

Captain Daniel Cook, Jr.

Connecticut Minuteman, Militiaman and Militia Captain

Bryson C. Cook



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Research and Writing by Bryson C. Cook

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Acknowledgements

Over the years Janet Porter, Genealogist of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organization, and I have spent countless hours researching the Cook family of Goshen, Litchfield County Connecticut. At first our efforts were to determine the ancestry of Elizabeth Porter who married Daniel Cook, Jr. the grandfather of Phineas Wolcott Cook. Finding her ancestry was one of the primary goals of the Phineas Wolcott Cook Family Organizations since it was founded. One family researcher, Melvin Cook, postulated that Daniel met Elizabeth during his service in the Revolutionary War. With this idea in mind we researched Daniel's service in the war to see if we could use his whereabouts to determine where they may have met, not realizing at the time she lived in Goshen. Fortunately the research led to the discovery of the Revolutionary War pension applications of her two brothers and subsequently the discovery of her ancestry, the successful result of over one hundred years of multi-generational research and the efforts of several family researchers.

The research discoveries into the service of Daniel Cook, Jr. are the essence of this book. What we knew, what we've learned, where to look

in the future. New discoveries include what we have learned about his service in the militia during the war and after its conclusion: his enlistment into two different State Regiments, the material support he gave to the Army during the war, the companies he is known to have served in and where he served. Finally, new information is presented, including his commission as a Captain of the 16th Company of the 17th Regiment of the 6th Brigade of Connecticut State Militia--all contributions of his one small thread to the fabric of the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Preface

To a certain extent this book is hard to explain but it was something I had to do. Thanks to Phineas Wolcott Cook, I was able to learn as a youngster that his grandfather, Daniel Cook, Jr., fought in the Revolutionary War. While all war is evil, the fact of the matter is that sometimes they have to be fought. The Revolutionary War was unique because it freed people from their oppressors, enshrining self-determination and individual freedom while repudiating the rule of tyrants and governance by monarchies. It made possible a new type of government, unheard of, yet dreamt of by men of good will throughout the ages, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It was exciting and meaningful for me to think that my fourth great grandfather was part of that extraordinary history. According to Phineas, he was "about sixteen years old when he enlisted in the army and served faithfully for seven years."

Later as a young man I visited his grave in the Milton Cemetery and learned that every year, on the Fourth of July, the town puts an American flag on his grave. This act of remembrance touches me. When I saw that

his headstone read, "Captain Daniel Cook" I associated the rank with his service in the Revolutionary War and my sense of pride and interest in his service grew. Phineas related in his journal that he was in "many battles and skirmishes." My interest continued to grow and I wanted to know the answers. To what battles? Where did he serve? Questions and more questions.

As I began to look for answers I soon learned that the records of his service were nonexistent. I hired researchers who found nothing. I frankly struggled when a prominent researcher reported that he wasn't in the Continental Army but in the militia. I didn't understand what that meant and was frankly disappointed. But I couldn't let it go.

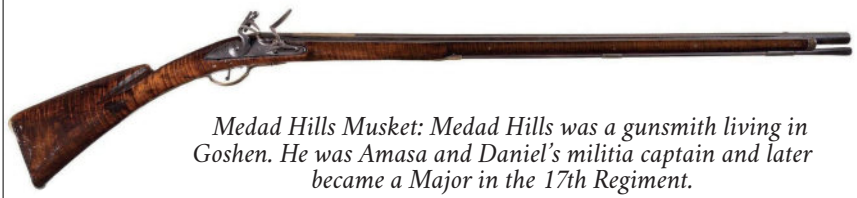
Then after years of research and combing the records I found a reference to Daniel's war service. I was serving as a Mission President for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Africa of all places when I found two references to his service in the Revolutionary War while searching online, the first primary sources found. This was the key to understanding his service in the militia as well as regiments organized by the State of Connecticut as part of the war effort. As a result of understanding the military structure used to fight the war, I was able to answer a lot of questions concerning where and when he fought, how he supported the war effort and his subsequent commission to the rank of Captain in the Connecticut State Militia.

I also learned more about his father, Daniel Cook, Sr., including his rank as a Captain in militia and the entire family's support for the war. The Cook family was committed and contributed treasure, fidelity and also put themselves in harm's way for the cause of freedom. This book captures that research with the primary focus on the service of Daniel Cook, Jr., our common ancestor, including the units and places where he served and increasing our little glimpse of the risks he took and the dangers he faced. He was a hero.

Introduction

The Cook family has had the good fortune of being on the right side of history. Henry Cooke, the father of our American family, left his mother country in 1635. He came with the Puritans to a new and unknown world to be free. The desire for independence was passed to his offspring who would pioneer and settle Connecticut, a colony of like-minded men whose desire for self-determination led to a Royal Charter from King Charles II granting them the right of self-governance. Then when King James II sent his agents to seize it from the Colony, they hid the charter in the "Charter Oak." Keeping it safe was an incremental first step from tyranny to complete independence from the monarchy, a precursor of what was to come in 1776. After four generations in the Colony of Connecticut the family had become independent, self-reliant and determined to stay that way. Daniel Cook, Jr. was the beneficiary of this legacy, blessed with the desire to see it preserved. He was born free and was willing to put himself in harm's way even if it meant going to war. Even if it meant that a Connecticut farm boy would have to take on the most powerful nation on earth!

What we know of Daniel Cook Junior's Revolutionary War service is preserved in the writings of his grandsons, Phineas Wolcott Cook and Darius Burgess Cook. Daniel had shared his war stories with his son, Phineas, who in turn retold them to his sons. His youngest son, Phineas Wolcott Cook, memorialized these stories in his journal while his older brother Darius wrote newspaper articles about them.[1] In fact, Darius Burgess Cook inherited the musket Daniel Cook, Jr. used in the war. He wrote an article about the musket and his grandfather's war service that he published in his newspaper.[2] Darius cherished this heirloom of his grandfather and actually willed the musket to his grandson, Harry Cook.[3]



Medad Hills Musket: Medad Hills was a gunsmith living in Goshen. He was Amasa and Daniel's militia captain and later became a Major in the 17th Regiment.

The record of Daniel's service and sacrifice is not known beyond his family because no record had been found in town, state or Continental Revolutionary War documents.[4] Fortunately, a recent review of both

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1 Newel Cook McMillan, compiler, *The Life and Times of Phineas Wolcott Cook*, 2nd Edition, (Brigham City, Utah: American Publishing Company, 1908), 3-5.

2 *Friends of Silverbrook Cemetery,* (Leader Publications, 2008) https://www.leaderpub.com/2008/05/24/cook-star tedthe-daily-star/ "At one time he published the story around the history of a flint-lock gun he owned, once used by his grandfather, Daniel Cook. He later willed the piece, perfectly preserved to his grandson, Harry W. Cook."

3 Probate Records, 1832-1913, Index Ca. 1832-1933; Author: Michigan Probate Court (Berrien County); Berrien County Historical Association (Berrien Springs, Michigan); Probate Place: Berrien, Michigan. "I give and bequeath to Harry Cook, my grandson, now of New York City, my grandfather's Revolutionary War gun, my family bible and one hundred dollars."

4 These records include muster rolls, pay vouchers, town, colony and state records. Like many veterans, Daniel Cook of Goshen, died prior to the pension acts and the account of his service was never recorded.

Revolutionary War and pension records has provided first-hand accounts of his service and contributions to the army. For example, a study of Revolutionary War account books shows that he and his brothers Phillip and Amasa, sold cattle and other war supplies to the Continental Army.[5] For some of the transactions Daniel received government notes in lieu of Continental dollars.[6] But most importantly his enlistment in two State Regiments or "State Troops" was discovered in the pension applications of Alexander Griswold of Goshen and Ebenezer Miller of Torrington. Both are known veterans of the Revolutionary War.[7]

In order to qualify for a pension, the 1832 Act of Congress required veterans to document six months service in the war effort. Because the record keeping was incomplete or missing, veterans were allowed to provide details of their service in court, including dates of enlistment and discharge, names of regiments and officers they served with and the testimony of credible witnesses.[8] With the information and details provided by their pensions and available Revolutionary War records, it is possible to

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5 Sylvester Judd, Connecticut archives, Revolutionary War (Selected Papers) Series 2, 1777-1788, Family History Library Film #008199500, Volume 9, (Image 229 of 517). "The United States payments made on account of Alexander Catlin, ACP, under Jeremiah Wadsworth Commissary General, on August 19, 1779, Daniel Cook sold seven beef cattle, for 1800 Continental currency … on October 10, 1779, Amasa Cook sold one beef cattle, for 120 Continental currency …" (Image 228 of 517), "on November 17, 1779, Phillip Cook sold five beef cattle, 1300."

6 Connecticut archives, Revolutionary War (Selected Papers) Series 2, 1777-1788, Family History Library Film #008199500, Volume 41, (Image 60 of 571), "… Orders drawn on the Treasurer by the committee of Pay Table in favor of different persons for supplies to the Army for which treasury notes were given …" (Image 67). "Amasa Cook: May 1, 1782 – 58.5.2 and Daniel Cook: May 4, 1782 – 115). (Image 72). "Philip Cook: February 23, 1782 – 794." Note: Beginning in 1775 Continental currency or "Continentals" were issued as dollars, (see Wikipedia).

7 Pension Application of Ebenezer Miller, file no. W.1,306, third declaration: *"I well remember a company of 3 men at least as late as the latter part of October 1780 from Goshen of this County, joined our company ... viz Daniel Cook, Alexr Griswold and Thomas Griswold."* Pension of Alexander Griswold, file no. R.4,342, third declaration: *"Daniel Cook and Thomas Griswold both of Goshen aforesaid volunteered and went with him to New Haven in the Campaign aforesaid. They have both been dead many years and he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his services."*

construct a first-hand account of Daniel's military service and contributions to the army, effectually validating family accounts of his service in the war as well as the fact that he indeed put himself in harm's way for his country.

8 *See Journal of the American Revolution,* https://allthingsliberty.com/2021/08/good-and-sufficient-testimony-thedevelopment-of-the-revolutionary-war-pen-sion-plan/. There are no references to his commission in the record. Goshen organized a trainband as early as 1740 with the commission of Benajah Williams, Captain, Goshen Company, October 1740. (*Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut,* 332). Records of subsequent commissions don't occur until the 1760's. *(Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut,* 12:255). Daniel Cook, Sr. was probably commissioned during that time frame.

SECTION ONE

Service in the Militia

One of the realities of colonial life, is that it was a martial life, and militia service to a certain extent, was a way of life. Since the arrival of Henry to America, succeeding generations were required to affiliate with town "trainbands" or militia for the defense and security of their families. Daniel Cook, Sr. had previously served as a militia Captain and is referred to in town documents as Captain Daniel Cook.[9] In fact, once a man received the rank of Captain or higher, he retained that title throughout his life as a token of respect.[10] At a town meeting held 16 November 1777 he is on the list or roll of the freemen who took the oath of fidelity to the State of Connecticut and also the Oath appointed for freemen by a Late Act of Assembly: "Capt. Cook, Philip Cook

9 "Goshen Town Records" Transcribed 1840, 1:249. Town Meeting held 14 December, 1772; Captain Daniel Cook was appointed to a school committee to determine if the east school district of Goshen should be divided into two districts. Committee members: "Capt. Daniel Cook, Ensign Jonathan Wadhams, and Moses Lyman were chosen a committee." This is the first reference to his rank of militia Captain in town records."

