

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Alexander S6495

f40NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/26/07 rev'd 7/15/14

[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.]

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State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the said Court opened and held for the County aforesaid the 4th Monday of August 1832 now sitting Thomas Alexander a resident of the County of Mecklenburg aged 79 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 in the County of Mecklenburg State of North Carolina in the year 1753 – that he has no record of his age nor does he know of any – that he was living in the County of Mecklenburg aforesaid when he first entered into the service during the Revolutionary War – that he entered in the year 1775 as a private and was a volunteer under Captain John Springs on a scouting party to protect the frontiers from the Indian incursions – that he was out upon the head of the Catawba [River] about six weeks – there was no officer upon the tour higher than a Captain and that the next tour that he was out was against the Tories on the frontiers of South Carolina about Ninety Six – under Ezekiel Polk as Captain – about three months he was engaged in this excursion – and returned with said Polk after the expiration of said service in North Carolina – this was in 1775. That in 1776 he again volunteered as a private under William Alexander as his Captain – the Superior officers were Colonel Robert Irwin and Colonel Adam Alexander and the general commanding was General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] – they marched from Charlotte to the Quaker Meadows upon the head of the Catawba and from there across the Blue Ridge into the Cherokee Country against the Indians of that name – that this tour he served five months and returned with the forces that went out – and was verbally discharged by General Rutherford – in the Cherokee nation – That after the fall of Charleston in 1780 he was appointed by General Thomas Polk a Captain and was detailed with a company with orders to guard a magazine at Charlotte – that he performed this duty for the period of about three months – until the said magazine was removed which was on the evening before the British came into Charlotte under Cornwallis – sometime in August of the year 1780 – that he again volunteered in 1779 under Captain William Polk and served on a scouting party for six weeks – and marched into the State of South Carolina – on the Wateree [River] – for the purpose of overawing the Tories – that after Cornwallis left Charlotte in his pursuit of Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] – declarant raised a company of mounted men equipped with swords and rifles and placed himself under Colonel Williams of South Carolina who had been ordered to guard the Tuckaseegee Ford of the Catawba – and went on under Williams after Cornwallis – Williams afterwards placed himself under Colonel Lee of the Continental line – with declarant's company who was engaged in the Battle with Colonel Pyles [sic, Dr. John Pyle, Pyles' Defeat, February 25, 1781] a Tory on Haw River – after which he returned Home – the said Thomas Alexander further declares – that he and five others who were in the State of South Carolina in 1781 – volunteered under Major Davy [sic, William Richardson Davie] and was with him in the Battle of the Hanging Rock [July 30 and August 6, 1780]

and was with the said Davie about two weeks – that after Gates' [Horatio Gates'] defeat at Camden [August 15-16, 1780] he was appointed quarter master with orders to attend to the Hospital established in Charlotte – he performed this duty for five or six weeks – That the whole time he was out was about sixteen months – that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove that he was in the United States service during the revolutionary war – that he was always discharged regularly – but his discharges were verbal – that although he acted as Captain he never received a commission as Captain – that since the Revolutionary War he has constantly resided in the County of Mecklenburg aforesaid. That 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 and that as to his character for truth he refers to the certificate of the Reverend Robert Hall Morrison as to the fact of his having served in the Revolutionary war he refers to the Certificate of Isaac Alexander and David[?] H. Harris and he further declares that the whole time that he served he uniformly served as a volunteer.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thos Alexander



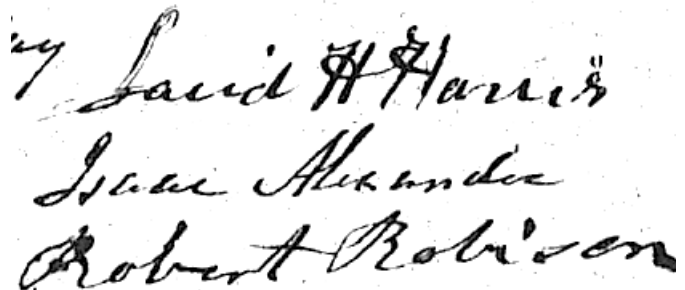
We Laird H. Harris residing in County of Mecklenburg and Isaac Alexander and Robert Robinson both of the said County hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Thomas Alexander who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be seventy nine years of age – that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion – Isaac Alexander and Robert Robinson both further swear that the said Thomas Alexander was out in the Revolutionary war as a private on a tour of five months under General Rutherford as stated in his declaration.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Laird H. Harris

