

Colonel Joel Lewis
August 28, 1760 – November 22, 1816

Section 7 # 70001

Joel Lewis was born on August 28, 1760, in Albemarle County, Virginia, son of Sallie and William Terrell Lewis. He fought throughout the American Revolution. He began his military service as an Ensign in the North Carolina line. After the battle in Camden, South Carolina, he was captured by the British but escaped. He later commanded a company at the Battle of King's Mountain, S.C. Accounts described Joel Lewis as "a large man, of great muscular strength."

On March 24, 1786, he married Miriam Eastham in Surry County, North Carolina. They had eighteen children. About 1789, Joel Lewis, with his family, moved west to what-is-today Nashville. In 1796, he was one of five delegates from Davidson County to attend the Convention in Knoxville to draft the Tennessee Constitution. That same year he was elected the first State Senator from Davidson County to the Tennessee General Assembly. Interested in local education, he served as a Trustee for Davidson Academy (1806-1810) and was an original stockholder in the Nashville Female Academy (1816).

After the death of Joel Lewis, his widow Miriam married Ralph Crabb in Davidson County on March 14, 1818. They moved to Winchester, Tennessee. Following Crabb's death in 1836, she lived at the homes of her children in Alabama and Tennessee. In 1843, Miriam Crabb, 74 years old, a resident of Fulton, Tennessee, made a petition for a widow's pension for her first husband's service in the Revolution. In her petition, she outlined Joel Lewis' military service including "his escape with great address and courage" when taken prisoner after the Battle of Camden. She related that he had been wounded three times during the Battle of King's Mountain on October 7, 1780. At the close of the war, he was promoted to Colonel but Mrs. Crabb reported that his commission papers had been lost in a house fire. The pension was granted.

"Manchester," the home place of Joel Lewis, was located on Murfreesboro Pike. He died here on November 22, 1816 and was buried in the family graveyard. After the land passed out of family hands, City View Sanitarium was built on the site. In 1910, a local newspaper announced a major expansion was planned at the facility. At that time, Joel Lewis' grave and tombstone were relocated to the Claiborne lot at City Cemetery. In 1963, WSIX purchased the 35 acres where Joel Lewis' home place had been located.

Sources

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