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THE FIRST GENERATION

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS OF LANCASTER COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

For almost a century, the descendants of Alexander Douglas I of Lancaster County, South Carolina have had copies of what I will call the Alexander Douglas Memorial, a copy of which is on the opposite page. Briefly, it told that our ancestor had come from Northern Ireland to New Hampshire in America, and immediately gone into the militia. Also that he had fought at Valley Forge, and then gone to South Carolina to fight again in 1778 (1).

Until recently, this was believed. But the story of Alexander must be rewritten. From the National Archives came records of the Alexander Douglass who fought in New Hampshire with all the records attributed to ours. But this man's application for pension was made in Franklin, Vermont. The certificate of Pension was issued the 27th day of May 1836 which was nine years after our Alexander was said to have died in Tennessee while visiting his sons (2). One wonders why Lucia Douglas, who was an historian, did not discover this but perhaps even when she went into the D.A.R., records were not available as they are now (3).

Then from the South Carolina Archives are the records of Alexander of South Carolina. Two records of an Alexander Douglas are listed in Moss's Roster of South Carolina Patriots (4). One states he was in Ely Kershaw's Regiment, the Snowy Campaign, and the Georgia Campaign. Upon receiving copies of his service record and petition for pension that he makes in 1819, I believe this is our Alexander. He states that he is 65 years old and has five motherless children (four girls and one boy) (5). This correlates with the information in the letter that was addressed to Ebenezer Douglas, his son, who at that time was in Ohio (6). Also he abbreviates Alexander both in the letter and some of the papers in the same way: Aleascr. but, upon close inspection, the as is an x. And the age correlates with information in the memorial. The annuities quoted in Lucia Douglas' file are included in this record. But he states he first went into the service in 1775 in South Carolina! So he was never in New Hampshire. I submit that the two records of two different men were put together by whoever did the memorial. And I believe that person was Mrs. Sophia Lawson Thornton who was the first one to go into the D.A.R. on the Alexander Douglas line. She was very prominent in organizing the Talladega, Alabama's chapter of D.A.R. She was a granddaughter of Robert Douglas (7).

Since realizing our Alexander was in South Carolina by 1775, there are records which suggest that he may have been by age 14. In Citizens and Immigrants in South Carolina, there

are Douglas families who arrived on the Snow James and Mary in 1768. John Moore, master, administered oaths to those of age. Listed were James Douglas 34, Rose 32, Mary Douglas 8, Robert 11, James 4, James 40, Agness 50, Mary 14, Alex 14 and Isabell 12 (8). A James Douglas received 300 acres on the east side of the Cawtaba River and both sides of Beaver Creek bounded on all sides by vacant land. Survey certificate 13 July 1758. On September 1768 the Governor signed grant to James Douglas and Memorial was made 27 February 1769 (9). In 1794 there is a will of a James Douglas made 1 March 1794, Lancaster County, Will Book C, p. 126; James Douglas on Beaver Creek, Lancaster County names daughter Martha, Marey, son Alexander (10).

On August 19, 1817, there is a judgment case on file with a Robert Douglas vs. Samuel Douglas for a plea of trespass on lands of Samuel. In it is named Mary Douglas McMeen who had a land grant in 1773. She later married Matthew McMeen. She deeded land to Samuel Douglass witnessed by John McMaster. Other witnesses named: James Douglas, John Douglas, Robert and Alexander Douglas who was summoned to appear and bring evidence of title which he stated he could not (11). On the 29 August 1808 Mary Douglas Mc Moor (McMeen?) and James Mc Moor to Samuel Douglas for 100 land on waters of Camp Creek granted 6 February 1773 (12).

