

Molly Pitcher

This is not a pension claim and is not to be considered as such, but as it has been often inquired about and there is correspondence in regard to her, I have filed it for convenience, no reference & searching.

[I am intrigued, and got sidetracked!]

Letter in folder dated September 18, 1933, one of many written inquiring about Molly Pitcher.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to Molly Pitcher of Revolutionary War fame.

Revolutionary War data furnished by this office are obtained from claims for pension and bounty land which have been made to the United States based upon service in that war.

There is no claim for pension or bounty land on file based upon service of Molly Pitcher.

It is suggested that you consult Lossing's "Field Book of the Revolution", Volume 2, page 155, and the magazine of the Daughters of the American Revolution, for September 1817, for information in regard to her; also the Pennsylvania State Librarian, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The story of Sarah Osborn is also of interest on this subject. Jim Morrison commented on women who followed the army, "Whores, all of them without exception. They were usually the wife of one of the soldiers, one woman cooked, did laundry, and serviced FIVE men. There is a bit in Willett's journal about dismissing a husband and wife because he caused trouble over the servicing part of the arrangement."

Jim Morrison told me that a dig had been done at Saratoga and they found some women. They had their aprons still on and they had ammunition in them. Those brave ladies did many things for the troops.

MOLLY PITCHER

THE FOLLOWING illustration and extracts from Lossing's "Field Book of the Revolution" (Harper Bros., 1855) should be of interest to all American Field Artillerymen.

THE FIELD OF MONMOUTH

From a Painting by George Washington Parke Custis, Esq.

This outline sketch is from a copy of the picture at Arlington House (the seat of Mr. Custis), made, by permission, in November, 1850, for the purpose of giving a specimen of pictorial composition upon an interesting historical subject from the pencil of the adopted son, and the only surviving executor of the will of the great Washington. The engraving was executed by Dr. Alexander Anderson, the pioneer wood-engraver in America, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Both painter and engraver have passed several years beyond the age allotted to man.

In the picture here given, the Chief is seen most prominently on his white charger, with his general officers. Washington and Greene are in front; Knox on the right, upon the most prominent horse; and behind them are Hamilton, Cadwallader, etc. On the left is seen the group of artillery, with "Captain Molly" at the gun. In the distance is seen a portion of the British army, and Colonel Monckton falling from his

horse. On the right, in the foreground, lying by a cannon, is Dickinson, of Virginia; and on the left, by a drum, Bonner, of Pennsylvania.



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THE FIELD ARTILLERY JOURNAL

"Captain Molly was in Fort Clinton with her husband when it was attacked (Autumn of 1777). When the Americans retreated from the fort, as the enemy scaled the ramparts, her husband dropped his match and fled. Molly caught it up, touched off the piece, and then scampered off. It was the last gun fired by the Americans in the fort."

Captain Molly's fame, however, dates more particularly from the battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778. To quote from Lossing: "It was during this part of the action that Molly, the wife of a cannonier, displayed great courage and presence of mind. We have already noticed her bravery in firing the last gun at Fort Clinton. She was a sturdy young camp-follower, only twenty-two years old, and, in her devotion to her husband, she illustrated the character of her countrywomen of the Emerald Isle. In the action in question, while her husband was managing one of the field-pieces, she constantly brought him water from a spring near by. A shot from the enemy killed him at his post; and the officer in command, having no one competent to fill his place, ordered the piece to be withdrawn. Molly saw her husband fall as she came from the spring, and also heard the order. She dropped her bucket, seized the rammer, and vowed that she would fill the place of her husband at the gun and avenge his death. She performed the duty with a skill and courage which attracted the attention of all who saw her. On the following morning, covered with dirt and blood, General Greene

presented her to Washington, who, admiring her bravery, conferred upon her the commission of sergeant. By his recommendation, her name was placed upon the list of half-pay officers for life. She left the army soon after the battle of Monmouth and died near Fort Montgomery, among the Hudson Highlands. She usually went by the name of Captain Molly. The venerable widow of General Hamilton, who died in 1854, told me she had often seen Captain Molly. She described her as a stout, red-haired, freckle-faced young Irish woman, with a handsome piercing eye. The French officers, charmed by the story of her bravery, made her many presents. She would sometimes pass along the French lines with her cocked hat, and get it almost filled with crowns."

From Wikipedia. (This is a very inaccurate site.)