10 Robert A. Geake, *New England Citizen Soldiers of the Revolutionary War,* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2019), 1

and Amasa Cook."[11] The following is the oath they swore:

> *You, A. B., do swear by the ever-living God that you will truly and faithfully adhere to and maintain the government established in this State under the authority of the people, agreeable to the laws in force within the same; and that you believe in your conscience that the King of Great Britain hath not, nor of right ought to have, any authority or dominion in or over this State,· and that you do not hold yourself bound to yield any obedience or allegiance within the same; and that you will to the utmost of your power, maintain and defend the freedom, independence and privileges of this State against all open enemies or traitorous conspiracies whatsoever: So help you God![12]*

Since Daniel Cook,Jr. was a minor he didn't qualify to be a "freeman" and wasn't required to sign the oath. Taking the oath was serious business and these were serious times. All of Daniel Cook's sons supported the



The military relied heavily on "citizen-soldiers'; or militia. (© North Wind Picture Archives)

11 Jolene Roberts Mullen, *Connecticut Town Meeting Records during the American Revolution,* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2011), 1:322.

12 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut,* October 1776, 1:5.

fight for independence by serving in the militia at one time or another during the war.



The militia were required to drill on a regular basis. (Painting by Don Troiani)

The militia in "British North America were formed on the model of the citizen soldier – that is, those male citizens of the community who were fit for service would muster as a common militia on a regular basis, in preparedness for the defense of the settlement or town."[13] For the most part the militia of Connecticut consisted of men age sixteen to forty-five. They were ordered to drill regularly and demonstrated military proficiency by "passing muster." Town companies would rendezvous on a regular basis in order to drill and parade with their regiments. This would mean that potentially ten companies of sixty-four men or about 600 men and their families would gather for the drills and military parade, usually in Litchfield. Company and regimental drills had a social aspect to them.

According to Robert Geake, "A militia unit, as with any organization, also became what we today would call a social network … those who

13 New England Citizen Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, 1.

committed themselves to training could rise up in the ranks and militia [was] often a stepladder to success in their own communities."[14] Status in the militia contributed to the Cook family's prominence in Goshen. In 1776, Daniel Cook, Jr. was an able-bodied teenage boy living in Connecticut, and as such, he was not only expected but required to join the town militia company by age sixteen.

Daniel's service in the militia and its organization and function help us chronicle his involvement and whereabouts in the war. The militia contributed to the Revolutionary War effort in three ways. First, when called into action they would muster and fight as a militia unit. Second, militiamen could be detached from their town militia companies from time to time, either by enlistment or draft, and serve in State Troops, composed of provisional companies and regiments within the militia battalion structure. These units were composed of men and officers from different towns, commanded by officers appointed by the state, and under the command and orders of the government of the State of Connecticut. These State Regiments could also support Continental Troops and be commanded by Continental officers as ordered by the Governor of Connecticut. Thirdly, town militia were the source of the recruits that formed the Connecticut Line of the Continental Army. There were seven Connecticut regiments that formed the Connecticut Line and they, along with similar regiments from other states, formed the Continental Army commanded by General George Washington.

Typically, town militia companies would be called on as needed, particularly at times of alarm, on a minute's notice. They would serve as independent companies or provisional companies attached to a regiment of State Troops, and serve until discharged, sometimes for a matter of days or weeks. When enlisting or drafted into State Troops they would serve for specified periods of time, usually less than a year and typically for six to nine months. The Continental Army was reorganized in the spring of 1777 in order to enlist

14 New England Citizen Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, 1.

men into the Connecticut Line who were to serve for three years or until the end of the war. This then created a Continental standing army to prosecute the war. As the compliments of state and Continental troops changed, militia men would be detached by enlistment or draft (called levees) and act as replacements or substitutes in State and Continental regiments for short periods of time.[15]



Militia from the towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Torrington, and Winchester composed the companies of the 17th Regiment in 1776. Later militia from Harwinton joined the regiment.

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15 Henry Phelps Johnson, *Record of service of Connecticut men in the War of the Revolution,* Hartford: Adjutant General, Introduction. John K. Robertson, *Journal of the American Revolution, Decoding Connecticut Militia 1739-1783,* (July 27, 2016), https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/07/connecticut-militia-1739-1783/ . Todd L. Gerlander, *Understanding the Connecticut Militia,* https://www.sa rconnecticut.org/understa nding-the-connecticut-militia/. *The 17th Militia Regiment,* https://arw.fandom.com/wiki/17th_Regiment_of_Militia_(Connecticut) .

When Daniel joined the Goshen militia there were two light infantry companies in the town. Each consisted of about sixty men per company and was commanded by a captain.[16] They were called the East and the West or South companies of Goshen. Most of the men in the East Company were from the town center, including the Dog Pond area of town where the Cooks lived. In 1774, militia companies from the towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Torrington and Winchester were combined to form the 17th Regiment of Connecticut State Militia.[17] The Goshen militia companies were numbered as the third (East) and sixth (West or South) companies of the 17th Regiment in 1776. At the time Daniel joined the militia the 17th Regiment was commanded by Colonel Oliver Wolcott, of Litchfield.

Oliver Wolcott was one of the founding fathers of our nation. In addition to his military service he was a member of the Continental Congress in 1776 and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. [18] By the fall of 1776 the 17th Regiment was attached to the 6th Connecticut Brigade of militia and ordered to New York to aid General George Washington's army in its defense against the pending British invasion. About that time, Colonel Wolcott was commissioned a Brigadier General and appointed the commander of "Wolcott's" Militia Brigade. The new commander of the 17th Regiment was Colonel Epaphras Sheldon of Torrington and he commanded the regiment in New York and for most of the war. At the request of General George Washington, the Governor of Connecticut Jonathan Trumbull ordered every able-bodied militiaman who lived west of the Connecticut River to march to New York and fight.[19]

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16 Augustine George Hibbard, *The History of the Town of Goshen,* Hartford, Connecticut: Case, Lockwood, Brainard: 1897, 332: Goshen militia formed. Public Records of the Col-ony of Connecticut, 12:86: East Company formed. Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 12:255: West or South Company formed.

17 Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 14:261.

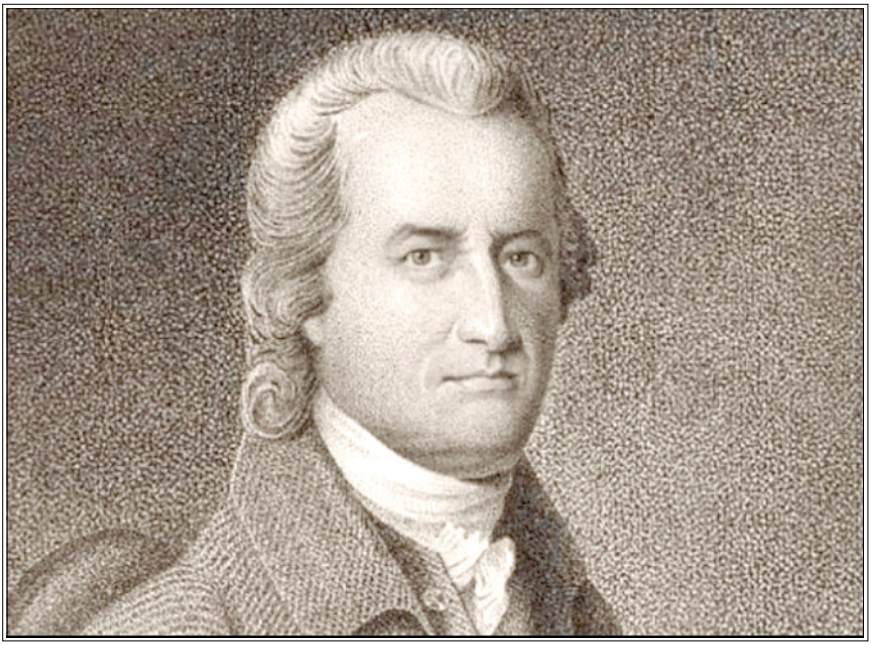
18 Wilford Woodruff of Avon, Connecticut and a cousin of Phineas Wolcott Cook asked him to perform the Temple work for Oliver Wolcott and he served as his proxy.

19 The History of Cornwall, The History of the Town of Goshen, The History of the Town of Litch-*field and The History of Torrington*. The chapters on the Revolutionary War state that every man in town went to New York.

The defense of New York City was problematic for General Washington. He had his own doubts that the city could be defended in consequence of British naval superiority and susceptibility of the surrounding geographic area to bombardment from British war ships. Because the Continental Congress ordered its defense, Washington had few strategic options. Accordingly, General Washington fortified New York City, the New Jersey side of the Hudson and Brooklyn on Long Island. Initially he secured New York City with the Provincial Army with which he had defeated the British in Boston.

Upon his arrival in New York City he realized more troops were necessary and requested that the States raise State Regiments to augment his force. Provincial and State Regiments were posted primarily in Manhattan and Long Island, predominantly around Brooklyn. Finally in recognition of the arrival of the British Army on Staten Island with their superior numbers, General Washington prevailed upon Governor Trumbull to order the entire mobilization of the Connecticut Militia. General Wolcott's Militia Brigade were posted in reserve at the breastworks in Harlem. The Goshen militiamen who had enlisted in the Provincial Army are known, as are most of the men who served in the State Regiments that were raised. However, there are no muster rolls for the Goshen militia who aided in the defense of New York. While Daniel Cook almost certainly served in the New York campaign as part of one of these units, there was no written record.

Prior to this mobilization of the militia, the State of Connecticut raised a state regiment commanded by Colonel Fisher Gay of Farmington. His regiment was assigned to General Wadsworth's



After graduating from Yale Oliver Wolcott moved to Goshen to practice medicine with his brother. He later moved to Litchfield where he was elected Sheriff. He was a member of the Connecticut General Assembly and chosen to represent Connecticut in the Continental Congress. He signed the Declaration of Independence and was later elected Governor of Connecticut. He was Lieutenant Governor when Daniel was commissioned a Captain in 1792.

Brigade of State Troops. This brigade was attached to the army commanded by General George Washington along with Continental regiments raised by the state in 1775. A company for this regiment was raised from the militia companies in the town of Goshen under the command of Captain Stephen Goodwin. The company consisted of about sixty men, forty being raised and detached from the Goshen militia companies and about twenty men from Torrington as the Fourth Company of the regiment. Colonel Gay's regiment consisted of eight companies composed of about

sixty men per comp any.[20]

Timothy Stanley of Goshen was a member of Captain Goodwin's Company in 1776. According to his pension affidavit they marched to New York in June and posted at Fort George at the Battery in New York City. The company was present when General Washington ordered the Declaration of Independence read to the troops. Colonel Gay was soon afflicted with camp distemper and the regiment was led by Colonel Selah Hart.

