**Station 3**

**Army of the North Ministry of War and Navy**

Army of the North.-Third Brigade.

-Dear Sir-

Señorita Doña Jesús Dosamantes presented herself with a safe conduct from Your Excellency, expressing her desire to enter the ranks of the valiant men who are going to fight against the infamous usurpers. This event, rare in the annals of history, moved me to joy and enthusiasm, as it did all who are under my orders. I gave the relevant orders so that all the troops would know the intrepid heroine and accord her all the deference due to her sex and that such a patriotic conduct justly deserves. And although I explained to Señorita Dosamantes the privations and dangers to which she would expose herself in this citadel, seeing as another post might be better for her, she has refused to change her mind, because she wants to be where the enemy bullets will whistle first and where there will be more glory, even if greater risk.

I am grateful that this delicate señorita has chosen the position that has been entrusted to me, and I would not want an action as praiseworthy as that which occupies us to be buried in oblivion; with this object I make it known to Your Excellency, taking pleasure in relating an event that does so much honor to our dear country and that may have such an influence on the morale and enthusiasm of our valiant soldiers.

God and liberty. Fortín de la Independencia, Monterrey, September 19, 1846.

-José L. Uraga.

-to the General-in-chief of the Army of the North.

Ministry of War and Navy.-Army of the North.-General-in-Chief-No. 89

-Dear Sir-

The young lady Doña Jesús Dosamantes reported to me dressed as a captain and mounted to fight against the unjust invaders. I received her with the show of affection that her heroic behavior deserves and ordered her to ride the whole line so that all the corps that make up this army would see her, and furthermore I wrote her an order so that all would show respect due to her.

Just now, I have received a note from Colonel Don José López Uraga, to whom I have entrusted the command of the citadel, which I enclose for Your Excellency for the approval of His Excellency the President.

God and liberty. General Headquarters in Monterrey, September 19, 1846

-Pedro Ampudia.

-to His Excellency the Minister of War.

From Campaign Sketches of the War with Mexico by Captain William Seaton Henry, 1847

A most interesting incident connected with the fall of Monterey, I have nearly forgotten to record. It is stated, and generally believed, that a company of Lancers was commanded by a woman. Her name was Dos Amades. Seized with a patriotic spirit, she unsexed herself, and dressed in the full suit of a captain of Lancers; she desired to be led against the foe, and swore she would never yield until the “northern barbarians” were driven from her natal land, or until she had shed her last drop of blood in defense of her native country. Previous to our attack, she was paraded before the troops, and greatly excited and augmented their courage. She harangued them, and desired to be posted at that spot where the thickest of the battle should rage. It is reported that on the 21st she led the charge of Lancers which proved fatal to some of our command, among the number the lamented Field. There’s an example of heroism worthy the days of old! It has remained for Mexico to produce a second Joan d’ Arc, but not, like her, successful. She is reported to have been a daughter of one of the former governors of Nueva Leon, and after the battle retired to the walks of private life.

The Other Side: Or, Notes for the History of the War Between Mexico and the United States by Ramon Alcaraz

About Maria Josefa Zozaya during the Battle of Monterey

At ten in the morning the enemy occupied the posts deserted the night before, and at eleven invested with firmness, generalizing their fire which grew warm to the very houses on the principal plaza. At this time, sublime as the heroines of Sparta and of Rome, and beautiful as the tutelar deities of Grecian sculpture, the Senorita Dona Maria Josefa Zozaya, in the house of Sr. Garza Flores, presented herself among the soldiers who fought on the azotea, to give them food and ammunition, and to teach them how to despise danger. The beauty and rank of this young lady communicated new attractions; it was requisite to conquer to admire her, or to perish before her eyes to be made worthy of her smiles. She was a lovely personation of the country itself. She was the beau-ideal of heroism in all her movements, and with all her tender fascination.

**Eliza Allen Billings Excerpt p.26 and 27**

Exercpt from The Female Volunteer, or the life, wonderful, adventures and miraculous escapes of Miss Eliza Allen, a young lady of Eastport, Maine

In all this murderous slaughter, I, although often deprived of my nearest comrades by death or wounds, escaped unhurt, which, when I reflect upon, I am hardly able to believe its realities. It seems like a miracle; for here was a strife which enlisted the soldier with all his fiery ardor, for not only his honor and country, but the safety and protection of his wife and children were at stake. When I hear, as I have often had the mortification to, and that from those whose position is too readily received for authority, that the commander-in-chief, instead of receiving the conditional surrender of that fortress, should have continued the murderous siege for an unconditional submission, it makes my very heart ache. With those who reason thus, I have no sympathy, and very little charity; for such can have but little judgment, and less huma

nity; for could they have beheld tottering age, harmless and inoffensive women, blooming virgins and helpless infancy, all devoted to one common destruction, from which it was impossible to escape, had the siege been protracted for such a result, they, unless possessed of the disposition of demons, would have rejoiced to honor a commander who was possessed of such a charm of mercy; and I do consider it one of the brightest laurels among the many which adorn the brow of General Taylor, that in the midst of such sanguinary strife, humanity was supreme.

