

Pension Application for Constant Beebe

S.14942

State of New York
Columbia County SS.

On this 3 day of September 1833 personally appeared before Medad Butler a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the said County of Columbia, Constant Beebe, a resident of the town of Chatham county and State aforesaid aged 68 years who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served in the militia or Levy service as herein stated.

On or about the 15 June 1778 he volunteered as a private under Captain Josiah Warner (1), Lieut. Davenport (2), and served as waiter to his Uncle Major Martin Beebe (3) who was an inhabitant of the same neighborhood and town with the applicant. This declarant believes that the manner of service as waiter was understood before his engagement—he was organized at New Concord (4) so called and Albany County (now Columbia) Thence marched through Albany to guard the Western frontier—was stationed at Cherry Valley for some time was frequently on guard, when not otherwise engaged as waiter to his uncle who he thinks commanded the Corps which went or march from this county and district to the north.—he recollects standing on guard in an orchard, whilst at Cherry Valley, the inhabitants of which come within the guard every night for safety, and frequently when the inhabitants were sent to milk their cows, a guard was sent with them. Col. Campbell (5) and Major Dixon (6) were at this place but he does not recollect that they had any command—thence marched to Caughnawaga from thence to Johnstown, he recollects of going into the church at that place and for the first time heard church organs, thence marched to Albany and home where he arrived the first of August, making in this tour of service as he verily believes not less than 1 ½ month (See Sam. Doty's deposition marked A) On or about the 1 of June 1779 he volunteered as private in the militia service under Captain Gideon King (7) of New Lebanon—Lieut. Deavenport, Colo. Asa Waterman (8) was organized at New Concord in the immediate vicinity and place of residence of this declarant—Thence marched to Albany, thence to Schenectada ws there billeted (9) village and was there out on scouts and scoured the then forests in Duanesburgh and other places in pursuit of Indian and Tories thence marched back to Albany there was dismissed and returned home on or about the 15 July—this tour of service as he verily believes was not less than 1 ½ month.

On or about the 1 of October 1779 he volunteered as a private under Captain Ebenezer Cady, Lieut Nathaniel Rowley (10), Colo. Asa Waterman the time for which he engaged was 3 months, was organized at New Concord Albany County, thence marched to Fishkills. Other Regiments at this place were Colo. Platts, Colo. Heathhorn's, Colo Graham's and Colo. Dubois' (11)— was there on guard and performed the usual duties of a camp then was dismissed and returned about the last of Nov. he recollects well that it was cold weather before he was dismissed. They had to and did build fire places of turf—this term of service as he verily believes was not less than 3 months-- (Vide Saml Doty's Deposition marked A)

On or about the 1 of May 1780 he volunteered as a private under Captain John Davis of the neighborhood of this declarant—Colo. Asa Waterman, Major Martin Beebe, was organized at New Concord, Albany County - and thence marched by the way of Albany to Schoharie was there billeted out, was on various scouts in different places during his station in that place then marched back to Albany was there dismissed and returned home on or about the 15 June his service in this tour as he verily believes was not less than 1 ½ month (Vide Daniel Darrows deposition marked B).

