Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Alexander S6496 f76NC[1]

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 7/16/14 rev'd 1/31/18 & 6/22/20 & 4/28/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 12]

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina

The Petition of William Alexander of Mecklenburg County respectfully sheweth to your Honorable body, that during the revolutionary Between the United States and Great Britain, your Petitioner served a number of successive Tours of duty in the militia of this State between the years 1775 and 1783 besides a tour of ten months as a Captain in the State of South Carolina commonly called the State Troops, your Petitioner begs leave to state that in all the services he performed he acted in the capacity of Captain. That compensation for his services was but a small object in his view at that time. He is advised that he has not come under the act of Congress granting pensions to wounded or disabled Soldiers, he being but the one Tour of duty that exceeded nine months and never was wounded in the service.

Your Petitioner is now about 70 years of age and is infirm as to your honors may believe from his services performed for his Country, your Petitioner from causes that he had not control over, and which thinks it unnecessary to relate, has become in indigent circumstances, and is not able by his own labor, or any other means in his power to procure a subsistence of the necessarys [sic] of life for himself and his aged infirm wife.

Your Petitioner therefore respectfully prays your Honorable body to grant to him a Pension such as your Honors may think he ought to have to smooth his downhill (and probably short) passage through life and he as in duty bound will ever pray.

S/ Wm Alexander

We the subscribers are well acquainted with Captain William Alexander and have been well acquainted with him were near fifty years and certify that the statements made in the foregoing petition is fair and true statements.

S/ Wm Hutchison
S/ Geo. Graham
S/ Will. Polk

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing is the evidence and that only evidence on which he General Assembly of this State granted a Pension to Capt. William Alexander of the County of Mecklenburg in this state

[1] Fold3.com. has erroneously included this veteran's documents among those indexed under the name of William Alexander S1893. The page numbers given in this transcript are for the entire S1893 file, including the pages relating to Capt. Wm Alexander.

Given under my hand this 24th day of June 1835
S/ W. Hill

[p 17]
State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina at the August Term thereof now sitting William Alexander aged 83 years, born in Bucks County Pennsylvania & now a resident of the County and State aforesaid 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 Colonel Adam Alexander as a Captain in the United States service that he went out for ~~three months~~ six weeks and was at the head of the Catawba – the object of this tour was to protect the Valley of the Catawba from the incursions of the Cherokee Indians during the time they were gathering in their harvest – that this was about the year 1776 that he again went out against the Cherokee Indians up to the head of the River Catawba and across the Ridge – that Colonel Adam Alexander and General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] were his superior officers – he himself being a Captain of a company – that in this campaign he served five months – that this tour was performed in the year 1776. That he again was in the service of the United States as a Captain of militia under Colonel Francis Locke – that he marched from Charlotte N. C. to Camden or in the neighborhood thereof and was going on to Charleston which had been in the possession of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- that after its fall,[2] his Colonel stopped at Camden and there went into [2 undeciphered words][3] until the time for which he volunteered expired which was for three months. He again served as a Captain under Colonel Williams and Ezekiel Polk in a six weeks tour and went in pursuit of a Tory Captain by the name of Cunningham [probably William Cunningham, a/k/a William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham]. He again served under General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] for four months as a Captain and was at the Battle of Camden at Gates defeat [August 15-16, 1780][4] – that he was at the Battle of Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780][5] – and at the Battle of the Hanging Rock [August 6, 1780][6] – and he was at the battle of Walkup's [Walkup's or Wahabs Plantation, September 21, 1780][7] during the period of that four months service – That he ~~was~~ again entered the service of the United States as a Captain under Colonel Thomas Polk and went to Goulding Grove on Reedy Creek in the State of South Carolina on a trip of six weeks – and at that place we defeated a body of Tories where they took 200 Tories prisoners – Cunningham [presumably a reference to Robert Cunningham] was the leader of the Tories[8] – this is commonly called the snow-campaign on this expedition he served with William Polk now of Raleigh who was at time wounded severely – He again entered the

