

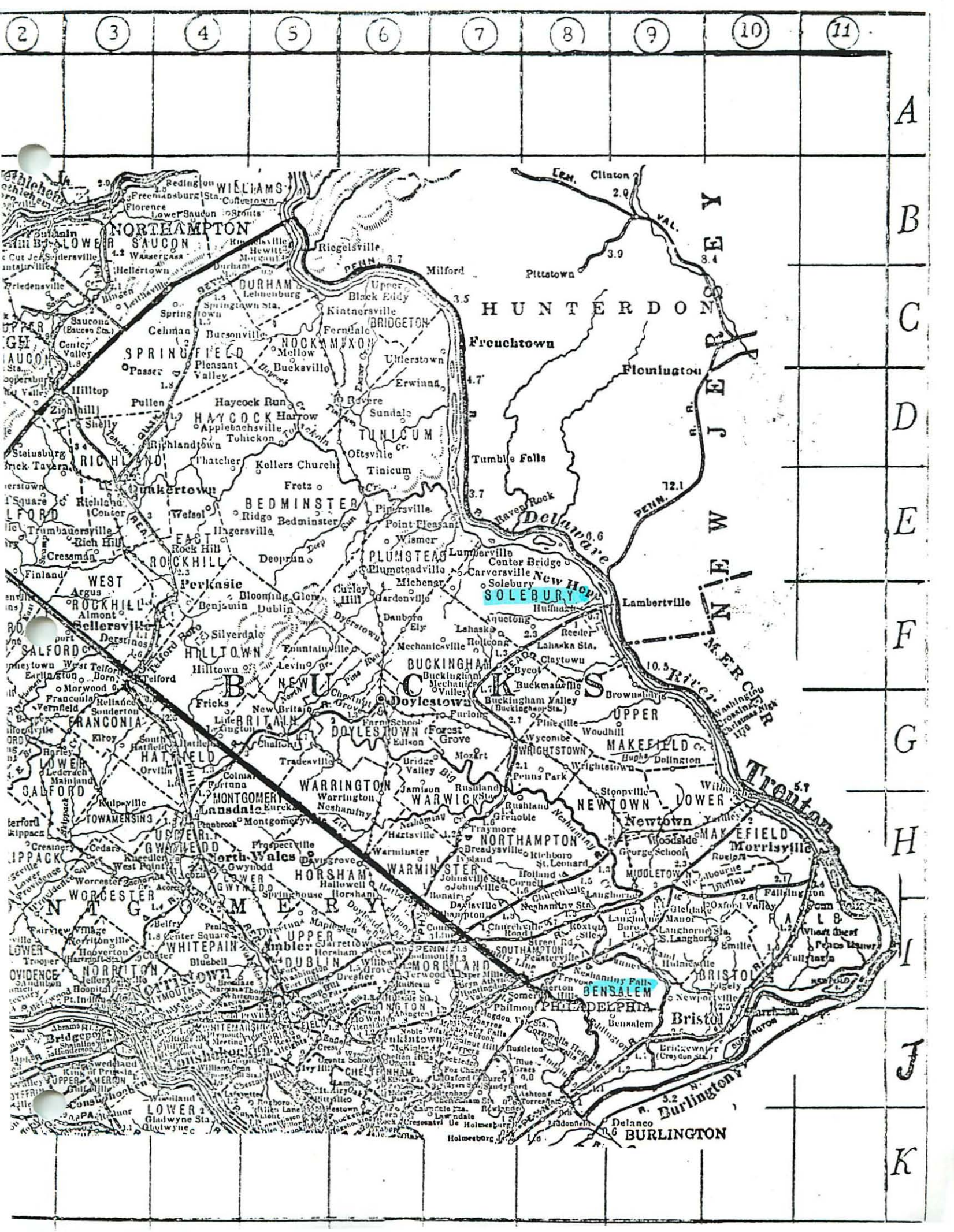
Historical Notes: American Revolution

Farmers not only were the mainstay of the Continental Army, they were also responsible for maintaining their families back home. They were infrequently paid, and then in almost worthless currency. It could be tragic for their families if they were not at home for spring plowing and fall harvesting, and at the times when Indians raids were threatening on the frontier. As a result although Gen. Washington was an able commander, Washington's officers had to drill into shape a largely new army before each major campaign. As long as this army could continue to exist the British, even though they held important American ports and won battles, could not claim victory in the war.

It was a year after the opening of the hostilities near Boston in the spring of 1775 before the British engaged the Continental army in serious combat.

