

HISTORIANS DISPUTE IDENTITY OF 'MOLLY PITCHER,' HERO OF 1778

**D. A. R. Members Believe Margaret Corbin, Who
Fought at Fort Washington, Was the One—Two
Separate Persons, Professor Declares.**

Recent dispatches regarding the removal from Highland Falls, N. Y., to the cemetery at West Point of the body of Margaret Corbin, Revolutionary heroine, have led to a controversy among local authorities as to whether Margaret Corbin was actually the "Molly Pitcher" known to every schoolboy for her bravery at the battle of Monmouth.

The discussion has disclosed, in fact, that there were two Molly Pitchers who took part in battle in similar roles. If both schools of thought are given general credence.

"This is a widely disputed question," Mrs. Anthony Wayne Cook, president general of the D. A. R., stated today. "It is a moot point at present and probably will continue to be for some time. The D. A. R., as a national organization, has taken no stand on the matter, although I understand that the New York State body favors Margaret Corbin as the real Molly Pitcher."

History Professor Objects.

One of those who strongly oppose this view is Dr. George B. Duncan of the history department of the American University here. He holds that Margaret Corbin and Molly Pitcher were distinct personalities, both of whom performed meritoriously against the British in the days of 1778.

Dr. Duncan says the D. A. R. has confused the two heroines. "Margaret Corbin," he declares, "fought at the battle of Fort Mifflin, N. Y., November 16, 1778, by taking the place of her husband, a gunner, who had been wounded. She worked the cannon until wounded by three grape-shot. It is extremely fitting that the D. A. R. should remove Margaret Corbin's remains from an obscure spot and, after burying them at West Point, should erect a monument to be dedicated in April.

"Capt. Molly Pitcher did valiant service at the battle of Monmouth, near Freehold, N. J., June 28, 1778. As the day was extremely hot, she, amid great danger, carried water to the thirsty soldiers from a spring near the battlefield. When her husband was killed while discharging a cannon, she at once took his place and vowed to avenge his death. Gen. Washington praised her bravery and gave her a commission as sergeant.

Monument at Freehold.

"At Freehold the Government has erected a fine monument. On one side is a bas-relief depicting Molly Pitcher loading a cannon with a ramrod, while at her feet lies her dead husband. Her large wooden water pail is in the foreground. She was buried in the old graveyard at Carlisle, Pa. That State has erected a suitable monument over her grave with a statue of the heroine holding a ramrod."

Most encyclopedias appear to support the views of Dr. Duncan. Congress, in July, 1778, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that Margaret Corbin, wounded and disabled at the battle of Fort Mifflin, while she heroically filled the post of her husband, who was killed by her side serving a piece of artillery, do receive during her natural life, or continuance of said disability, one-half the monthly pay