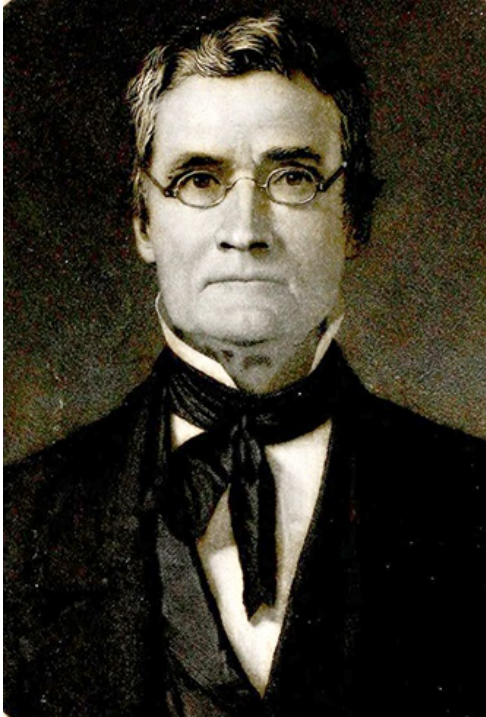


Nash, Frederick ^[1]

Nash, Frederick

by Jaquelin Drane Nash, 1991; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, March 2023

9 Feb. 1781–5 Dec. 1858



An 1859 engraving of Judge Frederick Nash.

Image from [Archive.org](#).

^[2]Frederick Nash, fourth chief justice of North Carolina, was born at Tryon Palace in New Bern. He was the son of Governor [Abner Nash](#) ^[3] and his second wife, Mary Whiting Jones. Young Frederick grew up with his brother and three sisters at Pembroke, the Nash plantation on the Trent River near New Bern. His father died in 1786 and his mother died in 1799. After their deaths, he studied under the Reverend [Henry Patillo](#) ^[4] in Williamsboro and under the Reverend [Thomas Irving](#) ^[5] in New Bern. In 1799, he graduated as salutatorian from Princeton College. Returning to New Bern, Nash studied law under [Edward Harris](#) ^[6] and was admitted to the bar in 1801. He represented New Bern in the House of Commons in 1804 and 1805.

In 1803 he married Mary Goddard Kollock of Elizabethtown, N.J. Seeking a healthier climate after the loss of their first child, they moved from New Bern to Hillsborough in 1807, where Nash purchased "a small one-story house, [an office](#) ^[7], and cabins for slaves' quarters" from [Duncan Cameron](#) ^[8]. Nash represented [Orange County](#) ^[9] in the House of Commons in 1814, 1816, and 1817 and the town of Hillsborough in 1828–29. In 1814 he was speaker of the house.

Nash was elected a superior court judge in 1818 and held the office until 1826, when he resigned to resume his lucrative private law practice. In 1836 he again won election to the superior court, serving until Governor [John Motley Morehead](#) ^[10] elevated him to the [North Carolina Supreme Court](#) ^[11] in 1844 to complete the term of Judge [William Gaston](#) ^[12]. This interim appointment was confirmed when the legislature elected him Judge Gaston's successor. In 1852, on Judge [Thomas Ruffin](#) ^[13]'s resignation, Nash became chief justice of the supreme court; he continued in this office until his death six years later.

Elected a trustee of [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[14] in 1807, Nash remained an active supporter of the university, from which he received an LL.D. degree in 1853. Although raised in the [Episcopal church](#) ^[15], he and his wife became ardent Presbyterians around the turn of the century. For nearly fifty years they were among the leaders of the [Presbyterian church](#) ^[16] in North Carolina.

Nash was also an enumerated enslaver throughout the course of his life. According to the 1810 Census, Nash was the enslaver of 10 people. By 1820, he was the enslaver of four males and six females. By 1830, seven males and nine females were enslaved by Nash. By 1840, one male and 11 females were listed under Nash's ownership. By the census of 1850, the last before Nash's death, eight males and 13 females were listed with Nash as their enslaver. Nash' will (dated July 3, 1858) also provided provisions for the people he enslaved after he died. Upon his death, Nash's will bequeathed ownership of his entire estate, including all people he had enslaved, to his son-in-law, Dr. [Edmund Strudwick](#) ^[17].

Nash and his wife had seven children: Susan Mary (m. Isaac Read III), Ann Eliza (m. Dr. Edmund Strudwick), the Reverend Frederick Kollock, Henry Kollock, Shepard Kollock, Sally, and Maria. [Sally and Maria, who never married, ran the Nash-Kollock school in Hillsborough](#) ^[18].

Nash suffered his last illness while returning from a meeting of the synod in New Bern. He died December 5, 1858. He was buried in the [Hillsborough Old Town Cemetery](#) ^[19]. A portrait of Judge Nash hangs on the wall of the supreme court chamber in Raleigh.

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Additional Resources:

- "(FORMER) NASH SLAVE DWELLING / YARBOROUGH HOUSE." *OpenOrange*. April 15, 2021. Accessed March 8, 2023 at <https://openorangenc.org/buildings/former-nash-slave-dwelling-yarborough...>^[22]
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Image Credits:

- Sartain, John. "Hon. Frederick Nash, LL.D. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of N.C. by order of the Editors of the N.C. Univ. Mag. for 1859-1860." *North Carolina University Magazine* 9, no. 5 (December 1859). <https://archive.org/stream/northcarolinauni18591860#page/n275/mode/2up>^[2] (accessed June 12, 2013).

Subjects:

Biographies^[25]

Judges^[26]

Lawyers^[27]

Authors:

Nash, Jaquelin Drane^[28]

Origin - location:

New Bern^[29]

Hillsborough^[30]

From:

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.^[31]

1 January 1991 | Nash, Jaquelin Drane

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Links

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