

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joel Lewis: W780

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee}

Lauderdale County}

On this the 4th day of June 1843 personally appeared before J. M. Alexander an acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Miriam Crabb, a resident of Fulton in the County of Lauderdale, state of Tennessee aged seventy four years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836 and the act explanatory of said act, passed March 3rd 1837: That she was married to Col. Joel Lewis in Surry County North Carolina, on the 22nd day of March 1785, who at an early period of the Revolutionary war, left College in Virginia and entered the service of his country as a volunteer, that not long afterwards, his father having removed to the state of North Carolina, he obtained a commission in one of the Regiments of North Carolina Continental troops, and continued in the service in various grades untill the close of the war, actively employed, was taken prisoner at Gates's defeat near Camden [16 Aug 1780], made his escape with great address and courage, was in the principal engagements in the south, commanded a Company at the battle of King's Mountain [7 Oct 1780], where he received three wounds, was immediately promoted at the close of the war, but in what regiment she does not now recollect, his commission having been destroyed as she believes by the burning of her house in Franklin County Tennessee. That in 1792 she removed to the vicinity of Nashville Tennessee, with her husband Colonel Lewis, where they continued to reside untill his death in November 1816. She further declares that she was married in March 1818 at Maryfield, her residence in the vicinity of Nashville, to Col Ralph Crabb, with whom in Dec'r 1820 she removed to Winchester in Franklin County Tennessee, where she continued to reside untill the death of Col Crabb on the 5th day of January 1836, since which time she has continued in widowhood, generally residing with her children in Alabama and Tennessee. She further states that she has never received or applied for any pension

Miriam Crabb

[Punctuation and capitalization partly corrected in the following.]

Franklin County State of Tennessee June 16th 1843

The affidavit of James Lewis aged Eighty seven years states that he and Joel Lewis was born & Raised in the same Neighbourhood (to Wit) in the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia. in the year 1776 I went in the Army & some time afterwards Joel Lewis removed to North Carolina and joined the North Carolina Troops and was promoted to the Rank of a Lieutenant, how long he served in that capacity I am not able to say. the first time I saw him afterwards was between the Battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and Germantown [4 Oct 1777] we were both in those battles he Joel Lewis was under Brigadier Genl. [Francis] Nash who unfortunately got killed in the Battle of Germantown and had marched from North Carolina to reinforce Genl. Washington. The Regt I belonged to (to wit) the 9th Virginia Regt was all killed or taken poisoners I was exchanged in the month of June following some times afterwards the time not exactly recollected I saw Colo Joel Lewis in the State of North [sic] we had several conversations he informed me he had been promoted to the Rank of Colo which Regt was raised for two years which time Colo Lewis served faithfully and honourably. the Next time I saw Colo Lewis he had got Married to a Miss Miriam Esom [sic] from that time forward I was frequently at his house about this time he and several of my connections removed from North Carolina and settled in the neighbourhood of Nashville at which place he Colo. Joel Lewis his Wife & family resided untill the time of his death which event took place sometime perhaps in the year 1817 that Miriam Lewis the widow of Colo Joel Lewis intermarried with Colo Ralph Crabb perhaps in March 1818 that Colo Ralph Crabb died on the 3rd of Jan'y 1836 that Miriam Crabb the widow of Colo Ralph Crabb is still living and resides with Doctor Wm M Lea in the County of Lauderdale Fulton Post Office and further deponent saith not In witness whereof this affiant hath hereunto set his hand the day & year above written

This affiant saith that he is sure that this affidavit is substanschally correct but from the length of time & an imperfect memory the time & place may not be exactly correct.

[signed] Jas Lewis

NOTE: Other documents in the file state that Joel Lewis was the son of William Terrill Lewis, Sr. and the brother of Maj. Micajah Green Lewis, who was killed at Dickey's Farm in NC, 26 Feb 1781. The file also includes a copy of a bond signed in Surry County NC on 24 Mar 1786 by Joel Lewis and Silvanus Piper for the marriage of Lewis to Miriam Eastham.