WOMEN DISGUISED AS MALE SOLDIERS

A Research Note & Bibliography of MHI Sources

In some cases female soldiers assumed the more convenient masculine uniform merely because of the exigencies of combat; in others, they hoped to pass muster as men. Needless to say because America in the 19th century did not tolerate women under arms, female soldiers of the Civil War resorted to deception. A comprehensive, scholarly history of women in the Civil War is Mary E. Massey's *Bonnet Brigades* (NY: Knopf, 1966; E628M3), in which it is stated that about 400 women posed as soldiers (p.79). A journalistic survey of the history of women in combat is John Lafin's *Women in Battle* (London: Abelard-Schuman, 1967; CT3203L32). A more romantic history, covering both mythology and recorded history through the 17th century, is Ellen C. Clayton's *Female Warrior* (London: Tinsley Bros, 1879; HQ1390C61).

For an example from 16th-century France, see:


**Revolutionary War:** Deborah Sampson fought disguised as a soldier. See:


See also:

-Bibliography on Deborah Sampson in Biographies.

**Civil War:**


Women Dressed as Male Soldiers


Incls list of known warriors, pp. 197-200.


Supposedly masqueraded as CS Scout, Lt Harry Buford.


Photos of Jenny Hodgers (Albert Cashier) & Sara Edmonds (Franklin Thompson).


See, for example, pp. 113-20.


Anecdotal, some documented.


NOTE: MHI Photo Archives includes no known images of women actually dressed as males, but does incl two of Kady Brownell, who reportedly fought as combatant.