

Bezaleel Howe (1750-1825)

Major, Commander-in-Chief Guards, Continental Line

Bezaleel Howe was born late in the year of 1750 near Marlborough, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Despite the bitter cold of the season, he grew strong in the company of his parents and siblings. Just four days after the first shots at Lexington and Concord, Bezaleel volunteered to join the newborn patriot army and marched away to war. His three brothers would also answer the call and join the fight for freedom. Just months after his enlistment, in September, he was wounded in the battle of Freeman's Farm.

After recovering, Bezaleel was promoted and transferred to the Commander-in-Chief Guards. He served there with distinction while protecting the life of General George Washington from the enemy as well as mutineers. By 1783 Bezaleel had been made Commander of the Guards. He would be the last to hold that post. At wars end, while General Washington said his farewell to the troops and officers that had served him so well, Bezaleel was entrusted with a final task. Bezaleel and a detachment of guards were to escort the baggage and goods and paychest of General Washington safely home to Mount Vernon. The arduous trip was completed and the valuables delivered, Bezaleel moved on to West Point, New York. It was there that he was discharged on December 20th, 1783.

After the war, Bezaleel's home was made in New York. He lived there with his wife Catherine Moffat Howe until his death in 1825. The monument for his grave stands in Green-wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, King's County, New York today beside that of his wife.

Submitted by Edwin Halsted Cox
NSSAR# 201834
Saramana SAR Chapter
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