

Adam Alexander.

Adam Alexander, one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and still further known to history for his military services, was born in Pennsylvania September 28, 1728, of Scotch-Irish parents.

He married Mary Shelby, of Holston county, Maryland, of a family which gave to the cause of independence in the war of the Revolution the names of Gen. Evan Shelby and of Col. Isaac Shelby, one of the heroes of the battle of King's Mountain, and afterwards the first governor of Kentucky.

About 1750, when many settlements of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians were being made in North and South Carolina, the Alexanders came to Mecklenburg county. There were several branches of the family. Adam Alexander settled in that section of the county now known as Clear Creek. He and his family were members of the old Rock Spring Presbyterian church, where before the Revolution a pious congregation worshipped, mingled with their devotions prayerful appeals for the final deliverance of their country from the approaching conflict of arms in a righteous cause.

On December 18, 1775, Adam Alexander was, by the Provincial Congress, held at Johnston Court House, appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of a battalion of minute men, with Thomas Polk as Colonel and Charles McLean as Major. In the latter part of May of the same year, and at the suggestion of Colonel Polk, two delegates from each of the companies of the county militia met at Charlotte with power to take such action as might seem advantageous to the colonies. The name of the subject of this sketch appears in the list of those patriots who drew up and signed the resolutions which constitute the famous Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

During the rebellion of the regulators, he, with other

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