

		Notes
Lesson Title and number:	Major Acts from a “Minor Citizen”	
Know Understand Do	<p>Following this unit students will...</p> <p><u>Know:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duties of a War Claims agent and the role this person played during the Civil War. • The way in which Francis Minor served his state and his country during the Civil War. <p><u>Understand:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The additional sufferings facing soldiers and their families beyond the field of battle during the course of the war. • Ways in which Missouri citizens served their country away from the field of battle during the Civil War. <p><u>Do</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a first person perspective letter to Francis Minor that expresses recognition and gratitude for his contributions during the war. 	
Vocabulary	War Claims Agent, Pension	
Technology integration	Smartboard or projection screen for powerpoint presentation.	
Preparation:	Prior to beginning this lesson, the teacher will need to make copies of the primary source documents below containing excerpts from the war logs of Francis Minor. Each student will need a copy of the documents and the questions for consideration.	
Equipment:	Smartboard, projector and screen	
Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student copies of the primary source documents and questions for consideration. 	
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Family Papers, Missouri Historical Society Archives, St. Louis, Missouri • <i>Movers and Shakers, Scalawags and Suffragettes: Tales from Bellefontaine Cemetery</i> by Carol Ferring Shepley. 	
Teachers		Students
<p>1. Teachers should begin this lesson by posing to the students the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does a person have to serve on the battlefield to be a hero? • What other people do you think might need help while soldiers are away at war? 	<p>Students will begin this lesson by brainstorming answers to the questions posed by the instructor as an introduction to the lesson.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What help might soldiers need after they come home from war? • How do we help soldiers and their families today while they are away at war 		
<p>2. After allowing for class discussion the teacher should use the unit powerpoint to introduce students to the background of Francis Minor and provide a definition to the role of War Claims Agent.</p>	<p>Students should take notes as needed on the background information regarding Francis Minor and his role during the Civil War.</p>	
<p>3. Once students have received information on Francis Minor, provide each student with a copy of the primary source entries from the war logs of Francis Minor. Allow students to work individually or in pairs as they analyze (see below) the log entries to answer the questions for consideration that follow.</p>	<p>Students should work individually in pairs to read and analyze the war claims logs of Francis Minor before answering the consideration questions that follow.</p>	<p>Some of the entries may be confusing for some students so pre-pairing partners together for this activity may be helpful for struggling readers.</p>
<p>4. Instruct students once they have used the war log entries to answer the consideration questions to use their new knowledge to complete the RAFT activity individually at the end of the questions.</p>	<p>Students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the role of War Claims Francis Minor by completing the RAFT assignment following their analysis.</p>	

Major Acts from a "Minor Person"

Directions: Although he never fought in battle, Francis Minor of St. Louis played a major role in serving his country during the Civil War. Below are some of the entries he made in his logs while serving as the Social Agent for St. Louis country during the war. For each of the log entries below, Circle the person/people who were helped by Francis Minor or who were requesting help from him. Place a square around Why Francis Minor was asked for help in each log. For this portion, think about what each person was requesting from him. your findings to answer the question for consideration following the log entries.

April 20th, 1864: Wrote to Surgeon in charge of Hospital at Vicksburg to send certificate of the death of Joseph Marx, Private Colonel, 30th Regiment of the Missouri Infantry who died 9th of October, 1863 in the hospital. His widow, Christina Marx, wishes to receive a pension.

April 22nd, 1864: Received the application from Mrs. Whelan, widow of Joseph Whelan, colonel in the 6th Missouri Volunteer infantry for pay. Also her application for a pension as a widow official December.

May 6th, 1864: Wrote to the Surgeon of company G, 33rd Missouri Volunteer Infantry in the field, for a certificate of death of Calvin L Woodworth, a Private in said regiment preparatory to the widow, Annie Wodworth, for a pension. He was stated to have been killed on the 10th of April, 1864 at the Battle fought at or near Pleasant Hill by a gun shot wound to the heart. Received certificate June 17, 1864.