Molly Pitcher (1744-1832) was a nickname given to a woman said to have fought in the American Battle of Monmouth, who is generally believed to have been **Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley**. Since various Molly Pitcher tales grew in the telling, many historians regard Molly Pitcher as folklore rather than history, or suggest that Molly Pitcher may be a composite image inspired by the actions of a number of real women. The name itself may have originated as a nickname given to women who carried water to men on the battlefield during the war. Army base Fort Bragg holds an annual event called "Molly Pitcher Day" showcasing weapon systems, airborne operations, and field artillery for family members.

The deeds in the story of Molly Pitcher are generally attributed to Mary Ludwig Hays. Molly was a common nickname for women named Mary in the Revolutionary time period. *'Mary was named "Molly Pitcher" because on the battle field she would run with water to soldiers and give it to them.'* Biographical information about her has been gathered by descendent-historiocal, including her cultural heritage, given name, probable year of birth, marriages, progeny, census and tax records, etc., suggesting a reasonably reliable account of her life. Nonetheless, independent review of these documents and the conclusions suggested by the family still needs to be done by professional historians; some details of her life and evidence of the story of her heroic deeds remain sparse.

Mary Ludwig was born to a family in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There is some dispute over her actual birth date. A marker in the cemetery where she is buried lists her birth date as October 13, 1744. Mary had a moderate sized family that included her older brother Johann Martin, and their parents, Maria Margaretha and John Georg Ludwick, who was a butcher. It is likely that she never attended school or learned to read, as education was not considered necessary for young girls during this time.

Johanes Georg Ludwick died in January, 1769, and the following June Mary Ludwick (also "Ludwig") married William Hays in 1769 in Philadelphia. Continental Army records show that William Hays was an artilleryman at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. On July 12, 1774, in a meeting in the Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, Dr. William Irvine organized a town boycott of British goods as a protest of the British

which was called the Tea Act. A different William Hays' name appears on a list of people who were charged with enforcing the boycott, however this was not Molly's husband.

In 1777, William Hays enlisted in Proctor's 4th Pennsylvania Artillery, which later became Proctor's 4th Artillery of the Continental Army. During the winter of 1777, Mary Hays joined her husband at the Continental Army's winter camp at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. She was one of many women who were camp follower who would wash clothes and blankets, and care for sick and dying soldiers.

In the late winter and spring of 1778, the Continental Army trained under Baron von Steuben. During this time, the troops were trained in European style fighting skills. Artillerymen needed a constant supply of fresh water to cool down the hot cannon barrel and to soak the sponge, the long pole with which they cleaned sparks and gunpowder out of the barrel after each shot. It is possible that Mary would have become familiar with the cannon's operation, even sharing the duty of carrying water or other supplies to the gun crew.

While there is no evidence that "Molly Pitcher" was in use as a nickname before the mid-19th century. However, there is first-hand evidence of a woman working an artillery piece at Monmouth. Joseph Plumb Martin, whose memoirs are a rich source of eyewitness accounts, wrote that at the Battle of Monmouth, "A woman whose husband belonged to the artillery and who was then attached to a piece in the engagement, attended with her husband at the piece the whole time. While in the act of reaching a cartridge and having one of her feet as far before the other as she could step, a cannon shot from the enemy passed directly between her legs without doing any other damage than carrying away all the lower part of her petticoat. Looking at it with apparent unconcern, she observed that it was lucky it did not pass a little higher, for in that case it might have carried away something else, and continued her occupation." It is likely that her 'attending' on her husband was assisting in firing the piece, else she would have been removed from the field.

At the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778, Mary Hays attended to the Revolutionary soldiers by giving them water. Just before the battle started, she found a spring to serve as her water supply. Two places on the battlefield are currently marked as the "Molly Pitcher Spring." Mary Hays spent much of the early day carrying water to soldiers and artillerymen, often under heavy fire from British troops.

The weather was hot, over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Sometime during the battle, William Hays collapsed, either wounded or suffering from heat exhaustion. It has often been reported that Hays was killed in the battle, but it is known that he survived.

As her husband was carried off the battlefield, Mary Hays took his place at the cannon. For the rest of the day, in the heat of battle, Mary continued to "swab and load" the cannon using her husband's ramrod. At one point, a British musket ball or cannonball flew between her legs and tore off the bottom of her skirt. Mary supposedly said something to the effect of, "Well, that could have been worse," and went back to loading the cannon.

