

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Morgan Alexander VAS2203  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Some online images in the following two files could not be deciphered. The first are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I hereby certify that I enlisted in Capt Morgan Alexanders company as a private soldier on the first day of January in the year 1777 [three undeciphered words] he was Captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, and that as well as my recollection serves me he marched us out to Gen'l Washingtons army then camping at Bound brook in the state of New Jersey at which time and place he was promoted but to which Regiment or Corps I do not know as his promotion separated us and Lieut Calmes [Marquis Calmes S12674] was commissioned Captain in his place. I never heard that said Alexander resigned. Given under my hand this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833  
[George Blakemore, pension application S6665]



[Some words in the following are transcribed as inferred from a clearer document in rejected claims.]

Virginia } Sct  
Frederick County }

This day personally came before the subscriber a Justice of Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Gen'l John Smith [S6114] who having been duly sworn according to Law certifies as follows to wit. That he the said John Smith, hath resided in the county of Frederick some [several illegible words] and was for a long time well acquainted with the late Col Morgan Alexander. That when the Council of Safety for the Colony of Virginia, by authority of the Colonial Congress in 1775 established two regts. The 1st commanded by Patrick Henry & the 2<sup>d</sup> by Wm Woodford [William Woodford] the said Council received recommendations from the Committees of the several Counties of [undeciphered word] to fill the subordinate offices in the Regts that the committee for the county aforesaid (which this affiant was a member) at his instance recommended the said Morgan Alexander to be appointed Captain – who accordingly received a commission as Capt in the first Virginia Reg't & joined the Regt that he the said Smith saw the company at Williamsburg and knows that it was stationed at York for some time afterwards he recollects also that Capt Alexander was sent to suppress a collection of Tories on the Eastern Shore. The particulars of this expedition are not remembered further than Alexander received credit at the time for performing the service with [several undeciphered words] This affiant cannot say which and is positive in his belief that the said Alexander served more than three years he further thinks that Alexander died in the service but is not so certain of the fact. further that the representatives of said Alexander having requested [two undeciphered words] to The claim which had been presented to Congress before on account of Alexanders Rev'y services he applied for information at the proper Dept and was informed that the papers &c along with a number of others relative to similar claims had been burnt or destroyed by the British during the late War.

Sworn to & subscribed before me Given  
under my hand & seal this 6<sup>th</sup> July 1833  
J. S. Davison JP



Virginia  
Frederick County Sct;

This day, personally came before me, one of the Justices of the county aforesaid, Gen'l. John Smith, and having been first sworn, saith that being requested by the heirs of the late Morgan Alexander to

state any further particulars that he can remember relative to the services of the said Alexander as an officer in the Army of the Revolution, in addition to the affidavit heretofore given on the same subject, further deposes, that he distinctly remembers that s'd Morgan Alexander commanded (as Colonel) an expedition against a body of Tories who had assembled in Maryland as near as can be recollected on the Eastern Shore, for the good conduct and arrangement and conclusion of which, Alexander received many high compliments. This happened late in the war. Also in the year 1777 during the time that the said John Smith was a member of the Virginia legislature, the troops of Williamsburg passed in review before the members and fired a feu de joie on account of Burgoyne's surrender [at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777] – and that Col Morgan Alexander was present. He also remembers that he accompanied Col Alexander to the races at Frederick town, after the feu de joie and thinks it was in the Spring of 1778, because the surrender of Burgoyne happened in Oct 1777 and the assembly sat during that month and the next so that the racing season must have been over before the members returned to their homes. And further he remembers to have met Gen'l Lee after his disgrace [Charles Lee's court martial, 4 Jul - 12 Aug 1778] at Mr Snickers [probably Edmund Snickers, Morgan Alexander's father-in-law] in this County – and that Col Alexander was of the party – he is particularly impressed with the memory of this meeting by the following anecdote, which happened then & there. The conversation leading to the subject of fine horses Gen'l Lee observed that “man was a presumptuous creature, he prided himself upon his similitude to his maker and arrogated to himself superiority in all the good qualities incident to humanity, but that in his opinion a fine horse was by far the nobler animal – was superior in dignity & appearance, as well as in honesty Alexander replied that true it was man would not compare in many things with a fine horse, but that a fair woman was equal to any thing in creation according to his notion – Phi! said Lee, your passions blind and mislead you; man is bad enough, but woman! – psha! – The battle of Monmouth was fought in August 1778 [sic: 28 Jun 1778] and Gen'l Lee was disgraced soon afterwards. He is sure that Morgan Alexander aforesaid was an officer in the revolutionary army during all the occurrences above related and at the time of the meeting at Mr Snicker was either Lt. Col'l or Col'l. And further the said John Smith saith that he cannot precisely remember when Alexander died but believes that he died in commission – certain he is that he never heard that he resigned & is strongly impressed with the belief that he never did resign. In testimony whereof the said John Smith hath hereunto set his hand & seal the day & year under written

