

Pension Application for John I. or J. Suts

W.16.747 (Widow: Catharine)
State of New York
Montgomery County SS.

On the 9 day of May 1838, personally appeared before me, Jacob G. Snyder a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Peter Sits of the Town of Minden, County of Montgomery and State aforesaid who was duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he is aged Seventy Eight years past, and that himself has been a Revolutionary Militia Soldier from the commencement of the said Revolutionary War during the same to the final termination thereof.

Deponant further saith that he has been personally acquainted with John J. Suts previous to the Revolutionary War, during the same to the conclusion thereof and to the time of his death, Personally known that the said John J. Suts was a true and faithful Militia Solider, from the year 1775 from year to year and in each and every year, until the conclusion of the most hazardous and precarious Revolutionary Struggles.

That the said John J. Suts was a militia Soldier and was Enroled & belonging to the Company of Militia, Commanded by Lieut. Andrew Dillenbagh Vice Capt. John Keysor (1) in the year 1775 appointed Lieut. Under the command of Capt. Christop'r P. Yates, and died when on the campaign to Canada same year 1775. When after Lieut Dillenbagh continued in command until 6th Augt 1777 of the said company. When he was slain at Oriskany battle, when after Severenus Cook, in the German language spelled Koch, succeeded in having the command of said company for and during the war, to the final termination thereof.

And deponant further saith that the said John J. Suts did belong to the Regt commanded by Col. Jacob Klock and Lieut Colo Peter Waggoner, from the commencement of the Revolutionary War during the same to the close thereof.

Deponant further saith that excepting during the aforesaid period, in the year 1780, that the said John J. Suts with him the said deponant and others a company of Batteauxmen under the command of Capt. Samuel Gray, from the early part in Spring until the latter part in November, and not discharged until between Christmas and New Year, when arrived to their respective places of residence travelling on foot from Schenectady to Palatine now Montgomery County in consequence of the Ice the Mohawk river being shutt, and where, on the said Mohawk River from Schenectady to Fort Stanwix the said John I. Suts was engaged with himself and the said company under Capt. Gray (2) in transporting provisions from the supply of the garrison at Fort Stanwix.

And deponant further saith that himself was enlisted the year previous, vizt in the year 1779 under the same Capt. Samuel Gray at the time of Gen'l Sullivan's and Gen'l James Clinton Expedition to the west in destroying and dispersing the Indians, and their castles, that deponant with the said Capt. Gray and the Company under the command of Capt. Gray went with that Section of the Army under the Command of Gen'l Clinton down the Susquehany River, there waiting the arrival of Gen'l Sullivan (3) with his Army, and previous to Approaching the Indian Castles, Capt. Gray with the boatmen were well furnished with arms and ammunition, joining the army aiding and assisting the army in dispersing and destroying, according to the best of deponants knowledge and belief. Six different nations, that there can be any hesitation, believing that Capt. Samuel Gray has not had the Command of a Company of Batteauxmen for the two years in succession vizt. in the 1779 & 1780 and that he had not once rendered faithful service to the United States in the boat service from the early part in Spring until the ice happened to stopp the progress of boating, [?]ting, that they have been engaged for nine months in each year successively from the time leaving their places of residence, Until constraint to return, respectively, and will power belief the Omissions and deficiencies committed on the part who were Intrusted with the care of those worthy old veterans, but very few who can have reason to expect in obtaining the bounty calculated for those poor old destroyed soldier, yet in instance, or their poor helpless old widows.

Deponant further and last declare and says that if practicable to render Justice to the present claimant vizt to the widow Catharina Suts, that if less than a full pension will be allowed her, for the services rendered by her deceased husband, from the commencement of the Revolution to the conclusion of the War, to the United States, by including his Batteau service, but she will fall short of the bounty, contemplated by the law passed 4th July 1836.

And further deponant saith not, only that he says that he has been personally acquainted with the said Catharina Suts widow of John J. Suts dec'd although not present at the time of Marriage, but well satisfied that they have lived and cohabited together as becoming husband & wife previous to the 3d day of November 1783 and that he has reason to belief that the said Catharina Suts is aged Seventy Eight years past as appears by the old church records, kept in the Reformed dutch Church of Stone Arabia by the Rev'd Abraham Rosegrantz.

And that deponant further saith that the said widow Catharina Suits is Reputable, and an old lady of truth and veracity and her Testimony Entitled to full credit. [record ends here.]

Steuben County SS.

