

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Lester S538

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/25/13

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

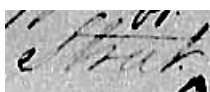
State of Tennessee Williamson County: SS

On this 3rd day of September 1832 before Honorable Thomas Stuart Judge of the Circuit Court for the fourth Judicial Circuit of the State of Tennessee now sitting Alexander Lester a resident of the State and County aforesaid aged 78 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act passed June 7th 1832.

He served two campaigns during the revolutionary war. The first of which he entered the service of the United States as a drafted militia man about the first day of January 1781 in which he served in the capacity of a Quarter Master Sergeant and served under the following officers Captain Dudley Barksdale, Lieutenant Richard Gaines and __ Ensign and served in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Fleming & Major Winston and attached to the Brigade commanded by General Muhlenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] he marched over the following Country from Charlotte Court house Virginia to Petersburg – to Cabin Point – to Smithfield – to Mackey's Mills and to Babbs Old Fields at which place he remained until discharged about the last of April same year 1781 making a term of four months he received no discharge for this term.

He was drafted and entered the service of the United States a second time about the first day of September same year 1781 under the following officers (to wit) Captain Thomas Jones the other Company officers not recollected, Command[ed] by Colonel Anthony Strat [?, could be Street]¹ or Colonel Lewis Burwell and Major Robinson and attached to the Brigade commanded by General Lafayette and marched over the following Country from Lunenburg Court House Virginia to Petersburg – to Cabin Point and to Yorktown – and there joined the main Army commanded by General Washington and after the surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] he was detained until about the middle of December in the same year 1781 at which time he was discharged making a period of about three and a half months that he served this campaign for which he received no discharge – he was in no regularly fought battles during the two campaigns above detailed. He does not recollect any of the Regular or Continental Regiments with which he served but at the Siege of Yorktown he served with and under General Washington, General Lafayette and General Lincoln. He was born in Lunenburg County Virginia on the 8th day of August 1754 according to his register of which she has at home.

When he was first drafted he had moved to Charlotte Virginia and on his discharge returned to his Father's in Lunenburg County Virginia and was drafted and served his 2nd



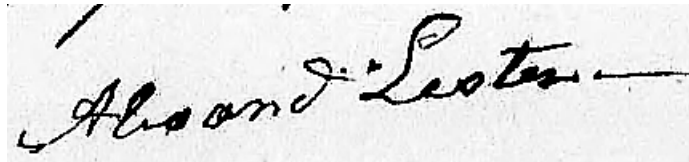
campaign.

After the Revolution he lived in Lunenburg County Virginia till 1811 since which time he has resided in Williamson County Tennessee, he has no documentary evidence of his services never having received any discharge when he left the service.

He knows of no person by whom he can prove his services except John Andrews who served with him in the first campaign mentioned in his declaration but is in a different Regiment and commanded by different officers and as the said John Andrews was returning from his second term he met the affiant on his way to join the Army his second campaign about the last of August 1781. And John Cook who served with him the second campaign here mentioned.

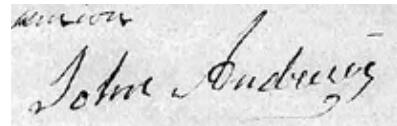
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State whatever.

S/ Alexander Lester

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Lester" followed by a horizontal line.

I John Andrews² do certify that I am a resident of Williamson County Tennessee and am well acquainted with Alexander Lester who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. That I served with him the first campaign mentioned in his said Declaration commencing about the first day of January 1781 and ending about the last day of April 1781, but under different officers and in a different Regiment and that the said Alexander Lester marched over the Country mentioned in his said Declaration and that I saw him a few days before he entered the second term in the last of August or first of September 1781 and that he was reported to have served the second term mentioned in his declaration – that I concur in that opinion.

S/ John Andrews

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Andrews" followed by a horizontal line.

[Mark L Andrews, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

I John Cook³ of the County of Williamson State of Tennessee do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Alexander Lester who has subscribed and sworn to his declaration that I served with him during the revolutionary war a 4 months tour beginning in August or September 1781. We marched from Lunenburg County Virginia to Petersburg to Yorktown where the British under Cornwallis were encamped and remained there during the siege and after the surrender we were discharged sometime in November or December same year. I recollect the officers under whom he served during this campaign were as follows Captain Thomas Jones in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Anthony Overstreet or Colonel Lewis Burwell and attached to General Muhlenberg's Regiment.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of September 1832

S/ John Cook

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cook" followed by a horizontal line.

² [John Andrews S2908](#)

³ [John Cooke S3179](#)

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for 4 months as a Sergeant and for 3 months as a private in the Virginia militia.]