

The
Deborah Samson Gannett
Memorials



*It seems that every year the
memory of our Deborah is
honored in a new way.*

*Her decisions and actions during
the Revolutionary War era
transcend time, as noted below!*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By His Excellency

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

Governor

A PROCLAMATION

1983

1983 Deborah Samson declared Massachusetts State Heroine.

WHEREAS: During the Colonies' struggle against tyrannical British rule, freedom-seeking men were not unaided and alone in their efforts, but were supported and assisted by equally determined and courageous women; and

WHEREAS: Among these free-spirited women in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was a direct descendant of Captain Miles Standish, John Alden and Governor William Bradford, one Deborah Samson, born in Plympton, in 1760, forced by her father's desertion of the family and poverty to be bound out at the age of six and then to be raised on a Middleboro farm with a large family of boys, unable to attend school and largely self-taught, a school teacher at the age of eighteen, a stern-faced powerful young woman, of strict morals and principles; and

WHEREAS: Not content to support her fellow country-men indirectly and from a distance, Deborah left Middleboro, traveled to Uxbridge and joined the Continental Forces on May 23, 1782, member of Captain George Webb's Company, within Colonel William Shepard's 4th Massachusetts Regiment of General John Patterson's Brigade, in the guise of a young man under the assumed name of Robert Shurtliff; and

WHEREAS: Deborah, known to her comrades as "Bob" and respected for unusual strength and endurance, physical and moral courage, and solitary ways, participated in skirmishes at Tarzestown and Tappan Bay New York, suffering three wounds, before being felled while protecting the Capitol in Philadelphia by "brain fever", during the treatment of which her identity as a woman was discovered; subsequently received an Honorable Discharge from service at West Point on October 23, 1783; and

WHEREAS: Deborah subsequently returned to Massachusetts, married Benjamin Gannett, Jr. in 1785 and became the mother of three children, secured in 1792 from the Massachusetts General Court military service pay for service in the Revolutionary War, becoming the only woman to do so, and in 1802 began to travel across southern New England, addressing audiences as "The American Heroine," becoming the first professional woman lecturer, and finally died on April 29, 1827, and was buried near Cobb's Corner in Sharon; and

WHEREAS: Deborah has since been honored with the erection of monuments in her memory in Plympton and Sharon, and by the christening in 1944 of a Liberty Ship, "The Deborah Gannett", and by the actions of many historical and military organizations;

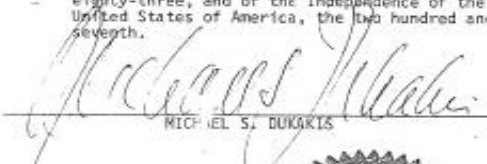
NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim, May 23, 1983 as

DEBORAH SAMSON HEROINE OF THE COMMONWEALTH DAY

and urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and to participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this fifth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and seventh.

By His Excellency the Governor


MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS


MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



Governor Dukakis.... Signing Deborah Samson Proclamation



The Official Website of the Governor of Massachusetts

Governor Deval Patrick

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Deborah Samson Day

Commonwealth of Massachusetts A Proclamation His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Deborah Samson was born in Plympton, Massachusetts on December 17th, 1760 and was a trailblazer for equality for women both in the Commonwealth, and throughout the nation; and

Whereas A former school teacher, Deborah Samson enlisted in the Continental Army as Robert Shurtliff on May 23, 1782; and

Whereas Despite General Cornwallis' surrender in 1781, guerilla warfare continued and Deborah Samson and the Massachusetts Fourth fought many small battles in upstate New York; and

Whereas Samson was also selected to be one of the of soldiers who defended the newly formed Congress from soldiers who were upset they had not gotten paid and was honorably discharged on October 25th, 1783; and

Whereas Samson's heroism and service was noted by the likes of Paul Revere and John Hancock and Samson became one of the first female lecturers as the American Heroine; and

Whereas Designated as the Official Heroine of the Commonwealth by Governor Michael Dukakis in 1983, it is fitting that we recognize Deborah Samson's contribution to the history and legacy of the Commonwealth,

