

Ladies, Gentlemen, Colleagues, representatives of local, state and Federal government and most of all DONORS, welcome to the BRAVO Molly Pitcher Memorial Cannon Dedication Ceremony. I am Dan Sivilich, President of the Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization, better known as BRAVO. Members of BRAVO have been conducting archaeological metal detecting surveys of Monmouth Battlefield for over 20 years. We have successfully changed the interpretation of the battle and have located a number of key features. One of our top accomplishments was locating the American artillery battery and particularly the possible location of on for Francis Proctor's Pennsylvania Artillery cannons. This is the area where one Mary Hays participated in the operation of a 4-pounder and forever contributing to the legend of Molly Pitcher. This cannon was busy keeping the British 42nd Regiment of Foot, the "Black Watch", trapped in Derrick Sutfin's cider orchard.

The Molly Pitcher Memorial Cannon project began over 5 years ago as a crazy idea by Dr. Garry Wheeler Stone, our Park Historian, and I. The plan was to put a cannon on the spot where the archaeological data identifies one of Proctor's cannons. But since the historical documents put Ms Hays on a 4-pounder, just any cannon would not do. We spoke with several cannon manufacturers and they all had the standard 3 and 6-pounder molds. Garry searched a number of sites and found an actual 18th-century cannon at Trophy Point in West Point. With the help of our friends at the West Point Museum, we secured permission to have a casting made of the tube. We started raising money through some very generous donations and through BRAVO doing contract archaeology jobs. We contracted Adirondack Machine Company in Queensbury, NY and arranged to have a casting made and a brass cannon tube made. But - the price of brass shot up. Adirondack could not afford to fulfill its contract at the quoted price. A new price was negotiated and the stalled project was back on track. They made molds of the barrel, dolphins and trunions and sent them to Danko Arlington Foundry in Baltimore where they were rough cast. The barrel and parts were then shipped back to Adirondack Machine for final assembly and

finishing. Finally, the finished barrel arrived here at the Visitor's Center and was put on temporary display until funding for a carriage could be raised. While Garry searched for a carriage manufacturer, more donations were sought and archaeological projects conducted. Since the cannon was to be displayed outdoors, a wooden carriage would take a great deal of maintenance and would not last long. Years ago, many historic sites had carriages cast of aircraft-grade aluminum. It is then painted to look like wood. It will withstand time and vandalism. Of all of the places, Garry found Galvotec, Inc. in New Orleans, LA had just the right Gribbeval pattern for the cannon. The funding was obtained and the carriage ordered. The brass barrel was sent to New Orleans to be fitted with a carriage. Dave Johnson and his daughter personally drove the finished cannon ... to my house. Raised a few eyebrows with the neighbors! Finally it was delivered to the park at a rough cost of \$50,000. Unfortunately, with the price of brass and aluminum at all-time highs, it would not be prudent to put 700 pounds of brass and 600 pounds of aluminum out in the middle of a relatively unprotected field. Thieves tried to steal the copper gutters of an 18th-century church in the heart of Freehold. Therefore, it was decided to place it here at the Visitor's Center. However, the project is still not complete. We are planning a number of exhibit panels describing the memorial and how it was made and honoring our most generous donors.

I would like to thank the following people and groups for their support:

First and foremost - all of the members of BRAVO - stand up and be recognized!

The visionary Dr Garry Wheeler Stone

The cultural research firms who contracted work to BRAVO:

Cultural Resource Consulting Group
Dana Linck Consulting
Hunter Research, Inc.
Kise, Straw & Kolodner, Inc
Richard Grubb Associates
The State of Kentucky and Morehead University
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities for providing a grant for the wayside exhibits

And of course the donors, both individual and corporate

READ LIST

Thanks to all of you, it is my privilege to dedicate D'Anne as a memorial to the many Molly Pitchers that participated in the War for Independence.

I would like to request Proctor's Artillery Coy.', IV Continental Artillery Regt., with support from select members of the infantry, with Jim Stinson to fire a volley or two in honor or all of the artillery units that participated. Possibly after the ceremony, we can coerce the unit into demonstrating the operation of a Revolutionary War light field piece.

On behalf of all of the members of BRAVO - Thank you

I would like to now welcome a few select speakers to the podium:

Dr. Garry Wheeler Stone

United States Congressman of the NJ 12th District - Rush Holt. By the way, Rush has actually participated in the archaeological digs with BRAVO here at Monmouth Battlefield State Park and has personally excavated a musket ball.

Cate Litvack - Executive Director of the Crossroads of the American Revolution

State Senator Jennifer Beck of Legislative District 12

Assemblywoman CAROLINE CASAGRANDE of Legislative District 12

Assemblyman DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR. of Legislative District 12

Mayor of Freehold Township Anthony J. Ammiano

This concludes our program today. Thank you all for being here and supporting our nation's history. Please enjoy the refreshments and let's see if Proctor's would be willing to demonstrate a few artillery drills. Congressman - you found a musket ball, but have you ever fired a cannon?