

# Breaking Gender Barriers: Deborah Sampson

Sophia Pratt

Junior Division

Individual Website

Student Composed Words: 1198 Words

Process Paper: 380 Words

I got the idea of learning about Deborah Sampson because I have always enjoyed learning about past wars. Also, my cousin recently got into Minnesota's National Guard and the stories of his experience were very interesting. People who have fought for women's rights have always inspired me, so I decided to research about the first woman to fight in a war in America, and her name was Deborah Sampson. Learning about Deborah Sampson has inspired me to be able to do the things I want to do in life despite what the world says.

I found a lot of my research on databases. My most valuable sources were from national historical museums and college research facilities. They all gave me very trustworthy information. Some of my sources gave me different information than another source so I had to search for a lot of information to find the most trustworthy one. Also, sometimes important information was lost to history. I did a lot of research to make sure my information was correct.

I chose to do a website because I have always loved working with technology and I really enjoy writing. I thought I wouldn't have enough information for a research paper because Deborah Sampson lived in the 1770s and I wouldn't be able to learn about the small details of her life. I knew I would not be able to summarize her life in 500 words (exhibit board) so doing a website would be a perfect balance. I learned many skills working on my website. I learned how to make an annotated bibliography and how to navigate building a website. I had to overcome many struggles making my website, like when I added backgrounds on all my pages but it didn't appear on two of them. When putting my website together, I wanted each page to look similar. So I stuck with the same colors, spacing, and format. I really enjoyed problem-solving and working on my website.

My topic, Deborah Sampson relates to the theme because she broke gender barriers by being the first American woman to fight in a war. Women are still breaking barriers today, and she could have inspired them to do so. Deborah Sampson took a risk, and she will forever impact U.S. military history.