

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Alexander S6496
Transcribed by Will Graves

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina

The Petition of William Alexander of Mecklenburg County respectfully sheweth to your Honorable body, that during the revolutionary Between the United States and Great Britain, your Petitioner served a number of successive Tours of duty in the militia of this State between the years 1775 and 1783 besides a tour of ten months as a Captain in the State of South Carolina commonly called the State Troops, your Petitioner begs leave to state that in all the services he performed he acted in the capacity of Captain. That compensation for his services was but a small object in his view at that time. He is advised that he has not come under the act of Congress granting pensions to wounded or disabled Soldiers, he being but the one Tour of duty that exceeded nine months and never was wounded in the service.

Your Petitioner is now about 70 years of age and is infirm as to your honors may believe from his services performed for his Country, your Petitioner from causes that he had not control over, and which thinks it unnecessary to relate, has become in indigent circumstances, and is not able by his own labor, or any other means in his power to procure a subsistence of the necessarys [sic] of life for himself and his aged infirm wife.

Your Petitioner therefore respectfully prays your Honorable body to grant to him a Pension such as your Honors may think he ought to have to smooth his downhill (and probably short) passage through life and he as in duty bound will ever pray.

S/ Wm Alexander

We the subscribers are well acquainted with Captain William Alexander and have been well acquainted with him were near fifty years and certify that the statements made in the foregoing petition is fair and true statements.

S/ Wm Hutchison

S/ Geo. Graham

S/ Will. Polk

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing is the evidence and that only evidence on which he General Assembly of this State granted a Pension to Capt. William Alexander of the County of Mecklenburg in this state

Given under my hand this 24th day of June 1835

S/ W. Hill

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina at the August Term thereof now sitting William Alexander aged 83 years, born in Bucks County Pennsylvania & now a resident of the County and State aforesaid 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 Colonel Adam Alexander as a Captain in the United States service that he went out for ~~three months~~ six weeks and was at the head of the Catawba – the object of this tour was to protect the Valley of the Catawba from the incursions of the Cherokee Indians during the time they were gathering in their harvest – that this was about the year 1776 that he again went out against the Cherokee Indians up to the head of the River Catawba and

across the Ridge – that Colonel Adam Alexander and General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] were his superior officers – he himself being a Captain of a company – that in this campaign he served five months – that this tour was performed in the year 1776. That he again was in the service of the United States as a Captain of militia under Colonel Francis Locke – that he marched from Charlotte N. C. to Camden or in the neighborhood thereof and was going on to Charleston which had been in the possession of General Lincoln -- that after its fall, his Colonel stopped at Camden and there went into [2 illegible words] until the time for which he volunteered expired which was for three months. He again served as a Captain under Colonel Williams and Ezekiel Polk in an six weeks tour and went in pursuit of a Tory Captain by the name of Cunningham. He again served under General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] for four months as a Captain and was at the Battle of Camden at Gates defeat – that he was at the Battle of Rocky Mount – and at the Battle of the Hanging Rock – and he was at the battle of Walkup's during the period of that four months service – That he ~~was~~ again entered the service of the United States as a Captain under Colonel Thomas Polk and went to Goulding Grove on Reedy Creek in the State of South Carolina on a trip of six weeks – and at that place we defeated a body of Tories where they took 200 Tories prisoners – Cunningham was the leader of the Tories – this is commonly called the snow-campaign on this expedition he served with William Polk now of Raleigh who was at time wounded severely – He again entered the service of the United States as a Captain for three months under General Rutherford and acted under the orders and command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] – during this period he was dispatched to Fayetteville by the orders of General Greene – immediately preceding the Battle of Guilford – he was not in that engagement himself having taken the small pox and being at that time incapable of performing duty. He again was out under the command of General Rutherford and served for six weeks just before the battle of Ramsour's in Lincoln County, he was not in that engagement with the Tories being with Rutherford at the time the battle was fought, he arrived upon the ground a short time after and attended to the wounded and the burying of the dead. He again entered the service of the United States as a Captain under General Sumter in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment and was the first Captain who arrived from North Carolina at the place of rendezvous with his men he volunteered or enlisted in the service of the State of South Carolina for ten months and received his commission from General Sumter – which commission is lost or destroyed – during the time that he acted as a Captain in the State Troop of South Carolina in the first Regiment under General Sumter – Colonel Hampton being his Colonel he was actively engaged. He was engaged in the fight at the quarter House – at the Battle of Moncks Corner – at the taking of Fort Johnson and Friday's Fort – at the capture of Orangeburg.

And was in the Battle of Eutaw and was discharged at Winnsboro in the State of South Carolina by General Sumter-- that he was out at other times for short periods and always held himself ready to perform duty at any time – he is old and his memory – not as good as it has been – and is not able to remember the particular periods of the revolutionary war – when he was called into service – but refers to the Battles and Campaigns in which he was in as stated in the premises as [illegible word—looks like 'epoches' or 'spodes'] to ascertain those facts – they being well known – he has no documentary evidence of his commission as Captain – that which he received from Sumter being lost – and that he always acted from the first time he entered the service of the United [States] in Mecklenburg County as a Captain – that his discharges are all lost – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present – and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State except the pension Roll of North Carolina – he can prove his services in the ten months tour in South Carolina by the oath of John Gardner and Isaac Alexander and William Hutchinson as to his other services he could prove it by the evidence of many persons but whose evidence it would be inconvenient and expensive to obtain – the whole term of his service being two years and eight months & that since the Revolution has always lived in Mecklenburg N. C.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Alexander

Robert Hall Morrison a clergyman residing in the County of Mecklenburg, John Gardner, William Hutchinson and Isaac Alexander residing in the County of Mecklenburg hereby certify that [we] are all well acquainted with William Alexander who has Sworn and subscribed to the above declaration, that we believe him to be eighty three years of age –that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion – John Gardner further swears that he served as a private under the said Captain William Alexander twice – once on a tour mentioned in his declaration when he went to Camden under General Francis Locke – and when he was under Colonel Wade Hampton and General Sumter in the service of the State Troop of South Carolina for the term of ten months – and that he was in the battles mentioned in his declaration – the tour to Camden was just about the time [of] Lincoln's surrender at Charleston in the year 1780. The time of his entering the service of the State Troops was soon after the Battle of Guilford 1781, some time in the spring of the same year – William Hutchinson further swears that he served in the same expedition with Captain William Alexander against the Cherokee Indians under General Rutherford and was out about five months – Isaac Alexander further swears the same thing.

S/ Robt H. Morrison

S/ Wm Hutchinson [signature is illegible]

S/ Isaac Alexander

S/ John Gardner

[Veteran died December 19, 1836]