

## **Pension Application for Jesse Nichols**

S.11143

State of New York

Rensselaer County, City of Troy. SS.

On this seventh day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas called the Mayor's Court of the City of Troy, now sitting Jesse Nicholas a resident of the town of Nassau in the County of Rensselaer and State of New York aged seventy eight 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that is to say, that some time in the summer of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, while he resided in the town of Salem in the County of Westchester and State of New York. He volunteered or enlisted, in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Nathaniel Delavan (1) for the term of five months, that immediately upon joining said company he was marched to Kingsbridge in the said County of Westchester and was there engaged in erecting Fort Independence and was employed for a time at that place and in such service, that after finishing the work he was marched to White Plains (2) and was present at the battle at that place. That he went from thence to Peek's-Kill where he was stationed until the expiration of the five months for which he enlisted.

That one Lawrence (3) was the first Lieutenant under the said Captain Nathaniel Delavan but who the other subaltern officer was he cannot recollect. That one Colonel Thomas (4) Commanded the Regiment to which his company belonged, whilst so engaged in the service as aforesaid, and as he believes one Scott (5) commanded as General of Brigade, but cannot be positive, that after completing the five months tour of service as aforesaid, he returned home to the town of Salem aforesaid and remained there a short time when he joined a company of minute men or rangers—then commanded by Samuel Delavan (6) as Captain, one Noah Boughton, (7) as first lieutenant and one Miller (8) as this deponent believes as second lieutenant. They were first employed in keeping guard along the lines, and were constantly engaged in that service, and whilst so belonging to said company of Rangers he was engaged in a battle with the British at Fort Independence and also in another battle with the enemy at Ward's house (9) in Westchester aforesaid which was occupied as the head quarters of said company that in the battle last above mentioned, the company to which he belonged was principally taken or killed. In which company he served three months, that after the battle at Ward's house, the said company being dispersed killed and taken prisoners, he returned home to Salem aforesaid, and after remaining there a short time he enlisted in a company of light-horse formed by the said Samuel Delavan as Captain from the Militia of the County that one Isaac Keeler (10) was first Lieutenant in said Company but that he cannot remember who the other subaltern officer in said company was. That he served in this company in keeping guard, and watching the movements of the enemy in the County of Westchester for the term of one year at the expiration of which time he received a certificate of service for the time above mentioned from the captain above mentioned, whilst belonging to the last mentioned company of light-horse he was stationed at a place called, Krum Pond in the performance of the service aforesaid and was engaged in a small affair with a company of British light-horse in which lieutenant Keeler (11) was taken prisoner by the enemy at the place called Amiwalk – That either during his service in the Company of Rangers or the Company of light horse last above mentioned, he was present at the burning of Danbury in Connecticut (12) and was employed and stationed at a bridge in the vicinity to prevent the escape of the Enemy in that direction. That after the expiration of the service last above mentioned, he turned out and performed duty in the militia in the line of Salem aforesaid, he almost whenever they were given for & during the latter part of the war and at least for the term of one years actual service.

In Answer to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department he says—

1<sup>st</sup> That he was born in the town of Fairfield in the State of Connecticut on the twenty seventh day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four.

2<sup>nd</sup> That he has had the record of his age entered in the family bible, now in his possession & as he believes recorded when he was an infant but the said record of his age has been by some accident torn out.

3<sup>rd</sup> That when he entered the service as above stated he lived in North Salem in the County of Westchester where he continued to reside until the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty five when he removed from that place to the County of Rensselaer, where he now resides in the town of Nassau and where he has resided ever since he first moved into said County of Rensselaer.

4. That when he first went into the service of the United States as above mentioned he either volunteered or enlisted but which he cannot now clearly remember.

5. That from a want of recollection he is not able to name any other of the officers of the army than those above mentioned, except Colonel Samuel Drake and Major Strang (13) and that the circumstances of his service are as above detailed.

6. That he never received a discharge other than the certificate of service for one year as above stated from Captain Samuel Delavan but which he has long since lost, and that he has no documentary evidence of his service.

7. That there is no Clergyman living in his neighborhood with whom he is acquainted, but that Samuel Waterbury Esquire and David Waterbury both of the town of Nassau testify to the character of this deponent for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He 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) Jesse Nichols (14)

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. Archibald Ball Clerk

End Notes—S.11143—Jesse Nichols

1. Captain Nathaniel Delavan in Colonel Pierre VanCortlandt's Third Regiment of Westchester County Militia. The other company officers were as follows: first lieutenant was Thomas Nichols, Jr.; second lieutenant was Titus Runnells and the ensign was Abraham Purdy.
2. The Battle of White Plains, NY was fought on October 28, 1776.
3. Samuel Lawrence was the first lieutenant in Captain Gideon Selah's (Seely) Company in Colonel VanCortlandt's Regiment.
4. Thomas Thomas was the Colonel of the Second Regiment of Westchester County Militia. This tour was a draft of men and officers from the various regiments and the detachment was put under the command of Colonel Thomas.
5. Brigadier General John Morin Scott of the New York Militia. Scott was wounded in the Battle of White Plains.
6. Samuel Delavan was commissioned Captain on February 27, 1779 of the Westchester County Light Horse company is Colonel Samuel Drake's Regiment. VanCortlandt was elected lieutenant governor and Drake was appointed Colonel in his place on June 25, 1778. The following were his officers: John Mandeville as first lieutenant, Uriah Wallace as second lieutenant and Jacob Vermilie as cornet.
7. Noah Bouton was the first lieutenant in Captain Joseph Lockwood's Company (Poundridge Company) in Colonel Thomas' Regiment.
8. Probably James Miller, who was a first lieutenant in Colonel Thomas' Regiment.
9. The Battle of Ward's House (Westchester County) was fought on March 16, 1777.
10. Isaac Keeler was the first lieutenant in Captain Ephraim Lockwood's Company in Colonel Drake's Regiment.
11. Lieutenant Keeler was taken prisoner on June 24, 1779 at Crompond, Westchester County. Keeler lost some of his fingers in the encounter. In the Audited Accounts Vol. A, Page 144 there is a list of those taken prisoner on that day. The Audited Accounts are in the Special Collections and Manuscripts in the New York State Library, Albany, New York.
12. The Danbury, Connecticut Raid was on April 25-27, 1777.
13. First Major Joseph Strang of VanCortlandt's Regiment. Strang resigned and Captain Nathaniel Delavan was appointed Major in his place on June 25, 1778.
14. On March 1, 1851, Elijah Nichols and Elizabeth Bull the only living children of Jesse Nicholas applied to collect any arrears of his pension. Jesse died in the Town of Rose, Wayne County, New York on August 17, 1837. Their mother (name not given) had died in about 1814.