

RECORDS OF A FAMILY  
OF THE  
**House of Alexander**  
From 1640 to 1909

BY  
FRANCES ALEXANDER BUTTERWORTH

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 1909

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*In memory of my father*

**WILLIAM RANKIN ALEXANDER**







# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.

The name Alexander, its Origin and History  
Early Colonists.

## CHAPTER II.

Records and Register of Births at Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Maryland. The first Presbyterian Church in America at Snow Hill, Maryland. Rev. Francis Makemie. Will of William Alexander.

## CHAPTER III.

Samuel Alexander and his descendants. The Broad Creek Presbyterian Church in Cecil Co., Md. Will of Samuel Alexander. Maryland, from 1700 to 1730. Bohemia Manor.

Will of James Foster, father of Susannah Foster, Martin Alexander's wife.

Will of Martin Alexander, son and heir-at-law of Samuel Alexander and father of David Alexander.

The Eastern Shore.

Boundaries of lands and depositions of the Brevards, Van Bibbers, Caldwells, Bayards, Bouldins, Hermans, etc. Mark Alexander of Baltimore.

## CHAPTER IV

1779 David Alexander removes to Mecklenberg Co., North Carolina. Sale of plantations, deeds and wills.

## CHAPTER V

Removal of David Alexander Jr. to Kentucky in 1794. Deeds and records from the Court Registers at Charlotte, Mecklenberg Co., N. C.

## CHAPTER VI

1796, death of David Alexander Sr. His will and deeds to sale of Plantations. The famous Declaration of Independence, of 1775 at Charlotte, N. C. A curious law suit.

## CHAPTER VII

David Alexander's descendants in Alabama and Tennessee. Letter from Daniel Alexander of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, written in 1833 to his nephew, David Alexander of Woodford Co., Ky.

## CHAPTER VIII

David Alexander Jr. and his descendants. Letter from Col. Archibald Cathey of Mecklenberg Co. to David Alexander, of Montgomery Co., Ky. written in 1807.

Discharge papers of David Alexander from Gov. Shelby's Kentucky mounted volunteers, war of 1812.

William Rankin Alexander and his descendants. A contemporary of Henry Clay and "confrere" of Abraham Lincoln. His wife a noted beauty of Lexington, Kentucky.

Additional wills of Alexander's from the records at Elkton, Cecil Co., Md., and Charlotte, Mecklenberg Co., N. C.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Frances Alexander Butterworth, Frontispiece	
William Rankin Alexander	1
Coat of Arms, Crest and Motto of the Alexanders of Sterling	4
Old Manor House at Pcincess Anne, Som- erset Co. Maryland, Period, 1700	6
Prof. Thomas Crowder Chamberlin, head of the Geological Dept. University of Chicago	20
Virginia Butterworth and Marie Louise Marks, in the gowns worn by their grandmother, period of 1835	32
Residence of Theodore Burterworth	44
Residence of Charles Alexander	71



## CHAPTER I.

### THE NAME ALEXANDER ITS ORIGIN AND HISTORY. EARLY COLONISTS.

**T**HE name of Alexander has filled a large and conspicuous place in the history of the world, and touched national events at many points. It is a synonym for devoted patriotism, for fidelity to religion, and the Scottish love of Clan.

For more than 2,000 years the name Alexander has been found among all civilized nations. Few names, indeed, have been so long used both as a Christian name and a surname. It is of Grecian origin, and means "helper of mankind."

In explanation of this wide dissemination of the name is the following story:

Alexander the Great, before setting out on his career of conquest in the East, sent word to the Jews to erect a monument in his honor. Some years later, on returning, he was astonished and angered to find that no monument had been raised to him by these people. He summoned the high priest, who came with

many children, in his train. The king asked, sternly, if his order had been forgotten. "O king," replied the high priest, "it is contrary to our religion to make an image or a statue. But behold!" Turning, he asked a boy who stood near, "What is your name?" "Alexander," replied the boy. Other boys on being asked their names replied in turn, "Alexander." "You see, O king," exclaimed the high priest at last, "we have fulfilled your command by naming every son of our race Alexander who has been born since your command was given. That name will go down from generation to generation and such living monuments will be far more enduring than a monument of stone."

The high priest spoke truly. If Alexander has no such significant memorials as has Cæsar in the titles "kaiser" and "czar," his is still a favorite name for princess as well as for common folk of many nations, from the Persian Iskander to the Scottish Saunders.

Saints, bishops, eight popes, kings of Scotland and Poland and emperors of Russia have borne the name, and made it glorious or the reverse. It was the first Pope to bear the name who issued the bull dividing the New World of North America between Spain and Portugal.

The heroine of the name is Helen Alexander.

History tells of her courage and devotion during the persecution of the Scotch Covenanters in the seventeenth century, and her name is to-day a household word in every West of Scotland home.

One of the Scottish ancestors was Alexander McDonald, son of Donald, Lord of the Isles. He had two sons who assumed the Christian name of their father as a surname, and started one branch of the Alexander family on the way to fame and fortune. The Donalds trace back to Somerled, through a somewhat misty Highland genealogy.

William Alexander Earl, of Stirling, from whom many of the Alexanders in America claim descent, was Secretary of State for Scotland in 1626. He ruled for the king with single eyed patriotism. His writings were famed in their day. His most important work was the assistance he rendered James I. in the metrical version of the Psalms.

James Alexander, the descendant of Lord Stirling was obliged to leave Great Britain on account of active partisanship with the Pretender. He was colonial secretary of New York and among the staunchest of pre-revolutionary friends of civil liberty. His son William was the Lord Stirling of revolutionary fame. The

#### 4 THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

family flourished in Virginia, and where Wheeling, W. Va., now stands, William Alexander owned two hundred acres of land which he received in exchange for a horse, so valuable was a horse and so cheap city lots.

A great many genealogies of the various branches of Alexanders who emigrated to America in the early history of this country have been written.

A historical sketch and genealogical record of a family of colonists, a branch of the numerous families of Alexanders that has not been written will be of interest to the descendants of David Alexander, whose birthplace was the eastern shore of Maryland.

His ancestors must have come directly from Scotland with the English Colonists who landed at Jamestown about 1649, or perhaps earlier, settling on lands patented to them and purchased in Virginia. The plantations occupied by the Colonists were scattered along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, across the narrow strip of land that separates the bay from the ocean, along the banks of the rivers and creeks that fall into that noble bay and on their tributary streams to the head of tide-water.

The first tobacco plant was taken to England in 1586. The demand for it was soon estab-





lished. The early Colonists were at once absorbed in its cultivation. The neighborhood of navigable waters was esteemed necessary to the successful operations of the planters and the most fertile portions of the land between the rivers, were occupied by them. As the early inhabitants of Maryland and Virginia were all planters, they were scattered over the country as suited their convenience and were fed by their plantations and the abundance of the sea. There were no large towns in Virginia at this period, nor any number of small ones, the planters increasing rapidly in wealth and extending their plantations.

## CHAPTER II.

### RECORDS AND REGISTERS OF BIRTHS AT PRINCESS ANNE, SOMMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND.

In a history of Maryland we find that as early as 1665 some Colonists named Alexander began to purchase lands in the most southern county of the eastern shore. The court reports at Princesse Anne, county seat of Somerset County, record deeds to William Alexander of a tract of land of 300 acres called Daintry, on the south side of the Wicomoco River, and to a plantation called Rapho of 300 acres.

Hunting Quarter, at the head of Menoken was bought by William Alexander from Cornelius Anderson in 1668. Trouble plantation was sold to William Alexander by Thomas Strawbridge in 1698.

Two tracts called Golden Quarter and Rysley were sold to Henry Alexander by George Taylor and Comfort his wife, for ye consideration of tobacco paid by Francis Alexander. Samuel Alexander, acting for Griffith Jones of North





Carolina, sold to William Alexander of Somerset County in 1720 a part of Walsy's Chance. At St. Marys on Chesapeake Bay 100 acres for 50 pounds, taken from Walsy's Chance and Winsor.

These Alexanders formed a considerable element of the first three Presbyterian churches organized in America by the Rev. Francis Makemie towards the close of that century, 1684. The Snow Hill Presbyterian Church, Rehobeth, at Pocomoke, and Head of Menoken, Wicomoco. These places were settled by English Episcopalians and Scotch and Irish Presbyterians. Generations have uttered the praises of Francis Makemie, who organized the first Presbyterian church in America at Snow Hill. Parents in the neighborhood gave his name to their children until it became a common one. Francis Alexander was, no doubt, named for Francis Makemie, the name Francis descending through the various generations to the present time, the writer of this record bearing the name with the feminine terminal—"ces" instead of "cis."

William Alexander is mentioned on the records at Princesse Anne as one of the trustees of the Menoken Presbyterian Church.