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[2] Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780. Siege of Charleston http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/ & https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/

[3]

[4] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html
[5] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html
[6] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html
[7] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_wahabs_plantation.html
[8] Veteran appears to be referring to an action known as the Snow Campaign which occurred in December 1775. Robert Cunningham is not known to have been in that campaign. The Loyalists there were under the command of Col. Thomas Fletchall. https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_snow_campaign.html

service of the United States as a Captain for three months under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and acted under the orders and command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] – during this period he was dispatched to Fayetteville by the orders of General Greene – immediately preceding the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781][9] – he was not in that engagement himself having taken the small pox and being at that time incapable of performing duty. He again was out under the command of General Rutherford and served for six weeks just before the battle of Ramsour's [June 20, 1780][10] in Lincoln County, he was not in that engagement with the Tories being with Rutherford at the time the battle was fought, he arrived upon the ground a short time after and attended to the wounded and the burying of the dead. He again entered the service of the United States as a Captain under General Sumter in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment and was the first Captain who arrived from North Carolina at the place of rendezvous with his men he volunteered or enlisted in the service of the State of South Carolina for ten months and received his commission from General Sumter – which commission is lost or destroyed – during the time that he acted as a Captain in the State Troop of South Carolina in the first Regiment under General Sumter – Colonel Hampton being his Colonel he was actively engaged. He was engaged in the fight at the quarter House [July 15, 1781][11] – at the Battle of Moncks Corner [probably a reference to the action at Goose Creek Bridge, July 15, 1781][12] – at the taking of Fort Johnson and Friday's Fort [Fort Granby, May 14, 1781][13] – at the capture of Orangeburg [May 11, 1781].[14]

And was in the Battle of Eutaw [September 8, 1781][15] and was discharged at Winnsboro in the State of South Carolina by General Sumter-- that he was out at other times for short periods and always held himself ready to perform duty at any time – he is old and his memory – not as good as it has been – and is not able to remember the particular periods of the revolutionary war – when he was called into service – but refers to the Battles and Campaigns in which he was in as stated in the premises as [undeciphered word—looks like 'epoches' or 'spodes'][16] to ascertain those facts – they being well known – he has no documentary evidence of his commission as Captain – that which he received from Sumter being lost – and that he always acted from the first time he entered the service of the United [States] in Mecklenburg County as a Captain – that his discharges are all lost – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present – and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State except the pension Roll of North Carolina – he can prove his services in the ten months tour in South Carolina by the oath of John Gardner and Isaac Alexander and William Hutchinson as to his other services he could prove it by the evidence of many persons but whose evidence it would be inconvenient and expensive to obtain – the whole term of his service being two years and eight months & that since the Revolution has always lived in Mecklenburg N. C.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Alexander, A his mark

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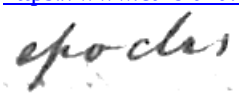
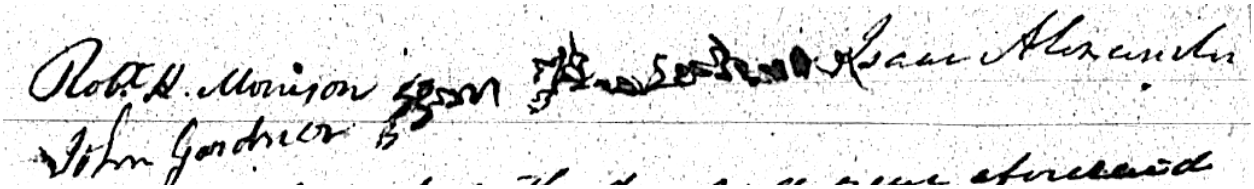
[9] https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html
[10] https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html
[11] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_quarter_house.html
[12] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_goose_creek_bridge.html
[13] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fort_granby_2.html
[14] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html
[15] https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html
[16] 

