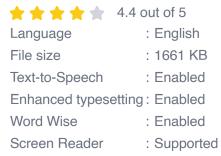
Rose Neale Greenhow: A Rebellious Belle and Civil War Spy



Wild Rose: Rose O'Neale Greenhow, Civil War Spy

by Ann Blackman

Print length





: 416 pages



A Life of Intrigue and Patriotism

Rose O'Neal Greenhow was a fascinating figure in American history. Born in 1814 in Maryland, she was the daughter of a wealthy planter. Greenhow grew up with a love of learning and a strong sense of independence. She married Robert Greenhow, a lawyer and politician, in 1835.

As the clouds of war began to gather over the United States in the 1850s, Greenhow's sympathies lay firmly with the South. She believed that the Southern states had the right to secede from the Union, and she was willing to do whatever it took to support their cause.

A Daring Spy

In 1861, the Civil War broke out, and Greenhow quickly became one of the Confederacy's most valuable spies. She used her social connections in Washington, D.C., to gather intelligence on Union troop movements and plans. Greenhow would often attend parties and receptions, eavesdropping on conversations and gathering information.

Greenhow's intelligence was invaluable to the Confederacy. She provided General P.G.T. Beauregard with crucial information that helped him win the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. Greenhow's success as a spy earned her the respect of both Confederate and Union leaders.

Captured and Imprisoned

Greenhow's spying activities did not go unnoticed by the Union. In August 1861, she was arrested and imprisoned in Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. Greenhow was charged with treason, but she refused to cooperate with the Union authorities. She spent several months in prison, but she was released in January 1862 after the Confederacy agreed to exchange her for Union prisoners.

After her release, Greenhow continued to spy for the Confederacy. She traveled to Europe to meet with Confederate leaders and gather support for the Southern cause. Greenhow also wrote articles and gave speeches in support of the Confederacy.

A Lasting Legacy

Rose O'Neal Greenhow was a remarkable woman who risked her life for the cause she believed in. She was a true American patriot, and her legacy continues to inspire people today. Greenhow's story is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there are always those who are willing to stand up for what they believe in.

Greenhow died in 1864 at the age of 49. She is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C.



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