I. Title  Nathan Beers Collection,  1744-1833

II. The papers of  
deposited in the Library on , by  
In converted the deposit to a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1½ ft.  
Approximate number of items: 400

IV. Restrictions:

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of  
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of  
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated  
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note:  see p. 2

VIII. Analysis: The collection fits into three boxes and fourteen outsize folders. The contents sort themselves into three parts, corresponding to the three main periods of formation of the Connecticut Line (regiments in the Revolutionary War):

Box 1  Formation 1 and before  *Item 5, 4  Formation 1 and before
Box 2  Formation 2  *Item 6-15  Formation 2
Box 3  Formation 3 and miscellany  *Item 16, 17  Formation 3 and miscellany

Formation I:  1777-1781
Formation II:  1781-Jan. 1, 1783
Formation III:  Jan. 1, 1783-June 30, 1783

* These items are on the oversize shelf

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Processed by: Michael Lipson
HISTORICAL NOTE

Most of the material in the collection relates to the history of Colonel Samuel B. Webb's regiment, of which Nathan Beers was paymaster, belonging to the Connecticut Line of 1777-1783.

In 1777 the Continental Congress's resolutions to establish a permanent army directed the formation of "lines" of regiments organized (and, for the most part, funded) by each of the several states. The "Connecticut Line" -- comprising five to nine regiments at different points of the war -- was one of the many state-run lines which all, allied under the command of General Washington, formed a "Continental Line" for defense against the British.

Colonel Webb's regiment started as one of sixteen "additional" regiments raised by Connecticut in 1777. In 1780 it was designated the 9th regiment, but in the Continental Line's re-organization, the "formation" of January, 1781 to January, 1783, it was joined by the former 2nd regiment and renumbered as the 3rd regiment of the Connecticut Line. It kept this designation through the third formation of the Continental Line, that is, from January to June of 1783. It was finally absorbed by the sole remaining Connecticut regiment, that of Colonel Heman Swift, for the 4th and last formation of June to December, 1783.

Beyond his duties as paymaster, Nathan Beers managed many of the financial affairs of his regiment in its dealings with other regiments. The collection's files of papers belonging to such other regiments generally relate to times when they encamped in the same place as Webb's regiment and shared its payroll or ammunition accounts. The diversity of Beers's papers comes from this kind of communal bookkeeping. For example, the collection contains the brigade major's book of Parson's Brigade (Box I: Folder 3), showing mostly 1779 orders for the quartering and departure of troops in their winter and spring encampment at Redding. There is also a valuable payroll of the 4th regiment's 2nd company (Box II: Folder 9), listing Connecticut blacks who fought in the Revolution.

Webb's regiment did not see many important battles, though it was present at the battle of Springfield, New Jersey, on June 23, 1780. While other Connecticut regiments suffered at Valley Forge in 1777-1778, Webb's regiment helped in the construction of permanent lodgings at West Point, where the redoubt "Webb" was probably named in honor of the colonel.*

* Details of the Connecticut Line are from The Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution, ed. Henry P. Johnston, under authority of the Adjutant General of Connecticut (Hartford: Case, Lockwood, and Brainard Co., 1899)
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**Box 1: Formation I and Before**

*folder A

1. Formotion I and Before

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<td>1,2: Commission of Jonathan Law, raising Samuel Torry to rank of Ensign in Cpt. E. Goodrich's company of A. Burr's regiment, 16 March, 1744. With copy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3: Proclamation of Thomas Fitch, governor, 31 March, 1755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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| 2: Commission of John Trumbull raising Abijah Savage to rank of 2nd lieutenant in 4th Company, 2nd Regiment, 1 May, 1775 |
| 3: List of Prisoners with request for parole, to Guy Carleton, 7 June, 1776 (Abijah Savage is among the prisoners) |
| 4: Letter accepting parole conditions, by Abijah Savage, 3 August, 1776 |
| 5: "List of men who came home with the regiment," General Wooster's 1st Connecticut Regiment, 1775 |
| 6: [booklet] Muster of Maj. D. Baldwin's company (date unknown), with account of North American country claimed by the French, 1755 |
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| 8: Fragment of a return of arms to Swift's regiment, 1778 |
| 9: Muster of Abijah Savage's company, Sherbourne's regiment, Feb., 1778 |
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Folder C: Revolutionary War, before Formation 1,
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  24: Abstract of Officers' subsistence, July-Dec., 1782
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8: Recommendation by J. Beard, E. Hotchkiss, and C. French for Lieut. Joseph Rigs to be given a whaling commission, 6 March, 1783
9: Commission of John Trumbull, raising Abijah Savage, to rank of Ensign, 1805
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11: General orders of J. Treadwell, printed, received by Abijah Savage, Jr., 1810
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Item 8: Formation II, 11 documents

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