

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 Lavin'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:

Lynn, John A. "The Strange Case of the Maiden Soldier of Picardy." MHQ (Spring 1990): pp. 54-56. Per.

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

Doyle, Kathleen. "'Pvt. Robert Shurtleff': An Unusual Revolutionary War Soldier." Amer Hist Illus (Oct 1988): pp. 30-31. Per.

Evans, Elizabeth. Weathering the Storm: Women of the American Revolution. NY: Scribner's, 1975. pp. 303-34. E276E93.

See also:

-Bibliography on Deborah Sampson in Biographies.

Civil War:

Blanton, DeAnne. "Women Soldiers of the Civil War." Prologue (Spring 1993): pp. 27-34. Per.

Brockett, L.P. The Camp, the Battle Field, and the Hospital; or, Lights and Shadows of the Great Rebellion. Phila: National, 1866. 512 p. E655B86.
Adventures of Sarah Edmonds, 2d Mich Cav, pp. 66-72.

Women Dressed as Male Soldiers

p.2

Dannett, Sylvia G.L. She Rode With the Generals: The True and Incredible Story of Sarah Emma Seelye, Alias Franklin Thompson. NY: T. Nelson, 1960. 326 p. E608E26D36.

Hall, Richard. Patriots in Disguise: Women Warriors of the Civil War. NY: Paragon, 1993. 223 p. E628H35.

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

Hoffert, Sylvia D. "Madame Loretta Velasquez: Heroine or Hoaxer?" CW Times Illus (Jun 1978): pp. 24-31. Per.

Supposedly masqueraded as CS Scout, Lt Harry Buford.

King, Wendy A. Clad in Uniform: Women Soldiers of the Civil War. Collingswood, NJ: C.W. Hist, 1992. 25 p. E628K56.

Lammers, Pat, & Boyce, Amy. "Alias Franklin Thompson: A Female in the Ranks." CW Times Illus (Jan 1984): pp. 31 & 34-40. Per.

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

Leonard, Elizabeth D. All the Daring of the Soldier: Women of the Civil War Armies. NY: Norton, 1999. 368 p. E628L459.

_____. Yankee Women: Gender Battles in the Civil War. NY: Norton, 1994. 308 p. E638L46.

Livermore, Mary A. My Story of the War. Hartford, CT: Worthington, 1889. 700 p. E762.1L79.
See, for example, pp. 113-20.

Middleton, Lee. Hearts of Fire: Soldier Women of the Civil War. Franklin, NC: Geneology Pub, 1993. 254 p. E628M53.

Anecdotal, some documented.

Moore, Frank. Women of the War. Hartford, CT: Scranton, 1866. E628M6. pp. 529-35. E628M6.

Velasquez, Loreta Janeta. The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velasquez, Otherwise Known as Lieutenant Harry T. Buford, Confederate States Army. [Ed by C.J. Worthington] Hartford, CT: Belknap, 1876. 606 p. E605V42.

Wakeman, Sarah R. An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of...Alias Private Lyons Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers. [Ed by Lauren C. Burgess] Pasadena, MD: Minerva Center, 1994. 110 p. E628W24.

Wiley, Bell Irvin. The Life of Billy Yank. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1952. pp. 337-39. E607W49.

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.