

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Alexander Sutherland (Wallace) W6610 Elizabeth Sutherland MD VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia }
County of Wayne } SS

On this 25th day of March 1847 personally appeared before me John Wellman the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County duly authorized by law to administer Oaths, Elizabeth Sutherland a resident of said County of Wayne aged Eighty four years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Provisions of the Acts of Congress passed June 7th 1832, and July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" also of the Acts of March 3rd 1843 and of June 17th 1844 extending for five years the benefits and provisions of said Act of July 7, 1838. That she is the Widow of Alexander Sutherland alias Alexander Wallace that he was illegitimate and may have enlisted under the name of Wallace, that said Wallace was a soldier in the War of the Revolution that he enlisted when about fifteen years old either in the state of Maryland or in the town of Alexandria under an officer by the name of Smallwood [Capt. Hebard Smallwood; see endnote], that he afterwards joined the Virginia Troops, that he first enlisted for three years and served as a Drummer, that he was taken a prisoner in Charleston S.C. [12 May 1780] and while a prisoner received a discharge from Col Guess [Nathaniel Gist of VA] who was also a prisoner at the same time, that when a prisoner he made his escape, and as this declarant has often heard him the said Sutherland say that he the said Southerland lost his discharge in wading or swimming Ashe River [sic: Ashley River west of Charleston], and this declarant further states that she has often heard her husband the said Alex'r Sutherland say that he the said Sutherland served four years in the War of the revolution, and this declarant verrily beleives that he the said Southerland served the lenght of time in said War as before stated namely four years; she further states that she has often heard heard her late husband the said Sutherland speak of many incidents of said war, and other officers under whom he served, but the foregoing are all that she can now remember.

She further declares that she was published and married to the aforesaid Alexander Sutherland by the Revd Mr. Johnson in the County of Bedford in the State of Virginia on or about the 27th day of July 1784, that she knows of no record of said marraige unless there is one in said Bedford County, that there is no family record of said marraige, that her husband the said Alexander Sutherland died in the County of Cabell and in the present limits of said County of Wayne on the 29th day of January 1839; that she was not marraided to him prior to his leaving the service but before the first day of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety four Viz at the time above stated Elizabeth herXmark Sutherland

State of Virginia }
County of Wayne } SS

The deposition of John Wellman Esq a resident of said County taken this 26th day of March 1847 before me Samuel Webb a Justice of the Peace in and for said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath state that he is sixty six years of age, that he was personally acquainted with Alexander Sutherland alias Wallace who was computed and believed to have been a soldier in the War of the Revolution, this deponant woud say that his first acquaintance with said Sutherland was in the Month of November 1804 when on a hunt, that this deponent with several others was out on a hunt and that he camped out for several weeks, and that said Sutherland was also out on a hunt & was endeavoring to make his way home, but was lost & this deponant came across him in the woods and took him the said Sutherland to this deponants camp and he the said Sutherland staid all night & in the morning this deponant piloted him the said Sutherland on to water courses that said Sutherland might find his way home & from the year 1804 before spoken of to the death of said Sutherland this deponant was intimately acquainted with said Sutherland & family. And this deponent would farther say that he has often heard

said Sutherland speak of serving in the War of the Revolution as a Drummer, that he was young when he first enlisted, that he was taken prisoner in Charleston, that he has heard the said Sutherland say that old Mr. Randalls a Revolutionary Pensioner [see endnote] served in the same regiment with said Sutherland that said Randalls was a Drummer, and this deponent would farther say that said Sutherland untill about the year 1832 was in comfortable circumstances and did not stand in need of assistance from his Country for support, that about the year 1832 or thereafter he the said Sutherland became blind & was in reduced circumstances, that he the said Sutherland applied to this deponent to assist him in obtaining a pension, that this deponent applied to Mr Randalls before spoken of and this deponent thinks his name was John Randalls, that said Randalls said he knew said Sutherland in War of the Revolution as a Drummer, that they the said Sutherland & Randalls served at one time in the same Regiment, that said Randalls lived at one time in the County of Cabell in Virginia & afterwards removed to and died in the state of Ohio, and this deponent cannot say where said Randalls resided when he established his claim to a pension, or whether he received his pension in Virginia or Ohio. And this deponent would farther say that said Randalls promised to meet said Sutherland at Cabell Court and to testify as to the service of said Sutherland in the war aforesaid, but was prevented by sickness and was not able at any time thereafter to attend Cabell Court & soon after died.