Later in the evening, the fighting was stopped due to gathering darkness. Although George Washington and his commanders expected the battle to continue the following day, the British forces retreated during the night and continued on to Sandy Hook, New Jersey. The battle was seen as a major victory for the Continental Army.

After the battle, General Washington asked about the woman whom he had seen loading a cannon on the battlefield. In commemoration of her courage, he issued Mary Hays a warrant as a noncommissioned officer. Afterwards, she was known as "Sergeant Molly," a nickname that she used for the rest of her life.

Following the end of the war, Mary Hays and her husband William moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. During this time, Mary gave birth to a son named Johannes (or John) late 1786, William Hays died.

In 1793, Mary Hays married John McCalla (McCauley), another Revolutionary War veteran and possibly a friend of William Hays. McCalla was a stone cutter for the local Carlisle prison. However, the marriage was reportedly not a happy one, as McCalla had a violent temper. It was McCalla who was the cause of Mary's financial downfall, causing Mary to sell 200 acres of bounty land left to her by William Hays, for 30 dollars. Sometime between 1807 and 1810, McCalla disappeared, and in 1813 married a Peggy Sanford of Chambersburg, PA.

Mary McCauley continued to live in Carlisle. She earned her living as a general servant for hire, cleaning and painting houses, washing windows, and caring for children and sick people. "Sergeant Molly," as she was known, was often seen in the streets of Carlisle wearing a striped skirt, wool stockings, and a ruffled cap. She was well liked by the people of Carlisle, even though she "often cursed like a soldier."

On February 21, 1822, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania awarded Mary McCauley an annual pension of \$40 for her service. Mary died January 22, 1832, in Carlisle, at the approximate age of 78. She is buried in the Old Graveyard in Carlisle, under the name "Molly McCauley." A statue of "Molly Pitcher," adorned by a cannon, stands in the cemetery.

In 1928, "Molly Pitcher" was honored with an overprint reading "MOLLY / PITCHER" on a U.S. postage stamp. Earlier that year, festivities had been planned to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth. Stamp collectors petitioned the U.S. Post Office Department for a commemorative stamp to mark the anniversary. After receiving several rejections, New Jersey congressman Ernest Ackerman, a stamp collector himself, enlisted the assistance of the majority leader of the House, John Q. Tilson. Postmaster General Harry New steadfastly refused to issue a commemorative stamp specifically acknowledging the battle or Molly Pitcher. In a telegram to Tilson, Postmaster New explained, "Finally, however, I have agreed to put a surcharged title on ten million of the regular issue Washington 2¢ stamps bearing the name 'Molly Pitcher.'"

Molly was finally pictured on an imprinted stamp on a postal card issued in 1978 for the 200th anniversary of the battle.

"Molly" was further honored in World War II with the naming of the Liberty ship SS *Molly Pitcher*, launched, and subsequently torpedoed, in 1943.

The stretch of US Route 11 between Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line is known as the *Molly Pitcher Highway*.

The Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery branches of the US Army established an honorary society in Molly Pitcher's name, the Honorable Order of Molly Pitcher. Membership is ceremoniously bestowed upon wives of artillerymen during the annual Feast of St. Barbara. The Order of Molly Pitcher recognizes individuals who have voluntarily contributed in a significant way to the improvement of the Field Artillery community.

From the Daughters of the American Revolution for September 1917.

THREE AMERICAN WOMEN PENSIONED FOR MILITARY SERVICE

By Grace M. Pierce
Registrar General, N. S. D. A. R.

"The American Revolution was fought and won by the fireside a generation before it was fought and won upon the field," wrote Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Unusual as this statement may seem at first thought, investigations of that time have proved that the American woman, as mother, wife, and daughter, was the most important factor in the molding of public opinion prior to and during the Revolutionary War. The interest and cooperation of American women in the war to-day is not original with the present crisis; they are simply training and enlisting under modern, up-to-date conditions for national service, while their great-grandmothers, in keeping with the conditions under which they lived, aided and served their country in its formative period.

