

Known as Cleopatra of the Secession, Belle Boyd was a hotel operator and Confederate spy. She was born in Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia) in May of 1843 or 1844. She was considered a very well educated woman for her time and graduated from the Mt. Washington Female College in Baltimore, MD in 1861. Her career as a spy began that same year when Union soldiers in Front Royal allegedly tore down the Confederate flag that flew over her mother's boarding house and replaced it with a Union flag. When the Union soldier insulted, or perhaps, pushed her mother, Boyd shot him dead. She was acquitted of any wrong doing.

Later that year, Boyd became a courier for Generals Beauregard and Jackson. She obtained information by charming Union soldiers and officers passing through the area and relayed the information to Confederate Generals. The information was supposedly relayed via Boyd's servant, Eliza Hopewell, in a hollowed-out watch case to escape detection. Once, Boyd learned valuable information about Union troop positions and formations, after the boarding house was seized by Union forces. She rode 15 miles through the wilderness and battle lines to relay the information personally to General Jackson. On the way, a bullet tore through her skirt. To show his appreciation, Jackson made the 17 year-old girl a Captain and Honorary Aide-de-Camp.

During the Civil War, Belle Boyd was arrested six times and imprisoned twice. After the war, she published a famous book about her life and became an actress. She died in Wisconsin in 1900 of an apparent heart attack. Today, the Belle Boyd House and Museum is located in Martinsburg, West Virginia and her birthday is celebrated there every third weekend of May.

1.) When did Belle Boyd's career as a spy begin?

- A. In 1843
- B. In 1860
- C. When Union soldiers tore down the Confederate flag flying over her mother's boarding house
- D. When she rode 15 miles through the wilderness to deliver a message to Stonewall Jackson.

2.) Which question is answered in the first paragraph?

- A. Did Belle Boyd ever kill anyone?
- B. Did Belle Boyd own any slaves?
- C. Who was Eliza Hopewell?
- D. Did Belle Boyd ever get shot?

3.) Belle Boyd....

- A. gained information by charming Confederate soldiers
- B. was not found guilty of murder
- C. used a hollowed out watch case to pass information to Union Generals
- D. used her servant to help relay information to Confederate generals.

4.) Which of the following best describes Belle Boyd?

- A. interesting
- B. deceitful
- C. shy
- D. merciful

5.) Read the following sentence, what is a "courier"?

Later that year, Boyd became a courier for Generals Beauregard and Jackson.

- A.) cannon
- B.) slave
- C.) messenger
- D.) soldier

6.) How did Belle Boyd obtain information?

- A. by charming Union officers in the area
- B. by forcing her servant to spy on Union officers
- C. While in jail
- D. By riding around to Union positions of her horse.

7.) Which of the following is NOT true about Belle Boyd?

- A. She went to jail several times
- B. Her birthday is celebrated in West Virginia today
- C. She was seriously injured by a bullet
- D. She met Stonewall Jackson

8.) Which of the following would make an appropriate title for this passage?

- A. The Role of Servants in the Civil War
- B. Women who died during the Civil War
- C. The Story of a Confederate Spy
- D. The Civil of War

9.) Which event happened last?

- A. The Civil war ended
- B. Belle Boyd was made an honorary Aide-de-Camp
- C. Belle Boyd killed the Union soldier
- D. Belle Boyd wrote a book

10.) According to the passage, Belle Boyd

- A. owned a boarding house
- B. had a servant
- C. owned a museum
- D. owned a plantation