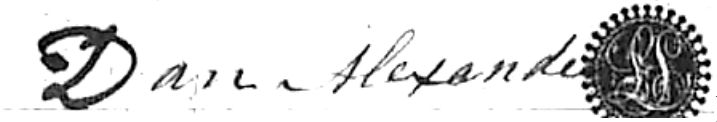
Robert Hall Morrison a clergyman residing in the County of Mecklenburg, John Gardner, William Hutchinson and Isaac Alexander residing in the County of Mecklenburg hereby certify that [we] are all well acquainted with William Alexander who has Sworn and subscribed to the above declaration, that we believe him to be eighty three years of age –that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion – John Gardner further swears that he served as a private under the said Captain William Alexander twice – once on a tour mentioned in his declaration when he went to Camden under General Francis Locke – and when he was under Colonel Wade Hampton and General Sumter in the service of the State Troop of South Carolina for the term of ten months – and that he was in the battles mentioned in his declaration – the tour to Camden was just about the time [of] Lincoln's surrender at Charleston in the year 1780. The time of his entering the service of the State Troops was soon after the Battle of Guilford 1781, some time in the spring of the same year – William Hutchinson further swears that he served in the same expedition with Captain William Alexander against the Cherokee Indians under General Rutherford and was out about five months – Isaac Alexander further swears the same thing.

S/ Robt H. Morrison
S/ Wm Hutchison[17]
S/ Isaac Alexander[18]
S/ John Gardner[19]



[Veteran died December 19, 1836]

[p 25: On April 12, 1856 in Mecklenburg County North Carolina, Dan Alexander, 70, filed a power of attorney in which he states he is the only surviving child of Captain William Alexander a revolutionary war pensioner.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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $530 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending December 19, 1836, the date of his death. His pension was increased from its initial amount of $480 per annum.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts[20] relating to William Alexander AA36
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 72

[Note: This file contains documents relating to more than one individual named "William Alexander." Note the page numbers to find documents relating to a particular veteran by that name.]

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[17] **William Hutchison (Hutchinson) W10133**
[18] **Isaac Alexander S6487**
[19] **John Gardner S6877**
[20] The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/.

[p 6: Form of Indent No. 2048, Book X dated September 26, 1787 issued to Captain William Alexander in the sum of 34 pounds 8 Shillings and 6 pence Sterling "for arrears of Cloathing due him for service in Sumter's Brigade State Troops per Certificate from the Commissioners for Adjusting the Claims of that Brigade &c…."]

[p 8: Form of Indent No. 2049, Book X dated September 26, 1787 issued to Captain William Alexander in the sum of 14 pounds 11 Shillings and 11 pence Sterling "for arrears of Cloathing due him for Service in Sumter's Brigade State Troops per Certificate from the Commissioners for adjusting the Claims of that Brigade...."]

[p 10: Form of Indent No. 271, Book B dated October 3, 1791 issued to Captain William Alexander in the sum of 161 pounds 4 shillings and 3 pence "being for sundry Accounts certified by Brigadier General Thomas Sumter and Colonel Richard Richardson as Commissioners for settling the Accounts of the State Troops.]

[p 11: Form of Indent No. 280, Book B dated October 3, 1791 issued to William Alexander in the amount of 206 pounds 13 Shillings being for sundry Accounts certified by the Commissioners for settling the Accounts of the State Troops."]
[p 13]
Received 7th of June 1787 My Indent for two hundred & four pounds 8/ together with three years Interest.

S/ Wm Alexander

[pp 14-27: petitions filled by William Alexander and/or Thomas Cullen, his attorney, seeking authorization from the SC Legislature to pay Alexander for various claims he had purchased from others for supplies and services rendered during the war. These petitions were examined and the claims denied because of lack of formal evidence supporting the claims.]

