

**PLYMPTON, 1725
BOOK 20, PAGE 12**

DEBORAH SAMPSON

**SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OFFICIAL HEROINE OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

Deborah Sampson was born in Plympton on December 17, 1760, the oldest of the six children of Jonathan and Deborah Sampson. Her ancestral lines can be traced back to Governor William Bradford and to her great-grand father Isaac Sampson who sailed to Plymouth in 1629 and was one of Plympton's first settlers. In 1782 at age 21, Deborah enlisted in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment as a man named "Robert Shurtleff." Her wartime exploits are well-chronicled. Army records confirm that during a sixteen-month period, she fought in battles at West Point and Tarrytown, New York, and was wounded three times. She was honorably discharged from Army service by General George Washington on Oct. 25, 1783. She later married Benjamin Gannett of Sharon and gave birth to three children. She died on April 29, 1827 at age 66. Her likeness adorns the flag of Plympton and there is a monument in her honor on the Plympton Town Green (Route 58). In 1983, she was designated the official state heroine.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.
and Anthony M. Markella

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