

# FEMALES POSED AS MEN

FAMOUS CASES WHERE THEY  
HAVE PASSED AS THE OPPO-  
SITE SEX

## MANIA STARTED WITH SAPPHO

One of the Few Among These Phenomenal Women Now Alive Is  
Catherine Coombs, of  
London.

The task which Murray Hall set herself has attracted many women before her. Most of them have gained a certain sort of posthumous fame thereby. In this fact may perhaps be found Murray Hall's motive, says the New York World. But she had no confidants. This must be speculation. There is a very large class of these cases which are due to a diseased brain or perhaps to a defective brain. I refer to the cases of women who are born with a masculine mind, a mind that endows its possessor with all the masculine tastes and desires.

It has been estimated by those who have studied the subject very carefully that one woman in 720 is thus affected. She has the mind of a man engrafted into the body of a woman. Her tastes are all masculine. This frequently leads to grave mental disease.

The opposite of this condition—the man with tastes of the opposite sex—is more common than the former. Krafft-Ebling, the great German psychologist, who has made a very careful study of these unfortunate, has, I believe, estimated that in civilized cities one man among 350 is the proportion of these. He also states that this condition is on the increase, and that it seems to increase as civilization advances.

These unfortunate people, who must be looked on as insane, have existed for as long a period as we have any authentic records. Rome and Greece, in the days of their greatest glory, furnished many examples.

In history the most prominent, of course, is that of Sappho.

The cases that have been carried out to their successful termination, where the motive was of the highest, have been examples of the noblest heroism possible for human beings to reach. The splendid acting, the unspeakable hardships overcome, all indicate a determination that seems superhuman.

Of all the women who have played the part of men and died playing it, the Countess Sarolta Vay is one of the most famous.

The countess was an Austrian girl and attained celebrity some ten years ago. She was the daughter of a colonel, who, having a large family of daughters, brought up Sarolta as a boy. Her girlhood was passed in Pesth, where she visited cafes in man's clothing and drank and smoked with journalists and officers. She published a book of poems under the name of Sandor, and appeared for the first time in uniform shortly previous to the time when her family first tried to dissuade her from continuing her disguise.

She refused, however, and was next heard of as a suitor for the daughter of a school teacher in Klagenfurt. She was known there as Count Sandor Vay, and as such married the young woman, Marie Engelhardt. The swindle was shortly discovered, but not until after the count had squandered a good share of her "wife's" money.

One woman, as tradition goes, once succeeded even in becoming pope of Rome. Modern investigation, however, discredits the story.

The heroine of this astonishing tale was "Pope Joan," an English girl born in France, who for love of a young monk assumed masculine dress and entered a monastery. Later the two fled the monastery, the monk died, and Mistress Joan, still in disguise, won for herself a pretty reputation as a scholar and lecturer. In Rome her prestige became so great that in 655 A. D., on the death of Leo IV., the beardless priest was chosen his successor under the name of John VIII. Two years five months and four days she held sway over Christendom when she died.

The Chevalier D'Eon forms one of the

most remarkable instances on record of successful disguises of sex.

The Chevalier happened to be a man, but that fact did not stand in his way when an important question of diplomacy came up. The Chevalier was attached to the court of Louis XV., of France. The king wanted a diplomatic agent to send to the court of the empress of Russia. Unfortunately—because the king knew no woman sufficiently glibbed—the agent must be a woman.

The Chevalier came to the rescue, and with marvelous facility transformed himself into one of the most charming ladies either court had ever seen. The mission was successfully accomplished, for the astutest of the Russians could not penetrate this remarkable disguise.

Catherine Coombs, of London, is one of the few among these phenomenal women who is still alive.

She is now sixty-five years old and is a resident of the West Ham poor house, London. For forty-three years she was known as Charles Wilson, and practiced the trade of mural painting and decorating.

Nor would her altogether blameless masquerade ever have been discovered probably had not "Charles Wilson" been injured by a fall and obliged to go to an institution because no longer able to support herself.

Hazleton, Pa., still boasts of a former citizen, whose real name was Mrs. Pietro Loganani, but who long worked in the coal mines in masculine guise.

New York alone has furnished many such instances. Many people remember, for instance, Bessie Flingold, who of a sudden began to assume male attire, took a wife and was thenceforward known under the name of Max.

One further disguised woman has successfully carried out her scheme among the Pennsylvania miners.

Her name was Mrs. Julia Forest. She was distinguished from many other subjects of these interesting experiments in being of good birth, the daughter of an Episcopalian clergyman, well educated, attractive in person and manners. At sixteen Julia eloped with a miner, who afterward became injured and was unable to work.

Shortly it was known in the mine that John Forest, a cousin of Julia, had taken her husband's place in the mines. For a long time she had practiced this innocent deception and earned the money to support her sick husband and her children.

