

Pension Application of Roswell Beebe

W.16997 (Widow: Sarah Frisbee, Former Widow)

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this 12th day of June 1837 before me personally appeared Sarah Frisbee a resident of the town of Canaan and County of Columbia aged 85 years who after being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 also the Act of 4th July 1836 and the amended thereto passed in the year 1837, that she is now the widow of Colo. Philip Frisbee Esquire late of the town of Canaan and County of Columbia deceased, and then before her marriage with the aforesaid Philip Frisbee she was the widow of Roswell Beebe of Kings district and Albany County (now Canaan and Chatham and Columbia County) who in his life time belonged to the army of the United States, for whose services she claims a pension under the acts aforementioned. She further declares that she was married to the aforesaid Roswell Beebe her first husband, on the 15th day of February 1770 at the dwelling house of Major Martin Beebe (1) in New Concord, society in Kings district Albany County, the marriage ceremony was performed by a Clergyman of the name of John Richards of the above named society who many years since removed from the society aforesaid into some one of the New England states and as she believes is now dead. She has no record of her marriage and has no other means of proving her marriage with the aforesaid Roswell Beebe for whose services she claims a pension, than the testimony of Jesse Utter whose affidavit is hereunto annexed and further that Roswell Beebe aforesaid died as she has been informed by those who were present and as she verily believes on the 23 day of March 1776, whilst in the service and army of the United States at Montreal in Canada of the small pox; and further after the death of Roswell Beebe (2) her first husband she married Philip Frisbee on the 9th day of December 1779; and further that the aforesaid Philip Frisbee her late husband died on the 12th day of March 1813, and that she has remained a widow ever since his death. And further this declarant saith that she lived with her former husband the aforesaid Roswell Beebe in the society of New Concord and Kings district until the month of May 1775, and as she verily believes on the first days of the month he went into the service of the United States as Lieutenant in Captain Baldwin's (3) Company the company marched to Albany from this place and then to Fort Edward, her husband after being absent for about a month or six weeks returned home (4) with recruiting orders and did enlist a number of men in the vicinity of New Concord, after remaining with his family and friends for about two weeks, he left and never returned after his death his friends sent home to this declarant his trunk and clothing and as she believes his commission as a Captain (5) she has been in the possession of it for a number of years but now believes it is lost—the time for which her husband the aforesaid Roswell Beebe engaged to service in the army is not known by this declarant she would refer to the proof of such service hereto annexed and further she has now all due diligence in endeavoring to procure testimony to prove her husband's services, but has not been able to procure any other than that annexed and further that she is not able to write her name but is under the necessity of making her mark. (Signed with her mark) Sarah Frisbee

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid Before me Medad Butler one of the Judges of the County Courts of the County of Columbia.

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this 12th day of June 1837, before me personally appeared Roswell B. Frisbee a Resident of the town of Canaan County and State aforesaid of lawful age who first being duly sworn, doth depose and say that he is the son of Philip and Sarah Frisbee and further that his father Philip Frisbee died on the 12th March 1813, and that his mother Sarah has lived a widow ever since the death of his father the aforesaid Philip Frisbee, and further that his mother the aforesaid Sarah now resides in the family of this deponent in the town of Canaan at the former Resident of his deceased father, that his father and mother have told this deponent that he was named Roswell B. to bear up the name of Roswell Beebe his mother's former husband, and further that this deponent that often, among his fathers papers, seen an old Commission purporting to be Roswell Beebe's and according to the best of his recollection it was a Captain Commission he this deponent has made faithful search for the same but from inquiries among his family he is now satisfied that the Commission is now lost and further saith not. (Signed) Roswell B. Frisbee

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. Medad Butler one of the Judges of the County Courts of Columbia County.

Dear Wife.