Gathered before the spacious fire-places, on winter evenings, the boys and girls listened to the discussion by their elders of the principles of taxation without representation; the rights and wrongs of the colonists, the injustice of the taxes on tea, sugar, glass, and other commodities of merchandise, the prohibition of domestic manufactures, the Stamp Act and its attempted enforcement and final repeal. The refusal of the women to drink taxed tea, wear gowns made of imported materials, or use other taxed articles, exerted a powerful influence upon the trend of affairs. Had the women demanded the tabooed articles as essential for their comfort, and been unwilling to make sacrifices for a principle, the issue might have been different. But they rose to the occasion, and each did her part for the success of the great forward movement of civilization, and by precept and example, the youth of the day were imbued with the spirit of liberty and independence.

When the first shot was fired for American liberty, the women quietly helped the men of the family to arm and watched them march away to the war, then turned to the task of feeding and clothing the family left at home, as well as supplying the army in the field. . Then followed the heroism and sacrifice for those who remained at home, who suffered as they only can who "stand and wait." But the Revolutionary mothers

were not of the kind who only "wait "; on the contrary, they were keenly alive to the needs of the hour; knitting, spinning, weaving, cooking, nursing, harvesting the crops, caring for stock and farms, they fed, clothed, and kept alive the armies in the field.

The true story of those wonderful days has never been written and probably never will be, but here and there little glimmerings have filtered through which give an inkling of some of the events as they occurred. The women of Pepperell Bridge, the women's tea party at Fishkill, Molly Stark and her smallpox hospital, the sterling women of the frontiers, the maids and matrons of village and town whose deeds have been told over and over again, are but a small part of the heroism of those times.

Years later, when the United States, a firmly-established republic, awoke to the debt she owed the men who fought and suffered to make possible a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and passed various laws to pension the survivors of the great struggle, some of these brave women who had shared the sufferings of those days, were remembered only through the service rendered by their husbands, and as surviving widows were granted a moderate stipend.

Three women only seem to have received recognition by pension for services of their own. These were "Molly Pitcher," Margaret Corbin, and Deborah (Sampson) Gannett.

The story of the bravery of "Molly Pitcher " on the battlefield of Monmouth is generally known, but her personal identity was shrouded in mystery for many years. Lossing, in his " Pictorial History of the Revolution," gave her an unpleasant reputation as a " camp follower," and confused her with a woman of that character known as "Dirty Kate," who in the American retreat from Fort Clinton, ran back, and, in a spirit of mischief, fired the last gun at the English entering the ramparts, and then scampered away. There was never any proof that this woman, who died at Buttermilk Falls, N. Y., after the Revolution, was the heroine of Monmouth, and Lossing's statement must have been based on supposition or wrong information. Recent extended search has, however, established the identity of Molly of Monmouth and proved her a woman of eminent respectability, though of plain and unpretentious surroundings.

Mary Ludwig Hays, known to fame as "Molly Pitcher," was the daughter of John George Ludwig, a German emigrant from the Palatinate, who settled in Mercer County, N. J. Mary was born there October 13, 1754. In 1774 she is said to have accompanied the wife of General Irvine, who had been visiting in the neighborhood of her home, to Carlisle, Pa., where General Irvine then resided. A few months later she married John Hays, an Englishman, a barber by trade, who owned a shop in Carlisle. John Hays enlisted early in the war and became a gunner in an artillery company serving under General Knox. Molly remained with the Irvines until a message was received from her husband, asking her to return to her parents' home in New Jersey, where she was needed, and where, as the Continental army moved back and forth across New Jersey, there was a chance that she might occasionally see her husband.

In her father's home her son, John Hays, Jr., was born, and there she continued to live, seeing her husband as opportunity offered. She was described by

contemporaries as short and very strong, and "as always ready for a merry jest, but never coarse and vulgar, and always retained the respect of the soldiers with whom her husband's lot was cast." A story is told of her that after the Continental army had left the battlefield of Princeton, keeping a promise made to her husband, she sought and found his wounded friend, one Dilwyn, and, carrying him across her shoulder as she would have carried a bag of grain, bore him to her father's house, two miles away, where he was nursed back to health.

On Sunday morning, June 28, 1778, Molly Hays started out hoping to see her husband in the vicinity of Monmouth. The battle was in progress when she arrived, and John Hays, then a sergeant, was serving a six-pounder. Survivors of that battle bore testimony of the terrific heat of the day. Indeed, it has been stated that more men were lost from the heat than from the guns of the enemy.

Using a bucket from the gun-carriage, Molly was soon carrying water cans were losing hope, but as Molly took charge of her husband's gun and kept it in service, the gunners, inspired by her gallant action, gained fresh courage. What a woman could do they could continue to do. General Wayne came up with a force of farmers and the day was saved — the battle of Monmouth won.

