

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Alexander Williamson S7954

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 Sep 2022.

State of North Carolina }  
Iredell County }

On this 5 day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court Alexander Williamson now a resident of North Carolina in the County of Iredell & State aforesaid, aged eighty two 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the Army of the United States as a volunteer, in the State of Maryland, Saint Marys County, under Captain Allen Thomas – from thence we went to Anopilis [sic: Annapolis] (State of Maryland) where we rendezvoused, here we were joined by upwards of seventy privates, and set out from thence in May 1775 or 1776 crossing the Chesapeak [sic: Chesapeake Bay] and landing at Kent Island, from this island we marched to Lancaster in the State of Pennsylvania – here I was placed under Collo. James Ewing – Regiment was called the 3<sup>d</sup> Regiment as well as I recollect. Here I was commissioned a Lieutenant & placed under the aforesaid Officer viz. Colo. Ewing & Capt. Allen Thomas who was killed at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] from Lancaster we marched, crossing the Deleware [sic: Delaware River] at the Red Bank into the State of New Jersey. This being the Summer of the battle at Lexington [19 Apr 1775] our object was to join Gen'l. Washington and continued our march through the State of New York crossing the Hudson about twelve Miles above the City of New York, crossing the North East River passing on to the State of Connecticut, and after crossing the Connecticut joined Gen'l. Washington main Army, which army included Gen'l. [Charles] Lee, Gen'l. Wayne [sic: Anthony Wayne], Gen'l. [Henry] Knox & Gen'l Schykler [sic: Philip Schuyler] – we were attached to this Brigade commanded by Gen'l. Wayne, left our junction with the main army we marched on to Long Island, for the purpose of preventing the Landing of the British Commanded by Gen'l. Howe, shortly after we had a battle with the enemy [Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug 1776] and were forced to retreat across the Hudson and halted on Staten Island – this engagement and retreat took place in the Month of August. Here we commenced raising a breast work; but were soon compelled to desist. From this place I marched with a detachment commanded by Gen'l. Wayne to Stony point [NY]. From thence we marched on into the State of Pennsylvania passing through Trenton, Morris Town [Morristown] to Brandywine by forced march where we had a Gen'l engagement under the immediate command of Gen'l. Washington – in this engagement I was wounded in the belly – being a lieutenant in the Company from the time I set off from Lancaster; and Capt Thomas being killed at an early part of the engagement, I was acting as a Captain when I rec'd. the wound. From Brandywine I was carried up to Morris Town & placed in the hospitle where I was confined until the following Febr'y. when I was discharged by Col. Ewing, which discharge has long since been lost. I then returned to the State Maryland, near Baltimore on Tapsico [sic: Patapsco] River &c. In this Tour of service I left home as stated in May 1775 or 1776 – was in winter quarters the first winter under Gen'l Wayne at Trenton, and reached home in March comprising a period of twenty two months – Subsequently, in the year 1777 as he well as he recollects, in Lancaster Pennsylvania, he enlisted in the regular Army, and was placed in a company commanded by Capt. James Chessman, as an order Sergeant Regiment commanded by Col. Daniel Clymer [see endnote]; and which as well as he recollects was called the 9<sup>th</sup>[?] Pennsylvania Regiment, joined Gen'l. Greene early in New Jersey, went into winter quarters at Valley Forge above Philedephia, we then marched and counter marched as we were ordered. The seat of war being about this time changed to the Southern part of the Union. In this service I was with diver [diverse] Officers & detachments performing such service as was deemed necessary for the protection of the Country spending one winter in Morris Town [1779-80] and one in Trenton and was finally & lastly in Virginia, with Gen'l. Washington at the seige of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] spending one winter on the Rapahanuk at Fredricksburg [sic: Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg VA] and capture of Lord

Cornwallis. I was then marched to Williamsburg about 55 miles, where I was discharged as an orderly Sergeant [see endnote]; this term continued from the Spring as well as I recollect from the Spring of 1777 until October 1781: And to the best of my knowledge & belief embraced a period of four years and six months

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

Alexander hisXmark Williamson

Interrogatories

where & in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the State of Maryland, County of Saint Marys November 24<sup>th</sup> 1752.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age & where is it?

An. My name was recorded in my Fathers family Bible in the State of Maryland which I often seen & always calculated my age from it.

3<sup>d</sup> Where were you living when called in to service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Ans. I was called into service in the State of Maryland, Saint Marys County, where I lived until I was forty two years of age, I then removed to No. Carolina, Richmond County from thence I removed to Iredell Cty where I have uniformly lived & now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. I entered as a volunteer on both tours of service.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the Troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Rejiments, as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I respectfully state that I left Lancaster with the Militia as stated above – the first Continental Officer I saw was Genl. Wayne – subsequently Gen'l. Washington, Gen'l. Knox, Gen'l. Lee, Gen'l. Green Gen'l. Scheykler Gen'l. [Benedict] Arnold and various others of inferior grade, which I stated as well as my advanced age & memory enable me.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given & what has become of it?

Ans I was first discharged by Colo. Ewing as stated above, and secondly by Colo. Clymer: and have long since lost or mislaid both of them.

7<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a Commission, and if so by whom was it signed, and what has become of it?

Ans I was Commissioned as first Lieut. by Colo. Ewing, an orderly Serjant does not receive a Commis. I have lost it as stated.

