

[Eric Weber](#)

Admin · November 2 at 9:06 AM

Nov. 2, 1736 was the birth date of John Nash, a 1766 settler here from Hatfield. He was Williamsburg's first Town Clerk, a member of its first Boards of Selectmen and Assessors, and probably the man most directly responsible for its separation from Hatfield in 1771. He was a dynamo of civic activity and leadership, cut down in his prime by a fever while visiting relatives back in Hatfield in May 1773. He was buried there, but his gravestone has not been found. His descendants erected a granite memorial stone for him at the back of the Old Village Hill Cemetery here.

Around 1771 he built the oldest part of Donna Gibson's present house at 110 Nash Hill Road, on the hill named after him and his brother Elisha, who built a house (now gone) across the road. John owned more property than anyone else in the first valuation of the town, was one of the first thirty members of the church, and arranged for the first preaching there. About 1787 his two eldest sons, Moses and John, divided his farm in half north and south. Moses lived in his late father's house, while John Jr. built the earliest part of the present Gabranski (formerly Feiker) house at 116 Nash Hill Road. Their brothers Samuel and Thomas settled elsewhere in Williamsburg, and their youngest brother Elijah moved to Conway, where he became the grandfather of Marshall Field and Williamsburg benefactress Helen E. (Field) James.

Gravestone image on next page



IN MEMORY OF

JOHN NASH

1736 — 1773

ORGANIZED TOWN OF
WILLIAMSBURG

1771

HIS WIFE

MARTHA GRAVES NASH

1736 — 1794