



E-Newsletter | June 2012

Civil War Personalities

When we learn about the Civil War in school, the focus is always on the battles and the famous and infamous battlegrounds. There are also stories about the Generals (both Union and Confederate) and their battle strategies. We don't learn about some of the fascinating women whose contributions were important during that very difficult time in our country's history. In this month's newsletter, we provide you some tidbits about Mary Edwards Walker, Sally Tompkins, Pauline Cushman, and Belle Boyd.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was an advocate for women's rights and the first woman ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. During the Civil War, she served first as a nurse (when the Army would not allow women to serve as doctors) and then later as a surgeon. She was a prisoner of war for four months and suffered the associated hardships. In 1865, she was awarded the Medal. During the "Purge of 1917", her medal was revoked, but was reinstated in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. Dr. Walker is also known for her attire - she wore the "Bloomer" dress and pants, long before it was acceptable for women to do so.



Belle Boyd



Mary Edwards Walker

speaking of her exploits.

One of the most famous spies for the Confederacy, **Belle Boyd** served the Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. She provided valuable information to Generals Turner Ashby and "Stonewall" Jackson. Jackson made her a captain and an honorary aide-de-camp on his staff. Boyd was arrested twice during her spying career. Sent to Europe to regain her health, she later had a stage career in England and published a book about her spying experiences. Her nickname was "Cleopatra of the Secession."

We are proud to continue bringing you information about the amazing women on whose shoulders we stand.

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen

www.herstoryatimeline.com

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After the First Battle of Bull Run, **Sally Tompkins** opened a hospital in a private house to care for the wounded soldiers in Richmond, Virginia. Her hospital would treat 1,333 Confederate soldiers before its closure in 1865. Because of its great success in treating the wounded (very few soldiers died under her care), many officers tried to place their soldiers in her hospital. When all private hospitals were ordered closed, and all soldiers ordered to be treated by military personnel, Tompkins was appointed captain of cavalry so that she could continue to run her hospital. After the war, "Captain Sally" was a beloved celebrity. She was honored with a full military funeral.

"The Spy of the Cumberland", **Pauline Cushman** was an actress when she was approached by the Union Army about becoming a spy. While in Nashville, Tennessee - acting - she moved behind the Confederate lines and uncovered the battle plans of General Braxton Bragg. She was captured and sentenced to death. While in prison, her health deteriorated, and when the prison was moved, she was left behind and found by the Union Army. After the war ended, she toured the country in her uniform,

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