Fallstown Post office Iredell County NoC

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions],

July 1<sup>st</sup> 1834

I received your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of June which states that no dessission can take place in my favor until I comply with the rules of of the department which require a specification of all the militia services wherin shall be Clearly set forth the number of terms or engagements and the names of the officers under whom the service was performed

I Volenteered myself in May 1776 for the term of one year under Capt Allen Thomas who was commaned by Col. Ewein I was in an engagement at Long Island in August 1776 which was the only engagement I was in during that term of service

The reason why I Volenteered for so long a time was in consequence of a proclamation being put out by some person I do not recollect who but I believe by the Gov. of Maryland prolaiming for all that who would Volenteer for 12 months should be Exempted from being drafted for the like term of 12 months after their term of service should Expire

At this time they were drafting men for 6 or 9 months I do not recollect which

When my first term of Service came to close I hired myself as substitute under the same officers for six months during this term I was in the Battle at Brandawine which was fought on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1777 there I received a wound and was carried to the hospital at Morristown and was attended by Dr Rampendoll there I remained till Feb 1778 when I received a discharge from Col. Ewein If the above statement is not enough to satisfy you that I disserve a penssion I have nothing more to say only that I known I have fought and bled for the liberty which the American people are now enjoying?

Yours Respectfully/ Alex Williamson

N.B. you also state that I claimed 2 years & 2 months malitia service If it has been so stated to you it is a mistake I never have claimed more than I now claim in the above statement I am sorry that such a mistake has been made for I do not believe it was intentionally A. Williamson

Land Office, Annapolis, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1836

Dr Sir [Hon. Henry W. Connor], Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo was received, – the multiplicity of business has prevented me from replying to it before, – the name of Alexander Williamson is not to be found upon any muster or pay rolls of the revolution in this office. – You say, he states that he served under Capt'n. Allen Thomas, – Capt'n. Allen Thomas, commanded one of the Independent Companies, – there were six Independent Companies in this State, but no muster or pay rolls can be found of either of the Companies. – I am therefore unable to furnish any evidence whatever in his case, – The Independent Companies I presume, were volunteer Corps,– I am with much respect/ Yr. Obt. St./ G. G. Brewer

Land Office, Annapolis, Apl. 21<sup>st</sup> 1836

Sir [James L. Edwards], Your's of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst., with the declaration and papers of Alexander Williamson enclosed was received – I have compared his declaration with the records of the revolution in this office, and they afford no evidence of his service. The declaration is herewith returned,–

I am respectfully/ Yr Obt. St./ G.G. Brewer

State of North Carolina }

Iredell County }

On this 29 day of July 1850 Personally appeared before me Geo. F. Davidson one of the acting Magistrates in & for the aforesaid County Alexander Williamson a resident of the aforesaid State & County aged (97) years, who after being first sworn in due form of law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the ballance of his Pension now due him Under the provision made by the Act of Congress pas't July the 7th 1832, he apply'd for, and was allowed a Pension under Act of (1832) July the 7th at the rate of (\$20.00) per annum commencing on the 4th of March (1831) & received his Pension semiannually from that time to the 4th of March 1850 which sum was allowed him as payment for six months service as a Private Soldier in the Revolutionary War.

This deponent on his Oath do depose & say; On his first tour of Service, he Volunteer'd in Baltimore County State of Maryland in the Spring season of (1776) & after having served at Depoint Fort in St Marys County Under Captain Smute and Col James Erwin at least (3) three months was discharged by Col Erwin from this tour in the Army.

The next Tour of sevice this deponent's brother was drafted in the County & State aforesaid for a (3) three months tour, & this deponent ordered his name inroll'd in place of that of his brother. Joined the Army in the aforesid State & County & seved at Depoint Fort, under the same Officers above nam'd and seved at least three months on this tour of duty and was discharged at Depoint Fort by Order of Col Erwin.

The next tour of service Deponent Volunteered in the same County & State aforesaid in the fall season of (1777) as a Private Under Capt Allen Thomas Col. Erwin, and Gen Washington was Commander in Cheif at that time & when deponent was in the line of his duty in the army as aforesaid received a Commission from Gen Washington authorizeing deponent to take the Command of Office to that of Lieutenant, also orders; that deponent & Capt. Allen Thomas to rais a Company of Men in the State aforesaid to be in redyness when ordered to march, & that in June (1777) Capt Thomas & this deponent commenced geathering men & in Augus they had sixty eight privates & in the same month reced orders to

march on fourth with in order to join the Main Army at (or near) Morristown State of Pennsylvania. And after joining the army as above nam'd and marched by way of Chadd's Ford to Brandywine where The two Armys met (Viz) the American & British. And the noted Battle of Brandywine were fought & that this deponent did act by a Commission sign'd by Gen Wahsington as Lieutenant at and in that battle, & received a wound in his hip, from which would deponent was conveyed to the Hospital & there remained untill restored & able to do duty in the army, shortly there after, deponent Volunteered for during the war; And was then Commissioned by Gen Washington as Captain of his life Guard & that he acted as such untill the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at the seige of little Yourk.

He now makes this Declaration to ask it of the Officers of the War Department at the City of Washington to admit this deponent to exhibit as soon as can be before there body such Commissions or dockament proof as will be sufficient to satisfy the Commissioner of Pensions that Deponent have rendered sevices in the Revolutionary War to a larger demand than that of a Private who served only Six Months, from & under a compyance to the above deponent respectfully do ask for the Department to allow & grant unto him such addition to his pension allowance of Pension as they may find by proofs by him to them here after Exhibited will present in his favour to their satisfaction. Sworn to & subscribed the da & year aforesaid before me.

Alexander hisXmark Williamson

Geo F Davidson J Peace/ D. L. Roach

NOTES:

Lt. Col. Daniel Clymer was a Pennsylvania Militia officer, not in the Continental ("regular") army.

The file contains a certificate of the character of Alexander Williamson with 20 signatures, dated 29 July 1850.

The duty of an Orderly Sergeant was to copy each day's orders, so an Orderly Sergeant would be expected to sign his own name if physically able.