

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Manley W5339

Susanna Manley

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Ohio }
Fairfield County } Ss

On this twentieth day of May AD 1844 personally appeared before me one of the Judges of the court of Common Pleas of the county and state aforesaid Susannah Manley a resident of Walnut Township in the county and state aforesaid, aged Seventy four years & six months 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 7th 1838 entitled “An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:” That she is the widow of John Manley who was a soldier of the Revolution – enlisted for the term of the war under Col. or Gen’l. Lee [Lt. Col. Henry Lee] – what was called Lee’s Legion – as the annexed certificate shows – enlisted as a private but believes that he officiated as a Serjeant for some time. Recollects that he had a certificate from Michael Rodolph [sic: Capt. Michael Rudolph BLWt945-300] certifying to his services, which was lost by fire, John Rudolph was the captain of his company – that he died in the year of eighteen hundred and fourteen – entered the service in his eighteenth year of his age and continued to the close of the Revolution was in the Battle of the Cow Pens [Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781], the White Plains [28 Oct 1776], and at Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] to the best of her recollection – was drafted as a Volunteer [sic] during the war, from the town of Elkton, Cecil county, Maryland, where he resided in the troops of Horse, was in service in Virginia and that Carolinas. recollects of him relating how he and fellow soldiers deceived the Tories – they turned the inside of their coats out which were lined with red when appearing among them – thus they would say hurrah for King George, when they would secure them or shoot them down [see endnote] – heard him say he was in last battle with the British in the Carolinas after Peace was established.

I furthermore declare that I was married to him in the year (1790) seventeen hundred and ninety, in the month of April, and positively declare that I am the widow of the said John Manley and have never been married since his death – was married to him in Cecil county State of Maryland by the Rev’d Geo Moore, a circuit preacher of that time. Have no original family Record, but hereby certify that the Record herewith transmitted is a faithful and true record of the original, and has been always kept in my possession. That he died on the 13th day of February of the above named year. The family Record now kept and refer these facts is in the hand writing of Judge David Swayser who was a pensioner himself – was not married to him prior to his leaving service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four (1794)

& Recollect of hearing him relate with much pride frequently that he took prisoners who offered money for their release and that he spurned it and remained true to his country and duty.

Sworn to and subscribed on this twentieth day of May in the year eighteen hundred and forty-four
[signed] Susanna Manley

I Certify that it appears by the return of the Commissioners that John Manley late a private in Lees Legion is Entitled to Lot No. 1240 of the Lands Westward of Fort Cumberland Containing 50 acres.

John Spencer Reg B office

NOTES:

Susanna Manley may have been confused about Lee’s men reversing their coats to deceive Tories, since it is unlikely that anyone would confuse mounted troops with British red-coated infantry. More likely the reference is to Pyle’s Defeat at Haw River NC on 25 Feb 1781, where Tories under Col. John Pyle were massacred after mistaking Lee’s Legion for Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton’s Legion, because both wore green coats.

On 24 March 1855 Susanna Manley, 85, applied for bounty land stating that as Susanna Cox she married John Manley on 15 April 1790, and he died on 14 Feb 1814. The file contains a record of the marriage of John Manly and Susannah Cox on 13 April 1790.