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History 8th (D)

3 - 25 - 2024

Civil War Spies & their Contributions

The Civil War had many interesting situations to it with spies like Sarah Edmonds disguising as a man to gather intel. The Civil War was one of the bloodiest battles in History! Americans killing Americans was the ultimate internal conflict during the 1800s. On April 12, 1861 the battle began after the states seceded and started the Battle of Fort Sumter. In the Civil War most spies were Women because they were the least likely to be suspected as a spy. There are three main topics when it comes to spies. The three main topics are people who were spies, their contributions and books, diaries or pictures that listed information about what they wrote. Spies gave a lot of involvement in the Civil War with them being a key factor in the Civil War.

Spies are a force of individuals that remain in secrecy to gather information for a certain group of people or an individual. Rose Greenhow was a spy born in 1804 and died on October 1st, 1864. Rose wrote encrypted notes to the confederates about the Union's military plans. Rose was asked by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas to get information on the Union Military Plans

Rose died by drowning, she was drowned when the boat capsized near Fort Fisher, North Carolina. The second spy Maria Isabella Boyd commonly known as Belle Boyd. Belle Boyd was born in 1841 and died on June 11, 1990. Boyd’s speciality was using her flirtatious skills to seduce the Union officers into giving her secret information. In the 1900s, Belle Boyd died on a speaking tour in Wisconsin and went into cardiac arrest. The third spy Sarah Emma Edmonds born in 1941 used an undercover name as Franklin Thompson. Sarah Edmonds was an American Soldier who fought in the war disguised as a man. She moved to Michigan in 1856 to escape from an abusive father and marriage. When she discovered life was easier disguised as a man she put those skills to work as a spy. Sarah Edmonds died due to a severe case of Malaria which she contracted when she was six. The Final spy was Timothy Webster. Timothy was born on March 12, 1822 and died on April 29, 1862. Webster was a British-Born American Lawyer who served as a Pinkerton (American independent police force) agent and a union spy. Webster was also the first spy to be executed ever securing his place in history. Spies were the main topic now onto the details.

Contributions were made often in the Civil War especially with spies which was their speciality gathering information for their group. Many spies gave contributions like Rose Greenhow who was a confederate spy that secured and forwarded movements for GeneralIrvin McDowell's army. Along with sending encrypted messages even while she was in the Old Capitol Prison. Belle Body, a spy who flirted and seduced men for information, gathered information, used an undercover name, killed a union officer, ran through a storm of bullets and operated as a courier. Timothy Webster had two major contributions to the Civil War which was uncovering a plot to kill the President and a double agent that carried confederate spies. Contributions were given by all sorts of people during the Civil War but spies were especially good.

Spies left many notes, books, pictures and diaries behind from the Civil War. Not all were kept or they were lost. Spies like Rose Greenhow, Belle Boyd, Timothy Webster and Sarah Edmonds had these valuables left behind. Rose Greenhow had a diary cataloging all the various missions she went on and had tons of published books. For example: Halacy Dan. The Master Spy. Belle Boyd did not have any diaries that she left behind, but some books were published about her. Some books that were published about her were Belle Boyd: In Camp and Imprisoned and Lius II: Encounter. Sarah Edmonds had a diary in which she wrote an inspiring and truthful quote and two books were published about her. Timothy Webster had only a picture taken on him from the day moments before he was executed. These old documents tell us a lot about the past and combining them together gives us a story.

The Civil War was a very destructive battle that left many dead and provided new opportunities for people. One of them being spies that have been documented in history. Women and men of that era that were spies contributed so much to both sides of the war. Rose Greenhow, Belle Boyd, Sarah Edmonds, Timothy Webster and much more were all spies giving a new part to the Civil War. To summarize the experience it was a very eventful event that wrote the stories of many giving whole new chapters to their life to contribute, so much for a cause. Spies were a huge role in the Civil War and they have impacted it to give a key role in the game of war.