

### Pension Application for Paul Nelson

W.19,914 (Widow: Hannah)  
State of New York  
County of Herkimer SS.

On the ninth day of January in the year 1837 personally appeared before Richard [Herendower?] Esquire a Judge of the County Courts of the County of Herkimer aforesaid the same being a Court of record according to the constitution & laws of the said State Hannah Nelson a resident of the Town of Fairfield in the County of Herkimer and State of New York Aged seventy nine years and upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an Act of Congress passed July 4, 1836. That she is the widow of Paul Nelson late of the said Town of Fairfield in said County & State deceased. And she the said Hannah Nelson further declares that during the revolutionary war she resided in Fishkill in the County of Dutchess in said State and that said Paul Nelson also resided in Fishkill aforesaid during said war and she further declares that she was intermarried with the said Paul Nelson in July in the year 1776 at Fishkill aforesaid and that he the said Paul Nelson served in the war of the revolution and that at the time he entered said service of the United States he resided at Fishkill aforesaid and according to her best recollection and belief he the said Paul Nelson in the spring before they were married but she does not remember the month in 1776 enlisted as she was informed at the time and believes into a company commanded by Capt. John Durlin (1) & Lieut. Daniel Outwater (2) said company was joined to Col. Humphreys (3) regiment and she was well acquainted with Capt. Durlin & Lieut Outwater and that said company for nine months & was marched with Capt. Durlin's Company and as she was then informed & believes stationed at or [?] Fort Montgomery and on the north river and that he said Paul Nelson returned home sometime in July following and came to see her and said he had been in the service and that he had hired a substitute to serve out his time and she further declares they were then married and in a short time after their marriage and during the month of July 1776 he the said Paul Nelson again left home to go into the service and as she was then informed and believes he enlisted into the service of the United States under Capt. Abraham Schenck (4) also was marched with the company commanded by Capt. Schenck to Kingsbridge near New York and stationed there and while he lay there she received information he was taken sick and she went to Kingsbridge and found him the said Paul Nelson there and that he then appeared to be getting better of his sickness, that she staid one night and then returned home and when she saw him at Kingsbridge he was in the service and belonged to the company commanded by Capt. Schenck as she then understood that soon after she returned home she received advice that Kingsbridge was removed and that American Army was marched to Fort Washington and crossed the North River and according to her recollections the battle of White Plains (5) was fought at or near the same time, she thinks that after crossing the river the troops retreated into the Jerseys; and she further saith that the said Paul Nelson came home according to her best recollection & belief sometime in the winter following and she cannot state the month he came home from any certain recollection she has but it was in the winter and he served under Capt. Durlin two months and under Capt. Schenck seven months as she always understood and believes; she has no knowledge or information that there is any documentary evidence of his service or discharges from the service; and she further declares that the said Paul Nelson remained at home but a short time when he again enlisted into a company commanded by Capt. John Brinkerhoff (6) & Lieut. Ostrander and left home to go into the service immediately after his enlistment and the company as she understood was joined to the army commanded by Gen. Washington at Morristown—The said Paul Nelson enlisted into Capt. Brinkerhoff's company at Fishkill aforesaid early in 1777 but she cannot recollect the month—she thinks it was in the winter as he joined Gen. Washington's (7) army while it lay at Morristown in the winter in 1777 as she then understood and believes; She cannot now remember where he served but he the said Paul Nelson was absent from home all the time from the time he enlisted into Capt. Brinkerhoff's company and as she believes in the service until near the time the battle of Brandywine was fought when he returned home and from that circumstance she thinks he might have come home sometime in the month of September 1777 (8) and she cannot say but that he might not have come home until sometime after Brandywine battle; for she understood at the time and believes that he the said Paul Nelson enlisted under Capt. Brinkerhoff nine months and she has always understood at the time and since that he the said Paul Nelson served nine months under Capt. Brinkerhoff but she cannot remember the time he enlisted nor the time he came home; nor does she know that he ever had any certificate of discharge from the service.

And she further declares that she was married to the said Paul Nelson in July 1776 but she does not remember the day or the month nor has she any record of the day of the month on which she was married but she is certain she was married in the month of July in the year 1776 at a place called Hackensack in Fishkill aforesaid by a minister of the Gospel living at Hackensack and that the Rev'd Mr. Russdike was the name of the clergyman who married them and as she has been informed and believes the said clergyman has been dead a number of years; she says that she and the said Paul Nelson both went to the house of the said clergyman and were there married and that Jemima Churchill wife of her brother John Churchill deceased was present at the said marriage and she further declares that she was born at Fishkill aforesaid on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1757 as she always understood by her parents and believes but she has no record of her age and she saith that the said Paul Nelson always said and as she believes he was born at Fishkill on the first day of April 1756 but she does not know that there is any record of his age and she further saith that after the revolutionary war she and her said husband moved from Fishkill to the Nine Partners so called near Poughkeepsie in the State of New York and having lived there some time they then moved to Staatsburg near Poughkeepsie aforesaid and as she thinks they resided at both places five or six years and that they removed to the Town of Fairfield in the County of Herkimer and said State where they have ever since lived till his death and that she has been since his death resided and still resides