The records of the courthouse at Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland, contain the

following register of births of William Alexander's descendants and his son William's will.

Abigail Alexander, daughter of Andrew Alexander, and born of his wife the 15th day of September, 1677. Elias Alexander, son of Andrew Alexander, born 1679.

James, son of Samuel Alexander, and born of Mary, his wife, 1st day of January, 1685, in Annamessex. Martin Alexander, son of Samuel Alexander, and born of Mary, his wife, 18th of March, 1687 in Annamessex. Sarah, daughter of Samuel Alexander, and Mary his wife, born August 28th, at Pocomoke, 1690. Francis, son of Samuel Alexander and Mary, his wife, born March, 1693, at Annamessex. Mary, daughter of Samuel and Mary Alexander, born 1695 at Pocomoke. Andrew Alexander, son of Samuel and Mary, his wife, born 1697. Samuel Alexander, son of Samuel and Mary, his wife, born in 1699 at Pocomoke.

Esther, daughter of John Alexander and Barbara, his wife, born in 1693.

In the name of God, Amen, the seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord God, 1732, I, Wm. Alexander, of Somerset County, and Province of Maryland, planter, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God therefor, calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and

ordain this my last willand testament, that is to say, principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul unto the hands of God that gave it, and my body to the earth to be decently buried in a Christian manner at ye discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by ye Mighty Power of God and as touching such estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give and bequeathe the same in manner and form following (viz.) Imprimis my will is that after my just debts are paid that my well beloved wife Catherine A., have therefor use and occupation of my dwelling plantation, with all liberties thereunto belonging during her natural life with one full third of all my personel estate to be at her full disposal. I then give and bequeathe unto my son, Samuel A., his heirs and assigns forever the land and plantation whereon he now lives, being part of two patents that contain 300 acres, lying on the east and west sides of Mr. Thomas Gillius' Mill Branch, being the less on the east side of the said branch containing 150 acres, to him the said Samuel as aforesaid.

To my sons, James, 150 acres, Moses A., 200 acres, being the tract where my father, William A. did live and where my said son Moses did live. To my youngest son, Liston, the land called Trouble, 250 acres, also 90 acres, part of two tracts that I bought of Griffith Jones

Witnesses John Caldwell,  
Jos. Caldwell.

Moses A. had two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. William A., father of Moses gave to Mary and Agnes, daughters, in 2nd will and does not give to Samuel.

## 10 THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

Second will probated July 19, 1735.

First will probated June 18, 1735.

Liston died 1738. James died 1735.

The records of Princesse Anne of Snow Hill and Wicomico County, Maryland, show that these Alexanders increased in numbers and wealth for about a hundred years, when they began to migrate and seek new homes and it is doubtful if any of their descendants could be found in this region to-day.

The following records of the purchase and patents to lands by this family of Alexanders can be found in the land Commissioner's office at Annapolis, Maryland.

Alexandria 130 acres lying in Cecil Co., Maryland surveyed for Samuel Alexander and John Holtham the 19th of January, 1720. Patented to his sons Martin and Francis Alexander, 4th of November, 1732.

Alexander's Lot, 190 acres, lying in Cecil Co., surveyed for Mark Alexander, son of Francis, 7th of March, 1769. Patented to him 7th of Oct., 1769.

Bullens Range, 129 acres in Cecil Co., patented to Samuel Alexander, 8th of October, 1723. Patented to Andrew Alexander, 1740, 24th of June.

Hispaniola, 868 acres lying in Cecil Co., surveyed for William Richardson 1920. Patented to him 1722. sold to Samuel Alexander, 1724.

Sligo 200 acres lying in Cecil Co., surveyed for Samuel Alexander, 8th of May, 1713. Patented to him the 10th of December, 1714.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY 11

I hereby assign to Samuel Alexander a tract of land 200 acres of warrant called Sligo for 100 acres granted me 30th of March, 1713. Witness my hand and seal 8th day of May, 1713.

Matthias Van Bibber.

### CHAPTER III.

## SAMUEL ALEXANDER AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

Samuel Alexander, true to the religion of his forefathers, assisted in establishing the first Presbyterian church in Cecil County. In 1723 Richard Thompson made over to Samuel Alexander and Peter Bouchelle, for 21 years an acre of land for the use of the Presbyterian congregation to erect a meeting house, for the annual rental of one ear of Indian corn, if lawfully demanded, June 13th, 1723.

Witnesses William Foster.  
Jacob Vandegraff.

Lord Commissioners of Justice,  
Samuel Alexander.  
James Alexander.

The first Elders of the church were:  
Samuel Alexander.  
Peter Bouchelle.  
John Brevard.

The first pastor of the church was Alexander Hutchinson, a Scotch Presbyterian minister who was installed in 1723. This church was called the Broad Creek Presbyterian Church.

Alexander Hutchinson was a Licentiate from Scotland. Immediately preceding his ordination to the gospel ministry by the Presbytery, then and there in session to install him pastor of the church, and first, before the solemn service, the clerk of the body made proclamation three times, at the door of the sanctuary, that if any persons had anything to object, against ordaining the candidate, they should make it known to the Presbytery now, setting. No objection being offered, the said Mr. Hutchinson was solemnly set apart to the work of the ministry by fasting and the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery.

This Broad Creek Presbyterian Church was near the present site of Chesapeake City, at the head of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Bethel Church, erected later is said to occupy the same site as the old Broad Creek Church. A very old cemetery adjoins the church, in which no doubt, Samuel Alexander and many of his descendants were buried, but almost two centuries have left no trace of the headstones that marked their graves. A great many

old moss covered stones remain but the inscriptions are entirely obliterated. In a newer portion of this old graveyard are the graves of many distinguished persons—the Bayards, Governor Clayton, etc.

Deed to lands given by Samuel Alexander to his son Martin Alexander.

To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, Samuel Alexander sends the greeting.

Know ye that the said Samuel Alexander, doth revise, release and quit claim forever to Martin Alexander, his heirs and assigns, all that land lying at the north end of a tract of land called Sligo, beginning at a white oak marked with twelve notches standing on the bank of Silver Run within four or five rods of Galloway's spring, thence to Galloway's two last dwelling houses that stand upon the said Sligo, thence to a line still the same course until it intersects a tract called Alexandria to a leaning growing black oak and an old dead black oak standing close together and by the county roadside where the said Martin Alexander his foot path leaves a tract of land called Bullen's Range and all the lands contained in the above two tracts with the appurtenances thereon or thereto, belonging, the said lands lying and being in Cecil Co.. In testimony whereof the said Samuel set his hand and seal this twenty;first day of September, anno domina 1723.

Samuel Alexander.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Francis Alexander and Samuel Alexander, Junior.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY 15

In 1724 Samuel Alexander gave to his son Francis a part of Sligo and Alexandria.

Witnesses to deed John Alexander.

Samuel Alexander.

WILL OF SAMUEL ALEXANDER

Recorded in the Court House at Elkton, Cecil Co. Maryland.

In the name of God Amen. The 29th day of March, 1727, I Samuel Alexander, of Cecil County in Maryland, being in health of body and of sound and perfect memory (Praise be given to God for the same) and knowing the uncertainty of this life on earth and being desirous to settle things in order do make this, my last will and testament in manner and form following: That is first and principally I commend my soul to God my Creator, hoping that I shall receive full pardon and remission of all my sins and be saved by the precious death and merits of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth, whence it was taken, believing and hoping for a glorious resurrection at the last day. And touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased the Lord to bestow upon me, my will is that it shall be employed and bestowed as follows:

I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife, Mary Alexander, my house and plantation whereon I now reside, called "Sligo" during her natural life, and after her death I bequeath the said plantation to my son-in-law, Thos. Craig, and my daughter Mary, his wife—to them and theirs forever, they with what assistance I and my said wife can give them paying my present debts.

I give unto my son-in-law the crop of wheat that is now upon the ground toward the payment of my debts and my will is that my son-in-law shall have the use and occupation of all the ground cleared and to be cleared and one of the houses that is now built upon this plantation from this day forward except so much as will maintain me and my wife during our natural lives.

I bequeath unto my loving wife all my personal estate and also make and constitute her my sole executrix of this, my last will and testament as witness my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Sam Alexander Seal

Witnesses present, Francis Alexander.  
Martin Alexander.

James, oldest son of Samuel and Mary Alexander, born in 1685 at Pocomoke, Somerset County, Maryland, no record.