I received your Letter Dated the 13th Instant which informed me that you and our Babes were in a Comfortable state of helth [sic health] and they found me with Joy and celebrate in the Like Happy Situation Let us my Dear—Join and give him the Praise who serche [sic, search] the heart and tries the Reins of the Children of men from whom all our mercies flow thank Be to god that I am yet Numbred [sic] amongue [sic] the Living and--In helth as I hope these Lines will find you and our family and all our frinds [sic, friends] in N. Concord I must be short the Baynor Abraham Vosburg is Now with me But Cannot wait your letter seemd to acuse me with Neglect of writing to you were I to see you I am certin [sic, certain] you wo'd [would] Be Convinced that I have Improved Every opportunity my not writing by Capt. White (6) was I Expected Capt. Baldwin was to Set out within a week after and he Promised that he wod [sic, would] Deliver them safe with his own hand But I heare [sic, hear] to the Contrary I am Your Dear Husband Roswell Beebe

Be thy my kind Love to you I Return you thanks for sending your love to me tell Mama and to my Dady will come home in the Spring if alive and well this from your Sincere friend and kind Parent. Roswell Beebe. Dated at Montreal Febry

NB Tell father Beebe I return him thanks for his Letter I Read it to Collonal Elmer (7) a Number of People was to By the Col. Shakes his sides says I Coud [could] have more that was Deacon Beebe, Graney is fresh in my memery [sic, memory]. Ye 25th at 12 oclock 1775 [sic] 1776

Montreal Janry ye 1st 1776

Most Loving Wife

I once more write to Let you know that I am well and hearty I never was so fat in my Life as I am at this present time I am Returnd in our morning Reports Present fit for Duty thanks Bee to God that I can thus Write with truth and I hope these Lines will find you and our children in as good State of Helth [Sic, Health] as they leave me I imbrace this opportunity for to Remind you of the promise I made of Returning by Newyears Day which Now is allmost past I Suppose you Spare Not to accuse me with Neglect in which indeed I Will Not altogether undertake to Justify my self in being So Long absent from my fammily [sic] altho it Rather happened for the want of troops to Escort this place and officers that I have unExpectedly met with than any through Coldness or Disrespect for her am I Sincerely profess to Love and

Esteem above all Earthy things therefore let me entreat You to Calm your fears and add a little to your patience for a few days at the End of which I shall fail not to Be with you and render you a Better account of my Business as I will hope to your Satisfaction I have nothing Strange to write at present But what Capt. Baldwin as he is a Coming home can Relate I have Engaged to Serve my Country til the fifteenth of April next to Be Dismist Sonnor [sic, sooner] if the Service will admit I am in [by?] to come home sometime this winter if the troops arrive which are Expected if Not I shall Return Sometime in April if alive and well I want to hear [sic, hear] you But Don't Expect I Shod [sic should] Before Shad Before I Return or we are at to great a Distance from Eatch [sic, each] other [on reverse side] To Sarah Beebe wife of Roswell Beebe now with the Continental Army att New Concord.

I am now in Cannada and I hope you and our children are well in New Concord I long to Be home to keep Newyear with you all But alas that cant Be But my thoughts fly through the air as it will as the rays from yonder sun hand Let of mine to Be this Determin'd or Kept from my fammily But [iner?] me knows this [fortines], in this troublesome world to let us Join as one and Drink this helth as Speedy and happy Reconsiluition Between great Britton and America my Best Regards to all Rellitive and Engineering frinds in New Concord so I Continue wishing you all a happy New Year I remain your most Loving Husband. Roswell Beebe

My Complyments to Mr. hill I trust Business goes on very well I would keep you at my house and take care of my fammily untill I return and you shall Recive a hansome Reward for your trouble perhaps I shant Be at home before planting if not manage for the Best till I come annd Remember to Be kind to your Sister Daniel Be a good boy welthy & always mind your mother and obay her lawfull Commands peace be with you all.

Lake George June 16th AD 1775

My Dear and Loving wife these few Lines are to inform you That I am in good State of helth at present all though I am at a grate Distance from my fammily and yet a Live and Well thanks Be to God for it grieves me when I think of my Wife and poor Little Innosent Children So much that I Cannot write what I would tell wilthey and [Hana?] their Dady is well and sends his love to them our Comppany is Now Encamped in the Woods on the East side of Lake George how soon we shall be Removed from here god only Knows I hered from you Last night which is a gret Comfort to me to hear That you are Well this Joyfull News Came to me In a Letter from Lieut Rowley's (8) wife to him write to me as of[ten] as you can Remember this that while I am Absent from you that you must Conduct yourself as father and mother Both if it is so Defined By our God that I am never to Return again, to you in this world my hourly prayer to Almighty God is that we may Behave ourselves while here on Earth So that when we Come to Die we may Die In the Love and untiy to a glorious immortallyty and Join the hevenly hosts to all Eternity Remember My Love to fathers and mothers, Sisters and Brothers and all my friends John and Roderick (9) this morning is gone out in the woods to hunting were Boath well and harty [hardy] when they went away We have been to Ticonderoga and By orders have Returned back again to this place untill furder [sic, further] orders from the Committee I Suppose in order for the Yorkers to be in Regiments By them selves we had news when at ticondaraga that the Reggulars are some of the Canadian tropes were Buiding [sic, Building] a fort at [?dore?] which is about 12 miles this side of St. Johns their Design in Buiding this post is unknown to us at present.

