

Fort Delaware State Park
P.O. Box 170
Delaware City, DE 19706
(302) 834-7941
www.destateparks.com

Angels for the Confederacy

Ages: adaptable to all ages (works best age 10 and older)

Length: about 10 minutes

Goal: Audience will gain an understanding of who Julia Jefferson was and the role she played at Fort Delaware during the Civil War. They will also learn about the lives of the prisoners and the interaction between prisoners and civilians during the war.

Objectives:

- Background information about Julia's life will provide audience with the perspective of upper class civilian women during the Civil War
- Discussion about Julia's relationship with Reverend Handy and the prisoners will give audience an idea of social interaction between civilians and soldiers, and between upper and lower class citizens.
- Reading of the prisoner's letters will provide the perspective of the prisoners, and give audience a glimpse of their life at Fort Delaware

Materials:

- Copies of prisoners' letters
- Basket of peaches/apples (optional)

Program Outline:

1. Greet audience in character as they come up for the program. Once everyone is seated, introduced yourself as Julia Jefferson and explain why you are at Fort Delaware (Visiting Reverend Handy, making sure prisoners are receiving boxes of clothing, etc.)
2. *Brief background about Julia Jefferson:* 22 years old, from New Castle Delaware. Father – Elihu Jefferson, Mother – Ann James Jefferson (also sends supplies), Sister – Josephine Rankin (also sends supplies). Uncle – Capt. Samuel Jefferson (elder in the Presbyterian church at Port Penn, good friends with Reverend Handy, also a member of the Presbyterian church), Aunt – Ann Ball Jefferson (also sends supplies), Cousin – Lydia Jefferson (also sends supplies). We like to stand on the streets of New Castle and cheer the prisoners with kind words as they walk to the wharf, bound for Fort Delaware. When possible, we try to give them food. We also try to visit the cemetery in New Jersey where the poor souls are buried.

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3. *Relationship with the prisoners:* I and the other ladies of my family have devoted ourselves to raising money to send supplies to prisoners at Fort Delaware. Some of the political prisoners, such as Reverend Handy, help distribute the supplies since they are allowed more privileges. Although I sent a letter to prisoner Colonel Waring, asking him to distribute clothing to prisoners, and Reverend Handy informed me that he was not permitted by the Fort officials to reply to my letter. But we do the best we can. I often send extra food to Reverend Handy, such as peaches and sweet potatoes, to thank him for his efforts. My cousin Lydia is especially good at making mince pie, which she occasionally sends to the prisoners. Word of our generosity has reached all the prisoners on the island, and many of them write to us with requests for supplies, which we are happy to answer. They are perfectly polite and grateful. Allow me to read you some of their kind letters.
4. *Read excerpts from the letters.* Emphasize the parts where the prisoners are grateful, since that is what Miss Jefferson wants to convey. However, make sure to include the parts about the supplies they are requesting, or that she sent, since that is important information for the audience to know.
5. *Appeal to the audience.* I realize that many of the citizens of Delaware, and the Union soldiers at the Fort do not approve of our efforts. But I believe that all men deserve to be treated with respect, and that the prisoners at Fort Delaware are much in need of new clothing, small comforts, and fruit and vegetables to prevent scurvy. I encourage you all to join our cause and help bring the prisoners some comfort to ease their suffering here. You will be rewarded by the pleasure of helping others, and by the Confederate men's humble gratitude.

Closing/Take Home

1. Thank the participants for listening and encourage them to visit the prisoner barracks to give them comfort, speak with Reverend Handy, go to the General's office to ask for better supplies for prisoners, etc.
2. (Optional): Take off your hat and wish the audience a pleasant day at the park. Suggest that they visit the Port Penn Interpretive Center (town where Jefferson's attended church) and/or Historic New Castle (where Julia Jefferson lived and is buried). Remind them about the comment cards in the visitor center and the next program.