On the 7 day of March 1837 personally appeared before me Oliver Rice a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Severenus Dygert aged Seventy six years past since November last of the Town of Bath, County and State aforesaid, who was duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he has been personally acquainted with John J. Suts and Catharina Wauffel, previous to the Revolutionary War during the same and until the time of his death deponant further saith that some time in the latter part of August in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventy eight he was personally present at the time when the aforesaid John I. Suts with the aforesaid Catharina Wauffel personally appeared in the Luther Church in Stone Arabia Town of Palatine, before the

Rev'd Frederitzey, then seeing them, Joining hand in hand when the Dominie Pronouncing them man and wife, and that the said Catharina is now the widow of the said John J. Suts, deceased.

Deponant further saith that he is personally known that the aforesaid John I. Suts has been a Revolutionary Soldier and that he was enrolled and attached to the company of Militia Commanded by Capt. Andrew Dillenbath and continued in rendering United States Service as a true and faithful soldier equal with other brave and faithful Militia Soliders, from the year 1775, from year to year, until the 6th day of August 1777, when his Capt. Was slain in battle at Oriskana, (4) under the command of Genl Nicholas Herkimer, against Genl St. Leger with his Incendiary army from Canada, and that Lieut Severenus Cook, Emediently after Oriskana Battle succeeded to the command of the said company as Capt. And continued in Command until the Termination of the Revolution, and that the aforesaid John J. Suts from and after the aforesaid 6th day of Augt did serve in rendering United States Service in the same Company under the Command of Capt Cook and Continued from year to year until the Conclusion of the War, excepting in 1780 Enlisted under Capt. Gray in a company of boat men and that he belonged to the Regiment of Militia commanded by Col. Jacob Klock from first to the last.

And deponant further saith, that at the time of Oriskany Battle when the Militia were ordered out, that the deceased soldier did march out with his Company in marching with the Brigade under Gen'l Herkimer.

Deponant further saith, that at the time of the Gen'l Conflagration on the Mohawk although belonging to the company of boats under Capt. Gray the said John J. Suts was engaged in Browns battle (5) in Stonearabia, and again in pursuing the enemy again engaged in Battle on Klocks & Failings field, (6) on the 19th Oct. 1780, both engagements on one and the same day. [record ends here]

Montgomery County SS.

On the 17th day of June 1837 personally appeared before me John F. Getman a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Montgomery, Henry Wauffel who was duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith, that he has been personally acquainted with John J. Suts and Catharina Wauffel, long previous to the Revolutionary War, from the commencement during and to the final conclusion of the aforesaid Revolution, and until the said John J. Suts died.

And deponant further saith that the aforesaid John J. Suts did pay his addresses to his Cister Catharina Wauffel, sometime previous to the year 1778. Until some time in summer 1778 when deponant was absent from his place of residence, and enlisted early in spring under Capt. John Leffler, Capt of a company of Boats, and boatmen, and kept in the United States Service, Boating on the North river during the whole term of nine months until December before returned home. When the aforesaid John J. Suts and Catharina Wauffel were married during deponants absence, as informed after arriving at home, and that they have Cohabited together until January 1817 when the said John J. Suts died.

And the said deponant further saith that the said Catharina Suts, widow of John J. Suts deceased, did not intermarry again after the death of her husband and yet remaining the widow of the dec'd John J. Suts.

And deponant further saith that he doth verily belief, that the aforesaid John J. Suts and Catharina his wife, have been legally and lawfully married and joined in lawful wedlock before and by the Rev'd Frederitze preacher at the time, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Stonearabia, Town of Palatine, County and State aforesaid, which was the town wherein he was born and brought up and his place of residence for a number of years, and now residing in the Town of Canajoharie and County and State aforesaid.

Deponant further saith, that the aforesaid John J. Suts has been a true genuine whig, and a faithful soldier and friend, on behalf of the United States in the American cause of liberty and Independence, that he has and did commence in rendering United States Services in the year 1775 and Continued in rendering Services to the United States from year to year until the final Termination of the Revolution as a Militia Soldier excepting in the year 1780, when the dec'd soldier was enlisted in the boat service, under the Command of Capt. Samuel Gray and continued as Enlisted to service for nine months from the early part in Spring until late in fall.

Deponant further saith that from the beginning of the said war the said John J. Suts did belong to the company of Militia commanded by Capt. Andrew Dillenbath in the Regt Commanded by Col. Jacob Klock & Lieut Col Peter Waggoner, Until the 6th day of August 1777 when Capt. Dillenbath was slain in that memorable battle at Oriskana under the command of Genl Nicholas Herkimer against Genl St. Ledger & Col Johnson with their Incendiary associates from Canada generally called Oriskana Battle, when after Lieut Severenus Cook assumed the command of the same company and continued in command until the conclusion of the Revolution, and that the decd soldier did continue in rendering United States services from year to year as a faithful Militia Soldier, until the final termination of an eight year distressed war with the exception of the year 1780 as stated in the foregoing when engaged in the boat service under Capt. Gray.

