



**Deborah Sampson (1760–1827).** A Massachusetts native, Deborah Sampson grew up listening to her relatives tell stories of the family's harrowing experiences in the American wilderness after arriving on the Mayflower. At the age of twenty-one, she disguised herself as a man and

enlisted in her local militia under the name Robert Shurtleff. She traveled with her regiment and escaped notice until she was wounded in the leg in New York. The military physician soon discovered her ruse and arranged for her to be honorably discharged and sent home.