

Pension Application for John Nash

S.14003

State of New York

County of Broome SS.

On this 31st December 1832 personally appeared before me Thomas Blakslee one of the Judies [Judges] of Broome Common Please [Pleas] John Nash a Resident of the Town of Sandford and County and State aforesaid aged eighty five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress past June 7th 1832.

That he volunteered as an Indian spy and a minet [minute] man in the year 1777. I volunteered and served under the following named officers, Coll Jacobus Schoonover, Major Mitchell and Capt. White. I served as a serjent, I never had a warrant nor was such a thing known with us at that day.

I was born in the town of Wilton County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, was born 1747.

I have no record of my age. I lived in Ballston formerly Albany now Saratoga County NY. I moved from there 1807 to Oxford (near Guilford) Chenango Co., and in 1827 removed to Sandford Broome Co., NY where I now live.

When the revolutionary war broke out Ballston was a frontier town exposed to the depredations of the enemy. In the year 1777 the Torys of Ballston left the place to join Genl Burgoine's Army—there were 97 of us that had volunteered and pursued after the Toreys, took 36 of them and brought them back and took them to Albany where they took the oath of Allegiance to the United States.

I with others of my neighbors were ordered of by Genl Gates to leave the Country in order that our [?] and cattle from falling into the hand of the enemy. I left my farm in July with eight acres of wheat on the ground and lost the whole. I returned again in the month of March following which was in 1778. My services provoked the Torys to retaliate on me and my family. I was pursued and frequently had to get leave to be at home and to take my family into the woods for safety through the nights I was armed continually in the year 1779 my officers were all in Captivity and the command devolved on one—

In this year the Torys and Indians went to the Mohawk took some Prisoners and released one of then and sent them back to tell me that if serjeant Nash did not go away below Albany that they would take his life in 1780—word came to me that two Torys had come into the neighborhood and were at John [Camps?]-I took 4 men went to the house took them they were conveyed to Albany Jail these names were Jared Vanderbogant & Jonathan Miller. Miller told me that the British had officers for me 30 guineas in 1780 or 81. I do not recollect I was ordered by my Major to take two men and three days provisions and proved to the west to contain where the Indians and Toriesy came down from Canada that they might be prevented from committing depredations on the Inhabitants the first day we arrived in the Enemy's ground we did not build a fire for fear of being discovered it being the last of November and a cold

night we continued all night without fire I caught cold and it settled in my hips which has made me a cripple ever since.—

Over from the year 1777 to the close of the war I was at least three quarters of the time in the service of my country but cannot recollect of the particular times nor the services. I never had a discharge.

The names of the persons to whom I am known in my present neighborhood and who can testify as to my carracter [character] for truth and verracity [veracity] and that do believe that [I] do believe that I did the services of a soldier of the Revolution are (viz) the the [sic] Clergyman and the witness appended to the afadvit [affidavit] also John Pinney, James P. Aptington, Benj'n Coborn, Henry L. Hubbiart, Coe G. Carpenter, Gersham Lonns, Harvey M. Colburn and others. (Signed) John Nash

Sworn & subscribed the day and year within written before me. Thos. Blakslee

Letter in folder dated November 28, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the Revolutionary War record of John Nash, who was born April 24, 1747 and died in Sanford, Broome County, New York, in 1834.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.14003, based upon service of John Nash in the Revolutionary War.

John Nash was born in the year 1747 in Wilton, Fairfield County, Connecticut; the names of his parents were not given. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, he lived in Ballston, Albany County (later Saratoga County), New York, where there were constant conflicts between the Tories who joined General Burgoyne's Army and those who joined the Americans. John Nash was one of those who volunteered in Albany to serve against the British; he with some of his comrades, pursued some of those who left Ballston to join the enemy, brought them to Albany and made them take the oath of allegiance.

From the summer of 1777 until the close of the Revolutionary War, John Nash served as minute man, spy and sergeant, amounting in all to at least one year two months under Captain Stephen White and Colonel Jacobus Schoonover in the New York troops; during this service, he frequently fled into the woods at night for safety, assisted in capturing a number of Tories and took them to jail, and went later on an expedition to the Mohawk to ascertain the movements of the Indians.

The soldier moved from Ballston in 1807 to Oxford (later Guildford) Chenango County, New York, and in 1827 moved to Sanford, Broome County, New York.

John Nash was allowed pension on his application executed December 31, 1832, at which time he resided in Sanford, Broome County, New York.

Reference was made to the soldier's wife in 1832, but her name was not given, nor the date and place of their marriage. There are no further data regarding the family of this John Nash.