General Greene complimented Molly upon the field for her bravery, and she from a neighboring spring to the exhausted men. Suddenly John Hays, overcome by the heat, dropped beside his gun. Molly saw him fall, and, throwing down her bucket, helped him to a sheltered place, and, at his bidding, took his place at the gun. The battle was being waged desperately, and, with men constantly falling from heat prostration as well as bullets, the Amerireturned to her husband, who through her ministrations was restored to health and the service of his country. The following morning General Washington called upon her to thank her for her service. Her gown, torn and soiled, embarrassed her as not fit to wear before the Commander-in-Chief, and some one kindly threw a soldier's coat across her shoulders, and in this she appeared to receive the brevet title which Washington conferred upon her, the substantial gift of coin which Lafayette and other French volunteers in the army asked permission to present to her, and the cheers of the successful army.

It is stated that upon the report of General Washington, the Continental Congress voted her a sergeant's commission and half pay for life.

At the close of the war John and Molly Hays resumed their home life in Carlisle, Pa., and there John Hays died some years later. Some time after his death Molly married George McAuley, an Irishman, who proved to be addicted to drink, and the marriage was far from happy. She outlived him.

On February 21, 1822, an act passed the State Senate of Pennsylvania for the relief of "Molly McKolly " for her services in the Revolutionary War, I the sum of \$40 immediately, and the same sum half yearly during life." This bill was at once signed by Governor Hiester and continued until January 1, 1832. Molly died January 22, 1832, and was buried in the old graveyard at Carlisle in the same grave with her soldier husband, John Hays.

In a copy of the Carlisle Herald, dated Thursday, January 26, 1832, is the following notice : — "Died on Sunday last Mrs. Mary McAuley (better known as Molly McAuley), aged 90 years. The history of this woman was somewhat remarkable. Her first husband's name was Hays, who was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. It appears that she continued with him in the army and acted so much the part of a heroine as to attract the notice of the officers. Some estimate may be found of the value of the service performed by her from the fact that she drew a pension from the Government during the latter part of her life."

The above statement of her age is incorrect, and when, in 1876, the citizens of Carlisle erected a suitable marker to her memory, her age was given as seventy-eight, according to the following inscription:

Molly McAuley Renowned in History as " Molly Pitcher," The Heroine of Monmouth. Died January, 1832. Aged 78 years.

Margaret Corbin performed at Fort Washington, when her husband, John Corbin, was killed, a service similar to that of Molly Hays at Monmouth.

Margaret was the daughter of John Cochran and was born in western Pennsylvania November 12, 1751. During her childhood, while she was living with an uncle, her father, John Cochran, was killed by the Indians and her mother was carried away captive. Some years later her mother was reported to be living among the Indians west of the Ohio River, but no trace could ever be found of her.

In 1772 Margaret Cochran married John Corbin. At the beginning of the Revolution he enlisted in the First Pennsylvania Artillery, and was accorded the privilege of having his wife with him. This permission was granted to a certain number of soldiers' wives, who accompanied their husbands and did sewing, mending, and cooking for the men of the company. The First Artillery was one of the six regiments raised by the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania for the general defense of the country, and became a part of the Continental Line. This regiment took part in the battle of Long Island, retreating to New York and later to Fort Washington. In the British attack upon this point John Corbin was shot and killed while serving his gun. His wife, Margaret, saw him fall, and, as his gun was being ordered out of the fight, although described as "shy and retiring," she ran to the officer in command and begged to be allowed to serve the gun. Her request was granted and she continued to serve the gun until wounded, when she was carried to the rear. After the surrender of the fort by the Americans she was permitted to leave with the noncombatants.

Her heroism was reported to the authorities at Philadelphia and the State took prompt action to provide for her. Later the Executive Council referred the case to the Continental Congress, as follows: — " That the case of Margaret Corbin, who was wounded and utterly disabled at Fort Washington, while she heroically filled the post of her husband, who was killed by her side, serving a piece of artillery, be further recommended to the Board of War, this Council being of the opinion that, notwithstanding the ratings that have been allowed her, she is not provided for as her helpless situation really requires." This was on June 29, 1779, and on page 805, volume 14, of the Journals of the Continental Congress, is the following: — "That

Margaret Corbin, wounded and disabled, while she heroically filled the post of her husband, who was killed by her side while serving a piece of artillery, do receive during her natural life, or continuance of such disability, one-half the pay drawn by a soldier in the service of these States, and that she now receive out of the public stores one suit of clothes or the value in money."