They were transferred to Long Island and posted at the fortifications at Brooklyn. The company engaged in skirmishes but did not engage in direct combat. From their fortified positions they were able to observe the action when British General Howe attacked Long Island on August 27th. That night they retreated with the army under cover of a dense fog and stayed in New York for a few days before posting about two miles north on the east side of Manhattan near Kip's Bay (currently where the U.N. Building is located). Their brigade bore the brunt of the British attack on September 15th, and after suffering British cannon fire for several hours they were routed by Hessian troops shortly after they crossed the river. The company Lieutenant, Timothy Gaylord was mortally wounded in the action. Lieutenant Colonel Hart of the regiment was taken prisoner.

The company retreated to the North River and then to Harlem Heights where they threw up breastworks and made a stand. When the enemy approached they saw the sentinels and watched the Goshen militia company engage the British in the Battle of Harlem the next day. After a few weeks they retreated with the army to White Plains where the regiment was posted on the left side of the lines and not engaged in the battle that ensued. They retreated with the army and marched to Fort Washington on the New Jersey side of Manhattan. They stayed in the vicinity of the Fort until they were discharged January 1st 1777.[21]

During the New York campaign many of Colonel Gay's men con-

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20 Johnson, *Connecticut men in the Revolution,* 392.

21 Pension application of Timothy Sta nley, file no. S.11,475.



tracted camp related diseases called "distemper" and were ineffective. Joseph Gaylord, the brother of Joel Gaylord, who was the brother-in-law of Daniel, was serving in Gay's regiment when he became ill. He was transferred to New Jersey and didn't rejoin the regiment until after New York was lost.[22] Many soldiers did not lose their lives to the enemy, but to disease, including the commander of the regiment.

22 Pension application of Joseph Gaylord, file no. S.15,848.

With regard to illness, Phineas wrote in his journal that the war broke Daniel's health and that he suffered the effect until the end of his short life. He died at the age of forty-nine. [23]

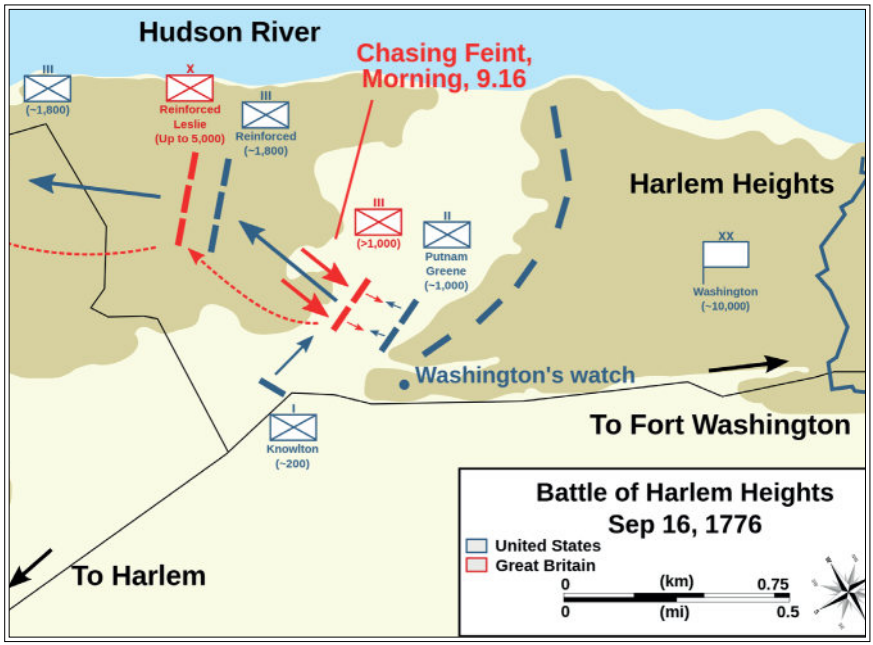
While it is uncertain if Daniel Cook served in Captain Goodwin's Company, it is certain he was part of the mobilization of militia to defend New York. If so, he most likely served in the Goshen militia company commanded by Captain Medad Hills, who was the captain of the East Company that included Alexander Griswold and Amasa Cook and the men living in town or near Dog Pond.[24] Captain Hills' Company marched from Goshen to Stamford where they boarded a vessel and sailed to Horn's Hook on the Manhattan side of Hell's Gate, arriving on the 26th of August. A Tory named Jacob Walton had built a mansion there named Belview. The Colonials seized the property at the onset of the American Revolutionary War. There they built a fort known as Thompson's Battery, strategically overlooking the waters of Hell's Gate at the confluence of the East River and the Long Island Sound. The company marched from the fort about nine miles into New York City where they bivouacked at Fort George at the Battery.

The next day, the 27th, the British landed on Long Island and attacked the American forces at Brooklyn. The defeated American troops on Long Island, including Captain Goodwin's Company, were miraculously evacuated back to New York, and on the 29th, Captain Hills' Goshen militia company was ordered back to Fort Thompson overlooking Hell's Gate.[25] When the British war ships destroyed Fort Thompson the company was withdrawn and re-positioned at Harlem Heights. From that vantage point they were able to observe the Army's retreat from New York when the British attacked on September 15th. The following day Captain Hills' Company engaged the British army when their advance continued and

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23 The Life and Times of Phineas Wolcott Cook, 3-6.
24 History of Goshen, 136.
25 A providential fog obscured the British from being able to see Washington's army retreat by boat from Brooklyn to New York City. When the fog cleared the British were astonished that the Americans were gone.

they fought in the Battle of Harlem H.eights



Captain Hills men were part of the reinforcements that turned the tide of the battle.

Jesse Stanley, the brother of Timothy, was a member of Captain Hills' Company, and he gave his personal account of the battle of Harlem Heights in his pension affidavit.

> *"While we were lying there [Harlem Heights] the British came up from the City. An engagement ensued, it was on a Monday, and it was commonly called at that time the "Monday fight." The British were driven down to the River under the cover of their shipping. After the (our) main army had marched back a small company in all about 100 remained behind supposing themselves out of danger. The British came upon them while there and fired killing a quarter of the company."*[26]

26 Pension Application of Jesse Stanley, file no. R.10,052.



It is likely Daniel Cook, Jr. and Alexander Griswold fought together in the Battle of Harlem Heights.

Captain Hills' men, who had reinforced the Continental troops known as Knowton's Rangers, were observed by Captain Goodwin's Company who reported, "they gave a "good account of themselves." [27]

Subsequently, the opposing armies remained motionless in Manhattan for about two weeks. Captain Medad Hills' Goshen militia were discharged in mid-October and went home prior to the Battle of White Plains. Near the end of December, Captain Medad Hills and a company of Goshen men volunteered to march to the aid of the Continental Army. Amasa Cook, the older brother of Daniel, was on the muster roll of the company.[28] Captain Hills would soon be promoted to Major in the 17th Regiment and Asa Francis would be promoted to Captain of the 3rd

27 *History of Goshen,* 136.
28 *History of Goshen,* 136.

Company (formerly the East) in the regiment.[29]

Alexander Griswold is known to have served in Captain Hills' militia company at the battle of New York.[30] He and Daniel most likely began their service together as part of the general mobilization of Connecticut militia in 1776. These battle accounts of Goshen men give us a glimpse or an idea of what Daniel Cook, Jr. may have experienced at the beginning of the war. They also provide a guide for further research. Assuming Daniel Cook served in the militia, his service suggests the beginning of a pattern, wherein he would enlist and serve for short periods of time with Alexander Griswold, especially in companies like Captain Hills' that have no muster rolls.

The Adjutant General of Connecticut, when compiling the records of those who served in the Revolutionary War, explained the challenge: "A complete record... would embrace several thousand additional names, especially of the militia. From expressions used by Governor Trumbull in his correspondence, the wording of the calls for temporary service and the make-up of town militia lists, it is apparent that barring a small loyalist element in the western part of the state, nearly every able-bodied man in Connecticut rendered, or was enrolled as notified and prepared to render, some kind of service during the Revolutionary War. The exposed situation of the state, with her entire coast subject to incursions and ravages by the enemy and her proximity to the several fields of operations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York, required her to remain in a constant state of preparation."[31]

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29 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 1:29.

30 History of Goshen, 136.

31 Johnson, Connecticut Men in the Revolution, xi-xii. As a result the rolls for Continental troops are the most complete. The roles of State Troops are less so. The militia rolls are the most lacking.



One of the major endeavors of the Connecticut State Assembly was to defend the Sea Coasts of the State and the Hudson River Valley.

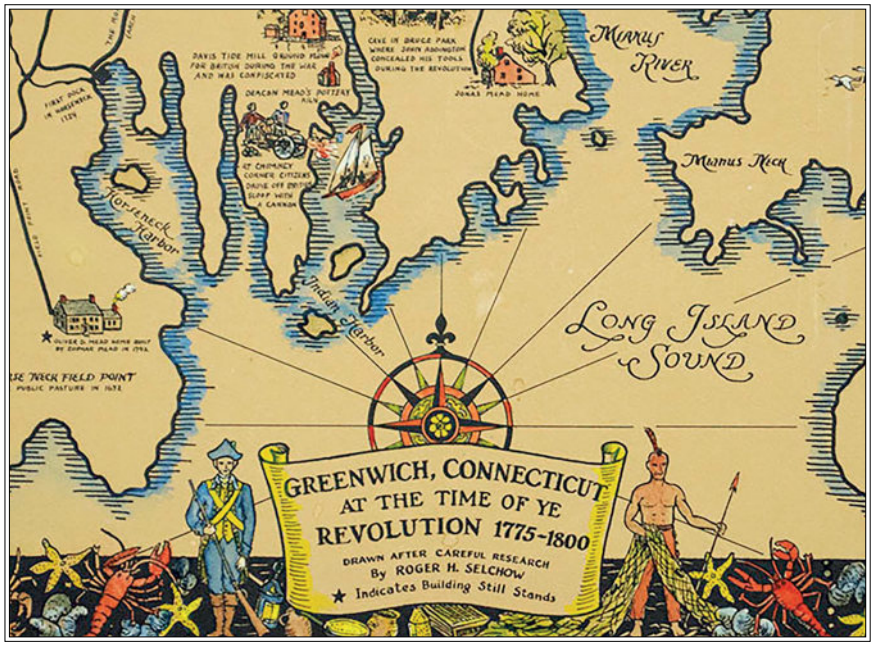
SECTION TWO

FIRST TOUR IN THE STATE TROOPS

Shortly after Washington's retreat from White Plains, New York in October of 1776, the Connecticut State Assembly began calling on militia and organizing State Regiments or Troops to defend its coast and borders along the Long Island Sound and the Hudson River Valley. Many of these regiments were stationed at Greenwich, Connecticut (Horseneck) which was in close proximity to Westchester County, New York and a short distance from both Long Island and Manhattan. These State Troops defended the coast and supported Continental Troops stationed at Peekskill and West Point and forts along the Hudson River.