For twenty years Mrs. Jane Westover was the town barber of Marlborough, Conn. The best class of citizens would be shaved by no one else than this gentle expert with the razor, who had come to town one day in a man's coat, trousers and derby hat, and who never changed her style of dress.

One curious characteristic of women who array themselves as men is that they almost invariably have the gift of making other women fall in love with them. This was the case with Tony Leesa, who succeeded in arousing the interest of almost every young woman employed in the big hat factory of John T. Waring, in Yonkers.

But the inevitable befell Tony. He—or she, if you will, fell in love. And while the factory girls were still excitedly wondering which of them he preferred, announcement came of Tony's marriage and assumption of her proper sex.

For twenty years Private Jorgensen, late of the Victorian rifles, led a most extraordinary career. Though in reality a woman, her sex was never suspected.

So anxious was she to maintain her assumed character that she frequently made love to girls, whom she promised to marry, but whom in each case she sooner or later deserted.

The muster rolls of the armies of the Rebellion show a number of cases of soldiers who were discovered to be women. Doubtless there were many suspected. In Fox's "Regimental Losses" the following instances are given.

Forty-sixth Pennsylvania, Company D, "Charles D. Fuller," detected as being a female; discharged.

One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania, Company F, "Sergeant Frank Mayne," deserted Aug. 24, 1862; subsequently killed in battle in another regiment and discovered to be a woman; real name Frances Day.

Second Michigan, Company F, "Franklin Thompson," deserted. Charges of desertion removed by house committee on military affairs, Washington, February, 1887, the soldier having had a good record and fought well in several battles, but proved to be a woman; real name, Miss Seelye.

Twenty-eighth North Carolina (C. S. A.), Company F, "Mrs. L. M. Blaylock,"

enlisted March 20, 1861; discharged for being a woman.

One of the most remarkable cases on record of a woman warrior, who passed for a man and fought like one, is that of Christian Cavenagh. She lived in England in the last century. She was married and had three children. Her husband, after the humane methods of the time, was kidnaped and carried off to Holland. There he had to enlist as a private soldier. Christian, hearing this, dressed as a man and enlisted as a private soldier to be near her husband. She was wounded at the battle of Landen, made prisoner by the French and was carried to St. Germain-en-Laye, where she remained until she was exchanged.

She quarreled with her sergeant, fought a duel with him and was transferred to another regiment. Again she was wounded at Ramillies. While in the hospital there her secret was discovered. She was, however, permitted to remain with the regiment as a cook.

Many English army officers who are still alive recall the case of "Dr. James Barry," as the lady was called. Fifty years ago her successful disguise was a current topic for gossip in the English army. An army surgeon had served successively at the Cape, at Malta and the Barbados. This person was small, thin, wrinkled, with strong vegetarian opinions. At the Cape he fought a duel with an officer who had called him a woman.

Mrs. Lindley, the wife of a soldier, herself a soldier, went through some of the sharpest engagements of the Civil War disguised as a man.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindley had been married only a few months when the bridegroom was called to serve and enlisted in Company D, Sixth Ohio cavalry.

At Yorktown Mrs. Lindley, who had taken the name of "Tommy," was under fire for the first time. She bore it well, showing none of the nervousness of her sex. She was successively in the battles of Fort Magruder, Hanover C. H., Bull Run, Antietam and Boonesboro—some of the bloodiest fights of the war.

She is still living, the mother of several children.

Louise Watson, an English woman by birth, the child of wealthy parents, took off skirts at the age of eighteen because she wanted to, and putting on man's clothing, went to London.

Mary Anne Talbot was sent to the West Indies as foot-boy to a Capt. Bowen. She was known as John Taylor. The captain was shot, and Miss Talbot went from drummer to cabin-boy and powder monkey and steward on an Atlantic ship. She gained the love of a woman and left her broken hearted. Later she fell in a fight in London, was caught by the police, and only escaped by acknowledging herself to be a woman.

Christina, Queen of Sweden, was educated and dressed like a boy from her birth because her father was disappointed at not having a son. She was more a king than a queen, and after four years of rule she resigned the crown and went off to amuse herself in Europe. She was dressed in man's clothes and acted as uproariously as any man who ever owned his clothes by right of sex. She was only twenty-eight at this time.

Mrs. Christian Welsh put on a suit of her husband's clothes and followed him to Flanders, whither he had gone to join the army. She was so notoriously profligate in her behavior that she was accused of being the father of a child. In order to keep up her disguise she admitted this disgrace, and even supported the child, and its mother.

A young Venetian, Tonlana Marinelli, fought through Garibaldi's campaigns, where she passed as the brother of the man who was her husband. She was a brave soldier, so fearless that nothing seemed to touch her, and at the end of the war was decorated for bravery.

