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Belle Boyd

1843-1900

Maria Isabella "Belle" Boyd was born in Martinsburg, Virginia on May 4, 1844. Belle overheard important information about Union activities and carried letters, papers and details of Union troop movements across enemy lines to General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Later on, General Jackson made Belle an honorary member of his staff with the rank of captain for the intelligence she provided in the capture of Front Royal, Virginia.

In 1862, Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War, ordered Belle's arrest. Boyd refused to confess that she was a spy and was released from prison in 1863.

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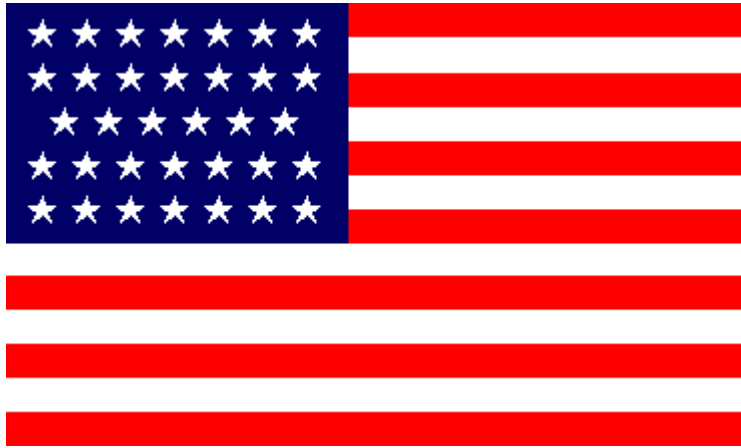
Mary Elizabeth Bowser

1839-Unknown

Mary Elizabeth Bowser was a slave in the Van Lew household. After Mr. Van Lew's death, the slaves were freed, and Mary was sent to school in Philadelphia. During the Civil War, Mary returned to Richmond to work in Jefferson Davis's headquarters, and she became a spy for the Union. Mary dusted and served in the Confederate White House and memorized military documents she found on Davis's desk. Mary also memorized conversations she overheard in the dining room and reported them later to Elizabeth Van Lew.

In 1995, 130 years after the War Between the States ended, Mary Bowser was admitted to the U.S. Army Intelligence Hall of Fame.

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Nancy Hart 1846-1913

Nancy Hart was born in 1846 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her mother was a first cousin to Andrew Johnson. When she was 14, Nancy's family moved to Roane County (now West Virginia) to live. Nancy became an expert rider and "dead eye" shot. Nancy began spying for the South. She began visiting Union camps, supposedly to sell food to the soldiers while learning about their plans.

Nancy was captured and imprisoned at Summersville, West Virginia in July, 1862. She later escaped and led 200 Confederate troops back to Summersville where they drove the Union forces from the town. Nancy died in 1913.

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Confederate Spies

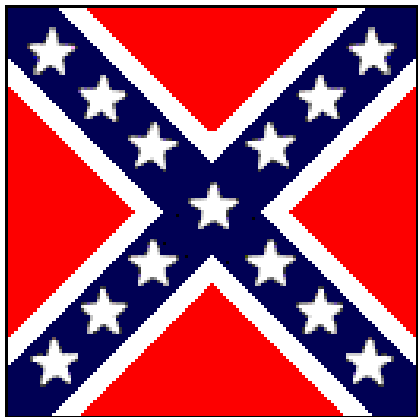
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Union Spies

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Sara Emma Edmonds

December 1841 - September 5, 1898

In 1861, Sara Emma Edmonds enrolled in Company F, Second Michigan Infantry, disguised as a man named Franklin Thompson. In 1863 Sara Edmonds/Thompson became ill but was not able to get a leave of absence. To keep her identity a secret, Sara deserted.

Sara married Linus Seelye in 1867. Later she started gathering evidence that she had served in the Army so that she could collect a pension. In July 1886, Congress granted Sara Emma Edmonds Seelye an honorable discharge from combat duty and a pension.

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Suspicious of Rose's activities, Allan Pinkerton, a police detective obtained a search warrant and found detailed maps, notes, and letters outlining Union activities. Pinkerton arrested Rose in August, 1861. Rose and her daughter (Little Rose) were sent to the old Capitol Prison, Rose continued sending messages to the Confederacy in coded notes which traveled in unlikely places such as the inside of a woman's long hair or the hem of a skirt.

In May 1862, Rose was released from prison and moved to Richmond, where she remained under house arrest in her own home. In August 1863, President Jefferson Davis sent Rose to England and France to gain support for the South. Rose drowned while sailing back to the United States in 1864. She was buried with full military honors in the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington. Her coffin was wrapped in the Confederate flag and carried by Confederate troops. The marker for her grave, states "Mrs. Rose O'N. Greenhow, a bearer of dispatches to the Confederate Government."

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Citation Page

Cover Image: Rose Greenhow, Library of Congress

Cover Image: Sara Emma Edmonds,

http://abmwar21.tripod.com/images/EE_Picture.jpg

Page 2: Confederate Flag, <http://www.flagandbanner.com/f-b-images/hconf23C.jpg>

Page 4, Rose Greenhow, Library of Congress

Page 6: Rose Greenhow and Daughter, Library of Congress

Page 8: Nancy Hart, <http://www.squidoo.com/confederatesecretservice>

Page 10: Belle Boyd, Library of Congress

Page 12: Union Flag, <http://www.flagguys.com/img/US34star.gif>

Page 14: Elizabeth Van Lew, <http://www.nps.gov/malw/vanlew.htm>

Page 16: Mary Elizabeth Bowser, <http://www.freewebs.com/j2sawyer/bows-mar2.jpg>

Page 18: Sara Emma Edmonds,

<http://z.about.com/d/womenshistory/1/G/N/8/001a400.jpg>

Women Undercover: Civil War Spies

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Elizabeth Van Lew

1818-1900

Elizabeth Van Lew was born in 1818 in Richmond Virginia, the oldest daughter of John Van Lew, well-known business man. Although Elizabeth lived in the South, she was a Union supporter and became a spy for the Union during the Civil War. Elizabeth spent her entire inheritance to buy and free slaves, provide food and books to imprisoned Union soldiers and hide escaped prisoners-of-war. She gained important information during her prison visits and sent it to General Grant who later appointed her Postmistress of Richmond (1869-1877). Elizabeth died in Richmond in 1900.

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Rose O'Neal Greenhow

1817-1864

Rose O'Neal was born in Port Tobacco, Maryland in 1817. As a young girl, she lived with her aunt in Washington, D.C. and married Dr. Robert Greenhow in 1835. The Greenhows knew many important people in Washington, D.C., including Daniel Webster, President James Buchanan, and John C. Calhoun. Rose Greenhow considered herself a Southern woman, and she admired John Calhoun. After Calhoun died in 1850, Rose became a supporter of the South.

When the Civil War broke out in April 1861, Rose Greenhow became a spy. She was able to obtain key information for the Confederacy. She sent Gen. Beauregard information that Union Troops would be advancing on Manassas (Battle of Bull Run) in July.

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(Use this area to highlight your class, school or organization or provide information about the author.)



**Women Undercover:
Civil War Spies**