

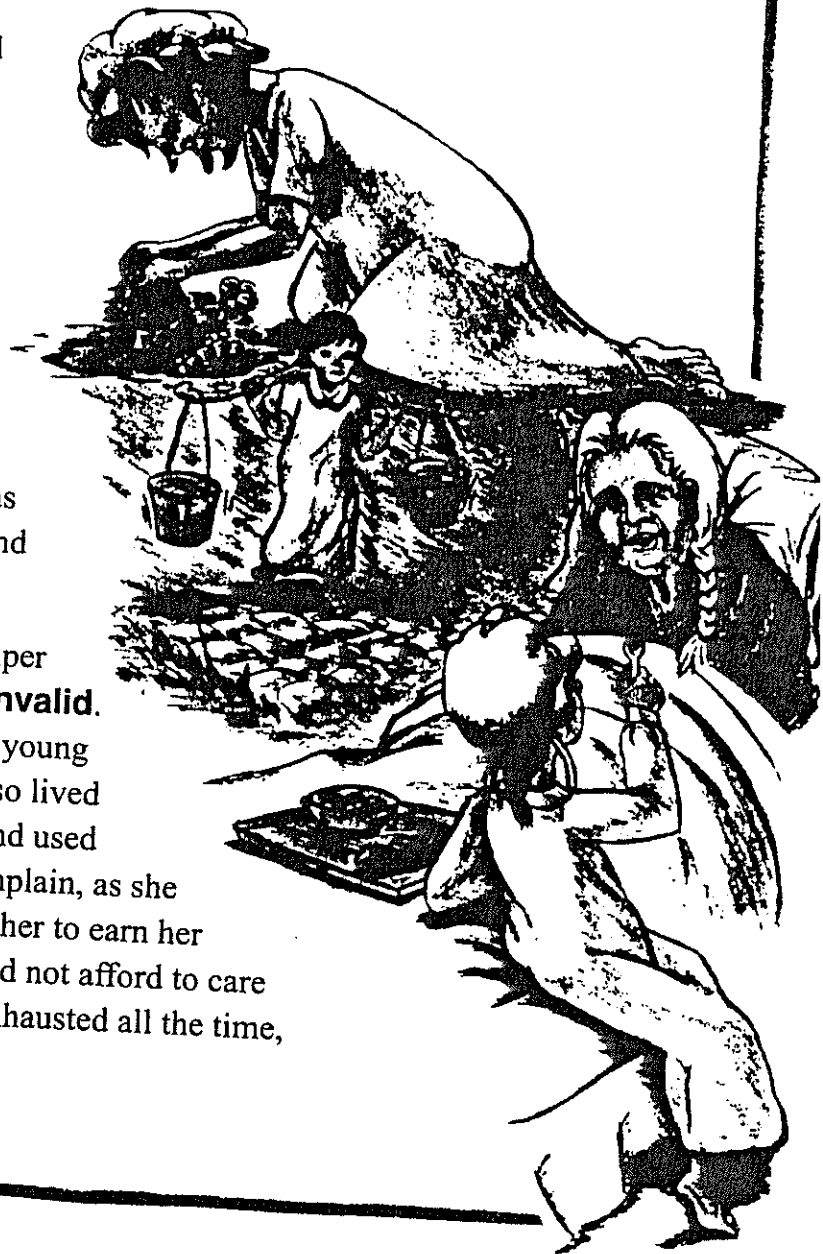
Deborah Sampson

Revolutionary Soldier

When Deborah Sampson was a young girl, she could never have imagined that monuments would someday be built in her honor. She would not have believed that she would be remembered and celebrated more than 200 years after her birth. Indeed, as a child, Deborah was so poor that she hardly had time to think about anything except the daily struggle to stay alive.

Deborah's family had always been poor and just barely managed to **make ends meet**. Then, Deborah's father—a ship's captain—was lost at sea. Or perhaps he simply abandoned his wife and seven small children. At any rate, Deborah's mother was left alone, a **widow** with no means to support her large family. The children who were old enough to work, including Deborah who was only 6 years old, were sent to live and work in the homes of strangers.

Deborah was "hired out" as a helper to an old woman who was a feeble **invalid**. Deborah's work was hard for such a young person. The old lady's niece, who also lived in the home, was cruel to Deborah and used her harshly. Deborah tried not to complain, as she understood how important it was for her to earn her own keep. She knew her mother could not afford to care for her. But she was miserable and exhausted all the time, and barely got enough to eat.