There is proof in Georgia Records that an Alexander Douglas did fight in a battalion of Minutemen. In July of 1777 two battalions of State Troops were created under Colonel John Stewart and Samuel Jack known as "Minuteman Battalions" (14). The first one was under Colonel Stewart with Lt. Colonel Elijah Clark as second-in-command. The men in the battalion were to have two years service. The battalion was to be augmented by two companies of light horse. The men suffered heavily in the Florida Expedition (15). Alexander received a "certificate of Colonel E. Clarke that he was a minuteman, though not an inhabitant of the State at time of enlistment, and prays for bounty land in Washington County" (16). Under Bounty Surveys, Alexander Douglas 287½ acres, Washington County, bounded all sides surveyed, or vacant, survey 209, August 5, 1784, p. 107 (17).

The Snow Campaign to which Alexander made reference in his pension papers took place in December of 1775. Colonel Richard Richardson had been given authority by the Provincial Congress to take his Camden regiment of militia in the back country of upper South Carolina and roust the Tories there. On November 8, 1775 he received permission to return to the Santee and call for assistance from other Whig Colonels and start for Ninety-Six. One of the first he called was Colonel William Thomson, his regiment of militia from Orangeburg and his six companies of rangers encamped in Amelia. He called many others. One was Captain Thomas Sumter (18). It could be that Eli Kershaw was among these, but he was not mentioned in

the sources I researched. One source says Kershaw was a captain and served with the 3rd South Carolina, and resigned in 1777 (19).

At one time Richardson had three thousand men as he began a slow march through the Dutch Fork. As he marched, his rangers swept through the area, picking up Loyalists. As the campaign began drawing to a close, some of the King's Men under Captain Cunningham had fled to the plantation of Alexander Cameron in the Cherokee Nation and were hiding in the Great Cane Brake on the lower Reedy River. On December 21 Richardson called for volunteers to invade the cane brake. Major Thomson was in command with 1300 troops. They marched for 25 miles at night to strike at day break. But Cunningham escaped. However, they captured 130 and killed six Loyalists. Thomson seized the arms, ammunition and baggage of the King's Men, but fearing to send his men into the cane brake, started the march back. On December 23 they reached Hollingworth's plantation when a heavy rain flooded the creeks and rivers which was followed by a blizzard that covered the area with two feet of snow. Richardson is said to have released the others and continued on to the Congarees with his troops (20). One source states the men had only their saddle blankets (21); another, they cast away the snow with their hands, spread pine boughs and put the wet blankets over the pine. On foot for seven days, they did not set foot on dry ground (22). It became known as The Great Snow Campaign.

There is no information found thus far on the military record of Alexander Douglas who applied for compensation in which he spent 126 days under Col. Fred Kimball (23). One record states Kimball was under Colonel Marshall in 1780-81; another that he was Lt. Colonel in Col. Postell's Regiment in 1781. James Postell was in Marion's Brigade (24) in one source.

LAND RECORDS

A land grant of 822 acres obtained by ALEXANDER DOUGLAS dated the 7th of May 1787 gives the following description: "Eight hundred and twenty-two acres situated in the district of Camden on the east side of the Cawtawba River and waters of Camp Creek bounding the lines running SE on Bailey Fleming; Robert McIlwain, Inc., Makey and Nath Pace NW on Wm. Ferall SW and NE on ALEXR DOUGLAS, Adam Carnichan and Thos. Pendry, NW on Jos Baird SW and SE on G. Curry, Henry McElwain and Alex Turner and Nath Lacey and for which nineteen pounds 3/7d sterling money was paid" (25).

This seems to be the same land which is described in the following: December 1796, Abdon Alexander, Sheriff of Lancaster County to James Douglas for 30 silver dollars, 822

acres called Alexander Douglas' land on lower Camp Creek adjoining Henry McElwain, Turner Pace, William McGarrah, Joes Crili, Bailey Fleming, Farril's Quarter, Adam Carnahan, Pender Blair, said land sold to satisfy a judgement of L 10 sterling which Daniel Brown recovered against ALEXANDER DOUGLAS and damages of L 4 5 6. Wit. Geo. Alexander Eliezar Alexander (26).

