

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Alexander W5201
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah Alexander

f22NC
6/27/07 rev'd 7/13/14

[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.]

State of Tennessee Maury County: Court of pleas & quarter Sessions September Term 1832

On this 11th day of September personally appeared in open court before Robert Wortham, James Huey and John Vincent Justices of the Court of pleas & quarter Sessions of said County now sitting Elijah Alexander a resident of Maury County, Tennessee, aged Seventy Two 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 – (As written by himself)

That I was born in North Carolina, Mecklenburg County in the year 1760. I have a record of my age in my Father's Bible that I have transcribed into my own Bible, that I lived in the said County and state until 1819 when I moved to this Tennessee State & settled in Maury County where I now live.

In March 1780 there was brought in Charlotte Mecklenburg North Carolina a quantity of public powder and put into a magazine which had to be guarded. Colonel Thomas Polk (after General) made a demand of the nearest companies around to furnish their quota of men to guard the Magazine. With a promise that it should stand for a tour of duty, with my father's consent, I volunteered and was put under Thomas Alexander Captain (after Major) and served three months. Shortly after my Father William Alexander Blacksmith sent me to Maryland from whence I returned about the last of January 1781. About the first of February 1781 when Lord Cornwallis in pursuit of prisoners taken at Ferguson's defeat [Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780]¹ crossed the Catawba River at Cowan's Ford where General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed. There was a call for men. I again volunteered and we rendezvoused at a place called the big Rock now in Cabarrus County North Carolina under William Polk Major (after Colonel), Major James Harris and Captain Brownfield [probably John Brownfield], marched past Harris's Mill on Rocky River, Tanner's Mill on Caddle Creek and Caldwell's Mill near South Yadkin [River] the Creek I do not recollect the name of – Fords of the Yadkin I do not recollect. The Small Pox appeared in camp of which Moses Alexander a brother of the Governor of North Carolina died. Those who had not had the Small Pox were sent home to be inoculated – one of whom I was after I had served about one month. After the Battle of Guilford March 15th 1781, General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] returned to South Carolina to hold the British in check and recover the State if possible. There was another call for men to assist General Greene. I volunteered again and rendezvoused in Charlotte, North Carolina under Col. Thomas Polk and Captain James Jack March 1781 – marched from Charlotte along Lawyers Road so called – to Matthew Stevens' on Goose Creek on the Rocky River Road from thence towards Camden to the flat Rock – halted to hear of General Greene – Eat beef butchered on the Rock. From thence we marched towards the South expecting to meet Greene's Army coming on a road on our left, but we found that General Greene was gone on towards Camden – we followed but too late for the engagement that took place one mile North of Camden between Greene's and Rawdon's [armies] [Hobkirk Hill] – which took place

¹ Sic, the veteran was probably intending to refer to Tarleton's defeat at the Battle of the Cowpens, January 17, 1781.

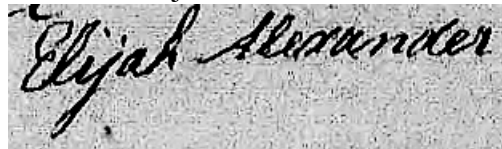
on the 25th or 26th of April 1781. In this engagement Greene's Militia gave way & the regulars forced to retreat lest [sic] the enemy should get in their rear-- but the regulars brought off a number of prisoners – we met them retreating – turned with them to Ridgley's [sic, Rugeley's] Mill 15 miles North of Camden at which place we stayed a week or more. Five of the Prisoners were proved to be deserters and all hung on one gallows. I saw it done. We, that is the company to which I belonged, the Militia were left near the conjunction of two roads for the double purpose of preventing Wagons or men from going too near or into Camden it not being known [illegible word] Greene proposed in the upper Country that Greene had left that vicinity and supplies were expected so Greene left a party of men to direct & protect if any should come. We had also to guard Tories brought in by Marion's men, some of these Tories were whipped (so soon as Court Martial was holden), others were sent to Jail or head quarters – when General Greene left vicinity of Rugeley's Mill he crossed the Wateree above Camden – Rawdon left Camden on the 9th or 10th of May 1781-- we were discharged verbally I suppose – as I recollect not to have gotten a written one.

I was three months at the Magazine in 1781 near four weeks towards Guilford until the appearance of the Small Pox as before stated & a part of March the whole of April & May 1781 will make six months at least – I was in no Battle – my Beloved Country must take the will [sic?] for the Deed.

I have no written testimony of my service. I know of no one whom I can prove my service in this Country it is possible I could find someone if I could get back to North Carolina. I recollect to have seen Colonel Washington of the horse in the South. I hereby relinquish 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Elijah Alexander



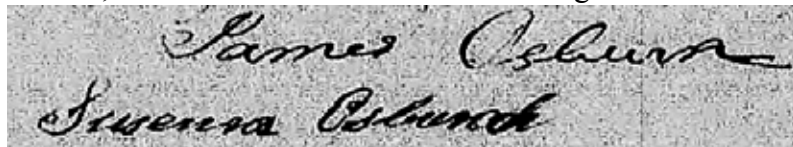
S/ Thos J. Porter, Clerk

[Hugh Shaw, a clergyman, Hugh King and James Shields gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[The veteran died Nov. 11, 1850 in Giles County, Tenn.]

[p 11: On November 21st, 1850 in Giles County Tennessee, Sarah Alexander, aged 88, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Elijah Alexander, late of Giles County Tennessee, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband died November 11, 1850 in Giles County Tennessee; that she was united in marriage to Elijah Alexander in the house of his grandfather in the County of Mecklenburg, state of North Carolina in June 1783; that the wedding took place in the presence of one Ruthie Clark, now aged about 86 years, the sister of her late husband; that said sister-in-law now lives in the State of Iowa. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 12: On November 21, 1850 in Giles County Tennessee, James Osburn and Susan Osborn, both 58 gave testimony in support of the widow's application for a pension; that the veteran and his wife lived together as man and wife in Mecklenburg County North Carolina and thereafter in their neighborhood enjoyed the reputation as man and wife; that the veteran and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church; that affiant Susan Osborn is the daughter of Sarah Alexander



James Osburn: Susanna Osburn]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]