

Pension Application for William Alexander

W.21612 (Widow: Esther) William died March 10, 1845.

I William Alexander of Plainfield in the County of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire on oath declare and says that the year before Major Andre the British spy was executed at [blot] town New York I belonged to Woburn in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in that same year I went in the militia to [?] town in Rhode Island as a guard. I was then but a boy—the next year I inlisted and went as one of the quota of said Woburn for six months and went as a private to West Point and was at said West Point where the said Major Andre was executed—

I cannot fix the dates in any other way at present than by a reference to the executed of the said Major Andre—

I was not accepted at West Point as a soldier on account of my youth and age. But the minute master (a Major Brooks as I now think) sent me to the forge-master General Isaac Franks whose rank I can not now recollect and I served with said Franks during said six months as a waiter and was discharged in Jan'y following. I was regularly discharged from said service but I have lost that discharge.

The next year after in the spring I inlisted at said Woburn as a private soldier for three years—I immediately after this last inlistment is went to Boston and was sent by Col. Crane of the Artillery with a party as a guard to a quantity of powder sent by said Crane from Boston to Claverack in New York.

There we remained about six weeks when the said Crane came to us with a party of recruits and a mortar. I went from thence with said Col. Crane down the North River to New Windsor. Soon after I was sent down the said river to Philipsburgh and there joined Col. Henry Jackson's ninth Massachusetts Regiment under Capt Thomas Turner of the fifth Company in said Regiment and did duty as a soldier in that Regiment till some time in the fall after when I inlisted into the same Regiment as a drummer during the war.

The said Col. Jackson himself inlisted me. I further that winter following with said regiment at was called the New Boston Hutts a little below Est Point when I had the small pox. The next summer after I had the small pox, the next summer being the same summer in which Cornwallis was taken in the southern states with said Regiment I with the army on North River. I cannot be confident who commanded. General Washington was absent at the southward, tho his marker remained standing nearly or with all summer.

We were here maneouvered by Baron Stuben. The winter following we went to Newburg in New York and there the ninth and tenth Massachusetts regiments were broke up and I was transferred to the second Massachusetts Regiment under Col. Sproat or Pprout. I listed with said Regiment at said Newburg that winter and was discharged there as having served during the war on the tenth day June. My discharge was continental. It was to be in form after the ratification of the [?] treaty of Peace and I was to be considered on furlow til the proclamation of that event.

This discharge I carried in my baset book [sic] till it was worn out and lost but some twenty years since.

I then returned home to Woburn and then the same summer I returned to the army again and took the place of a three years man and joined the fourth Massachusetts Regiment as a drummer and was with the army and marched [sic] with it into New York when the British evacuated that place.

I had a discharge also from this service but that discharge with the others is lost.

I also further testify and say that I am poor and by reason of my reduced circumstances in life I have need of assistance from my country for support. (Signed) William Alexander.