Another court case was one involving trespass in 1788 (see later). ALEXANDER DOUGLAS had other land grants before the one in 1787. Several transactions in Lancaster County Deed books reveal the following:

1. In a deed dated 7 November 1802, ALEXANDER DOUGLAS of Lancaster District sold 60 acres, part of 640 acres, to Andrew McElwain, adjoining Andrew McElwain for \$65.00 of waters of lower Camp creek, granted 15 March 1785. Robert McElwain and James Douglas were witnesses. It was proved by James Douglas 7 February 1803 (27).

2. ALEXANDER DOUGLAS of Lancaster District for \$100 to Thomas Mackey, planter, part of tract granted to Alexander Douglas, 25 March 1784 or 1785 on south side Camp Creek on Water Branch on to a grant to Hennerly Clark, 29 June 1807. Witnesses: John Hogan, Sam'l Dunlap, ALEXANDER DOUGLAS (Seal) proved 28 December 1807 by Samuel Dunlap before Wm. Barkley, J.P. (28).

3. On 5 January 1808, Thoms. Lee, Esqr., Sheriff of Lancaster District to James Douglas, Esqr.--whereas ALEXANDER DOUGLAS was seized of a tract of 100 acres on both sides lower Camp Creek adjoining lands granted to Samuel Lamp. John Markup; granted to Wm. Carson plat 33 February 1773, and said ALEXANDER DOUGLAS became indebted to Ebenezer Elliot as administrator of the goods and chattels of Wm. Elliot, dec. for 69.79, sold for \$111. Wit: A. Perry, John Garrah, Thos. Lee S.L.D. proved by A. Perry 23 January 1808 (29).

ALEXANDER did marry, first, Jane Elliot. Was William Elliot her father? Was James Douglas a cousin?

Another transaction by ALEXANDER DOUGLAS of Lancaster is the sale of one sorrel mare branded with a heart and other cattle (mark and brands given and swine and furniture) 17 November 1785. James Cowsar witnessed and proved this deed in Kershaw County 1 December 1794 before Thomas Creighton (30).

Alexander sold to James Douglas, a negro wench, named Kate, and her child, Doll, 1 November 1796 for 49 pounds sterling. James Houston and Wm. Barton witnessed this with Barton proving it before Eliezar Alexander on 13 Novmeber 1796 (30).

If all of these transactions were our Alexander's then it seems he was always troubled by financial problems and the loss of his land which condition continued until 1819 when in a letter to his son, Eli Ebenezer, he tells about another lawsuit in Camden involving the loss of his land or slaves and a Captain _____ (31).

That the land he had was on Camp Creek is verified by this letter to Ebenezer dated 1819. Miss Nancy Crockett of Lancaster County, South Carolina verified that the Couser who married the Douglas lived above Gill's Creek, and that the families named from Augusta, Virginia also settled in the area (32).

The children of ALEXANDER DOUGLAS and his first wife, JANE ELLIOT, who died in Chester County, South Carolina, were:

1. SAMUEL, born in Chester, South Carolina, April 2, 1790. Samuel Douglas was on 1830 South Carolina Census.
2. JAMES, born in Chester, South Carolina, March 4, 1792. No other information.
3. EBENEZER, born April 10, 1794, died May 13, 1839 and is buried in Decaturville, Indiana. It is he to whom the letter to Oxford, Butler County, Ohio is addressed, and by the statement made that he was at "his cousin James' Father's House," we know there were relatives there.

Children of marriage to MARY STAPLETON:

4. ROBERT, born in Lancaster, South Carolina, November 20, 1797; died December 25, 1868 in Galveston, Texas. Story later.
5. JOSEPH, born Lancaster, South Carolina, December 3, 1799. According to the Alexander Douglas "Memorial" he removed to West Tennessee about 1825. In his letter to Ebenezer, Alexander makes the statement that "Nov. last, Joseph went to Cumberland that fall you left us and went a volunteer member of Jackson's life guard." This places him in Tennessee no later than the fall of 1818. He was one of a party that captured the notorious outlaw, "John A. Murrell." Joseph was pronounced secessionist in Perry County, Tennessee. The prison near Chicago was DOUGLAS Prison. In 1862, he was arrested by the Union soldiers as a "rebel" and carried to Alton, Illinois penitentiary where he died and is buried.

