

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

Virginia documents pertaining to Alexander McDonald VAS588

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 3 March 2020.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as McDonald, Alex. The images are very poor and are illegible at places indicated by *. Punctuation partly corrected.]

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[addressed to Mr. Richard Young/ Care of the Postmaster/ City of Richmond, Virginia]

Glocester [sic: Gloucester] County, State of New Jersey, Oct'r 4th 1819.

Mr. Richard Young

Sir — When you were a boy eight or nine years old & very much suspected of being in the world of the living as you may say at this day to be thus [*] & to you. I hope my friend, pray give me leave to call you, for indeed I could call my name-sake your Father so indeed. But he is happy. I hope my kind pupil, you remember that I had enlisted under Lieutenant Frederick Woodson [R19214, company raised in Henrico County] out of your father's house, for I then lived with him, where I had the honor of the tuition of Wm. John and yourself, the only survivor, I suppose. Mr. Woodson knows well, if living, that I have served out my three years, and was regularly discharged at Morristown encampment, in Dec'r 1779 By our Gallant Colo. George Gibson [BLWt1985-500]. Mr Woodson went with me to the Colonel and saw me discharged. That discharg Sir, is lost, and Mr. Woodson's Certificate. What now is to be done? [undeciphered word] that I [undeciphered word] you, I very much need it this Juncture, having recently lost my whole dependance. My two sons at college Aberdeen Scotland, but living with my two Brothers there, [*] doubt feel my late misfortune. My Daughter married and gone. I have been advised Sir [*]y to you and Mr. Woodson to endeavour to re[*] loss of my discharge [*] and that you may do, [*] respectfully b[*] you accomplish as soon [*] you can. I am [*] Sir, one of your old and f [*] School masters.

Alexander McDonald

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P.S. As numbers of my Brothers of the revolutionary war had no expectation of their Country acting so Liberal, near the closing their Scene on this stage of action, they were not carefull of their discharges. As for me, Pride was – I thought [one or two undeciphered words] after I had the honor of seeing you last I should not want. But alas! There is a Gentleman in Woodberry County town, who is in power to grant warrants to old soldiers, but not without producing a discharge, but I believe you have read the act, there are I believe some of my old pupils such as the Sharps, Edens, Warners, &c &c living yet. Perhaps, market[?] people and goes & comes by your door, I beg of you write to Mr. Woodson and he will Accomplish the affair,

Please, Sir to indulge an old man, and your father's friend with a few lines Directed to Alex'r McDonald To the care of James Matlock Esq'r Woodberry Gloucester County, State of New Jersey
Your old friend [the rest illegible at bottom of page]

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Woodbury November 8th 1819

Mr Richard Young/ Sincerely beloved friend

Your favor came to hand Oct'r 29th, on receiving I wept [several undeciphered words] of your youthfull gambols to my recollection, you being then about eight years old, this with Wm and John, with Gordon that lived that lived with Mr. Jack Pleasant, and used to frequent your fathers house very much. You tell me dear friend, you met with a great loss by endorcing[?], alas! alas! thats the Bar I struck before, and never got off, and it ruined ruined Likewise you condecend to inform me, you married the Immortal Washington's Steward's daughter. I had rather to hear of your marring her than the prince regent [regent] of England's daughter, you know, sir; the penetrating Eye of Washington wo'd make choice of a

gentleman of candor and probity to manage in his absence his great affairs and momentous concerns.
happy, happy, Thrice happy I make no doubt you both shall live together.

You'll please to make her my best compliment, and accept the love and esteem of a poor old Soldier of Washington since she has been endrafted into the family whom I love, And as to Children my dear sir, I know your good sense and that your beloved companion will [several lines illegible]

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I think I know to whom some of your noble charge belongs which Brought the tear of gratitude and recollection of past times to my memory! But alas! sir

You are pleased to inform me that the gallant hero of of Stony point [storming of the fort at Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779], is yet in being, Blessed be God, that noble and brave James Gibbon [of Pennsylvania, pension application S13138] is yet alive, and will testify to what I say, that night, that glorious night, that the brave Lt. Gibbon Led forth his gallant little band, over a narrow Cause-way that Leads to Kings Ferry O, my soul, the prayers of soldiers that were offer'd up for him and his little party, Capt'n Winsor Brown [Windsor Brown BLWt1816-300] with 60 men of Muhlenberg's [Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] Brigade was ordered to advance in front towards the mouth of the Causeway, I heard the Gallant Gibbon hail'd but dare not proceed, we were sent to cover; I heard no more, until the Shout of Stony point is ours, and why not? the Gallant Gibbon drawd all the attention of the wakeing guards to his side, & nothing to do the other but put the pickets out of the way and climb in I allway maintained that Mr. Gibbon ought to share with Wayne [Gen. Anthony Wayne] the Glory of that night Mughlinburgs Brigade served[?], and the Gallant Major Lee with his horse, that soldier you know, was almost murdered in Baltimore. [see endnote] O God!

[in the margin next to the above paragraph:]

P.S. Mr. Gibbon may rem'r the hard labor next morn'g [undeciphered word] off the plunder, cannonaid, & arms[?] seting the fort on fire at night, marching off with trailed arms &c &c.

Please to tell [several undeciphered words]

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respects to him and his family, As for the great and honorable John Randolph Esq'r I waited on him one night when in bed in Williamsburg with a copy of the Countersign, his speeches opened the eyes of of numbers in these parts. I was a recruiting Serjeant of Mr Woodson's the last winter I lived with my Dear departed friend your father, and your honorable mother's Iron Gray young mare I used to ride her about to break her to pace for here to ride. Inlisted my self the following. Viz't. James Jourdan, David Adams (he died at Wmsburg) Daniel Coleman (colored) Jack Green, McAllister &c &c &c I taught among the Carthrigts, Warrens, the Evens you know. Now, sir; I gave you all the information that my poor memory at present can supply me with. Strugling with Rhumatic pains, Instructing about a Dozen children illy [undeciphered word] of home, But Glory be to the Father of mercies [undeciphered word] me neither comfortless, nor hopeless in the close of life. my Bible is my study, and shall be. The part you take, and trouble no doubt Dear and loving Dick to keep your poor and old Tutor out of a poor-house will redound to your immortal happiness and that of your lovely partner no doubt to me in the least, but she will grieve to hear a Virginia soldier of Washington taking his [undeciphered word] out of a Northern poor-house, O! Virginia, Virginia, proud Virginia! in the day of Battle, how is the men that bought your freedom? – But, Madam, I have warm cloths I can spare to keep me out this winter, providence I know, will do his holy will next. I pay \$2.50 a week board & washing my employers poor, methodists. I conclude with my lifted up hands to God in prayer for you both, your [several illegible words, including signature]

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Woodbury Dec'r 18th 1819.

Mr. Richard Young.

Sir I rec'd your kind favor from Washington, dated the 7th June, By which I learn that our Regm't [First Regiment, Virginia State Line], together with 2nd and 3^d, was not turn'd over to the Continental establishment altho all three was sent to the Northward. I likewise received your favors from

Richmond, All of which favours to me your worthy favor and kindness of your father to his name sake, as he was wont to call me May the Lord of heaven shew you and yours his loving mercy, I am a fraid this and the petition and power of attorney will reach you too late, as I only rec'd all your letters yesterday morning 9 O'clock, as I live 13 miles South of Woodbury, it being our County town, and at present, Court time there, Mr. James Matlock is one the Judges, who is my friend he transacted my business for me, I wrote him this morning a pressing letter to use all possible haste, and as I am not able to ride or walk there I request'd him to be me my proxy. I gave him the outlines of the Petition as also the power of Attorney Vesting all in you, and if you obtain Land Sell it and I request it as a favor to pay [one or two undeciphered words] and all expences of all or any that [undeciphered word] obtain for me, And as I affirmed[?] before Judge James Matlock last oct'r I [several illegible words]

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or any person whatever acting under me, to this I affirm to as if I was before the Mayor of Richmond for I have been in good circumstances until of late and did not need it till now. I am told here by an old Judge, who is now out of office, that you may legally have the petition drawn on the spot, and sign my name to it, if I send authority under my hand, as the time is so short and I being so unable to ride or walk, with the Rhumatic pain, which name I hereby authorise you my most loving friend, to sign, Alexander McDonald The very busy times, with our Judges and Lawers now, this may reach you before they others, as I shall hire a man to take it to the post office on Monday morning the 20th Instant. I have no more to add, but my unfeigned prayers for you and Mrs Young, our lovly charge the orphans and all your and yours, and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless you all in time and eternity shall always be the prayer of your friend

