

Courageous Women of War

St. Augustine National Cemetery

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery
Administration



**Department
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



Tour Stops

**1- Mary Sprague
A-87**

**2- Margaret Worth
A-18**

**3- Catherine Hayes
A-24-a**

**4- Beatrice Gaster
B-374**

**5- Amelia Hardin B-
428**

**6- Elizabeth Smith
B-703**

**7- Emily Kennedy
D-168**



Women during the American Revolutionary War

- Women, family members of soldiers, traveled with George Washington's Continental Army
- Aided the soldiers by:
 - Tending to wounds
 - Mending uniforms
 - Cooking meals
 - Cleaning



Photo credit Library of Congress

Margaret Corbin loads a canon at Fort Washington
Source: Library of Congress

Women and Combat

- Throughout history, some women have disguised themselves as men to participate in combat
 - Margaret Corbin
 - Traveled as a camp follower with her husband
 - Disguised herself as a man and helped her husband load his cannon during the Battle of Fort Washington
 - Deborah Sampson
 - Joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment as Robert Shurtleff
 - True identity discovered a year and a half into her service

Women during the Civil War

- Women grew food and cooked meals to feed the Union soldiers
- Women organized donations and raised funds to support the US Army
- First official nursing positions open to women with the US Army during this time



Engraving of women's roles during the Civil War
Source: Digital Public Library of America

Women's Roles in World War I

- February 2, 1901: Establishment of the Army Nurse Corps (Female)
- May 13, 1908: Establishment of the Navy Nurse Corps (Female)
- Nurses worked near the frontlines
- Women drove ambulances to and from the warfront
- Female Yeomen in the Navy: women served in clerical jobs for the US Navy to free up more men to serve overseas
- Other women worked as translators and telephone operators to improve communications between the Allied forces on the Western front



Lieutenant Edith Smith, the first woman to earn a commission in the US Army as a surgeon
Source: National Archives

Women on the Homefront during World War I

- Agricultural work
- War production and manufacturing
- Food conservation
- Their contributions to the war effort led to the passing of the 19th Amendment in which women were granted the right to vote



Women working in an airplane factory
Source: National Archives

Women's Roles in World War II

- Women continued to serve as nurses in the Army Nurse Corps and the Navy Nurse Corps
- Women also served in auxiliary corps as part of the US Army (WAACs) and Airforce (WASPS)
- The Navy and Marine Corps enrolled women into Reserve units
- Women still did not serve in direct combat
- Nurses continued to serve on the frontlines
- Some nurses earned combat decorations for performing their jobs under enemy fire



A group of WAACs wear gas masks during training in Daytona Beach, FL, just prior to sailing for Europe in November 1942
Source: National Archives

Women on the Homefront during World War II

- Women worked in war production helping to build aircraft and other resources needed on the front
- Women participated in food rationing, farmwork, and grew their own Victory gardens to help the US supply food for the Allied troops
- Women worked for NACA (became NASA) to develop the atomic bomb



Women riveting a ship during World War II
Source: National Archives

Mary Sprague

- Husband: John Titcomb Sprague, wrote *Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War*
- Children: Mary (1847), Sarah (1854), Josephine (1863), John (1865)
- Husband's military service: Florida Seminole Wars
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery near her mother
- Children all buried in Arlington National Cemetery



Margaret Worth

- Husband: William Jenkins Worth, for whom Fort Worth, TX and Lake Worth, FL are named
- Children: Mary, Margaret, Josephine, and William
- Husband's military career: War of 1812, Seminole Wars, and Mexican War
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery near her daughter



Catherine Hayes

- 1922: Born on May 28
- 1940: Graduated from Ketterlinus High School in St. Augustine, FL
- 1944: Enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)
- 1945: Honorably discharged from Army



Catherine Hayes in April 1944
Courtesy of Katrina Graham

Catherine Hayes

- 1957: Joined the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State as an executive secretary
- 1975: Retired from government service
- 2008: Died at home on September 8
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery with her parents



Beatrice Gaster

- 1919: Born on December 31
- 1941: Entered The Grady School for Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia
- 1944: Enlisted in the Women's Army Corps
- 1946: Discharged on October 8

