

How did you choose your topic-

Upon brainstorming possible ideas for this year's National History Day assignment, I recalled a summer reading book I read a few years ago. Entitled "Nurse and Spy in The Union Army" by Sarah Emma Evelyn Edmonds, this book told the story of a young woman who posed as a man in order to fight in the Civil War; she ultimately became an undercover spy, passing crucial information from beyond enemy lines. We assumed there were other women who played similar crucial roles in the communication of wartime information. We had never learned about female spies in the Civil War during school. After our initial research, we realized the importance of what these women accomplished. Thus, we had our topic: "Innovative ways women spies communicated during the American Civil War."

How did we conduct our research-

When conducting our research for our website project, we knew that we would use many online sources. With that in mind, we interactively searched the internet, looking for reliable and credible sources to use. Upon our initial searches, we found a multitude of online primary and secondary sources. We made sure that these online sources were credible by ensuring they were factually correct and cited.

How did we chose our category-

In 2020, we created a website for National History Day which was awarded the Military History Award. We thoroughly enjoyed the interactive features that were accessible when creating a website. It allowed us to continually add new information and organize it by category and subpage. Additionally, a website allowed us to work on the project from home, preventing the spreading Covid-19, and enabling us to create a quality project in the safety and convenience of our own home.

How does our topic relate to the theme-

Communication takes many forms. We wanted to explore a topic that was unconventional and not necessarily well-known, hence our focus on women spies in the Civil War. Using such methods as hiding messages in hairbraids and hoop skirts, and using human beings as secret conduits of information, these women made significant contributions to their causes. Additionally, the life and death nature connected to the passing of information during wartime made our topic more intriguing to us.