Deponant further state, that he belief, it to be impracticble for any Militia soldier who having resided in the then County of Tryon and who bath been a genuine Whig and a faithful Soldier, and a real friend attached to the American cause for liberty and Independence, to specify the various and numerous tours & services rendered to the United States for and ruing an eight year pestiferous war, such as the distress Inhabitants along the Valley of the Mohawk and at the full extend then Tryon county, had to encounter and experience.

Deponant says that he will only select some of the most prominent tours, which the deceased, honest soldier did exhibit in support of his countries Cause, vizt as early as in the year 1775 he has rendered considerable duty as a soldier on behalf of the United States often in consequence of alarms, sometimes ordered out on Scouts, but cannot specify particularly but believing 2 months.

1776 early part in the winter, under the command of Genl Herkimer & Genl Schuyler's (7) whole Brigade marched to Caughnawaga from thence to Johnstown, causing surrender of Sr. John Johnson (8) with about 400 Tories, and various other tours during the year.

1777 In the early part of winter drafted to Tigonderoga, early part in summer to fort Stanwix, land again Emediently after ordered out under Genl Herkimer, when the dec'd soldier engaged in that memorable battle, generally called Oriskana battle, against Gen'l St. Leger with his Army from Canada 6th Augt 1777. Personally known that said deceased John J. Suts has been at various different tours and occurances [rest of line cut off.]

1778 deponant further saith that the militia this year almost continually alarmed from the early part in Spring until late in fall, often and frequent occurances which have transpired during said year, among which were the following vizt, at the time of the Gen'l Conflagration in the early part of Summer at Springfield, burning, murdering, and prisoners taken to Canada by Capt. Brandt (9) with his Associates from Canada, also in fall, deponant beliefs fore part in Oct. at the time of the Gen'l Conflagration, at Herkimer on the North side of the Mohawk river all around Fort Dayton, and up along the said river, and at the same time opposite on the south side of said river, German Flats, down to Fort Herkimer and all Emediently around Fort Herkimer and at a Considerable distance south from said river when all burned, some of the inhabitants murdered and some taken prisoners.

Again on the 11th day of November same year at the time of the Gen'l Massacre at Cherry Valley, Murdering, Scalping, burning and Prisoners taken—And deponant declares, that at each time, of the before mentioned Occurances Col. Klock's Regt. have been called out in mass, vizt the whole Regt and in addition twice by Regt once at the time when called out on a serious alarm when the Regt was ordered out and stationed at Countryman's for Several days when Lieut Matthias Wormwood & Ensign Peter Sits were sent express to Cherry Valley by Col. Klock, when returning Lieut Wormwood, Murdered, and Ensign Sits (10) taken Prisoner to Canada, which occurrence happened latter part of May said year.

Deponant further saith, that during said services the Militia were also ordered out by Regt to Bowman Creek in consequence of a serious alarm which makes the 5th tour by Reg't and of which deponant do entertain no doubt, but that the said John J. Suts dec'd did render his full share of United States service each and every call, when called & ordered out by the whole Regt—and that deponant being well assured that the said dec'd soldier did not omit any one Regimental services, shall only—beg leave to state, that at the time of Turlough (11) as the deponant says, that by order of Col. Willett, Col.. Klock's Regt. was ordered out to march on to reinforce Col. Willett, but Col. Willett being gone on his march previous to Col. Klock's reg't crossing the river, and not arrived until in the morning emediently after Battle was over, searching in finding one dead & do [ditto] Oct 25th (12) at the time of Johnstown Battle, the Militia & Levis under the Command of Col. Willett against Maj'r Ross and Capt. Butler with their Incendiaries from Canada, deponant says that himself was personally call, in consequence of the foregoing mentioned occurances- - -

Deponant further saith that during said season from the early part in Spring until late in fall deponant being well assured, that the Militia had but little time left in attending to their loyal concerns at home, that sometimes have been drafted, often and frequently ordered out on alarms, Chiefly the most of the time from the early part in Spring until late in fall, stationed at their respective forts, when sometimes ordered on guard, and at other times send out on scouts- - -