6. JOHN, born November 26, 1801; died 1882. Buried at Durango, Falls County, Texas. Married Margaret Braden. Story later.
7. ALEXANDER, born October 27, 1807; died August 19, 1853 in Tyler, Texas, and buried in Oakwood Cemetery there. Story later.
8. AGNES, was born October 30, 1809; died September 20, 1889. She married Elegier Hotchkiss, born 1797, died 1834, married 1830, and is buried at Little Rock, Arkansas. It is mentioned in the memoirs of Alice Douglas, wife of James P. Douglas that Agnes had the family Bible in her possession. She had descendants who were members of D.A.R. One was her daughter, Mrs. Jessie Hotchkiss Smith, National No. 119328 (Mrs. Sander W. C. Smith).
9. ELIZABETH, born in Lancaster, South Carolina, married Nathaniel Hotchkiss, date not known. No other data.

These are the Revolutionary Records believed to be our Alexander:

12 August 1785 - Audit of Accounts - No. 62 240 Alexander Douglass for 44 days on horse @ 20/ and 82 days on foot @\$110 ?Curcy Or day? in 1781 and 1782. amt to Curcy L85.--.-- 126 days Stg. L12.20.10 1/2. Twelve pounds Two Shillings Ten Pence Farthing. State of South Carolina. To Alexander Douglass Dr. June & July 1781 to 44 days service done under the Command of Col. Fredk Kimball in the Horse Service and found my own Horse and arms a 20/ per day L44-0-0. September and October 1781 42 days Service done under the Command of Col Fredk Kimball in foot Service at 10/per day L21-0-0. May and June 1782 to 40 days Service do a do L20-0-0 old currency L29-0-0 Sterling L12-2-2. I do here by certify the above account to true Fredk Kimball Col. Camden District - This day came Alexander Douglass and Duly made oath that the above account in just and true and that he never received and satisfaction for the same. Sworn to before me this 5 August 1784, Fredk Kimball, J.P.

On December 1785 - Audit of Accounts - No. 96 7292 Alex Douglas. For a horse impressed for Public Service in 1782 and to L20 North Carolina Curcy equal to South Carolina Curcy. L80. Amt Stg L11:8:7. Eleven Pounds Eight Shillings and seven pence Sterling.

31 December 1785 - Indented Certificate - Mr. Alexander Douglass Eleven Pounds Eight Shillings and Seven Pence Sterling payable on 31 December 1786.

14 November 1819 - Lancaster District - Application for Rev War Pension. Personally came before me Alexr Douglass and after being duly sworn, deponent saith on oath that he served as an enlisted soldier in the United States Service under the command of Col Wm Thompson of the third Regiment of the South Carolina Line that he entered in the year 1775 for the term of Sixteen months that he was regularly Discharged that afterwards he entered in Captain Bivens Company of the Second Battalion of Minutemen under the command of Col. John Howars of the State of Georgia faithfully served his tour of enlistment and was regularly discharged. This deponent further saith that from the fatigue and exposure to all the difficulties of the Snowy Campaign he was attacked with ?fams? which fell into his leg and often endangered his life and rendered him unable to work for Several years past, that he is indigent Circumstances and unable to support his five motherless children of which four are females. Sworn before ??????, 14 November 1819, Alexr Douglass.

