

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Alexander McAlexander W5359

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia: At a Court held for Nelson County, at the Courthouse, on the 27th day of August 1834.
State of Virginia, Nelson County, to wit:

On this 27th day of August, 1834, personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Nelson County, now sitting, Alexander McAlexander, a resident of the said County and State of Virginia, aged about 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated; That to the best of his recollection, in the Spring of the year 1778 [sic], he then being a resident of the County of Amherst and State aforesaid, he was drafted from the Militia of the said County, and under the command of Capt. John Higginbotham and Lieut. Lindsay Coleman, and was marched to the barracks in the County of Albemarle, where he served in the character of a corporal one month, exclusive of the time it took his company to march to and from the said barracks, which he believes was not less than four days. That, whilst at the said barracks, they were employed in guarding the Saratoga Prisoners [Hessians captured at Saratoga NY on 17 Oct 1777 but not brought to Albemarle Barracks until Jan 1779]. That in the autumn and Winter of 1780 he joined a volunteer company raised for a tour of three months, intended to march to the aid of the Southern States, after the defeat of Gen'l. Gates [Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], that the company were to elect their own officers, which resulted in the choice of John Morrison as Captain, Thomas Ewers Lieutenant, and William Barnett Ensign, and the Declarant one of the Sergeants. that after the organization aforesaid, the said company and the Declarant with them, marched to the City of Richmond and Petersburg, where they joined Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson's brigade, and were under the command to the best of his recollection of Col. [Beverly] Randolph and Maj'r. [John] Holcomb, and that the period for which his said company had volunteered was three months, and delays having arisen in organizing the Brigade, it was found that the three months was nearly expired; whereupon it was proposed to the company to continue three months from that time, instead of three months from the day of their marching, but this proposition was only accepted by fourteen others and himself, of the company, which not being a command sufficient for our Officers, the whole company was discharged, and returned home, having served in the tour Two months. That this latter tour he performed as Orderly Sergeant to the Company, and for proof of that fact and the service, he refers to the affidavit of Charles Rodes marked A, herewith exhibited, and prayed to be taken as a part of this declaration. That in the month of January 1781, hearing of the invasion of [Gen. Benedict] Arnold and his presence in Richmond or Manchester, he joined a volunteer company from the said County of Amherst, under the command of Lieut. James Montgomery, and made a forced march to the City of Richmond, on reaching which place we found that the enemy had retired, and finding no troops stationed there, we were advised and did march to, and joined some Augusta Militia stationed at Falmouth, where we continued a few days, and then took up our line of march for Williamsburg, by which time and at which last mentioned place we found that the Amherst Militia had arrived; we were then offered to join the Amherst Militia and serve and have credit for a tour of duty or to be discharged and return without, the he preferred the former, and joined the company of Capt. James Barnett with whom he served a tour of three months, in the character of a sergeant to the company, for proof of which fact and of the service, he refers to the affidavit of Micajah Wheeler [pension application S7891] marked B, herewith exhibited, and also prayed to be taken as a part of this his declaration. That his whole service in both characters, viz: that of Corporal and Sergeant, was six months and four days – that he has no documentary evidence to support his said claims, and that he knows of no other living witnesses, other

than Wheeler and Rodes, by whom he could prove them. That as to the circumstances of his services, the first and second tour was barren of incidents, of the third and last he recollects that after joining Captn. Barnett at Williamsburg, they were marched to York Town, thence to the neighbourhood of Hampton, where they continued for a few days, thence returned to the half way house [Halfway House], between the two last named places, where they encamped some weeks, thence, marched to York, the second morning after this the enemy came to the half way house, on their way to Hampton, in which march they committed many depredations – that he recollects that a Col. Malory with a few Militia attempted to check them in their career, but was defeated and killed [sic: Francis Mallory, killed at Tompkins Bridge, 8 Mar 1781]. That understanding that the enemy were not advancing upon York Town, Captn. Tucker with seventy men under him, of which the Declarant was one, were detached by a forced march to the neighbourhood of Hampton, but on reaching that place we found that the enemy had gone on board their shipping, when the company returned to York Town, thence, with the other companies there, viz: three, composing a battalion, we returned to the half way house, where we erected new pine huts, and continued until the expiration of the said tour. That the field Officers during the last tour were Col. [Charles] Dabney and Major Campbell.