Martin Alexander, son of Samuel and Mary Alexander, born 1687, at Annamessex, Somerset County, Maryland, removed with his father Samuel to Cecil County, Maryland in 1723. He became the owner of numerous plantations and lands, purchased, patented to him by Lord Baltimore and given him by his father, Samuel. These lands were known and recorded by the various names of Hispaniola, Alexandria, Alexander's Lot, Bullen's Range, Warwick, Knowlwood, Ballenstynes Forest or Park, Francina,

or the Three Sisters; Glasgow and Sligo. Other lands were recorded as Triangle, Francis Marshes, Boulden's Nest, Carroll's Delight—all belonging to sons and grandsons of Samuel Alexander. These lands adjoined and were part of the historic Territory of Bohemia Manor, one of the most interesting manors in America, where two hundred years ago, lordly opulence, titled families, and stately mansions might have been seen, and where to-day this beautiful country with its romantic history is as picturesque and lovely as when Augustine Herman, the Lord of the Manor gazed upon his noble domain of 20,000 acres, granted him by Lord Baltimore for his work in preparing maps of this country.

The Bohemia and Elk rivers enter Delaware Bay at this point and with the wooded hills and valleys, the glint of the sunshine among the lengthened shadows of the trees that bend lovingly above the enchanted waters of these mystic streams, they form a scene of ravishing beauty. The memories that haunt these shadowed vales and sunlit slopes, the gay Lords and Ladies that hawked and hunted and fished in the primeval forests and the noble streams; the charm of the flowing waters, the gay liting of the wooded songsters, the blue skies, the soft air heavy with the perfume of the scented woods.

Small wonder that our forefathers chose to erect an ancestral home and rest awhile from their wanderings in this enchanted paradise.

The history of this period—1700 to 1730—40 contains many allusions to hawking, fishing, fowling, wild cattle and horses. The hawking, hunting and fishing privileges, are always mentioned in the deeds to lands of this period. At this time the stock of the early colonists and planters was allowed to run wild in the forests and after the lapse of years became plentiful. The country was sparsely settled, and but little of it under cultivation—much of it covered with its original growth of timber, that afforded shelter for these animals. They increased very fast and it was customary for the owners of the stock to mark it by making slits, notches or holes in one or both of the animal's ears, the marks registered or recorded in the county.

John Churchman, a planter, writes of the trouble experienced from wild horses enticing the colt away from the mare he rode. In 1715 an act passed by the Legislature appointed an officer who was called a ranger to capture this wild stock.

The great staples of importation were rum and negroes, those of exportation, skins of animals and tobacco. The latter was the great

staple of the colony, was largely cultivated and yielded a large return to the planters. Wheat was also cultivated. The planters shipped their tobacco directly to England and were supplied with slaves by the traders.

From 1700 to 1730 Bohemia Manor, and adjoining plantations, and manors exceeded all other portions of the country in wealth and importance.

An attempt to introduce the manor system of England in this vicinity of which Bohemia Manor was the center was made and prevailed for a time.

The plantations with manor houses sold at this time were recorded in the deeds as *Messuage Plantations*, or plantations having a manor house. As early as 1636, says the historian Fiske, Lord Baltimore issued instructions that every grant or owner of 2,000 acres should be erected into a manor. The manor was the land on which the lord and his tenants lived. These manors were scattered all over tide-water Maryland. In 1767, 27 manors in Maryland were sold embracing 100,000 acres. Many of the manor houses were built of brick brought from England but few have withstood the ravages of time. The brick house built by Ephraim Augustine Herman, the founder of

Bohemia Manor was destroyed by fire, with its contents, including some valuable paintings.

Hispaniola, the plantation devised by Samuel to Martin Alexander is described as a *Messuage Plantation*, that is, with a manor house. The deed to Hispaniola also mentions the hawking, fowling, fishing and hunting privileges, with all edifices, tenant houses, improvements, hereditaments, orchards, meadows, ways, waters, water courses, rents, issues, rights, reversions, forests, etc.

Martin Alexander married Susannah Foster, daughter of James Foster, who owned a plantation called Jones Green Springs, which adjoined Knowlwood, a large plantation exchanged many times among the Alexanders—Martin and his sons. Susannah, wife of Martin was a niece of the Prices and Bouldins, whose plantations adjoined Martin Alexander's and many of whose descendants are still living in Cecil County on these same lands.

WILL OF JAMES FOSTER, FATHER OF  
SUSANNAH FOSTER, MARTIN ALEXANDER'S  
WIFE.

In the name of God, Amen. This 12th day of April 1740, I, James Foster, being sick and weak of body, though in perfect mind and memory, and calling to





mind that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and appoint this to be my last will and testament:

First I recommend my soul unto the hands of Almighty God, who gave it, and next I commit my body to the earth, from whence it was taken, to be buried according to the discretion of my executrix; and as for such worldly goods as God hath been pleased to endow me with, I dispose of in manner and form following:

And first I will that all my just debts be paid, I do also appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth to be sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

I give unto my wife this plantation that is to say the use and profits thereof until my son James shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years and then to him, his heirs and assigns forever.

2nd. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary five shillings.

3rdly. I give unto my two daughters Susannah and Rebecca their equal portion according to law. That is in consideration that my wife do keep and educate my children that I do allow her the use of plantation.

In testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

James Foster

In the presence of us

Thos. Cowan.

Martin Alexander.

James Price.

Cecil County, May 10, 1740.

Jas. Price and Martin Alexander, two of the foregoing, will, being duly and solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposed and say that they

22 THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

saw the Testator, Jas. Foster, sign the foregoing will and heard him publish and declare the same to be his last will and testament, and that the time of his so doing he was to the best of their apprehension of sound and disposing mind and memory, and that they and Thos. Cowan, the other witnesses subscribed their respective names as witnesses to the said will in the presence of the testator and at his request.

Sworn before John Thompson.  
Examined by David Smith, Reg.

WILL OF MARTIN ALEXANDER. SON AND  
HEIR-AT-LAW OF SAMUEL ALEXANDER  
AND FATHER OF DAVID ALEXANDER.

In the name of God, Amen. This 5th day of March, 1750, I, Martin Alexander, being in perfect mind and memory, do make and appoint this to be my last will and testament. I do appoint my beloved wife, Susannah, to be sole executrix of this last will and testament. I will that all my just debts be paid.

I give and bequeath unto my son, David, the one-half of the plantation where I now dwell during his mother's life, but not allowing him to sell or rent it during her life, and after her death the whole to him, his heirs and assigns forever, provided that he pay or secure unto my son, Amos, twenty pounds when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years.

I give and bequeath unto my son, Moses, that land that lies in New Castle County, provided that he secure unto my son, Aaron, fifteen pounds when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years.

I give and bequeath to my son, Eli, the land which I

purchased of Thomas Stratton, to him, his heirs and assigns forever, provided that he secure unto my son, Amos, the sum of fifteen pounds when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years.

I do further will, that if any of my above named sons, David, Moses, or Eli, shall refuse to pay the above named legacies, that any of my other three sons, James Aaron, or Amos, so refused, shall come in for one-half of the land left to him that so refused him his legacy to pay.

I do further will, if any of my three eldest sons shall die issueless and intestate and without assignors that James shall succeed David, Aaron shall succeed Moses, and Amos shall succeed Eli in the above said lands.

I give and bequeath to my daughter, Rebecca, the feather bed called her bed, together with a coverlit and blanket, bolster and pillows, and four ewes and lambs.

I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Sarah, the bed called David's bed, with a blanket, coverlit, bolster and pillows within these three years or sooner if her mother pleases.!

I give and bequeath each of my sons, David, Moses, Eli, James, Aaron, Amos, and Josiah, one shilling a piece of my personel estate.

I give and bequeath to my abovesaid wife all the residue of my personal estate provided that upon her second marriage, she give security to the court or commissary, to pay to my son, Josiah, thirty pounds when he shall come of age, or, if she refuses to give such security, to pay him half what two honest men shall value the said residue to be worth, after my decease, to keep my son, Josiah, from being defrauded

## 24 THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

by her then husband, and I do further will that the values of such residues annexed to this will, and forthwith put upon record, but no administration because she will have neither debts nor legacies to pay or answer till she marry again.

I will that in case my son, David's child or children should die under age, that my son, James, should still have this plantation.

I will that not above six acres of this plantation be cleared during my wife's life.

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and seal hereunto this 10th day of March, 1750. Signed, sealed, pronounced, and delivered in the presence of us. Before signing and sealing, I give and bequeath unto my sister, Mary Lowry, all that part of a tract of land called Alexandria which my father received to himself, during her life, and afterwards to her six daughters, to them, their heirs, and assigns forever.

Martin Alexander.

John Crozier, Richard Bouldin, Mary A. Cooign,  
Andrew Alexander.

We, the undernamed persons, have valued the personal estate of the within Martin Alexander, deceased, as the will directs and upon the same we find the amount of the whole to be 117 pounds, 10 shillings, 6 pence.

Given under our hands and seals this day of August, 1751. Present—Moses Alexander.

Thomas Nash

James Bouldin

Cecil County, August 1-16th, 1751.