Give my [?] to mrs hill and [?] Eyphraim Lord and his fammily I want to here from you all I Cannot write to you all sepperately [sic, Separately] tell Simmeon Doty that John (10) has Be[en] Siesd [sic, Siezed] very hard with the plursy But his fever is turnd and is a getting Better

fast he is not at ticondaroga But we Expect him [?] amongnest [sic amongst]us as soon as possible he can get here.

My Love to Mr Richards and his fammily I Beg of him to Remember me in all his [petisron?]

farewell

This from your love [?nd] and husband untill Deth shall us from each other. Rosewell Beebe.

State of New York

Columbia County SS.

On this 27th day of May 1837 before me personally appeared Samuel Doty a Resident of the town of Ghent County and State aforesaid aged Eighty one years the 4th June next who after being sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that during the spring of the year 1775 he resided at [?] called New Concord then Kings district Albany County and Colony of New York (now Canaan Columbia County) that sometime in the month of April 1775 (11) a Company of foot was raised in Kings district for the Continental Service.

The officers of the Company he well recollects they was the following to wit. Hezekiah Baldwin of New Canaan Society or parish Captain Nathaniel Rowley; of New Concord society or parish 1st Lieutenant Roswell Beebe of New Concord society or parish 2d Lieutenant and Lathrop Allen (12) of New Canan Society Orderly Sergeant all the Officers aforesaid were well known to this Deponant and residents of the same town or District; the Company was raised for 8 months the Deponent was then wishing to enlist into the Company, but prevented by his Master Perez Hamlin with whom this Deponant was then serving an apprenticeship at Blacksmithing. John Doty a brother of this Deponant enlisted at the time and the company marched as he verily believes on the first of May 1775 and as he understood to Albany Knew nothing of the Company move till Lieut Roswell Beebe after an absence of some weeks returned home to Kings district with recruiting orders. This Deponent having now obtained liberty from his Master immediately inlisted as a private in the aforesaid Company and on the return of Lieut Beebe to the Army this deponent accompanied him and joined the Regiment commanded by Colo Goose VanSchaick Some time In the month of August at Fort George at this place this Deponent and the aforesaid Lieut Beebe continued to perform the duties of soldiers untill late in the fall when they took the Lakes and went by water to Montreal in Canada. This time of engagement and service having expired on the first of January 1776 at this time Captain Hezekiah Baldwin and Lieut Nathaniel Rowley having returned home Lieut Roswell Beebe was promoted to the Rank of Captain and Lathrop Allen to a Lieut. Captain Roswell Beebe raised a company for 4 months to this company this Deponent immediately inlisted and [performed?] the duties of a private in the aforesaid Roswell Beebe's Company and under his Command till the small pox [?] in the Continental Army, Captain Roswell Beebe was there [?] with it and died of the same on or about the 23 day of March 1776, the Command then fell on Lieut Lathrop Allen under him my until the 2 day of May 1776 Completing his engagement Lieut Allen was then made a Captain and this deponent Continued in his Company and joined Colo Samuel Elmore's (13) Regiment of the Connecticut line sometime in the month of June 1776 this Deponent subsequently marched to Fort Stanwix and continued in Captain Lathrop Allens Company and Elmores Regiment for one year.

This Deponent was well acquainted with Captain Roswell Beebe and Sarah his wife before the said Beebe entered into the Continental service though this Deponent was not present at their marriage, by Common consent and Common report, he verily believes they were legally husband and wife, this Deponent further saith that after the decease of the

aforesaid Rosewell Beebe in the army his widow Sarah married the late Colo Philip Frisbee of the town of Canaan deceased and further that she is now the widow of the aforesaid Philip Frisbee deceased and further saith not. (Signed) Samuel Doty

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me. J. G. Ford Commissioner &c.