1779, deponant further saith that he feels well assured that the dec'd soldier the said John J. Suts was prepared with his waggon and horses in drawing or carrying boats from Canajoharie through Springfield to Lake Otsego, 22 days in July, ordered out under the command of Capt. Severenus Cook, the whole Reg't under the Command of Col. Klock and Maj'r Fox (13) to fort Herkimer at the time of the Gen'l Conflagration on the German Flats (14) from Fort Herkimer, down to Fall Hill and all fall Hill, burning Murdering & prisoners taken to Canada.- - - 3 weeks

Deponant further saith that although the Indians and tories this year were not so formidable in murdering and destroying the Militia notwithstanding having been called out sometimes in consequence of alarms, stationed at their respective Forts watching and guarding sometimes drafted, ordered out on scouts- - -

1780 deponant further saith that the deceased soldier vizt John J. Suts early in Spring this year, was enlisted under a Company of boat men for nine months in the Company of boat men, commanded by Capt. Samuel Gray, and deponant says that he has reason to belief that the said John J. Suts did Service in the boat service the full nine months during said year, and that the said John J. Suts (15) with some others belonging to the said boat company under Capt. Gray, did not only stay with their boats, but on the 18th day of Oct same year, where at Fort Hunter Schoharie Creek, Sr. John Johnson with, as saith with 1500 Incendiaries from Canada [part of paragraph missing] directly from Schoharie after Burning and destroying all from Schoharie Down to the Mohawk river and on their march up along the South side of the river when the boat men happened in the rear of Col. Johnson with the Incendiaries far in front when Capt. Samuel Gray, Lieut. Andrew Gray, William Feeter, John Gramps, and the aforesaid and John J. Suts deceased, have been crossing the river and returning to Fort Paris late in the night, Town of Palatine, and again before day spying out the enemy at what is Anthony's Nose where they the enemy had been encamped that night, and the next morning, as deponant always was instructed, and told by each of those in Company with Capt. Gray as well as by Capt Gray himself & others, that in the morning on the 19th Oct marching with Col. John Brown & others of the Militia & some of Col. Browns Levis, and in Short all those five, Capt. Gray with his other four boat men having been engaged twice in battle, first under the Command of Col. Brown, who was slain in battle and went under the command of Col. Lewis Dobois (16) at a distance of about 8 or nine miles apart up the river, now St. Johns Vile, when again engaged in battle, when Sr. John left the ground, with his Incendiaries, deponant forbear the great conspiracy done by Gen'l Van Rensselaer (17) when at that time had the command over all, and notwithstanding him with his 1700 Militia, merely witnessing the [?] scene or spectacle

which suited his eyes, excepting some few of his officers & soldiers who volunteered contrary to his orders—and behaved alike brave and courageous soldiers.

1781 And that deponant further saith that the dec'd vizt, John J. Suts again did belong to the same company & Regt. under the command of Capt. Severanus Cook, Col. Jacob Klock, and continued in rendering United States Service, during the remained part of the said war until the final conclusion of the same from the early part in Spring 1781.

Deponant further saith, that during this year, the Militia have been continually alarmed and almost continually kept in rendering United States Services, shall only—beg leave to State, that at the time of Turlough battle deponant says that by order of Col. Willett, Col. Klock's Reg't was ordered out to march on, to reinforce Col. Willett, but Col. Willett being gone on his march previous to Col. Klock's Reg't crossing the river, and not arrived until in the morning emediently after the Battle was over, searching in finding our dead & do Oct. 25th, at the time of Johnstown Battle, the Militia & Levis under the command of Col. Willett against Majr Ross and Capt. Butler with their Incendiaries from Canada, deponant says that himself was personally engaged in said Battle and personally known that the dec'd vizt John J. Suts was engaged in battle at the same time against the enemy vizt Majr Ross & Butler and their Indendiary Associates from Canada.

Deponant further saith that during the course of this year that the Militia were continually alarmed and constrained in rendering United States Services, impracticable to specify all but sometimes drafted and stationed at different forts, in rendering garrison duty sometimes ordered out to repel the incursions of the common Enemy, often and frequently and almost continually stationed at their nearest Forts next residing to, watching and guarding the Fort in rotation.

1782 deponant says that during the course of this year from the early part in March until late in the fall, the Common Enemy Continually annoying the Inhabitants, lurking around the old settlers on to throughout the whole extent of the then town of Palatine, that many sereous occurrences have transpired and happened during the said Period, in Murdering, burning, and Prisoners taken to Canada, and that in consequence the Militia belonging to the Regt Commanded by Col. Jacob Klock, almost continually in arms and most of the season ordered and stationed at the nearest forts of their respective places of residence.—

That they were often and frequently ordered out in pursuing the enemy, often and frequently ordered out in Consequence of alarms Constraint in rendering garrison duty in the respective Forts.

