

officers, were ordered to bring their troops to join Gov. Tryon in Orange, now Guilford county; but finding their men so averse to fighting against their brother colonists, they sent the following letter to the Governor:

GEN WADDELL'S CAMP,
POTT'S CREEK, 10th May, 1771.

By a council of officers of the Western Detachment: Considering the great superiority of the insurgents in numbers and the resolution of great part of their own men not to fight, it was resolved that they retreat across the Yadkin.

WM. LINDSAY,

ADAM ALEXANDER,

THOMAS NEEL,

FR. ROSS,

ROBERT SHAW,

GRIFFITH RUTHERFORD,

SAMUEL SPENCER,

ROBERT HARRIS,

SAMUEL SNEAD.

On the 4th of April, 1776, he was appointed Colonel of Mecklenburg county by the Provincial Congress held at Halifax. He was a brave and energetic officer and his name is found in nearly every expedition which marched from Mecklenburg county to oppose the enemies of his country.

He was for many years before and after the war an acting Justice of the Peace. His name is frequently seen in records of church as well as of State, and tradition speaks of him as bearing an excellent character.

A stone marking his grave beside that of his wife in the old Rock Spring graveyard bears this inscription, appropriate to his life and character as a patriot and soldier: "Colonel Adam Alexander, who departed this life November 13, 1798, aged 70 years 7 months. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Adam Alexander had six children, three sons and three daughters—Evan Shelby, Isaac, Charles Taylor, Sarah and Mary.

His eldest son, Evan Shelby, was a graduate of Princeton in 1787, a lawyer and a member of the Ninth Congress from

Salisbury District (1805-'09), vice Nathaniel Alexander elected governor. He died in 1809, comparatively young and unmarried. The other sons, Isaac and Charles Taylor, have descendants now living in this county, some of whom bear the name of Erwin.

Of the daughters, the eldest, Sarah, married Captain John Springs and has many descendants, chiefly through her daughter, Mary A., who married her cousin, John Springs, a son of Captain Richard Springs, of York county, South Carolina. She has descendants also through her son, William Polk Springs, who married another cousin, Margaret Springs.

Some of the descendants of Adam Alexander now living in this section, besides those bearing the names of Alexander, Springs and Erwin, are of the families of Colonel William R. Myers, Colonel A. B. Davidson, Rev. Dr. Samuel Pharr and Dr. Charles Harris.

References: Wheeler's History of North Carolina, Hunter's Sketches of Western North Carolina, Family Record.

—Contributed by Miss Sophy Myers.