

Pension Application for Conrad Sheely or Sheeley

R.9456 (Widow: Elizabeth) Elizabeth Hoornbeck married Coenradt Sheley in the Town or Rochester, Ulster County on the twenty eighth day of November 1777.

Ulster County, Private, Captain Hardenburgh, Col. Clinton.

State of New York

County of Ulster SS.

On the fourteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before me, Abraham G. Hardenbergh, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Ulster, being a Court of record having by a law a Clerk and a seal Conrad Sheeley, a resident of the town of Wawarsink in said county of Ulster, and Hale of New York aged seventy nine 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.

In the year 1775 in the month of July Lieut Thomas DeWitt came to said applicant where he was mowing in the field, and asked him to enlist for five months to go to Canada; that said applicant then and there to wit in the town of Wawarsink aforesaid enlisted volunteering as a private for said term of five months—that a few days afterwards the company was mustered at Kingston in said County of Ulster, that after having been billeted there for about two weeks, the company marched to Hudson River under the command of Jacobus S. Bruyn Capt. Thomas DeWitt first Lieut, Albert Pawling Second Lieut, we went on board of a sloop to Albany—There the regiment was formed under col. James Clinton—Wynkoop Lieut Col. – this applicant does not recollect the name of our Major—After staying about eight or ten days in Albany, the whole regiment was [?] out for the aid of Ticonderoga; here we encamped and remained for some time waiting for Cannon, ammunition, Bomb, Kettles and provisions which were sent on from Albany when said stores were ready we embarked the same [????] on board of boats and proceeded on our way to Canada—landed near St. Johns and there joined the army under Genl Montgomery, we then built breast works and forts and surrounded the fort of the British and kept guard all around cannonaded their fort & throwed in bombs—after we had laid here and [?] said fort for six weeks the British capitulated, and gave up and a great many prisoners were taken (among whom was Col. Ritzema) and sent on to Albany—after this we were marched directly on to Montreal—when we came to the River, we encamped for a few days, and then understood that the British had left the place—that some of our officers, among whom was Genl Montgomery himself embarked on board of a boat and went across the river, and were welcomed by the Inhabitants—That said applicant was one of the men who rowed said boat—that then the whole army came across and marched through the town into the Barracks—that while we laid in said barracks the time of enlistment of said applicant expired some time in December; when said applicant was discharged after serving as a private the said term of five months. Further affidavits of [?] Quick & Jacob Hoornbeck hereto annexed.

In the year 1776 in the month of March said applicant voluntarily enlisted for the term of nine months in the Continental army in a company commanded by Capt. Cornelius Hardenburgh, Edward Lounsberry first Lieut—one Newkirk second Lieut—mustered at Kingston in said County and we were put on board of a sloop and went to New York, there we joined the Regiment commanded by Col. Ritzma—after some time Capt. Hardenberg was dismissed from the service and Lieut Lounsberry was put in his place—we were employed in keeping guard and were exercised and [?] most every day by Col. Ritzma he was an experienced officer—this was in the first part of said term—afterwards started for Long Island and at one time when said applicant was along we took twenty one prisoners—our army was encamped near the Fresh Water pump in the Upper part of the City—that when the British were across the East River said applicant was on guard at Counties [?]-that about day break he saw a vessel coming across which immediately came [?] with grape shot—and turned [?] said [?] called from his post by the [?] and was obliged to make his way while the grape shot rattled against the houses around

him—that after he came to his regiment the British army marched in plain sight of our encampment [?] were not to [?]—after the vessel had passed we took up our tents & baggage &c and retreated to what was then called the Cedars about three miles—and from thence to Kingsbridge, and so on to White Plains, was there when the battle was fought—and there for sometime and from thence to Peekskill—where my time expires, and was there discharged after serving as a private the said term of nine months—was discharged late in December, said applicant well recollects that he came home New Year—The British too New York, Col. Ritzema went over to them, and then Col. Wysenvelt commanded our Regiment—In this campaign saw Gen. Washington, Putnam, Hamilton, Scott & several others whose names said applicant does not now recollect. See the affidavit of Cornelius Quick hereto annexed.

In the year 1777 in the winter said applicant entered the service and did serve for the term of three months as a substitute for Benjamin Bruyn in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Kortright in Col. Hoornbeck's Regiment; marched by land through Ulster and Orange Counties to a place in New Jersey, then called Kekiat—That the British were in Hackensack—we were engaged in keeping guard and scouting in the County to protect the Inhabitants. Was discharged in said place after serving said term of three months in the latter part of April or first of May can't recollect the Regiments or officers that laid there—served as a private—see the affidavit of Cornelius Quick hereto annexed.

In the same year viz 1777 in the month of May said applicant again entered the service and did serve for the Term of Three months, as a private as a substitute for a Class—marched by land through Ulster and Orange Counties to Fort Montgomery—served in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. John Hasbrouck in Col. Levi Pawlings Regiment was employed in keeping guard and marching out—was dismissed at [???] in the month of August after serving said term of three months.—see the affidavit or Cornelius Quick hereto annexed.

