

November 19, 1963

Route 4,

Sevierville, Tenn.

Mr. Maynard Layman

Route 3,

Decatur, Alabama

Dear Maynard:

Here is some Layman history as I promised you that day you visited me in the bank. For several years Sevier County history and genealogy has been a sort of hobby with me- I have collected a good deal of material on the early history and people of this County. I have received hundreds of enquiries which would require most of my time to answer. I am afraid that I have disappointed many people by my failure to answer their letters. I have written considerable local history for our local paper and I hope some day to write a book on the early history and people of our County. The Laymans have interested me because I have Layman ancestors. You are the only Layman I have found who indicated any interest in family history.

In 1953 I spent a week in Washington searching records in the National Archives of Revolutionary War pensioners and War of 1812 pensioners who settled here or lived here. The following is copied from notes I took on Revolutionary War pensioners, Jacob Layman and Jeremiah Compton, who were brothers-in-laws, as you will note.

Jacob Layman Virginia Service S 4504 National Archives

8 Sept. 1832- Jacob Layman, age 73, in open court, Sevier County, Tenn., made the following declaration for pension as a soldier of the Revolution. He said he was first called out to guard the Hessians- the latter were prisoners and were captured from Burgoyne. Layman said he belonged to the 8th division of Virginia troops under Col. Barbar (or Barver?). Col. Barbar told them to take the prisoners to Elbaarl Barrieks. This was a five months tour of duty. After guarding these prisoners he went home to Culpepper County, Va. He was born in Reddon (or Reading?) County, Pa., but moved to Virginia before the Revolution, and entered service as a substitute for Reuben Beaman (or Bean?) in Shenandoah County, Va. Marched to Richmong under Capt. Boomwright (?) and attached here to infantry under Gen. Muhingburg (Muhlenberg?) and Maj. Bays for 10 weeks and returned home to Culpepper County Va., after serving 7 months. Moved to Sevier County, Tenn. "after Declaration of Independence." No one lives near him to testify as to his services. Later said Layman amended his declaration and said it was 900 Hessians taken prisoner by Gen. Washington at Trenton (Xmas, 1776) that he guarded. Jacob Layman died sometime in 1841. Pension certificate, 19,065, issued under Act, June 7, 1832, pension was paid through the East Tennessee Agency.

Jeremiah H. Compton Virginia Service W 29 National Archives

3 April 1845- Elizabeth Compton, age 81, asked for pension as the widow of Jeremiah H. Compton, a soldier of the Revolution. She made oath that she married said Compton in Botetourt County, Va., about 1784, and that her husband died in Sevier County, Tenn., 19 June 1844. Daniel Layman made oath, 4 April 1845- said he was present when said couple were married in Botetourt County, Va. Daniel Layman said he remembered date of Compton marriage because he (Daniel Layman) was married in 1797, about 12 years after the Compton marriage. Daniel Layman also made oath that he remembered seeing his "Elder brother and said Jeremiah H. Compton" returning from the army at the close of the Revolution. He also stated that Elizabeth Compton was his sister. Daniel Layman, who made this oath was a "clergyman." On 13 Aug. 1845, Ann Jones made oath that she was present when said Comptons were married in Botetourt County, Va., and also saw her brother, Jacob Layman, return from Revolution with Jeremiah H. Compton.

The above pension declarations shows that Jacob Layman, Revolutionary War soldier, was born in Pennsylvania, about 1758. I know from other sources that he was in Sevier County in the 1790's. His statement that he ~~xx~~ came here "after the Declaration of Independence" was rather indefinite. He also had a brother named Daniel Layman, who was a Baptist minister; this Daniel was also here in the 1790's. Daniel was married, according to his statement above, in 1797; this marriage was doubtless in Sevier County. All early Sevier County court records were lost in the court house fire of 1856. Daniel was too young for the Revolution, but he remembered seeing his brother, Jacob, and Jeremiah H. Compton when they returned to their homes after the war. Jeremiah H. Compton married Elizabeth Layman, sister of Jacob and Daniel Layman. Another sister was Ann Layman- she had married a Jones, according to her statement above, and she had also migrated from Virginia to Sevier County. Members of a Jones family were killed by the Indians in the eastern part of Sevier County in the 1790's and this section has been called "Jones Cove" ever since. From my own family records I know that my g.g. grandfather (on my mother's side) was Abraham Mullendore (b. 1769 d. 1831) and he married Susannah Layman. I have no absolute proof, but I believe that Susannah Layman was another sister of Jacob, Daniel, Ann and Elizabeth Layman. This Mullendore family also was in Sevier County in the 1790's. The Mullendores were of German descent and I have heard that the Laymans were also of German descent. Large numbers of Germans migrated to Pennsylvania before 1750- later, they migrated southward through Virginia and North Carolina into East Tennessee.

Brimer, William N.C. Service No. W 336 National Archives

27 July 1832, before Ezra Scott, circuit judge, said Brimer, resident of Sevier County, Tenn., made declaration for Revolutionary War Pension; said Brimer was then 73 years old; he stated he was living in Wilkes County, N.C., July, 1777, when he volunteered under Capt. Jacob Free (?) in Col. Armstrong's Regt., Gen. Rutherford's brigade; they marched against the Cherokee Indians to the head of Catawba River, then to Middle Settlements of Cherokee at Cowee towns; had scrimmage here with Indians and then marched to upper valley Towns on Hiwassee river and had several scrimmages with Indians and then marched down the Hiwassee

and back another way to Birmingtowa (?) and little Chota; then to Cowee, served three months on this tour. Again in 1778 and he lived in same place, Wilkes Co., N.C., volunteered under Capt. Gilheath, Col. Brevard's Regt. and Gen. Rutherford's brigade, N.C. militia; marched to Saulsbury and Monk's corner near Charlestown; then near Savannah, Ga., which was taken by British before they arrived. Then in Washington Co., N.C., now Tenn., in Sept. 1782, he volunteered under Capt. Valentine Sevier and Col. John Sevier and marched to John's river near head of Catawba, then to King's Mountain (note, King's Mountain battle fought, Oct. 7, 1780, so he may have been mistaken about dates) under Gen. William Campbell; killed and took prisoners, Tories and British, and then marched back to Catawba River and through Burk, Wilkes and Surry counties with prisoners; served on this tour two or three months. Michael Wells and Henry Houk made oaths, 27 July 1832, that they knew said Brimer and believed him to be a Revolutionary soldier. Said Wells was a clergyman and both Wells and Houk lived in same neighborhood with Brimer in Sevier Co., Tenn. Brimer amended above declaration, 4 Dec. 1832; said he was born in N.C., 1 Feb. 1759; moved to Washington Co., N.C. (now Tenn.) and lived there until 1785 and then moved to Rutherford Co., N.C.; lived there until ~~1810~~ 1810 when he moved to Jefferson Co., Tenn., and lived there until 1818, then moved to Sevier Co., Tenn. and lived latter place until now.

4 March 1839, widow Elizabeth Brimer filed for a pension; stated she married said William Brimer about 1784 and that he died, 16 July 1834; on 1 Aug. 1844, Elizabeth Brimer again made application and stated that she was then 82 years old.