

Women In War



A Quaker woman detains an English general, ca. 1776.



Phillis Wheatley pens a poem in support of the revolution, ca. 1773.



"Molly Pitcher" fires a cannon at the Battle of Monmouth, 1778.

(All images courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs)

American Revolution

Women during the American Revolution played an important role in the defense of the newly founded nation. Many took care of the homefront while men went off to war. Others found ways to follow their husbands, fathers or brothers and provided crucial support during a time when a large institutional infrastructure

did not exist. Many women suffered the hardships of camp life and often found themselves in the midst of battle. Their motivation for providing assistance to the Army varied and was sometimes economic, domestic, or patriotic in nature. Nonetheless the circumstances in which they served were often stark and dangerous.