A good-hearted minister who was a friend of the Sampson family took pity on Deborah. He could see that her situation was a difficult one. He found her a new placement with a kind farm family by the name of Thomas. Deborah agreed to stay with the Thomas family for 10 years in exchange for her room and board.

Deborah loved the Thomas family, and they loved her. She worked hard on the family farm and spent what little free time she had learning to read and write. She was not able to go to school because her helping hands were needed in the Thomas home. But when the older boys were sent to school, Deborah pestered them to repeat their lessons at the end of each day. In this determined way, Deborah was able to obtain an education.

When Deborah was eighteen, it was time for her to leave the Thomas house. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas found Deborah a position as a schoolteacher. She also made extra money by hiring herself out to do spinning and weaving.

One of the places where she often worked was Sproats Tavern. The men who gathered at this tavern talked about the news of the day which—in 1770's Massachusetts—was mostly about the Revolutionary War. The old men talked of politics while the young men swapped stories of their exploits in General Washington's army.





As Deborah sat at the spinning wheel in the back room of the tavern, she listened to these tales with fascination. She wished that she might experience such grand adventures. She was envious of the freedom that young men took for granted. She **resented** the restrictions placed upon young women of her time. She was tired of housework and wanted to take part in the important events that were swirling around her.

Finally, Deborah decided to take action. She secretly made herself a suit of men's clothing.

Then she cut off her hair and went off to join the army. She walked through the night to a neighboring town where her face was less familiar. There she enlisted under the name Robert Shurtliff.

Deborah's disguise was enhanced by the fact that she stood five feet eight inches tall, which was taller than the average man of the day and a most unusual height for a woman. The hard work of a lifetime had given her a strong back and well-developed muscles. She could march, work, and fight as well as any of the men in her company.

At that time, army life was not as orderly as it is today. There were no physical exams required for enlistment. Soldiers camped in the fields and woods, sleeping in haystacks and barns and wherever they could find some shelter. They generally slept in their clothes and took care of themselves as best they could.

Deborah got along well with her fellows, but she kept to herself and had little to say. She was viewed as a bashful young boy, but a good soldier nonetheless.



Deborah's unit was involved in several skirmishes. In one fight, she was injured twice. The first injury was a slash to the forehead and the second a musket ball through the thigh. After the battle, she allowed the doctor to dress the cut on her head, but she did not tell the doctor about the bullet wound. Instead, she limped away from the hospital and hid in a cave. There she used her own knife to dig the musket ball out of her leg. When she had recovered her strength, she went back to her company.



By this time, the war was coming to an end, and "Robert Shurtliff" was honorably discharged from the army. Still wearing men's clothing, Deborah returned to her family. Although shocked and surprised by her exploits, the family welcomed her home.

While visiting with relatives, Deborah met a man named Benjamin Gannett. The two hit it off and were soon married. The couple had three children. Then they adopted a little girl whose parents had died. Deborah must surely have had sympathy for the poor little girl because of her own early experiences.