MORE LAND RECORDS

24 January 1811 - Jesse Hood and wife Elizabeth of Lancaster District, for \$80 to Andrew McElwain . . . two plantations 33 1/3 acres each on Kemps Creek adj. John McKey, granted to James Adams, 8 July 1774, and one tract granted to Robt McElwain, 29 December 1786, adj. Alexander Douglass. Jesse Hood, Elizabeth Hood (E), Wit: George Perry, James Cunningham. Proved 10 April 1811 by G. Perry before Robt Crockett, J.P.

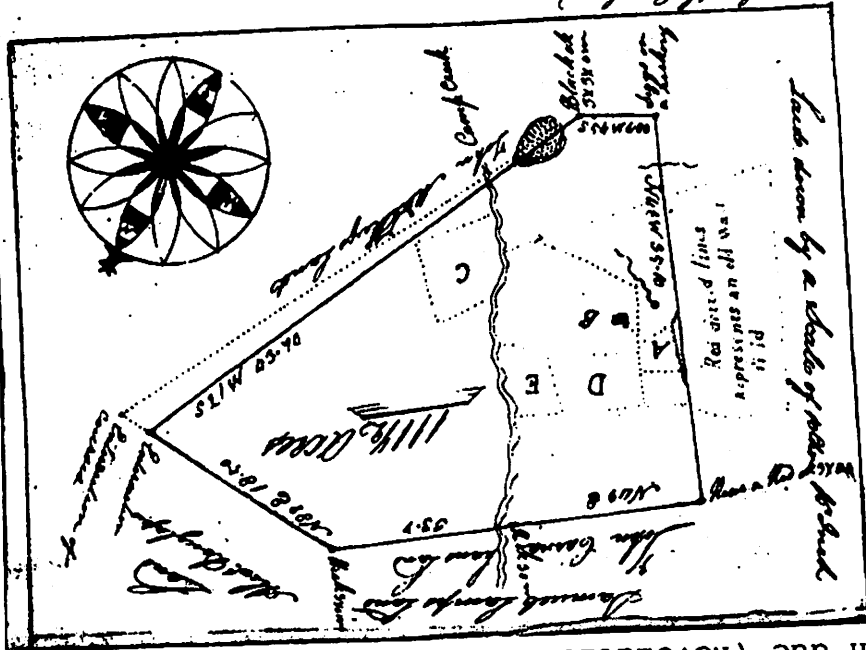
19 August 1817 - Judgement Lancaster County File 329 Roll 29 - Robt Douglass vs Samuel Douglass. Plea of Trespass on lands of Samuel. 100 acres originally granted Mary Douglass McMeen 6 February 1773 (Resurvey 111½ acres). John McMaster attested that he knew James and Mary (Douglass) McMeen and that she married Matthew McMeen, decd. and had a son, James McMeen. He saw Mary and James sign, seal and deliver the deed. Other witnesses: James Douglas, John Douglas, Robt Douglas, Hugh McKrey, Andrew McElwain, Margaret McElwain, Charles Mackey, Robt McElwain, Alexander Douglass. Alexander Douglass was summoned to appear and bring all such deeds, etc. that showed evidence of title. Alexander swore he had no such evidence. Robert recovered \$83.72 for costs and charges. (Have copy of Hough's extract and Plat resurvey 18 October 1817.)

Was Mary Douglas McMeen a sister of Alexander? How were the older Samuel and James Douglas (naturalized in 1807 who came to America about 20 years before) (13) related? Was James Douglas who signed or proved so many deeds of Alexander, and who bought the land he lost, this James? All above is speculation, and it would be difficult to prove. But on 1810

and 1820 appears only one Alexander Douglas in Lancaster County.

25 November 1820 - Receipt by Alexr Douglass for 60 Dollars for my annuity.
 3 December 1822 - Receipt by Alexander Douglass for 60 Dollars for my annuity.
 24 November 1824 - Receipt by Alexr Douglass for 60 Dollars for my annuity.

3 June 1820 - Receipt by Alexr Douglass for account of pension due (Revolution of 1819).



The above is a true plat of a part of land New Blenheim by Joseph Coulburne
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