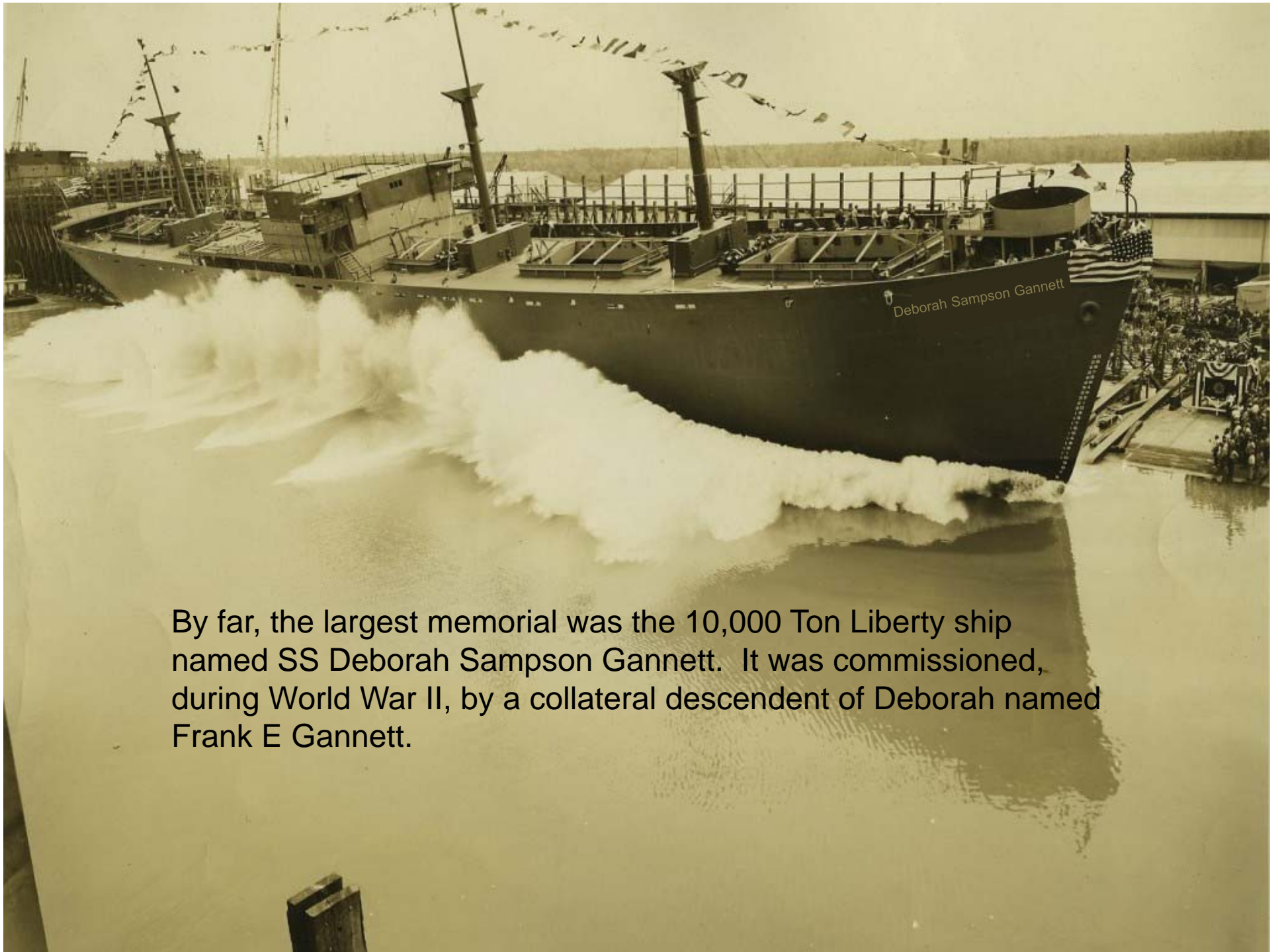
Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 23, 2013, to be,

DEBORAH SAMSON DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.



A
LIBERTY
SHIP



By far, the largest memorial was the 10,000 Ton Liberty ship named SS Deborah Sampson Gannett. It was commissioned, during World War II, by a collateral descendent of Deborah named Frank E Gannett.

Democrat and Chronicle

ROCHESTER, N. Y., TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1944

CHEERS HAIL LAUNCHING OF S. S. GANNETT

Ship Christened By Publisher's Daughter

(Summary of Gannett Address
on Page 15)

By JAMES B. HUTCHISON
Gannett National Service

Baltimore—The keel of the Liberty Ship Deborah Sampson Gannett, named in honor of a Massachusetts woman who posed as a man to join the Continental Army in 1781, bit into blue water for the first time yesterday.

The 10,000-ton vessel, built at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard, was launched at noon. The weather was bright and shiny.

A rising wind whipped through the rigging of the big merchantman, and forced the 100 guests and thousands of shipyard workers to clamp fists on hatbrims.

The ship was sponsored by Miss Sally Gannett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gannett of Rochester. Miss Gannett and her father are collateral descendants of the Revolutionary War heroine.

The launching ceremonies were staged on a high platform erected around the bows of the new ship. Last-minute arrangements for the christening were personally supervised by John M. Willis, vice-president of the Bethlehem company in charge of the shipyard.