S/ Isaac Alexander¹

S/ Robert Robinson²



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State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1833

Be it remembered that on the 26th day of August in the year of our Lord 1833, Robert Robinson [sic] of the County of Mecklenburg appeared before the worshipful the Justices of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting and made the following declaration on oath he the said Robert Robinson being duly qualified thereto relative and touching the services of Thomas Alexander

¹ [Isaac Alexander S6487](#)

² Probably the same man as [Robert Robison S7426](#)

of the County of Mecklenburg aforesaid Pensioner of the United States as Captain serving the Revolutionary War, who declares that in the year 1780 he was well acquainted with Thomas Alexander that in the Fall of the same year, he was stationed in Charlotte, North Carolina and served as a Captain of Militia that his duty during that period was to guard the public stores and deposits belonging to the Army of the United States, that this was soon after General Gates' defeat at Camden, that he was employed as one of the guard during the whole period and that he assisted as much in removing and securing the stores and deposits aforesaid after the said defeat, that he was a private under the said Thomas Alexander who was his Captain and that he served under him for the Term of three months the time for which he engaged.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court/
S/ B. Oates, C.M.C.

S Robt. Robison



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State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

On this 29th day of May A.D. 1852, personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the County in State aforesaid, Edwin Alexander a resident of the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina aged 50 [could be 56]³ 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, and all other acts of Congress touching this case,

That he is the son and Executor of the late Thomas Alexander deceased, who was a Soldier of the Revolution, and served in the North Carolina Continental line, as will appear by reference to the records now on file in the pension office. That he has often heard his Father say he was in one campaign against the Cherokee Indians, during which time he took part in several skirmishes, that he also was at the battle of the Hanging Rock in the State of South Carolina, under the command of Colonel Robert Irwin – that he was one of a detachment commanded by Colonel Lee, in endeavoring to surprise Colonel Tarleton in his camp on Haw River in North Carolina but were prevented by coming in contact with a large body of Tories, who gave battle, and Tarleton hearing the report of their guns, made his escape, declarant has frequently heard his Father speak of serving as Captain of a company some five or six months, a part of which time he and his company guarded the public Magazine in Charlotte, North Carolina. Deponent has often heard his Father Thomas Alexander say that he did [not] receive from the Government of the United States the amount of pension to which he was justly entitled on account of his services, that when making his application for a pension, he was unable to prove the amount of service rendered by him, particularly the service he rendered as Captain, there was no living witness by whom he can prove in fact, and that he has lost all his papers in relation to his appointment as Captain.

Deponent further states that he was appointed Executor by the last will and testament of his said Father, and in that way came in possession of all his papers, and that in looking over a large quantity of papers that had been thrown promiscuously together in an old box – he came across an old paper in the following words viz.

“I have just received orders from General Rutherford to continue your Company at Charlotte for some time, with those men I am now araising & which is to be at Charlotte on Friday ninth instant, at which I hope to see you with your Company which compose the guard for the Magazine at Charlotte in order to join the troops June 7th 1780. V I am your Ob Serv
S/ Robert Irwin, Col. M. M.

To Capt. Thos Alexander”
on the back of said paper appears the following writing viz.
“On Publick servis--
to Capt. Thomas Alexander
By Express”

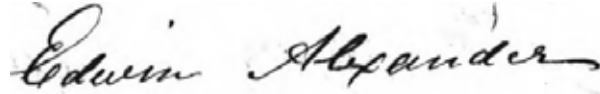
the original of which is here with presented

The deponent further states that his Father the said Thomas Alexander was married to Jane Morrison on or about the__ A.D. 17__ and that the said Thomas and Jane lived together as man and wife until Jane his wife died which occurred in the month of June A.D. 1819 – That deponent and his two sisters Margaret Wilson & Arabella Alexander are the only surviving children of said marriage.

Sworn to and subscribed before me.

S/ F. M. Ross, JP

S/ Edwin Alexander



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And I Francis M. Ross a Justice of the Peace as aforesaid, do hereby certify that I am personally acquainted with Edwin Alexander who signed the foregoing declaration, & know him to be a worthy respectable citizen of Mecklenburg County and entitled to full credit --

And I further certify that Thomas Alexander, whose obituary I have appended to this I Certificate, and upon which I have marked the initials of mind name, is the identical Thomas Alexander referred to in the foregoing declaration. I cut it, with my own hands from a paper called the Charlotte Journal being dated the 17th of January 1845 – and published at that time in the town of Charlotte, North Carolina.

