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 re-
moval from Highland Falls, N. Y.,
to the cemetery at West Point of the
body of Margaret Corbin, Revolu-
tionary 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 equal credence.

"This is a widely disputed ques-
tion," 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 Washington, 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,
not Freehold, N. J., June 28, 1778. At
the day was extremely hot, she, amid
great danger, carried water to the
thirty soldiers from a spring near the
battlefield. When her husband
was killed while discharging a can-
non, 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 hus-
band. Her large wooden water pull 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 Washington, while she heroical-
ly filled the post of her husband, who
was killed by her side serving a piece
of artillery, do receive during her nat-
ural life, or continuance of said disab-
ility, one-half the monthly pay.