Miss Gannett 'Smacks Homer'

The Deborah Gannett was Willis' 320th Liberty ship. But he was worried. Willis always worries at launchings. For sailors have a superstition that it's bad luck if the bottle of champagne used to name each vessel fails to spray its contents over the ship's cutwater.

Willis, many times, has had to grab the bottle and smash it against the sides of ships when

sponsors have failed to hit hard enough.

But he had no cause for concern over the Deborah Gannett. Miss Gannett smacked the christening bottle against the ship like Babe Ruth driving a home run over the left field bleachers. The ship zoomed down the greased ways and into the Patapsco River.

Gannett, addressing thousands of shipyard workers over a loudspeaker system, praised them for the record in building vessels for the American and Allied fleets.

"I am glad," he told them, "to have this opportunity to face this great gathering and to congratulate you and praise you with all my heart for the marvelous job you have been doing. You have captured the imagination of the whole country."

Gannett Sees Subs Licked

"This war could not be won without ships. We might build tanks and guns by the millions but they would be useless unless carried across the sea. Our enemies, the Nazi snake and the Japanese rat, did not think we could do it. The U-boats have been licked and our ship production has been the most marvelous achievement of all time. The world has never seen anything like it."

"When the sneaky Japs attacked us at Pearl Harbor, we had altogether 8 1/2 million tons dead weight of shipping. In 1942 we built in America eight million more tons; in '43 we added 19 million new tons. This year we can and will build 20 million more tons. Up to now we have built 29 million tons dead weight of new ships. This is more than 2,800 new ships, giving us the largest merchant fleet in all the world. Just think of that amazing record. No dictator could equal it. Only under our free opportunity system could it be done."

The officials of the yard and the Maritime Commission accepted a gift of a combination radio-phonograph, records and recording device that will enable members of the Deborah Gannett's crew to send "voice letters" home to their families. The equipment was donated by schoolchildren of Rochester.

800 Books Received

The ship also received a collection of 800 books, to form a library for the crew, donated by employes of the Gannett newspapers and radio stations. A tile plaque bearing the likeness of Deborah Gannett as she would have appeared while serving with the Continental Army also was presented.

Miss Jean Northam of Baltimore,

Guests at the ceremony attended a luncheon following the launching at Hotel Belvedere in Baltimore. The guests included Joseph Keenan, vice-chairman of the War Production Board, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm F. Gannett of York, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Farley Gannett of Harrisburg, Pa.; J. T. McGinnis of Philadelphia and J. A. Douslog of Baltimore, a sizeable delegation of congressmen, government officials, including Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission.

BALTIMORE
EVENING SUN
APR 10, 1944

Adm. Land Here For Gannett Launching

Admiral Emory S. Land, head of the Maritime Commission and War Shipping Administration, is among the notables here today for the launching of the S. S. Deborah Gannett, 320th Liberty ship to be launched at the Bethlehem-Fairfield yard and one of two going down the ways today.

The noon launching honors a Massachusetts woman who posed as a man to serve in the Revolutionary army. The ship's sponsor is Miss Sally Gannett, daughter of Frank E. Gannett, owner of 21 newspapers and seven radio stations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Illinois, and a collateral descendant of Deborah Gannett.

Second Ship To Be Launched

The second Liberty ship to be launched today is the S. S. Samtrusty, which is sponsored by Mrs. Coy W. Carter, of Runda, N. C., wife of a shipfitter at the Fairfield fabricating shop.

Launching of the Samtrusty will be the occasion for the award of a safety flag won by Way No. 7 for its record during the latter half of March. The flag will be presented to the way's foreman by the sponsor.

Other Guests At Launching

Among guests at the launching of the Gannett are Mayor and Mrs. Theodore R. McKeldin, Mayor and Mrs. George Schreib, of East Rochester, N. Y.; J. F. McInnis and J. A. Bauslog, of the Maritime Commission; Joseph Keenan, vice-president of the War Production Board, and Mrs. Keenan; Harry Stulz, publisher of the Ithaca (N. Y.) Journal; various Congressmen, and representatives of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, including G. W. S. Musgrave, president of the Maryland S. A. R.

Members of the family attending, in addition to the Gannetts, will include Mrs. E. B. Northam, of Baltimore; her son, Elwyn, and daughter, Jean. Mr. Gannett will speak to shipyard workers during



Frank E. Gannett, a Newspaper mogul from New York, and Deborah's 2nd Great Grandnephew is shown in the center of this group picture.

Ultimately Frank E Gannett's newspaper became USA today.

The logo for USA Today features the words "USA" and "TODAY" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font against a blue background. The "U" in "USA" is stylized with horizontal lines extending to the left, resembling a newspaper's masthead or a stylized American flag. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the bottom right of the word "TODAY".

**USA
TODAY**®

A GANNETT COMPANY

The
Deborah
Samson
Statue.



