

# Fort Scott National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Civil War Medicine Teacher's Guide

# Civil War Medicine at Fort Scott

## Teacher Packet

**Pre-program lesson:** Complete the following lesson prior to the distance learning program.

**Grade level:** 6-8

**Time Requirements:** One class period

### Materials:

- “Civil War Medicine” worksheet
- Civil War Hospital traveling trunk *OR* photographs of the items in the traveling trunk
- Timer (a stopwatch or second hand on a clock will work)

### Primary Sources:

Hospital tools, medications, hospital records.

### Kansas Curricular Standards:

**Kansas, United States, and World History:** The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of significant individuals, groups, ideas, events, eras, and developments in the history of Kansas, the United States, and the world, utilizing essential analytical and research skills.

Benchmark 2: The student understands individuals, groups, ideas, events, and developments during Kansas territory and the Civil War (1854-1865).

**Science as Inquiry:** The student will develop the abilities to do scientific inquiry, be able to demonstrate how scientific inquiry is applied, and develop understandings about scientific inquiry.

Benchmark 1: The student will demonstrate abilities necessary to do the processes of scientific inquiry. (1.1.1), (1.1.3)

Benchmark 2: The student will apply different types of investigations to different types of questions. (1.2.1)

**History and Nature of Science:** The student will examine and develop an understanding of science as a historical human endeavor.

Benchmark 2: The student will research contributions to science throughout history. (7.2.1)

**Skills:**

1. Recognizing historical perspectives
2. Examining historical tools
3. Analyzing medical issues
4. Drawing conclusions
5. Using primary sources

**Objectives:** After attending the program, the student will be able to:

1. Explain why Fort Scott was a major military hospital facility during the Civil War.
2. Name and describe at least 3 health problems treated at Fort Scott.
3. Name 3 treatments for some of the mentioned illnesses.

**Procedure:**

This lesson will be presented as part of a secondary-level distance learning program via videoconference. A traveling trunk, student worksheets and preparation instructions will be provided to the classroom teacher in advance of the scheduled videoconference. PowerPoint content will be added into the live videoconference feed to enhance the program through graphics and images.

**Pre-Visit Activity:**

- Put students into 8 groups in the classroom. Each group will be assigned a station within the classroom to look at a tool used in the hospital during the Civil War.
- Students will use the pre-visit “Civil War Medicine” worksheet to write down their information.
- Each station would have items from the Civil War Hospital traveling trunk (or a printout of the item if the trunk is not used). Each station would be numbered (1 through 8)
- The students will have one minute at each station to touch and examine the items to try to determine what it was used for in the hospital during the Civil War. Once they have concluded what they think the item was used for, they will write it down on the corresponding number on their sheet of paper (ex. item number 7 would go in box number 7 on their paper).
- After one minute the groups would rotate to the next station, repeating the previous step until the students have been to every station.
- The teacher will then lead the class in a discussion to try to come to a conclusion about each item. During the videoconference, the ranger will talk about each of these items.

**Distance Learning Program Materials:**

- Return the completed “Civil War Medicine” worksheet to students.
- Items from Civil War Hospital traveling trunk OR photographs of the items in the traveling trunk can be on display in the front of the classroom for the students to refer back to.
- Each student will receive a copy of the following handouts when the ranger asks them to be passed out:
  - o Common Medications Used During the Civil War
  - o Diseases and Symptoms
  - o Diagnosis and Treatments
  - o Civil War Hospital Roster
- During the Distance Learning Program the ranger will give the students and assignment. It is up to you how you want to group the students, but pairs may work best. Please have the students already paired up prior to the program.

**Extension:**

The class could look at the diseases that were common during the Civil War and how they were treated. They could then research these diseases to see how doctors treat them today. They could also look at the medications presented in the lesson and research if any of them are still used today. If they are used, what are they currently used for. If they are not used, when were they last used in the medical field?

## Civil War Medicine

Think you would like to live back in the days of the Civil War? Here are some items that were used in the hospital at Fort Scott during the Civil War. Examine each of the items in your group. When you think you know what the items were used for write it down in the appropriate box below.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

## Common Medications Used During the Civil War

Alcohol – stimulant or to induce blistering.

Spirits of ammonia – inhaled as a stimulant.

Cough mixture – used for coughs, contained glycerine, vinegar, herbs, gum arabic, and whisky.

Chloroform – used sparingly, would cause vomiting.

Ether – anesthetic, smelled bad and slow acting.

Ipecac – stimulated vomiting.

Lead Acetate – used to treat dysentery.

Opium and Morphine – relived pain and relaxed muscles.

Quinine – used on fevers, only effective on malaria.