On or about the 1 July 1780 he hired out as a substitute for one Rowly who was head of a class of militia - he was recruited for 3 months under Captain Elijah Bostwick, Lieut. John Calendar, Orderly Sergt. Samuel Brown (12) was organized at the house of Jonathan Warner in Kings district Albany County the company then went different ways to Fishkills, was at that place joined to Colo. John Graham's Regiment. Lieut Colo. Livingston, Major Woolsey, Adjutant Funday Quartermaster Sergt. Truesdell—the other Regiments which were stationed there were nearly the same as those the preceding year (viz.) Platts, Heathhorn's, Debois, (13) and some others, he staid at this place 2 or 3 days, thence marched to West Point here he assisted in drawing cannon from Fort Put (14) to the water side for the grand army to the south as was then said; at this place he was on guard when a man was hung as a spy—staid in this place about 3 weeks dthence marched to Haverstraw, thence to Dobb's ferry—whilst at Dobb's ferry a Row Gally belonging to the army got aground or came into Tappan Bay and some shoes were exchanged, but the Gally made off—thence marched back to West Point at this place this Declarant was detached from Capt. Bostwick's company and put under one Capt. Williams (15), who as he was informed was allowed to raise a company from Colo. Graham's Regiment by detaching—from West Point this Declarant with others embarked in Sloops and sailed to Albany—thence the company to which he belonged evacuated by the way of General Schuyler's to Fort Edward to Fort George remained a few days, thence marched to Fort Ann, remained a few days, thence marched back to Fort Edward, there were stationed on guard and other duties of a camp till it was marched by the American's after the enemy had destroyed Fort George and Fort Anna, a party of Indians and Tories came to Fort Edward and burned a number of buildings in sight of the Fort but did not approach so as to be reached by small arms from the Fort during their stay this declarant and others lay on their arms all night expecting an attack, they however decamped and disappeared without any serious injury to the small army in the fort—he well recollects that the women and children came into Fort Edward during the enemy's burning in the vicinity of Fort Ann and Fort Edward. This declarant volunteered to stay longer than his first engagement and did stay and did not arrive at home till about the 1 of Nov. making in this tour of service as he verily believes not less than 4 months (Vide Daniel Darrow's deposition marked B and also William Lius marked C.)

And further this Declarant has no documentary evidence to prove his services, and that he knows of none others by whom he can prove his services excepting those whose depositions he has already obtained and are hereunto attached—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on any pension roll of the agency of any state.

In answer to the first interrogatory prescribed by the war department his says.

1. He was born in the town of Sharon, Connecticut, April 5, 1765.
2. He has no other record of his age than that transmitted to him by his parents in a family Bible.
3. & 4. He resided in Kings district Albany County colony of New York and has lived in the aforesaid Kings district until Chatham and Canaan were divided into towns from it, since he has resided a part of the time in Canaan, and the remainder of the time he has resided in Chatham where he now resides and not to exceed 3 miles from the place where he was called into service, he volunteered in every instance, but went as a substitute for one Rowley in the last campaign.
5. (Malcomb, Van Horne) and others herein before mentioned.
6. He does not recollect that he ever received a written discharge, but was dismissed and told to return

home. (Signed) Constant Beebe

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Medad Butler.