And this deponent would farther say that when this deponent first knew said Sutherland that said Sutherland had a wife whose name is Elizabeth, that in the year 1805 they had children grown, and this deponent would farther say that his present wife is a daughter of said Alexander & Elizabeth Sutherland, that she was their fourth child and that she is now fifty six years of age; that all the time he knew or of his acquaintance with said Alexander and wife Elizabeth they lived together as man & wife untill the death of said Alexander which took place in what is now Wayne County but was then Cabell in the Month of January 1838 or 39. And this deponent further beleives that that they were legally & lawfully married that he never heard any thing to the contrary – that said Sutherland was considered and esteemed as a person of truth & veracity & this deponent verrily beleives that said Sutherland did serve in the War of the Revolution and further saith not – And further states that said Elizabeth is now and has ever been since the death of said Alexander a widow & further saith not. [signed] John Wellman

State of Virginia, County of Wayne Sct.

on this 21st day of January AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty one personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County, Elizabeth Sutherland a resident of Wayne County Virginia aged Eighty eight years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Acts of Congress, passed on the 2^d day of February 1848, also the provisions of the acts and Joint Resolution passed on the 3^d day of March 1837 and 17th of June 1844 and the joint Resolution passed on the 16th day of August 1842 granting five years pay, half pay &c to certain surviving widows of Revolutionary officers & Soldiers. That she is the widow of Alexander Sutherland (or Southerland) alias Alexander Wallace, who was a private and Drummer in the Company of Virginia Militia [sic] (she believes) Commanded or recruited into the service of the United States under Captain or Col Smallwood a recruiting officer at Alexandria now in the District of Columbia in the year 1776 or 1777 in the Regiment commanded by Col. not recollected and that after being recruited or enlisted into the service, the Company and perhaps Regiment to which he belonged, was consolidated with the Maryland troops, and from there they were marched South through the State of Virginia [late 1779], where he was in several engagements, or battles, and then was marched from Virginia into South Carolina, and was in the battle [siege] at Charleston and was taken prisoner by the British, and compelled to enroll himself in the British Service, but soon made his escape, and joined the Army under General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene; see endnote]. That he was also in Gen'l. Gates defeat at Camden [Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], in the month of August, probably in the year 1780, which was after Charleston had been surrendered by Gen'l [Benjamin] Lincoln, and that he continued in the service under one engagement for the term of three years, and after enlisting the second time (when he escaped from the British) he continued in actual service until

some time in the year 1781, and was honorably discharged, she believes by General ["Gist or Guess" interlined] Green, but does not know the exact time or place, and that his discharge was lost or destroyed by swimming the Ashley, Cooper or Savannah River, (being old and consequent loss of memory) she cannot now recollect correctly the history of her deceased husbands service. She further declares that she has always understood from her husband while living, that he served under Gen'ls Green, Gates, Lincoln Guess or Gist [Mordecai Gist] and probably [Charles] Lee, and [William] Smallwood and particularly under Gen'l Green and Gist or Guess until he was relieved by Gen'l. Anthony Wayne. She further swears that her deceased husband, Alexander Sutherland (alias Wallace) entered the service of the United States at the place above stated on or about the [blank] day of [blank] 1777 and continued in actual service in the War of the Revolution (first for the term of three years, and second for the term of one year and upwards, making the full term of four years. She further swears that she has no Documentary or record evidence of the services of said Alexander Southerland, Alias Alexander Wallace, and that she does not know now of any one living by whom she can prove the same, and therefore refers to the Muster Rolls and Adjutant Generals office, where she believes the name and services of said Sutherland, Alias Wallace, will be found. And that her pension which she is justly entitled to will be granted her. She further declares by way of explanation the reason why her husband was called Sutherland and Wallace. His mother was named Peggy Wallace, and he was by her the illegitimate sone of Alexander Sutherland, and afterwards was married to him, and then he was called Alexander Sutherland. She further declares that she does not know under which of said names he was enrolled in the service. And therefore refers to the Records of both names, but thinks the one most likely to be found is Sutherland, (or Southerland) but relies upon both. She further declares that her late husband, the aforesaid Alexander Sutherland, alias Wallace, died in Wayne County State of Virginia on the 21st day of January 1839 (then Cabell County) and that previous to his death he had resided in the Counties of Kanawha & Cabell, State of Virginia from the year 1799 up to the time of his death. She further declares that she has never before made any application for a pension. She further declares that she is still a widow. Elizabeth herXmark Sutherland

