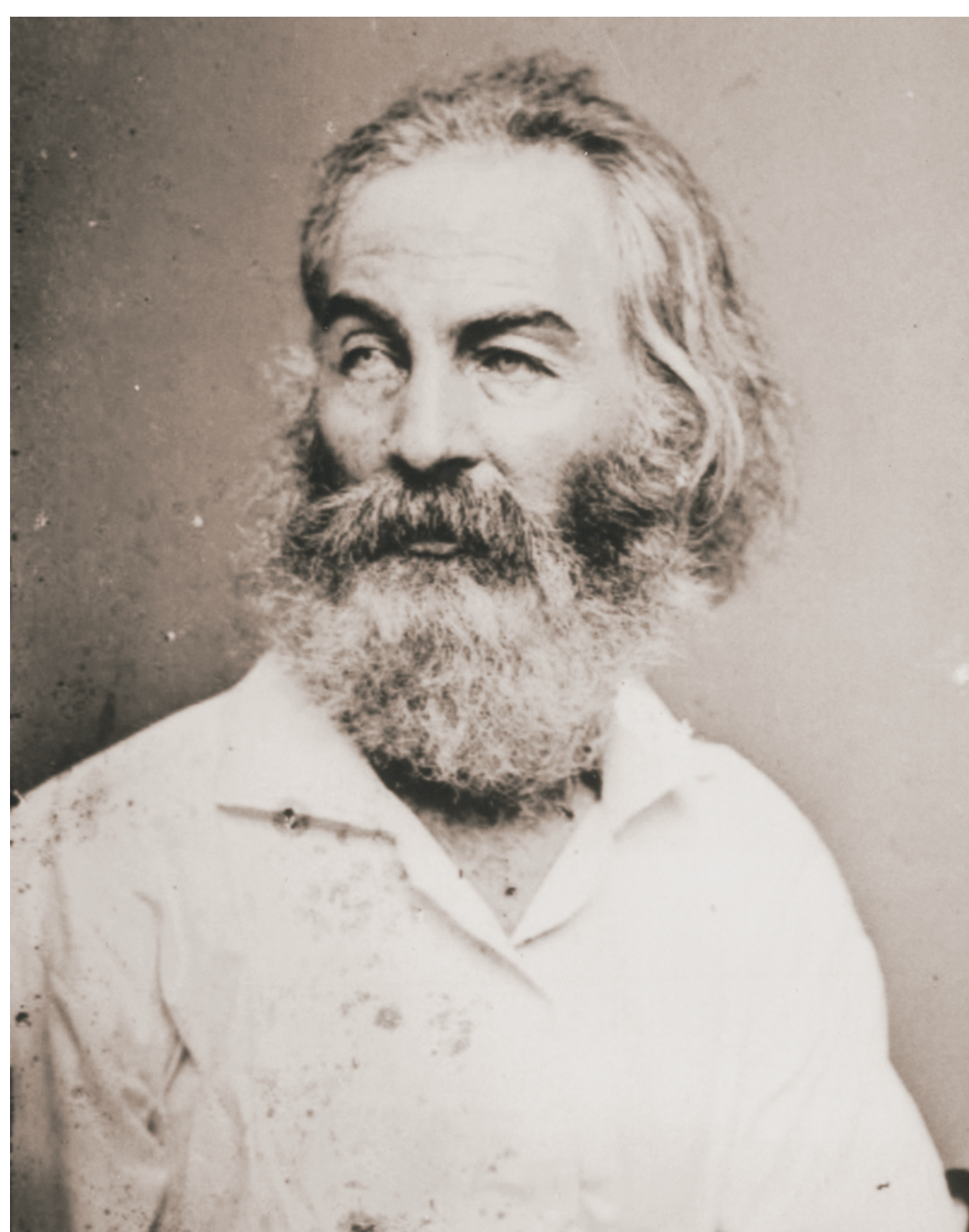




Dorothea Dix (1802-1887). Dix is best remembered as a reformer and mental health advocate. Her organizational skills, however, proved essential to the war effort and she was appointed superintendent of women nurses from 1861-1865. She died in Trenton. (National Archives)



Cornelia Hancock (1839-1926). Moved to assist the wounded immediately following the battle at Gettysburg, Hancock served as a nurse for the remainder of the war. After hostilities ceased, she founded a school for newly freed African Americans in South Carolina and dedicated the remainder of her life to philanthropic reforms. (New Jersey Historical Society)



Walt Whitman (1819-1892). Whitman served as a nurse in Washington, DC, from 1862 through 1865. Born in New York, he lived in Camden from 1873 until his death. (Library of Congress)

NURSES FROM NEW JERSEY

Hundreds of women from New Jersey served as nurses in hospitals in New Jersey, Washington or closer to the front. Many went on their own, while others were nuns or members of other religious orders or relief societies. Their services were voluntary and unpaid, except for rations or a food allowance from the army.

The most famous nurse from New Jersey was Cornelia Hancock, a Quaker woman from Hancock's Bridge in Salem County. On July 5, 1863 she left for Pennsylvania with her brother-in-law, who was a doctor, to help care for the casualties at Gettysburg. She served the rest of the war at the front, helping to organize field hospitals and tending the wounded.

Georgiana Willets left her home in Jersey City to serve the army as a nurse in the spring of 1864. She worked at the hospitals of the Second Army Corps at Fredericksburg in May and then moved to City Point, near Richmond, in June. In September she fell ill herself, and had to return home to recover. She intended to return to work in the spring of 1865, but the war ended before she could do so.

Two of the most famous women nurses of the war also had connections with New Jersey. Clara Barton served as a nurse in the field from 1862-1865, and later founded the American Red Cross in 1881. She taught school in New Jersey from 1851-1852 in East Windsor, Mercer County, and in 1852-1854 in Bordentown. Dorothea Dix supervised all the army's nurses from 1861-1865. After the war Dix returned to New Jersey and spent her final years as a guest of the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, which she had founded in 1845. She died there in 1887.

Not all of New Jersey's nurses were female. Walt Whitman, the noted poet, went to Virginia when his brother George was wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg in late 1862, and stayed on as a nurse in Washington. In 1873, he moved to Camden where he wrote and published *Memoranda During the War* (1875) describing his wartime service. He died in Camden in 1892.



Clara Barton (1821-1912). Born in Massachusetts, Barton spearheaded a campaign in Bordentown to establish a free public school supported by the town. She served as a nurse from 1862-1865. Following the war she lectured about her wartime experiences and became a popular speaker. She is best remembered, however, as the founder of the American Red Cross in 1881. (Miller, *The Photographic History of the Civil War*, after a wartime photograph by Matthew Brady)