The British, in turn, fortified King's Bridge, around present-day 110th street in Manhattan, on the north end of the island of Manhattan and locations near Long Island. The area between the two fortified armies is referred to in the records as "No Man's Land" or "Neutral Ground" because of the bloody, irregular, and constant warfare in the area. Enemy troops were referred to as Cowboys, Skinners, Refugees, Tories, Marauders. Both the British and the Americans would send scouting and raiding parties into the area. There were many skirmishes and battles, many fatalities.

It was an incredibly dangerous place! [32]



Greenwich was under constant British threat throughout the war.

The British, who occupied New York City and Long Island, constantly raided Connecticut coastal towns and ports. While the towns were defended by garrisoned troops, the militia from the surrounding counties would rush to repel the invaders when these attacks occurred. One of the British

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32 Skinners were named for British, Brigadier General Cortlandt Skinner whose New Jersey regiment consisted of New Jersey Tories. The Cowboys were lead by British Brigadier General Oliver De Lancey, and were know n as De Lancey's Brigade. Lawlessness and guerrilla wa rfa re were carried out by De Lancey's "Cowboys" and their compatriots, the New Jersey Volunteers, known by their nickname, the "Skinners." Both were British loyalist marauders who stole cattle, looted, and gathered military intelligence in the New York countryside (Lincoln Diamant, Skinners: *Patriot "Friends or Loyalist Foes?,* The Hudson Valley Regional Review, September 1987 , Volume 4, Number 2. See, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey_Volunteers and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Lancey%27s_Brigade .

strategies was to keep the Connecticut militia in a state of constant alarm. Connecticut was the primary source of supply for the Continental Army and the disruption to the agrarian militiamen was problematic. Governor Trumbull wrote General Washington saying, "by their frequent attacks on the different parts, they know they keep us in alarm, and so much divert us from our husbandry as well as soon reduce us to want."[33]

The British were vicious in their attacks led primarily by General William Tryon. General Tryon was the deposed Tory Governor of New York. In 1777 and 1778 he led attacks against every major Connecticut harbor and city on the Long Island Sound. The city of Greenwich, also known as Horseneck, was located in the southwest corner of Connecticut and adjacent to Westchester County, New York, and was under constant threat by land and sea. It was referred to as the Westchester Front and subject to constant raids and skirmishes.

Another element of danger should also be considered and was encountered by Daniel Cook. The close proximity to New York City and Manhattan created tension with the residents of southwestern Connecticut. As a result there was a preponderance of Tories or Loyalists concentrated in those areas. The economics are easy to understand as a consequence of the capture of New York by the British that resulted in restricted trade.

The second element of danger was religion. Redding, Connecticut was located nearby and about thirty miles from Greenwich. Redding had two militia companies that aligned with the parishes of the two churches in the town. One was the Church of England and the other Congregationalist. At the commencement of the war the Anglican company defected and sided with the British while the Puritan company sided with the States. As a result the city was rife with Tories and ultimately became the site for Putnam's winter encampment in the winter of 1777-1778. It was a logical place to position troops, first to intimidate and observe the Tories and secondly

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33 Robert A. Geake, *New England Citizen Soldiers of the Revolutionary War*, 52.

to reinforce Horseneck and the Westchester front as the need arose.[34] With regard to the Tories, Daniel is quoted as saying, "Tories were ten times more terrible than the English."[35]

Early in the war Horseneck was fortified and defended by Connecticut State militia and troops. One notable battle on the Westchester front took place in the spring of 1779 when General William Tryon attacked Greenwich. With 1,500 troops he assaulted the town on February 26, 1779. Tryon wanted to destroy the small boat fleet, destroy the salt works, steal their horses and capture General Israel Putnam. While the town was plundered, General Putnam barely escaped. A "dramatic version [of his escape] came from a reliable eyewitness, Ebenezer Mead, … who saw him tearing down the cow-path; saw him turn in his saddle just as he reached the bottom of the stone steps and come into the turnpike; and holler `damn ye' to the redcoats who stood around the little church at the top of the steps firing at him."

"Everyone was amazed at the time that he was able to go down that hill without going head over heels down those rocky, treacherous steps," Zeranski said. "None of the cavalry pursuing him was ready to follow him. Audacious move – or desperate."[36] Putnam soon gathered reinforcements and the British were forced to retreat.

To counter these threats, the Connecticut State Assembly would organize regiments of State Troops to guard the coasts and the Hudson River Valley. Such was the case in 1777-1779. In January of 1780 the State Assembly ordered that two State Regiments composed of detached militia be raised for the defense of the state along the western coast. Each regiment was to be commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and one

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34 Charles Burr Todd, *History of Redding, Connecticut,* (Newburgh Journal Company: 1906) and W. E. Grumman, *The Revolutionary Soldiers of Redding, Connecticut,* (Hartford, CT: Hartford Press, 1904) .

35 *The Life and Times of Phineas Wolcott Cook, 3-6.*

36 Robert Marchant, *Torn by War: Greenwich in the American Revolution,* (Greenwich Times: 2014), https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Torn-by-war-Greenwich-in-the-American-Revolution-6038379.php#:~:text=Besides%20the%20bloody%20irreg-ular%20warfare,plundered%20the%20town%20in%201779.



General Israel Putnam narrowly escaped capture by British soldiers. This rendering is part of the town seal of Greenwich today.

Major who would serve under the direction of the State Assembly or if they were in recess, the Governor of the State and the Council of Safety. Each regiment would field eight companies of light infantry raised by voluntary enlistment and to be effective by April 1, 1780. The term of service would be nine months and the enlistees would be discharged December 31st. The first regiment was commanded by Colonel Levi Wells and the second by Colonel Bezaleel Beebe. The service for both Colonels would end January 1, 1781.[37]

The men who enlisted in these State Regiments were called, "guards for defense of sea coast and frontiers of Connecticut" and were paid 1 shilling 3 pence per day or £2 per month.[38] The assembly commissioned and assigned all of the officers and non-commissioned officers to their

37 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 2:458.*

respective companies. Colonel Bazaleel Beebe of Litchfield commanded the "Second Battalion of Foot in the service of the State of Connecticut," with Edward Shipman as Major. Captain Peter Curtiss was to command the 3rd Company of Beebe's Regiment with Gideon Mills as Lieutenant and Eli Smith, Ensign. When Daniel Cook enlisted with Alexander and Thoma Griswold they joined this regiment and company and these men were their officers.

Colonel Beebe, of Litchfield, had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the 17th Regiment of the Connecticut Militia in January of 1780 and detached to command the new second regiment of State Troops.[39] The 17th was part of the Sixth Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Oliver Wolcott who was the regiment's former commander.[40] The 17th Regiment served at the Battle of New York in 1776 and the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. Also, men in the regiment were detached to serve as needed to other units and at other times throughout the war.[41] Colonel Beebe would have been known to Alexander and Thomas Griswold, Daniel Cook and Ebenezer Miller. In fact, these soldiers would have known each other well as a result of their service in the militia regiment.[42]

As a combat officer and leader of the new State Regiment Colonel Beebe was an excellent choice. A resident of Litchfield, he had been an active commander in both militia and State Troops prior to his promotion and assignment. When one-fourth of the Connecticut Militia were mustered, he was commissioned a Lieutenant, and reported with his company to Boston in 1775. In July his company was ordered to

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38 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut,* 2:460. At that time currency was denominated in pounds £, shillings (s) and pence (p).

39 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut,* 2:471.

40 *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 15; 1775-1776, 499. General Wolcott's commission. See Public *Records of the State of Connecticut* 1-96 for the formation of the Brigade consisting of the 14th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 26th regiments of Connecticut State Militia. Epaphras Sheldon was the Colonel who replaced General Wolcott.

41 Johnson, *Connecticut Men in the Revolution,* (Hartford: Adjutant General) Introduction, 438, 446, 512.

42 *New England Citizen Soldiers of the Revolutionary War,* 1. "A militia unit, as with any organization, also became what we today would call a social network."

defend the fortresses on Lake Champlain and was posted at Crown Point. In fact from the pension of Moses Bartholomew, a brother-in-law of Daniel Cook, we learn Moses was in the company commanded by Captain Bazaleel Beebe in the Champlain Valley.[43] In 1776 his company saw active service in New York and New Jersey. Captain Beebe was taken prisoner at the capture of Fort Washington and imprisoned for about one year in New York. While on parole in New York City he was allowed to meet with his fellow-prisoner, Ethan Allen, his Litchfield neighbor.

Beebe was released as part of a prisoner exchange, promoted to Major in August of 1777, and later appointed recruiting officer for the 6th Militia Brigade. He was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in January of 1780 and assigned to lead the new regiment of State Troops "to guard the coasts and frontier." The regiment was discharged on December 31, 1780. He was promoted to Colonel the following month and assigned to command a new regiment of State Troops in 1781. Colonel Beebe commanded all the State Troops raised for seacoast defense, with the emoluments of a brigadier general, from 1781 until the end of the war.[44]

In April of 1780 Colonel Beebe's Regiment was ordered by the State Assembly to march to Greenwich and take their post.[45] In May one of the companies, an artillery unit, was ordered to build redoubts, install and man two cannons and to improve the fortifications. His regiment was also provided two teams of four oxen each for military use for as long as the regiment was stationed there.[46] The Assembly authorized the draft of an additional 192 from the 6th Militia Brigade to join the regiment by the 15th of June. If necessary, the regiment was also ordered to join the main army on the Connecticut side of the Hudson if there was an

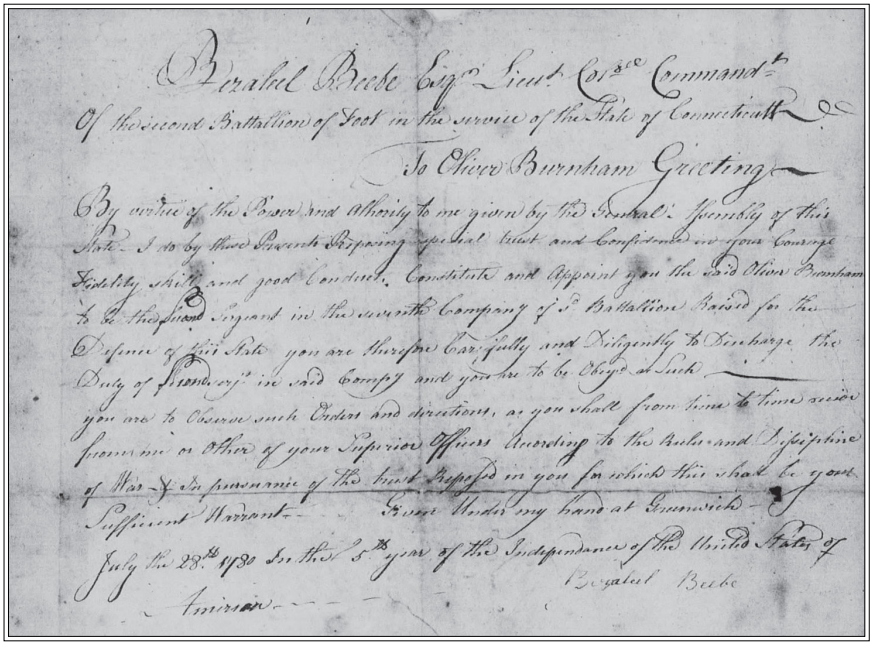
43 Pension Application of Moses Bartholomew, file no. S.15,314.

