

Benjamin Wheaton served as a Union soldier in the Civil War. According to family records he enlisted in the 115th Infantry Regiment of the State of New York at the age of thirty-two for a three-year term on August 8, 1862 (this family record conflicts with his reported date of birth as September 20, 1826). He mustered in as a private at 9:15 A.M. on August 19, 1862. He and the rest of the regiment were captured soon thereafter on September 4, 1862, and then paroled via exchange on September 16. Benjamin was wounded in action at Cold Harbor, VA on June 14, 1864. On June 10, 1865 he was mustered out of the regiment as a private at Albany, NY while hospitalized at Troy, NY. The full regiment was mustered out on June 17, 1865 at Raleigh, NC. His enlistment papers described him as 5' 8" tall, a farmer with gray eyes, black hair and dark complexion.

The following account is found in *New York in the War of the Rebellion*, 3rd ed., Frederick Phisterer (Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, 1912).

History of the 115th Infantry Regiment, Civil War
"The Iron Hearted Regiment"
Mustered in August 26, 1862
Mustered out June 17, 1865

"Colonel Simeon Sammons received authority, July 19, 1862, to recruit this regiment in the counties of Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery and Saratoga, with headquarters at Fonda, where it was organized, and, August 26, 1862, mustered in the service of the United States for three years. The men not to be mustered out with the regiment (301) and a few officers were transferred to the 47th Infantry June 17, 1865."

"The companies were recruited principally: A at Fonda, Mohawk, Glen, Palatine, Root and Canajoharie; B at St. Johnsville, Minden, Canajoharie, Fonda, Amsterdam and Florida; C at Milton, Galway, Edinburgh, Clifton Park, Northumberland, Day, Greenfield, Malta and Ballston; D at Amsterdam, Charleston, Florida and Mohawk; E at Johnstown, Mayfield Northampton, Oppenheim, Ephratah and Stratford; F at Saratoga, Corinth, Greenfield, Wilton, Moreau, Northumberland and Hadley; G at Saratoga, Moreau, Greenfield, Corinth, Amsterdam, Charlton, Fonda and Hadley; H at Half moon, Clifton Park, Stillwater, Minden, Waterford and Amsterdam; I at Canajoharie, Fonda, Charlton, Malta, Ballston, Milton, St. Johnsville and Providence; K at Caroga, Broadalbin, Wells, Johnstown, Mohawk, Amsterdam, Ephratah, Glen and Palatine."

"The regiment left the State August 30, 1862; served at and near Sandy Hook, Md., in 8th Corps, from September 1, 1862; at Harper's Ferry, W. Va., where it was surrendered, from September 4, 1862; at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Ill., from September 28, 1862; in Casey's Division, defenses of Washington, D. C., from November 24, 1862; at Hunter's Creek, Va., from December 12, 1862; at Yorktown and Gloucester, Va., in Busted's Brigade, 4th Corps, from December 28, 1862; at Port Royal and Hilton Head, S. C., Department of the South, Terry's Brigade, 10th. Corps, from January 26, 1863; at Beaufort, S. C., in Saxton's Brigade, 10th Corps, from June, 1863; at Hilton Head, S. C., from December, 1863; in Barton's Brigade, Seymour's Division, 10th Corps, District of Florida, from January, 1864; in District of Florida, from February, 1864; in 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 10th Corps, Army of the James, from April, 1864; in 1st

Brigade, 3d Division, 18th Corps, from May 30, 1864; in 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 10th Corps, from June 15, 1864; in 3d Brigade, same division and corps, from July 26, 1864; in same brigade and division, 24th Corps, from December, 1864; in Provisional Corps, from March, 1865; in 3d Brigade, 2d Division, 10th Corps, from April 2, 1865; and it was honorably discharged and mustered out, commanded by Col. Nathan J. Johnson, June 17, 1865, at Raleigh, N. C.”

“During its service the regiment lost by death, killed in action, 5 officers, 77 enlisted men; of wounds received in action, 2 officers, 55 enlisted men; of disease and other causes, 191 enlisted men; total, 7 officers, 323 enlisted men; aggregate, 330; of whom 54 enlisted men died in the hands of the enemy; by the explosion of the magazine at Fort Fisher, N. C., January 16, 1865, 10 enlisted men were killed.”