Andrew Alexander, John Crozier, and Richard Bouldin, three of the subscribers' witnesses to the foregoing will, being duly and solemnly sworn the

Holy Evangels of Almighty God depose and say that they saw the Testator, Martin Alexander, sign the within will, and heard him publish and declare the same to be his last will and testament. and at the time of so doing, he was to the best of their belief and apprehension, of sound disposing mind and memory, and that they subscribed their respective names as witnesses to the said will in the presence of the said Testator, and at his request which oath was taken by the said witnesses in the presence of David Alexander, heir at law, which said David Alexander did not object to the Probate of the said will of demise.

M. Carle, Deputy Com. of ye, Cecil County.

Examined by David Smith, Registrar.

Book of Wills, No. 2, Page 106.

Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland.

Sarah Alexander, daughter of Samuel and Mary Alexander, no record, born 1690.

Samuel, Junior, son of Samuel and Mary Alexander, removed with his father to Cecil County in 1723, purchased land near his father. No record of his descendants.

Mary, daughter of Samuel and Mary Alexander, born 1693, married Thomas Craig of Bohemia Manor, Upon his death she married a Mr. Lowry. She left numerous descendants—both Craigs, and Lowrys.

Andrew Alexander, son of Samuel and Mary Alexander, was an attorney at law and largely interested in buying and selling lands.

The purchase of Warwick and Triangle from John Holtham by Andrew Alexander for twenty pounds and five hundred pounds of tobacco, is recorded at Elkton, Cecil County.

The sale of a portion of Bullen's Range, granted Andrew Alexander by his Lordship the Lord Proprietor in 1740 to Robert Patton is recorded at Elkton. Francis Key, Clerk.

Francis Key was the father of the Francis Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner."

John McKnitt sold to Andrew Alexander June 14th, 1745, a tract of land called Glasgow, patented to John McKnitt's grandfather, this being the boundary of a tract of land called Hispaniola, belonging to Samuel Alexander.

Andrew's Chance was another tract of land bought by Andrew. Andrew's wife, Jean, was probably a daughter of John McKnitt.

Andrew and Isaac Alexander, his son, sold to George Ford, Boulden's Rest, on Bohemia Back Creek.

Hispaniola was at the head of Long Creek Bohemia. In a deed to John McKnitt of a portion of Hispaniola, by Samuel Alexander, the present improvements of Samuel Alexander are left out, but include the said John McKnitt's improvements.

Blankinstyne Park, "escheated to the Crown,"

was granted to Andrew Alexander, given by him to Isaac, his son, and Thomas Boulden.

Francis Alexander, Son of Samuel and Mary Alexander, was born at Pocomoke, Somerset County, Maryland, March, 1693. In the historical sketches of Maryland, he is mentioned as buying lands called Sligo and Alexandria, with his father Samuel, and brother Andrew in the southern part of Cecil County, Maryland.

Alexandria, surveyed for Samuel Alexander in 1720, was patented to Martin and Francis Alexander, 1732.

Alexander's Lot, surveyed for Mark Alexander in October, 1769, was patented to him 7th of March, 1769.

Mark Alexander was the son of Francis Alexander.

Frequent mention is made of Francis in the purchase and sale of lands in the Cecil County records, as follows:

Francis Alexander of Pennhaden Hundred, County of Newcastle, Delaware, planter, bought of Thomas Ogle a tract of land called Francina, willed by Augustine Herman to his daughter, Francine, part of the plantation called, Three Bohemia Sisters, for 1,000 pounds.

Francis was a favorite name with the Alex-

anders, as it occurs frequently in different generations and is still used at the present time. I have made mention of this before.

A will of Francis Alexander is recorded in the Newcastle County records in 1717. He leaves to his wife, Mary Steele, and sons Joseph and John, and Francis. 316 acres and other lands. The witnesses were Samuel Alexander, M. Wright and James Miller.

The name Francis Alexander also occurs frequently in depositions of the boundaries of these various lands as well as many other names well known in the history of the "Eastern Shore" in colonial times. The Brevards, Van Bibbers, Caldwells, or Colwells, Bayards, Craigs, Prices, Bouldens, Bouchelles, Hermans and many others. The depositions in themselves are interesting and unique. I reproduce several.

Francis Alexander, aged 62 or thereabouts, deposed that 36 or 37 years ago he was about purchasing from his uncle, Francis Alexander, a part of a tract of land called Alexandria and Sligo. That his uncle took him to a black oak tree and from thence along a line, now in possession of Thomas Brevard, until he came to the plantation owned by James Foster, called Jones Green Springs, to a line that divided his land from Thomas Craig until it came to the original line near Purgatory Swamp, the land was purchased by Samuel Adair from his uncle, Francis. Signed, Francis Alexander.

Richard Bouldin Ford, Richard Bouldin, Eli Alexander, Jeremiah Taylor, and Thos. Richardson ask for the boundaries of Knowlwood, containing 1,000 acres, etc.

Caleb Alexander, aged 35, said about 14 years ago. I bought Knowlwood from John Hall. It lies between Richard Bouldin's land and Benj. Pierce's land and begins on the east side of Elk River at the mouth of Shallops Cave on a line with Vulcan's Rest.

Thomas Caldwell, gentleman of Fairfax Co., Colony of Virginia, bought 200 acres called Knowlwood for the sum of 200 pounds from Henry Pearce 1730. This land was on the east side of Elk River and was part of Knowlwood bought by Caleb Alexander from John Hall.

Thomas Brevard, aged 53, Benjamin Brevard, 46, and Orville Biddle aged 45 deposed that for 30 odd years there was a lane between Francis Alexander's and Robert Lowry's land at the "head of Elk."

Deposition of Alexander Scott, aged 49, said, 25 years ago he was informed by Andrew Alexander that Blankenstine's Park, which he had purchased from Jacob Van Bibber, began at the head of Elk River in Bohemia and ran on down to Choptank road 1760.

Harmon's Creek commenced at Half Pone.

Josiah Alexander aged 20 years, said, "I came along with father, Eli Alexander and Robert Armstrong, surveyor of Knowlwood, and that Knowlwood began at Col. Colwell's land on the east side of Elk.

In 1734 sale of lands from Richard Bouldin, to Alexander Bouldin, deeds signed by Martin and Paul Alexander and Thomas Bouldin.

Wm Price, uncle to Martin Alexander's, wife Susannah, wills her part of Three Bohemia Sisters.

## 30 THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

Orphans Craig's lands, and plantations in court proceedings. Andrew Wallace and Richard Bouldin guardians. Children of Mary Alexander Craig, who afterward married Lowry,

William Foster, father of James Foster, father of Susannah, Martin Alexander's wife.

Mark Alexander, son of Francis Alexander, is well known in the history of the Revolution. He was one of the wealthiest merchants of Baltimore at this time. He built the first large warehouses, and erected extensive buildings in 1756 on Calvert and Baltimore Sts. and a handsome residence on the southwest corner of Charles and Saratoga Streets. A large sum of money was raised by the merchants of Baltimore to reduce the price of salt, Mark Alexander giving 2,000 pounds and four hogsheads of tobacco.

Between 1756 and 1762 a tax was placed on all bachelors twenty-five years old and over. Mark Alexander was one of the victims. He was at one time Lord Baltimore's agent.

This Historic Tree near Baltimore is well known in connection with Mark Alexander.

A gigantic chestnut tree, with a girth of about twenty-five feet, and under whose branches in 1777 Washington and Lafayette held a council of war, and ate their meals, while camping on the place, when the American army was march-

ing from Baltimore to Philadelphial is one of the many objects of interest shown to visitors on the McCormick farm, near Baltimore. This is not a tradition, but a well authenticated fact, as is abundantly attested by the archives of the McCormick family.

The first owner of the old Manor was George Councilman, who obtained possession of the farm through a grant from Lord Baltimore. The grant is in possession of Mr. McCormick, who prizes it as a precious heirloom. Mr. McCormick became a member of the Councilman family by marriage with Miss Martha Councilman, daughter of George Councilman, who recently died at the advanced age of ninety-six years. The grant is beautifully engrossed on parchment and is well preserved and perfectly legible. The place was named Mark Alexander's Range, in honor of Mark Alexander, Lord Baltimore's agent at that time. It is situated on the old Blue Ball road, a short distance east of Pokorny's Four mile house, on the Belair road.

Mark Alexander owned portions of the various tracts of land and plantations that remained in the Alexander family for nearly a hundred years.

Martin Alexander's children were David, Eli, Moses, Amos, Aaron, James, Josiah, Rebecca, and Sarah. No records remain of any save

David, Eli, and the descendants of James. They no doubt took part in the great struggle for freedom, but this can never be known as the records of Cecil County of this period were taken by the British and destroyed. It was religious liberty that lured the Scotch and Scotch-Irish colonists to America and it is not doubted that they would take up arms in defence of their homes.