The Statue

The controversy in Sharon over a Statue for Deborah Samson was muted (no one questioned that she deserved Recognition), yet it revealed some of the undercurrents that have affected the way she has been represented visually from the beginning. At the heart of the problem is how to depict a woman who crossed boundaries of gender. The country has erected so few statues to women soldiers for any war, that there is no firm tradition to draw upon. For that matter no statues were erected to ordinary male soldiers in the revolution either. For the Revolutionary war, soldiers were long symbolized in Massachusetts by the bleak obelisk at Bunker Hill, and when a statue honoring a soldier was erected in Lexington in 1875, it was to a generic “Minute Man” of the Militia who left his plow, the citizen soldier, rather than a “regular” in the Continental Army. Public statues like these are the work of artists, and in the case of our town of Sharon, she is Lu Stubbs, an accomplished Sculptor who’s works grace other public places in Massachusetts. She proposed our statue before the town board, local historic groups, the local public and even consulted with Deborah’s great-great granddaughter Muriel Nelson.

The statue is a wonderful monument which was publically funded by some 500 contributors (among them the Gannett Foundation set up by the publisher of 21 Newspapers and eventually in the family USA Today: That would be Frank E. Gannett’s foundation, which donated \$10,000 of the \$40,000 needed for this project). She wanted a patriotic but feminine heroine, and a Likeness that contemporaries could say resembled her. Stubbs solutions, like Stones straddled the alternatives, but in a different way as noted in the following quote. “I decided against portraying her as a soldier because the viewer would then think the sculptor depicted a man. My plan was to depict her as a plain young woman at about the time she was discharged from the Service. And for the clothing I played with the ideas of dressing her as a male on one side of her body and as a female on the other, then as one in front and the other in back”. But on Cape Cod Stubbs had an epiphany when she saw Deborah’s dress, that was inherited by Beatrice Bostock, held it up against herself, and realized that it would fit her. “I rejected both thoughts of a masculine/feminine Deborah, and decided that since she was a woman I’d put her in the dress I’d seen and have her hold the uniform, However this didn’t read clearly; but when I draped the coat over one shoulder, I started getting excited because I realized that was it.”

Honor Guard at
Deborah Samson
Statue
Commemoration

Chronicle of a *Sculpture* A SLIDE LECTURE BY *Lu Stubbs*



Marta Lavandier photos/The Patriot Ledger

Members of the 18th Massachusetts Regiment fire a salute Saturday at the dedication of a statue of Revolutionary War heroine Deborah Sampson in Sharon. She is said to be the only woman to fight in the war.

Lu Stubbs speaks, while dignitary's, such as Bill Keating, Dave Clifton, Marjorie Clapprood, and others, wait for their turn to speak about Deborah Samson Gannett.





**SHARON
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

LIBRARY HOURS
MON. 10-6 TUE. 10-8 WED. 10-8 THU. 10-5
FRI. 10-5 SAT. 10-5

**JUNE 17
FRIDAY 10:30
MUSIC
MOVEMENT
AND ME**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILSON'S INN



1947

Deborah Samson
Honored with
a Flower

She was honored in 1947, with a flower. Officially its called the: 442 Deborah Sampson Scheer 47. The Seed parent was a gladiolus called the Maid of Orleans, and the Pollen Parent was called the Picardy. And this flower presented by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society won first prize for Wendall W. Wyman who lived on Billings Street in the town of Sharon. He exhibited 25 spikes of the flower for the New England Gladiolus Societies 27th annual ceremony . It was described as follows: *“It is a wonderful creamy throated gladiolus of blush pink, with rich florets thick, on strong stalks and the name of Deborah Sampson. The North American Gladiolus Council reports the originator of the variety is a Mr. Scheer. Seeds for this flower will be sold to the public for the first time in 1947”*.

The Deborah Samson.
Grown by Wendall B. Wyman.

Facsimile



The Medallions

The (DAR) Daughters of the American Revolution commissioned the Franklin Mint to issue 1000 Pewter Medallions of Deborah Sampson.



DEBORAH SAMPSON



Constance Steere from Sharon, MA designed this Deborah Sampson medallion in a Gold, Pewter and Bronze color for the American Revolution Bicentennial in 1976. The Sharon Historical Society still has some for sale.

