Confederate Pensions and Prosthetics

Objectives: Using the digital archives provided by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, along with other online sources provided, students will examine documents from the Civil War Pension Papers to understand what life was like after the Civil War for those who fought in it, as well as their families. Students will develop critical thinking skills using historical records and articles to analyze the significance that the Civil War had on the development and marketing of prosthetics for those injured in the war.

The Confederate Pensions and Prosthetics lesson is adaptable for grades 8-12.

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Objectives: Using the digital archives provided by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, along with other online sources provided, students will examine historical documents of the Civil War Pension Papers to understand what life was like after the Civil War for those who fought in it, as well as their families and servants. Students will develop critical thinking skills using historical records and articles to analyze the significance that the Civil War had on the development and marketing of prosthetics for those injured in the war.

Materials: Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection; Internet access; Civil War Pension Papers Questionnaire; Holt Collier Pension Applications (9 pages); Holt Collier; Find Your Name; “War and Prosthetics” article; History of Prosthetics.

Procedures:

Activity One: Confederate Pensions
1. Distribute the Civil War Pension Papers Questionnaire handout to the students.
2. Have students use the Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection handout (available at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/) to answer the questions on the worksheet.
3. In small groups or as a class, have students discuss what changes have been made to the policies over time.

Activity Two: Holt Collier
1. Distribute the Holt Collier Pension Applications (9 pages) or have students access them at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/.
2. Distribute the Holt Collier worksheet to students and have them complete it using the pension applications.
3. As a class, identify Collier's significance in Mississippi and United States history.

Activity Three: Find Your Ancestors
1. Distribute the Find Your Name worksheet to students.
2. Have students use the Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital档案/pensions/ to find any last name. Suggest to students that they search for a last name connected to their family, such as their mother's maiden name.
3. Have students answer the questions listed on the worksheet and write an essay or short story about the person they chose.

Activity Four: History of Prosthetics
1. Distribute the article “War and Prosthetics” to students. (It is also available at http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/war-and-prosthetics/)
2. Distribute the History of Prosthetics worksheet and have the students answer the questions using the article.
3. Discuss the article and worksheet as a class and compare and contrast Civil War era prosthetics to those used today.

Extension Activities:

1. Use the following websites to learn more about the development of prosthetics and amputations during wars and conflicts:
• U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs www.rehab.research.va.gov/jour/10/474/reiber.html (compare traumatic limb loss statistics from Vietnam War and OIF/OEF conflicts)

2. Many Civil War veterans invented and made their own prosthetic devices, many of which suited needs specific to their jobs or hobbies. Today prosthetics are more advanced than ever and worn by humans and animals. What will prosthetics of the future look like? How will they work and what will they be made of? Have students invent their own prosthetic device by drawing blueprints or constructing models.
Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection

Mississippi Office of the State Auditor
Series 1201: Confederate Pension Applications, 1889-1932

The series contains applications for state pensions filed by former Confederate soldiers and sailors, as well as their widows and wartime servants residing in Mississippi at or after the time of passage of the state's first pension law in 1888. The content of the applications varies by type of applicant and year but generally includes such information as age, place of residence, name of military unit(s) and/or officers, dates of enlistment and discharge, information about living circumstances to establish eligibility for pension, other details of military service, and signatures of applicant, county chancery clerk, county board of inquiry (pension board) members, and witnesses. Some applications are accompanied by correspondence, notes, and/or statements from witnesses attesting to the eligibility of the applicant in support of his/her claim. Applicants filed for pensions in the state in which they resided at the time of filing, not necessarily the state in which they enlisted. Arrangement is alphabetical by name of applicant.

The 1888 pension law limited the payment of pensions to

every soldier or sailor, and to the servants of the officers, soldiers and sailors of the late Confederate States of America, who enlisted from the State of Mississippi, and who lost a leg, or an arm, in the service of said Confederate States. To every such soldier or sailor, or servant of the officers, soldiers and sailors of the late Confederacy who is now, or may hereafter be, otherwise incapacitated for manual labor by reason of a wound received in said service; and to the widow, remaining unmarried, of any soldier or sailor who lost his life in said service, while a citizen of this State.

Mississippi's Constitution of 1890 included in Section 272 that

The legislature shall provide by law, pensions for indigent soldiers and sailors who enlisted and honorably served in the Confederate army or navy in the late civil war, who are now resident in this state, and are not able to earn a support by their own labor. Pensions shall also be allowed to the indigent widows of such soldiers or sailors now dead, when from age or disease they cannot earn a support. Pensions shall also be allowed to the wives of such soldiers or sailors upon the death of the husband, if disabled and indigent as aforesaid. Pensions granted to widows shall cease upon their subsequent marriage.

