

Pension Application for Josiah Nichels, Nichols, Nicolls, Nickles, etc.

W.5421 (Widow: Sarah)

Rate of \$31.66 per annum

State of New York

County of Putnam SS

On this twenty third day of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me, Samuel Washburn one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County of Putnam the same being a court of record, Josiah Nichols, a resident of the town of Carmel in the County of Putnam and State of New York 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

Declarant says that he was born in the Town of Fairfield in the County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut in the month of September in the year 1748, and that he has not any record of his age; that when called into the service in the Revolutionary War, he was living in the town of North Salem in the County of Westchester and state of New York and when not in actual service continued to live in said town of North Salem until near the cessation of hostilities, when the declarant removed into said Town of Carmel and has continued to reside in said Last mentioned town ever since the revolutionary war and now lives there—

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Declarant says that he first entered said service as a private in the militia of the State of New York in a company commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Delevan (1) in the regiment commanded by Col. Thomas (2) in the summer of the year 1776 sometime before harvest. Thinks it was in the month of June when he entered the service but cannot state the day of the month; that he entered the service as a volunteer for the term of five months and served said term; that he joined said company at North Salem (3) aforesaid where declarant there resided, and after joining said company marched with said company to Tarrytown in said County of Westchester, and staid there about a week and then marched to Fort Independence and staid there between three and four months, and worked at building the said fort and was working there at the time the City of New York was taken by the British, when the said regiment of Col. Thomas' to which declarant belonged moved towards the White Plains and joined the main American Army and was there at the time of the battle of White Plains (4) but was not brought into action, declarant was with his regiment in sight of the British army at the time of said battle.

Declarant continued with said regiment at White Plains until the British Army retreated, when said regiment was marched to Peekskill in said County of Westchester and remained there about a month when said term of five months being nearly expired said regiment marched to the neighborhood of the White Plains when on the expiration of said term of five months said regiment was dismissed in the fall and as declarant thinks in the month of November 1776 but on what day of the month declarant cannot state—

Declarant says that he served in said Capt. Delevans Company in said Col. Thomas regiment constantly from the time he entered the service until said regiment was dismissed as aforesaid. Declarant saw General Washington (5) at Fort Independence at the time the American Army vacated New York and remembers that Generals Putnam and Lee (6) were with the army at that time but declarant did not know them particularly. That one Lawrence (7) was a Lieutenant in said Delevans Company at the time declarant served as aforesaid, and declarant thinks one Purdy was major in said regiment of Col. Thomas—

Declarant says that he has not any documentary evidence of this above mentioned service that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to the above mentioned service—

This declarant further says that the next year being in the year 1777 he enlisted in a company of volunteers commanded by Capt. John Hyatt (8) in a regiment commanded by Col. Henry Ludington, (9) that one Ephraim Lockwood was a Lieutenant in said company and declarant enlisted therein as a sergeant a little after harvest to serve for three months and joined said Ludington (9) regiment at Crom Pond in said County of Westchester and served during said three months, after declarant joined said regiment he marched with said regiment to TarryTown in said county and remained there about two weeks and then went to Youngs and [Sarrs?] toward the White Plains and was employed in guarding the lines at different places not far from said White Plains until near the expiration of said three months, and then declarant with said Ludingtons regiment marched back to Crom Pond In the neighborhood of Peekskill and remained there until the end of the three months when said regiment was dismissed at Crom Pond in the fall of the year. Declarant thinks he enlisted in said Hyatts company and entered the service last mentioned in the month of August and was discharged in the month of November but is unable to state the particular day when he so enlisted or was discharged, that said regiment was not attached to any brigade, and that declarant has no documentary evidence of his said service for three months but that Jabez Berry at said town of Carmel served in said Ludingtons regiment at the time declarant served there as aforesaid and may probably remember said service of Declarant.