Deponant further saith that the regiment Commanded by Col. Samuel Clyde (18) on the South Side of the Mohawk river, were embarrassed the same by the Indians during the same year, opposite of Palatine in the then Town of Canajoharie.

And Deponant further saith that no Militia Soldier or officer, who has commenced in rendering Military service in the year 1775 and continued from year to year during the whole war until the final conclusion of the said war, and more particular one who has proved a Genuine Whig and a true friend in supporting the rights and liberties of the good people of these United States, for and during the course of a distressed eight years War, deponant says cannot possibly fall short of the length of two full years Service rendered to the United States and deponant further saith that the aforesaid John J. Suts deceased, has been one of that description of Militia Soldiers prescribed in the foregoing and that he the aforesaid John J. Suts has not only rendered the full length of two years, during the period of Eight years—to which his widow vizt Catharina Suts is legally and lawfully entitled to, and further deponant saith not. (Signed with his mark) Henry Wauffel

Subscribed and sworn to this 17th day of June 1837 before me. John T. Getman

End Notes—John J. Suts – W.16747

1. John Keyser, Jr. was appointed Captain of the Fourth Company on August 26, 1775 in Colonel Jacob Klock's Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. A company was raised from Tryon County to be part of the Continental Army. John Frey was appointed the Captain but he was promoted to Brigade Major and Christopher P. Yates was appointed the Captain. John Keyser, Jr. was appointed the Second Lieutenant in this company on July 14, 1775 as Matthew Wormwood declined the appointment. John died in November 1775 in Canada therefore there would be a need for a new captain to be appointed to the Fourth Company. First Lieutenant Andrew (Andreas) Dillenback (Tillenbach, Dillenbeck, Dillenbagh, etc.) was appointed the captain. Captain Dillenback was killed at the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. First Lieutenant Severinus Klock (later the name is given cook in official records so it is hard to determine which is correct) was appointed Captain of this company. Klock received his commission on March 4, 1780.
2. Samuel Gray was also a Lieutenant and Adjutant of Colonel Klock's Regiment.
3. Major General John Sullivan.
4. Spelled today as Oriskany. Other spellings are Orisco, Ariska, Erisco, etc.
5. Brown's Battle is one of the many names given to the Battle of Stone Arabia which was fought in the morning of October 19, 1780.
6. The Battle of Klocksfield was fought in the afternoon of October 19, 1780. Failings and Klock's Flatts is what was commonly called by the greatest share of the militia participants. This site is the present day St. Johnsville, Montgomery, County, NY.
7. Major General Philip Schuyler marched with the Albany County Militia in January of 1776. They were joined by the Tryon County Militia under Chief Colonel Nicholas Herkimer. Herkimer was appointed a Brigadier General on September 5, 1776.
8. Sir John Johnson, son of Sir William Johnson. The Johnson Home called Johnson's Hall still stands and is a New York State Historic Site.

9. Captain Joseph Brant, brother of Molly, wife of Sir William.
10. Second Lieutenant Matthew Wormwood was killed on June 2, 1778. Ensign Peter Sits was taken prisoner to Canada and kept a prisoner until November 9, 1780. Both officers belonged to Captain John Hess's Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment.
11. The Battle of New Dorlach (Turlough, Terleu, etc.) was fought on July 10, 1781. This area is now Sharon Springs, Schoharie County, NY.
12. The Battle of Johnstown was fought on October 25, 1781. Marinus Willett was the American Commander. Major John Ross and Captain Water butler commanded the British.
13. Christopher W. Fox, Captain of the Third Company in Colonel Klock's Regiment. Captain Fox was wounded at the Battle of Oriskany. He recovered from his wounds and was commissioned Major in said regiment on September 29, 1780.
14. The German Flatts was attacked twice in major raids. Captain William Caldwell and Captain Brant attacked the area on September 17, 1778. The second major raid was on July 15, 1782 led by Captain George Singleton and Captain Joseph Brant.
15. John's name does appear on Captain Gray's payroll in 1780. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 122, folder 78, Quartermaster General's Department, National Archives, Washington, DC.
16. Colonel Lewis Dubois who had resigned as Colonel of the Fifth New York Continental Regiment on December 22, 1779, was appointed on July 1, 1780, Colonel of a regiment of New York State Levies.
17. Brigadier General Robert VanRensselaer, appointed on June 16, 1780, was to command the Second Brigade of the Albany County Militia.
18. Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Clyde of the First Regiment of Tryon County Militia.