

# FORTY-THREE WOMEN WHO HAVE POSED AS MEN.

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Within a year six women have been discovered, in America alone, who have successfully masqueraded as men; have gone through a legal form of marriage and even posed as the fathers of families. Upward of a score of similar cases have come to public attention recently in different parts of the world. There have been forty-three instances of women posing as husbands within the last ten years. One medical authority claims that one woman in every 3,000 is a victim of this peculiar mania.

Two new instances have been added recently to the amazing list of women who have lived and died disguised as men. In both cases the women had been "married," and had reared and educated children.

"Mr. William Howard," really Alice C. Howard of Canandaigua, N. Y., who died in her home, surrounded by her family, on March 22 last, leaves a unique record. She had lived with her "wife" continuously since their formal wedding, performed forty years ago. Her marriage certificate decorated the walls of her home to the time of her death. She left three children, of whom she professed to be very fond.

In the case of George Green, who died recently in Petersburg, Va., after masquerading for sixty years as a woman, a new light is thrown upon the family relation of such a union. The Green woman had been "married" for thirty-five years. She was of English birth and had worked at many forms of manual labor requiring both strength and courage. Several years of her life were passed in the mines of Pennsylvania.

She died at the age of 74, leaving a widow. She had been regularly married by a Roman Catholic priest.

Many New Yorkers have not entirely recovered from the chagrin of discovering the real sex of Murray Hall. Here was a character widely known, active in affairs, a local politician of prominence, the last following in the world, it would seem, for such an enterprise. She carried on the difficult business of politics for years without raising a suspicion, drank and smoked with the "boys" and was an excellent judge of pretty girls. She left a "widow" and an adopted daughter, 25 years old. The most careful search failed to throw any light upon the Hall woman's mysterious motives.

Within a few weeks of Murray Hall's death still another case of this nature, the woman by chance bearing the same name, attracted local attention. Miss Caroline W. Hall, it will be remembered, wearing the dress of a man, and accompanied by a "wife," died suddenly on a steamer bound for New York. This Hall woman was a native of Boston, where she was well connected. According to the confession of the "wife" the two had traveled together all over Europe without attracting the least suspicion. The Hall woman's family were aware of the masquerade and deeply deplored it, but had never been able to dissuade her from her course.

There is probably no more remarkable case of such deception lasting for a period of many years than that of the famous "Chevalier d'Eon." The Chevalier was a woman, but not until her death at the age of 72 years, after being almost continuously before the public, was her secret discovered. She became prominent in the court of Louis XV, held several public offices, and was finally sent as the King's diplomatic agent on an errand of great importance to the court of the Empress of Russia. Her influence upon public affairs in France was important for half a century. Perhaps, after all, the most astounding evidence of the comparative commonness of such masquerading is shown by the army records of such cases. Many of these women have made excellent soldiers. Sergeant "Frank" Wayne, a woman whose real name was Frances, rose to be an officer in the United States Army, and was killed in battle in 1862. Another, "Franklin" Thompson of Company F of the Second Michigan, who was really a Mrs. Seelye, served for several years, and had the reputation of being a good soldier. "Charles" D. Fuller, Company D of the Forty-sixth Pennsylvania, and a Mrs. L. N. Blaylock of the Twenty-sixth North Carolina, and several others were discovered to be women during the Civil War, and were discharged from the service.

An English woman as "Christian" Caneagh, enlisted in the army in the last century and went to Holland. She was known as a brave soldier and is said to have actually fought a duel with a superior officer. On her secret being discovered, she remained with the regiment as cook.

Doctor "James" Barry, an English army surgeon, was discovered to be a woman, but not until she had served at Malta and at the Cape. She once fought a duel with a soldier who called her a woman. There have, besides, been a great many cases of women who have donned male attire and enlisted in order to follow their husbands, though these properly belong to a different class.

Many of those masquerading have been great "lady killers." Many who were in the habit of crossing the Atlantic a few years ago will recall Mrs. Anna Talbot, who for years served as steward on one of the great Atlantic liners under the name of "John Taylor."

The story of Mrs. Christian Walsh, who fought in the wars in Flanders, is still a tradition of the English Army.

In Hungary, twenty years ago, a woman

under the name of Felix Francoine, became an officer in the army and was famous as one of the bravest soldiers in the army. Her sex was discovered only at her death, but she was, nevertheless, buried with military honors.

Many romances might be written upon the adventures of these "men-women." Several titled people have been numbered among them. Ten years ago all Europe was talking about the notorious Countess Carlotta May of Austria. Dressed as a man, the Countess frequented the cafes, smoked and drank with men and entered into their sports. She traveled widely and published a book of poems. She finally became engaged to marry the daughter of a school teacher and definite plans were made for the wedding. At the last moment the Countess threw all her friends into amazement by calmly marrying a real Count and appearing in women's clothes.

Similar to this case is the one, nearer home, "Tony" Teesa, who was employed in a hat factory at Yonkers. She was supposed by all to be a man, and especially by many of the girls employed in the works.

There died in England recently a woman aged 103 years, who had masqueraded for forty years as a man. For seventeen years she kept a tavern near London. The master of an English almshouse, who had occupied the position for seventeen years, was also found to be a woman. Her sex was revealed by a pauper, who chanced to be brought in, who turned out to be her long lost husband, and who at once claimed her as his wife.