The British looked upon New England as the center of the rebellion and in 1776 sought to cut it off from the rest of America by seizing New York and the rest of the Hudson Valley. And, the Pennsylvania militia in Bensalem township was called upon to volunteer.

In 1777 the British tried to put into effect their plan to cut the colonies in two along the Hudson River. Gen. Burgoyne began to move down from Canada along Lake Champlain and another from Lake Ontario along the Mohawk River. Gen. Howe was to move up the Mohawk River, but instead, with British permission, occupied Philadelphia. And now, we have dates to connect with our William Nicholas' service in the Revolutionary War. According to his testimony, the Bible his father kept was lost at the time the British took Philadelphia.



STATE OF OHIO)
Columbiana County)

Common Pleas October 17, 1832

On this seventeenth day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting William Nicholas a resident of Hanover Township in the county and state aforesaid, aged seventy-three years who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States some time in the year 1776 about the time New York was taken. That he was living, at the time he entered the service in Bucks County, Pa. from thence we marched to Trenton from thence Princeton, to New Brunswick and from thence to Amboy, where we joined the main army which was commanded by Gen. Robert Doe--from thence we marched to Bergen near New York, at which place we turned and marched back through New Jersey and were then discharged--that in this tour, which lasted about six weeks or two months he was a volunteer that Col. Anderson, Major Mucalvane and Capt. Jarvis were our commanding officers.

That he entered service of the U. States the second time in year 1777 shortly after Philadelphia was taken, which tour lasted about six weeks or two months--that he was drafted, and joined the troops at White Marsh and was stationed on a hill between that and the river Schuylkill and was engaged with some other troops in patrolling the neighboring country under Gen. Potter and Major Kennedy who was afterwards killed by the refugees and that he was discharged at Dilworth's Tavern on the York Road.

That the third time he entered the service of the U. States he enlisted for six months to drive a continental team--that we got our wagons from Col Larick and loaded at Easton, Pa, from thence we drove across the Jersies to the White Plains where Washington lay with the army and were engaged in hauling provisions from Tarrytown on the North River to the army at the White plains- and that, when Gen Washington moved his camp and encamped on Quaker Hill we lay the remainder of the time at Morris's Store, he thinks in the State of Connecticut.

He also joined a volunteer company and assisted in guarding a magazine and the market people on the roads to prevent them from conveying produce into Philadelphia at the time the British had possession of that city. And thinks he was about one month engaged in that kind of service. That he has no documentary evidence and does hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Potter and Major Kennedy who was afterwards killed by the refugees, and that he was discharged a Silver Medal on the York road.

That the third time he entered the service of the U States
he enlisted for six months to drive a continental
train - that we got our waggons from Col Laiders &
loaded at Easton Pa, from there we drove ^{across} the
Pines to the White Plains where Washington lay
with the army and were engaged in hauling
provisions from Ferrytown on the North River to
the army at the White plains - and that, when Gen
Washington moved his camp and encamped on Quaker
Hill - we lay the remainder of the time at Morris-
town, he thinks in the state of Connecticut.

He also joined a volunteer company and assisted in guarding
a magazine and thus kept people on the roads to
prevent them from conveying produce into Philadelphia at
the time British had possession of that city. and thinking
he was about six months engaged in that kind of
service that he has no documentary evidence and does hereby relinquish every
claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare his
oath is not for the purpose of sale of any estate
known and subscribed the day and year of contract.

Ed Coffin

William ^{his} ~~for~~ ^{marks} Nicholas

we, Edward Jones a clergyman, Joseph Gaspell Esq. and
residing in Hearscoe Township county and
State of Iowa, do hereby certify, that we are well acquainted
with William Nicholas who has sworn and subscribed to
above declaration, that we believe him to be about seventy
three or four years of age, and that he is ^{reputed} and
believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been
a revolutionary soldier and that we concur in that
opinion.

He has to subscribe the day and year of sale.

This is the signature it appeared again in original

/s/ C.D. Coffin, Clerk

William Nicholas

We, Edward Jones, a clergyman, Joseph Grissell, Esq. are residing in Hanover Township county and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Nicholas who has sworn and subscribed to above declaration, that we believe him to be about seventy three or four years of age, and that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood which he lives to have been a revolutionary soldier and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Edward Jones

Charles D. Coffin, Clk.

Joseph Grisell

QUESTIONS BY THE COURT

First: Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In Bucks County, Pa., I think in the year 1758.

Second: Have you any record of your age?

Ans: No. I believe that the family record kept by my father was lost at the time the British took Philadelphia.

