

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Alexander R87

Martha Alexander

f55NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/23/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Guilford County: SS

On this the 22nd day of January 1845 personally appeared before the undersigned one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County Martha Alexander a resident of Guilford County aged about 87 years who being first duly qualified according to the law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows."

That she is the widow of Joseph Alexander who during the war of the Revolution was in the service of the United States as follows, to wit:

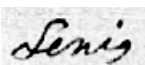
1. The Declarant the said Martha stateth that she has reason to believe and does believe that in the early part of the war of the Revolution, her deceased husband, the aforesaid Joseph Alexander, was a private of Infantry did serve the United States a Five months tour of duty and was under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in South Carolina at the time of Ashe's [General John Ashe's] defeat [Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]. Lenis [?]¹ was his Colonel & Butler [John Butler]² Brigadier General. That her husband received a discharge for this Tour but she does not now know any of it.

That in the above Tour, the Declarant has reason to believe that her deceased husband was in a legally organized Corps, and called into service by the proper Authorities.

2. The declarant has reason to believe and does believe that in the fall of the year before the Guilford battle [March 15, 1781], to the best of her information, there was a draft again for militia man, to serve a three months Tour of duty when her deceased husband the aforesaid Joseph Alexander was drafted for said period. That Johnson was Captain of the company to which he was attached and Colier [Collier?] Colonel.

That in this Tour her husband was in a duly organized Core and called into service by the property [sic] authorities, and did serve all of said tour, was duly discharged and returned home.

3. The declarant further setteth forth upon her said oath that sometime in the fall or winter next after the Guilford battle, there was a draft for another tour of militia Service, when her deceased husband was again in the service, Johnson she thinks was Captain and her Deceased husband served as Ensign – Butler was Brigadier General. In this tour the troops were

¹ 

² B. G. John Butler was not a participant in the Battle of Briar Creek.

marched to the South and after serving out their time were discharged and returned home.

This declarant has reason to believe and does believe, that her deceased husband the aforesaid Joseph Alexander did in the war of the Revolution, served the United States, and other tours, but whether her said husband served as Ensign in any more than one Tour, the declarant is unable to state.

That in each of the tours the said Joseph Alexander, this declarant has reason to believe and does believe was in regularly organized Corps and called into service by Confidential Authority.

That in consequence of her being married to said Joseph Alexander after his service in the Army and his having been dead about forty-five years, is the reason why the Declarant cannot give a more detailed account of her husband's Revolutionary services.

That her Deceased husband had discharges from the Army, but is unable at this late day to say what has become of them.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Alexander at her father's residence (Joseph McLean's) in the County of Guilford in the year of 1785. That she has a "family Record" in her family Bible which is hereto annexed and is, as it purports to be, a true and faithful Record of said Joseph Alexander family.

That her husband the said Joseph Alexander, died in the month of April A.D. 1799, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but that the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz.: at the time above stated.

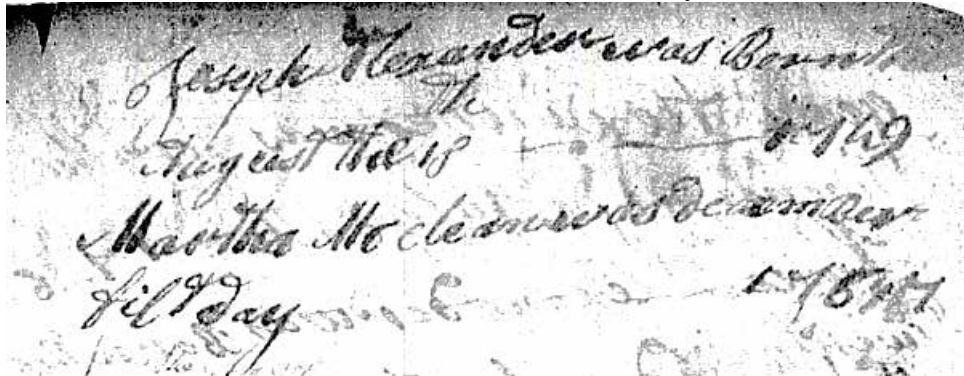
The said Martha Alexander further declares that from old age & bodily infirmity she is unable to attend Court to make this declaration.

