

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Montgomery <sup>1</sup> S21890

f55SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/30/09: rev'd 4/29/17

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of South Carolina Lancaster District} SS

On this the 28th day of May 1851 personally appeared before me James H. Witherspoon Judge of the Court of Ordinary for said District, Alexander Montgomery a resident of Lancaster District aged (from the best evidence he has having no record of the same) about Eighty-seven or Eighty-eight years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States about the beginning of the year 1780, being drafted, that he marched from his home near where he now lives, & where he has since always resided to the Savannah River under Captain Robert Montgomery, that he remained at the place of rendezvous near the said River about ten days when he was taken sick & was sent home in a baggage wagon that was discharged, that he remained sick at home a long time before he was able to travel. Declarant believes Colonel Kershaw [Joseph Kershaw] commanded the Regiment & one officer by the name of Charlton was Adjutant this is now his best recollection -- that the next as a militia man (being warned [?] in), he marched to join the Army of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], that he marched near Camden under Captain Henry Coffey where learning of Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] they retreated across the Catawba River & Joined General Sumter, that he was at Sumter's defeat on Fishing Creek [August 18, 1780]; that there he tried to cross the River in escaping from the defeat as all had to do, but could not swim said River, recollects well of seeing Captain Robert Crawford there at Sumter's defeat, was out that tour about two weeks & returned home. That he next went under Captain Coffey & joined Sumter at Blackstock's [November 20, 1780] where Sumter was attacked & wounded, but drove back & defeated the British. Captain Coffey had his horse stolen that night. That he next went what was called by a revolutionary men & soldiers as "Sumter's Rounds" under Sumter, about & below Columbia, that below Columbia he was in an engagement with some British who had possession of the House of Colonel Thompson [William Thomson], a Major Hampton he recollects was in said engagement with the Americans; that he next marched under Lieutenant John McMurry to Eutaw Springs & was engaged in the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], Major Thompson [Thomas Thompson] was also in said battle, declarant knew Major Thomps General Marion [Francis Marion] commanded the portion of the Army that declarant was engaged in at the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Declarant knows of no documentary evidence to substantiate & verify what he has declared, he never received a discharge, & never expected that

---

<sup>1</sup> BLWt31696-160-55

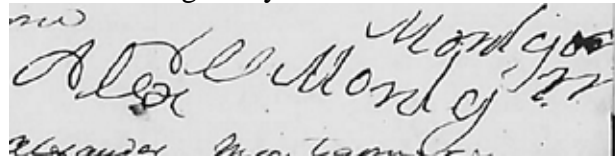
he would ever be called upon for a discharge, he went when his services were required & whenever summoned by any of the officers of the State, he gave his services to his country whenever required, but kept no account of the time -- he is now old & infirm & does not like to say how long he served with certainty, but believes during the war he served his country & was engaged in her service not less than six months & not exceeding twelve months in the whole. Declarant knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ James H. Witherspoon, Ordinary LD

S/ Alex Montgomery

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive ink on a light-colored document. The signature reads "Alexander Montgomery". There are some faint markings and a date "1777" visible in the background of the handwriting.

[William Reed, an elder in the church, and Thomas M. Bell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14, Thomas Huey, son of James Huey,<sup>2</sup> gave testimony that his father often talked of having served in the revolution with Alexander Montgomery. Similarly, George A. Nisbet, son of John Nisbet gave a similar certificate.]

[p 15, Andrew Nelson, nephew of Thomas Nelson, stated that he has heard his uncle state that he and Alexander Montgomery were under General Sumter in two battles and that he has also heard his father say that he knew Montgomery to have done service in the Revolution.]