Sodium chlorate – used to cool the skin. Taken internally as a diuretic.

Creosote – helped stop bleeding and destroyed infected tissue.

## Diseases and Symptoms

### Diseases

### Symptoms

Dysentery ( <i>Dis-in-TARE-ee</i> ):	Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting and bloody stools
Remittent Fever:	Fever fluctuates, but never reaches normal – this type of fever was common with typhoid or malaria
Pneumonia:	Rapid breathing, hot and cold (chills), cough, mucus and chest pain
Intermittent Fever:	This type of fever follows regular pattern alternating with a return to normal temperature
Cholera ( <i>CALL-uhr-uh</i> ):	Muscle cramps, diarrhea and vomiting
Diarrhea:	Stomach pain, vomiting, nausea and loose, watery stools
Consumption (Tuberculosis):	Muscle pain, weakness, night sweats, chest pain, cough and general wasting away
Typhoid ( <i>TIE-foyd</i> ):	Headache, dry skin, aching muscles, hot, flushed face, very weak, reddened eyes, sleepy, loose stool and fever
Malaria ( <i>muh-LAIR-ee-uh</i> ):	Chills, fever, sweating, delirium, nausea and vomiting
Bronchitis:	Fever, chest pain, cough, mucus and trouble breathing

## Diagnosis and Treatments

Below are actual cases of patients at the Fort Scott hospital during the Civil War. You will be the doctor and come up with a diagnosis and treatment for each of them.

1. Private James Armstrong of Company D/2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas Colored was admitted on October 29, 1863 with cold chills, cough, mucus, and rapid breathing.
  - a. Diagnosis:
  - b. Treatment:
2. Private Ira Allen of Company I/3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry was came to the hospital on October 30, 1863 with nausea, vomiting and bloody stools, and stomach pain.
  - a. Diagnosis:
  - b. Treatment:
3. Private Alexander Anderson in Company D/2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas was admitted to the hospital on February 28, 1864 with a fever that would come and go on a regular pattern.
  - a. Diagnosis:
  - b. Treatment:
4. Private David Snow was admitted on July 25, 1863 with trouble breathing, cough, mucus, chest pain, and a fever.
  - a. Diagnosis:
  - b. Treatment:
5. Private Alexander Atchinson in Company G/6<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry was admitted on December 23, 1862 after being wounded by a poison arrow.
  - a. Diagnosis:
  - b. Treatment:
6. Sgt. Thomas Sanders of Company G/5<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry came to the hospital complaining about stomach pain, vomiting, nausea and loose, watery stools.
  - a. Diagnosis:
  - b. Treatment:

## CIVIL WAR HOSPITAL ROSTER

### FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Allen, George E.[ID#1853]: A PVT in Co'B'/3<sup>rd</sup> Wis Cav. Age 24. Admitted 2 Oct 63 w/ GSW of left forearm from a revolver (conical ball). In ward 1, bed 10. Treatment= simple dressing w/ p??tion and compression w/o splint. RTD 19 Mar 64.

Allen, Ira[ID#1855]: A PVT in Co'I'/3<sup>rd</sup> Wis Cav. Admitted 30 Oct 63 from field hospital w/ dysentery. In ward 5, bed 15. Transferred to Madison, WI 23 Mar 64.

Allen, Oscar[ID#1851]: A PVT in Co'F'/3<sup>rd</sup> Wis Cav. Admitted 19 Aug 63 w/ intermittent fever. RTD 25 Aug 63.

Amey, George[ID#1136]: PVT in Co'E'/6<sup>th</sup> Ks Cav. Appears on Dec 62 register of sick & wounded w/ pneumonia. RTD 30 Dec 62.

Anderson, Alexander B.[ID#1864]: A PVT in Co'D'/2<sup>nd</sup> Ks. Admitted from the field 28 Feb 64 w/ intermittent fever. In Ward 6, bed 1. RTD 28 Mar 64.

Armstrong, James [ID#1860]: A PVT in Co'D'/2<sup>nd</sup> Ks Colored. Admitted 29 Oct 63 from field w/ pneumonia. Died 13 Jun 64 of chronic peritonitis.

Atchinson, Alexander(or Albert)[ID#1217]: PVT in Co'G'/6<sup>th</sup> Ks Cav, admitted 23 Dec 62 after being wounded by a poisoned arrow. Sent to Gen'l Hospt. at Leavenworth 19 Mar 63.

Sammers, Thomas: A SGT in Co'G'/5<sup>th</sup> Ks Cav. Admitted 13 Jul 63 w/ diarrhea. RTD 14 Jul 63.

Snow, David: A PVT in right section/Blair's Bty. Admitted 25 Jul 63 w/ bronchitis.