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 21 Dec'r 1833 J. S. Davison JP



Members of the Committee of Safety 26<sup>th</sup> March 1776.

Commission issued to Capt Alexander & [undeciphered: possibly William Taliaferro] dated February the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment.

Signed Edm'd Pendleton

Extract from a Book kept by the Committee of Safety Jas E Heath/ Aud Off Dec 27 1833

A Roll of the Resigned & Supernumerary Officers of the Virginia Continental & State Troops

Names	Rank	date of Commission	Promotion Since	Corps	Situation	Residence
Morgan Alexander	Capt	1 Feb 1776			Resigned	Frederick

Extract from a List of Resigned and Supernumerary Officers which list is without a date.

Jas E Heath aud/ Aud Office Dec 27 1833

[See <http://revwarapps.org/b86.pdf>]

[The quality of the online image from which the following is transcribed is extremely poor.]

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia. The petition of Josiah Wm. Ware respectfully sheweth; That his grandfather, Morgan Alexander was an officer of the Revolutionary War that he was appointed by the Committee of [two undeciphered words] in September or October 1775 at the very commencement of the war and was among the first Officers who raised a company (see Gen. Smith's certificate) That he was still captain December 6<sup>th</sup> 1775 as will appear by a [undeciphered word] to a

[undeciphered word] from Patrick Henry to Col Woodford of that state in Patrick Henry's [undeciphered word] page 168 that his commission [undeciphered word] was issued 1<sup>st</sup> February 1776 – that he was in the service from September or October 1775

Mr. Heath's certificate as Auditor [undeciphered word] shew a [undeciphered word] of resignation without [two undeciphered words] Gen'l. Smith's certificate states he never did resign but was promoted which promotion is now proved by [two or three undeciphered words] certificate [several undeciphered words] states that several cases of this kind have occurred in his examination, of officers marked resigned upon sending in their commissions when [undeciphered word] That he was in the service 3 years will appear from the following facts. Patrick Henry's [undeciphered word] mentioned above was dated before his commission viz December 6<sup>th</sup> 1775 Gen'l Smith stated that after Lee's disgrace he dined with him [two or three undeciphered words] &c. Lee's disgrace was after the Battle of Monmouth which was fought in August 1778 and the vote of Congress confirming the decision of the court martial was taken on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1778 (see Journals of Congress 1.c.3d[?] Page 147) and Gen'l Smith states after this he dined with Lee and Alexander at [undeciphered] and that Alexander was still in the service and a Col or Lieut. Col. this [undeciphered word] establish [two undeciphered words] that he was in the service more than three years, but Gen'l. Smith further states that "late in the war" Col. Alexander commanded (then full Colonel) an expedition [undeciphered word] the Tories in [several undeciphered words] performance of which duty he received "many high compliments" That he believes he never did resign and that he [several undeciphered words]. Gen'l Smith lived in the same neighbourhood and was intimate with Col. Alexander. Col. Alexander it is thought died early in the year 1782 and it now appears from the certificate of the Clerk of Frederick County Court that administration in his estate was taken out in March 1783 and it is not reasonable to suppose his administrator would have permitted his property to remain unadministered any length of time, this together with the circumstances of his command of an expedition later in the war confirms this belief