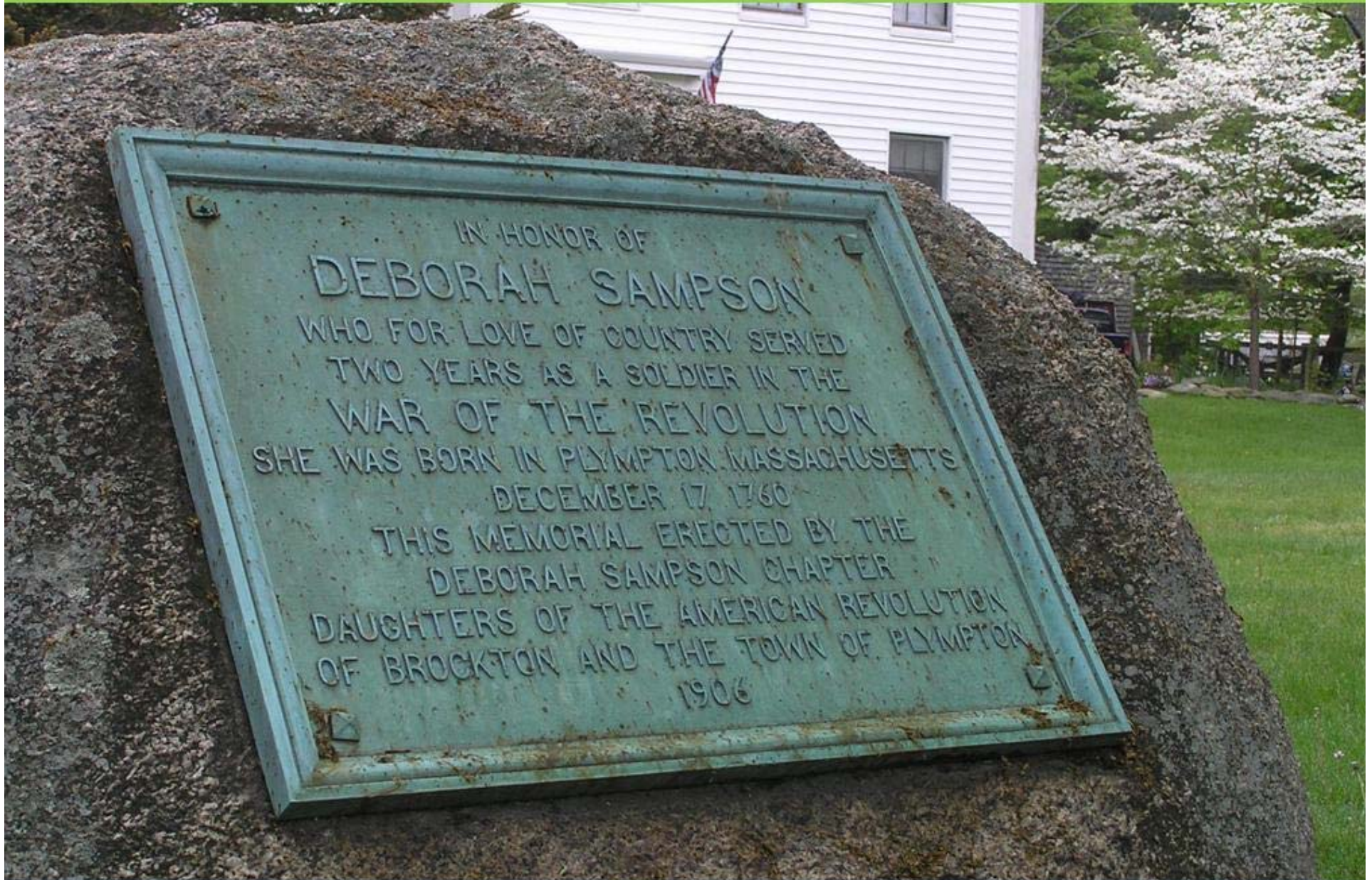


U.S. Capitol Historical Society minted this Deborah Sampson Commemorative Medal in 1985.



The Plaques and Signs

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Town of Plympton, erected this Plaque in her honor.