Third: Where were you living when called into the service-- where have you lived since the revolutionary war-- where do you now live?

Ans: In Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pa, from thence I moved to Lycoming County on the west branch of the Susquehanna and from thence I moved to Columbiana county Ohio where I now live.

Fourth: How were you called into service?

----- In the first tour I do not recollect whether I was a militia man or a volunteer--in the second I was drafted and in the third time I volunteered or was enlisted and in an additional months service I volunteered.

Fifth: State the names of some of the respective officers who were with the troops with whom you served such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

---- I never served with any regular troops, except that I hauled provisions to Gen. Washington's camp at White Plains. Gen. Potter, Gen. Robert Doe and Col Anderson, Major Mucalvane and Major Kennedy were the commanding officers of the troops with whom I served.

Sixth: Did you every receive a discharge from the service and if so, where is it, and by whom was it given?

---- I never got a discharge.

Seventh: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity, and the belief as to your having been a revolutionary soldier?

Ans: The Rev. Edward Jones, Joseph Grissell, Esq. David Walton, Robert Dennis, James Graham, Cornelius Whitacre Isaac Jackson, and Abraham Heister.

And the said Court do hereby certify and declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogations prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states and the court further certifies that

4

it appears to them that Edward Jones, Joseph Grissel who have signed the above certificate are residents in Hanover Township County and State aforesaid, and their opinion that they are credible persons and that their statements are entitled to credit.

I, Charles D. Coffin, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of said Columbiana county, Ohio do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings in the matter of the application of William Nicholas for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of Office this seventeenth day of October AD 1832.

/s/ Charles D. Coffin, Clk.

SEAL

30 Jan 1833

With a view of obviate the objections of the War Department to the foregoing, the aforesaid William Nicholas, on his solemn oath makes the following supplementary Declaration:

That sometime in the summer of 1776 he entered the service of the Unites States, as a volunteer (the whole company being called upon to volunteer,) as near as he can recollect on the first of July of said year, and served according to the best of his recollection, two months, entering the service at Bucks County, Pa and marching as stated in original declaration, until discharged as therein stated.--That he never received any written discharge nor did the others who served with him so far as he knew.

That the said declarant entered the service of United States a second time, being drafted, at Bucks County aforesaid as nearly as he can recollect on the 15th of November AD 1777, and continued in service two months, when he was discharged, but received no written discharge.

After the expiration of said last mentioned two months' service, he volunteered his services to the United States and entered the service as stated lastly in the foregoing declaration as near as now remembers, on the first of February, 1778, and continued to serve for one month, and was engaged during that time as stated in his declaration aforesaid.

That afterwards, he enlisted for a tour of nine months in the service as a wagoner to drive a Continental team as mentioned in the declaration, but which enlistment was there stated to be six months in stead of nine said declarant then knowing he had served at least six months and wishing rather to state less than a greater time than he had served. And that from his reflection since on the subject, he feels confident his term of enlistment was for 9 months and positively knows that he served out the time for which he enlisted but received no other than a verbal discharge to the best of his recollection. That this last service was commenced as nearly as declarant recollects on the first of March and ended on the first of December of the same year; but to be positive of the day he cannot, no can he say positively whether this services was performed in 1778 or 1779, but thinks it was in the former year.

That he knows of no person by whom any part of the above service might be proved, no has he any documentary or other evidence by which to prove the same: that he is old and weak and his memory considerably impaired, so that he can not be more precise or positive than he has been in the preceding.

/s/ William Nicholas

Attest: W. D. Ewing
John Burns

6

State of Ohio) ss On this 30th day of January AD.
Columbiana County) 1833, personally appeared before
 me, the above named William
 Nicholas. and in my presence
subscribed the above supplementary Declaration; and was by
me duly sworn that the facts therein specified and the
statements therein set forth, are true.

Given under my hand and seal this day last aforesaid.

/s/ John Burns
An acting Justice of the Peace in and for said Columbiana
County, Ohio.

The State of Ohio,
Columbiana County :

Charles D. Coffin, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for
said county do certify that John Burns, Esq. before whom the
above affidavit was made and whose signature is to the
certificate of the same was at the time thereof, a Justice
of this peace in and for said county duly commissioned and
qualified to those official acts do such full faith and
credit are due.

Witness my signature and the seal of said
Court 30th of January 1833.

SEAL

/s/ Charles D. Coffin,
Clk, Com. Pleas

Pension Claim of

Wm. Nicholas at \$46.66 per An.

