Four inclosures

WAR DEPARTMENT,

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

WASHINGTON.

1580003

October 22, 1909.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

The American Magazine,

New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Referring to your letter of yesterday, in which you express a desire to know whether this Department has any record of the number of women who enlisted and served in the civil war, and whether it has any record of any women who were in that service, I have the honor to inform you that no official record has been found in the War Department showing specifically that any woman was ever enlisted in the military service of the United States as a member of any organization of the Regular or Volunteer Army at any time during the period of the civil war. It is possible, however, that there may have been a few instances of women having served as soldiers for a short time without their sex having been detected, but no record of such cases is known to exist in the official files.

As you are doubtless aware, women were often employed as laundresses and as nurses, but they were merely civilians while so engaged and were in no sense in the military service of the United States.

In connection with the general subject, you will doubtless be interested in the inclosed printed copies of House Report 820, 48th Congress, 1st session; House Report 849, 48th Congress, 1st session, and House Report 929, 49th Congress, 1st session, pertaining to Congressional legislation for the relief of Sarah E. E. Seelye, who claimed to have served in Company F, 2d Michigan Volunteer Infantry,

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under the name Franklin Thompson, and to whom, it appears, a pension was granted.

Inclosed herewith will also be found a printed copy of General Orders 48, from the headquarters of the 1st Division, 3d Corps, dated May 16, 1863, announcing the award of the "Kearney Cross" to certain persons, among them being one Anna Etheridge, as of 5th Michigan Volunteers, and one Mary Tepe, as of 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers. The name Anna Etheridge has not, however, been found on the rolls, on file in this Department, of the 5th Michigan Volunteers, nor has the name Mary Tepe been found on the rolls, on file in this Department, of the 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

This office also has several newspaper articles relating to women as soldiers, among them being the following:

One (long) published in the New York Herald in 1895 - exact date not shown - relating to Mrs. Kady Brownell, then of 352 St. Nicholas Avenue, entitled "Woman Soldier Now a Veteran."

One (long) published in the Washington Times October 16, 189-, entitled "Of/ Deborah Sampson."

One (long) published in the Washington Times May 26, 1895, relating to the Sarah E. E. Seelye mentioned above.

One (short) originally published in the Chicago Times-Herald and reprinted in the Washington Star of July 8, 1896, entitled "The Dead Soldier was a Woman."

One (short) originally published in the St. Louis Star and reprinted in the Washington Star of July 7 (year not shown) entitled "Served By Her Lover's Side."

One (long) originally published in the San Francisco Call and reprinted in the Washington Post of June 12, 1898, relating to "Maj. Belle Reynolds," entitled "Only Woman Officer."

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One (long) published in the Washington Post of January 27, 1901, relating to one Murray Hall, entitled "Hid Sex in the Army."

One (short) originally published in the New York Tribune and reprinted in the Washington Star of July 6, 1903, entitled "Belle Boyd, The Spy."

In the personal memoirs of General P. H. Sheridan, Volume I, page 254, reference is made to two women discovered in male attire within the Union lines.

"A Roll of Honor" made up in the office of the Adjutant General of North Carolina in 1863 and 1864, from returns rendered by organizations of that State serving with the Confederate Army in the field, shows that one Mrs. S. M. Blaylock, a private of Company F, 26th North Carolina Troops, Confederate States Army, from Caldwell County, volunteered March 20, 1862, age 20 years. The roll bears the following remarks against her name:

"This lady dressed in men's clothes, volunteered, received bounty and for two weeks did all the duties of a soldier before she was found out; but her husband being discharged, she disclosed the fact, returned the bounty, and was immediately discharged April 20, 1862."

Very respectfully,

The Adjutant General.

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