

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Alexander Dick R13751 VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 Aug 2021.

At a Court of Hustings, held for the Town & Corporation of Fredericksburg on the 13th day of February 1834.

Upon motion of Benjamin F. Taliaferro, this Court doth order to be certified to all whom it may concern that the following facts were proved to the entire satisfaction of the Court to wit, That Maj. Alexander Dick was an officer in the Army of the United States in the war of the Revolution and held a Commission of Major and that the said Alexander Dick departed this life sometime in the year 1786. That the said Alexander Dick did, by his last will & testament devise his whole estate real and personal to be divided between his sister Mary Taliaferro, her son Charles C. Taliaferro, & John Fenton Mercer. That the said Mary Taliaferro did, after the death of the said Major Dick intermarry with Sir John Peyton, who died during the life of the said Mary. That the issue of the said marriage was a son named _____ who survived his father, the said Sir John Peyton, and died during the life of his mother Mary, an infant, intestate & unmarried. That Charles C. Taliaferro survived his mother Mary, and was her only Child & heir, the said Mary dying intestate. That the said Charles C. Taliaferro died on the ___ day of February 1832, aged about fifty nine years, and by his last will and testament devised his entire Estate real & personal to Benjamin F. Taliaferro, and Theodore L. Garnett; and the Court doth further Certify, that according to the laws of Virginia, the said Charles C. Taliaferro became entitled to his mother's estate, and thereby became entitled to an interest equal to two thirds of the Estate of the said Alexander Dick deceased.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some documents in the file are not legible enough for transcription.]

Return of Officers of the State Legion

<u>Names</u>	<u>Ending of Service</u>
Charles Dabney [R13624] Lt. Colo. Com[mandant]	April 23, 1783
Alexander Dick Major	Retired 1 Jan'y 1783

The above is an Extract from a Copy of Colo. Dabney's Return the original of which is filed in the Chancery Court in this City. Jas. E. Heath aud'r/ Aud Off. Feb 13 1834

Proceedings of a Board of Officers at Richmond on Tuesday the 16th of December 1783 in consequence of the annexed requisition of the Executive

Present

General Clarke [George Rogers Clark VAS269] Colo Dabney
Colo Muter [George Muter VAS803] Major Meriwether [Thomas Meriwether BLWt1920-400]

The Board beg leave to inform his Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Council, That Major Alexander Dick was omitted in the list of Officers transmitted to the Executive by the Board of Field Officers, that sat in February 1782. That Maj Dick served from the earliest period of the War until he had leave to retire as a Supernumerary Major on the 1st of Jan'y 1783.

(signed) G. R. Clarke [sic] Pres't.

The foregoing is truly copied from a document on file in this office
Jas E Heath aud/ Aud Off. Feb. 13, 1834

The following appears in the Executive Journal/ Viz.

1 Jan'y 1783 At the request of Major Alexander Dick of the State Legion he is permitted to retire from service as a supernumerary

16 Jan'y 1783 The governor having laid before the Board a Letter from Major Alexander Dick informing that by the death of the late Superintendent of the Gun factory at Fredericksburg that appointment was

vacant [undeciphered word] offering his services to undertake the charge of it.

The Board in consideration of the many proofs of diligence and activity, manifested by that deserving Officer, advise his Excellency to write to Major Dick announcing to him his appointment to the said Office and requesting him to take charge of the said works without delay.

Extract from the Journal/ Wm H Richardson Sec'y Council

NOTES:

Alexander Dick was sometimes referred to as "Sawney Dick," "sawney" being a nickname for "Scotsman."

The pension file includes a copy of the will of Col. Richard Dick, dated 29 Jan 1785 and probated 3 July 1786. In it Dick referred to his late father, Charles Dick, Esq. A typed summary states that Dick served as Major under Col. Thomas Nelson in the Corps of Virginia Infantry.

Alexander Dick also served as a Captain of marines, during which period he was captured and sent to Forton Jail in England. For further details see especially the pension application of George Catlett W2524. While in prison Capt. Dick and wrote the following letter, which was published in *The Virginia Gazette* on 2 November 1778.

<https://research.colonialwilliamsburg.org/DigitalLibrary/va-gazettes/VGSinglePage.cfm?issueIDNo=78.DH.15&page=2&res=LO>

From the LONDON GENERAL ADVERTISER.

To DAVID HARTLEY, Esquire.

SIR

FORTON prison, *May 20, 1778.*

THE generous part you take in our misfortunes, and that noble love of liberty for which you are esteemed, emboldens me to ask your assistance in a cause in which the national honour of England is concerned, and is a grievance, if not redressed, for which thousands of your countrymen will suffer.

I was taken by the Ariadne on the 4th of June last, in the brig Muskito, belonging to the state of Virginia having on board part of my company belonging to the first Virginia regiment of provincials. The officers belonging to the vessel, and myself, were sent to England and committed to this jail. My men were sent to jail in Barbadoes; and as we immediately sailed for England, I could never hear any thing of them until to-day.

I could not have thought Britons had degenerated so far from that humanity, for which they were once remarked, did not experience shew it. I once gloried in being allied to Britain, and nothing but her injustice and cruelty to my country could have forced me to take arms against her. I did not conceive individuals to be my enemies; I looked upon the troops employed against us as men whose duty obliged them to fight; and whenever I had prisoners under my care, I treated the officers with all the respect due to their rank, and the privates as our own men.

View the Fate of my men. they are all young, born of creditable families, and some of them possess independent fortunes. They did not come to sea for the sake of plunder, but to revenge their country, and are possessed of more sentiment than most of their unnatural enemies that I have seen. After being confined in Barbadoes for eight months, part of the time in irons, they were allowed to go on board some merchant vessels, with a promise of their liberty. At Jamaica sixteen were pressed on board the Antelope, and obliged to do duty against their country. They scorn to receive wages, and are kept upon two thirds allowance [rations].

I rely on you, Sir, to get them taken from on board that ship, which is now at Chatham; and in so doing you will not only receive my thanks, but the grateful thanks of a free people.

If those in power do not commit them as prisoners, but still force them to do duty against their country, their countrymen in America shall know it; and although we have no settlements in Asia or Africa, we have mines, from whence it is as hard to escape as from either of those places.

I send you a list of my mens names, and am, Sir, your most obedient, and very humble servant,
ALEX. DICK.

A list of privates belonging to the first Virginia regiment taken on board the Muskito, and part of whom

are pressed on board King's ships.

William Graves [R14570] and William Coleman, serjeants.

William Mitchell [S38221] and William Dishman [R2965], corporals.

John Dodd, drummer.

Henry Raines [Henry Rains S31317], Daniel Dean, Larkin Farish [VAS1989], Charles Spalding [VAS4598], George Spilman [George Spillman], William Thorp, Moses Stanley [Moses Standley W3886], Thomas Chandler [VAS1855], Vincent Landman, Ralph Horn [Ralph R. Horn S38046], Brutan Sullivance, George Russell, Henry Buttridge, William Moore [S36166], Larkin Ball, Jeffe Vaughan, Francis Secket, John Parlane, John Dishman, John Landrum, James Emmerson, and James Dishman [W9409].

QUERE, have the commissioners of the sick and hurt ordered the American officers in Forton jail to be put upon half allowance, with an intention to find out who made the hole in the wall of their apartment the other night? Or do they imagine that they will have more honour than to tell, and by not telling give them an opportunity of putting the other half of their allowance into their pocket?

A PLAIN QUESTION.