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January is the time for resolutions for the new year. A part of our history that we do not educate the public on are the estimated 400 women who fought in the Civil War disguised as men. These women when discovered were put in jail. Many stay undiscovered for a long period. Here are some women to discuss at your Camp Meetings.

Sarah Rosetta Wakeman enlisted as Private Lyons Wakeman and served as a private in the 153rd New York Infantry Regiment. She fought in a battle in Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, in 1864. Shortly after the battle, she became very ill and died at the Marine General Hospital in New Orleans. At the time of her death, her true gender was not known. In fact, her headstone reads Lyons Wakeman.

Sarah Edmonds, who enlisted as Franklin Thompson, served with the 2nd Michigan Volunteers and fought in several battles, including the Siege of Yorktown, the Battle of Williamsburg, and the Second Battle at Manassas. In 1863, she contracted malaria and left the army to prevent doctors from discovering her gender. She was charged as a deserter. After recovering from her illness, she worked as a female nurse. After the war, Edmonds revealed herself to her fellow soldiers, and they helped her convince the government to lift the desertion charge. It took an act of Congress and eight years, but Edmonds was cleared of the desertion charge and was given a military pension.

Also featured are those women who may not have posed as male soldiers but who nonetheless pushed gender boundaries to act boldly in related military capacities, as spies, nurses, and vivandieres ("daughters of the regiment") who bore the flag in battle, rallied troops, and cared for the wounded.

Let us not forget these brave women who fought for our Country Standing By the Union as the Boys in Blue did.

Yours In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity.