

4th Ohio Inf

PATRIOTS
IN
DISGUISE

Women Warriors
of the Civil War

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PARAGON HOUSE
New York

smoking a cob-pipe. She was brought to me, and put in duress under charge of the division surgeon until her companion could be secured.

She told the surgeon that she had fled from east Tennessee the previous year, and having adopted male apparel was employed as a teamster in the quartermaster's department. Since she had "coarse and masculine" features, Sheridan was not suprised that she had been able to pass herself off as a man. He was somewhat more perplexed by the "she dragoon" (as he termed the female cavalry soldier) who was caught and brought before him next day.

The cavalry soldier

proved to be a rather prepossessing young woman, and though necessarily bronzed and hardened by exposure, I doubt if, even with these marks of campaigning, she could have deceived as readily as did her companion. How the two got acquainted I never learned, and though they had joined the army independently of each other, yet an intimacy had sprung up between them long before the mishaps of the foraging expedition. Both were "provided with clothing suited to their sex" and deported beyond army lines.

Female Mannerisms

Despite passing for men in day-to-day soldiering, some young women were detected by their "female mannerisms" and sent home. At the outbreak of the war, there lived in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, a devoted brother and sister team, Mason and Sarah Collins; when Mason made up his mind to enlist his sister decided to do the same. She was physically strong and could easily have borne the hardships of army life. Her brother Mason, won over by her persistence, was a party to the deception. Her hair was cut short and she put on men's clothing.

When the time came to report to camp, she accompanied her brother to the rendezvous of the company, and though she had the appearance of masculinity, her sex was discovered "by her unmasculine manner of putting on her shoes and stockings." So with tears in her eyes, disappointed at her failure to become a soldier, she was obliged to return home, while her brother left for duty without her.

Early in the war the 1st Kentucky Infantry was serving in the Kanawha Valley Campaign in western Virginia. In late July, 1861, a young soldier who had served for three months was discovered to be a woman after arousing suspicion by her manner of pulling

on her stockings. In a book about his wartime experiences, newspaper correspondent Albert D. Richardson wrote: "She performed camp duties with great fortitude, and never fell out of the ranks during the severest marches. She was small in stature, and kept her coat buttoned to her chin." Most members of the regiment were from Ohio, where it was originally formed. When the surgeon established that she was a woman of about twenty, she was discharged from the regiment, but sent to Columbus, Ohio, on suspicion of being a spy because of some unspecified remarks she had made. Richardson did not learn what finally became of her.

Mary Smith enlisted in the 1st Ohio "McClellan Zouaves" in male disguise, to avenge the death of her only brother at Bull Run. Unfortunately for her, she was discovered to be a woman at Camp Wood, Cleveland, when she gave an "unmistakable twist to the dishcloth in wringing it out that no masculine [sic] could ever successfully counterfeit."

Mary Livermore, the famous nurse, was visiting the camp of the 19th Illinois one day when a captain asked her whether she noticed anything peculiar about one of the solidiers, whom he pointed out. "It was evident at a glance that the 'man' was a young woman in male attire," she reported, "and I said so." The captain replied, "That is the rumor, and that is my suspicion."

Charles W. Ives, 1st Sergeant of the 95th Illinois, while talking about "Albert Cashier," said that he knew of two other would-be female soldiers dressed in military uniforms who were detected when an officer threw apples to them, and they reached for their (nonexistent) aprons to catch the apples in. (See the notes for Chapter 2 under Rodney G. Davis.)

But the ultimate giveaway was reported in the Maysville, Kentucky, *Dollar Weekly Bulletin*, November 27, 1862: "The sex of a female recruit in Rochester was discovered by her trying to put her pants on over her head."

Female Casualties Discovered

Bell I. Wiley, in his classic book on common soldiers of the Union, *Life of Billy Yank*, reported in a brief summary of female soldiers: "Some of the Union amazons were casualties; at least one was fatally wounded, while another was killed outright." The parallel section about women in the companion volume, *Life of Johnny*

CLAYTON, Mrs. Frances Louisa (w). Enlisted in a Minnesota regiment to be with husband. She was wounded and her husband killed in the battle of Stone's River, Tennessee.

COLLINS, Sarah. Wisconsin soldier, enlisted with brother but detected by her mannerisms and sent home.

COMPTON, Lizzie (Elizabeth) (w). 125th Michigan Cavalry. When wounded and sex detected, claimed to have enlisted at 14 and served eighteen months in seven different regiments, "leaving one and enrolling in another when fearing detection."

COX, Lucy Ann. *Vivandiere* for 13th Virginia Regiment.

DAY, Frances (k). (Sergeant "Frank Mayne") served in 126th Pennsylvania Infantry. Later mortally wounded in a battle while serving with a different regiment in the western theater.

DEMING, Mrs. L. L. daughter of regiment, 10th Michigan Infantry.

DEAVERS (DIVERS/DEVAN), Bridget. Served in 1864-1865 Virginia campaigns, allegedly with 1st Michigan Cavalry.

EDMONDS, Sarah Emma ("Franklin Thompson"). Served for two years in 2nd Michigan Infantry as soldier, spy, and nurse.

ETHERIDGE, Anna. Served as daughter of the regiment with 2nd Michigan Infantry in Army of Potomac, and later with 3rd and 5th Michigan regiments, for a total of three years.

