

Pension Application for Nicholas Cusick
Name also appears as Kayhnatsno, Kaghnatshon, and Kanaghtjoh

S.18788

B.L.Wt. 439-200

Lockport, March 22, 1841

Hon. J. S. Edwards, Commissioner of pensions.

Dr. Sir, One Cusick an Indian Chief I believe of the Tuscarora tribe near Lewiston in this County recently died who I am informed and believe was a pensioner of the United States – he has left children but no widow—there was several months arrear of pension due him at the time of his death. One of his sons lives in Canada and will not come here to join his brothers and sisters in drawing the arrears of pension—What I want to know is whether the others can draw without him and if so what are the necessary steps to be taken in that particular case.

I am somewhat familiar with a widows drawing her husband's arrears at his death but not a case of the kind under consideration.

Will you please advise me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully Yours. A. H. Moss

State of New York

Niagara County SS.

On this 4th day of January 1826 personally appeared in open court viz, the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County being a Court of Record by the laws of the said state, Nicholas Cusick aged about sixty five years resident in the town of Lewiston County aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18 March 1818. And the 1st May 1820. That he the said Nicholas Cusick entered as a Lieutenant in the year 1779 about the first of June, and served under Colonel Louis of the St. Regis tribe of Indians until the close of the Revolutionary War on the Continental Establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the period aforesaid when he was discharged from the said services in Schenectady (by General Schuyler) in the State of New York; that he has heretofore received a pension certificate dated 1st April 1818 No. 37. That he has not drawn his pension since 1820. Nor has he applied for a continuance owing to a difficulty in his mind as to the oath imposed upon him by the act of that year.

And in pursuance of the act of the e1st of May 1820. I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18 day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intention so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an Act of Congress, Entitled “An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818. And that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities, contracts or debt due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereunto annexed and by me subscribed. Nicholas Cusick

Sworn to and subscribed on this 4th day of January 1826 in open court. James F. Mason, Clerk

Inventory of the estate and effects of Nicholas Cusick Real Estate I have none of my own individually. The Tuscarora tribe of Indians to which I now belong have a tract of land situate at the Village of that name in Lewiston Niagara County Sate of New York of about three by two miles in extent and on which a remnant of the tribe now reside of this land I have as much as I wish to cultivate—by the laws of the State no sale of it can be made without an act of its Legislature, nor can I legally lease any of it. I therefore drive no advantage from it except from my own exertions. I have a small log house on the tract which is considered to belong to me, but am not at liberty to sell it a to a white man it's only use is therefore to afford myself and family a shelter.

The Tuscarora Nation own considerable lands in North Carolina, the exact extent of which I do not know.

These lands are mostly rented, but the monies received for rents are in small seems and very precarious, sometimes none is received for several years. These rents are divided among the nation according to the number of Souls.

Personal property over and above necessary bedding & wearing apparel. I have one yoke of oxen worth I suppose \$50.00, one cow 15.00, twelve hogs (small & some pigs) 25.00, Two old ploughs 5.660, Four hoes 1.00, Two Axes 2.00. About corn enough to keep the family and stock till next spring one old wagon 5.00, I have cooking utensils and [?] furniture which serves for the use of my family.

I owe Isaac Jackson Indian 15.00, Widow Williams 13.00, A Trio &c. about 20.00, C. Hotchkiss about 6.00, C. & L. Woodruff 18.00

I receive from the United Foreign Missionary of New York for interpreting for the Nation each year, \$200, which depends on the will of that society for continuation, as no term is agreed on they can stop it any time.

I am in a decrepit state, unable to labor by means of a rheumatic affliction which has cause one hip to be misplaced, and am feeble in strength.

My wife is about fifty seven years of age and not able to do much toward support of the family.

I have two daughters who are dumb, both of the I have to support I have also three Grand Children, the children of a deceased daughter which I have to maintain.

The occupation of myself (beside interpreting) and family is to raise as much for the support of the family as we are able during the year. Nicholas Cusick

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court on this fifth day of January 1824. James F. Mason Clerk

Letter in folder dated September 10, 1935, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of Lieutenant Nicholas Cusick, who was a pensioner in 1820. You state that he served in the Connecticut Troops and that the names "Tuscaroras Reservation" appears in the papers.

The record has been found of a Nicholas Cusick who served as a lieutenant in the New York Troops, who was a sachem and warrior of the Tuscaroras Tribe of Indians, but it is not shown that he ever served in the Connecticut Troops. That record is furnished you herein the data for which were obtained from the papers on file in pension claim, S.18788, based upon the military service of Nicholas Cusick in the Revolutionary War.

The date and place of birth and the names of the parents of Nicholas Cusick are not shown. His name id borne, also, as Nicholas Kayhnatsno, Kaghnatshon and Kanaghtjon.

Nicholas Cusick (as he signed his name) entered the service, place not shown sometime in 1777, served as a private in a company of Indians in Colonel VanSchaick's New York Regiment, of which and Indian, known as Colonel Luie or Lewis Cooke, was lieutenant colonel. Nicholas Cusick was in the army under General Gates at the time of the capture of General Burgoyne, June 1, 1779, he was commissioned lieutenant in the same regiment, and continued to serve as such officer until the end of the war. He stated that he was in service for more than five years.

He was allowed pension on his application executed March 25, 1818, at which time he was residing in the Tuscaroras Village, new Lewiston, Niagara County, New York. In 1826, his age was given as about sixty-five years. In 1828, soldier stated that he was nearly seventy years of age.

Nicholas Cusick was granted one thousand acres of land by the state of New York in recognition of his services in the Revolutionary War. He was also in receipt of bounty land warrant No. 439 for two hundred acres of land from the United States Government.

Should you desire information in regard to the location of the land granted by the United States, you should address the Commissioner of the General land Office, this city, and cite the following data: Bounty Land Warrant No. 439-200 issued December 1809.

It was stated that Nicholas Cusick was an enterpreter [interpreter] for the United Foreign Missionary Society of New York, which society sent missionaries to the Tuscaroras. He was known as a moral and religious man, of irreproachable character, and a member of the Christian Church. He was dead in March 1841, exact date of death not shown.

In 1818, he stated that he had a wife and ten children. In 1826, he gave the age of his wife as about fifty-six and stated that he had living with him, two daughters and three grandchildren, children of a deceased daughter, but gave no names.

In 1850, son James N. Cusick was living in Rochester, New York; another son was said to be living in Canada, his name not shown.