In 1892 the legislature designated the state's auditor of public accounts the pension commissioner, with responsibility to prescribe regulations for drawing pensions and furnish all proper blanks to applicants for any pension granted by the legislature. The law also expanded the pool of persons entitled to a pension to include

All soldiers and sailors who enlisted and honorably served in the Confederate army or navy, who are now resident in this State, and who are indigent and not able to earn a support by their own labor; the indigent widows of such soldiers and sailors, who are unable to earn a livelihood, and indigent colored persons who were servants, in the army or navy, of Confederate soldiers or sailors, and who are now unable to support themselves by their labor.
The law setting the requirements for eligibility, the amounts to be paid, and procedures for securing approval was amended several times through the years before finally being repealed in 1992. The state's constitutional pension requirement (Section 272) was repealed in 1990 by a combination of Senate resolution, ratification by the electorate, and proclamation of the Secretary of State.

Of the former Confederate states, Mississippi was the only one to include African American servants in its pension program from the program's inception. From 1888 to 1921 it was the only state to do so and consequently had more African American pensioners than any other. Out of approximately 36,000 applications 1,739 were submitted by African Americans.

Civil War Pension Papers Questionnaire

Using the Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection handout (also available at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/) answer the following questions. Then discuss what changes have been made to the policies over time.

1. When was the pension law established? ________________________________________________________

2. Who did it include? _______________________________________________________________________

3. Did it stay the same or did it change over time? Explain your answer. _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

4. When did the state legislature repeal the law? ___________________________________________________

5. Why do you think they repealed it? ___________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

6. How many applications did the State Auditor’s office receive between 1889 and 1932? ________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

7. How many applications from African Americans did the State Auditor’s office receive between 1889 and 1932?
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

8. Mississippi was different from other Confederate states in regards to its Confederate Veteran pension laws. How was it different? ___________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
Civil War Pension Papers Questionnaire Answer Key

Using the Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection handout (also available at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/) answer the following questions. Then discuss what changes have been made to the policies over time.

1. When was the pension law established? 1888

2. Who did it include? Veterans, servants of veterans who served in the war, and the widows of veterans.

3. Did it stay the same or did it change over time? Explain your answer. It changed several times. At first, the law only applied to soldiers or sailors who were injured in the war and could no longer work to support themselves and the widows of soldiers or sailors. The law is later expanded to all soldiers, sailors or their widows, not only those who were injured or died in the war.

4. When did the state legislature repeal the law? 1992

5. Why do you think they repealed it? There were no longer any survivors from the Civil War period.

6. How many applications did the State Auditor’s office receive between 1889 and 1932? 36,000

7. How many applications from African Americans did the State Auditor’s office receive between 1889 and 1932? 1,739

8. Mississippi was different from other Confederate states in regards to its Confederate Veteran pension laws. How was it different? It included the African American servants of Confederate veterans.

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HEADQUARTERS
Third Brigade, Mississippi Division, U. C. V.

GEO. M. HELM,
Brig. Gen, Commanding.

W. A. EVERMAN,
Lt. Col. and Adjt. Gen., Chief of Staff.

STAFF

Maj. E. W. HOWARD, Aberdeen, Miss. Chief of Cavalry.
Maj. L. L. STARKS, Aberdeen, Miss., Brigade Quartermaster.
Maj. JOHN BURKHURDT, Benoit, Miss., Brigade Commissary.
Maj. ALP. YOUNG, Oxford, Miss., Surgeon.

Greenville, Miss. April 5th, 1906.

To the Board of Supervisors of Washington County:

I, with Everman, Maj. Robb, Capt. Hunt, and I expect the entire
W. A. Percy Camp of U. C. V., are anxious to have Holt Collier put upon
the State pension list, and receive a pension. He is getting old, is in
bad health--and is the only negro ever enrolled in our army.

He went out with Colonel Hinds, and at Bowling Green, Ky., joined
Captain Evans' Texas Scouts, and remained with him until the end of the struggle.

Colonel Hinds was off on a retreat after a charge, Holt missed him,
called for volunteers, re-charged, and brought "Mars Howell" out.

I know him to be as brave as any living man, not only loyal to the
cause, but to the whites ever since, and during our most trying ordeal,
"Reconstruction."

Our implicit confidence in him was evidenced by our selecting him as
body-guard for President Roosevelt on his hunting trip to this section.

Yours truly,

G. M. Helm, Brig. Gen'l.

By W. W. Everman, Lt. Col. and A. A. Gen'l. 3rd brigade m'sp. Dairs & Co.

We indorse the above.

J. H. Crouch, Sheriff of Washington County.

LeRoy Percy.

G. W. Hunt, C. T.
PENSIONERS now on the LIST are NOT required to make new applications, but the CHANCERY CLERK must certify their Names to the Auditor of Public Accounts.

THIS APPLICATION
Must be FILED with the Chancery Clerk on or before the First Monday in September.

FORM No. 5.
(General Pro rate Class.)

APPLICATION of Indigent Servant of Soldier or Sailor of the late Confederacy, under Chapter 73, Acts of 1900.

Applicant must make Answer to all of the following Questions and have it written out Plainly in Ink.