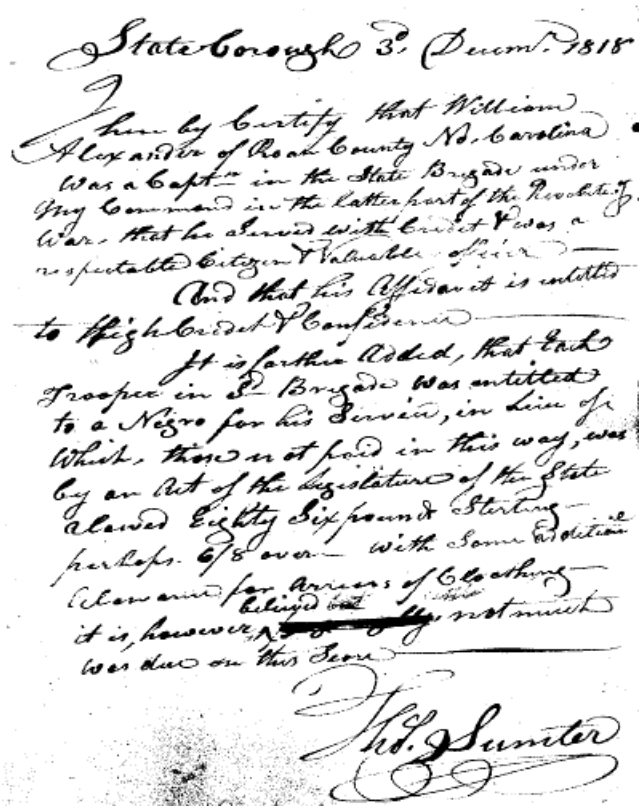
[p 28]
Stateborough 3rd December 1818
I here by Certify that William Alexander of Roan [Rowan] County No. Carolina was a Captn in the State Brigade under My Command in the latter part of the Revolutionary War – that he served with Credit & was a respectable Citizen & Valuable Officer –

And that his Affidavit is entitled to High Credit & Confidence –

It is further added, that Each Trooper in said Brigade was entitled to a Negro for his Service, in lieu of which, those not paid in this way, was by an Act of the Legislature of the State Alowed Eighty Six pounds Sterling[21] – perhaps 6/8 over – with some additional Alowance for Arrears of Cloathing – it is, however, believed not much was due on this Score –

S/ Thos. Sumter

[21] The South Carolina Legislature on April 1, 1784 passed a resolution authorizing the payment to privates who served in Sumter's Brigade of Ten-Month State Troops and who did not receive payment in the form of slaves confiscated from the estates of Tories at the rate of Ninety four pounds Sterling. This payment was in lieu of one grown slave and the balance of bounty due.



State Borough 3d Decm. 1818

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Thos. Sumter

[p 31-32: I think this is a listing of the claims acquired by William Alexander for which he sought reimbursement from SC]

The State of South Carolina

To William Alexander	Dr.	
Certificate from General Sumter for a Negro girl		
Moses Shelby probate for a horse		£24
William McDonnell clothing Bill horse saddle and accoutrements		
James Gillespie Clothing Bill		
Robert Sloan Do		
Moses Shelby Do		
Nathaniel Giles for an indent lost Receipt for 3 Negro children property of the State of South Carolina		£305
William Alexander probate for a Horse lost in the service appraised at		£21
Certificate of Samuel Hemphill's Service of a wagon in the service and discharge		
Daniel Johnson's claim for service for himself and horse and saddle lost		
William Orr wagon service		
William Born's power of attorney to William Alexander		
Alexander Linn's clothing Bill		£5.10.6
John Culbreath 43 days wagon hire		
Thomas Johnson's order to William Hemphill for the Some due him from the State for his services		
Rheinhardt Brenner clothing Bill		£6.6.2

Samuel Hemphill account and Order	
Thomas Smith's probate for a Horse	£11
Abram Knowles' clothing Bill	
William Hale [could be William Hall] for services	
Hugh King's for a Brown mare	£195
William McDaniel's claim for services	