It is of David, the oldest son of Martin and the heir-at-law that we have to do. The date of his birth is not positively known but must have been about 1724. During the revolutionary struggle the Marylanders bore a highly distinguished part, the Maryland line participating in almost every battle of the war.

While it is possible David's age might have prevented any active service, as he was between fifty and sixty years old, there is no doubt he gave much aid to the patriots' cause. In a personal letter from General Alexander Evans, a descendant of the Alexander's, he writes: "There were some patriots in the struggle fifty years old, but very few."

David's age is computed from the birth of his father, Martin, in 1687, and the time of his father's death, in 1750, David is mentioned as being married, with a child or children. Esti-





mating his age at twenty-five or twenty-six at this period he would have been over fifty at the time of the Revolution.

David as the Heir-at-law inherited the principal plantations owned by his father, Martin. From deeds on record we find he was twice married—the first wife named Susannah, as the following deed shows. Her family name is not known. The deed is copied from book 9, page 23, Cecil County records at Elkton. I will omit the voluminous descriptions and location of lands. It is part of one of the plantations that changed hands so frequently but always remained among the Alexanders. The deed is from Isaac Alexander, a son of Andrew, the latter David's uncle, to David and Susannah Alexander, his wife, of Cecil County, for part of Hispaniola and Bullen's Range, dated the 10th day of June, 1758. It was transferred to Andrew's son Isaac in 1756. It is described as a "message plantation" with a Manor House, and included all "edifices, improvements, meadows, orchards, water courses, rents, issues, rights, reversions, hunting fishing and fowling privileges." Acknowledged before George Catto and John Mackey, commissioners. "Received from David Alexander and Susannah, his wife, the sum of five shillings sterling money of Great Britain on account of

fine due the Lord proprietor on the alienation of these lands." Frances Key, Clerk.

At this period Frederick Calvert, the sixth Lord Baltimore was the Lord proprietor of Maryland and it was to him the sum of five shillings was paid upon the sale of lands. This was some of the same land patented to Samuel Alexander, David's grandfather, in 1723 by Charles Calvert, the fifth Lord Baltimore.

Another sale of lands to David patented to Samuel Alexander in 1723, occurs in 1769, as an excerpt from this deed. Book 11, page 462, Cecil County records show, as follows:

"Indenture 23d of October, in the year of our Lord 1769, between Joseph Alexander, of Augusta Co., Colony of Virginia, and David Alexander of Cecil Co., province of Maryland, two tracts of land called Sligo, and Alexandria in the province of Maryland. Joseph Alexander personally appeared before us, the subscribers, two of his Lordship's justices of the peace of said county and acknowledged the within written indenture to be his deed.

John Leach Knight.

Joseph Gilpin.

## CHAPTER IV.

### 1779 DAVID ALEXANDER REMOVES TO MECHLENBERG CO., N. C. SALE OF PLANTATIONS, DEEDS AND WILLS.

The fever of migration that started in Virginia as early as 1750 began to show itself along the eastern shore of Maryland. Numerous settlements were made in the Carolinas during the years that followed. Cotton planting was rapidly becoming a large industry which the introduction of slave labor made possible.

The beautiful valleys of the Catawba in Mechenberg County, North Carolina, the broad fields, the lush grasses, the virgin forests filled with game, the clear streams teeming with fish, new homes to carve out in the wilderness, beckoned the Alexanders from the Manor Homes where they had grown and flourished in wealth and numbers for a century. In 1779 we find David Alexander disposing of the various plantations of Hispaniola, Knowlwood, Alexandria and

others. A deed to Richard Boulding Ford is on record at Elkton as follows, but not in detail:

"This indenture, made on the 25th day of Sept. in the year of our Lord, 1779, between David Alexander, of Cecil Co., the state of Maryland, of one part and Richard Bouldin Ford, of Cecil Co., of the other part, witness, that the said David Alexander, for and in consideration of the sum of four thousand and twenty pounds, to him in hand paid and secured, to be paid by the said David Alexander doth hereby acknowledge and assign to him and his heirs forever, all that tract or parcel of lands and plantations lying and being in Back Creek Hundred, Cecil Co., belonging to David Alexander enumerated as follows:

Alexandria, Sligo, Bullen's Range, Hispaniola, Knowlwood and Alexander's Lot. These lands, beginning at the corner of Widow Adair's lands and running thence to a corner stone, on a branch of Silver Run, then north to Benj. Brevard's land, and thence south to a cornerstone of Jeremiah Taylor's land, to the middle of the great road leading from the head of Elk, to Long Creek Mill, then from the said road, south to a corner stone, standing on the east side of the said road, northwest of the gate, standing between two walnut trees, which now leads from the said road to the home of the said David Alexander. All these lands with all rights, appurtenances, hereditaments, premises, rents, issues, and profits, from these estates. All buildings, all orchards, all hunting, fowling, and fishing privileges, every part and parcel, belonging or appertaining to every estate and estates of rights, titles, claims, and demands whatsoever, all

deeds, charters, patents, writings, whatsoever concerning the said lands, estates, tenements, hereditaments, and premises, I do grant and sell and assign to Richard Bouldin Ford, his heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof I do set my hand and seal on the day and year written.

David Alexander. SEAL

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

Thos. Bouldin,

A. Glenn.

Received the day of the date written of the within named Richard Bouldin Ford, the sum of four thousand and twenty-three pounds. David Alexander.

"Cecil Co., Be it remembered that David Alexander came before us two justices of the peace and acknowledged the within deeds to be his acts, also came before us Elizabeth, his wife, and being privately out of the hearing of her said husband, declared that she freely consented to the deeds of her husband to the estates sold to Richard, Bouldin Ford and that she acknowledged this willingly and freely without any fear of threats of ill usage by the said husband.

Thos. Bouldin,

Sam'l Glenn.

"Know all men by these presents that whereas there is a parcel of land conveyed from the above David Alexander unto the above named Richard Bouldin Ford, that was lawfully the property of Elizabeth, his wife, I do bind myself in the sum of five hundred pounds should any claim arise from her. Otherwise the present obligation to be void and of no effect."

David Alexander.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Andrew Crow Gilmer, Jr., and Jeremiah Taylor.

Recorded the 27th day of Sept. 1779.

Another deed from David to his brother Eli was made on the same date of parts of the same plantations as follows, not copied in detail from records:

This indenture, made the 25th of Sept. 1779, between David Alexander of Cecil Co., in the province of Maryland, of the one part, and Eli Alexander, his brother, of the other part, witnesseth that the said David Alexander in consideration of the sum of fifteen hundred pounds, to him in hand paid by the aforesaid Eli Alexander, doth assign and sell all that portion of land situated on Back Creek, to-wit Hispaniola, Alexandria, Bullens Range, Alexander's Lot, etc., that may be left without description, and not conveyed to Richard Bouldin Ford, to his heirs and assigns forever.

David Alexander.

Thomas Bouldin.

Sam'l Glenn.

Indenture of the within named Eli Alexander, the sum of fifteen hundred pounds paid by him to me.

David Alexander.

Eli Alexander married a daughter of Richard Bouldin Ford, named Tamizon. Her mother, a daughter of Richard Bouldin, was also named Tamizon, an old English name derived from Thomas.

Eli Alexander remained in Maryland on these same plantations until his death in 1785. Many references are found in the Cecil County records of him and several of his numerous family, especially Richard Ford Alexander and Josiah.

In 1784 Josiah Alexander, aged twenty years, deposed as to the boundaries of Knowlwood which contained one thousand acres. He said:

"I came along with father, Eli Alexander, and Robert Armstrong, the surveyor." The boundaries follow, but the description would be of no interest.

In 1793 Richard Ford Alexander, Gentleman of Newcastle County, Delaware, sold to Richard Harding, Gentleman of Elkton, Cecil County, a part of Hispaniola, and Bullen's Range, inherited from his father, Eli Alexander, for 175 pounds.

Harmon, son of Eli, sold to Richard Bouldin in 1791, part of Knowlwood, inherited from his father, who bought it from his brother, David in 1779.

In 1799 Harmon Alexander, son of Eli, removed to Casho County, South Carolina.

Harmon is a family name and is still retained at the present time. It came from Augustine Herman (pronounced Harmon) the Lord of Bohemia Manor, and which adjoined Hispaniola, Knowlwood, etc.

A grandson, a great grandson and a Great great grandson of David Alexander were named Harmon. the latter a brother of the writer.

