emotional responses believed to characterize women’s efforts during the war. He feels the Sanitary elite won "victories over the volunteerists and the individualists," including the women who "rolled bandages," by getting them to work in "large impersonal organizations." 3

The Soldiers’ Aid Society of Northern Ohio at Cleveland displayed a remarkable loyalty to the U.S. Sanitary Commission. The Cleveland Society, headed solely by women, was the first of its kind formed in the North during the Civil War. It became a model branch of the Commission. An investigation of this society and its leadership, goals, and methods should cast light on the question of mid-19th century women’s desires and abilities to work within the framework of a large, disciplined agency like the Sanitary Commission.

Were Western Reserve women merely cogs in the wheels of a patriarchally run organization, encouraged to do feminine tasks of preparing food and clothing on a large scale during the crisis of war? Should Reserve women be included among those reported by Louisa Lee Schuyler, president of the New York City Society, to be lacking imagination and unable to see "beyond the boxes and bales and into the hearts of the people?" 4 Exactly the opposite picture emerges when one studies records in the Western Reserve. The religious, patriotic, and educational values of their New England heritage led Reserve women into benevolent work for the Northern cause. Western values of freedom, equality, individualism, and democracy helped them to do this work in innovative new ways.

The Women’s Central Association of Relief in New York City played an instrumental role in the formation of the U. S. Sanitary Commission by sending four male representatives to Washington, D. C. These men decided to establish a commission similar to the British example during the Crimean War. On June 13, 1861, President Lincoln approved their plan to investigate troop and hospital facilities and to advise the Medical Bureau and War Department on how to improve sanitary conditions in the army. After the disaster at Bull Run in July 1861, donated relief supplies poured into the office of the newly formed U. S. Sanitary Commission. Aware of the government’s inability to adequately care for the sick and wounded, the Commission began systematic relief work.

The commissioners hired relief agents to work in the field with their sanitary inspectors. These agents reported needs to the Eastern or Western headquarters which in turn made needs known
to the regional branch organizations eventually located in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Columbus, Detroit, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Baltimore. Each branch served as a receiving center for clothing, bedding, food and supplies donated by local aid societies in surrounding districts. It sorted, repacked, and shipped the materials to supply depots, hospitals and battle sites. 5

The Commission believed in helping any needy soldier regardless of his state or background, including enemy wounded. Leaders in many towns and some states opposed this national viewpoint, preferring to direct donations to specific regiments. In the Western Reserve, seeds of a national perspective fell on fertile ground. Long before the Sanitary Commission began operating, Republican and abolitionist leaders had committed themselves to the Union cause on a national level.

On April 20, 1861, five days after President Abraham Lincoln issued the call for 75,000 militia, ladies in Cleveland met "to inquire how the charity of woman could best serve her country in its impending peril." They collected funds for families of soldiers on their way to Washington and met to prepare bandages. Informed by a gentleman from nearby Camp Taylor that one thousand volunteers had arrived without blankets, the ladies set out on a door-to-door "blanket raid." Cleveland citizens relinquished "delicate rose blankets, chintz quilts, thick counterpanes." In two days the women provided warm coverings for all the soldiers. 6 Clevelanders quickly became involved beyond the local level.

During the next month, Cleveland ladies stitched 1000 flannel shirts and made linen havelock cap covers to protect soldiers from the sun. They elected officers and organized committees responsible for hospital clothing and bedding, bandages and lint, fruit and groceries. By June 1861, they formally organized as the Ladies' Aid Society of Cleveland. 7 Similar series of events took place in other communities on the Reserve. In Akron the men raised militia while the ladies collected blankets and prepared "lint, bandages, shirts, and other necessaries and comforts" for the volunteers. 8 On May 31, 1861, the women drew up a constitution and elected officers for the Akron Soldiers' Aid Society. They agreed to meet for weekly work sessions. 9

Akron's newly elected president Phamphila Wolcott, the sister of Edwin Stanton, pledged her time freely "to any and every effort for the cause in which my whole heart was engaged." 10 Since her husband Christopher, a young lawyer and former State Attorney General (1856-1861), was on the road procuring arms and equipment for Ohio's soldiers, Phila (as she preferred to be called) had charge of three young sons as well as the Akron Society. 11 She immediately wrote Rebecca Rouse, president of the Cleveland Society. Phila hoped that Rebecca, a leader in benevolent causes for thirty years, could give advice that would help direct Akron's efforts. 12 Some members of the Akron Soldier's Aid Society "expressed reluctance to do anything save for our own volunteers from this place," but Phila promised Rebecca that if there are "means enough to work further we will gladly do so as we do not wish to confine our efforts to taking care of our own county." 13 While Reserve women had a normal tendency to look after their own first, they often elected educated women with broad vision and a national outlook to leadership positions.