TOWN OF PLYMPTON

DEBORAH SAMSON FLAG

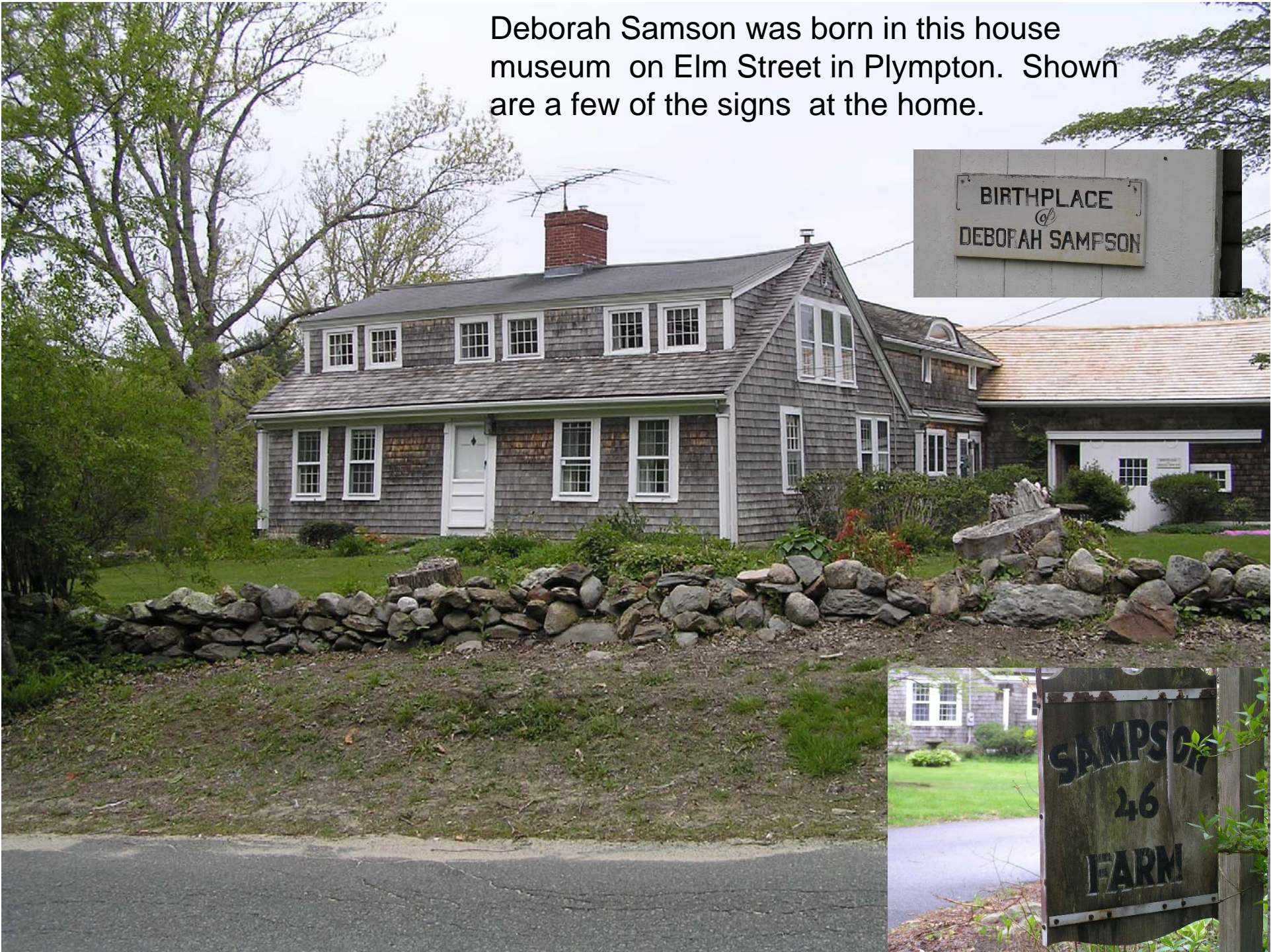


Plympton even named a street after Deborah.



DEBORAH SAMPSON WAY

Deborah Samson was born in this house museum on Elm Street in Plympton. Shown are a few of the signs at the home.





DEBORAH SAMPSON.

Plympton, Massachusetts

There is a youth baseball park named after Deborah, in Sharon.



DEBORAH SAMPSON PARK

"SUPPORTED BY: SHARON YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION"



A green street sign with white lettering that reads "DEB. SAMPSON ST" is mounted on a wooden post. In the background, there is a weathered wooden building with a grey roof and an American flag flying. The scene is set against a backdrop of dense evergreen trees.

DEB. SAMPSON ST

And in Sharon, a street is also named after Deborah Sampson.



Sharon also has a *Gannett Terrace*...

And *Camp Gannett* is on the old Gannett land near Lake Massapoag in Sharon.

A wooden sign with the words "Camp Gannett" cut out in a green, serif font. The sign is made of a piece of weathered wood and is suspended from a tree branch by two metal brackets. The background shows a forest of trees with some green leaves and some bare branches.