44 Payne Kenion Kilbourne, A Biographical History of the County of Litchfield, Connecticut, (New York, New York: Clark, Austin, 1851), 126-131.

45 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 2:542.

46 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 1:35.

47 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 3:29, 31.



Bazaleel Beebe Esqr Lieut Colo Commandt
Of the second Battalion of Foot in the service of the State of Connecticut
To Oliver Burnham Greeting
By virtue of the Power and Authority to me given by the Genral Assembly of this State I do by these Presents Reposing special trust and Confidence in your Courage Fidelity Skill and good Conduct Constitute and Appoint you the said Oliver Burnham to be Sergeant in the seventh Company of s[d] Battalion Raised for the Defence of this State you are therefore Carefully and Diligently to Discharge the Duty of Sergeant in said Company and you are to be Obeyd as Such you are to Observe such Orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me or Other of your Superior Officers According to the Rules and Discipline of War & in pursuance of the trust Reposed in you for which this shall be your Sufficient Warrant Given under my hand at Brunswick
July the 28th 1780 In the 5th year of the Independance of the United States of America
Bazaleel Beebe

Oliver Burnham included this letter of appointment as part of his pension application. It is signed by Lieutenant Colonel Bazaleel Beebe. Notice the name of the regiment, "The second Battalion of Foot in the Service of the State of Connecticut."

increase in milita ry operations by British regula rs.[47]

Ebenezer Miller of Torrington joined the regiment at Horseneck on June 6th. Upon his arrival, the company soon saw action. He said, "The attack [was] made by Capt. Frink of the cowboys [British Troops] so called [and] was in strawberry time [early June], this [was] referred to in my first declaration, and some of the instances detailed [such] as the

48 Nathan Frink was a Tory lawyer from Pomfret, Connecticut. He was the Deputy Stamp Master of Windham but was prevented by the citizens from moving into the office. He became a Captain in the British Army and after Arnold's defection he joined the American Legion composed of Tories and deserters. After the war he moved to New Brunswick, Canada with other Tories and died there in 1817. See, http://www.royalprovincial.com/militia ry/facts/ofrdeserters.htm http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nbststep/loyalistcem/loyalistbg.htm https://archive.org/stream/earlyhomesteadso00grig#page/n119/mode/2u.



In one pension application the battle line defending Horseneck was described as, "about a mile long."

taking of 120 head of cattle.[48] Even though the Frink engagement was a little skirmish between our outposts in defending our team [of oxen],

where we were foraging for wood, the team was taken and Nash Preston of our company was taken."[49]

In July the record shows the regiment did see action and in one battle Ensign Oliver Bostwick was wounded severely and ordered home by Colonel Beebe. He would later be awarded an invalid pension.[50] Thomas Gridley stated in his pension affidavit that this action occurred on the fourth of July.[51] Per Miller's affidavit, "in the summer season we acted as rangers I remember this by the capture of 10 head of cattle and twenty sheep at one time at Rye [NY] 12 or 15 miles below our lines at which I was present."[52] Not only was the regiment constantly in harm's way they were always on alert relative to the engagements of the Continental Army. John Bull gives this insight into the action, "had several skirmishes with the Cowboys, so called, frequently fired upon but no general action."[53] Four other pensioners who were in the regiment all testify in their affidavits that there were frequent skirmishes with the enemy on the "Westchester" front. [54]

The action related by Ebenezer Miller was described in a letter to General Washington from Major Howe, a New Jersey militia commander.

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49 Pension Application, Miller, W.1,306, third declaration.

50 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut,* 3:407.

51 Pension Application of Thomas Gridley, file no. S.29,186

52 Pension Application, Miller, W.1306, third declaration.

53 Pension Application of John Bull Pension, file no. W.17,377.

54 William Edgar Grumman, *The Revolutionary Soldiers of Redding Connecticut and the Record of Their Service*, (Hartford: 1904), Aaron Barlow, p. 110; Ezra Bates, p. 123; Joel Marchant, 147-148; Asahel Salmon, 161.

"To George Washington
From Major General Robert Howe
Highlands [N.Y.] 8th July 1780

Dear Sir

The Enemy both with Horse and Infantry in all as Capt. Sackett Writes me, about One Hundred and Fifty of Delancys Corps were up the other day into our Settlements—a Party of this State Troops attach'd to this Command who were Posted on the lines under Captain Sackett, turn'd out to Oppose them, but the Captain finding them Double his number and the Ground he possess'd not very Defensible, he prudently Retreated, Determin'd however to Ambuscade them in their way down—They Collected above a Hundred Head of Cattle, and above two Hundred sheep with th(ese)—they were returning in Triumph when they were suddenly Attack'd by Captain Sacket and his Party, they were thrown into Confusion, but rallied and Attack'd our Party, who though not above half their number defeated and Pursued them several miles, and Retook all the Cattle and sheep—Captain Sacket writes me these Particulars—and many Persons of judgement down there Speak of this little affair as Clever—and having done Captain Sacket and his men and Officers Honour—The Enemy had one man kill'd and three or four mortally wounded—The Connecticut State Troops also fell in with this Party lower down, and after some fire Drove them, Colo. Beby who Commanded the Party lost one man and had a Lieut. Shot thro' the sholder, one man of the Enemy was kill'd and a good many wounded.

I am Dear Sir with great Respect Your Excellencys most Obd. Sert Robert Howe"[55]

55 "To George Washington from Major General Robert Howe, 8 July 1780," Founders Online, National Archives, https://founders.archive.gov/documents/03-27-02-0028. Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, Vol. 37, 5 July-27 August, 1780, ed, Benjamin L. Higgins, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2019 pp. 35-36).

The skirmish was also reported in the newspapers:

The Thomas's Massachusetts Spy Or, American Oracle of Liberty for 13 July 1780 printed under the dateline " FISH-KILL, July 6" an"Extract of a letter from the Continental Village, July 2," an account of this skirmish:

> *"Yesterday about 200 of the enemy's horse and some infantry, under Col. [Isaac] Hatfield, came into Middle Patten[t] and its vicinity, and collected upwards of 100 head of horned cattle, some horses, and upwards of 200 sheep. Capt. Sacket, commanding about 40 of the levies of this State, way-laid them in the neighbourhood of Benjamin Clapp's, retook all their cattle and sheep, and wounded a number of them; they then endeavoured to retire between him and the Sound, where Col. Bebee with some Connecticut levies was posted, who also fired on them,—took some prisoners, killed 6, and wounded a number—Col. Bebee lost one man."*

In addition to being on constant guard, they were also on alert to join the army stationed in Peekskill, New York. An example of this is the following letter received by Lieutenant Colonels Bezaleel Beebe and Levi Wells from General George Washington.



George Washington was a Colonel in the Virginia militia prior to his selection by the Continental Congress to be the commanding General of the Continental Army. General George Washington was the heart and soul of the army and beloved by his men who followed him for seven years.

1 August 1780
To Lieutenant Colonels Bezaleel Beebe and Levi Wells
Head Quarters Peekskill August 1st 1780
Sir

I am to desire you will be pleased to put the Regiment under your Com-mand immediately in Motion—You will proceed by the shortest route to join the main Army in the neighbourhood of the White Plains, or wherever it may be: of which you cannot fail to have early information.

I have also to entreat the Regiment will march with as little Baggage as possible; as the whole Army have divested itself of every superfluous & heavy article—I have written to Governor Trumbull informing him of the steps I have taken. I am Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant,

Go. Washington

(Beebe and Wells both commanded Connecticut state regiments. The draft has a cover, addressed to Beebe at Stamford, Connecticut. Although the draft is addressed to Beebe, its docket indicates that Wells also received the letter.)

On 2 August George Washington wrote to Beebe and Wells from Peekskill: "I wrote to you yesterday desiring you to march with the Regiments under your command and join the Army in the neighbourhood of the White Plains. [S]ome movements of the enemy since will retard ours, and we shall not be down so soon as I expected. You will therefore be pleased to halt till further orders—holding your Men ready to march at a Moments warning. You will divest yourselves of all heavy and supernumerary Baggage and when you do come—let it be as light as possible...P.S. You will be pleased to give me advices of anything material passing upon the sound."[56]

56 (Df, in Tench Tilghman's writing DLC:GW; Varick transcript, DLC:GW) 1. See GW to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr, this date.

The foregoing gives some idea of the constant state of alert, commotion and danger the regiment faced and also the monotony of marching and counter marching.

In addition, the regiment also struggled to maintain full strength. Miller states, "during the summer of 1780 our regiment was not generally complete, but filled from time to time ... for temporary purposes by droughts [drafts] for short seasons. This was continued at least until in the fall. I well remember a company of three men ... the latter part of October 1780, from Goshen ... [who] joined our company for a temporary purpose viz. Daniel Cook, Alexr Griswold and Thomas Griswold."[57]

He remembers them joining the regiment because of "certain incidents" that occurred about the time of their arrival. The "incident" was the defection of Benedict Arnold to the British September 21, 1780. As a result of Arnold's betrayal additional reinforcements were called up and arrived shortly thereafter. The army and the countryside were all on alert as a result of Arnold's defection and anticipated a possible British assault on West Point and other fallout from his treachery. Miller remembers, the Griswolds and Daniel Cook joined the regiment at this time and the company was ordered to go to West Point and then "counter ordered and did not go."[58] As a result of this order the regiment remained at Horseneck and was attacked shortly after Daniel and the Griswold's joined the unit.

On December 9, 1780, Colonel Wells, commander of the first regiment of State Troops, was also stationed at Horseneck, and attacked by "some of Delancy's men." Kanah Mills, a member of Colonel Bebee's Regiment,

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57 Pension application, Miller, W.1,306, third declaration. Ebenezer Miller was born in Torrington, Litchfield, Connecticut, 7 January 1764. To qualify for a pension Ebenezer Miller made three sworn declarations. The reference to Alexander and Thomas Griswold and Daniel Cook all of Goshen is found in his third and final declaration. The pension office was only aware of the regiment of State Troops organized in January of 1781 and commanded by Colonel Beebe. Ebenezer consistently testified he was in the regiment of State Troops organized in April of 1780. The fact is he commanded two State regiment. One as a lieutenant Colonel in 1780 and one as a Colonel in 1781.

