

Pension Application for Caleb Benedict

R.12435

I, Edwin Hall became Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Norwalk on the 14th of June 1832, and have so remained ever since. There are no records belonging to the Church of an older date than A.D. 1807. It is the common report among our aged people that there were records kept from the first organization of the Church in the year 1652, to the decease of Rev. Dr. Burnet in the year 1806; and that after his death the books of records were kept in the parsonage in a basket, and eaten through and through by rats, and quite destroyed. This is the common belief of our aged people. I have always heard this account of the matter, and nothing different from it. I entertain no manner of doubt concerning it, but believe it to be the truth. (Signed) Edwin Hall. Pastor of the 1st Cong.Church of Norwalk. Witness M. C. Pierce. Norwalk Jan'y 1851. Sworn to and subscribed by me this 9th day of January AD 1851. Horace Smith. Justice of the Peace.

This file is filled with letters stating the date of death for Caleb is May of 1836, 1812, 1816, etc. The pension was refused on the basis of no evidence of service. One document states that Caleb Benedict and Deborah St. John were married in the year 1776.

Lieutenant Colonel Thaddeus Crane was the commander of the regiment of Militia, Lieutenant Jonathan Loder's Company, County of Westchester, Caleb was a private in the years 1779, 1780, 1781. Deborah died June 20, 1786.