



## Did you know Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke...

Mary Ann mostly grew up in her Grandparent Roger's home near Mansfield, Ohio. She was able to attend Oberlin College, but went home to care for relatives who were ill before she graduated. At age 29, she married Robert Bickerdyke. He had children with him at the marriage and they had four children of the own. When Robert died the youngest was a toddler.

As a widow Mary Ann, cleaned homes, did laundry, did home nursing and was known as a botanic physician. After raising her family, she began serving as a nurse during cholera epidemics in Ohio. Early during the Civil War Rev. Edward Beecher, her minister at the First (Brick) Congregational Church of Galesburg, Illinois, made an appeal for the sick and wounded Union soldiers.

One family in the church filled a large wagon with supplies. Mary Ann volunteered to go and distribute them. Church people took care of her children. The Army had little organization to take care of the sick and wounded. Mary Ann organized the medical services, nursed the soldiers and came to be called Mother Bickerdyke by the soldiers. She came to be seen as the Florence Nightingale of America.

Contrary to Ken Burn's comment in his great Civil War Series that she was a Quaker, Mary Ann was an active Congregationalist, inspired to do this by her minister and faith. She also came to be called the Patron Saint of Kansas.

**...was a Congregationalist?**

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
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### Call To Worship

L: Pilgrims are we, O Lord God we come

**C: 400-year-old travelers with Your Son**

L: When we have been weary, You have restored our souls

**C: And set us on the path again, of redemption**

L: We come to this hour seeking refreshment, courage, and the will

**C: To continue this journey toward the community of heaven**

### Invocation (in unison)

We remember this day our Pilgrim forebears, whose constant prayers and unshakable courage brought them to this land we now call home.

They brought their sins, their cares, their temptations, too, and found their help and strength from You. We approach You with the same needs and the hope that this hour may be for us a time of grace and empowerment

to live with courage as Christ's new pilgrims. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Will Lange

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard