



Magnolia Messenger

The national publication of the Order of the Steel Magnolias
Volume 2, Winter Edition

OSM was founded in Alabama, the Cradle of the Confederacy for the purpose of honoring those mothers, wives, daughters, and all descendants of the faithful ladies who supported the Confederacy.

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying this wonderful post holiday season! This past year flew by. Your officers are busy planning events for 2020 which include our business meeting in April in Washington, DC and a membership tea to be held in Georgia later in the year. Our organization continues to grow and we are so excited about the women we have been able to record and honor. Please keep up the good work and share the mission of our group.

To further that initiative we are moving forward with the publication of our first ancestor book. The purpose is to tell the stories of our Steel Magnolias and to give a voice to their lives and contributions. A copy of the submission form is included with this newsletter. Please share photos (even if it's just a headstone) of your Steel Magnolia and tell us what you know about her. We want their stories and lives recorded for history. Remember these women were the backbone of the Southland during the war and this is the only organization that honors them.

Stay tuned for more information on our 2020 events and may you all have the most wonderful new year with friends and family...

Suzanna Rawlins
President
2018-2021



OSM Book
Submission

Insignia Announcement

Steel Magnolia insignia available on Pamela Wright website. A photo is attached of the new mini charm. They are \$48 plus shipping. All insignia may be seen here:

<https://orderofthesteelmagnolias.weebly.com/insignia.html>

The dangle from the initial starter sets of insignia had a design flaw. The leaves were green instead of silver/steel color. PW sent replacement dangles to all that ordered initially. Here is the announcement OSM put out:



News: Official Insignia Announcement. The Order of the Steel Magnolias members who purchased the insignia set (ribbon/insignia) should receive a new dangle from Pamela Wright. Please remove the dangle on your present ribbon/insignia and replace with the new dangle. There was a design flaw with the original dangle and it is being replaced. PLEASE NOTE: This change will be updated in the official insignia policy. Please change your dangle for your insignia to be correct. You are welcome to use the old dangle (green leaves) as a brooch, pendant, etc. Thank you for your attention to this matter and assisting us by changing the insignia to the correct design. The mini charms for the branch bar are correct. All future insignia orders will have the correct dangle this only applies to those that placed orders in the past. If you haven't received your new dangle (and your ordered insignia) by 11-1-19 please contact me. If you have any questions or issues, please email me at lesliekirk@live.com

You may order directly from PW website.

<https://www.pamelawright.com/products-by-organization/order-of-the-steel-magnolias/insignia.html>

Memories of the Inaugural Tea



*Congratulations
and Welcome*

*Ashley Lynn Adams
#250*

Recent Alabama Bicentennial 2019 Tea

Anniston, AL

September 29, 2019

Decorations and food by Leslie Kirk, Founder



Founding Member Sandra King Gray and
Founder Leslie Kirk were hostesses



Members in attendance: Ann Ware Coupland, Audrey
Armstrong Johnson, Leslie Kirk, Sandra King Gray



Members: Loretta Martin, Diane Lindsey (guest),
Bonnie Shanks, Marie Sanford



Over 150 guests in attendance



A Trilogy of Heroine Spies of the Confederates States of America

First in the mini-series

Rose O'Neal Greenhow, "Wild Rose"

Carla Whitehurst Odom, DTJ

The following article is the first in this Order's publication to be dedicated to the memory of heroines spies of the Confederacy. These ladies risked their lives, their fortunes, and their personal and family welfare to serve in harm's way. Spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow, was not a Steel Magnolia in the sense this society traces bloodlines to mothers, wives and daughters of CSA veterans, but she aided the cause through her intelligence, cunning, and perseverance.

For reasons not confirmed to this author, early in life "Wild Rose" acquired her nickname. She was born in Montgomery County, Maryland in 1814. Rose was married to the prominent doctor Robert Greenhow. He and five of their eight children died shortly before the outbreak of the War. The cause of their multiple deaths is not known. Soon this Southern heroine became the leader of the social circle in Washington, DC. Despite her strong States Rights stance she was a close confidante of many of America's most powerful figures during those years. In the months before the Civil War broke out, Greenhow, who was a fervent supporter of the Confederate cause, became the ringleader of a network of anti-Union spies. It has been speculated that she was the leading Confederate spy. Due to her social station Wild Rose was able to extract and transmit critical intelligence to Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard and other contacts.