Alexander McDonald



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P.S. as the following may be of use to you in drawing the petition I send it to assist memory, I enlist'd about the 9th of Dec'r 1776 with Mr Frederick Woodson, then of 4 mile creek [Four Mile Creek] Henrico County our Company in spring following was inspected by a gentleman who lived in a large white house on the hill above your house, by name Adams. We then marched as you was pleased to observe before the Mayor in 'every article Right, from Williamsburg after a good many died there we marched to Alexandria where the young Virginian were inoculated [for small pox], in that place our Regiment was arranged under Colonel George Gibson 1st. Lt. Colonel Broad[?], and Major Allison [John Allison W4112], Captain Thomas Hamilton [R14776] my Captain Mr. Woodson my Lieutenant as I would not leave him,



From Alexandria marched to join Washington, as we did a few days after the Battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777]

and you may depend sir, we were a welcome body of men, we appeared fierce.

was discharged at Morristown 9th Dec'r 1779

Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg

[p 3]

Richmond January 6th 18[*] [1820]

The Honorable the Executive of Virginia

The Petition of Alexander McDonald who Begs lea[ve] Respectfully to represent to your honorable body that [*] at an early Period of the Revolution [*] December 1776 your petitioner enlisted under Lieutenant Frederick Woodson in the State Line of Troops and Rendvoused on the first day of March at Whitlocks Tavern [Whitlock's Tavern near Bottoms Bridge] in the county of Henrico in the year 1777 from which place your petitioner marched to the city of Williamsburg and from thence to join the Army under General Washington under who command He served until the month of December in the

year 1779 while the Army was in camped at Morris Town Jersey, then under command of Colonel George Gibson, my then [undeciphered word] the said Frederick Woodson went with me to [*] colonels quarters where [*] obtained from him an honor[able dis]charge from service [*] I served my country [*] three memorable [*]ampains in the best man[*] was able. Sin[ce th]at period to some time [*] I had no intention [*]ting on his bounty for [*] whatever Land I was [*] I was entitled to [*] my other ciation [*]

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Fickle Fortune has lately deprived me of that determination. Losses beyound his controle has compeled him to ask at your hands the small pittance of Land which is due him in common with my fellow soldiers who has served their country in the day of (I may justly add) Tribulation

I am sorry to add that myself like many others whoes either from pride or folly believed that fortune allways looked us in the face[?] have lost or neglected to preserve their discharges. I have therefore to refer you Mr Richard Young of Richmond who was once my Pupil and out of whoes fathers house I enlisted under Mr Woodson Having communicated to him the particulars of my situation I Beg leave to refer you to him for farther particulars & justification of which is herein stated

All which is submitted under a sincere hope that you will do that justice to a Poor old Soldier that he would be entitled to if he could now produce his discharge

[p 1]

Cty [City] of Richmond January [*]20 [7 Jan 1820]

At the request of Alexander McDon[*] I hereby certify that I was a pupil in his school [*] in the county of Henrico [*] the land of John [*] Houlfen[?] in the year 17[*] that the said McDonald Boarded in my father's [*] that year and that some time in the [*] of December in that year he enlisted under Lieutenant Frederick Woodson who made him a recruiting Sergeant That the said McDonald remained as such while at my Fathers house That on the first day of march in the year 1777 I was asked by my father to go with the said McDonald to the appointed Rendevous namely Whitelock's Tavern in the Lower end of the county of Henrico near Bottoms Bridge where I left the said McDonald. That Captain Frederick Woodson with who I was well acquainted on his return to Virginia[?] in the 1780 has stated in my presence that [*] said Alexander McDonald had served the [*] his inlistment being three years and had [*] Honorably discharged in the State of New Jersey where he he intermarried with a widdow of respectable connections[?]

I have farther [*] state that some time about [p 2] the year 1804 or 1805 the [*] McDonald passed throug this place on returning[?] home having as he stated been Shipwrecked on his passage from the West Indies and [undeciphered word] with me one night and Return home and father [*] by But him could have communicated many facts contained in his letters to me under date of the 4th of October the 8th[?] of Nov'ber and the 18th of December last which said letters are in the hand writing of the said McDonald Given under my hand as aforesaid

Richard Young

As Serjeant in the Virginia State line – allowed for 3 years service. 24 Jany 1820.

certificates iss'd Jan'y 24, 1820

1820 Ap'1 19 allowed for services in Va. State of Cont. [undeciphered word] instead of State line.

certific. iss'd April 19th 1820

[p 6 is a letter by Richard Young to the Governor dated 11 April, but it is not legible enough for transcription.]

NOTE: Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee was severely injured on 27 July 1812 while trying to protect a newspaper publisher who was attacked by a mob for opposing the War of 1812. Lee never recovered.