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.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court, and the answers thereto.

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, on the 1st May, 1756.

2nd. Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have no record of my age, but have seen it in my father's family bible, in the possession of my elder brother John.

3rd. Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived where born when first called into the service, that is in Amherst County Virginia, formerly [before 1761] a part of Albemarle, and now [since 1808] a part of Nelson, where I have lived since the Revolutionary War, and where I now live.

4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. My first tour I was drafted, the second I was a volunteer, the third I at first volunteered, and was then attached to a Militia company which was then serving under a draft, the last tour I did agree might be credited to my brother John who was very nigh to a marching division.

5th. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental or militia Regiments as you can recollect, and general circumstances of your service.

Answer. The lapse of time is so very great, I recollect but little more than is stated in my Declaration – At the Barracks I recollect Col. [Francis] Taylor of the regulars, who commanded at that time.

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

Answer. I never did receive any written discharge from the service, nor do I believe it was usual to give such, in those days.

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Answer. There is no minister residing in my immediate neighbourhood, but I expect that Lee W. Harris and Nicholas L. Martin who reside in my neighbourhood will so certify.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. Alexander McAlexander.

A

Nelson County, to wit: This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, at his own house, Charles Rodes, and made oath according to law, that he is a soldier of the Revolution, and that during that period he knew Alexander McAlexander in the fall and part of the Winter of 1780 in a march from where Lovingsston (Nelson County) is now, until we were discharged at the Long Ordinary near Petersburg. Our Captain was John Morrison – Thomas Jones Lieut – Alexander served as a Sergeant, and the tour was more than two months. Given under my hand this 28th June 1834.

Nelson County, to wit: I William B. Harris the Justice of the Peace before whom the foregoing affidavit was made, do hereby certify, that it appears to me, that Charles Rodes, the affiant, is a credible person, and that his evidence is entitled to credit.

Given under my hand this 28th day of June 1834.

Wm. B. Harris

B

Nelson County, to wit: This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, at his own house Micajah Wheeler, and made oath, according to law, that he is a soldier of the Revolution, and that he knew Alexander McAlexander in the Winter 1781, at the half way house between York and Hampton, under the command of Col. Dabney and Maj'r. Campbell, and Capt'n. James Barnett, and that he served as a Sergeant, and the tour was three months. Given under my hand this 10th day of May 1834.

Benjamin Harris.

Nelson County, to wit: I Benjamin Harris, the Justice of the Peace before whom the foregoing affidavit was made, do hereby certify, that Micajah Wheeler, the affiant, is a credible person, and that his evidence is entitled to credit.

Given under my hand this 10th day of May 1834.

Benjamin Harris

NOTES:

On 4 May 1844 Martha McAlexander, 75, of Nelson County VA, applied for a pension stating that she married Alexander McAlexander on 2 March 1786, and he died in Nelson County on 30 Jan 1840. As proof, she submitted an original family record transcribed below. The file also includes a copy of a bond signed on "27th Day of 1786" for the marriage of "Alexander McAlexander, Batchelor, and Patsey Burnett, spinster, both of the County of Amherst," with Mathew Harris signing as surety. On 1 May 1844 Mrs. Patsy Martin, 74, of Nelson County, stated that Alexander and Martha McAlexander had several children who were then over 50 years of age. Mrs. Sarah Roberts, 75, made a similar statement, adding that the marriage was officiated by a Rev. Irvine. On 25 May 1849 Martha McAlexander's son, David R. McAlexander, gave his address as Lovingsston.

Alexander MacAlexander and Patsey Burnett married March 2^d. 1786

Jane MacAlexander born 14th Jan'y. 1787

William McAlexander born 1st January 1789

John McAlexander born 24th April 1791

James McAlexander born 23^d Nov. 1793

Edmund Tucker McAlexander born 22^d. Feb. 1796

Alexander Waugh McAlexander born 28th July 1798

Patsey Burnett McAlexander born 8th Nov. 1800

Amelia Carlisle McAlexander born 28 Dec'r. 1802

Samuel Ramsey McAlexander born 5th April 1804

David Robinson McAlexander born 6th. Dec'r. 1806

Joseph Roberts McAlexander born 1st. May 1809