at Fairfield aforesaid & she further declares that her and her said husband Paul Nelson always lived together from the time of their marriage foresaid as husband & wife and that they have a large family of children who are all of the age of majority and she further declares that the said Paul Nelson died at Fairfield in the County of Herkimer and in said State on the fourth day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three and that his death was very sudden, that he got up in the morning & went out of the house and after a short time came in and fell upon the bed nearly senseless and died in a short time. She does not know and is not informed of the cause of his death unless it was some [?] some fit. He was in apparent health before he was taken ill. No physician was called as none was living near. And she further declares that she always has remained single and unmarried since the death of her said husband and that she is still single and unmarried and the widow of the said Paul Nelson as will more fully appear by the proofs by affidavits hereunto annexed and she saith that she expects she can prove the revolutionary services of her said husband Paul Nelson by Isaac Churchill and by Jonas Churchill and she further saith that as she is informed and believes the officers above named under whom her said husband served in the revolutionary war are all dead—And she further declares that her said husband was never a revolutionary pensioner or any other pensioner of the United States. (Signed with her mark) Hannah Nelson

Witness Zachariah Reed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before Richard [Herendower?] of Herkimer County Courts.

Reply to a letter of inquiry dated December 6, 1938 from the Honorable Hamilton Fish, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

The Revolutionary War record of Paul Nelson is given herein as found in the papers on file in pension claim, W. 19914.

Paul Nelson was born April 1, 1755, in Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York; the names of his parents are not shown.

While a resident of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, Paul Nelson enlisted in May 1776, and served two months as private in Captain John Durlin's Company, Colonel Humphrey's New York Regiment; he enlisted sometime in July 1776, and served seven months as private in Captain Abraham Schenck's company, Colonel Griffin's New York regiment; he enlisted early in 1777, and served nine months as private in Captain John Brinkerhoff's New York company.

After the Revolutionary War, the soldier moved from Fishkill, New York, to Nine Partners, near Poughkeepsie, New York, where he resided some time, then moved to Staatsburg, also near Poughkeepsie, after a few years moved to Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York, where he resided until his death. Paul Nelson died May 4, 1832 or 1833.

Paul Nelson married in July 1776, Hannah Churchill, who was born June 12, 1757, in Fishkill, New York; the names of her parents are not shown. They were married at the house of a Minister in Hackensack.

Hannah Nelson, the soldier's widow was allowed pension on account of his service in the Revolutionary War on her application executed January 9, 1837, at which time she was a resident of Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York.

The names of the children of Paul Nelson and his wife, Hannah, are shown as follow: Enoch, John, Benjamin, Rebecca, Anna, Phebe, Betsey, Paul Jr. and Richard.

In 1836, Hannah Nelson's brothers, Isaac Churchill and Jonas Churchill were residents of Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York, the former was aged more than seventy-nine years and had served with Paul Nelson during the Revolutionary War; the latter was more than seventy-six years of age and was acquainted with Paul Nelson at the time he served and married his sister, Hannah. John Churchill, another of Hannah's brothers, had lived with his wife, Jemima, in Fishkill, New York, when Hannah married Paul Nelson, and said Jemima Churchill was present at that marriage; this brother, John Churchill, died in Fairfield, Herkimer County, New York, and his widow, Jemima, resided there in 1838, at which time she was aged more than ninety-two years.

End Notes—Paul Nelson—W.19914

1. John Durlin was appointed captain on or about June 22, 1776 in a Regiment of Associated Exempts for Dutchess County.
2. Second Lieutenant Daniel Outwater of Captain William Fowler's Company in Colonel Abraham Brinckerhoff's Second Regiment of Dutchess County Militia.
3. Possibly referring to Colonel Cornelius Humphrey of the First Regiment of Dutchess County Minute Men but the officers mentioned do not appear in Colonel Humphrey's Regiment. A William Humphrey was Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Dutchess County Militia. It is possible that either Colonel could have been in command of a detachment of militia from Dutchess County.
4. There was an Abraham Scheneck serving as a Second Lieutenant in Captain Jacob Griffin's Company on October 17, 1775 in Colonel Dirck Brinckerhoff's Second Regiment of Dutchess County Militia. Dirck had resigned later and Abraham was appointed Colonel and Jacob Griffen as the Lieutenant-Colonel. An Abraham Schenck was captain in the Dutchess County Associated Exempts.
5. The Battle of White Plains, NY was fought on October 28, 1776.
6. John G. Brinckerhoff was appointed First Lieutenant in Captain Griffen's Company on October 17, 1775. He was promoted to Captain when Griffin was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. Their commission are dated June 25, 1778. Captain Brinckerhoff's Company officers are as follows: Christian Dubois, First Lieutenant; Daniel Schenck, Second Lieutenant; Moses Barer, Ensign. I did not find an Ostrander serving as an officer in the Second Dutchess.

7. This would seem highly unlikely that Dutchess County Militia would be sent to Morristown, NJ. The militia did not like to serve in another state nor even in another county in New York State.
8. The Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania was fought on September 11, 1777.