I certify that I am well acquainted with Samuel Doty who has sworn and subscribed the above Deposition, and further that his character for truth and veracity is fair and his testimony intitled to full credit as a witness. J. G. Ford Commissioner &c.

End Notes—W.16997—Roswell Beebe

1. Martin Beebe an uncle of Roswell served as the first major of Colonel William B. Whiting's Seventeenth Regiment of Albany County Militia. This regiment was also known as the King's District Regiment.
2. Philip Frisbe was appointed Captain of the Third Company in Colonel Whiting's Regiment. Philip was commissioned second major on June 16, 1778 in Colonel Whiting's Regiment.
3. Roswell was appointed second lieutenant on May 25, 1775 in Captain Hezekiah Baldwin's Sixth Company in Colonel Goose VanSchaick's Second Continental Regiment. The appointments were given by the Albany County Committee of Safety. The Continental Congress date of appointments ware June 28, 1775 when the regiment was considered in the Continental Service. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 67, folder 19, National Archives, Washington D.C.
4. On the muster roll dated at Fort George the 13th of October 1775, Lieutenant Beebe is listed as absent by leave. The muster roll is the same as cited in endnote 3.
5. So far an appointment as Captain for Roswell has not been found. Colonel VanSchaick was appointed Colonel on February 16, 1776 of a regiment to reinforce the Continental Army in Canada. In the Proceedings of the Provincial Congress on March 4th 1776 it has "A List of Officers of the 4 Regiments raised by New York in 1775, now in Canada, as they rank, Febr 28th 1776." But Roswell is a second lieutenant. FROM: Documents Relating to The Colonial History of The State of New York, ed, Berthold Fernow, Vol. XV, State Archives, Vol I, Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers, p 76-77,1887.
6. Captain George White of the fifth company of VanSchaick's Regiment.
7. Possibly Samuel Elmore. In 1775 he was appointed major on May 1st in Colonel Benjamin Hinman's Fourth Connecticut Continental Regiment. Elmore served as major until sometime in December of 1775. He was appointed Colonel on April 15, 1776 of a Connecticut State Regiment.
8. First Lieutenant Nathaniel Rowley of Captain Baldwin's Company in Colonel VanSchaicks' Regiment.
9. Privates John Doty and Roderick Beebe of Captain Baldwin's Company. They enlisted on May 25, 1775.
10. It appears that the letter was written in stages and not in one sitting.
11. The Albany County Committee of Safety authorized at least 7 companies to be raised in Albany County for the Continental service. They were accepted or arranged into Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment. The four companies were Captain John Visscher as the first company, Captain Cornelius VanSlyck as the second company, Captain Barent J. TenEyck as the third company, Captain Baldwin as the sixth company, Captain Elisha Benedict as the eighth company [part of this company was also raised from Cumberland County], Captain John Graham as the ninth company and Captain Joel Pratt as the tenth company. The company number refers to the seniority of the captain.

First Company means the captain was the senior captain and the captain of the second was the second senior captain, etc. The companies were called into Continental service in June of 1775. Samuel did not enlist until August 2 of 1775 as a private. Same source as endnote 3.

12. Lathrop Allen enlisted as a sergeant on May 25, 1775 in Captain Baldwin's Company. Same source as end note 3. The enlistments in 1775 expired while they were in Canada and officers were appointed while they were in Canada but there is not a complete list of appointment for the provisional New York Regiments. Colonel VanSchaick's Regiment was re-organized in February but the four New York Continental Regiments were re-organized (more commonly called the second establishment) in March of 1776. James Clinton was appointed Colonel of the Second New York on March 8, 1776 but so far a complete list of company officers has not been located nor has a complete list for VanSchaick's in February of 1776.
13. Lathrop Allen was appointed captain on April 15, 1776 in Colonel Samuel Elmore's Connecticut State Regiment. Samuel enlisted as a private on June 15, 1776 in Captain Allen's Company. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 27, folder 206, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

A good article on the New York Continental Regiments was written by William E. Davidson entitled "Not Gansevoort's 3d New York at the December 1776 Battle of Trenton, or the "Benedict Arnold Curse" pp 81-93 in the Military Collector & Historian, Vol 61, No. 2, Summer 2009.