

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

Pension Application of William Alexander S2344

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina } Ss.

County of Wilkes }

On this 30th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina now sitting William Alexander a resident of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina aged Eighty years, 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 7th 1832 –

That he was born on the 15th day of April 1752 in the County of Cumberland & State of Virginia, the record of which is entered in a family bible at that time belonging to his Grand father, by whom he was raised. He resided in the said County of Cumberland, until he was twenty three years of age, when he removed to the County of Pittsylvania in the same State, where he settled and lived until the year 1818, when he removed to the County of Rockingham N.C. and there lived until the fall of 1822, when he removed to Wilkes County N.C. where he has lived ever since, and where he now lives. In the month of June 1776 this deponent entered the service of the United States in the County of Pittsylvania Va, as a Volunteer for six months, in a company of militia commanded by Captain Joseph Martin, and rendezvoused at Elliotts old store in the said County, and marched from thence direct to the Long Islands of Holstein [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN], where they joined the troops under command of Colo Christie or Christian [William Christian]. After being stationed at the Long Islands of Holstein for about six weeks, during which time other troops were collecting – and those that were there engaged in the erection of a Fort [Fort Patrick Henry], they marched to the Lower Towns of the Cherokee Nation of Indians [early Oct 1776]. Upon arriving at the Towns, they found them abandoned by the Indians; but after remaining there some days, a considerable number of the Indians came in and sued for peace, and surrendered themselves. Those that came in and offered terms of peace were unmolsted, and a proposition made and acceded to, that a treaty should be formed in compliance with the terms proposed, at the Long Islands of Holstein in the ensuing spring – but the Towns of those who refused to surrender or sue for peace, were entirely destroyed, together with all their corn, stock and other property that could be found. After destroying their property, and committing such depredations upon them as they could, the troops returned to the Long Islands of Holstein, where they remained some time, and then set out for home. This deponent however was selected by request, to take charge of one of his mess mates who was sick, and was sent on ahead of the company a few days, and arrived at home a day or two before Christmas; the rest of the Company not arriving however until a few days after Christmas. As soon as all the company reached home they received discharges from Captain Martin; but the one received by this deponent he believes was burn't some years ago, when he had the misfortune to have his house burn't together with all the valuable papers which he possessed.

About the first of July 1781 the class of militia to which this deponent belonged, (in the County of Henry, the County of Pittsylvania being then divided) was called out and placed under command of Captain Haman Crite [spelled Haman Critz], under whom this deponent marched direct to the Maubin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] on James River, where they joined the troops under command (he believes) of General [Edward] Stevens. After remaining at Maubin Hills a few days, the army was moved to a small Town called New Castle [now Old Church] on Pamunkey River. During the stay of the army at New Castle, this deponent was detailed with about twenty others, to collect and secure some Beeves which had been procured for the army, and which had strayed off, and become scattered. On their return with the Beeves, they received orders to convey them to Ruffins Ferry [near

Sweet Hall] on Pamunkey, whither the army had gone. In about two weeks after reaching Ruffins Ferry, the army took up the line of march towards York Town, at which time this deponent was lying sick of fever and being unable to travel, and having but a little time to serve before his term expired, he received a discharge from Maj'r Holcomb [sic: John Holcombe] of the regiment to which he was attached, and attempted to make his way home; but after proceeding about seven miles with much difficulty, his fever increased so much, that he was compelled to lie by. After some days, he recovered so as to travel slowly, and proceeded for home, where he arrived about the first of October 1781; having been gone three months – the Company to which he belonged, arrived a few days afterward. The discharge received for this tour he believes was burn't with the other –

He has no documentary evidence to prove his services, nor does he know of any person living whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He lived in the County of Pittsylvania Va. when he was called into service, and has continued to reside in the various places mentioned in the foregoing part of this declaration ever since. He refers to the Rev'd. Smith Ferguson & Jno. Ferguson as persons to whom he is well known, and who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

William hisXmark Alexander