[p 19]

State of South Carolina Lancaster District

Personally appeared L. J. Belk before me John C. Secrest one of the acting magistrates for said District and after being duly sworn states that he is about 94 years of age. Deponent further states that he is well acquainted with Alexander Montgomery a revolutionary soldier; that he resides and has resided all his life within about 3 miles of the said Alexander Montgomery -- that he was old enough at the period of the revolutionary war to recollect distinctly said Alexander Montgomery -- and also that he recollects well when he entered the service in the revolutionary war. Deponent believes that the said Alexander Montgomery, when he first entered the services of that campaign, joined the Continental Line -- that he served there a considerable length of time, but cannot exactly remember how long. Deponent further states that he well recollects that the said Montgomery came home from that war sick, and that he remained sick some length of time. Deponent further states that said Montgomery, he thinks, again entered into the services of the same war as a volunteer, and that he went the rounds with General Sumpter, and was at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, and several small skirmishes with the British. He further states this reason to show how he recollects so distinctly in reference to this matter,

---

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps the same man as [James Huey S31148](#)

viz., that his (deponent's) Father had been out engaged in the war, and had come back to attend to the wants of his family, and being compelled to go back to the war himself, or send some one in his place, his family being large and demanding his personal attention, he got the said Alexander Montgomery to take his place and engaged in the service for him, Deponent's Father. Deponent further states that the said Montgomery then remained in the service until the termination of the war -- and he further states most positively that the said Montgomery remained in the service much longer than six months, that to the best of his knowledge he remained in the service one or two years. Deponent further states that the said Alexander Montgomery was the only man by this name in this District to his knowledge, and that he was the only man by this name that he knew had been in the same war -- and that he is the only man by the name of Alexander Montgomery, who is entitled to, war who now claims a pension for his services in said Revolutionary war. Deponent further states that he never heard it disputed or questioned by any person that this same Alexander Montgomery was in the service of the Revolutionary war and that he is entitled to a pension from the Government for his services in the same. Deponent further states that said Alexander Montgomery is now a very old man, and that he has been childlike for several years, and that he the said Alexander Montgomery could not now remember how long he served in said war on account of his extreme frailty and infirmity. Deponent further states that he has frequently heard said Alexander Montgomery said, when he was a young man, that he thought it was wrong for the soldiers of the Revolutionary War, to claim & apply for pensions from the Government that they had achieved the Independence of their Country, and that they should be satisfied with that achievement, and that he never intended to make application for a pension as long as they would be able to labor for a livelihood. Deponent believes that this determination have prevented the said Montgomery from making application for his pension before this time. Deponent further states owing to his advanced age and infirmity, that the said Montgomery is unable to do anything for himself. Deponent would further state that the said Alexander Montgomery has always bore the reputation of a brave soldier, and that he was among the staunchest soldiers for the liberties of his Country in "the times that try men's souls," and that he is justly entitled to a pension. Lastly, deponent states that he has no interest in the pension of said Alexander Montgomery.

Sworn & subscribed to before me this 4th day of July A.D. 1859

S/ John C. Secrest, Magt.

S/ L. J. Belk

[p 34: Certificate of the Comptroller General of South Carolina dated October 29, 1855 showing payments made to Alexander Montgomery for duty as a private horseman in the militia in 1780 & 1781 also for a rifle gun & all in 1783. It is stated that he served 82 days in the Cavalry under Major Robert Crawford at Hanging Rock as certified by Henry Coffey; he served 19 days in the Cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hampton as certified by James Craig Lieutenant; he served 9 days in the Cavalry under Colonel Frederick Kimble at Camden as certified by William Nisbett; 42 days in the Cavalry commanded by Major Thomas Thompson at Eutaw.]

[p 5: Certificate dated June 22, 1860 in Lancaster County, SC, stating that Robert D. Montgomery was appointed executor of the estate of Alexander Montgomery who applied for a pension but died shortly before the certificate of pension was issue; letters testamentary were issued to Robert D. Montgomery in Lancaster County, SC on February 15, 1856.]

[p 8 is the Bounty Land application dated April 18, 1855, filed by Alexander Montgomery.]

[p 42: document stating that a pension was granted the heirs and children of Alexander Montgomery pursuant to a special act of Congress passed June 9, 1860; there is no document in the file which identifies the heirs and children of the veteran. There is a letter in the file [p. 49] dated April 8, 1859, in which it is stated that the veteran died and was not survived by a widow or any children; that he died testate leaving his property to a nephew who the veteran also appointed executor of his estate, presumably that would be Robert D. Montgomery.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia.]