Officers And Soldiers From N.C. Who Served In Gen. Sumter's Brigade, Petition Asking The House To Aid Them In Seeking Relief For Their War Services. (4 Pages) Date: 12/12/1793[22]

To the Honorable President & Members of the Senate of South Carolina in General Assembly met & Sitting –

The Memorial of Alexander Martin Administrator of Captain Samuel Martin, Lieutenant Colonel William Polk, Captain William Hutchinson & Captain William Alexander for themselves and in behalf of a number of the Citizens of North Carolina who served as Officers & Soldiers in the Brigade commanded by General Sumter [Thomas Sumter] in the service of this State in the late War humbly Sheweth –

That your memorialists in the late War in their several Capacities as officers & soldiers exerted themselves & contributed all in their power to assist this State in freeing themselves from a Destroying Enemy as well as to the Common Cause of Liberty in the United States.

That it is well known to this House that a Considerable portion of the Troops of said Brigade were raised and enlisted in the State of North Carolina & that they were induced to furnish themselves with Horses and Arms at a great expense at that hazardous and distressing period of the War by the Assurances of the Authority of this State, that they should be immediately rewarded by a payment of Negroes taken from the Enemy & persons disaffected to our Cause and appropriated to the payment of those who would embark their property and risk their Lives in that service. (The Currency of the State being then of little Value and the prospect of other resources very distant.)

That as very few of those Troops received Negroes for their services, The State after the war directed that they should receive Indents in lieu thereof, for such sums as had there been funds to discharge them, would have done credit to the Justice & liberality of the State, & have been an ample compensation for their services.

That your Memorialists herein named have often been applied to by a number of the Soldiers who served under them to assist them in obtaining their Pay, & were bound by the Ties of An Officer to a Soldier to render them that Assistance & the accordingly received regular Powers of Attorney to settle with this State & some of them have claims of their Own yet unsatisfied.

That the settlement of the Claims of the State troops was by the Legislature committed to certain Commissioners appointed, some years ago, some of whom are since dead.

That there being no regular office kept for that purpose open for Inspection of the Accounts & Claims of persons they have met with insurmountable difficulties and obstructions in obtaining their pay, & many of them who Served faithfully and were regularly returned & had their Accounts properly certified & lodged can get no authentic information what has become of them. That many of them for whom Indents have been issued have great reason to believe they

[22] This document was found posted online by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and was found by searching on its website the name "Alexander, William." The link to their website can be found at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/.

have been drawn out under fraudulent & counterfeited Orders, which they have it not in their power to detect as they cannot come at the Vouchers, nor obtain any Remedy in Law or elsewhere.

That from the Resolutions of the last Session that those accounts & Vouchers should be lodged with the Commissioners in Charleston to Settle with your Memorialists, many of them have been to Charleston to draw their Indents, but were informed no such were lodged & that a Bill in Equity had been filed against the Commissioners to compel them to deliver up the Accounts Vouchers & Indents in their hands.

That by traveling from office to office & from Commissioner to Commissioner many of them have already expended the value of any Considerable part of their pay, & appeared to be no nearer the Attainment of the object then at the Close of the War especially if they have to wait the Event of a Suit in Chancery, which may not be terminated in a shorter period then the Contest in which they earned the Money due them from this State; & that by every Days delay they are liable by Death or removal of Witnesses to lose all chance of remedy.

They submit to the Consideration of this Honorable House whether it is just & right, that they should be placed & continued in this situation, And whether they have not a right to ask & demand of the State if not their money at least the indents granted them. And whether it is consistent with the Justice and Dignity of this State to postpone so considerable a number of months Creditors till the termination of a Law Suit with Individuals or their own Officers.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray your Honorable house to point out some mode by which they may obtain speedy & effectual Relief, and that they will Grant such Relief as in their wisdom they shall think proper.

Signed by direction & order of the Memorialist

S/ D. Brown, Agent