

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Manassah (Manasseh) Coyle W2759
Transcribed by Will Graves

Isabella fn64PA
9/1/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Pennsylvania County of Mercer: SS

On this first day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before John Breden Esquire President – Alexander Brown & William Amberson Associate Judges of the Court of Mercer County now sitting, Manassah Coyl [sic], a resident of Lackawannock Township in Mercer County and State of Pennsylvania, aged 76 years this October, 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That about the middle of October 1777 he entered the service under Colonel Chambers in Captain Samuel Patton's Company in Cumberland County Pennsylvania marched to Little York, from there to Lancaster, from there to White Marsh Hills, where he joined the Army under General Washington, soon after the Militia were sent out about two miles, a scouting party, and had a smart skirmish with a party of the British Light horse, but failed in drawing the enemy on to action at the Marsh Hills, shortly after; the Army was going to the Valley Forge, and we (the militia) were sent to the Gulf Mills, where we had a small skirmish with the British, but were obliged to retreat with some loss, &c – That he served his tour of two months, a substitute for David Huston, we returned to Lancaster where we were discharged by Captain Patton, and received our pay, &c. General Potter commanded the militia, General Washington commanded the Regular Army and Lord Sterling was there at that place, states that he knows of no person by whom he can prove this service, and has no documentary evidence to testify for him. Again in September 1779 he joined Captain William Huston's Company, in Cumberland, now Franklin County, a substitute for Joseph Kyle, marched from there to Lancaster in Lancaster County and remained there some time, in all, his service was a months and some few days, the exact time not recollect, and there he was discharged by Captain Huston. In this case, all of his service in this tour he has no Documentary evidence, nor knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. For some reason unknown to this deponent, they did not joined the regular Army at this time; –

This deponent further states that he went West of the mountains to live and in the first week of June 1781 he joined Captain William Perry and Westmoreland County, as an Indian spy and scouting along the frontiers (as the Indians were very troublesome at that time) and continued with him near two months, during which time he volunteered in Captain Robert Orr's Company, to go down the Ohio under Colonel Lochery [Archibald Lochry] in General Clark's [George Rogers Clark's] Expedition; – That he continued with Captain Perry until Colonel Lochry & Captain Orr were ready to start down the River about the 1st or 2nd day of August and then went with them; (the history of this campaign is known,) – That General Clark did not wait

as we expected but proceeded on his way. We at length landed at the mouth of the Big Miami on the Ohio on the 24th day of August 1781, in the afternoon of the same day we were attacked by a large body of Indians, and every one of the party as he believes were killed or made prisoners. The deponent was made prisoner, and taken through the wilderness on to the Maumee of the late, and on to Detroit (here he observes that after he was taken prisoner, the Indians were reinforced by other Indians and followed General Clark so near to the fall[s] of Ohio that he could hear the sound of the falls, in hope of getting advantage of him, then turned for Detroit where this deponent, with many others were given up to the British and sent down the Lakes to lower Canady [Canada], and were stationed on an Island in the River St. Lawrens [Saint Lawrence] above Montréal, where they passed the Winter, about the last of June 1782 he with four others, made their escape from the Island, but were obliged to give themselves up to the British armed vessel on Lake Champlain, and from there some others with himself were sent in Irons back to the Island, and from there to Montréal, and put in prison where they remained, he thinks, until sometime in October, when he with ten others broke the prison and made their escape, but five of the eleven were retaken, while this deponent with five others cleared themselves, and made their way through a Wilderness which they supposed was three hundred miles to the first inhabitants, with great difficulty, being about six days without any provisions but berries and roots &c. which they gathered in in the woods, at the first house, they came to, they told him it was six hundred miles to Philadelphia, and from there home to Westmoreland, three hundred, making from Montréal home as he supposed then 1200 miles. He arrived home about the last of December 1782, but being a prisoner of war, he thinks, his services should be considered as continuing until the time his comrades were exchanged, or released from their captivity, which he thinks was on March 1783. (If he had not escaped, the presumption [?] it would have taken one of our prisoners to obtain his release. –

Quest 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. He was born in Ireland, from the best information he has got, it was in the year 1756. When he was first called into the service of the United States, he lived in Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Since the war he lived in Westmoreland County, a number of years and about twenty years ago he came to Mercer County where he has resided ever since. He volunteered the two first terms of service, a substitute, as stated above; and he volunteered as a spy and with Colonel Lochry in Captain Orr's Company his own account. He states that he has gave the names of some of the officers in the standing Army, and detailed a number of circumstances, in his declaration. That he has no documentary evidence, nor does he know of any living witnesses who can testify for him. &c.

He states that he is known to the Reverend Samuel Tait, William Gordon, William Young, James Marques, Jonathan Smith and many others can testify.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name never was on the pension list of any Agency in any State.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court October one, 1832

S/ W. J. Rankin, Clk

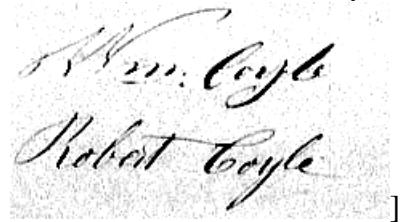
S/ Manasseh Coyle, X his mark

[John Chambers and Jonathan Smith gave supporting affidavits.]

[fn p. 8: On December 27, 1838 in Mercer County Pennsylvania, Isabella Coyl [sic], 75 'against next January,' made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act as the widow of Manasseh Coyle a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$60 per annum for his service in

the revolution; that she married him September 29, 1785 at Mount Pleasant in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania; that they were married by John Mason Esquire, JP.; that she has a family record of her marriage; that her husband died June 26, 1834; that since his death she has lived with her children.]

[fn p. 9: William Coyle, 42, and Robert Coyle , 34, gave an affidavit in support of their mothers application; in their affidavit they state their mother is a member of the Presbyterian Church; day authenticate the family record but states that some of the words and figures had become very them and were refreshed by hand unknown to them

The image shows two handwritten signatures stacked vertically. The top signature reads "William Coyle" and the bottom one reads "Robert Coyle". Both signatures are written in cursive ink on a light-colored background.

[fn p. 12: family record:

Manasseh Coyle and Isabella Ewing were Married September the 29th 1785

James Coyle was Born July the 20th 1786

Eleanor Coyle was born September the 14th 1788 [married Andrew Hollebough, February 12, 1807]

John Coyle was born March the 25th 1791

Alexander Coyle was born October the 21st 1793

William Coyle was born July the 6th 1796

Ryana [? Rosanna] Coyle was born December the 5th 1799

Moffett Coyle was born March the 19th 1801

Robert Coyle was born September 12th 1804

Adam Coyle was born August 28th 1807

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 18 months service as a private in the Pennsylvania militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing March 4th, 1836.]]