Hon. J. Thomas

Filed to --Ohio, Pittsburg 5419 Agency

O H I O

William Nicholas
of Columbiana County in the State of Ohio
who was a private in the Company commanded
by Captain Jarvis of the Reg commanded by
Col McIlvane in the Pennsylvania
Militia for 14 mos from 1776.

Inscribed on the Roll of Ohio
at the rate of 46 Dollars 66 Cents per annum
to commence on the 4th day of March, 1834.

Certificate of pension issued 9th day of Febry
1833 and sent HON. John Thomas .

Arrears to 4th of Sep 1832	\$ 70.00
Semi-annual allowance ending 4 Mar 1833	23.33
Total	\$ 93.33

Revolutionary Claim
Act June 7, 1832.

Recorded by Henry H. Sylvester, Clerk
Book D. Vol 10 Page 42

October 20, 1833 Cert of Transfer to
W. D. Ewing, New Lisbon, Ohio.

let to Hon. J. Hastings, Aug 4, 1843
let to Hon. J. Hastings, Nov 3, 1843

Paid at the Treasury under the Act of 6th April 1838,
from 4th Sept to 6th Nov 1842.
Agent notified 6th Dec 1844.

Pension of Hannah Nicholas Ohio

Act of 12 July 1838 and Joint Resolution
23 January 1845 and subsequent amending acts.

husband died Nov 6, 1842.

REJECTED

Admitted

PR 46.66 per an com: 4 March 1836.

Lewis Elliott & Co.
Hamden, Ohio.

Letter-----

New Garden, Columbiana Co. Ohio
Oct 25, 1843

Col. Edwards

Sir

I wrote you on the 31st of July last in relation to the care of Hannah Nicholas, widow of Wm. Nicholas who had received a pension of \$46.66 a year, and your reply was, that she would come under the five year union law through the proof of being Wm. Nicholas's widow.

Mrs. Nicholas has lost her marriage certificate but states as follows: She was married to the best of her recollection in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in the month of June 1788, and can prove by Alice Reeder, the matron of a respectable family in this neighborhood, who resided in Bucks County at the time of her-Mrs. Nicholas's- marriage and many years afterwards, as her neighbor and friend, the couldn't read of her marriage though not at the ceremony, and their housekeeping as man and wife, during those years Mrs. Nicholas and her husband have lived in New Garden within three miles of her present witness for about 15 years, and the last two year at Hanoverton, the present place. She has had ten children, five living and the names of all the children written by her husband in the family Bible; her oldest born in March, 1789 by the record. The Bible can be sent to you if necessary, and the circumstances detailed, proved in the way you may direct. John Clark Esq, lawyer who Mrs. N. has applied to to transact the process in Court says the Court will commence in the County town, New Lisbon next month the 30th inst, and adjourn about the 9th of November. Will you, my dear Sir, be so good as to reply to this on its merits, that the old lady may have time to get through the Court before it brakes up, that she may get the benefit of a pension as soon as possible for she is in a destitute condition.

Most respectfully
I am obedient servant
John Hastings

The State of the }
Wichitaw County Eds. On the third day of April one thousand

Eight hundred and forty four personally
appeared before the Court of Common Pleas in aid for the
County of Columbiana aforesaid. now in session. We are
therefore a resident of Weavers Township in said County
of Columbiana aged seventy five years on the first day of
May next 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 passed July 7. 1838 entitled "An act granting

Well may and penance is certain burden: that she is
the widow of William Nicholas deceased a revolutionary
pensioner (whose original certificate is recorded in Book
D. Vol 10 page 42 and bears date the month of February
one thousand eight hundred and thirty three) who was
a private in the army of the revolution, that is she is

informed and truly believe he would in Captain Davis
and Captain Thompson's Conference of Amherst in a
negotiated arrangement by deed. Observations in the past
decreased and under the circumstances of a major minority in
in direct demand all which with more fully appears
from the report that in the formation of the movement to the

quantity of his friends
The Justice declares that the law is not to be
Nicholas is dead on Friday in the year 1800. The
hundred and eighty eight, and that the hundred
seventy William Nicholas died on the sixth day of

After that I returned to him prior to his leaving the service
 but the marriage took place previous to the first of January
 American branch and nearly four, May: at the time above
 stated.

altera, *bicolor*, *diffusa*, *alba*.