S/ F. M. Ross, JP

[TEXT of appended obituary bearing the initials “FMR”]
Obituary

Died, in Mecklenburg County, on Saturday the 28th of December, 1841, in the 92nd year of his age, Major Thomas Alexander. The deceased was a soldier of the Revolution, who, by his high character, his great age, and dignified manner connected the existing generation with that race of patriots, who lived in times of trial and of danger in the County of Mecklenburg. He was by blood allied to the two most distinguished families of that period, the Polks and Alexanders, and in his own person blended many of the qualities peculiar to each. He was remarkable for the highest courage and the greatest modesty – for marked dignity of personal deportment and a disposition the most cheerful and a heart overflowing with kindness. He crowned all his virtues by a simple unostentatious and humble piety and concluded a life protracted to a period extending long beyond that allotted to mankind without a blot and without reproach and with the respect, the affection and veneration of all who knew him. Recurring, as we do with the deepest interest in the early history of our country we cannot but weep over the death of one who is almost the sole survivor of this glorious brotherhood, tho' he has been gathered to them as a “sheaf ripe of the harvest.” -- *Communicated*

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month.

OBITUARY.

Died, in Mecklenburg county, on Saturday the 28th December, 1844, in the 92d year of his age, Maj. THOMAS ALEXANDER. The deceased was a soldier of the Revolution, who, by his high character, his great age, and dignified manners connected the existing generation with that race of patriots, who lived in times of trial and of danger in the county of Mecklenburg. He was by blood allied to the two most distinguished families of that period, the Polka and Alexanders, and in his own person blended many of the qualities peculiar to each. He was remarkable for the highest courage and the greatest modesty — for marked dignity of personal deportment and a disposition the most cheerful and a heart overflowing with kindness. He crowned all his virtues by a simple unostentatious and humble piety and concluded a life protracted to a period extending long beyond that allotted to mankind without a blot and without reproach and with the respect, the affection and veneration of all who knew him. Recurring, as we do with the deepest interest to the early history of our country we cannot but weep over the death of one who is almost the sole survivor of this glorious brotherhood; tho' he has been gathered to them as a "sheaf ripe for the harvest." — *Communicated.*

State of North Carolina, Comptroller's Office

I, William J. Clarke, Comptroller of public accounts in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office, among the payments made by said State to sundry persons for Military services in the Revolutionary War as follows, to wit:

Thomas Alexander

Book No.	1	page	24	£6 S 1	specie
	3		17	£4 S10	
	7		20	£7 S7 D6	
	8		31	£15 S4	
	"	"		£19	
	9		7	£6	
	10		41	£43 S5 D8	
	7		20	£21 S 10	
	E		78	£1200 currency	February 1781, paid

to Captain Thomas Alexander to £5 S9 D8 specie the depreciation then being 210 for 1.

Vol A. 4717 Captain Thomas Alexander or Militia services of himself and company £463 S1 specie.

Same book 4722 ditto for ditto £186 S13 D6 specie.

Thomas Alexander also appears in Book "J" as a Captain in Pickens's Corps of Cavalry Also on Book of Receipts, next to last page, receipt for £12 S15 D9 specie.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this second day of June A.D. 1852.

S/ Wm J. Clarke, Compt'r

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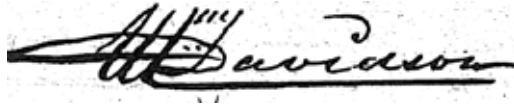
I William Davidson of the County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina do hereby certify

that I was born & raised in said County, that I am nearly seventy-four years old, and I have known Major Thomas Alexander & his wife Jane from my earliest recollection, they were then living together as man & wife and so continued to live until Jane [Jane Morrison] his Wife died, it was a family of high Respectability, and I never heard the Legality of their Marriage questioned. I also knew their children, One of whom I do not recollect whether the oldest or not, was a Presbyterian minister & if he was now living would not be much short of my own age. I am also acquainted with their surviving children of Major Thomas Alexander viz., Margaret Wilson, Arabella Alexander & Edwin Alexander who are very respectable, all of whom have grown children & Mrs. Margaret Wilson has grandchildren,

Major Thomas Alexander was a soldier of the Revolutionary War with Great Britain, and has always been considered as having served his country with considerable merit as an officer & otherwise, he died at an advanced age respected by the whole community.

Given under my hand this first day of June 1852.

S/ Wm Davidson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Davidson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the North Carolina service.]