Once again her name appears in the public archives on the roll of the invalid regiment when it was mustered out in April, 1783. After the war the State of Pennsylvania paid her a pension until her death in 1800.

Both Molly Hays and Margaret Corbin received their honors and recognition from a grateful Government for emergency service rendered on the field of battle, but Deborah (Sampson) Gannett, alias Robert Shurtleff, was officially recognized for enlisted service covering a term of years.

Deborah Sampson, born at Plymton, Plymouth County, Mass., December, 1760, seems to have imbibed her love of liberty not alone from her environment, but from her ancestry as well. Thrice descended from Signers of the "Mayflower" Compact, she came into the world with one hundred and thirty years of the American spirit of independent thought behind her, which was perhaps responsible for her initiative in unusual lines.

Deborah was the daughter of Jonathan Sampson, Jr., and Deborah Bradford, and through her father was descended from Abraham Sampson, who came to Plymouth in 1629 or 1630, and is believed to have been the brother of Henry Sampson, who came as a boy on the "Mayflower." Abraham settled at Duxbury, and his son, Isaac, born in Duxbury, 1660, was one of the first settlers of Plymton. Isaac married in 1726 Lydia Standish, daughter of Alexander Standish and Sarah Alden, and granddaughter of Miles Standish and John Alden, two of the most noted characters in the settlement of Plymouth. Jonathan Sampson, the second son of Isaac, married Joanna Lucas, and their son, Jonathan, Jr., was the father of Deborah of the Revolution. On her mother's side, Deborah was descended from Governor William Bradford, also of the "Mayflower" company, and Mistress Alice (Carpenter) Southworth, through their son Joseph, who married Jael, daughter of the Rev. Peter Hobart, first minister of Hingham. Joseph Bradford lived in Kingston, formerly a part of Plymouth, and his son Elisha married for his second wife Bathsheba Le Broche, and to them, November 18, 1732, was born their daughter Deborah, who married Jonathan Sampson, Jr.

Jonathan and Deborah Sampson had five children : Robert Shurtleff, who died young; Ephraim, who also served in the Revolution ; Sylvia, who married Jacob Cushman; Deborah; and another daughter.

Deeply disappointed over certain property rights which he had expected to inherit, Jonathan seems to have left his family and traveled to Maine, where he engaged as a sailor and was never heard from again. This was shortly before the birth of Deborah, and the mother soon found herself charged to the town of Plymton.

According to the custom then prevailing, the children were "bound out" to families who agreed to support and educate them until of a prescribed age — twenty-

one in the case of boys, eighteen in the case of girls. Deborah, at first, seems to have been given to the care of relatives, but later she went to the family of Deacon Thomas, with whose children she shared the same food, clothing, work, play, and schooling. She was strong and vigorous, learning readily all the housewifely arts of the time, and also being able to do various kinds of outdoor labor. Eager for knowledge, she studied whenever possible, and after her eighteenth birthday she taught school for nearly two years. The Thomas family appear to have been very fond of her, giving her from time to time some of their stock or produce. When full grown she was five feet seven inches in height, with blue eyes, flaxen hair, and a fair complexion.

There appears to be a difference as to the date of her enlistment into the Revolutionary service, as well as a diversity of opinion as to her reasons for so doing. She had neither lover nor husband whom she cared to be near. There is a bit of gossip handed down the years that she wished to avoid the attentions of a suitor for whom she did not care, but the foundation for such a statement is not authenticated. On the other hand, it has been claimed that she was a quiet, deeply thoughtful, and patriotic girl, and had been very much stirred by the reports of the sufferings of those at the front, and was therefore moved to do her part to aid in the great struggle for independence. Her brother Ephraim was then in the service. And that she had the matter under consideration for some time is proved by the fact that she had prepared the suit of man's clothing in which she enlisted several months before leaving home, having herself woven the cloth and hired a tailor to make it up, telling him that it was intended for a relative who was getting ready to enter the army.

She disappeared from home in April, 1781, during the night, changed into the suit of man's clothing which she took with her, and traveled on foot through several nearby towns. At Taunton Green she met and passed a neighbor from home, and feared that she had been recognized.

It says continued in the next issue.