Q. What is your name? Answer. J.A. Collector.
Q. What is your age? Answer. About 60 years.
Q. How long have you been a bona fide resident of Mississippi? Answer. Lifetime.
Q. In which county do you reside? Answer. Washington.
Q. What is the name of your post-office? Answer. Grenada, Miss.
Q. In which State did you reside when you served as a servant of a soldier or sailor in the service of the Confederate States? Answer. Mississippi.
Q. When did you serve in that capacity? Answer. During entire war.
Q. How long did you serve? Answer. During entire war.
Q. What was the name of the party whom you served? Answer. Lewis, J. A. Collector.
Q. What was the name or designation of the company and regiment or vessel in which your owner served? Answer. Maj. J. A. Collector, U.S. Army.
Q. Where were you at the close of the war? Answer. Vicksburg.
Q. Were you ever wounded while in actual service? Answer. No.
Q. Give date on which you received your wound? Answer. Do not know exact date.
Q. At what place were you wounded? Answer. While.
Q. What is the nature of your wound? Answer. In the ankle.
Q. Do you apply for a pension, because you are indigent and unable to earn a support by your own labor? Answer. No.
Q. Do you hold any State, United States, County, or City office from which you are receiving as salary or fees the sum of three hundred dollars per annum? Answer. No.
Q. Are you worth in your own right, or in the right of your wife, property at its assessed value for taxation to the amount of four hundred dollars? Answer. No.

J. A. Collector

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 6 Day of April, A.D. 1866.

[Signature of officier]

I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I was a Confederate soldier, sailor or servant; that I was honestly discharged, paroled, or did not desert from the Confederate service; that I am unable and fit to earn a support by my own labor; that I am not the owner, or in any way directly interested in the ownership, in any form of the property to the value of four hundred dollars, that I have not received any of my property by sale with a view of obtaining a pension. So help me God.

[Signature of Pensioner]

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 6 Day of April, 1866.

J. A. Collector

Chancery Clerk.
AFFIDAVIT OF TWO WITNESSES.

We, the undersigned, verily believe the facts stated in the above application to be true and the applicant to be the identical person named in the said application.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 6th day of April, A.D. 1906.

[Signature of witness]

[Signature of witness]

Office of Chancery Clerk and County Board of Inquiry, Washington County, Miss. Sept. 27, 1906

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Inquiry hereby approve the foregoing application of Short Callie for pension, because we know the applicant to be indigent and physically unable to earn a support by his own labor, on account of wounds or injuries received during the civil war, and that we believe the facts stated in the above application are true and the party should receive the pension.

Given under our hands and seals of office, this 27th day of Sept. 1906.

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

Chancery Clerk.

N. B.—If the Board approves this application, the Chancery Clerk will so certify, after recording the same in a book kept for that purpose, and forward all of the approved applications in a book (not one at a time) to the Auditor's office by the first day of October.

[Seal]

No application forwarded after that time will be received.

[Seal]

Rejected applications should not be forwarded to this office.
APPLICATION FOR PENSION

How Made; What to Contain; Description of Disabilities; Oath Prescribed

Form No. 5

General Prorate Class

Application of Indigent Servant of Soldier or Sailor of theLate Confederacy, under Chapter 102 of Code 1906 as amended by Laws April 5th, 1910 and Laws March 24th, 1916. Sec. 1 of Laws 1916 being as follows:

'Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi that all applications for pensions hereofmore made and filed shall and are hereby declared void, and any person desiring to share in the future distribution of the pension fund, shall on or before the first Monday in September 1916, file a new application, using blanks to be furnished by the Auditor of Public Accounts through the Chancery Clerks of the various counties.'

Applications must be filed with the Chancery Clerk or before the first Monday in September 1916, and no application will be entertained on the printed form.

(Applicant must make answer to all of the following questions.)

Q. What is your name? Answer: Helt Collier.

Q. What is your age? Answer: About 65 years.

Q. Are you a bona fide resident of the State of Mississippi? Answer: Lifetime.

Q. How long have you been a bona fide resident of Mississippi? Answer:


Q. What is the name of your postoffice? Answer: Greenville, Miss.

Q. In what State did you reside when you served as a servant of a soldier or sailor in the service of the Confederate States? Answer: Mississippi.

Q. When did you serve in that capacity? Answer: During entire war.

Q. How long did you serve? Answer:

Q. What was the name of the party whom you served? Answer: Lt. Tom Hinds.

Q. What was the number of the regiment or name of the vessel in which your owner served? Answer: Maj. Burns Artillery in which Lt. Tom Hinds served, 24th Texas Regt., Capt. Perry Evans Co.


Q. Letter or designation of the company in which your owner served? Answer: Maj. Burns Artillery.


Q. Where were you at the close of the war? Answer: Vicksburg.

Q. Were you ever wounded while in actual service? Answer: Yes.

Q. Give date on which you received your wound? Answer: Do not know exact date.

Q. At what place were you wounded? Answer: Shiloh.

Q. What is the nature of your wound? Answer: In the Ankle.

Q. Do you apply for a pension because you are indigent and unable to earn a support by your own labor? Answer: Yes.

Q. Do you hold any State, United States, County, or City office from which you are receiving as salary or fees amounting to the sum of three hundred dollars? Answer: No.

