Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Alexander [1] W1530 Jean Alexander f38NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 2007 rev'd 7/14/14

[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 North Carolina, Burke County: Court of Pleas and Order Sessions October Court 1832

On this 26th day of January 1832 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record before the Justices holding said Court now sitting Samuel Alexander a resident citizen of the County & State of North Carolina aged about 73 years, who being 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 7th June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers & served as follows, That just before the Battle of Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780] he went as a Scout down to the neighborhood where it took place under Captain Joseph McDowell, was in the fight, about three weeks, defeated the Tories – then served at Cathey's Fort & Warford's Fort on the head waters of Catawba [River] against the Indians for a month or so each in 1778 or 1779 cannot say which first happened. Then out in an expedition out to the Indian Country was under the Command of one of the Joseph McDowell's cannot say which, Major Singleton & Colonel Porter were both along, went over to the Indian Towns, the Indians had been driven off by the over mountain men Captain Thomas Lytle & Captain Smith were both along, was out several times after on the Scout against the Indians & Tories and was acting whenever called on which was often for a few weeks or days at a time. In October 1780 he with others guarded prisoners now and from Quarters on Catawba on the Moravian Town, Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland], Colonel Campbell [William Campbell] and Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] commanded but which was head he cannot say that he and the other man belonging to this Country were then dismissed & came home I was a volunteer all the trips nor can he say how long he served but he well recollects he served much more than six months, for he was called on often to scout against the Tories & Indians which he was often compelled to do he was always a light horse except when stationed at forts on the head waters of Catawba.

In the year 1781, he was called out on a three months tour to meet the enemy & served his time out under ~~General~~ McDowell Colonel under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], marched to Wilmington against the British as will be shown by the certificate of Colonel McDowell marked (A) hereunto annexed – that after that the war closed except as to Indians & Tories & he recollects not to have served again that he has no documentary evidence other than that marked (A) of his revolutionary services.

I relinquish every claim whatever a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension list Roll of the agency of any State.

Questions by the Court:

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

Answer: I understand I was born in Pennsylvania Chester County on or about 1759.

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[1] BLWt21836-160-55

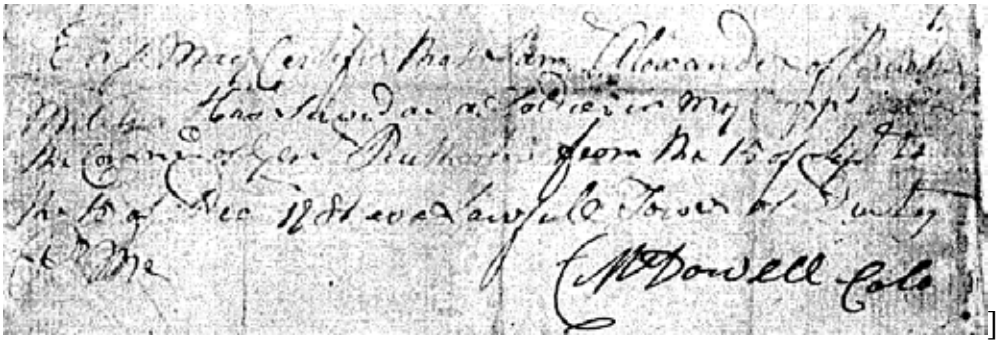
2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?
Answer: I have in a big book that my father kept. I have it at home.
3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?
Answer: I then lived on the South fork of the upper Creek in Burke & I now live on the waters of Linville [River] about five or 6 miles from the former place & all in Burke County
4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?
Answer: I was always a volunteer except once that was the Last three months Tour under McDowell Colonel, I think perhaps I was then drafted.
5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.
Answer. I do not recollect that I was ever under any Continental officers. At the battle of Ramsour's Mill Colonel Brevard [Hugh Brevard Lieutenant Colonel of the Burke County militia] had the command, our force was about 300 & Tories about 1000. We took about 23 that I counted: amongst our neighbors John Duck[?] was wounded, John McGimpsey was wounded, Captain John Bowman was wounded & died in a few days and Captain Falls [Galbraith Falls] was killed, so was my own Captain John Dobson. We defeated the Tories & we kept the ground – when we went on our Trip of 1781 shown by my discharge I fell under a Captain from below whose name I cannot recollect, when we got to Blueford's Bridge we had some skirmishing with the British they killed one of our men & then set the Bridge on fire & retreated: we were stationed just above Wilmington & there Learnt that Cornwallis was taken: the British upon that retreated, left the State and we returned home.
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 received but one discharge that I recollect & that was the one signed (McDowell Col) marked (A).
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.
Answer. I have some of my neighbors here and can produce to wit Samuel McD. Tate in court & the certificate of Colonel McDowell attached & James Erwin who makes the following affidavit.
Sworn to and subscribed 27th of October 1832.

S/ Samuel Alexander

[Samuel McD. Tate and James Erwin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: a document which appears to be the discharge referred to by the applicant appears as the document on page 3 of the file. The signature of "C McDowell Colo." is very legible, the balance of the document is largely illegible—it appears to read
"[illegible] May Certify that Sam'l Alexander of Bush [?]
Mills [could be Militia] Has served as a Soldier in My Corps under [?]
the Comm'd of Gen. Rutherford from the 15 of Sept. to
the 15 of Dec. 1781 as a Lawful Tower [sic, Tour] of Duty
[illegible] Me.

S/ C. McDowell, Colo."

]

[p 12: On January 11, 1850 in Burke County North Carolina, Jean Alexander, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Samuel Alexander, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him June 1, 1797; that her husband died April 26, 1842 and that she has remained his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 17: Copy of a marriage bond dated May 1797 issued in Burke County North Carolina to Samuel Alexander and James Harbison conditioned upon the marriage of Samuel Alexander and Jean Penland.]

[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.]