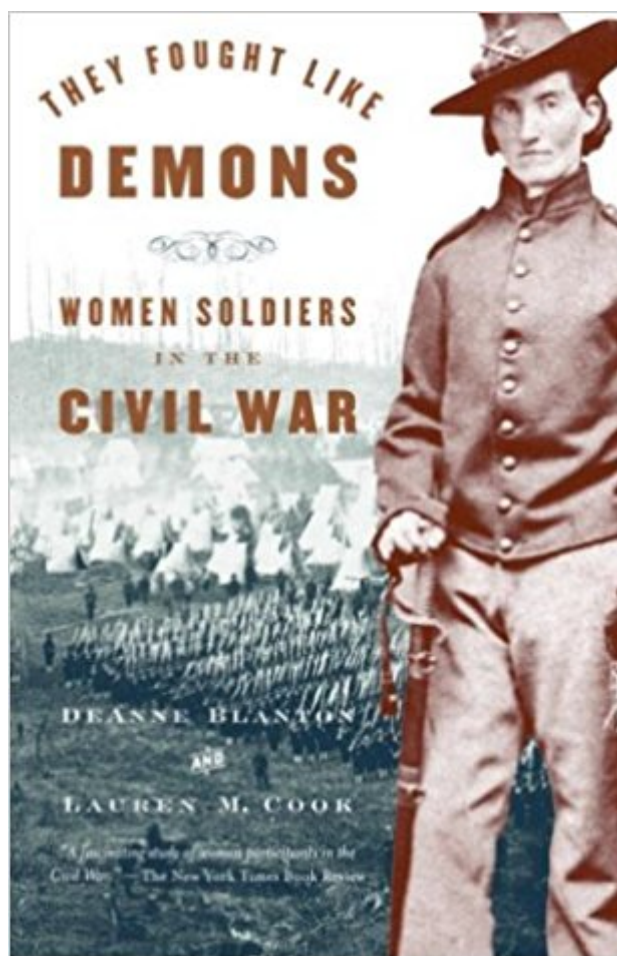


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# They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers In The Civil War



## Synopsis

“Albert Cashier” served three years in the Union Army and passed successfully as a man until 1911 when the aging veteran was revealed to be a woman named Jennie Hodgers. Frances Clayton kept fighting even after her husband was gunned down in front of her at the Battle of Murfreesboro. And more than one soldier astonished his comrades-in-arms by giving birth in camp. This lively and authoritative book opens a hitherto neglected chapter of Civil War history, telling the stories of hundreds of women who adopted male disguise and fought as soldiers. It explores their reasons for enlisting; their experiences in combat, and the way they were seen by their fellow soldiers and the American public. Impeccably researched and narrated with verve and wit, *They Fought Like Demons* is a major addition to our understanding of the Civil War era.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At least 250 women served-disguised as men-in the ranks of both North and South during the Civil War. Although works about female Civil War soldiers have appeared over the past several years, this volume, by National Archives archivist Blanton and Cook, a Fayetteville State University employee in North Carolina, makes a nice summation. After covering the major combat actions in which women served (and in which several were killed), the authors reconstruct the reasons why women entered the armed forces: many were simply patriotic, while others followed their husbands or lovers and yet others yearned to break free from the constraints that Victorian society had laid on them as women. Blanton and Cook detail women soldiers in combat, on the march, in camp and in

the hospital, where many were discovered after getting sick. Some even wound up in grim prisons kept by both sides, while a few hid pregnancies and were only discovered after giving birth. Many times the rank and file hid them from officers, who were duty-bound to discharge women if they were found out. Some remained in disguise for years after the war; Albert D.J. Cashier (nee Jennie Rodgers) of the 95th Illinois Infantry was only unmasked in 1911, when she suffered a fractured leg in an automobile accident. The authors make a strong case that the controversial Loreta Janeta Velazquez (alias Lt. Harry T. Buford, C.S.A.) actually did perform most of the deeds she wrote about in her 1876 memoir, which has previously been discounted as fiction by most Civil War historians. Solid research by the authors, including a look at the careers of a few women soldiers after the war, makes this a compelling book that belongs in every Civil War library. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“This book breaks new ground. . . . Documenting the service of more than 240 women soldiers . . . the authors show that courage and honor under fire were shared by men and women alike.”  
— James M. McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*  
“Detailed and convincing.”  
— *Smithsonian Magazine*  
“A compelling book that belongs in every Civil War library.”  
— *Publishers Weekly*

I am the type of reader that reads in bulk. By that I mean that if I read one book on a topic I enjoy, I will continue through as many volumes as I can find on the same subject until I simply need to break. This can mean that I will read perhaps 10 or 15 books in a row. For the Civil War it was everything referring to North, the South, Abraham Lincoln, Life during the War, etc. Recently, I re-watched a Civil War documentary that I'd enjoyed some years ago and went on the hunt again. I found this thoroughly enjoyable book on *Women Soldiers in the Civil War*. I expected it to be a short volume, but no. It's quite solid due to the fact that there were many more women involved than I could have imagined. I don't think I ever thought of woman sharpshooters outside of Belle Starr or Annie Oakley - there were many serving here and not just that. There were spies, orderlies, women involved in hand-to-hand fighting. They stood picket duty, got promoted to ranks as high as major and many were never caught out. Some died but many served full enlistments for as much as 4 years. Many suffered horrific wounds and survived to fight another battle. The other point of interest to me was how people reacted to these female warriors. Some folks were flabbergasted but all in favor. Others felt they were a disgrace to their sex or just plain crazy. You can decide, but certainly they were all fascinating characters..

I read an article about a woman who dressed up like a man during the war and stayed in character afterwards to collect pensions or whatever but was discovered because she was run over by a street car and the doctor's treating him (her) found out she was a she when they took off her shirt. That made me look for a good book about the time. This is a good one. Some of the stories seem almost too crazy to have been real but to paraphrase the old saying - you couldn't make this stuff up. Well written

There are some interesting facts in this book. But it is a difficult read, it's hard to read for a long time. It is not a "page turner". Stories of the women are fragmented and scattered around the book. For example, I'm writing a short story about Fannie Wilson. Her story is scattered throughout the book; and I found more info about this woman by scouring the internet. I've read nothing about women "fighting like demons". They usually spent most of their time not getting caught. An okay book; but not phenomenal.

Excellent read! one of my favorites on this subject.

Thank you

This book was written well and informative considering the secrecy and lack of information of the woman who fought. As stated in the book, women, under the disguise as men, fought for their country or to follow their male family members or husbands into war. Often the true identity of these women were not discovered until their death. For such a private and secret matter the book had a lot of information to give on a subject that you think would lacking. I enjoyed this book and God love those women who had such guts!

The title is misleading and could have been more accurate. The book was somewhat wordy. However, it is a good introduction to the topic of women as soldiers throughout history, especially during the American Civil War. The best writing is the last couple chapters when the authors discuss their feelings on the role of women in society and specifically as soldiers.

Good Book. A little choppy in places otherwise good reference material. Would like to see a little more details put together about each woman rather than a detail interspersed in each chapter

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