End Notes—Constant(ine) Beebe (Beebie, Beeby)—S.14942

1. Josiah Warner was appointed Second Lieutenant in Captain Philip Frisby's Company (Third Company) in October of 1775 in Colonel William B. Whiting's Seventeenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. On June 16, 1778, Captain Frisby was commissioned Second Major of the regiment, First Lieutenant Ebenezer Cady was commissioned the Captain of the Third Company and Warner was now commissioned the First Lieutenant. The Second Lieutenant was Ezra Murray and the Ensign was Elijah Cady.
2. Peter Davenport was the First Lieutenant in Captain Walter Groesbeck's Company (Second Company) in Colonel Peter Yates' Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County Militia.
3. Martin Beebe was commissioned the First Major on June 16, 1778 in the Seventeenth Albany. As Constant was serving as a waiter at age 13 to his uncle this usually would not count as military service as he was under age.
4. Present day Canaan, Columbia County, New York.
5. Samuel Campbell of the First Regiment on Tryon County Militia commissioned on June 25, 1778.
6. There was no major Dixon (Dickson, Dickinson, etc.). There were several Dickson's living in and around Cherry Valley at the time. James Dickson was Captain of a Company of Batteauxmen in 1778 and his brother Benjamin was serving as a Lieutenant in Captain Garret Putman's Company of Rangers in 1778.
7. Gideon King was commissioned Captain on March 6, 1779 of the Fourth Company as Captain Nehemiah Fitch had resigned. The other officers were First Lieutenant Peter Barker, second Lieutenant David Darrow and Ensign David Curtice. They were all in the Seventeenth Albany.
8. Asa Waterman was the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seventeenth Albany.
9. Billeted usually means they were quartered in the inhabitants homes instead of in a fort.
10. Nathaniel Rowley was the First Lieutenant in captain John Davis' Company (Fifth Company) in the Seventeenth Albany.
11. Colonel Zephaniah Platt of the Dutchess County, Regiment of Associated Exempts, Colonel John Hathorn of the Fourth Regiment of Orange County Militia, Colonel Morris Graham of the First Regiment of Dutchess County Militia and Colonel Lewis DuBois of the Fifth New York Continental Regiment.
12. Captain Elijah Bostwick, Lieutenant John Calender and Sergeant Samuel Brown were all from the Seventeenth Albany. Morris Graham (not John) was appointed as a colonel in 1780 to command a regiment of New York State Levies and Bostwick was appointed Captain in the regiment on July 1, 1780. Henry Livingston was the Lieutenant-Colonel, Major Melancton Woolsey, Adjutant Jellis A. Fonda, and Quartermaster Sergeant William Trusdall all of Graham's Levies.
13. Colonel DuBois had resigned from the Fifth New York on December 22, 1779 and on July 1, 1780 was appointed colonel of a regiment of New York State Levies.
14. Fort Putnam was built as part of West Point's fortifications. It's still part of West Point, New York, and is open to the public for tours.
15. On May 11, 1780, Daniel Williams was appointed Captain in Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Pawlings' Regiment of New York State Levies. Captain Williams and his company had been sent to garrison Fort Edward. In July or August Captain Williams was transferred to Colonel Graham's Regiment. Constant is shown on Captain Williams Muster Roll as enlisting as a private on July 26, 1780. He is not listed on Captain Bostwick's Muster Roll. Many times officers are ordered to collect men and attach them to their companies until they can join their proper company. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, Folder 75, National Archives, Washington, DC.
16. Fort Ann was destroyed on October 19, 1780 and Fort George was destroyed on October 1780 by British forces under Major Christopher Carleton.

Constantine's father was John Beebe, Jr., who had held several civil offices at New Concord and had kept a diary which included the time period of the War of Independence. A few excerpts relating to Constant are included here:

October 1779, 21. Thursday. Col. Waterman (17) with part of the militia march'd for fishKill with whom Constantine went. Mr. hide Return'd to preach with us again.

May 1780. 26. Friday. A small rain some few of the militia turn out and march to Day with whom went Brother Martain (18) and Constant. Col. Whiting called here on his way to the assembly.

July 1780. 22. Satterday. Cap. Bostwick with part of the militia set out for New York Constant went in the Company.

Sep. 1780. 11. Monday. Philo (19) came from Albany where he had been to see Constantine who was about to march to guard the frontiers. Came home cam by a fall from his horse.

October 1780. 18 Wednesday. New that Ballstown (20) is burnt by the enemy this day married Henry Mott and Lydia Ray, also Joseph Brown and Margaret Mott. Constantine came home from Fort Edward broght new that Fort George and Fort Ann was taken and burnt by the enemy with allthe soldiers therein towards 200.

Excerpts from a Diary of John Beeve, Jr., covering the Revolutionary War years 1779 and 1780 in New Concord (Canaan), Columbia County, NY. Transcribed by Richard C. Perry, 1983. MS. No. 13329, New York State Library, Special Collections and Manuscripts, Albany, NY.

17. Asa Waterman had married Lucy Beebe, a sister of John Beebe, Jr., and Aunt of Constant. Also refer to end note no. 8.

18. Martin Beebe, a brother of John Beebe, Jr. Refer to end note no. 3.

19. Philo son of John Beebe, Jr. and Constant's brother.

20. BallsTown was destroyed on October 17, 1780 by British forces under Captain Hugh Munro. BallsTown is present Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, NY.

Constant served under his relatives in the militia of the Seventeenth Albany including Captain John Davis who had married his Aunt Sarah Beebe. Captain Ebenezer Cady had also married his Aunt Chloe Beebe. Eleazer Cady, a private in Captain Cady's Company married Constant's Autn Tryphena Beebe.