Your petitioner cannot but deeply [several undeciphered words] of the disadvantage of many important papers which was destroyed by the British at Washington among which he believes was his commission & other papers which would have exactly established this claim Gen'l Smith was at that time a member of Congress from Frederick. His certificate [several undeciphered words] prove he received neither land or pay nor did any of his heirs. Col. Alexander left a widow and only one child, a daughter. His widow is since deceased. Her daughter intermarried with James Ware and afterwards [three undeciphered words] three children. viz Charles Alexander, Sarah E. T. Stribling who married Sigismund Stribling (now deceased) and your petitioner. The said Charles A. Ware died without marrying and the said widow S. E. T. Stribling and your petitioner are the only heirs & representatives of Col. Morgan Alexander deceased

Your petitioner [undeciphered word] respectfully prays that said Stribling and himself [undeciphered word] be allowed such claim [several undeciphered words] as an Officer of the Revolutionary War, [several undeciphered words] as full Colonel and was in the service until the fall of 1782 and died in the service.

Josiah Wm Ware/ January 6<sup>th</sup> 1834

Frederick Coty Sct,

This day came before the subscriber a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Gen'l John Smith and having been requested to state his further recollection with respect to the revolutionary services of the late Col Morgan Alexander, makes this additional supplement to his previous affidavit – the same subject, to wit the said John Smith, was first sworn according to Law and saith he personally knows that the late Morgan Alexander was an officer in the Virginia line upon Continental establishment and that the various services heretofore detailed were performed by said Alexander as a continental officer. That it never hath been asserted to his knowledge – nor does he believe that said Alexander ever was in service as a Militia officer since the commencement of the Revolutionary War. Though it is remembered that Alexander commanded a militia company in 1773. The said John Smith is moreover confident that the



by Governor Floyd if his Excellency could have supposed that the Register would [undeciphered word] without such specification computed the time of services from 1775 in September or October;

Your petitioner respectfully prays therefore that your Excellency will refer to the evidence and issue a supplementary order, explanatory of the one issued by Governor Floyd and therein designate the period according to the evidence, when the said Morgan Alexander entered the service; That will enable the Register to compute the precise time for which the proper land bounty should be allowed;

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c. Josiah Wm. Ware  
March 2<sup>d</sup> 1835

Virginia

Page County to wit

This day Daniel Anderson [S37677] made oath before me a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid that having been in the United States [undeciphered word] service during the Revolutionary War he was personally & well acquainted with Morgan Alexander, was an adjoining neighbour of said Alexander in the County of Frederick (now Clarke) until since Alexanders death, that he personally knows that said Alexander was appointed Captain in either Henry or Woodfords regiment by the committee of safety in Winchester in October 1775 as well as he recollects, that after marching to the north (He thinks in 1777) Alexander was promoted to the colonelcy, but does not recollect the number or name of the Regiment he was promoted to the command of – but distinctly recollects the promotion – he is confident that Alexander never resigned or abandoned the service. That Alexander was not in the militia during the Revolutionary war but was in the continental service until the time of his death. Given under my hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of apr. 1838

Rejected March 13 1840

This claim has been allowed for the War heretofore. the evidence is not satisfactory when connected with the documentary evidence in the Executive department No further allowance can be made

[signed] DC [Gov. David Campbell]

Application for reconsideration Rejected DC

NOTE: According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution 1774-1787*, Morgan Alexander was Captain of a rifle company raised in Frederick County in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment of Foot from 27 Nov 1775 until 23 Dec 1776. He was a Major 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment he was a Major until he resigned on 1 Dec 1777. (See also <http://revwarapps.org/b166.pdf>.) F. B. Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution* states that Morgan Alexander resigned on 16 May 1778, that he was a militia Colonel in 1781 and 1782, and that he died in 1783. If either date of resignation is correct, then Morgan Alexander did not serve in the Virginia Continental or State Line the minimum of three years required for bounty land. I could find no other record of Morgan Alexander's having served in the militia during the Revolutionary War.