

Process Paper

By Bailey

The reason I chose Cordelia Harvey for my topic on National History Day was that I liked how Cordelia impacted the world at a national level from such a local place. This topic gave me a lot of knowledge about the state of Wisconsin that I never knew existed. Another reason I chose Cordelia for my topic was that the feeling of researching a person that changed the medical field forever, especially the military medical field, really appealed to me. The topic of a woman who lost her husband and decided to carry on his work until she died really interested me.

I conducted my research for my National History Day by using the school research databases that were given to me: Library of Congress, EBSCOHost websites, the Wisconsin Historical Society database, the Wisconsin Electronic Reader, and the Army branch of the Military database. In order to find some of the pictures I used for my website, I searched using the Google search engine. The Google search engine was only used for 2 to 3 pictures; all other pictures came from the historical archives and Wisconsin Historical databases.

I chose to create a website over all other choices because I liked the idea of using technology to create a new way to present my information. Most teachers normally have me create a poster or slideshow to present my information, but a website is much more complex. With a website, I can choose what information I want my viewers to see first, I can link my website to external links throughout the web for further information, and I can use a plethora of different fonts, colors, shaders, layouts,

templates, quotations, and multimedia to display my information, and that's what really appealed to me over any other choice. The last thing that drifted me towards a website is the fact that I can publish my website to the wide world, so anybody can see my website from anywhere at any time.

My project about Cordelia Harvey relates to the NHD theme in many ways. One way is that Cordelia Harvey was one of the first women to hold a government position, which potentially gave other women the courage and inspiration to "dream big." Another way this topic relates to the NHD theme is that she used her persuasion tactics over one of the greatest leaders in American History (Abraham Lincoln) to open up military hospitals in the north, particularly Wisconsin, to send soldiers home for healing. This is good for the soldiers physically and psychologically, because they get that "close to home" feeling, and the conditions in these military hospitals were a lot better than the military tents that the soldiers were in back towards the enemy lines. Cordelia Harvey's effort to send soldiers home also set the standard for soldiers to come back home for healing for many of the wars in the future, such as World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, and beyond.