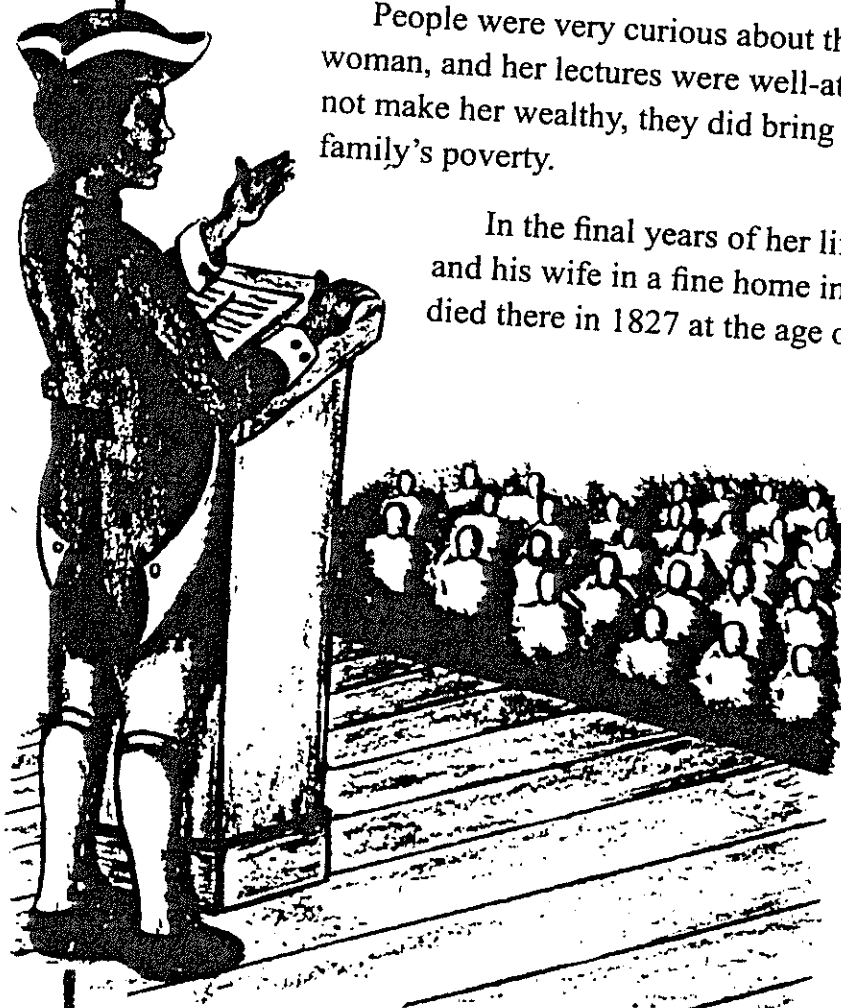
The Gannett family was very poor. Deborah's friends—including the famous Paul Revere—helped her obtain a **pension** from the military for her services. This military pension was a great help, but still not enough to live comfortably. Seeking a way to help support her family, Deborah agreed to cooperate on a book about her life. The book was full of lies and **exaggerations**. Worse, it earned little money.

Desperate to help her family, Deborah decided to go on a speaking tour. This was wildly **out of the ordinary** for women of this time. In fact, Deborah was one of the first women to engage in public speaking. She dressed in a **military** uniform and gave lectures about her unusual experiences.

People were very curious about this brave and **controversial** woman, and her lectures were well-attended. Although they did not make her wealthy, they did bring in enough income to ease the family's poverty.

In the final years of her life, Deborah lived with her son and his wife in a fine home in Sharon, Massachusetts. She died there in 1827 at the age of 67.

There is an interesting footnote to Deborah's story. In 1983, she was recognized as the Official State **Heroine** by the governor of Massachusetts. Her uncommon courage and fierce independence secured her rightful place among America's founding heroes.



Questions About Deborah Sampson

Revolutionary Soldier



Fill in the circle that best answers each question.

1. Why did Deborah have to leave home and go to work?
 - (A) Her mother did not want to take care of her.
 - (B) Both of her parents had died in an accident.
 - (C) Her mother could not support the family.
 - (D) Her father wanted her to learn responsibility.

2. How could you tell that Deborah was a determined person?
 - (A) She learned to sew.
 - (B) She learned to work hard.
 - (C) She worked in a tavern.
 - (D) She learned to read and write.

3. Why did Deborah go to a neighboring town to enlist in the army?
 - (A) She did not want to be recognized.
 - (B) She thought it would be more fun.
 - (C) Her friends were enlisting there.
 - (D) She wanted to take a walk.

4. Why did Deborah go on a lecture tour?
 - (A) Her family needed the money.
 - (B) She wanted to become famous.
 - (C) She wanted to make new friends.
 - (D) She wanted to become president.

5. Who helped Deborah obtain a pension for her military service?
 - (A) John Adams
 - (B) Paul Revere
 - (C) Thomas Jefferson
 - (D) George Washington

6. Who was Robert Shurtliff?
 - (A) a friend that Deborah met in the army
 - (B) the owner of the tavern where she worked
 - (C) the identity Deborah took on when she became a soldier
 - (D) the kindly minister who got Deborah a better place to work

Build a Story



Fill in the blanks with a word from the story.

Deborah Sampson went to work when she was only _____ years old. Her life was very _____. When she grew up, she became a _____. Sometimes she would _____ and _____ to make extra money.

Deborah sometimes wished that she had been born a _____. She wanted to have the _____ that men enjoyed. She decided that she would pretend to be a _____ and join the _____. She cut her _____ and made a _____ for herself. She was as good at _____ and _____ as any other soldier. Once, she was shot in the _____. She used her _____ to remove the musket ball.