Q. Are you worth in your own right, or in the right of your wife, property the true, just and correct value of which amounts to four hundred dollars? Answer: No.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of July, A. D. 1916.

(Signature of Applicant)

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I was a Confederate soldier, sailor or servant of such Confederate soldier or sailor (as the case may be); that I was honorably discharged or pensioned, or did not desert from the Confederate service (as the case may be); that I reside in this State; that I am indigent and infirm; that I am not able to earn a support, and have no relatives able, whose duty it is to support me; that I nor my wife do not own property, real or personal, to the value of one hundred dollars; that I nor my wife have not conveyed any of my or her property to any one with a view to drawing a pension, so help me God.

(Signature of Pensioner)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of July, A. D. 1916.

Chancery Clerk.
AFFIDAVIT OF TWO WITNESSES

AFFIDAVIT—We, the undersigned, verify that the facts stated in the above application to be true and the applicant to be the identical person named in the said application.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this __________ day of __________, A.D. 19__.

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Officer)

Office of Chancery Clerk and County Board of Inquiry, __________, County, __________ County, Miss. __________, __________ 19/16

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Inquiry, hereby approve the foregoing application of

[Name]

for pension because we know the applicant to be indigent and physically unable to earn a support by his own labor, on account of wounds or injuries received during the Civil War, and that we believe the facts stated in the above application are true and the party should receive a pension.

Given under our hands and seals of office, __________, 19__.

[Seal]

[Seal]

President of Board

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

[Seal]

Chancery Clerk

N. B.—If the Board approves this application, the Chancery Clerk will so certify, after recording the same in a book kept for that purpose, and forward all of the approved applications in a box (not one at a time) to the Auditor’s office by the first day of October.

No application forwarded after that time will be received.

Rejected applications should not be forwarded to this office.

MDAH Archives and Records Services.
APPLICATION FOR PENSION
Form No. 3—SOLDIERS and SAILORS

PRORATE

How Made; What to Contain; Description of Disabilities; Oath Prescribed

Application of Soldier or Sailor of the Late Confederacy, under Chapter 108, Code of 1906 as amended by Chapter 533, Laws of 1924.

Application must be filed in duplicate with the Chancery Clerk on or before the first Monday in September of the year in which application is first filed.

(Applicant must answer all of the following questions.)

Q. 1. What is your name? Answer: HOLT COLLIER

Q. 2. In what county and state do you reside? Answer: WASHINGTON, MISSISSIPPI

Q. 3. What is the name of your Post Office? Answer: GREENVILLE

Q. 4. Are you a bona fide citizen of the United States? Answer: YES

Q. 5. Are you a bona fide citizen of the State of Mississippi? Answer: YES

Q. 6. Are you an inmate of the Beaufort Soldier's Home? Answer: NO

Q. 7. What was the date of your enlistment? Answer: 1863

Q. 8. In what state, county and place did you reside when you enlisted? Answer: WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISS.

Q. 9. Give the names of the officers of your company, regiment or vessel?

Answer: GEN. ROSS, BRIGADE: COL. DUDLEY JONES, 9TH TEXAS REG. CAPE, PERRY EVANS, CO. A

Q. 10. Were you ever discharged from your command? Answer: YES

Q. 11. If so, for what cause? Answer

Q. 12. Were you in active service at the surrender in 1865? Answer: YES

Q. 13. If not, why? Answer

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I was a Confederate soldier or sailor (as the case may be); that I was honorably discharged or paroled or did not desert from the Confederate service (as the case may be); that I reside in this State; that statements set forth in application are true and correct I verily believe; so help me God.”

(Signature of pensioner) HOLT COLLIER

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 16TH day of JUNE, 1924.

By M.C. STRINGER

Chancery Clerk.
AFFIDAVIT.—We, the undersigned, certify that the facts stated in the above application are true and the applicant is the indentig person named in the said application.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 17 day of.

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Witness)

NOTE.—Must be attested by one or more credible witnesses.

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Witness)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 17 day of.

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Witness)

OFFICE OF CHANCERY CLERK AND COUNTY BOARD OF INQUIRY—Washington COUNTY

Greenville, MISS. July 7th, 1921

To the undersigned members of the Board of Inquiry, hereby approve the foregoing application of

for pension because we believe the facts stated in the application are true and the party should receive a pension.

Given under our hands and seal of office, this 7 day of July, 1921.

(Seal)

Preident of Board.

(Seal)

T. M. White Sr.

(Seal)

Jos. W. Myatt

Chancery Clerk.

N. R.—If the Board approves this application, the Chancery Clerk will certify, after recording the same in a book kept for that purpose, and forward all of the approved applications in a book to the Auditor’s Office by the first day of October.

No application forwarded after that time will be received.
APPLICATION FOR PENSION
FORM No. 1—SOLDIER OR SAILOR
FOR $200.00

How Made; What to Contain; Description of Disabilities; Oath Prescribed

Application of Soldier or Sailor of the late Confederacy, under Chapter 108, Code of 1906, as amended by S. B. 146, Laws of 1926.

Application must be filed in duplicate with the Chancery Clerk on or before the first Monday in September of the year in which the application is first filed.