Afterwards declarant enlisted in a volunteer company of Light horse commanded by Captain Samuel Delevan (10) said company was raised in the northern part of said County of Westchester and declarant enlisted in the same at said town of North Salem where he then resided as a private and continued to belong to and serve in said company until the cessation of hostilities, that declarant at his own expense provided himself with a horse, holsters pistols cutlass and other equipments when he entered said company, that the privates of said company were entitled to wages which declarant thinks was at the rate of fifty three shillings and four pence per month and declarant understood that said Captain Samuel Delevan drew the pay for the company, but did not pay it over and was said to have been put in jail for the money or some part of it after the close of the war. That said Captain Samuel Delevan died insolvent soon after the end of the Revolutionary War and declarant never received any pay whatever for his services in said company of Light Horse. (11) Declarant says that he enlisted in said company of Light Horse in the summer & thinks in the next summer after he served under said Col. Ludington and belonged to said company of Light Horse several years but cannot state the precise time when he enlisted in said company or ceased to belong to the same—

That after deponent removed into said town of Carmel he resided near the boundary line of said County of Westchester and only a few miles from his former residence in North Salem and continued to belong to said company of Light Horse & to perform duty therein until hostilities ceased; that said company of Light Horse was composed of minute men who were obliged to be ready to go into active service at a minutes warning at any time and were frequently called out in alarms and engaged in patrols and in guarding the lines, that declarant with his company went many times into the neighbourhood of the White Plains and into the south part of Westchester County for the purpose of reconnoitering and watching the motions of the enemy and on those occasions was from home in active service sometimes more than a week and at other times not as long and declarant says that according to the best of his recollection judgment and belief he was absent from home and actually employed in the service

for different periods amounting in all to one & a half years whilst he belonged to said Company of Light Horse.

Declarant says that he has no documentary evidence of his service in said company of Light Horse and that he knows no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his last mentioned service except that his son Henry Nichols who at the time of the revolutionary war was a young boy may recollect some circumstances corroborating the foregoing statement of this declarant—Declarant says that he never received any written discharge from the service—that Abuger Piner And Alvah Hopkins are persons to whom declarant is known in his present neighbourhood who as declarant believes can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution; that one John Sloat a clergyman who formerly lived in the neighbourhood of declarant and with whom declarant has been acquainted for many years that lately removed out of the said County of Putnam and declarant believes the said John Sloat can testify to declarants character for veracity and his belief of declarants revolutionary services but that declarant cannot procure the testimony of the said John Sloat without considerable trouble and inconvenience and that declarant is not acquainted with any clergyman now residing in his immediate vicinity—

This declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) Josiah Nichols.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me—Samuel Washburn, A Judge of Putnam County Common Pleas.

Putnam County SS.

Henry Nichols of the Town of Kent in said county being sworn says that he is the son of Josiah Nichols of Carmel in said County the person who has made the foregoing declaration; that deponent is sixty three years of age; that deponent has some recollection of the Revolutionary War and recollects that in the time of said war deponent when a boy resided for several years in the family of his said father in the town of North Salem in the County of Westchester and State of New York; that deponent recollects that the said Josiah Nichols was absent from home in the early part of the revolutionary war and was said by the family to be a soldier in the army; that deponent recollects hearing of the battle of the White Plains and says that the said Josiah Nichols was absent from home and said to be in the American Army at the time of said battle—

This deponent has always understood from the said Josiah Nichols and other members of the family that the said Josiah served for the term of five months in the army in the year of the battle of White Plains, deponent recollects that the said Josiah afterwards again enlisted in the American Service and deponent always understood from the said Josiah and others of his family that he served for three months under said last mentioned enlistment under the command of Colonel Ludington, deponent further says that he recollects that afterwards during the revolutionary war the said Josiah was equipped as a Light Horseman and deponent distinctly recollects the horse, holsters, pistols, cap and other clothing used by the said Josiah and deponent understood that the said Josiah belonged to a company of Light Horse commanded by one Samuel Delevan and deponent recollects seeing the said Josiah have horse equipped as such Light Horsemen for the purpose as deponent understood of going into service; deponent further says that it has been always understood and reputed in the family of the said Josiah, that the said Josiah served in the American Army during the revolutionary war for one period of five months and another period of three months besides the time he served in said company of Light Horse. (Signed) Henry Nichols

Sworn and Subscribed the 29th day of November 1833 before me Samuel Washburn, A Judge of Putnam County Common Pleas.

State of New York
County of Putnam SS.

On this thirty first day of August A.D.1850, before me Azor B. Crane, Judge of Putnam County Court in and for said County Sarah Nichols of the town of Carmel in said County aged eighty four years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 29th 1848.

