

**The Civil War****Primary Source****Mary Ashton Livermore**

*Livermore was in Boston when Fort Sumter surrendered to the South. Writing years later, she recalled how New Englanders reacted to the start of the war.*

Everywhere the drum and fife thrilled the air with their stirring call. Recruiting offices were opened in every city, town, and village. No stimulus was needed. The plough was left in the **furrow**; the carpenter turned from the bench; the student closed his books; the clerk abandoned the counting-room; the lawyer forsook his clients; and even the clergymen exchanged his pulpit for the camp and the tented field, preaching no longer the gospel of peace, but the duty of war. Hastily formed companies marched to camps of **rendezvous**, the sunlight flashing from gun-barrel and bayonet, and the streets echoing the measured tread of soldiers. Flags floated from the roofs of houses, were flung to the breeze from chambers of commerce and boards of trade, spanned the surging streets, decorated the private parlor, glorified the school-room, **festooned** the church walls and pulpit, and blossomed everywhere. All normal habits of life were suspended, and business and pleasure alike were forgotten.

Source: Mary A. Livermore, *My Story of the War: A Woman's Narrative*, 1887

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN?**

1. How did people in New England respond to the outbreak of civil war?

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**MAKE A COMPARISON**

1. According to these sources how did the southern reaction to the outbreak of war compare to the northern reaction to the outbreak of war?

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2. How do the above passages differ from each other? Why do you think they are different?

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