(Applicant must answer all of the following questions.)

Q. 1. What is your name? Answer: Holt Callier.


Q. 3. How long have you resided in Mississippi? Answer: All my life.

Q. 4. What is the name of your Post Office? Answer: Greenville, Miss.

Q. 5. Are you a bona fide citizen of the United States and of the State of Mississippi? Answer: Yes.


Q. 7. What was the date of your enlistment? Answer: In the winter of first year of Civil War.


Q. 9. Give the names of the officers of your company, regiment or vessel? Answer: Capt. Perry Evans, 9th Tex Reg, Col. Dudley Jones.

Q. 10. Were you ever discharged from your command? Answer: No.

Q. 11. If so, for what cause? Answer: Yes.

Q. 12. Were you in active service at the surrender? Answer: Yes.


Q. 15. Have you lost both feet or both hands? Answer: No.

“[I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I was a Confederate Soldier or Sailor (as the case may be); that I was honorably discharged or paroled, or did not desert from the Confederate Service (as the case may be); that I reside in this State; that the statements set forth in the application are true and correct as the applicant verily believes; so help me God.]"

(Signature of Pensioner)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 26th day of 1925.

Chancery Clerk.

AFFIDAVIT—We, the undersigned, certify that the facts stated in the above application are true and the applicant is the identical person named in the said application.

(Signature of Officer)

Day of
(Signature of Witness)

NOTE—Must be attested by one or more creditable witnesses.

(Signature of Applicant)

Day of

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AFFIDAVIT—We, the undersigned, certify that the facts stated in the above application regarding applicant’s physical condition are true and the applicant is the identical person named in the said application.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this day of , 192.

(Signature of Physician)

(Signature of Physician)

OFFICE OF CHANCERY CLERK AND COUNTY BOARD OF INQUIRY

Greenville, Miss.

Washington County

Sept 3, 1928

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Inquiry, hereby approve the foregoing application of Holt Collier for pension of $200.00 because we believe the facts stated in the application are true and the party should receive a pension.

Given under our hands and seal of office, this day of , 192.

(Signature of Officer)

(Signature of Officer)

N. B.—If the Board approves this application, the Chancery Clerk will so certify, after recording the same in a book kept for that purpose, and forward all of the approved applications in a body (not one at a time) to the Auditor’s Office by the first day of October.

No application forwarded after that time can be received.

Rejected application should not be forwarded to this office.

MDAH Archives and Records Services.
Holt Collier

Use the provided Holt Collier pension applications from the Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection to answer the following questions, or go to http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/. Click on “Browse Images” followed by “Collier-Combast” and view pages 1 - 10 to access the information needed.

1. Was Collier a soldier or servant? Explain your reasoning.

2. How many pension applications did he fill out?

3. Were there any letters attached to those applications?

4. If so, what did you learn about Collier from the letters?

5. Were any applications approved?

Holt Collier *Answer Key*

Use the provided Holt Collier pension applications from the Civil War Pension Papers Digital Archives Collection to answer the following questions, or go to [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/pensions/). Click on “Browse Images” followed by “Collier-Combast” and view pages 1 - 10 to access the information needed.

1. Was Collier a soldier or servant? Explain your reasoning. __________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How many pension applications did he fill out? ________________________________________________

Three

3. Were there any letters attached to those applications? Yes

4. If so, what did you learn about Collier from the letters? He was the guide for President Theodore Roosevelt's famous bear hunt, as well as a good soldier who fought for the Confederacy.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

5. Were any applications approved? Yes, the last two.

6. Were any applications denied? Why? Yes, the first one. The clerk did not complete all lines on the form, nor did he affix it with the county seal.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

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**Find Your Name**

Choose a last name to research and read each form carefully. Answer the questions below and then write an essay or short story about one of the people you found. Think about what their life was like during and after the war.

1. Are there different pension forms for applicants to complete? _______________________________________

2. How many pensioners with the last name you chose returned to the same town or county they were from prior to enlisting? ________________________________________________________________________________

3. What were their occupations? ________________________________________________________________

4. Were any of them amputees? _________________________________________________________________

5. Were any wounded during the war? If yes, how? _________________________________________________

6. Did any of your applicants submit more than one application? Why? _________________________________

7. Can you see any differences between those approved and those rejected? If yes, explain. ______________

8. Were there any letters attached to their applications? ______________________________________________

9. If yes, what did you learn about the applicant and their lifestyle? _________________________________

10. Did any individuals other than veterans apply for pensions? If yes, who and why? ___________________

11. List the names of any commanding officers you recognize. _______________________________________

12. List the names of any battles you recognize. _________________________________________________

13. Did you find any applicants who served together in the Confederate Army or Navy? ______________

Write an essay or short story about one of the people you found. Continue your writing on a separate sheet of notebook paper as needed.

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“War and Prosthetics: How Veterans Fought for the Perfect Artificial Limb”

By Hunter Oatman-Stanford — Collector’s Weekly, October 29, 2012
http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/war-and-prosthetics/
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There's something undeniably beautiful about prosthetic limbs, designed to echo the physical grace and mechanical engineering of the human body. For most people, these objects elicit some combination of squeamish discomfort and utmost respect. But far fewer of us connect those feelings to the untold generations of battle-scarred amputees whose sacrifices made prosthetics a public priority.

“Patients even have doctors sign non-disclosure forms to protect potential patents.”

“You hate to think that war is what drives technology, but it does,” says Kevin Carroll, the Vice President of Prosthetics for Hanger, a major artificial-limb producer founded just after the Civil War. Historically, the impulse to create functional replacement limbs has grown in parallel with the number of living amputees, whose ranks ballooned following periods of military conflict, especially the American Civil War and World War I. Such episodes of violence provided the impetus for doctors and scientists to study how the human body copes with physical damage, and how we might repair it.

Today, double amputees regularly win gold medals at the Paralympics, and computer-based technologies allow replacement limbs to translate signals from the human brain into motion. But it’s been a long and violent haul from the wooden “peg-leg” days when amputees were pitied, ignored, or actually destined to die because of limited medical care.

Though amputation was one of the first recorded surgeries, mentioned in the Hippocratic treatise “On Joints” around the 4th century BC, the procedure really became a viable option after major improvements were made in blood-loss prevention during the 15th and 16th centuries. Doctors began working with ligatures to seal off...
individual blood vessels and eventually used tight tourniquets around entire appendages to slow blood flow.

However, amputation was still only sought for patients whose life was already at stake due to severe infection or injury, particularly because the consequences of surgery were frequently fatal anyway. “The control of a number of associated factors—blood loss, pain, and infection prevention—has been key to greatly improving the survival chances of the amputee,” says Stewart Emmens, the curator of Community Health at the Science Museum in London. “Then, as now, the procedure was often viewed as a failure of treatment.”

Physicians like Ambroise Paré, the official barber-surgeon for the Kings of France during the 16th century, noted the unfortunate effects of prevailing surgical methods and sought better ways to heal patients. Paré was especially interested in battlefield wounds, and his first published book covered techniques to treat firearm injuries, helping to expose the problems with commonly used cauterization methods.
Other advancements, like the capacity to amputate in specific locations along an appendage, also made it possible for survivors to live longer with fewer complications. But the chance for amputees to regain a sense of normalcy typically depended on the quality of artificial limbs available. Though articulated limbs were being developed around the same time, like the famous iron arm designed for Gottfried “Götz” von Berlichingen with various locking hand positions, these were exclusively made for affluent individuals.

A real breakthrough in prosthetic limb mechanics came in the form of James Potts’ “Anglesey” leg design around 1800, a style popularized by the Marquess of Anglesey after he was injured in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Later dubbed “the Clapper” for the clicking sound made by its articulated parts, Potts’ creation relied on cat-gut tendons to hinge at the knee and ankle, simulating a walking motion when the toe was lifted. The design was later improved by Benjamin Palmer with his so-called “American leg,” which incorporated a heel spring in 1846 and was continuously produced through World War I.

Still, until the mid-20th century, such replacement limbs were financially inaccessible to the many working class individuals who needed them. “A Victorian agricultural laborer who lost his lower arm in an accident was probably more likely to get the local blacksmith to make a hooked prosthesis for him than to check the catalog of the nearest limb manufacturer,” says Emmens. “These were relatively expensive items, and given that any gripping, flexing, or thumb-to-finger movements would depend on a system of joints, cords, and shoulder harnesses, they were not necessarily that practical for working people either.”

Whether or not they could afford a newfangled arm or leg, amputees got on with their lives, learning to cope with their disabilities and inventing their own solutions. Some became so comfortable using temporary limb replacements that they never attempted to find a fully functioning prosthetic. Others fashioned their own devices from available materials, making necessary repairs as time went on.

In America, the major pressure to improve amputee rehabilitation came along with the Civil War, when novel
firearms like the repeating rifle left around 35,000 survivors in need of new limbs. Following the war, public funds were devoted to developing and purchasing these prosthetics; in 1866, the State of Mississippi spent more than half its yearly budget providing veterans with artificial limbs. Entrepreneurs, many of them young veterans themselves, recognized the opportunity to create improved mechanical devices that would allow amputees to enjoy more normal lives.

James Edward Hanger was one of these young soldiers, an 18-year-old engineering student at Washington College who left school to join Confederate forces in a small West Virginia town. While waiting for the troops to return from a nearby village, a surprise attack by the Union army sent a cannonball ricocheting into the stable where Hanger was camped, smashing his left leg. Hours later, Hanger was discovered by the Union forces and an above-the-knee amputation was performed. The surgery became the first recorded amputation of the Civil War.

While recovering at his parents’ Virginia home, Hanger worked to improve the standard-issue replacement leg he was given by the Army, a solid piece of wood that made walking difficult and noisy. Within a few months, he created a prototype that allowed for a smoother, quieter walking motion. Though the original patent is lost, Hanger’s adjustments to the generic leg style included better hinging and flexing abilities using rust-proof levers and rubber pads.