Though small in stature, fragile in health, and the mother of five living children, Rebecca Rouse had been a dedicated leader of women's benevolent work in Cleveland ever since she and her husband Benjamin arrived on the Reserve in 1830. She was 62 years old when she assumed the presidency of the Cleveland Soldier's Aid Society. Rebecca had the support and help of numerous other women with whom she had worked in charitable, religious, and reform efforts.
over the past three decades. With the services of two young, capable, and highly educated women from prominent families, Miss Mary Clark Brayton as secretary and Miss Ellen F. Terry as treasurer, the growing Cleveland Society had no need to turn to men for help with correspondence or financial matters. They completely ran their own organization.

Rebecca and her officers worked to overcome parochial attitudes. They contacted Western Regiments, asked for specific information on needed supplies, and invited ladies of other towns to cooperate with them in making such goods available. In the summer of 1861, they received helpful advice from the newly appointed Western Secretary of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, Dr. John S. Newberry, a native of Cleveland and well-known to the women of the Society. Trusting him, they began cooperating with the Commission and informed the women of nearby societies, via printed circulars, that the Sanitary Commission would help transport donations at reduced shipping rates to western Virginia hospitals.

On October 9, 1861, the Soldiers’ Aid Society of Cleveland formally offered to become a branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission. Frederick Law Olmsted, General Secretary of the Commission, cordially accepted the offer. The Commission insisted that work be done in an orderly, disciplined, systematic manner felt to be in the best interests of the soldier and to work well with military protocol. It required careful record keeping by men and women at each end of the supply line and gave out supplies by requisition only. Phila Wolcott admired the "business-like arrangements" of the Commission. Cleveland and Akron women found little difficulty working within the framework of the Sanitary Commission for they were already disciplined, organized managers. They felt responsible for getting the supplies, donated after long hours of work on the part of women, to the places where they were needed. The Commission proved capable of doing this.

In return for the helpful assistance received from the Commission, the Cleveland Society made a dedicated effort to explain the Commission’s purposes and outlook to all its cooperating groups. It stamped the Commission name on all articles sent to soldiers through its office. On November 30, 1861, the Cleveland Society changed its name to the Soldiers’ Aid Society of Northern Ohio to be inclusive of all local organizations that decided to join with it in working for the Commission. It urged its tributaries to make systematic regular donations "so long as the War shall last." In December 1861, Newberry wrote Henry M. Bellows, president of the Sanitary Commission, calling attention to the skill, wisdom, and patriotism of Western Reserve women who "almost unaided" were making the Cleveland Branch "one of the most efficient auxiliaries of our Commission." Newberry’s quarterly report mentioned that only one other branch had given more material aid and none had exhibited more energy or devotion in the "performance of a self-imposed task."

Rumors constantly circulated that food sent through the Commission was eaten by nurses and surgeons and never reached the soldiers. People also reported men suffering while waiting for supplies to be properly doled out according to established procedure. Because the Commission paid its field agents, it was felt by some to be uncompassionate and uncaring. But as aid societies experienced difficulties in transporting supplies to units on far flung fields, they began to appreciate the economically efficient system offered by the Commission and its Cleveland Branch. Mrs. T. G. Lester of Canton noted that Rebecca’s helpful reply to her letter of inquiry enabled the Canton ladies to immediately "decide in connecting ourselves as a branch of your Soc. having full confidence in you and your officers." When negative stories from returning soldiers caused some Canton women to question the Commission, Mrs. Lester assured Rebecca that "there are many who do not doubt the superior knowledge of the Sanitary Commission and prefer their knowledge to guide them in this our enterprise of mercy."
As Reserve men became convinced that the Sanitary Commission could efficiently get supplies delivered, they supported the women in their work for its cause. When Allen Welton of Oak Hill returned from a visit to Louisville in 1861, he reported that he had witnessed the promptness with which the Commission "supplied all demands made on the society for the relief of our soldiers." He assured people that their contributions were appropriately used. 26

R. P. Ellsworth of Hudson publicly thanked the Sanitary Commission for its help in assisting him to visit his wounded son in the Chattanooga hospital and to bring his body home for burial. Ellsworth admitted entertaining "doubts as to the utility of the Sanitary Commission," but his visits to hospitals and the army convinced him that the Commission was "one of the most blessed institutions of the day, and one of the most efficient aids of the Government." 27 He urged Summit County ladies to continue their work of blessing and comfort.