The State of Ohio, COLUMBIANA County

I William C. Russell Clerk of the Court of
Common Pleas in and for said county, certify, that the
above matter and testimony above set down & signed
by Hannah Nicklas, was taken at the time, place, in
the manner and before the court as stated above, that
she the said Hannah was first duly sworn as there stated,
and that she thereafter, after reading to her
said testimony, did sign the same.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my
hand & seal of said court this third day
of April AD 1844,

William C. Russell Clerk

10

I hereby certify that I attached the leaf of the Bible referred to in this written supposition thereto by two pieces of ribbon (sic) with a seal on each and that I have affixed my signature and seal to each of said seals, March 18th AD 1844

Samuel Fox, (SEAL)
Justice of the Peace

The State of Ohio) Before me a Justice of the Peace in
Columbiana County)SS and for the County of Columbiana, Ohio
formally appeared Holmes Nicholas son of William
Nicholas deceased United States pensioner and of Hannah
Nicholas his wife who having been duly sworn deposes and
says that the foregoing leaf is the family record of the
births of the children of said William and Hannah that
it is in the writing of his said father that it was
taken from the family Bible of his said deceased father
that it existed there in its present form as far back as
the memory of this deponent extends.

/s/ Holmes Nicholas

Sworn and subscribed before me this 18th day of March 1844.

/s/ Samuel Fox (SEAL)
Justice of the Peace

State of Ohio) SS Before me a Justice of the Peace with
Columbiana County) in and for said county personally
appeared Alis (sic) Reeder who having
been duly affirmed says that she knew William Nicholas
deceased (United States Pensioner) and Hannah Nicholas his
wife before they were married and that they then resided in
Bucks County, Pennsylvania that they were married about the
year (1788) that affiant was not present at there weding
(sic) but knew the fact from common reputation, and that said
William & Hannah lived together as man and wife from that
time to the death of said William in November 1842.

/s/ Alice Reeder

Affirmed and subscribed to this 18th day of March A.D. > 1844
before me.

/s/ Samuel Fox (SEAL)
Justice of the Peace.

The State of Ohio) Personally appeared before me Samuel
Columbiana County)SS Fox, a Justice of the Peace in & for
said County David Arter who having been duly affirmed deposes
and says that Hannah Nicholas, widow of William Nicholas,
deceased has not been married since his death.

/s/ David Arter
affirmed & subscribed to before me this 6th day of April AD
1844. /s/ Samuel Fox, Justice of the Peace

State of Ohio) SS I, Samuel Fox Justice of the peace for
Columbiana County) said County hereby certify that Holmes
Nicholas, Alice Reeder and David Arter
whose depositions were taken by me in the manner aforesaid
are respectable persons and there testimony is entitled to
full confidence.

Given under my hand and seal this 6th day of April AD
/s/ Samuel Fox (Seal)
Justice of the Peace

The State of Ohio, Columbiana County SS

I, William E. Russell, Clerk of the Court of Common
Pleas in and for said county do hereby certify that Samuel
Fox is a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, duly
commissioned and qualified that his commission was dated May
1st 1842, and that his signatures written on the two
preceding pages as well as upon the seals attaching a leaf
of a Bible to this sheets are genuine.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said court at
New Lisbon in said county April AD 1844.

/s/ William E. Russell, Clerk

Letter -----

New Garden, Columbiana Co., Ohio
Sep. 2nd 1844

Col. Edwards
Sir

Widow Nicholas has just been here requesting me
to inquire the merit of her application for a pension. The
poor woman in very anxious being old, infirm and poor. Her
papers of evidence were transmitted to you some three months
ago, immediately after the April Court in this County. Her
address is Hanoverton, Columbiana County, Ohio.

Most respectfully your obedient servant,
/s/ John Hastings

Secretary's Office
Harrisburg, January 8, 1846

Sir:

After a careful examination of the Records of the
different Department no evidence can be discovered of
services rendered in the War of the Revolution by William
Nicholas. Many of the records relating to matters of this
kind were removed some time since from this place to the City
of Washington and the evidence You require may have been
amongst them.

I am Very Respectfully Yours

/s/ J. A. Innis
Clk. in Mil. Dept.

12
OHIO 4762 Pitts.

Hannah Nicholas

widow of Wm. Nicholas Penn.

who served in the Revolutionary

War, as a Private

Inscribed on the Roll at the rate of

46 Dollars 66

Cents per annum, to commence

the 4th day of March 1848.

Certificate of Pension issued the

2nd day of May 1849

/s/ Lewis Elliott, Esq.
Hampdon, Ohio

Recorded on Roll of Pensioners under a
February 2, 1848, Page 356, Vol 4.

Reported: Let. Wm. B. McCrea 14 May '61