When the war was over, Deborah went home and got married. She had _____ children. She also adopted a little _____.

Deborah died at the age of _____.

In 1983, Deborah Sampson became the Official Heroine of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Why do you think she was chosen for this honor?

Choose the Right Meaning



Find each bolded word in the story and read the sentence in which it is found. Choose the correct meaning for the word.

- Which activity is an **invalid** most likely to do?
 - lie in bed
 - go ice-skating
 - run a marathon
 - swim in the ocean
- A **pension** is likely to be received by _____.
 - a prisoner
 - a retired person
 - a homemaker
 - a student
- A **widow** is a person _____.
 - who has no home
 - whose friend has died
 - whose husband has died
 - who has never been married
- Which of the following is an **exaggeration**?
 - I learned to shoot a musket.
 - I carried the musket all day.
 - I outran the musket shot.
 - I heard a loud musket shot.
- A **heroine** is _____.
 - a woman who is honored for her courage
 - a man who is honored for his courage
 - a beautiful woman
 - a handsome man
- What do you do if you **make ends meet**?
 - tie the ends of a rope together
 - make a perfect circle with a drawing tool
 - get back to the place you started
 - have just enough money to get by
- Which of these is **out of the ordinary** today?
 - a woman in the army
 - a woman giving speeches
 - a woman as president of the United States
 - a woman flying on the space shuttle
- Which of Deborah's actions was **controversial**?
 - spinning and weaving in a tavern
 - serving as a soldier in the army
 - taking care of a feeble invalid
 - adopting a child
- The word **military** has to do with _____.
 - sermons in church
 - college classes
 - the movement of birds
 - the armed forces
- The word **resented** means _____.
 - felt insulted
 - felt eager
 - felt tired
 - felt certain

Make a Match



Use a word from the word box to complete each pair of or words that mean about the same thing. The bolded words in the items are in the story. The sentence in which you find each word will provide a clue to its meaning.

traded	weak	memorial	gun	shy
jealous	speech	leave	fight	adventure

1. **Bashful** means about the same as _____
2. **Skirmish** means about the same as _____
3. **Envious** means about the same as _____
4. **Swapped** means about the same as _____
5. **Exploit** means about the same as _____
6. **Monument** means about the same as _____
7. **Feeble** means about the same as _____
8. **Lecture** means about the same as _____
9. **Abandon** means about the same as _____
10. **Musket** means about the same as _____

Fact or Opinion?



A **fact** tells information that is true.
An **opinion** tells about someone's thoughts or feelings.

Write **fact** or **opinion** after each statement.

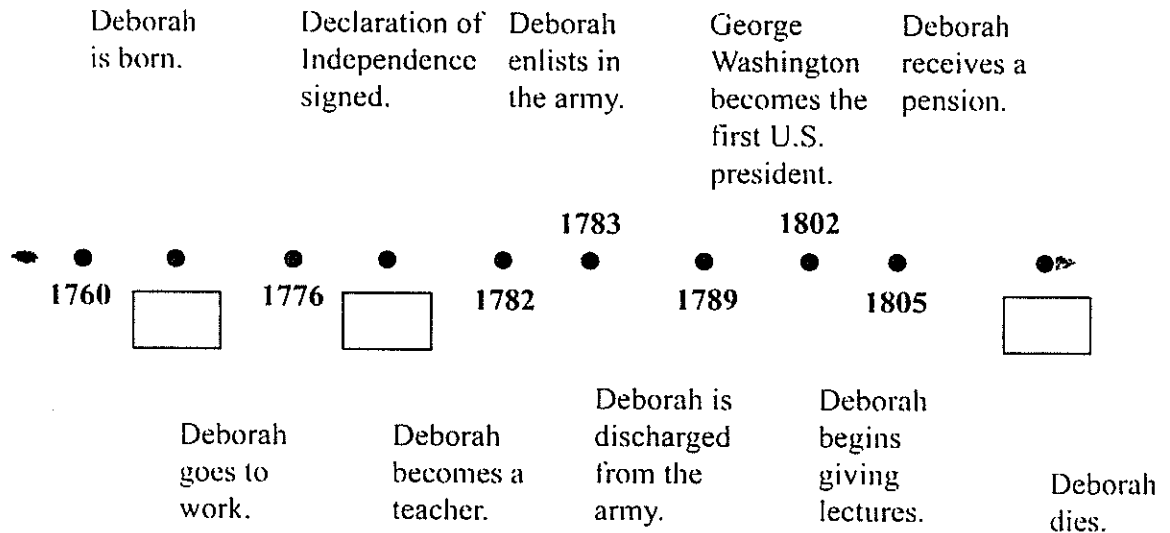
1. Deborah Sampson fought in the Revolutionary War. _____
2. Everyone should serve in the military. _____
3. Deborah was the bravest woman who ever lived. _____
4. Deborah was one of seven children. _____
5. Deborah went to work when she was a young girl. _____
6. Children should never have to do any work. _____
7. Deborah became a schoolteacher. _____
8. Deborah knew how to spin and weave. _____
9. It would be fun to learn how to spin and weave. _____
10. Deborah Sampson is the most important woman in American history. _____