Reserve women proved that it was possible to run a model branch and cooperate with a bureaucracy headed by men without becoming underlings bossed about by so-called "experts." Rebecca and her colleagues probably worked with less official interference than some counterparts in the East because John Newberry, to the dismay of the Eastern officers, often allowed local societies to "operate freely and commended them for their achievements." 28 Newberry, himself a product of the Western Reserve, would have been familiar with the capabilities and past accomplishments of Mrs. Rouse and her officers. It would have been difficult for him to insist to his long-established and respected friends that he knew how to improve on the procedures they had perfected during years of benevolent work.

In the early years of the war, Mrs. Rouse visited families and villages, appealing for support and explaining the need for local soldiers' aid societies. Mary Brayton cordially and quickly answered all correspondence to the Cleveland Branch. The letters from local societies to the Cleveland officers eventually filled twenty-one scrapbooks. 29 Women from outlying districts began trusting Rebecca and Mary to handle their donations wisely and often spoke of shipping boxes to Mrs. Rouse or Miss Brayton rather than to the U. S. Sanitary Commission. These sympathetic women never treated small-town aid societies in the condescending manner sometimes noticed at other branches. 30

Cleveland leaders realistically acknowledged that societies sometimes desired or felt pressured to ship to local regiments, personal contacts, and through other national or state agencies. 31 Cleveland officers tried to facilitate such work and sometimes bent the Commission's rules to help women work within the constraints of their local environments. For example, they helped the Austinburg Aid Society ship a box of supplies to Mrs. Wheeler in Washington, D. C., and picked up the freight bill that accrued by going outside Sanitary channels. The Austinburg ladies expressed grateful thanks for the kindness and the "generous assurances of sympathy and aid." 32 When a box designated for Mrs. Wheeler could not be delivered, they told Mrs. Rouse they had decided it would be best for the Cleveland Society to "send the box, where in your judgment it is at the present time most needed." 33

Women in rural townships often lived several miles apart, but they promised, like the Bath society, that "though our gifts are but the mite we hope to add that mite as long as the dreadful necessity continues." 34 Leaders in Benton Township, Ottawa County, found it difficult to raise more than eighty cents at a time, but reported that they "found materials and pieced quilts ourselves so you perceive our heart is in our work and we mean to keep going as long as the war lasts." 35 The Cleveland Branch gave materials to women willing to sew but unable to furnish funds. It also offered to purchase patterns and materials for aid societies. After receiving such help, the Austinburg Society thanked Miss Brayton, "knowing we could nowhere have done as well with the same money and we are grateful for the work you gave us." 36
Women tried to make regular donations and they completed the records necessary to comply with Sanitary Commission regulations. In December 1863, Mrs. Salter of Bath told the Cleveland ladies that the "accident of a friend’s child being burned to death, called me from home for several days which prevented my forwarding to you the duplicate list of our last efforts to manifest our gratitude to those noble fellows who are hospitalized themselves by fighting freedom’s battles."37 The ladies of Stow tried "to labor with the same earnestness and emotion of spirit that would prompt us if every man who is struggling for the right, was either our father, brother, husband or son."38

Reserve women knew that Cleveland leaders worked as hard as they did, often staying at the Bank Street headquarters from early morning until late at night. Mrs. Lester, president of the Canton Society, told Mrs. Rouse that, "I think you ladies must be near exhausted judging from myself and others that work on a comparatively small scale."39 In spite of the arduous work that not all could sustain, women began to realize the power and success that could be achieved by networking with other women across age, ethnic, class, economic, and regional barriers.