EWBANK, Hannah. Served as daughter of the regiment with the 7th Wisconsin Infantry.

GOODRIDGE, Ellen (w). Served with boyfriend James Hendrick in an early Wisconsin regiment. Went on skirmishes and raids, and was wounded in action.

HART, Nancy. Virginia. Served as guide for Jackson's cavalry. Once captured, escaped by shooting captor.

HENRY, Margaret. Captured by Federals near end of war with another female soldier in Confederate uniform, and imprisoned at Nashville.

HINSDALE, Jane. Regimental nurse in 2nd Michigan Infantry. Enlisted with husband Hiram H. Taken prisoner after 1st Bull run while helping the wounded and searching for missing husband. Escaped and took information on Confederate movements to authorities in Washington, D.C.

HODGERS, Jennie ("Albert Cashier"). 95th Illinois Infantry. Only woman known to have served complete three-year term of enlistment disguised as man, maintaining male disguise well after the war.

HOOK, Frances (w). ("Frank Martin"). Served in 90th Illinois, 2nd East Tennessee Cavalry, 8th Michigan. Joined a new regiment each time discovered in previous one. Once taken prisoner.

JENKINS, Mary Owen. Served in 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

JONES, Annie. Alleged consort of Custer and other officers in D.C. area camps. Said to have served as scout and spy.

JONES, Lizzie. Served as daughter of the regiment in 6th Massachusetts Infantry.

KIRBY, Mrs. William. Husband and son in Confederate army. She smuggled weapons through Federal lines at Baton Rouge, Louisiana; caught, convicted as spy, imprisoned on Ship Island. Died there near end of war. Son killed at Gettysburg, husband survived.

LILLYBRIDGE, Annie (w). Detroit. Served in 21st Michigan Infantry. After Battle of Pea Ridge found shot in arm, taken to Hospital in Louisville. Swapped discharge with Joseph Henderson to reenlist.

MARCUM, Julia. Female soldier from Kentucky. (No other details known. Source: Ida Tarbell letter in National Archives.)

MCCREARY, Mary (Mrs.). Served as private with husband in Company H, 21st Ohio, but after several months "found herself in a delicate condition," obtained leave from the colonel, went home, and never returned.

MILLER, Charley. Served in 18th New York Regiment as "drummer boy" using name "Edward O. Hamilton." Preferred to live as male since childhood.

MOORE, Madeline. Joined army to be with boyfriend, was elected lieutenant and served in West Virginia under General George B. McClellan, and later at Bull Run.

MURPHY, Mary Ann. Served as "Samuel Hill" in Company B, 53rd Massachusetts, with brother Tom.

NILES, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Fought in Civil War beside her husband in 4th New Jersey. Died October 4, 1920 at age 92.

OWEN(S), Mary (w). From Huntingdon (or Montour) County, Pennsylvania. Served eighteen months, fought in three battles and wounded twice. When she returned home she claimed to have been married to the man with whom she had enlisted. He was killed and she wounded in same battle.

PETERMAN, Georgianne. From Ellenboro, served two years as a "drummer boy" with 7th Wisconsin.

PETERSON, Belle. Young country girl who lived near Ellenboro. Enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment probably late in 1862 and "served in the army for some time."

PHILIPS, Bettie Taylor (Mrs. W. D.). When with her husband in 4th Kentucky Infantry (Confederate), cared for wounded on battlefield, part of famous "Orphan Brigade." Arrested, held as spy at Nashville.

REYNOLDS, Mrs. Belle. Served with her husband, a lieutenant in 17th Illinois Infantry. Traveled with regiment, saw combat while under fire at Shiloh.

ROONEY, Rose (Mrs.). Served with 15th Louisiana Infantry. Braved battlefield shot and shell in order to care for the wounded. Later a hospital matron in New Orleans for soldiers' home.

SEABERRY, Mary Y. From Columbus, Ohio, served in Company F, 52nd Ohio as "Charles Freeman" until "sexual incompatibility" was admitted, November 10, 1862.

SMITH, Mary. Enlisted in ~~10th Ohio Infantry~~ McClellan *Zouaves*, to avenge death of only brother at Bull Run. At Camp Wood, Ohio, found out to be a woman by her mannerisms.

SULLIVAN, Betsy (Mrs.). Battlefield nurse with Company K, 1st Tennessee Infantry (Confederate). Served with husband, John Sullivan, and shared the hardships of army life with the regiment.

TAYLOR, Sarah. Served as daughter of the regiment with the 1st Tennessee Regiment.

TEBE, Marie (w). "French Mary" served in 27th Pennsylvania Infantry ("Washington Brigade") which was at 1st Bull Run, and the 114th Pennsylvania Infantry as *vivandiere*. Frequently under fire as battlefield nurse, wounded in action, awarded medal for gallantry.

THOMPSON, Ellen P. L. Served in 139th Illinois Infantry Regiment.

THOMPSON, Lucy Matilda (w). ("Bill Thompson"). At 49, followed her husband, Bryant Gauss, into the Bladen Light Infantry (Bladen County, North Carolina), 18th North Carolina Regiment. Wounded at 1st (or 2nd) Bull Run and again