

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker; A Hidden Hero
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Senior Division
Individual Website

Student-Composed Words: 1199
Process Paper: 480

My topic is Dr. Mary Walker. I used the NHD website that my teacher provided us with to choose my topic. The website was very helpful to have as a resource when brainstorming ideas for a topic. I chose my topic because I thought that it was very interesting and very significant in history but was practically unknown. The topic interested me because nursing has interested me as a career choice and I was amazed by how Dr. Walker was so little known, yet accomplished so much. She is important because she opened doors for women in the medical field, she allowed for more inclusion of women in the military, and was very influential in women's suffrage.

Majority of my research was done using databases. I used many of the databases that my school provided to find information on my topic. I also used Google Books to find books on my topic that had information on her whole life. Many of my primary sources were found using newspaper databases. I found newspaper articles on my topic that provided information on specific accomplishments and the public's reaction to them. My teacher was very helpful while I was finding my research and he was always available to go to for help when finding sources.

A few of my sources were more helpful than the others. One of them was a book on Dr. Walker. This source was especially helpful because it provided me with information on the entirety of Dr. Walker's life from her childhood to her death. It went into detail and helped me to organize information chronologically. Another one of my most helpful sources was an article on her activism in women's suffrage. It was very helpful because it had lots of information on how she contributed to the women's suffrage movement and how others viewed her and her accomplishments.

There were multiple obstacles to completing the project. One was finding the research. At times, it was very difficult to find primary sources from the time period. It was also difficult to find helpful secondary sources. Producing the project also proved to be hard as the website builder was hard to navigate and was very frustrating. We did not have many resources to use when building our website and navigating the website builder. Another obstacle was not being subscribed to websites and therefore not being able to view the full source or being unable to find a full PDF of a book.

My topic fits the theme because Dr. Walker breaks many barriers in her lifetime. She broke barriers for women by being one of the first woman to graduate from medical school and being one of the first women in the Army and work in the war. She also broke barriers when she started to wear pants. She broke stereotypes and paved the way for change in women's dress.