By the end of the war Cleveland had developed an intimate network with its tributaries--525 contributing local soldiers’ aid societies located largely within a small and relatively poor eighteen county area. Linus F. Brockett and Mary C. Vaughan, authors of Women’s Work in the Civil War, stated that among the Commission’s branches, "there was none which in so small and seemingly barren a district proved so efficient or accomplished so much as the Soldiers’ Aid Society of Northern Ohio."40 In addition to sending thousands of supplies to battlefields and hospitals, women of the Reserve prepared huge quantities of vegetables to prevent scurvy among soldiers. The Cleveland Branch also built and supported a Soldiers’ Home, and ran employment and claims agencies to help soldiers and their families.

Reserve women developed and used numerous strategies to personalize their Sanitary Commission work. The Cleveland officers visited battlefronts and worked on hospital transports.41 They exchanged reports and ideas with the officers of branch societies in other states.42 Reserve women maintained contact with friends now caring for wounded and sick soldiers.43 The ladies placed letters and notes in the pockets or folds of blouses, dressing gowns and other articles, urging the recipients to reply.44 They invited returning soldiers to speak at their meetings and fund raising events.45 Societies circumvented normal communication procedures and personally corresponded with Sanitary inspectors and surgeons. They exchanged letters with Thomas Wills who headed the hospital garden at Chattanooga.46 Reserve women found it easier to ignore rumors about mercenary, uncaring Sanitary workers when they personally knew them to be otherwise.

Henry W. Bellows felt that in work for the Sanitary Commission, "there was no jealousy between men and women . . . and no disposition to discourage, underrate, or disassociate from each other."47 This remark certainly seems to apply to efforts on the Western Reserve. Men and women acknowledged the importance of each other’s work and established innovative patterns of cooperation in their mutual efforts for the Union cause they believed in. Although men and women usually went capably about separate but equally necessary tasks, they exhibited a spirit of support and respect with regard to one another’s work and lent a helping hand when appropriate.

The Montrose Society noted that "while donations made through Aid Societies, are credited to the ladies, we will acknowledge that without the cooperation of the gentlemen, we should find our offers very much crippled."48 Men delivered and picked up donations and helped seal and load packing crates. They donated personal cash and proceeds from their events to aid society
treasuries. The Middlebury Aid Society publicly thanked the gentlemen of Middlebury who assisted them in running their dining room at the fair and "who did all with a hearty good-will." In turn, women cheerfully provided refreshments for patriotic events sponsored by the men.

The editors of Reserve papers aided societies by publishing notices of all their meetings, calls for goods, and fund raising events such as concerts, festivals, dime parties, and tableaux. In Akron, Samuel Lane, editor of the Summit Beacon, published lists of all contributions made to county societies along with the name of the donor. Lane and his wife, who actively worked for the Akron Soldiers' Aid Society, made their silver wedding anniversary into a benefit for the group. Lane also announced that he would hire patriotic young ladies to set type and stated that, "it is possible, that one of the great benefits which is to grow out of this wicked rebellion, will be the discovery of the important fact that the young ladies of our country can be useful as well as ornamental members of society." 

Men and women worked together to provide clothing, food, or fuel for soldiers' families, the poor, and contrabands. In Springfield men and women turned out to help a local soldier's wife. The men came "armed and equipped with axes, mauls, wedges, &c., and provided with teams or the purpose of getting up and preparing a winter's supply of wood for the family, while the women took along everything requisite for a first-rate Thanksgiving dinner." 

Men and women throughout the Reserve also cooperated without difficulty to put on the successful Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair in February 1864, raising over $75,000 for the cause. Women carefully selected the men to work with them on committees, giving evidence of the strategic thinking necessary for running boards in an industrial era. Mrs. Lester suggested to Mary Brayton that they invite Mr. Lewis Miller and Judge J. W. Underhill of Canton to work with them on the fair. She felt "the importance of these appointments" and stressed that the men could "draw more largely upon their own sex than we can (I mean we of the feminine gender). Mr. Miller has a warehouse near the Depot convenient for shipping and has much influence in his Foundry, and if interested has it in his power to be very liberal."

Throughout the war, Reserve women worked through the U. S. Sanitary Commission to provide the best care for the soldiers of their towns, state, and nation. Cultivating an area not larger than one-eighth of Ohio, they made and contributed "a total disbursement of hospital stores, not only far greater, proportionally, than that of any other branch of the Sanitary Commission, but actually, in certain respects, in excess of that of societies which received contributions from states, not counties." The value of supplies issued from the Cleveland Branch totaled almost a million dollars. One would need to multiply that total by at least forty to get a sense of what it would mean today. To get a further sense of women's dedication and patriotism, one must also remember that most of the thousands of food and clothing items donated had to be prepared from scratch in time saved from other demanding and time-consuming home and family responsibilities.