That she is the widow of Josiah Nichols who was a private and sergeant in the War of the Revolution and a pensioner of the United States at the rate of thirty one dollars and sixty six cents per annum under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That she was married to the said Josiah Nichols on the thirteenth day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight and her maiden name was Sarah Smith that he husband the aforesaid Josiah Nichols died in the County and State aforesaid on the fifteenth day in October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven. That she was married to the said Josiah Nicholas before the first day of January one thousand eight hundred, viz. at the time above stated.

Declarent further saith that she has not intermarried since the death of her husband as aforesaid and that she is now a widow. (Signed with her mark) Sarah Nichols

Subscribed and sworn to before me this thirty first day of August 1850. Azor B. Crane.
Judge of Putnam County Court.

End Notes—W.5421—Josiah Nichels

1. Nathaniel DeLavam served as Captain in Colonel Pierre VanCortlandt's Third Regiment of Westchester County Militia. Captain Delevan's First Lieutenant was Thomas Nichols, Jr., but any relationship to Josiah is unknown. Captain DeLavan was promoted to major and was commissioned as such on June 25, 1778.
2. Thomas Thomas was appointed Colonel on October 19, 1775 of the Second Regiment of Westchester County Militia.
3. The company officers of North Salem are as following as of January 19, 1776: Captain Jesse Truesdale, First Lieutenant Ezekiel Hawley, Second Lieutenant Solomon Close and Ensign Elijah Deane. One May 28, 1778 Joseph Dolittle served as first lieutenant because Hawley resigned, Abraham Smith as second lieutenant because Close had resigned, and Abijah Wallace as ensign. Josiah never mentions the above officers at any time in his declaration even though North Salem was his residence. The Provincial Congress on March 14, 1776 ordered a draft of "*one company of 65 privates with the captain and other inferior officers of Colonel Thomas's Regiment and as many more men out of those two Regiments, [Colonel Joseph Drake, the First Westchester County Militia Regiment], as will turn out Volunteers for that service—to be immediately sent to the City of New York armed and accoutred in the best manner possible and to be joined to Colonel Samuel Drake's Regiment.*" Samuel Drake was the Colonel of the Westchester County Minute Men Regiment. He was later Colonel of the Third Westchester in place of Colonel VanCortlandt. The source for the cited drafts is page 84 of Documents Relating To The Colonial History Of The State Of New York, ed. Bertold Fernow, Vol XV, State Archives, Vol I, 1887, Albany, N.Y. Weed, Parsons and Company, Printers.
4. The Battle of White Plains, New York, was fought on October 28, 1776.
5. Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.

6. Major Generals Israel Putnam and Charles Lee of the Continental Army.
7. Possibly Lieutenant Caleb Lawrence of Colonel Thomas' Regiment. Also there was a First Lieutenant Samuel Lawrence in Captain Gideon Selah or Seely's Company in the Third Westchester. Ebenezer Purdy was the second major in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment. Ephraim Lockwood was commissioned Captain on June 25, 1778 in Colonel Drake's Regiment.
8. John Hyatt was a captain in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment. Hyatt was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the regiment on June 25, 1778. In the Audited Accounts Vol. I, page 326, is a voucher:--Capt. John Hyatt Company of Guides ordered into continental service by [Brigadier] Gen'l [Alexander] McDougall, 1 Cap, 2 Lieuts, 2 Sergts, 8 Priv, No date of service was given but it had to be before he was commissioned as the lieutenant colonel. The audited accounts are in the Special Collections and Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany, New York.
9. Henry Ludington was appointed Colonel of the Seventh Regiment of Dutchess County Militia sometime in 1777. He was commissioned as such on May 28, 1778. Captain Hyatt was not part of this regiment but could have served in his district and may have been subject to his orders.
10. Samuel DeLavan (Delevan, Delivon, etc.) was commissioned June 25, 1778 as Captain of a company of militia in Colonel Samuel Drakes' Third Regiment of Westchester County Militia. On February 27, 1779, Samuel was commissioned Captain of the Westchester County Light Horse Company in Colonel Drake's Regiment. His company officers are as follows: John Mandeville as the first lieutenant, Uriah Wallace as the second lieutenant and Jacob Vermilie as the Cornet.
11. In the Audited Accounts Vol A, Page 177, is a voucher for the following: Capt Samuel Delevan, Capt Light Horse Company, consisted of 1 Capt., 2 Lieuts, 1 Cornet, 3 Sergts, 3 Corpls, 1 Trumpeter, 1 Farrier, 51 Privates for their pay—again no dates of service. Source is the same as end note 8.