

## Actress to bring Dansville's most famous resident to life

By Dan Folts, For The LCN | Updated 4 days ago

DANSVILLE — Actress Sheryl Faye, who portrays historical women, will bring Clara Barton to life during Clara Barton Day on Aug. 22.

Barton, a nurse during the Civil War, started the first chapter of the American Red Cross in Dansville. Her legacy is celebrated during Clara Barton Day, which features a variety of activities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Church Park on Clara Barton Street.

"I'll be in character sharing information not only about Clara Barton but also her connection to Dansville," said Faye actor and owner of Sheryl Faye Presents Historical Women. "I'm really, really looking forward to it."

Faye, who has a bachelor of fine arts in acting from Emerson College in Boston, has also portrayed Helen Keller, Eleanor Roosevelt and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Faye performs one-woman shows for schools, historical societies, libraries, senior centers, ladies groups, Girl Scout groups, and special events.

Faye said she portrays women who she admires because of their courage and determination, their strength and caring.

"It is definitely one of my hopes to encourage young people, both boys and girls, to be kind to one another. For Clara Barton, that was really one of her strengths. She dedicated her life to serving other people. I really want to encourage people to think about that and to pass that message along. It's something is very important, especially in today's world."

Perhaps one of the most admirable things about Clara Barton, said Faye, was that she pushed the definition of what a woman could do in her time.

"Clara Barton had so many firsts: being the first female nurse in the Civil War, starting a school for underprivileged children, starting the first Red Cross," Faye said. "She was so determined to do things that women really didn't do back then."

When asked about her favorite Clara Barton passage from her one-woman show, Faye described a moment in Clara Barton's life when she had opened a school for underprivileged children and it was so successful that they wanted to build a bigger school. Faye portrays Barton as thrilled and excited to see the children's faces. Faye then, empathetically, said she portrays Clara Barton's disappointment when she learns that she is going to get replaced as principal because she is a woman.

"So she goes to Washington and gets another job at the same level as a man," said Faye.

Besides breaking the glass ceiling of her time, Barton did what she did to help ease the suffering of others, noted Faye.

"She really put others' needs before hers," she said.

Is it still possible to embody that kind of volunteerism and public spirit in our world today?

"Absolutely," says Faye. "There are small things that we all can do to help people that we know or even people that we don't know. I think there is something to be learned from Clara Barton in that regard."

For more information visit her website at [www.sherylfaye.com](http://www.sherylfaye.com) or her Facebook page "Sheryl Faye Presents."



2 images

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