

Margaret Cochran Corbin Story General Timeline

November 12, 1751: Margaret Cochran born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania

c. 1756: Family attacked by Native Americans; father was killed and mother kidnapped; Margaret was away from home at the time and survived; was raised by her uncle (her mother's brother)

c. 1772: Married John Corbin from Virginia

c. 1775/76: Became a camp follower when John Corbin enlisted in the Pennsylvania Artillery

November 16, 1776: Margaret took over John's position at his cannon after he fell, mortally wounded in what is today Fort Tryon Park during the Battle of Fort Mifflin. She was then wounded, captured, paroled, and eventually sent to recover to the Corps of Invalids at West Point, NY.

June 29, 1779: State of Pennsylvania granted her \$30 for her services.

July 6, 1779: Continental Congress approved giving her a continuing allowance and clothing; making her the first woman to receive a pension from the United States.

c. 1783: Discharged from the Army

c. 1800: Died in Highland Falls, NY and buried in poorly marked grave.

c. 1925: Extensive research began by the New York State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as other local historians, to locate and identify Margaret Corbin's burial site

March 16, 1926: A body believed to be Margaret Corbin's was exhumed from the estate of Cragston, owned by JP Morgan, and reinterred at West Point Cemetery with full military honors.

April 14, 1926: DAR donated a monument to the U.S. Military Academy to honor Margaret Corbin at the burial plot and a dedication took place at West Point Cemetery.

c. 1976: Margaret Corbin Forum was formed at the U.S. Military Academy (the first year women joined the Corps of Cadets) to educate the Corps on women's roles in the military and address issues regarding integrating women into the Academy. The mission now is to provide a forum for the discussion of gender-specific issues within the military, foster a sense of pride in the accomplishments of military women, and provide mentoring and networking for female cadets and officers.

Every May since 1926: Annual DAR Margaret Corbin Day with ceremony and wreath-laying at Margaret Corbin Monument at West Point Cemetery

October 2016: West Point Cemetery expansion project led to accidental grave disturbance; archeological recovery and forensics analysis revealed that bones buried at the Margaret Corbin Monument are not the remains of Margaret Corbin as thought for the past 90 years

****May 1, 2018:** Special rededication ceremony at Margaret Corbin Monument at West Point to celebrate Margaret's legacy