58 Pension Application, Miller, W.1,306, third declaration.

recalls, "that the Connecticut troops lived in houses and that the line at Horseneck extended for about a mile. He was standing guard at one end of the encampment when the attack was made at the other. Before he arrived at the scene of the attack Colonel Wells had been taken prisoner by the enemy and they had retreated."[59] John M. Case, of Beebe's Regiment, recalls, "about the first of December the post was attacked early in the morning at the Colonel's quarters by a party of refugees and Colonel Wells and several officers were taken prisoner."[60] According to Miller, "Colonel Wells was taken in the night season and the regiment as such was broken up. He was situated near Colonel Bebee's Regiment in which I was and I remember being called out with the rest of our regiment that stormy and rainy night for sundry rounds."[61]

Two soldiers in Colonel Wells' Regiment give the following accounts of this attack. Daniel Waldo was posted as a sentry at the door of Colonel Wells' headquarters when the "Refugees or Cowboys" attacked. Daniel Waldo was taken prisoner with Colonel Wells and taken to the Sugar House in New York City. He was released the following February.[62] Daniel Banks served under Colonel Wells and thought at the time the [Wells] regiment was about 300 strong. He was stationed at Horseneck primarily engaged in scouting [patrolling] and guarding the surrounding country. He was very critical of Colonel Wells with respect to his capture. Banks stated in his affidavit that Colonel Wells was warned daily of the pending attack and had even been warned the night before. He was attacked by Refugees commanded by Colonel James De Lancy with several of his men. Banks thought Colonel Wells had to be, "either a Tory or a coward" to have been taken prisoner. This may seem harsh but consider the year before he had

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59 Pension Application, Kanah Mills, file no. R.7,246. He asserts Colonel Wells was attacked by some of DeLancy's men. He also states that an adjutant of Colonel Wells named Mc-Dowel deserted with some other men, fled about ten miles and was captured by Captain Lockwood and his rangers. McDowel was taken to Hartford and hanged.

60 Pension Application of John M. Case, file no. W.23, 770.

61 Pension Application, Miller, W.1,306, third declaration.

62 Pension Application of Daniel Waldo, file no. S.14,782.

personally witnessed General Putnam's heroic and dangerous escape during the first battle of Horseneck in the spring of 1779. He pointed out in his pension account that unlike Colonel Wells, Colonel Beebe escaped capture and also that the men under his immediate command always considered him a "good man." [63]

Colonel Wells was taken prisoner together with one Captain, two Lieutenants, two Ensigns, and twenty or more privates.[64] As a result of Wells' capture the command of both regiments fell to Colonel Beebe until they were discharged.[65] On January 1st, 1781 the regiments met at the Stamford meeting house and were given a verbal discharge by Colonel Beebe. Daniel Cook and the Griswolds, having escaped injury and capture, were discharged with the regiment and returned to Goshen in January 1781.

This asymmetric warfare on the Westchester Front aligns perfectly with the experiences of Daniel Cook recorded in his grandson's journal. Phineas recalled his father saying that Daniel was in many battles and skirmishes. He recalls that one night, while Daniel and his scouting party were walking on a road surrounded on both sides by stone or rock fences, a company of thirty men suddenly jumped up from behind one fence and shouted, "Who comes there!" Daniel responded saying, "Friend!" He was questioned again, "Friend to who?" Daniel replied, "The States!" whereupon he was commanded to surrender. Thinking quickly he immediately shot at the biggest of the now known enemy, jumped over the fence on the opposite side of the road, and ran for his life! As he was going over the stone wall he was shot four times in a hail of bullets, one in the ear, one in the shoe, one in his hat and the other grazed his side. While running away he ran into another patrol of men and shouted, "I give up!" As it turned out they were his own men. He explained what happened and tried to get them to return with him to where the shooting took place

63 Pension Application of Daniel Banks, file no. S.9,811.
64 *Connecticut Men in the Revolution,* 615.
65 Pension Application Miller, W.1,306, third declaration.

but was dissuaded by the Captain and so they retreated to camp. They returned to the spot of the action the next day and found a pool of blood on the ground and the Captain determined that he had "hit his mark!"[66]



After shooting a British Soldier Daniel literally ran for his life. As he fled three musket balls fired at him by the British pierced his clothing and a fourth one wounded him in the side. Providentially, his life was spared.

66 Newel Cook McMillan, compiler, *The Life and Times of Phineas Wolcott Cook,* 2nd Edition, (Brigha m City, Utah: America n Publishing Company, 1908) 3-5.

SECTION THREE

DANIEL COOK, OF GOSHEN AND SELLING SUPPLIES TO THE ARMY

Daniel Cook, Jr. was born in Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut on August 18, 1761 and was named after his father.[67] His mother, Elizabeth (Pond) Cook was appointed, "Guardian to Daniel Cook, a minor of about 16 years old, son of Captain Daniel Cook, late of Goshen aforesaid deceased" on January 15, 1778.[68] After his father's death he was the only Daniel Cook living in Goshen and as such was referred to in the record as Daniel Cook or Daniel Cook of Goshen. The account books of Captain Alexander Catlin refer to Daniel Cook in 1779 when

67 Lucius A. Barbour and Lucius B. Barbour, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records,* citing Goshen vital records, 1:263. "Cook, Daniel, s. Daniel, b. Aug. 18, 1761." The head stone on his grave reads, "In memory of Capt. Daniel Cook who died on his birthday August 14th 1809 aged 49 years." His birthday was likely August 14th 1760. The family Bible was inherited by his grandson Darius Burgess Cook from his father Phineas. Assuming they used this record for the head stone he would have been sixteen years old in 1776.

68 Litchfield Probate District, Daniel Cook, Goshen, 1778, probate packet #1599. Guardian Bond, Elizabeth appointed guardian to Daniel, Jr. Witnesses: Philip Cook, Samuel Lyman. For proof of his militia rank see, "An Inventory of the Estate of Capt. Daniel Cook."

he and his brothers Phillip and Amasa sold cattle to the army.[69] Captain Catlin had been appointed Commissary of Purchases for the county of Litchfield in 1777 and the sale of beef took place two years after his father's death.[70] The Cook brothers are in the record selling provisions to the army. They are also found in the records of both the State of Connecticut and the United States as holders of government notes issued in lieu of currency for services and provisions rendered. Each time he was listed as Daniel Cook.[71] He is the "Daniel Cook, of Goshen" referred to in the pension affidavits recalling service in the war for 1780 and 1781. Sometime, between these two enlistments, most likely in the spring of 1781, Daniel Cook married Elizabeth Porter, also of Goshen.[72] By August of 1781, he, along with Alexander and Thomas Griswold, his next door neighbors, re-enlisted for another tour of duty.

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69 Connecticut archives, Revolutionary War (Selected Papers) Series 2, 1777-1788, [FHL Film #008199500, Volume 9, (Image 229 of 517)]. *"The United States payments made on account of Alexander Catlin, ACP, under Jeremiah Wadsworth Commissary General, on August 19, 1779, Daniel Cook sold seven beef cattle, for 1800 Continental currency ... on October 10, 1779, Amasa Cook sold one beef cattle, for 120 Continental currency …"* (Image 228 of 517). *"… on November 17, 1779, Phillip Cook sold five beef cattle 1300."* Most of the men listed on this page of his account book were Goshen men.

70 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 1:463, December 4th, 1777.

71 Connecticut archives, Revolutionary War (Selected Papers) Series 2, 1777-1788, [FHL Film #008199500, Volume 41, (Image 60 of 571)]. *"… Orders drawn on the Treasurer by the committee of Pay Table in favor of different persons for supplies to the Army for which treas-ury notes were given ..."* (Image 67 of 571). *"Amasa Cook: May 1, 1782 – 58.5.2 and Daniel Cook: May 4, 1782 – 115).* (Image 72 of 571). *"Philip Cook: February 23, 1782 – 794."* Note: Beginning in 1775 Continental currency or "Continentals" were issued as dollars, see Wikipedia.

72 Norton, *The History of the Town of Goshen*, (1897), 451.



Captain Alexander Catlin was appointed Commissary of Purchases in 1777. He and the teamsters that were part of his company hauled provisions to Continental Troops posted on the Hudson.

SECTION FOUR

SECOND TOUR WITH STATE TROOPS

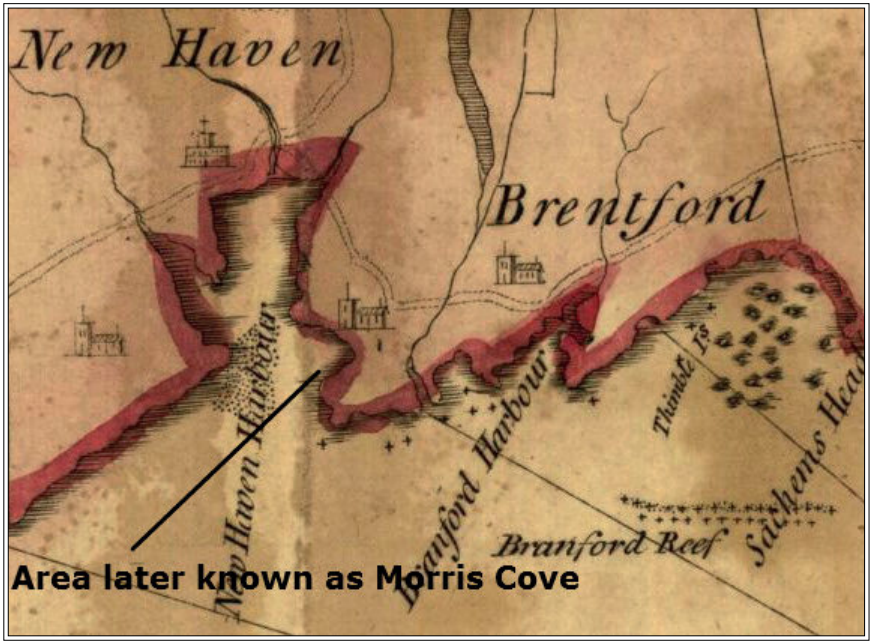
Alexander Griswold was born October 18, 1760 at Goshen, Litchfield, Connecticut.[73] His family owned land near the Cook family and he and Daniel were boyhood friends. Along with every able-bodied man in Goshen, Alexander was called up with the militia in 1776 to aid General Washington in the defense of New York.[74] Daniel and Alexander likely went together. He was ninety years old when he applied for a pension. He was so old and infirm that the judge had to go to his house to take his deposition in 1850. This was thirty-seven years after he first could have applied. The judge explained when the 1832 Act was first approved Alexander was financially independent and secure. As such he thought, in the spirit of independence, it would be a bad example for a veteran to apply for federal financial support. In addition, he had remarried and the children of his first family were opposed to the prospect of his new wife inheriting the benefits of his service. Subsequently, he had a reversal of

73 Norton, *The History of the Town of Goshen,* (1897), 456.
74 Norton, *The History of the Town of Goshen,* (1897), 136, 154.

fortune that compelled him to make an application for a pension. His pension was denied because he could not prove that he served for at least six months. He died in Norton, Summit, Ohio on April 26, 1850.

