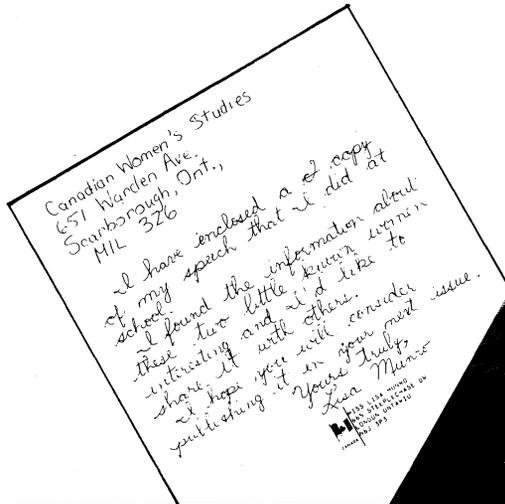


possible dreams



This speech was submitted to CWS/CF by Lisa Munro, 11 years old.

In 1812, 15 year old Mirranda Stuart's life changed completely. She became the well known Dr. James Barry. Now her wildest dream was coming true! She was to become a doctor! There was only one problem though. She was a woman and would have to masquerade as a man simply because the British Army wouldn't allow women into their medical school.

She was 5 feet tall, slim, with a fragile figure. On her beardless face were smooth cheeks, large eyes and a long nose which made her quite unattractive. She had reddish hair which was worn short like the men.

Her quick temper and harshness brought many enemies and if one was bothering her particularly she would challenge him to a duel. Since she was an excellent shot, she did so without hesitation. Once an officer was unlucky enough to be challenged and wound up in the hospital after being shot in the lungs. However there is one incident where she herself was injured in a duel!

To avoid the possibility of inadvertently revealing her true identity, she did not drink alcoholic beverages.

As food was sometimes scarce, she became a vegetarian.

Now it was 1827 and Dr. Barry was 30. She became a major surgeon and performed the first successful caesarian operation to a mother and her child.

She served Canada, Europe, South Africa, Jamaica and India.

On one of her trips she met Florence Nightingale and was the only one dared to tell the nurse off.

While in Canada she caught bronchitis.

At age 62 James got influenza and had to be sent back to England. While in the hospital, an officer discovered she was a woman and she made him swear not to tell.

Now at age 65, she was weak and when on a ship was shipwrecked. Six years later, tired and sick, she died. As she was being put into the coffin, they noticed that she had a woman's body and professionals could tell that she had borne at least one child. The men of the army were humiliated and said that she must have been a man others argued that she

was a hermaphrodite.

Still in their files they put; Dr. James Barry, died 1865 of dysentery, age 71, male

As she had some influential friends her files mysteriously disappeared.

Another woman to use a man's name was Mary Ann or Marian as she preferred, Evans. She wrote books under a man's name. Her pen name was George Eliot. The reason she wrote books under a man's name was because women weren't allowed to have their books published then.

As a child Marian loved to read and dreamed to be able to write. She was Christian and had music talents. She was also a whiz with languages and knew Italian and German.

Her father, Robert Evans was an estate agent. Her mother, Christiana Pearson Evans and her father had 3 children; Christiana born 1814, Isaac born 1816 and Marian born Nov. 22 1819.

In 1836, when Marian was 17, her mother died.

Marian started writing for the Christian Observer at age 21 in 1840.

In 1849 she received the sad news of her father's death. Later, in 1850, she got an editorial position with the Westminster Review.

She wrote at least 6 books entitled; Amos Barton published in 1856 her greatest novel Adam Bede in 1858, Scenes Of Clerical Life also in 1856 Mill On The Floss in 1860, Ramola in 1863, Silas Marner in 1868 and Middlemarch in 1871.

As she wrote those books, she lived with a book critic named George Lewes who died in 1878 and was one year older than she. They had four children but never married.

In 1880 she married a Mr. Cross and died the same year.

Those are just two of many women who played men's roles to fulfill their seemingly impossible dreams.