The following is the will of Eli Alexander, recorded at Elkton, Cecil County:

#### WILL OF ELI ALEXANDER

"I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Tamyzon, all my lands and improvements, one-third of personal estate. To Josiah, myson, that tract of land formerly called Bullen's Range. I give and bequeath to my son, Harmon Alexander, all the land I bought of Caleb Alexander, which is part of Knowlwood, together with four acres that is reserved off of Richard Ford Alexander's tract. I give and bequeath to Richard Ford Alexander all my land at the Home place. Josiah shall pay the sum of fifty pounds to my son, Lewis. Richard Ford should pay unto my sons Eli and Jeremiah, the sum of fifty pounds and that my son Harmon should pay fifty pounds to my son Hezekiah. I give and bequeath to Araminta, Susannah, Lydia and Kephia, all my movable property and land which I had at Elk, and appoint Benjamin Brevard and Hezekiah Ford, executors."

Year 1785.

Eli Alexander.

The first purchase of land in North Carolina by David Alexander is recorded as follows in both the records at Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland, and at Charlotte, Mechlenberg, North Carolina.

This land was purchased in July, 1779, while the sale of David's possessions in Cecil County, Maryland was not made until September 25, 1779.

This indenture, July sessions in the year of our Lord, 1779, between James Alexander of the one part of Cecil Co., of the province of Maryland and David Alexander, of the same province of the other part witnesseth that the said James Alexander in consideration of the sum of five hundred pounds to him in hand paid, do sell to him and his heirs forever, a parcel of land situated in Mechenberg Co., province of North Carolina, beginning at Robert Brevard's Corner, running thence to a hickory, and on to Osborne's line, this being part of a tract of land granted to James Alexander, Oct. 1756. This land containing 226 acres, all houses, buildings, orchards, waters, water courses, mines, minerals, commodities, hereditaments to the same belonging, with all tenements, to have and to hold to the said David Alexander, his heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof I do set my hand and seal

James Alexander,  
Province of Maryland.

Be it remembered that on the 19th day of June, James Alexander acknowledged the above indenture and also his wife Rachel Alexander acknowledged this deed of writing to have been done with her consent.

Solomon Glenn.

Another tract of land of four hundred acres was bought on the east side of the Catawba November 15, 1779.

Numerous other deeds to lands bought by David are found in the records of Mechlenberg County, at Charlotte.

It was perhaps the spring of 1780 when David Alexander with his large family left the fair "Eastern Shore" of Maryland to found a new home in Mechlenberg County, North Carolina.

The names of David's children were, Ephriam, Isaac, Mary, Fannie, Sarah, Thomas, Joel, and David—all born in Cecil County, Maryland. David was the youngest, born on Christmas day, 1772. David, like Harmon is a family name, and has descended in the family in an unbroken line for five generations. David Alexander, an infant and grandson of William Harmon Alexander now bearing the name. It is possible that David's oldest sons, Ephraim and Isaac took part in the struggle for freedom, as they were old enough to bear arms and no mention is made of them until 1794, when we find them buying lands from their father.

David was twice married as will be found by referring to deeds. Some signed by Susannah in 1756. Who were her ancestors we have not been able to discover, but she was, no doubt, of good lineage, as were all these old colonial families on the "Eastern Shore" of Maryland. There were Susannah's among the Rich-

ardsons, Thompsons, Ashtons, Craigs, Van Bibbers, Veazies, etc., who lived in the neighborhood of Bohemia Manor.

David's second wife, Elizabeth, was no doubt, a Caldwell, or Colwell, as it was spelled in Maryland.

In genealogical research it is sometimes difficult to discover maternal ancestry, and some things, must be left to conjecture and probabilities. In this case so many things point to this conclusion that it is almost a certainty. In the first place the family of Caldwells were numerous in Virginia and Maryland and Thomas Calwell, a Lord chief justice lived on an adjacent plantation to David Alexander, the latter purchasing lands from him in 1769, three years before the birth of David, Junior. A number of Caldwells removed to Mechlenberg the same year of David's removal. Last but not least, of the Caldwell probabilities, David Alexander, Jr., the youngest son and possibly the only child of Elizabeth, married his first cousin, Ann Caldwell, for which act he was disinherited by his father, as the strict Scotch Presbyterians were opposed to marriages of such close consanguinity. Ann Caldwell was no doubt a daughter of Elizabeth's brother who removed to North Carolina, as we have no record of either of David's

two sisters marrying a Caldwell or going to North Carolina. One of them probably married Jeremiah Taylor, to whom David released part of Sligo and Alexandria for five shillings.





CHAPTER V.  
REMOVAL OF DAVID ALEXANDER JR.  
TO KENTUCKY.

Not until 1794 do we find any further records, when the following and numerous other deeds are recorded at Charlotte. N. C.

This indenture made the 15th day of our Lord, 1794, between David Alexander, Senior, and Elizabeth, his wife, in the State of North Carolina, Mechenburg Co. on the one hand and Isaac Alexander of the other part, witnesseth whereas George Cathey did make entry of land on the east side of the Catawba River in the year 1749, in all four hundred acres and the aforesaid Geo. Cathey conveyed the same to John Tool, July 10th, 1758, and the said John Tool for a valuable consideration did convey the same to David Alexander, Sen. and his wife, Elizabeth, Nov. 15, 1779, as doth fully appear Now for the sum of two hundred pounds in hand did convey the full quantity of 90 acres to David Alexander, Junior. June 16th, 1794. Now the aforesaid David Alexander, Sen., and his wife, Elizabeth, for a consideration and the sum of nine hundred pounds do bargain, assign and sell to Isaac Alexander all right, and

title to the following described land, beginning at a stake or post on the east side of the Catawba River, continuing to a hickory and a red oak, on the river bank, then down the several courses of the river to the place of beginning, containing 306 acres. All the above parcel of land the said David Alexander, Sen. and hiswife Eliza bet. do bargain, grant and sell to the said Isaac Alexander in consideration of the sum of nine hundred pounds, the receipt of which they hereby acknowledge and also absolutely sell all right and title to the said Isaac Alexander, his heirs and assigns forever, to the said piece of property lying in the county of Mechlenburg in the State of North Carolina as aforesaid to have and to hold together with all buildings and appurtenances belonging thereto lying within the limits of said land and subject to such interest as shall become due to the chief Lord of Lords of the I. C. C. In witness whereof we do affix our hand and seal.

DAVID ALEXANDER.

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER.

Mechlenburg Co., July Sessions 1794.

The marriage of David Alexander to his cousin Ann Caldwell against his father's wishes and no prospect of reconciliation with the stern doctrinal Presbyterian, induced the migration of David and such belongings as he could collect together to the blue grass regions of Kentucky. While disinherited by his father and only 22 he must have accumulated some worldly possessions as deeds to the sale of lands are recorded and the purchase of negroes would indicate.

The bills of sale of these negroes are interesting as giving the price and manner of purchase. Four were bought from his brother Thomas as shown in the following bill of sale.

Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Alexander of the State of North Carolina, and County of Mechlenburg, do bargain, sell and deliver unto David Alexander four Negroes to wit, Beck, Isaac, Jacob and Amos, for and in the consideration and sum of one hundred and fifteen pounds together with services done, in hand paid, for which property I do warrant from all men or manner of persons having claims thereto. Given from under my hand this 2nd day of June, 1794.

Thomas Alexander. (SEAL)

A. Cathey. Mechlenburg County,  
July Sessions 1794.

Then was the Execution of the above Bill of Sale proven in Open Court by A. Cathey and evidence and I admitted to word . Isaac Alexander, M. C

These negroes accompanied David over the mountains and through the forests that were filled with wild animals, camping once at night, where the remains of a massacre of emigrants by Indians were discovered in the morning. It was a long and dangerous journey for this courageous young man to make with his young wife. A graphic description of a journey through the wildrness at this period, 1793 and

1794 is given in Winston Churchill's novel, "The Crossing." The perilous passes, the narrow trail over the Cumberland Mountains and through the gap that led into the promised land are vividly depicted. 1793 and 1794 marked the period when the great tide of emigration flowed from Virginia and the Carolinas into the new state, Kentucky, admitted to the Union in 1792.

The following is a copy of a deed to sale of land by David Alexander before his removal to Kentucky:

This indenture made the 23d of Oct., 1794, between David Alexander and Ann, his wife, of Mechlenburg Co., North Carolina, of the one part and Ephraim Alexander of the same place, said tract of land entered in 1749 by Geo. Cathy, sold to John Tool, by him to David Alexander Senior and his wife, Elizabeth, did sell 90 acres to David Alexander, Junior, and his wife, Ann for the sum of two hundred and twenty-one pounds, did grant, bargain and sell to Ephraim Alexander all right and title to the tract of land beginning at a red oak on the east side of the Catawba river running to a hickory tree and thence on the general courses of the river to the beginning containing 96 acres with the allowance of six per cent for highways and roads Signed, sealed and acknowledged.

DAVID ALEXANDER.  
ANN ALEXANDER.

The following are bills of sale for negroes bought by David Alexander in Kentucky, many of their descendants remaining in the family until the close of the civil war. The Alexander negroes were the aristocracy of the "Blue Grass," in Woodford County, and only mingled with the upper crust of colored "sassiety." The little pickaninnies dressed in long white skirts and robes, were brought in by the proud mothers to be admired by each newcomer who came to this hospitable home.