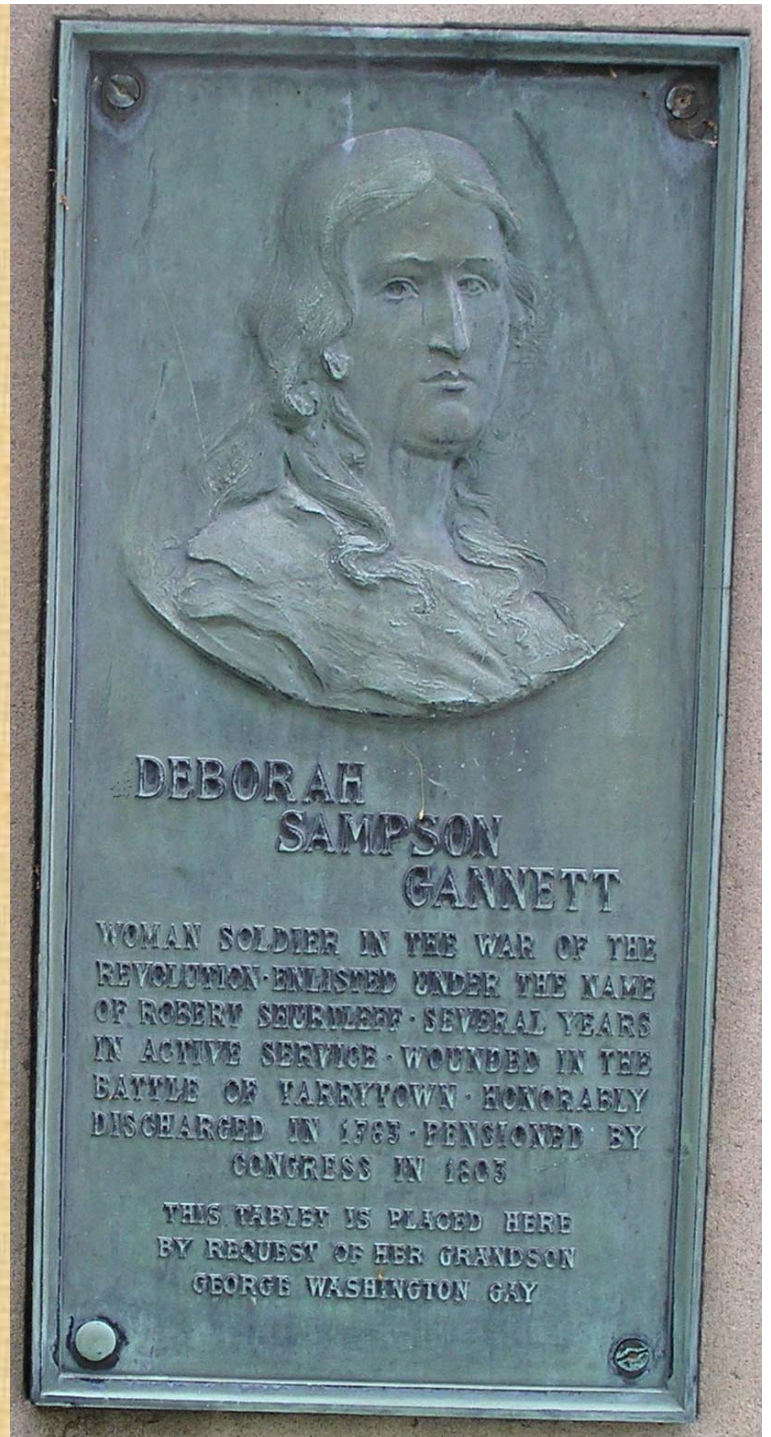
Camp
Gannett

Today Camp Gannett is called: Everwood Day Camp.



This tablet was placed at Rock Ridge cemetery in 1902, by request of her grandson, George Washington Gay. It says...

*“Deborah Sampson Gannett
Woman soldier in the War of the
Revolution. Enlisted under the
name of Robert Shurtliff.
Several years in active service.
Wounded at the battle of
Tarrytown. Honorably
discharged in 1783. Pensioned
by Congress in 1803.”*





ROCK RIDGE CEMETERY

RESTING PLACE OF DEBORAH SAMPSON GANNETT. 1760-1827, DRESSED AS A MAN, SHE ENLISTED IN THE COLONIAL ARMY AS ROBERT SHURTLEFF AND SERVED ABOUT TWO YEARS SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED, HER SEX WAS DISCOVERED AND HONORABLY DISCHARGED. SHE MARRIED BENJAMIN GANNETT IN 1785, RAISED HER FAMILY AND LIVED OUT HER LIFE NEARBY ON EAST STREET.

Sharon American Revolution
Bicentennial Committee



DEBORAH,

wife of

Benjamin Gannett,

died

April 29, 1828,

aged 68 years.