S/ Martha Alexander, X her mark

[pp 6-7: family record:

Joseph Alexander was Born August the 18th 1749

Martha McClean was [born] December fift [fifth?] day 1767 [could be 1757]



Gene Alexander was Born the Twenty day of July in the [year] 1786

Nance Alexander was Born the twenty-fif day of September 1787

Martha Alexander was Born the fif day of September 1789

Paley Alexander was Born the Twenty siken day of October 1791

Marget Alexander was Born the December the Ninten day 1793

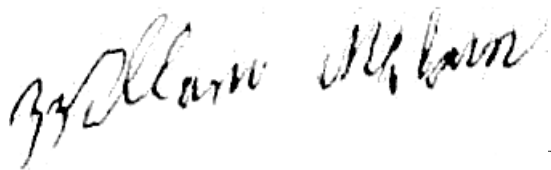
[illegibly faint] Alexander was Born the fourteen day of April 1796

George Alexander was Born the fifteen day of May 1798

[there may be an entry beneath the last one, but if so, it is too faint to discern]

George Alexander was Born the
 Twenty day of July in the 1786
 Nancy Alexander was Born the
 Twenty five day of September 1784
 Martha Alexander was Born the
 five day of September 1789
 Pracey Alexander was Born the
 Twentysix day of October 1791
 Marget Alexander was Born the
 Decem^r on the Nintenday 1793
 Seren Alexander was Born the fourteen
 Day of April 1796
 George Alexander was Born the
 fifteen day of May 1798
 J. M. Alexander

[p 10: On January 22, 1845 in Guilford County North Carolina, William McClane, 75 gave testimony that he is the brother of Martha Alexander; that he, affiant, was present at the marriage of his sister to Joseph Alexander at their father's house by the Reverend Doctor David Caldwell in the year 1785; the affiant states that the veteran lived in Randolph County during the war and after the close of the war removed to Guilford County. He signed his name William Mclain



 William McClane

[p 12: On April 15, 1848 in Guilford County, William McLean, gave another affidavit in which he stated he was aged about 78 years; that he is the brother of Martha Alexander; that his parents were Joseph and Nancy McLean of Guilford County; that he was present at the marriage of Joseph Alexander and the affiant's sister at their father's house; that the ceremony was solemnized by Reverend David Caldwell a Presbyterian minister; that the affiant was about 14 years of age at the time the marriage took place which he remembers because about 2 years

afterwards he was put on the muster rolls to perform military duty, it being required that persons of the age of 16 were obliged to be on the muster rolls to do military duty; that the veteran and his wife had 7 children, 6 daughters and one son; the first was born about 12 months after the marriage, their oldest daughter has been married many years and has raised a large family of children.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Earl Lane McLean". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name "Earl" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Lane" and "McLean".

[p 13: On April 15, 1848 in Guilford County, Georgia Alexander gave testimony that he is the son of Martha Alexander; he authenticates the Bible record included in his mother's application; that his father was born August 18 1759 [the original record copied above appears to me to say 1749 but I guess it could be 1759]; that Martha Alexander was born December 5, 1767; that Gene Alexander was born July 20th, 1786, Nancy Alexander was born September 25, 1787, Martha Alexander was born September 5th, 1789, Polly Alexander was born October 22, 1791, Margaret Alexander was born December 19th, 1793, Sarah Alexander was born April 14th, 1796, George Alexander was born May 15th, 1798.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Alexander". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name "George" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Alexander".

[p 16-17: On November 23, 1854 in Guilford County North Carolina, William McLean, 85, gave testimony that his sister Martha Alexander died about the last of May 1849 and left 3 children surviving her to wit George Alexander, Jane Russum [widow of James Russum] & Nancy Alexander. This affidavit he signed with his mark.]