On a Spring 1863 visit to the West, Frederick Law Olmsted found Cleveland women a refreshing contrast to the "rich, silly & incompetent competitors with aristocratic magnificence who so readily come under the observation of English travelers." He felt Reserve women exhibited "cheerful, quiet, deep, patient religious patriotism ... purely American in character." Certainly he sensed the innovative patterns of behavior influenced by values of a Yankee heritage transplanted to a new setting in Ohio's Western Reserve.
After analyzing Reserve records, it seems just as logical to see Reserve women "using" the Sanitary Commission to accomplish their own "humanitarian" goals as it does to view the male hierarchy of the Sanitary Commission "using" women to achieve their "professional" goals. Charitable and caring Reserve women used the Commission to carry out their labor of love. In return they capably delivered systematic aid, winning the respect of the men they worked with rather than for. Newberry reported that contributions from the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio "were made with a regularity and certainty upon which we were able to rely under all circumstances. Our appeals were always promptly responded to, and it is the universal testimony of our agents in the field that the contributions of no Society arrived in better order." 58

Reserve women's war efforts helped to shatter the stereotype of 19th century women as emotional helpless ornaments incapable of sustaining long term efforts or understanding big ideas. Reserve women also proved that so-called caring feminine approaches and rational orderly masculine approaches did not have to be mutually exclusive. They demonstrated that women could work with men without assuming a subservient or second-class role. Seeing themselves as "enlisted for the war," women leaders of Reserve aid societies chose to work with the U. S. Sanitary Commission. Reserve women's education, patriotism, and past benevolent and reform work prepared them to cooperate with an organization having a universal rather than a parochial outlook. With their own sons widely scattered on all battlefronts, they willingly labored to supply every mother's son. They democratically ran their own societies and accepted the Commission's controversial procedures because the organization proved to their satisfaction that it could efficiently get supplies delivered to the people they wished to help.

In her late nineteenth century summary of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, Ellen Terry Johnson stressed that the patriotic women with whom she had worked expected no personal fame or eulogies, but were pleased that their contemporaries found "their work worthy of record beside that of the Soldiers of the Union." 59 Rebecca Rouse is not included in Notable American Women with her counterparts from Chicago or from New York, but she and her associates opened doors that would never close entirely on the Western Reserve. Their vision, resourcefulness, determination, dedication, kindness, and methods still provide worthy models for men and women of northern Ohio.

NOTES


4Statement reported in Maxwell, 302.

Cleveland Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission (Mary Clark Brayton and Ellen F. Terry), *Our Acre and Its Harvest: Historical Sketch of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio* (Cleveland: Fairbanks, Benedict & Co., 1869), 17, 19-20, [hereafter cited as *Our Acre and Its Harvest*].

Ibid., 20-25.

"The Patriotic Ladies of Akron," *Summit County (Ohio) Beacon* [hereafter cited as *Beacon*] (microfilm edition, Ohio Historical Society), April 25, 1861, roll 4, frame 016.

Mrs. E. Oviatt, "Notice," *Beacon*, June 13, 1861, roll 4, frame 044.

P. S. Wolcott, Akron, October 17, 1861, letter to Mrs. B. Rouse, Cleveland, *U.S. Sanitary Commission. Cleveland Branch: Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio*. MSS 1012 (Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Cleveland, Ohio), Container 11, Volume 1. The records in this collection date from 1860-1878 and are contained in 41 boxes, 41 volumes, and 1 package. [Hereafter this source will be abbreviated: WRHS MSS 1012.]


P. S. Wolcott to Mrs. B. Rouse, May 31, 1861, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 1.

Phila S. Wolcott to Mrs. B. Rouse, October 2, 1861 and Mrs. C. P. Wolcott to Mrs. B. Rouse, June 10, 1861, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 1.

Mrs. W. A. Ingham, *Women of Cleveland and Their Work, Philanthropic, Educational, Literary, Medical and Artistic* (Cleveland: W. A. Ingham, 1893), 16-19, 65-66, 70, 76-81, 100-112, 124-128.


*Our Acre and Its Harvest*, 29-30.

Ibid., 31-32.