The Uxbridge Memorial

SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JAMES ALBEE
SALATHIEL ALBEE
SAMUEL ADAMS
SAINT ADAM
ABEL ALDRICH
AMARIAH ALDRICH
AMASA ALDRICH
BENJAMIN ALDRICH
EZEKIEL ALDRICH
PETER ALDRICH
JOHN ALGUER
SAMUEL AMEDON
ALFORD ARNOLD
DAVID BACON
ELIJAH BACON
JONATHAN BACON
EDWARD BATTLES
JOHN BEALS

ROBERT BROWN
WILLIAM BROWN
BENJAMIN BUFFOM
BARRAUCH BULLARD
JAMES BUXTON
JOHN CAPRON
JOSEPH CARPENTER
AMARIAH CHAPIN
JOSEPH CHAPIN
SAMUEL CHAPIN
EBENEZER CHASE
DAVID CHILSON
LEVI CHILSON
REUBEN CHILSON
DAVID CLARK
JOSEPH CLEAVLAND
BENJAMIN COGSWELL
DANIEL COGSWELL

JAMES EMERSON
JONATHAN EMERSON
THOMAS FARROW
AMOS FARNUM
CALEB FARNUM
NATHANIEL FISH
DAVID GAGE
PETER GERMAN
PELATIAH GIBES
BENJAMIN GODFREY
BENJAMIN GREEN
BENJAMIN GREEN JR.
CLEAPHUS GREEN
LEMUEL GREEN
JOSEPH GOLDTHWAITE
JOHN GROUT
JAMES HALE

LEVI HAYWARD
SAMUEL HAYWARD
SILAS HENRY
THOMAS HEWETT
JONATHAN HIDE
JOHN HOLBROOK
MICAH HOLBROOK
SYLVANUS HOLBROOK
JACOB HOOKER
DAVID HOOPER
ROBERT HOOPER
JAMES HULL
JOHN HULL
NATHANIEL INGERBAM
DAVID JACKSON
WILLIAM JEFFORDS

The town of Uxbridge is grateful for Deborah Samson, enlisting in their town, and helping them fill their quota of recruits during the Revolution. So they listed her name (and that of Robert Shurtleiff) on this plaque in front of the Prospect Hill Cemetery in Uxbridge. See next slide....

JOTHAM BOLSTER
NATHAN BOLSTER
SAMUEL BOWDEN
WILLIAM BOYCE
AARON BROWN
ELIHU BROWN

AARON DARLING
HENRY DARLING
JOSEPH DARLING
PETER DARLING
DAVID DRAPER
RICHARD DRAWMY
NATHAN DRUCE

JOSHUA HARDY
ASA HARRINGTON
JONATHAN HARRINGTON
RUFUS HARRIS
DEPENDENCE HAYWARD
ELIAS HAYWARD
JACOB HAYWARD
JAMES HAYWARD

GRINDALL KEITH
HENRY KEITH
ICHABOD KEITH
JAMES KEITH
JOB KEITH
NATHAN KEITH
NOAH KEITH
DAVID KELLY
EPHRAIM KEITH

FIELD
SETH READ
THADDEUS READ
NATHANIEL RIST
JOSEPH ROSS
JESSE RUTTER
JOHN SCOTT
EDWARD SEAGRAVE
JOHN SEAGRAVE
JOSEPH SEAGRAVE
AARON SHARP
ROBERT SHIRTLIFF
DEBORAH SAMPSON
ABNER SIBLEY
PETER SIBLEY
STEPHEN SOUTHWORTH
FRANK

JOSIAH TAFT
KEITH TAFT
MOSES TAFT
NOAH TAFT
OLIVER TAFT JR
PAUL TAFT
PETER TAFT
ROBERT TAFT
SAMUEL TAFT
STEPHEN TAFT
TIMOTHY TAFT
WILLIAM TAFT
ZADOCK TAFT

The Middleboro Memorial

The War memorial
is located in
Middleboro, MA.



and the 1st brick
placed in the
Memorial Park,
was for
Deborah Samson.

Center
Section 3

Deborah Sampson Army
May 1782-Oct 1783 Gift
from 3rd Grade 2004

PO1 Thomas A Golden
USN Enlisted 1999
Crew of USS La Jolla

A1C Ryan P Golden
US Air Force 2001-04
B52 Crew Chief

Wallace Bruce Parks
US Civil War
1st N.Y. Mtd. Rifles

Maj Edward W Parks
Army(ret) WWII CO I
109th Inf 28th Inf Div

William Parks
Alamo
KIA

The Alter of the Nation at: the Cathedral of the Pines.



A rock from the (300 East Street) home of Deborah Samson Gannett was used to build this “Alter of the Nations” at the Cathedral of the Pines, in Rindge, New Hampshire.



The outstanding
Deborah Samson
Female Veterans
Award.

This award is presented annually to an outstanding Female Veteran in the National Guard.

Deborah Sampson Award



Presented to

MSG (Ret) Carin Smith, Mass ARNG

Plymouth, MA

For exemplary military service in the United States Army National Guard, extraordinary resolve to serve your country despite personal hardship and sacrifice, and outstanding efforts to enhance the lives of women veterans through community service.

Viviana A. Cordoba
MA Women Veterans' Network Coordinator

Coleman Nee, Secretary
MA Department of Veteran Services'