“The function of a prosthetic limb will always endow it with a certain magic few other man-made objects possess.”

Hanger immediately wrote to William Carrington, secretary of the Association for the Relief of Maimed Soldiers, to secure Carrington’s endorsement and the business of his veterans group. A few years later, the Virginia legislature created a $20,000 fund to purchase prosthetics for the state’s wounded veterans, providing even more business for Hanger. By 1890, Hanger had relocated his headquarters to Washington, D.C., and opened satellite offices in four other U.S. cities.
Despite innovators like Hanger, the best prosthetics were still out of reach for most ordinary people, whether veterans or not. These inventive devices were tailored specifically to suit specific tasks or lifestyles, like the special hand with an octave finger-spread and padded fingers created for a British concert pianist. It would require the violence of another major war to make custom limbs a reality for more amputees.

With the onset of World War I, the need for prosthetics escalated exponentially. As this was the first war in which industrialized weaponry like machine guns created more bodily harm than infection or disease, an extraordinary number of soldiers survived with severe injuries.
This new kind of warfare “produced new levels, new degrees of wounding,” explains Emmens. “Bodies were ripped apart by explosives; arms and legs were simply blasted off.” But countless soldiers lost their limbs through surgical intervention. “Much of the war—particularly on the Western Front—was essentially fought on well-manured farmland, and explosive weaponry could carry these highly infectious materials deep into complex, gaping wounds,” says Emmens. Amputation was frequently used in situations that normally wouldn’t require surgery, simply to avoid the threat of serious infection.

Prosthetic manufacturing boomed again, though the locus of limb development shifted overseas. In Great Britain veterans were entitled to free limbs beginning with the Napoleonic Wars of the early 19th century, yet Emmens explains that during World War I, “the existing systems of medical care were soon exposed as inadequate to deal with the sheer scale of casualties.” By the end of the war, there were an estimated 41,000 amputees in Britain alone.
Besides the overwhelming demand, shoddy fittings and unhelpful instructions meant that even available prosthetics sometimes went unused. “Many arm amputees simply stopped wearing their uncomfortable devices, put them in a cupboard somewhere, and never used them again, while some leg amputees found life easier with crutches than wearing uncomfortable, heavy prosthetic legs,” says Emmens.

In 1920, an article in *The Times of London* stated that “next to the loss of life, the sacrifice of a limb is the greatest sacrifice that a man can make for his country.” But the British government wasn’t prepared to assist the flood of amputees, even during the early months of the war, and several wealthy patrons quickly stepped in to establish private facilities for soldier rehabilitation. One of the most significant was Queen Mary’s Hospital, which focused on veterans who had lost limbs; this repurposed country home in southwest London soon became a global center for artificial limb design and fitting.

American manufacturers like Hanger and Rowley set up workshops at Queen Mary’s Hospital to churn out custom limbs and assist with fittings and training. Though only a handful of artificial limb designs came from England prior to the war, by 1918, several hundred British patent applications had been submitted. When the influx of new amputees finally slowed during the 1920s, manufacturers began focusing on improving their best products rather than providing as many limbs as possible.

Postwar designs incorporated a variety of recently patented innovations. In 1912, D.W. Dorrance had created a famous split-hook hand attachment for artificial arms, which allowed users to grip objects and perform daily tasks in a much easier manner. The following year, aviator and amputee Marcel Desoutter had worked with his brother Charles, an engineer, to develop a prosthetic leg made from a lightweight aluminum alloy.

“In Germany, much was made of returning wartime amputees to productivity, and industrial giants like Siemens were at the forefront of developing and introducing the means to do this,” says Emmens. Siemens designed a variety of “workers arms” which sacrificed aesthetic appeal to focus on function, designed to accommodate a range of workplace tools. Products like these led a shift away from traditional materials like wood and leather towards lighter metals and plastics.
In a 1929 article on the evolution of the artificial limb, American doctor J. Duffy Hancock wrote that “putting a cripple back to work ranks next to saving a life.” Though harsh-sounding, Hancock’s remark captures a powerful sentiment: If we save someone’s life, they should be able to live it as fully as possible. And artificial limbs provided that key, minimizing the stigma, isolation, and lifestyle limitations that often came with amputation.

Today, the power of prosthetics is more visible than ever before, particularly among young veterans recovering from injuries sustained in the Middle East. Kevin Carroll describes a recent outing with a group of veterans at a rehabilitation center in San Diego, California. “As we’re walking up the street, one of the guys climbed up on a tall ledge and jumped right off,” says Carroll. “Here’s a guy with both of his legs cut above the knee, and he comes right down on the prosthetics. Why would you want to do that? Well, because you’re a young kid and you want to continue to act like one.”

As veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to flood VA hospitals across the country, their treatment helps to push prosthetic technology once again. Despite the fact that diabetes is the number one cause for limb amputation in the U.S. today, the veteran population still drives many advances in the field, as they willingly test the latest devices and generate their own ideas, too. Carroll says that some patients even have their doctors sign non-disclosure forms to protect potential patents.
Special limbs are also now created for extreme physical activities, such as specific legs tailored for sprinting versus long distance running. These products have enabled such incredible performances that sporting authorities are questioning whether professional athletes like the South African runner Oscar Pistorius, who happens to be missing both legs, may actually be given an unfair advantage.

