Phase 1: Individual Reading Assignment.

* Read your individual allotment of the diary entries.
* Jot down answers to the following questions. Make sure you indicate the specific diary entry from which you obtained your information (**note the date of the entry**).

Phase 2: Group Discussion

* Share your discoveries/findings from reading your portion of the diary with the group.
* Jot down information provided by your group members that answer the following questions.
* Move on to Phase 3 once you have answered Questions 1 – 6 as thoroughly as you can.

Phase 3: Group Discussion

* Discuss Questions 7 – 9.

**Questions**

1. How old was Rhoda Lowry?
2. When were her sons killed?
3. What were some of RSL’s daily activities?
4. Which places did she travel to? What did she do when she traveled?
5. Which entries in her diary indicate that there was a war going on?
6. How did the Civil War affect Rhoda Lowry? Make sure you refer to her diary entries.

General Discussion Questions

1. What conclusions can you draw about RSL and her life based on an examination of her diary?
2. What conclusions can your draw about the life of a woman in the mid-19th century based on this glimpse into the life of Rhoda Lowrey? What can her diary tell us about life on the home front during the Civil War?
3. How useful is this primary source? What are its limitations? Can you make generalizations based on reading Lowry’s diary? How do you differentiate between opinion and fact? Why or why not?