Molly Stark

Who was Molly Stark?

Molly Stark was the wife of John Stark, New Hampshire’s famous Revolutionary War general. When he went off to war, Molly stayed home with their 11 children. She took care of their family, house, and large farm. She was known for being tough, smart, and independent.

During the Revolutionary War, Molly’s home became a hospital for soldiers who were sick or wounded in battle. She also traveled with the troops sometimes and even once rode her horse into the countryside to warn people if the British were coming!

During the Battle of Bennington, John Stark encouraged his men to fight by saying about his British enemies, “They are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow!”

After the war, John Stark brought home a cannon he had captured and named it after his wife! He called it “Old Molly.” The cannon is now in New Boston, where every July 4 the town fires it to celebrate the national holiday.

Many things in New Hampshire are named after Molly Stark.