

PULLOUT

See the article “From Farmer to Soldier” by Carolina Snaider, J. Eric Fisher, and Katherina A. Payne in this issue.

ALBERT CASHIER



Albert Cashier, from Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Wikimedia Commons (public domain)

Albert Cashier, born on December 25, 1843, was assigned female at birth and given the name Jennie Hodgers. From an early age, Cashier wore clothes that back then were designed specifically for men and boys.

At the age of 19, he enlisted in the Army under the name of Albert D. J. Cashier. Private Cashier served his full enlistment. After the war, he continued living as a man. He worked in various jobs, such as farmhand, church janitor, and cemetery worker.

In 1910, a car hit Cashier, and he broke his leg. While providing Cashier medical care, the town doctor noticed that his gender did not match his sex assigned at birth but agreed not to reveal it publicly. By 1914, at 66 years old, Cashier was sent to the Watertown State Hospital for the Insane, because he had dementia. The medical staff publicly disclosed his sex assigned at birth and forced him to wear dresses. Many of his fellow soldiers were upset because of his mistreatment at the hospital. They advocated for Cashier and his service as a soldier, and thanks to their efforts, he was able to keep his veteran’s pension.

However, Cashier struggled at the hospital. He felt disturbed wearing long skirts, and his mental health deteriorated. Cashier died in 1915 at the age of 67.

From American Battlefield Trust, www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/albert-cashier; Judith E. Harper, *Women during the Civil War: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Routledge, 2004).

LORETA JANETA VELAZQUEZ

Loreta Janeta Velazquez was born into a wealthy Cuban family in 1842, and at the age of seven, she moved to New Orleans to live with her aunt and attend school. At the age of 14, Velazquez ran away and married a Texas army officer.

In 1861, her husband joined the Confederate army, and Velazquez wanted to join as well. He would not approve. Instead, Velazquez donned a Confederate uniform, assumed the name Harry T. Buford, awarded herself the rank of lieutenant, and created her own regiment of volunteer soldiers. After her husband's death in a shooting, Velazquez continued to be a soldier in active combat. For a while, she also worked as a spy for the Confederacy, traveling throughout the South and the North in both male and female identities until the war ended in 1865.



Harry T. Buford
1st Lt Indpt Scouts U.S.A

She married and remarried several times and also gave birth to a baby. Needing funds to support her child, she wrote and published her memoirs titled, *The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velazquez, Otherwise Known as Lieutenant Harry T. Buford, Confederate States Army.*

From American Battlefield Trust, www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/loreta-janeta-velazquez

Illustration of Lieutenant Harry T. Buford from Loreta Janeta Velazquez, *The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velezquez, otherwise known as Lieutenant Harry T. Buford, Confederate States Army*, edited by C. J. Worthington (Hartford, CT: T. Belknap, 1876).

MALINDA BLALOCK



Photograph of Malinda Blalock, Wikimedia Commons
(public domain; retouched)

Malinda Blalock was born in 1842 in the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina. In school, she met William “Keith” McKesson Blalock, and they married in 1856.

Apparently, Melinda originally supported the Confederates, while Keith sided with the Union. Considering Malinda’s safety, among other reasons, he decided to join the Confederate army. His plan was to later cross the lines and join the Union army. Melinda decided to also join the Confederate regiment, and enlisted as Samuel Blalock, claiming to be Keith’s brother.

She was an adept soldier, but a month after registering, she was shot in her left shoulder. The doctors learned Malinda was assigned female at birth, and although they did not disclose this to the regiment’s officer, Keith and Malinda worried she eventually would be discharged from the army. Hence, they developed a plan: Keith used a toxic substance that made him sick, and the doctors authorized his medical discharge. Malinda revealed her female identity to the commander officer, so they discharged her as well.

Eventually, the couple relocated to Tennessee and joined the Union army. In North Carolina, they served in administrative roles and active combat. After the war, Malinda immediately began wearing “women’s clothes.” She and Keith lived together as farmers.

From Judith E. Harper, *Women during the Civil War: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Routledge, 2004).

FRANCES LOUISA CLAYTON



Frances Louisa Clayton was born in 1830 in Minnesota. On April 15, 1861, when President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteer troops, Frances cut her hair short, put on “men’s clothes,” and, along with her husband, enlisted in the Union army. The other members of the regiment thought Frances was a good fighter.

Frances fought side by side with her husband in several battles, including the Battle of Stone’s River, where her husband was killed. In the same battle, Frances was injured, and while receiving medical attention, the surgeon learned her sex assigned at birth. Thus, on January 3, 1863, she was discharged.

After recovering from her wound, Frances tried to rejoin the army. However, on the way back to the regiment, Frances faced several obstacles, such as a group of young soldiers trying to assault her. Historians could not determine what happened to Frances and still wonder if she might have enlisted in another regiment.

From Larry G. Eggleston, *Women in the Civil War. Extraordinary Stories of Soldiers, Spies, Nurses, Doctors, Crusaders, and Others* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2003), 39–42.

Photograph of Frances Louisa Clayton by Samuel Masury, ca. 1865, from *Frances Louisa Clayton*, by Samuel Masury, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; Alan and Lois Fern Acquisition Fund (CC0)