Somehow Greenhow was made privy to plans about Union Army's pending attack of Manassas, Virginia in July of 1861. She had enlisted the alliance of 16-year-old courier, Bettie Duvall, who successfully slipped through many miles of Union lines with Wild Rose's coded message for Beauregard safely tucked away in the bun of Bettie's hair. Confederate President Jefferson Davis later credited Greenhow's timely intelligence for his army's success at the First Battle of Bull Run.

On August 23, 1861, the Secret Service headed by Allan Pinkerton apprehended our heroine. The government conducted a search of her property. Wild Rose and daughter, Little Rose, were placed under house arrest. Later both of them were sent to the Old Capital Prison. Even during her incarceration Wild Rose gathered and was able to send additional intelligence to a number of Southern sympathizers and military. After two terms in prison she was released and sent to the Confederates States of America where she received high acclaim by Southern leaders.

It is believed that President Jefferson Davis sent Greenhow to Great Britain and France in 1862 to enlist support for the Confederate States. In her travels she met Napoleon III and Queen Victoria, became engaged to a British nobleman, and eventually edited her memoirs. Wild Rose was warmly received by royalty and nobility in her travels abroad. She was successful in enlisting the admiration and support of many persons who were in sympathy with the cause of Southern independence. One account indicated Rose's diary outlined much of her support for the Confederate cause. It is on file at the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

While returning to America in 1864, on the Condor, the ship suffered the same outcome as many others have in the past hundreds of years. It ran aground on the treacherous shoals off the Coast of North Carolina in what is dubbed, "the Graveyard of the Atlantic". This accident occurred when Union ships were in pursuit. Against the advice of the crew Wild Rose set out to escape in a rowboat. She drowned in choppy water, with her skirts weighed down by hidden gold intended for the Confederate treasury. Our heroine died on October 1, 1864 at a site not far from many of this writer's people.

She was buried in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington with full military honors. Her marble cross marker reads "Mrs. Rose O'N, Greenhow, a bearer of dispatchs (sic) to the Confederate Government." Wild Rose is credited with shaping the outcome of the First Battle at Bull Run, and other intelligence in the War Between the States. She provided incalculable support to the cause of the Confederate States of America both at home and abroad.

Bibliography

Rose O'Neal Greenhow

Rose O'Neal Greenhow papers at Duke - Duke University - Special Collections Library.
About the collection at Duke.

The collection is primarily comprised of correspondence with Rose Greenhow related to her activities on behalf of the Confederate States of America. The bulk of the collection consists of letters, 1863-1864, from Greenhow to Alexander Robinson Boteler (1815-1892) reporting on the July 1863 bombardment of Charleston, S.C., interviews with Confederate officers, and her mission to Europe, including meetings with Napoleon III, Cardinal Wiseman, and Thomas Carlyle. Also included is an 1860 letter to Francis P. Corbin introducing Bishop Kip. In this on-line collection, several items contained in other Duke University collections have been added. These include a lengthy (though incomplete) letter to Jefferson Davis and several newspaper clippings about Greenhow's imprisonment in 1861 and death in 1864.

- [History Channel.news.secret-agent-in-hoop-skirts-women-spies-of-the-civil-war.](#)
- [Wikipedia - Rose O-Neal Greenhow.](#)
- [NCpedia - www.ncmarkers.com.](#)
- [Frank O'Neal, personal posting.](#)
- [Britannica.com.biography.Rose-O'Neal-Greenhow.](#)

- Cokie Roberts, Capital Dames, The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848 = 1867, HarperCollins, New York, 2015.
- James Robertson, The Untold Civil War, Edited by Neil Kagan, National Geographic, Washington, DC. 2011, p. 236.

Because some of you have asked, permission is granted for members of OSM to reproduce orally or in writing, this article about Spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow by crediting both the author and *The Magnolia Messenger*, the national publication of Order of Steel Magnolias.

Please Save the Date

The Second Annual Meeting of the Order of Steel Magnolias is scheduled Monday, April 13, 2020. The Business Meeting will follow a fellowship lunch on site at The Army and Navy Club. Your invitation with final details will be mailed in late Winter of 2020-time frame. Please make plans to attend and help celebrate your Steel Magnolia heritage!

Carla Whitehurst Odom
Editor