May 6th, 1864: Wrote to Major William Allen, Paymaster U.S.A, Louisville, Kentucky, for forms and instructions how to proceed to obtain pay due to a soldier who is a prisoner by his wife. The particular case is that of Henry Rueter, Private in Company H, 2nd Missouri Volunteer Infantry who was taken prisoner at the Battle of Chattanooga, 20th of September 1863, and who at last accounts was in the Libby Prison at Richmond, Va. His wife is named Nina Rueter.

May 6, 1864: Wrote to Major Robert Smyth, Pay Master U.S.A. Keokuk, Iowa, relate to claim of David Gorman, Private in Company D, 22nd Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry- now transferred to 191st Co. 1st Battalion Vet. Res. Corps in St. Louis. He says he was paid in March 1863 but that there is a mistake of ten or twelve dollars in his clothing account in his favor being still due to him.

May 9th, 1864: Wrote to surgeon in charge of Hospital Number 1, Vicksburg, to give a certificate of the disease for which Edward H. Crommie, Corporal, Company E. 30th Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry, was discharged as the certificate of death is deficient (doesn't say) preparatory to making out the application of his widow Mrs. Magdalen Crommie for a pension.

May 11th, 1864: Wrote to Captain William Robinson, Company A, Missouri Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry for a certificate of death of Thomas C. Murray, Private in said company who was killed at the Battle of Juka, Mississippi, preparing for the application of his Mother, Johanna Murry for a pension.

May 13th, 1864: Wrote to Surgeon General R. L. Wood, Louisville, Ky to send to me, if he could do so, a certificate of the death of Private Adam Kessler- Company F, 43rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry preparatory to his widow's application for a Pension. The captain of Company F. 43rd Illinois Volunteer infantry, wrote on the 21st of April, 1863 that Kepler was taken sick 20th of February, 1862 at Fort Henry from thence on February 26th he was transferred to a hospital steamer (ship) to be sent to the city of Memphis. Since then, all traces of him have been lost.

May 21st, 1864: Wrote to Mrs. Magdalen Dittmer, widow of John H. Dittmer, Company A, 30th Missouri Volunteer Infantry in reference to her claim for Pension. The comptroller calls for (needs) a certificate from a surgeon or some company officer as to the death of her husband and for further evidence is required of her marriage.

May 25th, 1864: Wrote to 1st Lieutenant John Buerke, Company E- 15th Missouri Volunteer Infantry at Nashville for a certificate of the wounding of John Blaser, a private in his company, in preparation for his application for a Pension.

June 4th, 1864: Made out certificate for Maria Coleman, mother of Thomas Coleman, deceased Private, Company C, 66th South Carolina Infantry, to enable (allow) her to draw supplies from the War Relief Fund Committee.

Sources from the Francis Minor Papers, Missouri History Museum Archives, St. Louis, Mo

Questions for Consideration:

1. After looking at the log entries from Francis Minor, who would YOU say he helped the most during his time as the Social Agent of St. Louis during the Civil War? Provide evidence to support your answer.

2. What would you say is the most important way that Francis Minor helped people during the Civil War?

3. Based on your analysis of the log entries, how did the Civil War create a need for a job like Francis Minor's? Why did St. Louis need someone to do this job?

4. What do you think would have been the hardest part of Francis Minor's job during the war? What do you think would have been the easiest/best part of his job?

5. In your opinion, was Francis Minor a Civil War hero, even if he never fired a single shot in battle? Explain why you think so.

Reading RAFT Assignment

Role	You are a citizen who has been helped by the work of War Claims Agent Francis Minor
Audience	Francis Minor, War Clams Agent of St. Louis.
Format	A Letter
Topic	Construct a letter to Francis Minor from the perspective of a citizen he assisted during the war using evidence from the logs you have analyzed. Your task is to thank Mr. Minor for the ways in which he helped you and other St. Louis citizens during the course of the war.