

The Broncos' VOICE

FSU ARCHIVES



September 1994

Volume IV Issue #2

Of Kindred Spirits: Lauren Cook Burgess' *An Uncommon Soldier*

By Roger A. Harris

Simply put, Lauren Cook Burgess' new book *An Uncommon Soldier*, is likely the most important and significant historic volume of its kind. Her subject is the superbly edited letters of Sara Rosetta Wakeman, alias Private Lyons Wakeman, one of the more than 400 women estimated to have disguised themselves as men, enlisted as common soldiers, and in

many cases fought valiantly during the Civil War.

The book's historic significance lies in the fact that it is the only such collection of letters by a Civil War woman soldier known to exist. Its beauty lies in Burgess' gracefully eloquent editing, outstanding in that it retained Wakeman's honest sincerity and strength while brushing away the hazy ambiguities of a gone



era. We're left with a powerful telling of a typical soldier's life through the eyes of a very untypical soldier, Sara Rosetta Wakeman.

Ah, but there's a story behind the story, one seldom told, often lost, and in time, too easily forgotten. You see, Burgess' journey was more a uniting of kindred spirits. A journey born of a de-

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RESPECT DUE

By Roger A. Harris

Student leaders had reached an impasse. For the past two years, efforts to have the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" played by the FSU band at home games had been supposedly stymied by the band's Musical

Director, Mr. William Woods. To make matters worse (or so it seemed), when Chancellor Hackley was confronted with the matter, he stated that "I won't tell my football coach what plays to call and I won't tell my band director what songs to play." He instead suggested that student leaders take initiative by using time set aside during half times to lead the audience in singing the hymn.

I decided to talk with our "infamous" musical director to get a clearer perspective on this dilemma. I caught Mr. Woods in action (he always seems to be in motion), just returning from Rocky Mount with a load of T-shirts for the band.

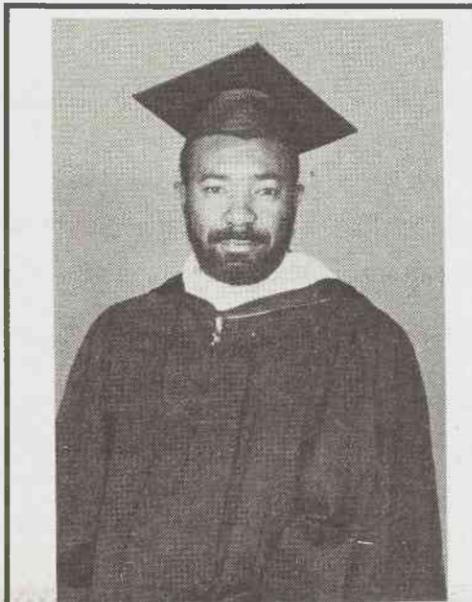
Even though he left that morning at 5:30 am to make the roundtrip in one day, the savings offered by the vendor made the trip more than worthwhile.

From the stories I'd been told about Mr. Woods, I expected to be meeting a disagreeable, cantankerous, unreasonable villain in a black hat. In reality, I met a very proud, humble, and dedicated man of action, compassion, conviction, and concern. "I'm a country boy from Hoke County in Raeford, right up the road. I was raised by simple, hard-working people who taught me, above all else, to respect and treat others as you would want to be treated." It's an anthem he lives by.

As we talked I came to

understand and appreciate the commitment to excellence that enabled him to earn a Master of Music Degree; a commitment to excellence

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