After passing through such an exciting scene, we needed a little respite, which we were allowed to enjoy for a considerable time, although we were constantly drilled, which seemed to forebode further struggles, which proved but too true, for General Scott was preparing to advance toward the city of Mexico.

My first enlistment having expired without my realizing its object, I had again volunteered during the war, still in hopes of gaining some knowledge of the one for whom it was undertaken, which, as yet, I had not been able to obtain, I, with many others, were now sent forward to join General Scott. In this I enjoyed a lively hope of succeeding in my wishes, which stimulated all my exertions, and rendered my situation more agreeable than formerly. My appearance also had so changed in every respect, that, with my tawny and bronzed face, disheveled hair, and enlarged and blistered hands—all of which I had purposely neglected, in order to hide the appearance of my sex—I was now unrecognizable. I had also succeeded in altering my voice to much coarser sounds; in fact, I was so entirely altered, that I question if my own mother would have known me. I had also acquired a considerable knowledge of my duty, and of the affairs of mankind. I had become endured to hardships, which, had I been told of before I left home, I should have either disbelieved or hesitated to undertake. But such is the hidden book of fate, that we are not allowed to see the following page until we read its realities.

**Senate Report Elizabeth C. Smith**

**33d Congress, 1st Session,**

**[SENATE.]**

**Rep. Com No. 80.**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

February 2, 1854.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Johnson made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 184.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith, asking for payment for her military services in the Mexican war, having had the same under consideration, report:*

The facts set forth in her memorial are these. Her maiden name was Elizabeth C. Newcom; under the assumed name of “Bill Newcom,” and in male attire, she enlisted as a private in Captain Holeshiders company “D,” in the regiment commanded by Colonel Gilpin, of Missouri, infantry volunteers, on the 16th day of September, 1847; was mustered into service on the 18th day of September, 1847, to serve in and during the war with Mexico; that she continued in said service, under the assumed name aforesaid, and faithfully performed all the duties of a soldier, for the space of eight months, at the expiration of which time, to wit, on the 14th day of May, 1848, at Santa Fe, near Mexico, her sex was discovered, and she was immediately thereafter sent to Fort Leavenworth, where she was informally discharged from the service, by Lieutenant Colonel Wharton, of the United States army, being about ten months after the date of her enlistment.

Her statement is fully sustained by the affidavit of George W. Graham, so swears “that Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith is the identical person who served in said company, under the assumed name of “Bill Newcom.”

There seems to be no doubt that the service was rendered as charged and that she is entitled to her pay for the same, as the law makes no distinction with regard to sex; and as her services were as useful to the government as if she had been a man, and regularly enlisted as such.

The committee, considering her fully entitled to regular pay for her services, as well as three months’ extra pay, under the fifth section of the act approved 19th July, 1848, and to bounty land, under the ninth section of the act approved February 11, 1847, beg leave to report a bill for her relief.

33d CONGRESS, **S. 184.**

1st Session. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

February 10, 1854.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

February 15, 1854.

Reported back without amendment, committed to a Committee of the Whole   
House to-morrow, and ordered to be printed.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AN ACT**

For the relief of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith, of Missouri.

1 *Bet it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That

3 the proper accounting officers of the treasury be, and they are

4 hereby, authorized and directed to pay to Mrs. Elizabeth C.

5 Smith, of Missouri, for her services as a private in Captain

6 Holeshider’s company “D,” of Colonel Gilpin’s regiment of

7 Missouri infantry volunteers, (from the sixteenth September,

8 eighteen hundred and forty-seven, to the fourteenth of May,

9 eighteen hundred and forty-eight), in which she served during

10 that time, in male attire, and under the assumed name of “Bill

11 Newcom,” as well as three months’ extra pay, provided for by

12 the fifth section of the act approved nineteenth July, eighteen

13 hundred and forty-eight, in the same manner as if she had

14 been properly mustered and regularly discharged.

2

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary

2 of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed

3 to issue to Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith, of Missouri, a warrant

4 for one hundred and sixty acres of land, in accordance with

5 the ninth section of the act approved eleventh February,

6 eighteen hundred and forty-seven, for her services, as recited in

7 the foregoing section of this act, in the same manner as if she

8 had served out the full term of her enlistment.

Passed the Senate February 6, 1854.

Attest:

ASHBURY DICKINS,

*Secretary.*