

Pension Application for John Snell

S.10021

State of New York
Orleans County SS.

On this fifth day of February 1834 personally appeared before James Gilson, Esquire one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Orleans the said Court being a court of record, John Snell, a resident of the Town of Shelby in the county of Orleans 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, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the month of May (the particular day, declarant does not remember) 1775, he entered said service as a volunteer and Sergeant at Manheim in Herkimer County, New York when he then entered in the militia of the State of New York in the Regiment commanded by Col. Jacob Clock, in Capt. Christian House's (1) company and continued in said service under this engagement six months when he was duly discharged from said service by the said Capt. House—The discharge was a verbal one. The said declarant says that during this engagement he was stationed at Forts Ox (2), Clock, Herkimer and Reminsnider, on the Mohawk river in the State of New York, to guard the frontiers against the predatory incursions of the British & Indians, and to apprehend American Deserters. The said declarant says that during the month of May the particular day he does not recollect--

1776, he again entered said service under an enlistment for the term of six months as a private under Capt. Van Epps (3) whose Christian name declarant does not remember and continued in said service during this period, when he was duly discharged therefore from the said Van Epps. The discharge was a verbal one. The said declarant says that he entered said service under this engagement at Manheim aforesaid where he then resided, and was employed the whole of the time under this engagement as a boatman, in carrying provisions and other things up the Mohawk river from Schenectady to Fort Stanwix for the American Troops stationed at the latter place.

The said declarant further says that in the month of November (the particular day he does not remember) 1776, he again enlisted into said service at Schenectady, New York as a private under Capt. Garret Lansing (4) for one month and continued in said service for that period when he was duly discharged there from by the said Capt. Lansing. The discharge was a verbal one. The said declarant says that his employment under this engagement, was the same as that specified the last preceding.

The said declarant further says that in the month of February (the particular day he does not remember), 1777 he again enlisted into said service as a private at Palatine, Montgomery Co. New York in the militia of the State of New York under General Schuyler (5), in Capt. William Peterson's (6) company (the col's name declarant does not recollect) for nine months and continued in said service under this engagement for four months, when in consequence of sickness declarant obtained a furlow from the said Capt. Peterson he returned home where he was detained by reason of such sickness for the remainder of his said term of enlistment. From Palatine where he enlisted the said declarant marched to Albany where he and the troops with him were mustered. From thence he marched to Manheim in Herkimer Co. NY, where he remained a few days. From thence to Ballston—Thence to Fort Edward—Thence to Fort Miller—and then to Skenesborough where he was when he was taken sick as aforesaid—He cannot state the names of any officers of the regular army with whom he became acquainted during this engagement-- He did not serve during this engagement, with any corps

of the regular army—He was employed the principal part of the time during this term of service, in picking Oakham And repairing the roads between Skensborough & Fort Miller.

The said declarant further says that the latter part of July or the first part of August (he does not recollect which) 1777, he again entered said service as a volunteer as a private in the Militia of the State of New York at Manheim aforesaid, in Col. Jacob Clocks Regiment, in Captain Christian Houses Company and continued in said service under his engagement until the month of April (the particular day declarant does not recollect), 1781, which he was duly discharged from said service by the said Capt. House—the discharge was a verbal one. The said deponent says that he was stationed during the principal part of the time of under this engagement at Fort Snell in Manheim aforesaid, and about two and a half miles north of the Mohawk river to guard the frontier against the British and Indians—While stationed at Fort Snell, declarant accompanied Capt. House in an expedition to Cherry Valley (7) to repel the British & Indians there from and bury the persons they had killed there.

