

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to Alexander Gordon VAS3730
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To the Honorable the Govoner of Virginia & the executive Council

Your petitioner, Marshall Gordon, son & one of the heirs of Alexander Gordon dec'd and likewise his Executor shew to your honor; that his said father Alexander Gordon (as he believes) entered into the Army of the United States in the year 1775 or 1776 in the Virginia line and Continental establishment, that he was for some time a Quarter Master's Sergeant in Colo. Blands [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] Regiment of Horse – was afterwards a Cornet of Horse in that regiment. That in these duties his said father was in Service to the North under Gen'l. Washington. That in 1778 Blands Regement was ordered to the South, at which time his father was made Quarter Master & Commissary in it; and that he continued to do the duties of Quarter Master and Commissary until some time after the Siege of York & the surrender at that place of the British army under Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] – all of which facts of service were proved in open Court, in the Court of Culpeper by credible witnesses, and to the satisfaction of said Court; as will appear by the accompanying certificate of that court, certified by the signature of its clerk, and the seal of the County Court. As Cornet of Horse, no doubt could exist of the right of his Father to the bounty Land due him for that service and in that grade.

It is true, that the higher office of Quarter Master & Commissary were staff appointments, but these staff appointments were bestowed on subalterns of the line, and on such only. The Staff office could not take away his existing bounty Land due for the Cornetcy of Horse; but he is advised that the Laws of Virginia expressly recognize the right of Staff officers to their bounty in Lands, according to the rank of such staff appointment. Thus for instance, James Monroe [W26271] (late President) was in 1783 though Lieut. in the line, as your petitioner is informed, – was allowed Land bounty due a Major, because he held the Staff rank of Major as Aid de Camp of Major General Lord Stirling and from his precedent, many others have been allowed for the same or like rank in the Staff. But the plain words of the acts of assembly make the unequivocal promise of Land bounty “to officers and Soldiers” – again “to officers Soldiers Sailors & Marines.” It will not be denied that a Quarter Master is a officer, as much as is any other officer of the army. And your petitioner is advised that the Court of appeals have in an analogous case decided that staff officers are entitled to half pay according to their staff rank. The act of assembly of May 1782 Henning's statues at large Vol 11 page 84, Section 12 [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol11-05.htm>] expressly recognizes the right of Staff officers to depreciation of pay as officers – and the act of October 1783 (vol 11 Henning page 310 near the foot of this page) [<http://vagenweb.org/hening/vol11-15.htm>] is also a distinct recognition, in terms of the right of the “Staff officers in proportion” to their allowance of bounty Land. Your petitioner will not trouble your honors with further references, but conclude by praying for the bounty Land due his father for his Military services and he, as in duty bound will ever pray

Marshall Gordon/ son & one of the heirs/ at Law of Alexander Gordon

Culpeper County Court 15th day of May 1848

On the motion of Marshall Gordon executor of Alexander Gordon, it is ordered to be certified that satisfactory evidence was produced to the court which proved that Alexander Gordon dec'd was a soldier in the war of the Revolution from the beginning of that war to its close; that he was at first a Sergeant and quarter master Sergeant in Bland's regiment and then a cornet of horse and after the year 1778 and the hard winter at Valley Forge where said Gordon was in service he the said Alexander Gordon was made a quarter master & commissary, and in this capacity he was in service and in office at the Siege of York in 1781 and afterwards, and that the court give full credence to this proof and certify the facts accordingly.

A copy witness F. Mauzy clerk of the said court under the seal of the same this 22nd day of

August 1851

F. Mauzy

1851 Dec't 31 Rejected J B Floyd [Gov. John B. Floyd]