Even in his old age Alexander was able to recall important and factual details relative to his service. His pension application details his voluntary service on two occasions, in two different companies and regiments, and in two different theaters of the war. He recalled the officers of his first tour of duty were, "Colonel Bezaleel Beebe, of Litchfield, Connecticut, Captain Peter Curtiss, of Farmington, Lieutenant _____ Wilson, Ensign _____ Lewis and orderly [Sergeant] _____ Bull." He was stationed at Horseneck (Greenwich, Connecticut) and served for two months near the end of the yea r, after which he was given a n honorable discharge.

Alexander testified he also volunteered the next year and served under "Captain, Alexander Catlin and that same Colonel, Beebe." Also,



Notice the location of the Thimble Islands where Alexander Griswold was taken prisoner. Fortunately Daniel Cook escaped capture by the British on this tour of duty.

that he had been stationed at New Haven, Connecticut for four or five weeks when he went with Captain Catlin, to the Thimbe Islands in search of firewood. While Captain Catlin and the rest of the company left to gather firewood he, along with twelve other members of the company, remained behind to guard the boat. They were attacked by the British and carried prisoner to Long Island. He remembered that one of his fellow prisoners was a man named _____ Simmons. He remained a prisoner for three of four months and was ultimately released in a prisoner exchange. His term of service having expired, he returned home to Goshen. He concludes his testimony saying, "Daniel Cook and Thomas Griswold both of Goshen ... volunteered and went with him to New Haven in the campaign."[75]

Alexander Griswold states he enlisted in 1781 and then the "next year" served again. He states that both tours of duty were under the command of Colonel Beebe. His first tour of duty was for two months in the fall. It is possible his memory of the dates failed but it is also possible that his declaration began with his service in 1781. Then he reverted back to his short tour in 1780 before he proceeded to relate his service of the "following year" meaning 1781, the result being the year incorrectly stated by the recorder as 1782. The actual year he enlisted was 1780 according to the history of the regiment and according to Miller, "Alexander Griswold, Thomas Griswold and Daniel Cook all of Goshen," joined the regiment at the end of October 1780. Alexander recalled when they joined the regiment his Colonel was Bezaleel Beebe and his company commander was Captain Peter Curtiss. We know from the record that both were serving at Horseneck [Greenwich] Connecticut in 1780. Alexander recalls serving in Horseneck for two months. This recollection aligns with Ebenezer Miller's memory and with the regimental and company structure, per the record, at the end of 1780. Alexander remembers enlisting again the following year, which in actuality was 1781, and serving under Colonel

75 Pension Application of Alexander Griswold, file no. R.4,342.

Bazaleel Beebe and Captain Alexander Catlin. In his pension affidavit he recalls that, "Thomas Griswold and Daniel Cook, all of Goshen, joined him in the campaign to New Haven."

Colonel Bazaleel Beebe was made the commandant of the new regiment in January 1781. By February the General Assembly ordered changes to the regimental structure. The regiment was divided into two battalions, each commanded by a major, consisting of four companies. Each company would consist of one hundred men and would be commanded by a Captain. The entire regiment was to be commanded by Brigadier General David Waterbury, Jr., and referred to as Waterbury's State Brigade. One of the companies, as directed by General Waterbury, was to guard New Haven. The regiment was organized by March of 1781 and would remain in force until March the following year.[76] Colonel Beebe was not promoted to Brigadier General but he functioned in that capacity, and commanded supplemental militia companies and regiments raised to guard the coasts.

The company Alexander Griswold joined along with Thomas Griswold and Daniel Cook in 1781 was commanded by Captain Alexander Catlin, of Litchfield. While Alexander Griswold thought the regiment was commanded by Colonel Beebe, other pensioners agree with the record that Captain Catlin was the company commander and the regiment was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James Arnold, of Durham. Their recollection is validated by sea coast guard expense records. The regiment was most likely called up and organized in response to Benedict Arnold's attack on New London, but not attached to the battalions of State Troops organized in the spring commanded by General Waterbury. When General Washington moved the army to Virginia, the two battalions commanded by General Waterbury marched to White Plains but did not go with Washington to Virginia. When they marched back to Connecticut they remained in Greenwich and Stamford.

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76 *Connecticut Men in the Revolution,* 514.

According to Coast Guard expense records, in addition to Captain Catlin's company, Colonel James Arnold commanded seven other companies included in his regiment.[77] In his pension affidavit, Oliver Dickinson, states he was drafted to guard New Haven and vicinity in the company of Captain Alex Catlin. He further stated, "there were no other troops at New Haven except the regiment which was commanded by Colonel Arnold."[78] James Arnold served as a field officer in the 10th Regiment of militia when it was commanded by then Colonel Wadsworth before his promotion to Brigadier General. The 10th Regiment was composed of Waterbury, Wallingford and Durham men. The record is clear that Colonel Arnold's Regiment was not a militia regiment but a regiment of State Troops organized to guard and defend the sea coasts of Connecticut, specifically New Haven.

Colonel James Arnold of Durham was an experienced combat field officer. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel in Wadsworth's Brigade, Colonel Douglass' Regiment at the Battle of New York. Colonel Douglass' Regiment bore the brunt of the British landings at Kip's Bay.[79] He also served as a Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel Ely's Regiment in 1777. This regiment was posted in eastern Connecticut and defended the eastern sea coasts and the border of Rhode Island. Captain Alexander Catlin had been appointed to the Assistant Commissary of Purchase in 1777. On February 17, 1780 he was nominated as a militia captain from Litchfield.

"Pursuant to the within orders I have warned said company legally and lead said company to the choice of one captain and one lieutenant, namely, Alexander Catlin, Captain and Thomas Catlin

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77 Connecticut archives, Revolutionary War (Selected Papers) Series 2, 1777-1788, (Family History Library Film #008199500, Volume 48, (Image 20 of 63) and Volume 8, (Image 111 of 517). "For the defense of New Haven pay requested on January 16 and 17, 1782 by Colo-nel James Arnold, Captains: Alexander Catlin, Benjamin Conklin, Joseph Loveland, Gideon Todd, Robert Fairchild, Charles North, Daniel Brainard, Basil Munson, and possible Martin Lord."

78 Pension Application of Oliver Dickinson, file no. W.17, 726.

79 *Connecticut Men in the Revolution*, 406.

80 Connecticut archives, Revolutionary War (Selected Papers) Series 2, 1777-1788, (Family History Library Film #007833440, Image 142 of 624).

Lieutenant by a majority of voters present. Dated Litchfield this 17th day of February 1780. To the Honourable General Assembly. By Archibald



Daniel is known to have served under Lieutenant Colonels Beebe and Arnold. His Captain in Horseneck was Captain Peter Curtiss. His Captain in New Haven was Captain Alexander Catlin.

McNeily Captain."[80] His combat experience includes his Minute Man experience in response to the several militia alarms from 1776-1780.

From Alexander's pension it's not clear what month he and his companions joined the regiment. Based on the birth of Amasa Cook, the son of Daniel, on April 26th 1782, it's not likely that they joined the regiment prior to August of 1781. This is verified by the pension affidavits of other members of the company. There are nineteen known members of this company, thirteen of whom were pension applicants. All of them recall that the company was assembled in the fall by September. The recollection of their tenure varies and ranges anywhere from six weeks

to three or four months. Hezekiah Agard's recollections were the most specific saying the company mustered on September 10, 1781 and was discharged on November 10, 1781. The company was stationed at New Haven and guarded the city and the surrounding area including East Haven, West Haven and Branford.[81]

Shortly before the company was raised the traitor Benedict Arnold attacked New London. The British commander General Clinton approved the attack in hopes of deterring General Washington from his plan to attack General Cornwallis in Yorktown. The attack on New London, led by the nefarious Benedict Arnold, was vicious, bloody and merciless. One legend has it that Colonel William Ledyard who defended Fort Griswold at New London repelled two or three British assaults before running out of ammunition, resulting in surrender. There were several British killed during the battle and when the surrender took place the British Commander retaliated by running Ledyard through with the very sword he offered as a token of surrender. Additionally, he allowed his soldiers to shoot the unarmed defenders. In the meantime Benedict Arnold burned the town.

The attack was considered so heinous that when General Lafayette led the assault on Cornwallis at Yorktown he raised the battle cry, "Remember New London!" The Battle of New London took place on the 6th of September and with Washington's army on the way to Virginia the alarm was raised for the militia to join the State Troops guarding the sea coasts. Once again as a result of Arnold's pernicious actions, Daniel Cook was called into action. The British stratagem was a failure. Washington didn't turn back but pressed on to Yorktown. In fact many of the men in Captain Catlin's Company remembered hearing of the surrender of Cornwallis while guarding New Haven. Even with the surrender of the British Army the men of Captain Catlin's Company were still in grave danger.

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81 Pension Application of Hezekiah Aga rd, file no. S.23,092.

The Thimble Islands are directly off the coast of Branford, Connecticut about three miles off shore of Sachem Point. American troops would clear the island of timber to improve visibility at the forts defending the harbor, thus facilitating early discovery of approaching British ships. Sometime in October, Captain Catlin took the company to the islands to gather wood for the campfires on shore. He left thirteen men to guard the boats they were using to transport men and wood. Soon after he divided his company a British schooner attacked the men in the boats, captured them and carried them to Long Island. Alexander Griswold was taken prisoner and recalled that one of the fellow captives was a man named _____ Simmons. As a prisoner he was employed on Long Island chopping wood for British officers for three or four months and then exchanged for a Tory being held prisoner in Ha rtford.[82]

In his pension application, John Simmons, verifies this story and helps us determine an accurate time frame of events. He joined the regiment of "State Troops in September as a two month substitute for Samuel Bartholomew." He was assigned to the company of Captain Alexander Catlin at New Haven. They soon marched to East Haven where they were stationed as guards. He went out on a schooner, on the Long Island sound, to Sachem Head Harbour near Branford. According to John Simmons this was around the first part of November. His company all went ashore to collect wood. He recalls that 14 men were left behind, attacked by 22 "Refugees" on board two whaling boats. They were well armed with muskets, swords and pistols. They captured the men and imprisoned them at "Lord's Neck Fort" on Long Island. He remained a prisoner for three weeks and then was released on parole. One of the affiants in support of John Simmons' pension application was Thomas Griswold, the companion of Alexander Griswold and Daniel Cook.[83]

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82 Pension Application, Griswold, R.4,342.
83 Pension Application of John Simmons, file no. W.24,965.

Joseph Gaylord, of Goshen, also served with Daniel in Captain Catlin's Company in 1781. He reports in his pension application that in 1776 he had served in Captain Goodwin's Company at New York. In September of 1781 he was drafted as a militia man to guard New Haven and assigned to Captain Alexander Catlin's Company. The next year, 1782, he served as a substitute for his brother, Joel Gaylord, for two months. Joel Gaylord was the brother-in-law of Daniel Cook. Joseph Gaylord's pension included affidavits from Moses Cook, the brother of Daniel Cook, and Thomas Griswold, the cousin of Alexander Griswold.[84]



While defending New Haven Daniel would have heard the news of the surrender of General Cornwallis to General Washington. The regiment was ordered to fire their muskets on command as a salute to the victorious American army.

