

Molly Pitcher

Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was a heroine during the Revolutionary War. Though women did not serve as soldiers, they did often carry pitchers of water to thirsty soldiers or for use on their canons, and consequently, any woman serving in that capacity was given the nickname, "Molly Pitcher." At the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, when McCauly's husband, William Hayes, collapsed, she took over his role as gunner and continued to fire on the British herself for the rest of the day. There is a legend that when a British cannonball flew between her legs, shredding her skirt, she remarked, "Well, that could have been worse."

When the Revolutionary War was over, McCauly and her first husband lived in Pennsylvania. After his death, she married another Revolutionary War veteran, John McCauly. For her service at the Battle of Monmouth, Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was awarded a Revolutionary War pension by the Pennsylvania State Legislature, and a special marker commemorating her service as "Molly Pitcher" in the Revolutionary War was eventually placed on her grave.

DIRECTIONS: Circle the correct answer (True or False)

- T F 1. A *heroine* is a female hero.
- T F 2. Capacity, here, means how much water the pitcher could hold.
- T F 3. *Fire* in this passage means to burn.
- T F 4. A *remark* is a spoken observation.
- T F 5. A *veteran* is someone who has been in a war.
- T F 6. A *pension* is like a trophy.
- T F 7. *Commemorate* means for the purpose of remembering.