Know all by these presents that I, Moses Bledsoe of the County of Montgomery and State of Kentucky, have bargained and sold unto David Alexander of the County and State aforesaid, one negro woman, name Betty, and her negro girl child, name Pat, for the consideration of One hundred and ten pounds in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and do by these presents I warrant and forever defend the rights of the aforesaid Negroes and their increase to the said Alexander, his heirs and assigns forever in Testimony whereby I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth Day of Oct., 1807. Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

JAMES HILL.  
JOHN MCGANNS.  
JOSEPH JONES.

MOSES BLEDSOE . . . (SEAL)



"Know all men by these presents that I, Robert B. Crooks for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars to me in hand paid the receipt, whereas hereby acknowledged, have bargained, sold and delivered to David Alexander a Mulatto girl, named Nance, which said girl with her future increase I do warrant as a slave for life to the said Alexander, his heirs and against the claims of all persons whosoever in witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this twenty-fifth day of October. one thousand eight hundred and eight.

JOHN PEEBLES.

ROBERT B. CROOKS.

JNO. PUGH.

(SEAL)

"Know all men by these presents that I, Frederick Murchley of Edwards County, Illinois Territory, have this day granted, bargained and sold and delivered unto David Alexander of Montgomery County, and State of Kentucky, a negro man named Tom, age thirty-eight years, and a negro woman named Fanny, aged thirty years, for the consideration of seven hundred dollars in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, which negroes I warrant to be sound and healthy. And further, I do by these presents warrant and forever defend the rights of the aforesaid negroes to the said David Alexander, his heirs, etc. in testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this twenty-eighth day of January, One thousand eight hundred and seventeen. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

WALKER BOWEN.

FREDERICK MURCHLEY.

JOHN GILL.

(SEAL).

## CHAPTER VI.

### 1796 DEATH OF DAVID ALEXANDER. HIS WILL AND DEEDS TO SALE OF PLANTATIONS.

David Alexander died in 1796. His will is recorded in the book of wills at Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina, as follows;

#### WILL OF DAVID ALEXANDER

"In the name of God, Amen. This the 31st day of May in the year of our Lord, 1796, I, David Alexander, of the County of Mecklenburg, in the State of North Carolina, being sick and weak in body, but of a perfect sound mind and memory, thanks to God, and calling to mind the mortality of the body and that it is appointed of all men to die, do make this my last will and Testament.

First of all, recommending my soul unto the hands of God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian Burial at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named, nothing doubting but to receive the same again at the general Resurrection by the mighty hand of God, hoping through the merits, death, and passion of my Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ, to receive a full and free pardon of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life, and as touching such worldly state as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, demise, bequeath, and dispose of in the following manner and form, viz:

First of all, I will that all those debts and duties that I owe to any person or persons be first paid and satisfied by my Executors hereafter named.

Item—I give and bequeath to my loving wife, Elizabeth, my dwelling house, one bed and furniture thereto belonging, with the tables and furniture thereto belonging, including pots and all vessels of cooking, one horse to the value of twenty-five pounds, with a saddle and bridle to be levied out of my estate, one Negro woman named Rachel, her maintenance in my house during her widowhood, and all above mentioned to be at her own disposal except the House to her, her heirs, and assigns forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son, Joel, twenty shillings current money to be levied out of my estate to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas, 20 shillings current money to be levied out of my estate to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my son, David, twenty shillings current money to be levied out of my estate to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my sons, Isaac and Ephraim, all my plantation implements to be equally divided between them, and it is my will that the said two sons, Isaac and Ephraim, shall maintain their mother in a plentiful decent manner during her widowhood as above mentioned.

Item—I give and bequeath to my daughter, Mary, one Negro boy named George, with one bed and furniture, with a saddle and bridle, with one cow and calf, with a two-year old mare, to her and her heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my daughter, Sarah one Negro boy named Peter, a saddle and bridle, and one cow and calf, to her and her heirs forever, with one bed and furniture.

Item—I give and bequeath to my daughter, Fanny, seventy pounds lawful money to be levied out of my estate, a saddle and bridle, one cow and calf, with a bed and furniture, to her and her heirs forever.

Item—It is my will and I order that my son, Ephraim, gets a horse valued at twenty pounds lawful money to be levied out of my estate.

Item—I give and bequeath to my wife, Elizabeth, two cows and calves of her own choosing, and to her heirs forever.

Item—It is my will and I order that the two plantations, one known by the name "Johnston's Place" and the other known by the name of The Rocky River Land, be sold in order to pay my debts and legacies, and after the payments of all debts and legacies, if any remainder should be, with the residue left of my estate including my cattle and hogs, to be equally divided among my children, namely, Isaac, Ephraim, Mary, Sarah, and Fanny, to them and their heirs forever.

Item—It is my will and I order that the debts of my son, Thomas, to me, if he is ever found and the debts can be recovered, be equally divided among the above mentioned five children.

Item—I name and nominate, constitute and appoint my loving wife, Elizabeth, and my two sons, Isaac an

Ephraim, executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking and dismissing all former and other wills, bequests, and demises heretofore, ratifying and conforming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced, and declared to be the last Will and Testament of the said David Alexander in presence of

GEORGE MOON.

EZEKIAL ALEXANDER.

WM. GRAHAM.

DAVID ALEXANDER. . . . . (SEAL).

31st day of May, 1796,"

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

Page 41, Wills Book A.

In 1797, Ephraim and Isaac, sons of David, proceeded to dispose of the various lands and plantations left them by their father. Some of the deeds to these are herewith given:

This indenture, made the 29th of Oct. in the year of our Lord, 1794, between Ephraim Alexander of the County of Mecklenburg, State of N. C., planter of the one part and John Bodman of the County of Lincoln on the other part did bargain and sell to the said John Bodman for the sum of one hundred and forty-one pounds the tract of land lying on the east side of the Catawba river, whereon the said Ephraim Alexander now resides, near the Tools Ford, containing ninety acres together with all houses, appurtenances, hereditaments belonging to said plantation in witness whereof I set my hand and seal.

EPHRAIM ALEXANDER.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY 54

This indenture between Isaac Alexander and Ephraim Alexander of the one part and Samuel Harris of the other part do bargain, sell and convey to him the plantation originally granted to John Gullen, conveyed to James Alexander, by him to David Alexander, and by him to Ephraim and Isaac Alexander, they do hereby confirm to Samuel Harris for a valuable consideration to them in hand paid, all right and title to said tract of land, all ways, woods, waters, buildings, tenements and appuretnances thereto belonging, in witness whereof we do affix the hand and seal of  
EPHRAIM ALEXANDER.  
ISAAC ALEXANDER.

24th of January, 1797.

Book 15, page 61.

County Records in Charlotte Court House, Mechenburg, Co., North Carolina.

This indenture made in the year of our Lord, 1797, between Isaac Alexander and Ephraim Alexander of the one part and James Johnston of the County of Lincoln and Staet of N. C., of the other part witnesseth that the said Isaac and Ephraim Alexander for and in consideration of the sum of 1,200 Spanish Milled Dollars to them in hand paid by the said Isaac and Ephraim Alexander do hereby acknowledge, doth grant and, bargain and confirm unto the said Jas. Johnston the tract of land lying in the County of Mechlenburg, N. C., being a part of a tract of land granted orginally to Geo. Cathey and bearing date 1769 and said Cathey to John Tool and from John Tool to David Alexander, dated 15th Nov., 1779, and from said David Alexander to his sons Ephraim and Isaac by will, said land lying on the Southeast of the Catawba River beginning

at a red oak and running thence to a stake and following the various courses of the river to its beginning and all the buildings, waters, water courses, mines and appuretnances thereof to James Johnston to have and to hold to him and his assigns forever. In witness whereof we do affix the hand and seal of

EPHRAIM ALEXANDER.

ISAAC ALEXANDER.

Page 338 Book 14 Court Records, Charlotte, Mechenburg Co., N. C., 1797.

This indenture between Ephraim Alexander and Joel Jones for the sum of 500 dollars a tract of land containing 122 acres.

EPHRAIM ALEXANDER.

March 17, 1809.

Mechlenberg County and Charlotte, the county seat were among the most interesting and historical points during the revolution. It was at Charlotte that the famous and much disputed first declaration of the independence of the colonies was framed and signed in 1775. The chairman of the meeting was Abraham Alexander. The secretary, John McKnitt Alexander and among the signers were Ezra Alexander, Adam Alexander, Charles Alexander and Hezekiah Alexander. Who can doubt the patriotism, the loyalty, the love of country and of freedom of this race of men.