In the same year 1777 immediately after his return from Fort Montgomery said applicant volunteered & entered and enlisted for three months to go to the North Ward—Enlisted and served as a private in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Kortright – went a board for several tours to the knowledge of said deponent of a sloop to Albany was ordered from thence to Fort Stanwix. Marched on to Schenectady, here we halted and waited for our field officers—Col. VanSchaick's Regiment was there, said Regiment was then ordered and marched for Fort Stanwix and the company to which said applicant beloned, was marched to VanSchaick's Island near Waterford—here our Regiment was formed under Col. Graham – Lt Col. Hopkins and Major VanAlstine—we were marched to [????] marched up to Stilwater and joined Gen. Gates army—said applicant was in a skirmish with the [?] we took their Guard House and burnt it—was in [?] when Genl Burgoyne surrendered –after the [can't read a line] Ulster County and there discharged some time after it was burnt by the British—after serving said term of three months—saw Genl Lincoln, Arnold [Paterson?] in this campaign—See the affidavit of Cornelius Quick hereto annexed.

In the year 1780 in the month of August volunteered and enlisted for the term of three months, and did serve said term as a private in a militia company. [?] enlisted by Capt. Derick Westbrook in order to guard the frontiers—Our Head Quarters were at [?] in Ulster County and we were engaged daily in scouting about on said frontiers from [?] to [?] a distance of [?] or [?] miles in great danger—there were twenty four men in the company and we were subject to the orders of Col. Albert Pawling—we were discharged at said Wawarsink at the end of said term of three months late in November in said year 1780—See the affidavit of Jacob Hoornbeck.

Said applicant has also served for several short periods of one month and less in the Militia service on said frontiers in the town of Wawarsink and shorter on scouting parties and on alarms, on all sent of the frequent incursions of the Indians and Tories—which he can't now [?]-but is positively sure he has served the several terms within stated and has served his county in the Revolutionary War for more than two years—he has no documentary evidence of his services and on diligent enquiring has not

been able to procure or find any witnesses by whom to prove said services except Cornelius Quick and Jacob Hoornbeck whose affidavits are hereto annexed.

And in answer to the interrogatories put to him by the said Judge as required by the War Department, said applicant on his oath states 1st that he was born on the 15th day of October 1753 at Wawarsink in the County of Ulster and State of New York, 2^d that he has record of his age. 3^d that he was living at said Wawarsink when called into service has lived there since the Revolutionary War and still resides there. 4th that he entered said several services as a volunteer and substitute as written set forth 5th that he was within the stated according to the best of his recollection in the [???] with the troops where he served and [can't read sentence] 6th Never received any but a verbal discharge except [????] within stated, when he rec'd a written discharge does not recollect who signed it—it was burnt shortly after the Revolution when my house with all its contents was destroyed by fire—7th he can state the names of [can't read names] in his present neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, and said applicant on his oath states that the clergyman in his neighborhood are young men who have not lived long in the country—that he is in [?] partially acquainted with them and they with said applicant—he has therefore produced as witnesses before the said Judge Johannes Hoornbeck and Cornelius Deprey, respected inhabitants of said town of Wawarsink, members in good standing in the church who are well acquainted with the applicant.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. (Signed with his mark)
Conrad Sheeley

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me, Abm. Hardenburg one of the Judges of Ulster Common Pleas.

Letter in file dated October 19, 1938, replying to a request for information.

Reference The data which follow are found in the papers on file in pension claim R.9456, based upon service in the Revolutionary War of Conrad Sheely.

Conrad Sheely enlisted and served as a private in the New York troops, at different times, shown as follow: from July 1775, in Captain Jacobus S. Bruyn's company, under Colonel James Clinton, engaged in the expedition to St. Johns, Ticonderoga and Montreal during which he assisted in building forts under General Montgomery, length of this service five months; from March 1776, in Captain Cornelius Hardenbergh's company under Colonel Ritzema, afterwards in Captain Lounsberry's company, Colonel Weissenfel's regiment, engaged near New York, assisted in taking a large number of prisoners on Long Island, was in an encounter with a British vessel, was in the battle of White Plains, and was discharged at Peekskill, having served nine months; in the winter of 1777, three months in Captain Kortright's company, Colonel Hoornbeck's regiment; from May 1777, three months in Captain John Hasbrouck's company, Colonel Levi Pawling's regiment; immediately afterwards, three months in Captain Benjamin Kortright's company, was in a skirmish near Stilwater and at the surrender of General Burgoyne; from sometime in August 1780, three months in Captain Dirck Westbrook's company, Colonel Albert Pawling's regiment, engaged against the Indians and Tories on the frontier; and subsequently, on short tours on various alarms.

He was allowed pension on his application executed March 14, 1833, at which time he resided in Warwarsing, Ulster County, New York.

His name was born on the pension roll as Conrad Sheely; however he was referred to as Conrad Sheley and Sheeley. The soldier died there December 8, 1836.

The soldier married November 28, 1777 in Rochester, Ulster County, New York, Elizabeth Hoornbeck; they were married by the Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church of Rochester. The soldier's name was recorded on the records of that church as Coenradt Sheley.

In 1837, Elizabeth Sheely, the soldier's widow, was a resident of Neversink, Sullivan County, New York, aged seventy-nine years. The date and place of her birth and the names of her parents are not given. No reference was made to children of this soldier.

In 1833, Johannis Hoornbeck and Jacobus Hoornbeck, both of Ulster County, New York, stated that they were acquainted with the soldier, Conrad Sheely, during the time of his service in the Revolutionary War; no relationship to Elizabeth was stated.

One James Davenport, of Sullivan County, New York, in 1837, stated that he was present at the marriage of the soldier and Elizabeth Hoornbeck in Rochester, New York; no relationship to the soldier's family was stated.