High-performance limbs also benefit those outside the world of professional sports, as their components are adapted for ordinary prosthetics. “It reminds me of NASCAR,” Carroll says. “You see those guys racing around the track at 200 miles an hour, and in the not-too-far-away future, the technologies in their cars will be in our
regular cars. It’s the same way with prosthetics, with these high-performance feet that these young men and women are pushing to the limits. Grandma may very well be walking across the floor on them next year.” Some of the more recent prosthetic innovations include new silicone materials used to improve socket fit and energy-storing devices made from carbon-fiber composites. Carroll even worked to develop a prosthetic tail for an injured dolphin using a gel sleeve, which was modified to help human patients with fitting issues.

Possibly the most exciting advancements are those that incorporate microprocessor technologies. These tiny computers register the minute details of ordinary movements to prevent limbs from buckling and anticipate the user’s next move. “Even two years ago, to have somebody walk naturally step over step upstairs on prosthetics was difficult, a chore,” says Carroll, yet today he works with double-amputees who handle inclines easily, thanks to implanted microprocessors.

Regardless of this shifting technology, patients still develop the strong emotional connections to modern limbs they did centuries ago. The function of a prosthetic limb—to replace a part of the human body—will always endow it with a certain magic few other man-made objects possess.

“There’s an incredible bond that takes place between a person and their prosthesis,” says Carroll. “If I’m taking that prosthetic device out of the room and bringing it back to a laboratory to check it out, they’re watching it as if it’s part of their body leaving the room. They’re watching how I pick it up, how I hold it, am I being gentle with it. And it makes you realize this is their lifeline.”
History of Prosthetics

Use the article “War and Prosthetics” to answer the following questions.

1. What two military conflicts saw a rise in the number of amputees? ____________________________

2. How much did the State of Mississippi spend in 1866 on artificial limbs for veterans? ________________

3. Who was James Edward Hanger, and why is he significant in the history of prosthetics? ________________

4. During World War I, amputations were performed for what two reasons? ____________________________

5. What did prosthetic manufacturers aim to do after World War I? ________________________________

6. What were some of the reasons for the transition from wood to metal artificial limbs? How has this changed the use of prosthetics? ________________________________
7. How has public perception of amputees changed since the Civil War? ______________________________
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8. How do you see prosthetics changing in the future? ____________________________________________
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History of Prosthetics Answer Key

Use the article “War and Prosthetics” to answer the following questions.

1. What two military conflicts saw a rise in the number of amputees? ___________________________________
   The American Civil War and World War I
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

2. How much did the State of Mississippi spend in 1866 on artificial limbs for veterans? ________________
   More than half of its yearly budget.
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

3. Who was James Edward Hanger, and why is he significant in the history of prosthetics? ________________
   Hanger was a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. An engineering student before the war, after his
   amputation he improved upon the standard-issue wooden leg issued to him by the Army that allowed for
   a smoother, quieter walking motion. He patented his model and provided prosthetic devices for amputees
   throughout the country. During World War I, Hanger traveled to England to help provide prosthetics for World
   War I veterans.
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

4. During World War I, amputations were performed for what two reasons? _____________________________
   Because a limb had been injured beyond repair or because the risk of infection was too great.
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

5. What did prosthetic manufacturers aim to do after World War I? _________________________________
   Return amputees to work and to give them a full, happy, and useful life.
   _______________________________________________________________________________________

6. What were some of the reasons for the transition from wood to metal artificial limbs? How has this changed
   the use of prosthetics? __________________________________________________________________
   The available new materials were lighter and allowed for greater flexibility of design. It has allowed inventors
   to create limbs for specific purposes (for instance, walking vs. short distance running vs. long distance
   running) and for animals.
   _______________________________________________________________________________________
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LESSON PLANS
TEACHER EVALUATION
COMPLETE BOTH SIDES AND PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO THE ADDRESS ON THE NEXT PAGE. THANK YOU!

TEACHER NAME ________________________________________________________________

SCHOOL NAME & ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL (OPTIONAL) __________________________________________________________________________

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS_____________ GRADE LEVEL ________________________________

LESSON TITLE __________ Confederate Pensions and Prosthetics ________________________________

1. In your opinion, did this lesson elicit better than average student response; if so, how?

2. Which segments of the lesson exceeded your students’ attention span?

3. Will this lesson be of assistance to you in developing future classroom activities; if so, how?

4. How did this lesson add to your earlier teaching on the same subject?

5. Would this lesson be handier to use as a:
   ___ multi-day unit       ___ multi-week unit       ___ other

6. Were the activities appropriate for your students? Why or why not?
Please rate the following lesson materials and activities by circling the appropriate number.  
4=excellent, 3=good, 2=average, 1=inadequate

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We would appreciate any additional comments on this lesson plan and any suggestions for improvement. Comments may be entered in the space below.