

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James R. Alexander W2901

Dorcas Alexander

f62NC/MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/26/07 rev'd 6/20/14

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

State of Kentucky, Allen County

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Allen Circuit Court now sitting James R. Alexander a resident of said County & State aged 76 years on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 1832, 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

1<sup>st</sup> He was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 1756 in a house which stood on the line dividing States of Maryland & Pennsylvania.

2<sup>nd</sup> He states his age from the traditions of his family & the information given him by his parents. He has it also recorded in his own Bible at home – transcribed from his father's family record.

3<sup>rd</sup> He was living in Cecil County in Maryland when called into the service. He has since lived in Mecklenburg County N. C. and Allen County (late Warren County) Kentucky in which County & state he now lives.

4<sup>th</sup> In the year 1776 your applicant was a student in Nassau College N. J. On the coming of the British in that year to New York the alarm broke in college & your applicant returned to Cecil County Maryland, where on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1776 he enlisted as a private in the company of Captain Walter Alexander in the "Maryland flying Camp" (as it was called) on a four months tour. Immediately after joining the Army he was appointed Sergeant of the company and acted as such while with the company. But he was taken sick about one month after enlisting at Elkton at which place we had rendezvoused & were stationed and from which his company marched leaving him there confined by sickness. As soon thereafter as he was able to march he went with a company commanded by a Captain Evans to Philadelphia-- passed muster with said company as a soldier of Captain Alexander's company and went with said Evans' company by water to Trenton N. J. thence to Princeton. Here he left Evans' company and went on with another convalescent of his own company thence by New Brunswick & Newark to Havers town ferry (if he remembers right) on North River, where he joined his (Captain Alexander's company) and resumed the discharge of his duties as Sergeant in said company. From Havers town ferry he returned to Fort Lee. He entered the Fort after dark at night and on the next day the battle on York Island was fought between the enemy & Fort Washington [November 16, 1776]. It eventuated in the capture of the Fort. He saw the battle from Fort Lee but was not in it. This was about the middle of November 1776. About two days thereafter the British crossed the North River above Fort Lee and were bearing down upon it with a view to engage General Washington there stationed – But he retreated (vacating the Fort) thro' Princeton & Trenton – and there crossed the Delaware River. Our time of service having expired & our term of enlistment completed, he received a written discharge from his Captain on or about the first of December 1776 and then returned home. The lieutenant of Captain Alexander's company was named Harman; -- the Ensign Hamilton. He does not recollect the Colonel or the number of the Regiment to which he belonged. His Brigadier General to the best of his recollection was named Bell. His discharge is lost.

On his return home your applicant commenced the study of medicine. Having finished his course he returned to his father's – who lived in North Carolina. In the latter part of May (say about the 25<sup>th</sup>) 1780 – being some short time after Charleston (S. C.) had been taken [May 12, 1780] by the British under Lord Cornwallis and Colonel Buford's [Abraham Buford's] Regiment of Virginia troops been massacred [Battle of the Waxhaws, May 29, 1780] by Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] your applicant volunteered as a surgeon to assist in nursing & taking care of the sick & wounded who had survived those two disasters. He continued in this service until the British came up to Sharlotte [sic, Charlotte] in Mecklenburg County N. C. on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1780. The hospital was first kept in the Waxhaw settlement, S. C. in a Presbyterian Meeting house near the place of Buford's defeat – as soon as the sick & wounded were able to be moved they were carried to Charlotte N. C. at both of which places your applicant attended them. At the time the enemy reached Charlotte, most of the invalids had sufficiently recovered to go home and the hospital was broken up. Immediately upon the breaking up of the Hospital your applicant was appointed surgeon to a Regiment of Militia raised in Mecklenburg County (N. C.) commanded by Colonel William L. Davidson [William Lee Davidson]. His Regiment was first for a while stationed at Rocky River in company with a Col. William R. Davy [sic, William Richardson Davie] of Militia Cavalry – thence they both moved to Six Mile Creek between Charlotte & Camden where they joined Generals Smallwood [William Smallwood] & Morgan [Daniel Morgan] with their forces. While the Main Army were here a detachment under Colonel George Davidson & Colonel Washington took [December 4, 1780] Rugeley's Mill by the well-known stratagem of the painted black pine log cannon. Shortly after this time the American forces were a good deal divided & detached of the purpose of guarding particular fords on the Catawba River and defending particular towns, important passes &c, in that section of the Country. In this employment while guarding Cowan's Ford on said River Colonel William Lee Davidson was killed [February one, 1781] by a body of British who attempted to cross the River at that place – and who succeeded in doing so – and routed Colonel Davidson's Regiment having killed him as aforesaid. Here ended your applicant's services in the Revolution – on or about the last of February or first of March 1781.

