



Introducing the *Molly Pitcher Pale Ale* *Commemorating Mary Ludwig Hayes*

The Beer: We are pleased to introduce our latest brew, the Molly Pitcher Pale Ale. The Molly Pitcher is mild Pale Ale with just a hint of hops and is dedicated to all the women who came to the aid of the Continental Army during the American War for Independence.

Molly Pitcher and the Battle of Monmouth: “Molly Pitcher” was a nickname for a woman who became a campfollower of the Continental Army during the American War for Independence, however, she is most well known for her heroics during the Battle of Monmouth in June of 1778.

Born in 1754, Mary Ludwig Hayes was the daughter of a New Jersey dairy farmer. At the age of 13, she went to work as a domestic/servant. During the same year - still only 13 - she married William Hayes. When the Revolutionary War began, William enlisted and became a gunner in the Pennsylvania Artillery. Mary eventually joined her husband as a campfollower during the Philadelphia Campaign (1777-1778) in New Jersey eventually wintering with the Army at Valley Forge.

We have come to know Mary Ludwig Hayes as “Molly Pitcher.” She gained this title on the battlefield at the Battle of Monmouth. The only contemporary witness to the event, Joseph Plumb Martin, describes the scene of the husband and wife - Mary and William - working together: “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.”

The Battle of Monmouth was fought under extreme conditions with temperatures exceeding 100

degrees and, in fact, more soldiers on both sides died of heat exhaustion than combat wounds.

During the fierce fighting in the extreme heat Mary worked tirelessly carrying cool water from a nearby stream trying to keep the troops hydrated and the cannons cool - hence, her nickname, “Molly Pitcher.” When her husband collapsed on the battlefield to either the heat or a battle wound (the story is not exactly clear), Mary took his place and continued to “swab and load” the cannon using her husband’s ramrod.

According to Joseph Plumb Martin, at one point during the artillery exchange, “while in the act of reaching for 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 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.”

Following the Battle of Monmouth, George Washington personally awarded Mary Ludwig Hayes (Molly Pitcher) a warrant (field commission) as a non-commissioned officer. Thereafter she was known as “Sergeant Molly,” a nickname that she used for the rest of her life. At the close of the War, William and Mary Hayes returned to Pennsylvania and settled in Carlisle where Mary became a “charwoman” in the State House in Carlisle.

Today Mary Ludwig Hayes is honored by the Molly Pitcher Brewing Company in Carlisle, PA:
(<http://mollypitcher.com/>)