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Carlisle Sure Body of "Captain Molly" Lies In Local Grave

Pennsylvania City Claims D. A. R. Has Interred Wrong Body at West Point—D. A. R. Head Replies

CARLISLE, Pa., March 17.—(A.P.)—How Margaret Corbin, whose remains were removed yesterday from the Highland Falls, N. Y., estate of J. Pierpont Morgan to the West Point post cemetery, got the title of "The Captain Molly Pitcher" of Revolutionary War fame, is a question that today aroused Carlisle historians who supposed the real Molly Pitcher was buried in the Carlisle cemetery.

The community, with a wealth of colonial lore, has paid tribute to its Molly Pitcher for many years. Her fame is supposed to have been acquired at the Battle of Monmouth where history says she took her husband's place as a gunner after he had been wounded. Not many years ago Carlisle erected a monument over her grave and the town takes pride in letting visitors and tourists know of the honor it claims.

Yesterday delegations of the Daughters of the American Revolution took part in the services that marked the reburial of Margaret Corbin's remains at West Point. They plan to dedicate a monument at the grave next month. The story of Margaret Corbin's exploits credits her with taking her husband's place after he was wounded in the battle of Fort Mifflin on November 16, 1776.

Hugh R. Miller, an authority on local history, today rose to the defense of the Carlisle Molly Pitcher.

"There is no doubt about it whatever," he said. "Molly Pitcher is buried in the Carlisle cemetery. Her resting place as everyone knows is marked with a monument."

"It is a matter of historic record that General George Washington on one of his trips to Carlisle, asked to see Molly Pitcher and congratulated her on her heroic performance at the battle of Monmouth."

"Mrs. Margaret DeHuff, late of Carlisle, made an affidavit several years ago that she knew Molly Pitcher in her younger days. She said further that she was buried in Carlisle."

ALBANY, N. Y., March 17.—(AP)—Beyond a doubt the bones removed yesterday from a grave on the J. Pierpont Morgan estate at Highland Falls, N. Y., and reinterred in the post cemetery at West Point are those of Margaret Corbin, known as "Captain Molly" of Revolutionary war renown, Mrs. Charles White Nash, state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, declared tonight.

Both the examination of the bones by a surgeon and a dentist and the written records substantiating the claim, accepted by the military authorities at West Point before the burial permit was given, bear out this belief, Mrs. Nash said. Her statement follows: "In the presence of officers at West Point, well known historians, representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Peter Nelson, assistant state historian, the skeleton was removed and proved beyond a doubt to the 20 persons present at the ceremony to be the remains of Margaret Corbin. In addition, original papers in connection with her career on file with the General Knox papers in Massachusetts and at West Point definitely prove the claim."

"The surgeons' examination disclosed that a wound had been inflicted in the left shoulder and that the skeleton was that of a woman. 'Captain Molly's' wounds, which she suffered when she was about 26 years of age, were in the breast and shoulders. The dentist's examination of the teeth indicated that the person was of middle age and 'Captain Molly' was 50 when she died."

"Capt. Molly" was the first woman known to have served in the Revolutionary War after she was wounded in the battle of Fort Mifflin, she was granted half pay and allowances as a member of the invalid regiment at West Point. She lived in Highland Falls for the remainder of her life. Tradition indicated that she was buried on the Morgan estate but it was only after nearly a year's work that the Daughters of the American Revolution finally established the identity of the remains buried there."