Phila S. Wolcott to Mrs. B. Rouse, October 2, 1861 and October 9, 1861, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 1.

*Our Acre and Its Harvest*, 40-41.

Mrs. B. Rouse to the Officers of our Auxiliary Societies, "No. 7 - Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio, For the Relief of the Sick and Wounded of the Federal Army, In Co-operation with U.S. Sanitary Commission," bulletin dated Jan. 8th, 1862, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 10, Folder 6.

S. Newberry to H. W. Bellows, December 1, 1861 reproduced in *Our Acre and Its Harvest*, 39-40.

23For examples see L. B. Austin, Austinburg, to Mary C. Brayton, Cleveland, April 4, 1862 and L. B. Austin, Austinburg, to Mrs. B. Rouse, April 21, 1862, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

24M. A. Lester, Canton, to Mrs. Rouse, Cleveland, October 23, 1861, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 3.

25Ibid., December 4, 1861.

26W. to Friend Lane, "Mr. Welton at Home," Beacon, November 13, 1862, roll 4, frame 349.


29WRHS MSS 1012, Containers 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. Letters are mounted alphabetically by town and chronologically by date.

30Maxwell, 300-302.

31See for example: Whitelaw Reid, Ohio in the War: Her Statesmen, Her Generals, and Soldiers (Cincinnati: Moore, Wilstach & Baldwin, 1868), Vol. 1, 190-193. Soldiers often sent thanks for boxes sent to them. See for example, Bath Boys of the 115th to Friend Lane, "From the 115th," Beacon, February 12, 1863, roll 4, frame 399. It thanks the people of Bath and Richfield for a 700 lb. box of provisions.

32A. D. Barber, Austinburg, to Miss M. C. Brayton, July 16, 1862, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

33E. M. Plumb, Austinburg, to Mrs. Rouse, September 25, 1862, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

34M. A. Salter, Bath, to Ladies, Cleveland, March 20, 1863, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

35A. Guernsey and M. Berry, Benton (Ottawa Co.), to Mrs. Rouse, March 12, 1863, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

36A. D. Barber, Austinburg, to Mrs. Rouse, December 10, 1862, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

37M. A. Salter, Bath, to Mrs. Rouse and ladies of SAS, December 19, 1863, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 2.

38"From Stow," Beacon, February 27, 1862, roll 4, frame 197.
39M. A. Lester, Canton, to Mrs. Rouse, April 17, 1862, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 3.

40Brockett and Vaughan, 540.

41Ellen Terry Johnson, "Northern Ohio Soldiers' Aid Society," in William J. Gleason, History of the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument (Cleveland: Monument Commissioners, 1894), 452-460.

42See correspondence in Containers 18 and 19, WRHS MSS 1012.

43For examples see: "Letter from Mrs. Christopher," Beacon, January 29, 1863, roll 4, frame 391; a letter from Fanny J. Christopher, Danville, Kentucky to Summit Co. friends; "Interesting Letter--Condition of Our Hospitals," Beacon, January 15, 1863, roll 4, frame 383; letter from Rebecca Craighead, near St. Louis, to readers of Akron paper.

44"Hospital Soldiers' Letters," Beacon, April 2, 1863, roll 4, frame 428.

45For example, "Lecture by Col. Voris," Beacon, December 29, 1864, roll 4, frame 793.


47Quoted in Brockett and Vaughan, 42.

48Mrs. S. T. Kennedy to Mr. Editor, "Montrose Aid Society," Beacon, May 15, 1862, roll 4, frame 241.

49"Middlebury Soldiers' Aid Society--Card of Thanks," Beacon, October 9, 1862, roll 4, frame 329.

50"That 'Silver Wedding,'" Beacon, November 19, 1863, roll 4, frame 559.

51"To Patriotic Young Ladies," Beacon, August 8, 1862, roll 4, frame 290.


53Our Acre and Its Harvest, 135-207.

54M. A. Lester, Canton, to Miss Brayton, Cleveland, January 26, 1864, WRHS MSS 1012, Container 11, Volume 3.

55Ellen Terry Johnson, 441.


57Censer, Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Vol. IV, 590.


59Ellen Terry Johnson, 461.
Vintage photograph of the United States Sanitary Commission and Soldiers' Aid Society Storefront, 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, Ohio, c. 1865. Collection of the Western Reserve Historical Society.