



BARTON FOUNDS AMERICAN RED CROSS

CLARA BARTON, who was born in North Oxford and became a Civil War nurse, has founded the American Red Cross, *writes our war correspondent, May 21, 1881.*

After spending time caring for a Massachusetts militia regiment at the start of the Civil War, the former teacher began collecting medical supplies, food, and clothing to aid Union soldiers. The supplies were not always available—at the Battle of Antietam, she had to resort to corn husks in place of bandages. Barton became known as the “Angel of the Battlefield.”

After the war, Barton ran the

Missing Soldiers Office, which assisted families looking for relatives killed or missing in action. She met Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass and remains a supporter of women’s suffrage and civil rights.

On a trip to Europe, she met leaders of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, and used the expertise she gained in the Civil War to help the humanitarian effort during the Franco-Prussian War.

The U.S. is understood to be ready to join a dozen or more European countries to honor the Red Cross flag—a symbol of neutrality of the armed forces’

medical services and civilian volunteers who treat the wounded.

Barton has succeeded in gaining U.S. support after pledging that the new American Red Cross will respond to wars and other crises.

AMERICA’S first subway system got rolling in Boston in 1897. The first “Big Dig” was designed to tackle urban traffic jams. Passengers rode in an open trolley car along a “subway” passage just six tenths of a mile long. Despite its short length, the subway marked a new era in mass transit in the U.S.