Harriett B Muse	
WWII Army Enlistment Records	
	Info Memorials Comments Browse
Full Name	Harriett B Muse
Army Serial Number	A-411385
Enlistment Place	Jacksonville Florida
Enlistment Date	28 Sep 1944
Army Branch	Women's Army Corps
Service Branch	Army
Race or Ethnicity	White
Residence	St. Johns County, Florida
Enlistment Term	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law
Source of Army Personnel	Civil Life
Army Component	Women's Army Corps
Level of Education	4 years of high school
Occupation	Clerks, general office
Marital Status	Single, without dependents
Birth Date	1919
Birth Place	Georgia
Source Box Number	0009
Source Film Reel Number	1.9
Conflict Period	World War II
Served for	United States of America

Image of Harriett Beatrice Muse Gaster's enlistment information
Source: Ancestry

Beatrice Gaster

- 1949: Married John Sanchez Gaster
- 2001: Died on November 20
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery on the backside of her husband's headstone



Amelia Hardin

- 1863: Born on July 6 in Chicago
- 1892: Married General Martin D. Hardin
- 1923: Husband died at their St. Augustine winter home
- 1929: Died on November 29 in St. Augustine
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery with her husband



Elizabeth Smith

- 1871: Born on July 11
- 1918: Enlisted May 6 as a Yeoman (F) in the US Navy Reserve Force
- 1919: Discharged from the US Navy on January 24
- 1947: Died on June 15
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery



Emily Kennedy

- 1879: Born on June 11
- 1899: Enrolled in nursing school at the Hospital of the Good Shepherd
- 1905: Appointed to the Army Nurse Corps
- 1907: Discharged from the Army after taking leave and returning home

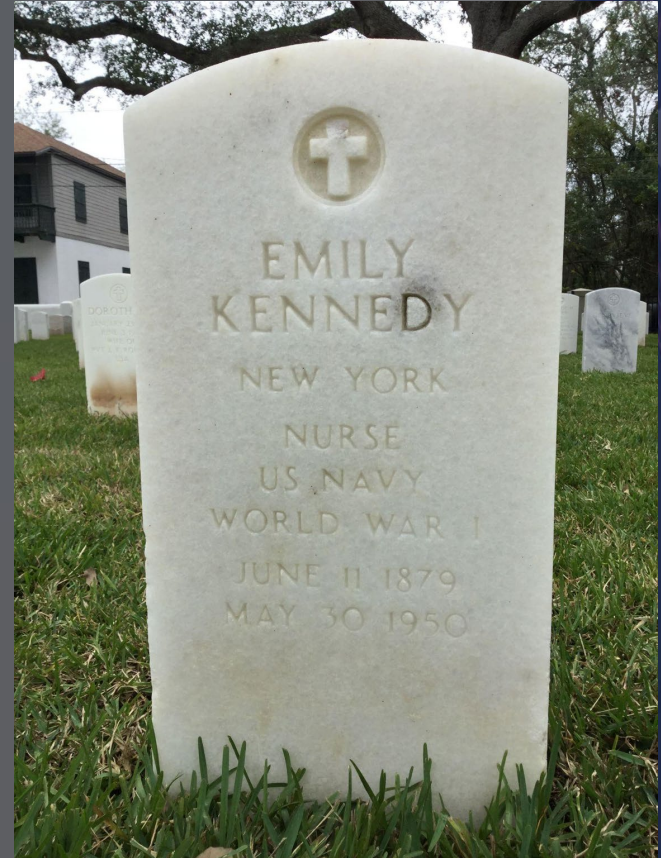


Emily Kennedy and her graduating class at the Hospital of the Good Shepherd. She is seated in the front row, second from right.

Source: Greg Moore's *Sacred Ground: The Military Cemetery at St. Augustine*

Emily Kennedy

- 1909: Re-entered military service in the Navy Nurse Corps
- 1917-1918: Served as a Naval hospital nurse as part of the US Navy Reserve Fleet
- 1920: Worked as a public school nurse
- 1924-1926: Lived in a home for disabled Veterans
- 1950: Died in a nursing home in St. Augustine
- Buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery



Reflection: Women's Contributions during Wartime

- What are your thoughts about the different roles women played in the military?
- Do you think the contributions made on the homefront were important to the Allied troops winning the war? Why or why not?
- Why do you think women were not allowed to fully participate in combat?
- How did the role of women evolve from World War I to World War II?