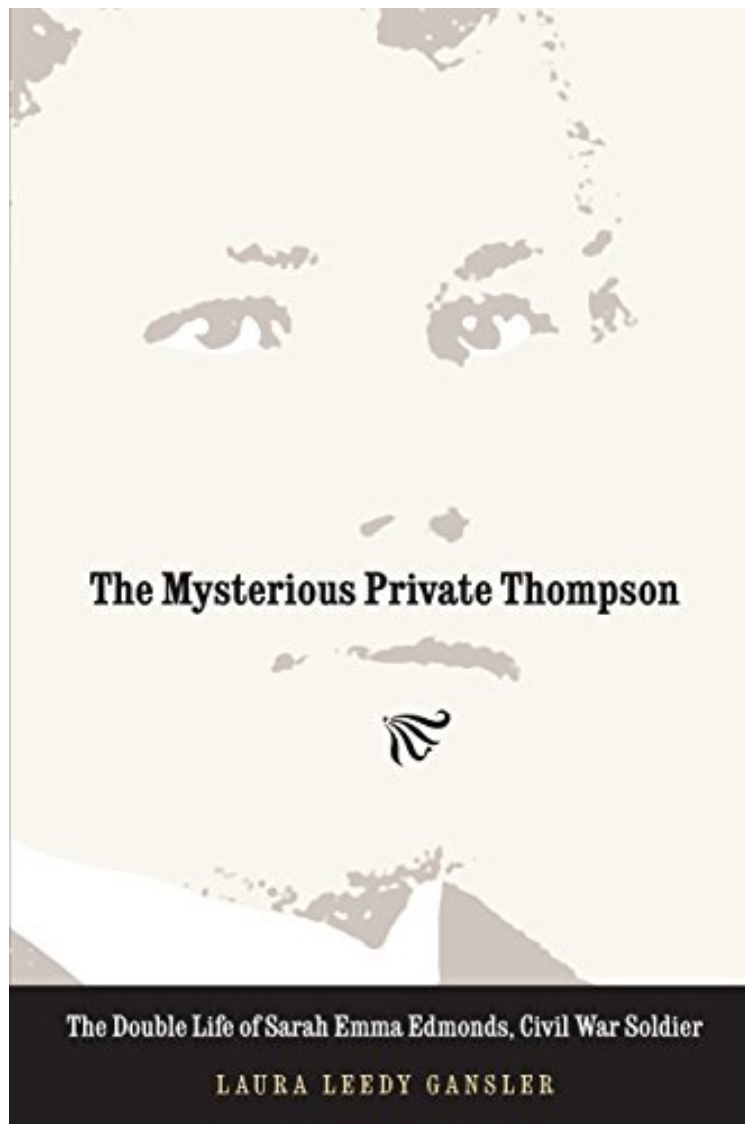


[Download] The Mysterious Private Thompson: The Double Life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier

## The Mysterious Private Thompson: The Double Life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier

*Laura Leedy Gansler*

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**Laura Leedy Gansler : The Mysterious Private Thompson: The Double Life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mysterious Private Thompson: The Double Life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, Civil War Soldier:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A new appreciation for the War of the States!By A. ProctorI'm glad

the North won and a debt of gratitude to the WOMEN and men who fought for their Country and a just cause. Anyone who wants a quick history lesson on a few battles of the Civil War wrapped around an interesting and compelling story should read this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Civil War Women By Mary E. Young After learning of her pending marriage, Emma runs away from home and finds untold opportunities dressing and acting like a boy. When the Civil War breaks out, Emma enlists. She serves in many positions, first as a male nurse and then as a mail carrier. The book briefly discusses claims that she had worked as a spy, recounting several dangerous experiences. After falling ill, Emma runs away, worried that her true sex will be discovered. Returning to the life of a woman, she marries. Encouraged by those around her, she fights for a Civil War pension and reunites with her former comrades. This book is written in a very matter-of-fact way. I would have liked more of a story-telling element, rather than a recitation of facts. At times the book does deliver this, but at others is a bit dry. Overall, the book was well written, well documented and an interesting read. 18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. So good it should be made into a movie!!! By Kay Stevens "The Mysterious Private Thompson" is a first-rate, riveting book about a woman who ran away from home to avoid an arranged marriage and disguised herself as a man to make her way in the world. She first became a successful traveling book salesman and then, astoundingly, served as a Civil War soldier for two years. Not only is the story fascinating as to how someone could maintain a disguise so effectively for so long a period of time, but the story's historical context is so carefully researched and deftly conveyed that you are almost unaware that this is a history book as well as a human interest story. I learned more in this book about the Battles of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, the Battle of Fredericksburg, plus Generals McClellan and Burnside, than I had in all my years of school. Laura Gansler is a brilliant, gifted writer and I highly recommend this book.

Resurrecting a lost hero of the Civil War, *The Mysterious Private Thompson* tells the remarkable story of Sarah Emma Edmonds (1841–98), who disguised herself as a man and defended her country at a time of war. Drawing on Edmonds's journals and those of the men she served with, Laura Leedy Gansler recreates Edmonds's experience in some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, including both the First and the Second Battle of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, and the Battle of Fredericksburg, during which she served with distinction in combat as a "male" nurse and braved enemy fire as a mail carrier. Gansler also investigates Edmonds's claim to have been a spy, going behind enemy lines disguised as a slave (by staining her skin with silver nitrate), as a Confederate soldier, and even, ironically, as a peddler woman.

From Publishers Weekly This modest but solid biography presents the energetic life of Sarah Edmonds (1841–1898), a Nova Scotia woman and Civil War soldier who served in the Second Michigan Volunteer Infantry under the name Franklin Thompson. Fleeing an abusive father and an unwanted marriage, 17-year-old Sarah disguised herself as a man and made a living as a traveling book salesman. When war broke out, she found a place in one of the early volunteer regiments and served for two years. She appears to have had at least two lovers or at least men who knew her true identity, but spent much of her service as a medical orderly, mail courier and (allegedly) Union spy. After the war she settled in Texas, married, raised two adopted children and eventually claimed a pension under her wartime name, with the enthusiastic support of most of her old comrades. Gansler (Class Action) has done her homework on the Civil War with more than average thoroughness, writing clearly and without jargon, and leaves the question of Sarah's spying undecided. Clearly laid down, however, is the portrait of a young woman who made and carried out major life decisions with honor, clarity and ability. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Gansler chronicles the intriguing life and times of a woman who served as a man during the Civil War. Fleeing from home at age 17 to escape an abusive father and avoid an unwanted marriage, Sarah Edmonds lived as a man for two years before she heeded Lincoln's call for more troops and enlisted in the Second Michigan Infantry. Performing her duties with distinction, she won the respect and admiration of the men she served alongside, even after they discovered, many years later, her astounding secret. Resuming her female identity and marrying after the war, she lived a relatively tranquil life until she decided to seek a military pension 20 years later. Enthusiastically supported by her former comrades-in-arms, she became the only woman to secure a soldier's pension for her Civil War service. Although questions remain whether she also served--as she claimed--as a Union spy, Edmond's gender-bending Civil War experiences are well worth checking out. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. "Edmonds's gender-bending Civil War experiences are well worth checking out."—Margaret Flanagan, Booklist