State of Virginia, County of Wayne Ss.
on this 7th day of August 1851 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County Elizabeth Sutherland who amends her declaration for a pension now on file as follows. That owing to old age and consequent loss of memory, she might have been mistaken as to what state troops Alexander Sutherland alias Wallace her husband was attached, but now believes he was in the second Brigade of the Maryland line, state troops, or militia under General Smallwood. And the other officers she does not know or now recollect, and that they were rendezvoused at Alexandria Virginia, and that she believes that is the reason why she might have been mistaken as to the state in which he belonged at the time of enlisting and entering the service. Se further swears that she might have been mistaken as to the term of enlistment & services of her husband but refers to the declaration & papers of Alexander Sutherland (alias Wallace) on file and all the Rolls of the War Department &c for the same. Elizabeth herXmark Sutherland

State of Virginia } Sct
County of Wayne }
on this 3rd day of January AD one thousand eight hundred and fifty three personally appeared John Wellman Esqr a resident of said County of Wayne state of Virginia aged seventy four years and Samuel Webb Esqr of the County & State aforesaid aged seventy years who being severally sworn according to Law deposeh and saith that they were intimately acquainted with Alexander Sutherland, (alias Wallace) for many years previous to his death, and that they each had often heard him say – that he was a Drummer in the Revolutionary war, that we have often saw him use a Drum and that he seemed to use it as tho he had been acquainted with its use before, they severally swear that they allways understood from said Alexander Sutherland (alias Wallace) that he served in Capt Jones's [Strother Jones BLWt2442-300] Company in the Regiment Commanded by Col Guess or Gist in said war. That when he left the service he

assumed the name of Alexander Sutherland owing to his having been illegitimate of which facts from his own statements we have never entertained a doubt either as to his services in the Revolution or of his being a drummer in said war under the above named officers, or of his being illegitimate. They further swear that he was a creditable person and that his statements in his lifetime were entitled to Credit and full belief; they severally swear that they have no knowledge of his ever having made application for bounty Land or of his ever receiving any for his services but from our knowledge of him during his lifetime we do not believe he ever did, that Elizabeth Sutherland the present applicant for a Pension is well known to us as a credible person and that full faith and Credit ought to be given to her statements

[signed] John Wellman [signed] Sam'l Webb

NOTE:

Hebard Smallwood was a Captain in Col. William Grayson's Additional Continental Regiment, which comprised mainly soldiers from Virginia, but also some from Maryland and Pennsylvania. According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra (*A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution*), the regiment was organized in 1777 but after being weakened by an epidemic of smallpox it was taken into Col Nathaniel Gist's Additional Continental Regiment. The soldiers thus transferred included those in the company of Captain Strother Jones.

Gen. Nathanael Greene succeeded Gen. Horatio Gates as commander of the Southern Department on 3 Dec 1780.

I could not find a pension applicant named Randalls or any similar name who was a drummer in either the Maryland or Virginia line.

The file contains a statement that no record could be found in Bedford County VA of the marriage of Alexander Sutherland and Elizabeth Ellison.

On 26 March 1847 Samuel Webb, 58, stated that "he himself was married in the year of 1809, and that Lydia a daughter of said Alexander & Elizabeth was married before this deponent, and this deponent states that said Alexander & Elizabeth had children older than this deponent."

On 21 Jan 1851 John Wellman swore to the following: "Some time in the year 1834 or 1835 he was employed by the said Alexander Sutherland alias Wallace to go to Barboursville in Cabell County Virginia to get the Deposition of one Henry Peyton & one Turley both old Soldiers of the Revolution, but the day before he Turley was to give his deposition, he got drowned in the Mud River and I was prevented from getting his proof but in conversing previous with them, they told me they had known Alexander Sutherland well in the Revolutionary Army for a long time and that they served there together." Henry Peyton (VAS1846) stated in his petition to Virginia that he had served as follows: " in the Regiment commanded by Col [Francis] Taylor; that your petitioner was for some time on Guard of the British Prisoners confined at Albemarl Barricks as a Sargent; he was a Soldier at the Battle of Guilford Court House [15 Mar 1781] in Capt Jno. Dillard's [John Dillard's] company of Amherst – he was afterwards at the Siege of York Town [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]."