

# SHE POSED AS MAN FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

**"Frank Woodhull," Passenger on  
the New York, Was in Fact  
Mary Johnson.**

## SECRET AT LAST DISCLOSED

**Tells Ellis Island Board That She  
Adopted Man's Attire to Get On in the  
World—She Also Had a Mustache.**

Dressed in a dark suit and wearing a slouch hat set rakishly on a patch of black hair showing gray about the temples, Frank Woodhull, 50 years old and a native of Canada, walked up the broad entrance to the immigration station on Ellis Island yesterday morning. With him were 150 other passengers, all of whom had occupied quarters in the steerage of the American liner New York, which arrived here on Saturday.

An hour after the procession passed into the building Woodhull left the private room of one of the matrons in a state of agitation, shorn of the name Frank Woodhull. The passenger was in fact Mary Johnson, an English-Canadian woman, who adopted men's dress. She confessed that she had so disguised herself to have a better chance in the world and because of a mustache which nature bestowed on her. Later in the day the woman was taken before a Board of Special Inquiry.

Standing before the table behind which sat the five board members, the woman, still in man's clothes and occasionally raising a nervous hand to stroke her mustache, told the story of her life and her successful struggle for a place in the world during the fifteen years she had lived and worked as a man with men. Her story is that of an honest, hard-working woman, who, in spite of discarding skirts, lived a blameless life, and the board members were so impressed that it is not unlikely that Mary Johnson will be allowed to go her way.

### Her Secret Disclosed.

"Frank Woodhull, 50 years old, a Canadian; thirty years in the United States; bound for New Orleans," is the record of Mary Johnson on the manifest of the New York. There was no question as to the sex of the passenger during the voyage. Her voice is soft and rather low. In addition her long life in male attire has trained her to take a man's part with unconscious ease. When being interrogated by Deputy Commissioner Joseph Murray she dug both hands into her trousers pockets just as a man might have done in perplexity.

The discovery of her sex was made by chance. One of the Marine Hospital surgeons "on the line" was rapidly passing the New York's passengers when he came to Mary Johnson. He looked over, and deciding that she was rather slight of build for a man, asked her to step to one side, intending to put her through a tuberculosis test. It was then that the woman, knowing that discovery was imminent, confessed her sex.

"My life," she said, "has always been a struggle. I come of an English-Canadian family, and I have had most of my fight to make all alone. Thirty years ago, when I was 20, my father died and I was thrown entirely on my own resources. I came to this country a young girl and went West to make my way. For fifteen years I struggled on. The hair on my face was a misfortune. It was often the subject of rude jest and caused me endless embarrassment. The struggle was awful, but I had to live somehow, and so I went on. God knows that life has been hard, but of the hardness of those years I cannot speak.

### Looked Like a Man.

"Then came a time fifteen years ago when I got desperate. I had been told that I looked like a man, and I knew that in Canada some women have put on men's clothes to do men's work. So the thought took shape in my mind. If these women had done it why could not I, who looked like a man?"

"I was in California at the time. I bought men's clothes and began to wear them. Then things changed. I had prospects. My occupation I have given here as a canvasser, but I have done many things. I have sold books, lightning rods, and worked in stores. Never once was it suspected that I was other than Frank Woodhull. I have lived my life and tried to live it well. Most of the time I have been in California, but now I am going to New Orleans, where there are chances of employment.

"I have never attempted to take out citizenship papers. I knew that to do so would be either to reveal my sex or else become a lawbreaker. I have never been the latter. I did not know that there was a law against women wearing male attire in this State or I would have sailed to another port.

"My folks came originally from England and it had long been my wish to go there and take a look about. So with a measure of success the longing grew and I began to save up for my holiday. I went over in the steerage two months ago and returned the same way."

The woman was assigned to a private room in the Ellis Island Hospital, and there she awaits the word of the Board of Special Inquiry that may allow her to go out and as Frank Woodhull again face the world. If discharged she must go from Ellis Island as a woman to meet the requirements of the law, but thereafter she will be free to choose her own manner of life.

## SHE'S A FRIEND OF ALL CATS.

**Mrs. Swiss Therefore Is Invited to  
Meet Anti-Vivisection Society.**

The fame of Frau Augusta Swiss, who is known all over the east side as the stray cat's friend, has reached the ears of Mrs. Diana Belais, President of the Anti-Vivisection Society, and resulted in an invitation for Mrs. Swiss to attend a meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of organizing the work of the society.

When the letter was delivered late on Saturday night, at the home of Mrs. Swiss, 480 Grand Street, she obtained a translation of it so as to understand its contents and then accepted the invitation.

In the letter of invitation sent to Mrs. Swiss, Mrs. Belais said:

We must arrange to visit the respective candidates for election to State Legislature from the different districts of the city in order that they may declare their views and intentions regarding vivisection.

Unquestionably the clergy would naturally and strongly sympathize with our work were they made aware of our purposes, and it is part of our immediate duty to see that our sympathizers visit the clergy with this end in view, thus procuring their influence for our cause of mercy to animals.

Mrs. Swiss has devoted a large part of her time to the work of protecting the cats in her neighborhood.

## SEEK LIQUOR DEALERS' AID.

**Hudson County (N. J.) Pastors to Ask  
Them to Vote for T. P. Connolly.**

The Rev. John L. Scudder, pastor of the First Congregational Church, Jersey City, delivered last night a prelude to his sermon in which he said the ministers of Hudson County were considering the propriety of appealing to the liquor dealers to support Thomas P. Connolly, the Republican candidate for Sheriff.

He said that Mr. Connolly had pledged himself to enforce the Bishops' law and he and other ministers believed that the better class of liquor dealers were in favor of closing on Sunday and would gladly comply with the law if its enforcement could be made uniform.