

**REMINISCENCES OF AN  
ARMY NURSE DURING  
THE CIVIL WAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649136728

Reminiscences of an army nurse during the civil war by Adelaide W. Smith

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ADELAIDE W. SMITH**

**REMINISCENCES OF AN  
ARMY NURSE DURING  
THE CIVIL WAR**

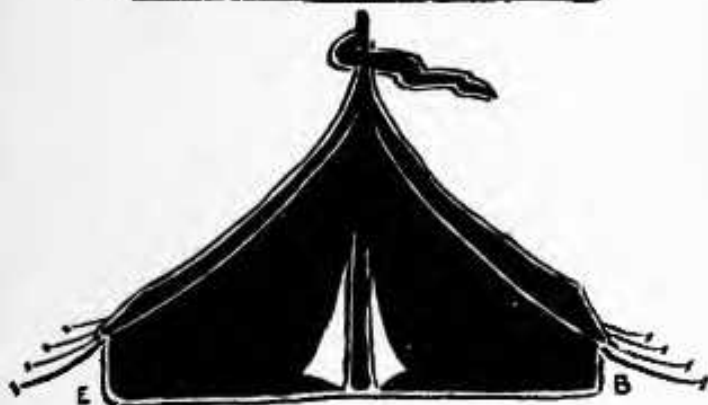
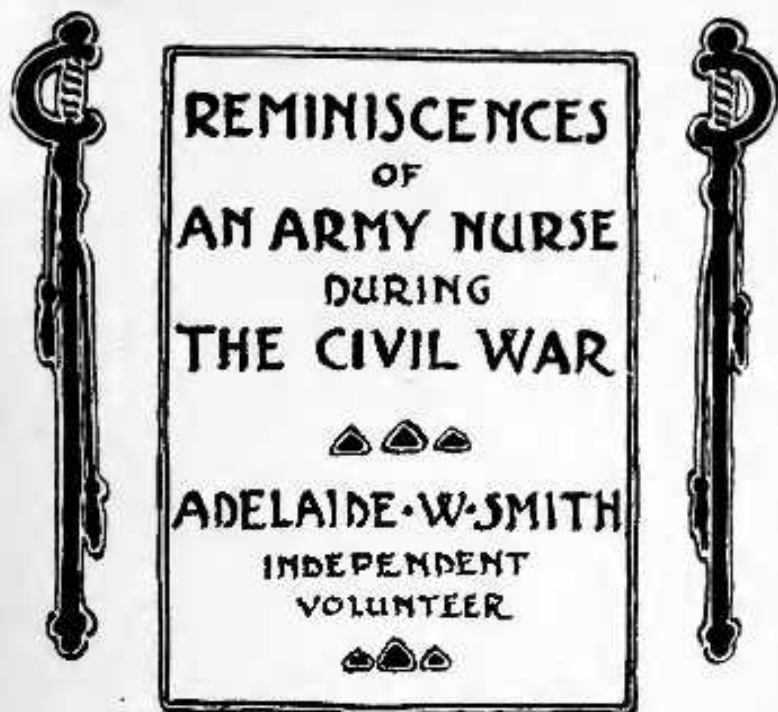




1831

1911

Abelaida W. Smith



GREAVES PUBLISHING COMPANY  
NEW YORK  
MCMXI

# Dedication

To the  
Boys in Blue  
1861-1865;

and to those brave women who, with smiling faces and breaking hearts, sent them forth to save their country and their homes, while they themselves toiled in fields and elsewhere, waiting to welcome home too many who never returned; and to that band of heroic devoted women, many of whom left luxurious homes for the discomforts and privations of hospital life, and died, self-sacrificing patriots of the war, this true story is affectionately dedicated.

A. W. S.

E  
621  
S64

COPYRIGHT 1911  
BY  
ADELAIDE W. SMITH

## Contents

| CHAP.   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Foreword .....  | 9    |
| I. A View of the Situation.....   | 11   |
| II. Long Island College Hospital, Brook-<br>lyn .....                     | 21   |
| III. Bedloe's Island, Now Liberty.....                                    | 33   |
| IV. The Great Manhattan Fair of the<br>United States Sanitary Commission  | 44   |
| V. New England Rooms.....   | 53   |
| VI. Arms and Trophy Department of the<br>Sanitary Commission Fair.....    | 59   |
| VII. Unique Case of William Mudge.....                                    | 71   |
| VIII. The Start for the Front.....  | 78   |
| IX. Some Patients.....  | 84   |
| X. Experiences at Point of Rocks.....                                     | 90   |
| XI. Depot Field Hospital and State<br>Agencies at City Point, Virginia... | 96   |
| XII. City Point, Virginia,—A Day in The<br>Army .....                     | 116  |
| XIII. Dorothea Dix.....   | 125  |
| XIV. An Unexpected Ride.....  | 131  |
| XV. Two Fiancées.....   | 139  |
| XVI. The Story of My Pass.....  | 144  |
| XVII. Thanksgiving, 1864, Under Fire at<br>Dutch Gap, Virginia.....       | 148  |
| XVIII. Domestic Life in Camp and Other<br>Incidents .....                 | 160  |



|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| XIX.    | Love in Camp.....   | 167 |
| XX.     | New York State Agency.....  | 185 |
| XXI.    | A House Moving.....   | 191 |
| XXII.   | The Last Parade of Confederate<br>Prisoners .....                             | 197 |
| XXIII.  | Our First Sight of Petersburg.....  | 200 |
| XXIV.   | Preparing for a Visit to Richmond, the<br>Capital of the Lost Confederacy.... | 209 |
| XXV.    | Recollections of Lincoln.....   | 216 |
| XXVI.   | Recent Letter from Dr. Mary Black-<br>mar Bruson.....                         | 229 |
| XXVII.  | Last of City Point.....   | 234 |
| XXVIII. | Washington and New York State<br>Agency .....                                 | 240 |
| XXIX.   | Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D. C.   | 247 |
| XXX.    | The Last Act in My Drama at Wash-<br>ington .....                             | 253 |
| XXXI.   | Transportation Home.....  | 260 |

## Foreword

**T**HIS story, devoid of literary pretensions, is a simple narration of day by day experiences, as they came to me, during five years of volunteer work in hospitals of the Civil War.

At the risk of some slight repetition, it has been thought best to include "Recollections of Lincoln" and "Love in Camp" practically as they were when published separately.

I wish to express my high appreciation and thanks for the confidence and encouragement of those friends who thought the book should be written that the younger generations may know something of the work done by women during the war.

To the Rev. W. M. Brundage, of Brooklyn, I am especially indebted for practical suggestions that have made the publication possible.

With some limitations, during two summers, I betook myself to the unique Seventh-day-Baptist University town of Alfred, New York, where the story was written on the picturesque campus, in a pure atmosphere free from all disturbing elements.

It has been a labor of love and pleasure to review the old scenes, replete though they were with suffering and death, for the thought of the comfort we were able to give to the "Boys" and the remembrance of their gratitude remain. In no other benevolent work of my life was the reward so im-

mediate and so inspiring as in this ministration. I have given real names and literal words as nearly as possible, except in cases where there was something unpleasant to relate; and I may truly add that, even to be young again, I would not have missed those years of incessant care and anxiety, given in the hope of saving brave soldiers for their country and their homes.

A. W. S.