Mary East gave up the feminine role because her lover was hanged for robbery. She changed her name to James How, and kept a public house in partnership with a woman, who passed as her wife.

For forty-two years Louis Herman has been traveling around the world as a man. She goes as a courier, speaks several languages, and behaves like a man of the world. She was recently arrested for masquerading as a man, having just arrived in America.

Nora Smith, an Ohio girl, lived for twelve years in men's clothes, and no one ever guessed her real sex.

Married and divorced, Frank Blunt, alias Miss Annie Morris, deceived the public for fourteen years, the length of time in which she wore men's clothes. Miss Morris managed a lumbering camp for a man.

Ellis Glenn, of Litchfield, Ill., became engaged to Ella Duke, but disappeared before the wedding. On arrest Glenn confessed to being a woman.

Maggie Curley, a pretty young woman, led a rough sailor's life for years without being discovered.

Beebe Bean was a remarkable young woman who succeeded in reaching Manila in male attire. The girl is famous in California for her many adventures.

"Charles Morgan," of Bridgeport, was an expert telegraph lineman. A shock incapacitated Morgan, and to the nurses

who attended him he confessed that he was Minnie Briggs, a professional trapeze artist.

"Otto Schaffer" lived a hermit's life in Kansas for many years, after having fought in several battles. Although Schaffer was found after death to be a woman, she was given a soldier's funeral.

## WITH ANIMAL ACTORS.

Troubles of Those Who Have to Put Them Through Their Parts.

It is to be feared that a new problem of much difficulty confronts the aspiring American dramatist. The threatening trouble lies in the insubordination of animals brought upon the stage to secure a realistic effect, says the Chicago Record.

Not long ago a hen thus used in a comic opera performance in Chicago, finding stage life arduous and vain, abruptly decided to leave it, and dashed across the footlights into the parquet. Now comes the report of an intractable lamb, which instead of playing its part with becoming humility, made for the leading lady with lowered head, and after inflicting slight injuries, proceeded to overturn and smash the stage accessories. It is evident that if these unruly tendencies on the part of the stage animals are to go unchecked a truly realistic play in the future will be attended with peril.

Lately there has been quite a demand for the form of histrionic art which presents idyllic views of barn and farm yard. Unless something can be done to restrain the nervous tendencies of the poultry, cows, sheep, horses, and other animals in the exhibit, something painful is likely to happen. The excitement which an unruly cow might occasion, for example, were she to become dissatisfied with her role and step over into the orchestra, would be utterly destructive of illusion. The writers interested in elevating the zoological drama should take necessary precautions.

## A CAUSE OF HEADACHE.

One Very Common Cause, Generally Overlooked.

Headache is a symptom, an indication of derangement or disease in some organ, and the cause of the headache is difficult to locate because so many diseases have headache as a prominent symptom; derangement of the stomach and liver, heart trouble, kidney disease, lung trouble, eye strain or ill-fitting glasses all produce headaches, and if we could always locate the organ which is at fault the cure of obstinate headaches would be a much simpler matter.

However, for that form of headache called frontal headache, pain back of the eyes and in forehead, the cause is now known to be catarrh of the head and throat; when the headache is located in back of head and neck it is often caused from catarrh of the stomach or liver.

At any rate catarrh is the most common cause of such headaches and the cure of the catarrh causes a prompt disappearance of the headaches.

There is at present no treatment for catarrh so convenient and effective as Stuart's Catarrh Tablets, a new internal remedy in tablet form, composed of antiseptics like Eucalyptol, Guaiacol and Blood Root which act upon the blood and cause the elimination of the catarrhal poison from the system through the natural channels.

Miss Cora Ainsley, a prominent school teacher in one of our normal schools, speaks of her experience with catarrhal headaches and eulogizes Stuart's Catarrh Tablets as a cure for them. She says: "I suffered daily from severe frontal headache and pain in and back of the eyes, at times so intensely as to incapacitate me in my daily duties. I had suffered from catarrh, more or less for years, but never thought it was the cause of my headaches, but finally became convinced that such was the case because the headaches were always worse whenever I had a cold or fresh attack of catarrh."

"Stuart's Catarrh Tablets were highly recommended to me as a safe and pleasant catarrh cure and after using a few 50-cent boxes which I procured from my druggists I was surprised and delighted to find that both the catarrh and headaches had gone for good."

Stuart's Catarrh Tablets are sold by druggists at 50 cents per package, under the guarantee of the proprietors that they contain absolutely no cocaine (found in so many catarrh cures) no opium (so common in cheap cough cures) nor any harmful drug. They contain simply the wholesome antiseptics necessary to destroy and drive from the system the germs of catarrhal disease.