The said declarant further says that in the month of April (the particular day he does not remember) 1781 he again entered the service as a volunteer as a private at Fort Keyser, New York in the Militia of the State of New York in Col. Peter Waggoner's (8) Regiment in Capt. John Zeilley's (9) Company and continued in said service under this engagement until the war closed in 1783. The said declarant was stationed the principal part of the term of this engagement at Fort Keysor aforesaid, under the said Capt. Zeiley—When stationed there he was out on an expedition against the British & Indians at Stone Arabia, was in the battle of Stone Arabia, when Col. Brown of the American Army was killed. At the close of the war, the said declarant was duly discharged from service by the said Capt. Zeiley—This discharge was also a verbal one.

The declarant was born August 2, 1755, at Stone Arabia Montgomery County, New York—Has a record of his age in the family bible at the place of his nativity—Never received a written discharge from same—Lived at the close of the War at Stone Arabia and after, until March 1784, when he moved to Manheim Herkimer Col. N.Y. where he resided thirty three years, and then moved to the town of Shelby the county of Orleans, New York, where he has since resided and where he now resides—Henry Bidleman and John P. Snell are residents in the neighborhood of the said declarant, to whom he is personally known and who can testify to his character for truth and veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. The said declarant says that he is old and infirm and resides about twelve miles from the place where the courts of record in his county are held, that in consequence of his age and infirmity he could not, without serious detriment to his health, attend the record court of Common Pleas held during the week ending on the day of January last, and that he has no reason to think that his health will be such as to enable him to attend any future court that may be held in his county to be examined and sworn in open court touching the facts set forth in this declaration. There is no clergyman in the immediate neighborhood of declarant whose certificate can be obtained. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any state. (Signed) John Snell

Sworn and subscribed this fifth day of February 1824 before me, James Gilsanam one of the Judges of Orleans Co.

A letter to answer an inquiry is included in the folder. It is dated April 28, 1933. Part of the letter pertains to another inquiry and the pertinent part is quoted: "While residing in Manheim, Herkimer County, New York, John Snell volunteered and served in the New York Troops as follows: From May 1775, about six months as sergeant in Captain Christian House's

Company, Colonel Jacob Klock's Regiment; from May 1776 six months under Captain VanEps, and after that one month under Captain Garritt Lansing, both in the boat service; from February 1777, about four months as private in Captain William Peterson's company; from August 1777 until April 1781 as private under Captain Christian House and Colonel Jacob Klock, during which period of service he was in the battle of Stone Arabia; immediately after, as private in Captain John Zeiley's (possibly mean for Zilley's) company, Colonel Peter Waggoner and continue until the close of the war.

After the war, the soldier lived in Stone Arabia, New York, until March 1784, then moved to Manheim, Herkimer County, and remained thirty-three years, after which he moved to Shelby, Orleans County, New York.

John Snell was allowed pension on his application executed February 5, 1834, at which time he resided in Shelby, Orleans County, New York.

At the time of his application for pension, the soldier referred to one John P. Snell as a resident of the "Neighborhood", but did not state any relationship. No reference is made to wife or children in the papers in this claim.

End Notes—S.10021—John Snell

1. Christian House was the Captain of the Seventh Company in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia.
2. Fort Ox was the fortified home of Melchert Ochs but usually spelled and pronounced as OX.
3. Evert VanEpps raised a company of Bateamen in 1776. So far a muster roll for this company has not been found.
4. Captain Garrett Lansing also had a company of bateamen. The bateamen companies were part of the Quartermaster General's Department and were considered as civilian workers working for the military.
5. Major General Philip Schuyler of the Continental Army.
6. William Peterson also had a company of Bateamen. The bateau companies were vital for moving supplies on the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers.
7. Cherry Valley was attacked and destroyed on November 11, 1778 by Captains Walter Butler and Joseph Brant.
8. Peter Waggoner was the lieutenant-colonel in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
9. John Zeely or Zielie, etc. was the first lieutenant in Captain John Breadbake's Fifth Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment. In 1780, Captain Breadbake commanded a company in Colonel Lewis DuBois' Regiment of New York State Levies. Lieutenant Zeely then commanded the company as the acting captain but he was never commissioned. In 1781, Captain Breadbake returned and assumed command of the company.