

# A Year of Women

## Lost in history: Women in Science

### Fact #5:

Mary Edwards Walker, Oswego, NY, was the second woman, nationally, to receive a medical degree in 1855. Walker also received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Andrew Johnson in 1865 for her service and dedication throughout the Civil War. She is only the woman to ever receive this military honor. In 2000, Mary Edwards Walker was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY.

### Teaching Points

1. Medical career barriers for women in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Women's roles during the Civil War.
3. Induction into the **Women's Hall of Fame**.

### NY Learning Standard(s)

ELA 1; SS 1; SS 2; MST 2

### Discussion Questions

- 1a. What are specific barriers women faced during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the medical profession? Do those barriers still exist today?
- 1b. What can you infer about women in the medical field in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
- 2a. What role(s) did women play during the Civil War?
- 2b. What was Mary Edwards Walker's role during the Civil War?
- 3a. What is the **Women's Hall of Fame**? How and why are women inducted into this elite group?
- 3b. Why was Mary Edwards Walker inducted into the **Women's Hall of Fame**?

### Activity Extensions

1. **Essay.** Think about the medical roles women held during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Do you think women hold fewer, the same, or more roles in the medical profession today? Write a brief essay explaining your answer.
2. **Research.** Research information about the Civil War, as well as the roles women played during the war. Compare and contrast women's roles in war duty today with those held during the past. Create a table listing the differences and similarities.
3. **Field Trip/Essay.** Visit the **Women's Hall of Fame** in person or online at: [www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org) to research recognized women in history. Create a nomination letter for a woman you think deserves recognition as a great woman in history that is not already in the **Women's Hall of Fame**.