Write one fact and one opinion of your own. Ask a family member to tell which is which.

Reading a Timeline



Read the timeline of Deborah Sampson's life.
Use information in the story to fill in the missing dates.



Answer the questions using information from the timeline.

1. How old was Deborah when the Declaration of Independence was signed?

2. How old was Deborah when she joined the army?

3. Was George Washington sworn in as president before or after Deborah left the army?

4. Did Deborah work as a schoolteacher before or after she joined the army?



Multiplying by a 2-Digit Number

Step 1

Multiply by the ones digit.
Regroup as needed.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 75 \\ \times 52 \\ \hline 150 \end{array}$$



$$2 \times 75 = 150$$

Step 2

Multiply by the tens digit.
Regroup as needed.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 75 \\ \times 52 \\ \hline 150 \\ 3,750 \end{array}$$

Write a zero
← here if it helps.

$$50 \times 75 = 3,750$$

Step 3

Add.

$$\begin{array}{r} 75 \\ \times 52 \\ \hline 150 \\ + 3,750 \\ \hline 3,900 \end{array}$$

Multiply.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | $\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \times 74 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 32 \\ \times 59 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ \times 96 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 61 \\ \times 56 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 78 \\ \times 14 \end{array}$ |
| 2. | $\begin{array}{r} 48 \\ \times 44 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 86 \\ \times 57 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 62 \\ \times 96 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 78 \\ \times 36 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 95 \\ \times 34 \end{array}$ |
| 3. | $\begin{array}{r} 953 \\ \times 25 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 444 \\ \times 38 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 872 \\ \times 19 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 709 \\ \times 56 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 414 \\ \times 41 \end{array}$ |
| 4. | $\begin{array}{r} 779 \\ \times 98 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 982 \\ \times 63 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 486 \\ \times 72 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 695 \\ \times 89 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 728 \\ \times 56 \end{array}$ |
| 5. | $\begin{array}{r} 5,261 \\ \times 39 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 5,086 \\ \times 57 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,158 \\ \times 73 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 6,572 \\ \times 94 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 6,321 \\ \times 62 \end{array}$ |
| 6. | $\begin{array}{r} 9,831 \\ \times 85 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,156 \\ \times 39 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4,127 \\ \times 28 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3,333 \\ \times 76 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 4,066 \\ \times 73 \end{array}$ |



Name _____

Multiplication

Step 1

Multiply the ones.
Regroup as needed.

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \overset{1}{8} 3 \\ \times \quad 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



$6 \times 3 = 18$ ones, or
8 ones, 1 ten

Step 2

Multiply the tens.
Regroup as needed.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overset{1}{7} 8 3 \\ \times \quad 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$(6 \times 80) + 1$ ten = 490, or
9 tens, 4 hundreds

Step 3

Multiply the hundreds.
Regroup as needed.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overset{1}{7} 8 3 \\ \times \quad 6 \\ \hline 4,698 \end{array}$$

$(6 \times 700) + 4$ hundreds =
4,600

Multiply.

1. $\begin{array}{r} 85 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 58 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 49 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 62 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$

2. $\begin{array}{r} 509 \\ \times 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 211 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 336 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 933 \\ \times 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 835 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$

3. $\begin{array}{r} 362 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 841 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 537 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 719 \\ \times 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 631 \\ \times 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$

4. $\begin{array}{r} 9,543 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 5,786 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 3,215 \\ \times 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 28,601 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 9,783 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$

5. $\begin{array}{r} 3,675 \\ \times 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 5,810 \\ \times 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 4,861 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 9,283 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 8,614 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$

6. $\begin{array}{r} 27,524 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 85,412 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 39,567 \\ \times 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 48,418 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} 75,629 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$