Your applicant's recollection is imperfect as to the Regiment & officers of the regular service – when he reached Havers town ferry almost the first officer he remembers to have seen was General Putnam. He & Washington were the commanders. Washington first & he second over the American forces in that quarter. While your applicant was with Colonel Davidson, he became acquainted with two captains of the Delaware Light Infantry – viz. Robert Kirkwood & Paul Jackwatt. While in the Hospital department he became acquainted with Captain John Stokes of the Virginia line & Major Anthony Sharp of North Carolina. He (Captain Stokes) received 21 wounds at Buford's defeat. His right hand was cut off. He (your applicant) received no discharge for his services as surgeon. He has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify as to his service.

Recapitulation – On the first of August 1776 he enlisted as a private, but was immediately appointed Sergeant in Captain Alexander's Company. He served four months. As a surgeon in the Hospital near & at Charlotte (N. C.) four months & 20 days. As a surgeon of Colonel Davidson's Regiment he was engaged four months & 15 days – to the best of his recollection & belief and for such service he claims a pension. He has attempted above to answer the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> interrogatories prescribed by the War Department: in answer to the 7<sup>th</sup> He is known in his present neighborhood to Mark Garrison, John Salon, Edmund Waggoner--&c., who can justify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.  
S/ David Walker, Clk.

S/ J R Alexander



[Peyton Welsh, a clergyman, and Willis Mitchell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 35]

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

Robert Robison the present deponent being duly sworn in Solemn form of Law Deposeeth and Saith that he was intimately acquainted with Dr. James R. Alexander late of the Said County of Mecklenburg & State aforesaid, & as he believes now a Citizen of the State of Kentucky & County of Allen – that he this deponent knows of his own knowledge that the said Dr. James R. Alexander did Serve as a Surgeon in the Hospital where the sick and wounded lay while in the Waxhaws and likewise in the town of Charlotte perhaps in the year 1780 – and this deponent further States that he well believes the said Dr. James R. Alexander officiated and Served as Surgeon in the Army commanded by General Thomas Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] during the Ten Months Service in the State of South Carolina, exclusive of the above term in the Waxhaws & in the town of Charlotte & this deponent further saith not. Sworn to and subscribed before us the 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of March 1834.

S/ Matw.[sic, Matthew] Wallace, JP

S/ Dan Alexander, JP

S/ Robert Robison, Esqr.



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State of Kentucky Allen County May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1834

Sir;

I wrote you some time since on the subject of proof of my service as surgeon in the Hospital Department in the Waxhaw South Carolina & at Charlotte Mecklenburg County North Carolina taking care of the wounded of Col. Buford's Regiment massacred by Colonel Tarleton, as also of the Militia wounded in scimmages with the British & Tories together with my services as surgeon under General William Lee Davidson, & have no proof in this State by reason of death, that I wrote to two of my brothers in Mecklenburg County North Carolina one of them I knew (if living) could testify all my services in that department, the other was too young to remember much about it the letter to my two brothers being directed to be my eldest (my third & young brother informs me) was not taken out of the post office he being dead to whom it was directed. If I forget not, I mentioned as a circumstantial proof my having drawn specie indents from the State of North Carolina for those services, & expected to prove that circumstance by him who went with my father when I sent those indents to Congress but as one letter was not taken out of the office & the other accidentally destroyed his deposition was not taken. Enclosed I refer you the depositions of Captain William Alexander & Robert Robison both of Mecklenburg County North Carolina in both of which there is a mistake which I cannot let pass to you without noticing it (viz.) they certify their belief of my serving as Surgeon under General Thomas Sumter, instead of General William Lee Davidson. I cannot account for this mistake except in this way – I was with General Thomas Sumter nine weeks during that service & Captain William Alexander was a Captain in that Service under the then Colonel Wade Hampton, & could doubtless recollect my being there but I never made any claim for this service this might lead the other Deponent into the same mistake.

This same William Alexander I have understood was an acquaintance of President Jackson in Mecklenburg, if so he will recollect him by his nickname of Black William to distinguish him from others of the same name.

In my letter to you I mentioned the name of Captain John Stokes whose thumb & fingers of his right hand was taken off in the defeat in the Waxhaw. On lately reading the Biography of General

Andrew Jackson, I saw it stated that he studied law in Salisbury Rowan County North Carolina under John Stokes, if this statement is correct I make my appeal to the President whether I have not told some truth.

Truth to me Sir, is very precious I would not corrupt my character as a man of truth for all the pensions in the World what would it profit me to gain the whole world by a falsehood, and lose my own soul?