84 Pension Application of Joseph Gaylord, file no. S.15,848.

Daniel's second tour of duty with a regiment of Connecticut State Troops most likely began no earlier than August when he marched to New Haven with Captain Catlin, the Griswolds and John Simmons. Because Simmons was a substitute, when his tenure expired, he was no longer on active duty and released on parole, meaning he wouldn't rejoin the unit. Because Alexander was a prisoner several months longer, upon his release by exchange, he left the service when he returned home as a result of the regiment being discharged in March of 1782. Daniel was with the company of men who accompanied Captain Catlin onto the island in search of wood and avoided capture by the British. He would have been discharged with the regiment as early as December of 1781 and once aga in he was not captured and was unharmed.

SECTION FIVE

MILITIA LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING THE WAR

Following the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, there were no further major battles, and hostilities began to diminish. British Armies left the United States after the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, officially ending the war. By April of 1783 General Washington began making plans to transition the army to a peacetime force. He proposed a small regular army, a system of uniformly trained and organized militia, a system of arsenals and a military academy. The proposal was adopted in October when General Washington issued his farewell to the army.

The orders were published and he reminded the army and the nation:

> *"The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the Armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing Miracle."*[85]

The State of Connecticut embraced this plan and required the militia to maintain its state of readiness and training.



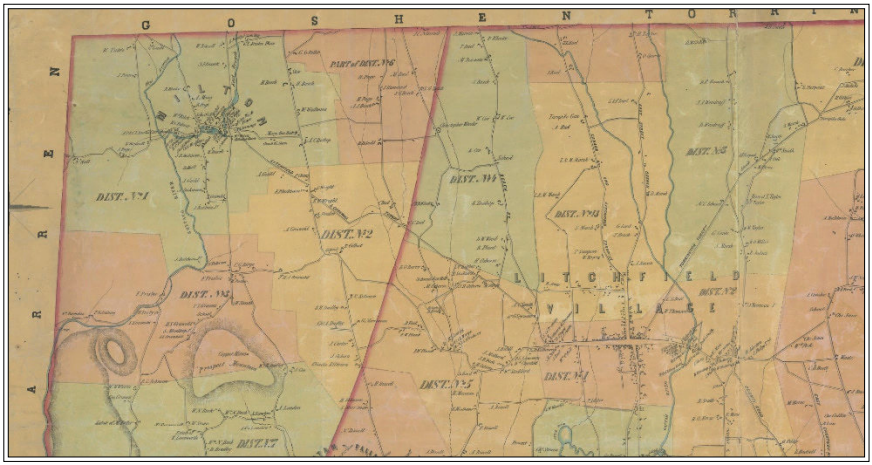
When King George learned that General Washington resigned from the army instead of becoming a king himself, he is reported to have said, "If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

Throughout the war the 17th Regiment consisted of 12 militia companies from the towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Torrington, Winchester and Harwinton. In 1783, the last year of the war, two new militia companies were added to the regiment, an additional company from the town of Litchfield and a new company formed in Northfield, a new small town in Litchfield County. They were numbered in the regiment as the 13th and 14th Companies respectively. In the spring of 1784 an additional militia company was formed in Harwinton and joined the regiment as the 15th Company.

In 1780, shortly before Daniel joined Colonel Beebe's Regiment, Daniel sold his interest in the homeplace he had inherited from his

85 Washington, George (November 2, 1783). "Washington's Farewell Address to the Army, 2 November 1783," Founders Online, National Archives.

father to his brother Moses Cook.[86] When the war ended Daniel began buying land in the "southwesterly" part of Goshen, some in Cornwall and some in Litchfield or what would become Milton.[87] He would soon become a leading citizen in the ecclesiastical society of Milton located in the northwest corner of Litchfield. He was one of the petitioners to organize the society in 1795.[88] After the petition was submitted to the General Assembly the following footnote was included in the record, "The first notice of the Milton church is a record of an adjourned meeting of the Third Society of Litchfield in 1779, when it was decided to hire a preacher. Organization of the new society took place on August 19, 1798, with eleven men and thirteen women from Litchfield, Goshen, Cornwall and Warren. The first Permanent pastor was Rev. Benjamin



Milton, Litchfield County Map

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86 Goshen Land Records, 7:243, deed dated October 2, 1780: "Daniel Cook sold to Moses Cook, both of Goshen, six 1/3 acres in Goshen part of home lot lately owned by my honored father Daniel Cook, late of said Goshen, Deceased…"

87 Goshen Land Records, 7:259, deed dated January 8, 1784: "Daniel Cook of Goshen eleven acres of land lying in the southwesterly part of Goshen with a sawmill standing thereon." Goshen Land Records, 10:194: "…land is in the Society of Milton in said land in Cornwall, the remainder lies in Goshen."

88 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 8:282.

Judd, installed August 19, 1798."[89] The church was established as the Milton Congregational Presbyterian Church.



Daniel was a petitioner to organize the Milton Ecclesiastical Society in 1795.

By May 1786 there were enough men living in the area of Milton to form the 16th Company of militia assigned to the 17th Regiment. The first Captain of the new company was Nathan Stewart of Cornwall, commissioned May 1786.[90] Four years later Samuel Hinman was commissioned

89 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 8:284. Citing, History of Litchfield Connecticut, 132-133.

90 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 6:169. (May 1786) "This Assembly do establish Nathan Stewart to be Lieutenant of the 16th Company or trainband in the 17th Regiment in this State." The company was formed with less than sixty men and was originally commanded by a Lieutenant. (May 1787) "This Assembly do establish Nathan Seward [Stewart]; to be Captain of a Company of Militia in the 17th Regiment in this State." Within the year the company came to the full strength requiring command by a captain. See, John K. Robertson, The Journal of the American Revolution, "Decoding the Connecticut Militia, 1739-1783, https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/07/connecticut-militia-1739-1783/. "The size of companies varied. Twenty-four men was the smallest number that could constitute a company and entitled the trainband to two sergeants as leaders; with thirty-two men, the trainband rated a lieutenant, ensign, and two sergeants. A captain, lieutenant, ensign, and four sergeants led companies of sixty-four or more men."

the second captain of the 16th Company in May of 1790. Daniel was commissioned an Ensign at the same time.[91] Two years later Daniel was promoted to Lieutenant in May of 1792.[92] Captain Hinman resigned shortly thereafter and within six months Daniel would be promoted to the rank of Captain in October of 1792.[93]

The commissions for the 16th Company, as recorded in records of the General Assembly, don't reference the town from which the company was formed or the town in which the officers lived. Census and land records verify that all the men either lived in south western Goshen or north eastern Cornwall



Every year on the Fourth of July and American Flag is placed on the grave of Captain Daniel Cook

91 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut,* 7:133 (May 1790). "This Assembly do establish Samuel Hinman; to be Captain of the 16th Company of Militia in the 17th Regiment in said State." "This Assembly do establish Daniel Cook to be Ensign of the 16th Company of Militia in the 17th Regiment in this State."

92 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, 7:268. "This Assembly do establish Daniel Cook to be Lieutenant of the 16th Company of Militia in the 17th Regiment in this State."

93 Public Records of the State of Connecticut, Records, 7:503 (October 1792). "This Assembly do establish Daniel Cook to be Captain of the 16th Company of Militia in the 17th Regiment in this State.

in the boundaries of Milton. In fact they were literally next door neighbors. Captain Hinman lived within two houses of Daniel Cook.[94] Both Nathan Stewart's and Samuel Hinman's property lines are referenced as boundaries in the property descriptions of Daniel's deeds.[95] In one deed, dated 1792, Samuel Hinman is referred to as "Captain Hinman."[96] Of particular interest is a deed dated 1803. The clerk specifically records, "personally appeared to me Capt. Daniel Cook, signer and sealer…"[97] This is the second of only four references to his rank of Captain found in the record: the first being his commission, the land record, his estate papers and his headstone in the Milton cemetery.[98] Once a man obtained the rank of Captain he retained that title throughout his life as a mark of respect. It is appropriately memorialized by the epitaph on his tombstone which reads, "Here lies Captain Daniel Cook."

While Daniel survived the war it may be said the war cost him his life. The war broke his health and he died in 1809 at age forty-nine, Captain Daniel Cook, of Goshen. During the war, Daniel spoke about run-ins with Tories, foraging the countryside for food, and for want of food, boiling and eating the leather shoes they wore. He risked court martial to feed his friends. He left the company without leave of the Captain, to obtain pork from home. After he obtained the food he returned to the company. When he reported to his Captain he was tried for his actions and asked why he should not be sentenced to death. He answered, "that he had suffered enough to have

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94 1790 US Census, list 375. Sa muel Hinman lived four houses away.

95 Goshen land records, 7:240. "… bounds east and south on land of Samuel Hinman." GLR, 7:253. "… bounds east on Samuel Hinman's land." GLR, 10:195. "… west on Nathan Stewart's land."

96 Goshen land records, 9:213, deed dated, 2 August 1792. "... east of land of Captain Hinman ..."

97 Goshen land records, 11:387. "… personally appeared to me Capt. Daniel Cook, signer and sealer…" Signed Moses Seymour.

98 Litchfield Probate District, Daniel Cook, Goshen, 1809, probate packet No. 1601. "Estate of Captain Daniel Cook, late of Goshen." Milton Woman's Club, *Chronicles of Milton Village Left Behind by Time,* (Torrington, CT: Rainbow Press, 1997). "In memory of Capt. Daniel Cook who died on his birthday August 14th 1809, Aged 49 years. Harke my gay friends, that solemn toll; Speaks the departure of a soul; Tis gone that's all, we know not where: Or how the unbodied soul doth fa re."

died a thousand deaths but he had tuft it through and if they wished to kill him for what he had done they might try it but he would fight his way through and make his escape or loose his life."[99] After a lengthy deliberation he was liberated and he divided the pork and the company had a "good feast all around."

There are very few men in life who will risk everything to do what is right! Daniel was such a man. He was not afraid to fight when he thought he was in the right. Daniel Cook lived his life on the right side of History!

99 Newel Cook McMillan, compiler, *The Life and Times of Phineas Wolcott Cook*, 2nd Edition, (Brigham City, Utah: American Publishing Company, 1908) 3-5.

The Cook family has had the good fortune of being on the right side of history. Henry Cooke, the father of our American family, left his mother country in 1635. He came with the Puritans to a new and unknown world to be free. The desire for independence was passed to his offspring who would pioneer and settle Connecticut, a colony of like-minded men whose desire for self -determination led to a Royal Charter from King Charles II granting them the right of self-governance. Then when KingJames II sent his agents to seize it from the Colony, they hid the charter in the "Charter Oak." Keeping it safe was an incremental first step from tyranny to complete independence from the monarchy, a precursor of what was to come in 1776. After four generations in the Colony of Connecticut the family had become independent, self-reliant and determined to stay that way. Daniel Cook,Jr. was the beneficiary of this legacy, blessed with the desire to see it preserved. He was born free and was willing to put himself in harm's way even if it meant going to war. Even if it meant that a Connecticut farm boy would have to take on the most powerful nation on earth!

