

State of Michigan, County of St. Clair, ss:

In the matter of Claim No. 681,193 of Mary A. Serl, Widow of William Serl, decd, Co. 8th Regt
Michigan, Vol. for Widows Orig. pension, General law — On this 15 day of June 1897,

personally appeared before me, a notary public, within and for the County and State aforesaid, duly authorized to administer
 on this Mrs Joanna Harris, aged 65 years, whose postoffice address is
Lakeport, County of St. Clair, and State of Michigan,

well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who being duly sworn according to law, states in relation to the
 above named claim as follows: That I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

That I was well and personally acquainted with the
family of Mr Nelson who resided in Dodge County, Wisconsin about
10 miles from Fond Du Lac. I knew them prior to the year 1852, and
was well acquainted with Mary A. Nelson when she was quite young
and who lived with her parents up to the date of her marriage, or
about the first or second day of November 1852, to William Serl.
She was then about sixteen years old. I was present at the
marriage ceremony, also was present her parents and her sister
Jane Younglove. I well remember the event from many
facts and circumstances among which are, that at the time of
the marriage I, with my first husband, Mr. H. Hibbard, deceased
lived in the same house with Mr. Nelson and his family. That about one
month after said marriage I and my said husband with Mr. & Mrs.
Serl, all went from Wisconsin to St. Clair County, Michigan, the County
in which I now reside. That we lived near each other as
neighbors in St. Clair County, Mich. until in May 1877, as I best
remember, when they left my neighborhood stating they were
going to Webster County, Neb. That during their stay in St.
Clair County, Mich. to my personal knowledge they lived and
cohabited together as husband and wife, (except a period
time Mr. Serl was in the army) and that they were as such recog-
nized and introduced in the community. That no divorce
or legal separation was had by either party of which I am
positive from the fact of my frequent visitations in her
family and always finding them living together har-
moniously.