Being now in my 78<sup>th</sup> year, I must soon put off my [illegible word] & appear before a just Tribunal where my thoughts, words & Actions will all be weighed in an even balance, then what good would be largest pension that can be conceived obtained by fraud do me?

I rest my claim to the gratuity of my country on the veracity of the statements that have been made & subscribed myself.

Your unknown friend

S/ J. R. Alexander

No. B. I received your communications of the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of April last on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May which gave the information of the certain Dr. Seldon of Virginia he may probably be the man I referred to in my letter; yet could not prove my Services in the Waxhaw as he left us on removal of the hospital to Charlotte.

From yours, &c.

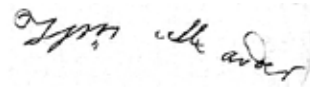
S/ J. R. Alexander

[p 51]

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

William Alexander the present deponent being Duly sworn deposes and sayeth that he was intimately acquainted with Dr. James R. Alexander late of the said County of Mecklenburg & State aforesaid and as he believes he is now a Citizen of the State of Kentucky & County of Allen that he this deponent knows of his own knowledge that he the said Dr. James R. Alexander did serve as a surgeon in the Town of Charlotte perhaps in the year 1780 and this deponent further states he well knows that the said Dr. James R. Alexander served as a surgeon in the Army commanded by General Thomas Sumter during the ten months Service in the State of South Carolina exclusive of the above term in the town of Charlotte. This deponent further saith not. Sworn to and subscribed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1834 before us.

S/ Wm Alexander

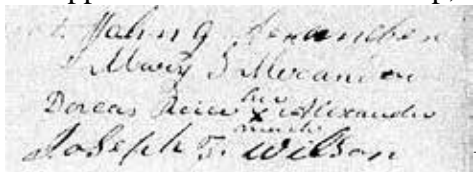


S/ Dan Alexander, JP

S/ Matw Wallace, JP

[p 15: May 9, 1839 in Allen County Kentucky, Dorcas Alexander, 72 years of age on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of last [illegibly faint] made application for a widow's pension 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James R Alexander; a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him November 26, 1789 in Mecklenburg County North Carolina; that her husband died March 11, 1836. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: On May 9, 1839 in Allen County Kentucky, Mary S Alexander, Dorcas Reice Alexander, John G Alexander & Joseph T Wilson gave testimony authenticating the information set forth by the widow in her application. Their relationship, if any, to the widow is not stated.



[p 18 family record [and math test]:

[JR A]lexander & Dorcas Garrison was married November 6, 1789 whose ages when added is 56 years 3 months & 6 days and the difference is 9 years & 9 months what is the sum of each

Silas Alexander was born May 10<sup>th</sup> 1791

Amanda Alexander was born February 6<sup>th</sup> 1793

Charles Grandison Alexander was born August 27<sup>th</sup> 1794

Mary Sample Alexander was born April 10<sup>th</sup> [?], 1796

Mark Alexander was born December 29, 1797

Abigail be Alexander was born November 8, 1799

Hannah Alexander was born August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1801

James Rankin Alexander was born July 5<sup>th</sup> 1803

John G Alexander was born March 4<sup>th</sup> [?], 1806

Dorcas Reese Alexander was born December 28, 1807

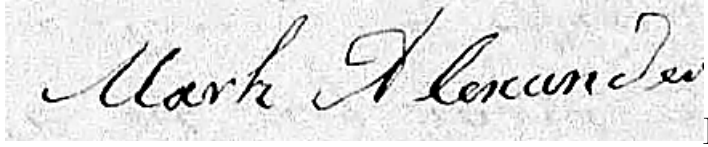
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Hannah Alexander was born Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> 1801  
James Rankin Alexander born July 5<sup>th</sup> 1803  
John G. Alexander born March 4<sup>th</sup> 1806  
Dorcas Reese Alexander born Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 1807

[p 37: On May 20, 1839 in Parke County Indiana, Mark Garrison gave testimony that James R Alexander formerly of Allen County Kentucky was a surgeon in the United States Army from the County of Mecklenburg in North Carolina; that Alexander married Dorcas Garrison in York County South Carolina in the year 1789 leaving Dorcas Alexander (formerly Dorcas Garrison) his widow and that she remains a widow. His relationship, if any, to the widow is not stated.

Mark Garrison

[p 22: In a power of attorney dated June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1856 and executed in Allen County Kentucky Mark

Alexander of said County and state states that he is the son and heir of James & Dorcas Alexander, deceased; that he claims in his own name and that of Silas, Charles G, Mary S, Abigail be, James R, John G, & Dorcas R Alexander the only surviving children and heirs at law of said James & Dorcas Alexander

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Alexander". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$103.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 4 months and as a surgeon for 4 to half months in the Maryland and North Carolina service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]