

Nurses/Caregivers in the Revolutionary War

There were no universally famous individual "nurses" by name during the Revolutionary War like those who emerged in the later Civil War, because nursing was then viewed as an unglamorous, low-status domestic chore rather than a profession. Care was instead provided by enlisted camp followers, local housewives, and soldiers' wives. A few notable women are recognized for their documented caregiving and nursing contributions during the conflict.

- **Abigail Hartman Rice:** A Pennsylvania immigrant and mother who served as a civilian nurse at the Yellow Springs military hospital. She contracted typhus while tending to sick soldiers and died years later from her weakened health.
- **Mary Ludwig Hays ("Molly Pitcher"):** Famed for carrying water to cooling soldiers and taking over her fallen husband's cannon at the Battle of Monmouth, she also actively assisted with field wound care.
- **Martha Washington:** While not a frontline nurse, she regularly organized relief, cooked, mended clothes, and comforted the sick and dying soldiers at winter encampments like Valley Forge.