David Alexander and his descendants disappeared entirely from Mechlenberg Co., in less than 30 years as there are no records after 1809. One Elizabeth Alexander died in 1833, who might have been David's widow, as she was possibly much younger than he.

Some fragments of papers as follows in regard to a lawsuit were found among the papers of William Alexander Grandson of David and Elizabeth. They are curious and valuable as giving the date of David Jr's., birth. At this period the smallest affairs were of much importance to these early colonists and were settled in court.

Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander deposed and saith that David Alexander, the defendant was born the 25th day of December, 1772, and that the said David Alexander was employed by his brother, Thomas Alexander, to go a trip in driving cattle northward in the summer of the year of 1793. The defendant returned home on Christmas day the 25th of December, 1793, and since that time has had no concern either as employed or otherwise with the said Thomas Alexander and further this deponent saith that said David Alexander had no claim of any property whatever till after the time of his return when he came of age of 21 years, and that the said David Alexander was not allowed by his father to trade in any respect or make any contracts for himself, until after the time of his coming of age.

Question by defendant:—Did or did not you know

What in the year 1792 Thomas Alexander engaged me from my father to go a trip in taking horses to the northward?

Answer:—I did.

Question second by the same:—What was the consideration which Thomas Alexander was to give my father for my services in going said trip and what was the contract between them. State if you recollect?

Answer:—To the best of my recollection Thomas Alexander agreed to bring David Alexander's father of the defendant a negro girl and was to have her at what she cost and that the services of the defendant, was to be in part pay of said Negro girl..

Question 3rd by same:—Did Thomas Alexander bring said Negro girl?

Answer:—No. Thomas Alexander did not bring said Negro girl, agreeable to contract but brought a negro man named Chester.

Question by the same:—Did you ever know me to trade or make any contract with any person whatever until I came of age?

Answer:—No, and further deponent saith not.

Joel Alexander on oath saith that some time in the year 1793 the deponent was present, when a contract took place between Thomas Alexander and David Alexander, father of the present defendant which was that said Thomas Alexander agreed and took a negro fellow from Major Worth and let his father have said negro to pay for the services of this defendant while he was gone on a trip northward to take horses to Virginia and Maryland.

## CHAPTER VII.

### DAVID ALEXANDER'S DESCENDANTS IN ALABAMA AND TENNESEE.

David Alexander, Sr. had eight children, viz.: Isaac, Ephraim, Joel, Thomas, Fannie, Polly, and David.

Isaac Alexander removed to Alabama in 1794 and raised a large family of whom there are no records save the names of his children as follows: Violet Davidson, Martha Rose, Joseph McKnitt, Thomas Young, Mary Sample, Margaret Jane, and Nancy Pharr.

Ephraim made his home near Knoxville, Tenn., married twice. Had one child, a daughter named Sophia by his first wife. Names of other children not known, Sarah, Fannie, Polly and Joel removed to Rutherford Co., Tenn.

Polly married Mr. Haley. One son, Elijah. Married the second time, Mr. Burke. One son, John.

Fannie married James Alexander. Had two sons, Elias, Josiah Alfred.

Joel married, had three sons, John, Harvey, one unknown.

Harvey married, two sons, Thomas and Robert.

Sarah and her descendants are the only Alexanders belonging to David's family of whom I have personal knowledge except David of Kentucky, the writer's ancestor.

Sarah married her first cousin, Daniel Alexander, son of James a brother of David. Sarah and Daniel Alexander had five children, Elam, Madison, Levi, Albert, Eliza Jane and Polly. Elam and Levi died.

Madison married Katherine Suttle; had ten children. Albert, James, William, Elizabeth, Jennie, Charles, Henry Clay, Ellis, Sarah, Benjamin.

Albert married Annie Suttle, had seven children.

Eliza, Madison, Robert, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ophelia and Katherine.

Eliza Jane married Charles Leatherman, had several children. One named Sarah.

Sarah, daughter of David lived to be 99 years old. Daniel, her husband died, aged 57. Madison died at 88, his wife, Katherine 77. Albert died, aged 62, his wife, Annie, 89.

Madison Alexander's children, Albert and

Charles died unmarried. James married Cassandra Burroughs, had six children, Harriet, Clifton, Albert, Vernon, Lucy, Eliza.

William married Laura Copeland, seven children, Florence, Madison, William, Benjamin, Earl, Jane and Lulu.

Jane married William Polk.

Elizabeth married Burwell Fletcher, had six children, Alice, Richard, Ellen, Robert, Ida, and John.

Henry Clay married Katherine Ellis, six children, Addie, died, Elizabeth, Ellis, Sarah, Henry, died, Katherine.

Ellis married Katherine Burroughs of Memphis, Tenn., they have two charming children Horace and Mattie.

Sarah married James M. King. Both died early; left one child, Albert R. King.

Jennie married. Husband's name unknown. No children.

Benjamin is a bachelor and spends much of his time at Tampa, Florida, where he has large interests.

Albert Gallatin Alexander's descendants:

Madison died at Springfield, Ill.

Robert married Mrs. Kitty Harris, widow of Dr. R. B. Harris. This was her third marriage. Her first husband, Alexander Byers. Her

maiden name was Katherine Jackson.

Elizabeth married William Sutton.

Ophelia married Benjamin Rucker, a relative of Ex-President Polk. One child, Annie. Married second time John King. Had three children, Robert, Azale, and Ophelia.

Katherine married Clarence Kimbro, had five children, Elizabeth, John, died; Obediah, died; Julian, Clarence.

Eliza never married. She lives in the old family home near Murfreesboro, Tenn. Has a charming and aristocratic personality and is very proud of her ancestry.

A letter written in 1833 by Daniel Alexander to his Grand Nephew, David Alexander of Kentucky, grandson of David, Sr. gives an account of these families of Alexanders who made their homes in Tennessee and much information that is most interesting. We give the letter entire.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.,  
March the 18th, 1833.

Dear Cousin:

I received your favor of the 12 of February for the first I have heard from any of your father's family, except himself and I am very sorry to learn your father is dead, which we had not heard before. You wish me to let you know something about your Uncle

Ephraim's family. I am sorry to say he died near two years since. He lived near Knoxville, . . . miles from here and I have not seen him for 8 or 10 years. Your aunt Polly is married to a Mr. Robert Burk who lives at a place called the Crab Orchard near Spencer-ville, on the main stage road from Nashville and are doing very well. She, like your father has lost her first companion and has married her second. Mr. Burk, though she never had but two children—both sons—one by each husband. I expect your Uncle Isaac is living. I was at his house several times about four years ago. He then lived in Alabama about 200 miles from here. He and his wife had 7 children—5 daughters and two sons. Their oldest daughter was then married. Your Aunt Sallie and myself has been so unfortunate as to lose 4 of our children out of 7 that we have had. We now only have 2 sons and one daughter now a living, all single. The two boys both live about one mile from me and keep bachelor's hall on an excellent plantation adjoining me that I bought last summer. We only had one child ever married and he died in about five months after he married though his wife never had any children. She married not long since again and I think she has married very well I believe I am through my narrative to you about your relations in this country and as for news I have none to give you of importance. Our cotton crop the last season was very indifferent. I cultivated about 52 acres in cotton and only made about 23 thousand three hundred pounds of cotton seed. My two sons tended 27 acres and only made about fifteen thousand three hundred pounds. Cotton is the staple of this country and when that fails the times is hard with the people that involves themselves in debt, though for

my part I never involve myself and hard times don't affect me. As I have no other subject worth your attention I will give you the names of all your cousins in this country that I believe is living, beginning with my own, viz.: MadisonHowe, Albert Gallatin, Eliza Jane, all grown. Your Uncle Isaac, as follows: viz.: Violet Davidson, Martha Rose, Joseph McKnitt, Thomas Young, Mary Sample.Margaret Jane, Nancy Pharr. Now your Aunt Polly's viz.: Haley, named after the first husband. Burk, named after a brother of her present husband. I liked to forget your uncle Joel's and Aunt Fannie's families, though your aunt has been dead upwards of twenty years. She only had two sons, Elias Alexander and Josiah Alfred Alexander. Uncle Joel and his wife are both dead and have only three children living in this country, viz.: John Alexander, Harvey Alexander, . . . . Alexander, all married except John, though I have not seen them for several years, though all live in this state. The two oldest sons went to live in Indaina some 15 years ago and I have not late news of them, to-wit, Thomas and Robert.

Your Uncle Ephraim was also married twice. He only had one child by his first wife which was a daughter. Her name was Soppiah. I never saw his last wife or his children nor do I know how many she had or their names. I should like very much to see any of your father's children in this country if it would be convenient for any of you to come. Please to give my best wishes to all your family, your brothers and sisters if you should see them. I should like to receive letters from them at any time and also from yourself.

From your sincere friend and uncle,

DANIEL ALEXANDER.

N. B. I gave my oldest sons a first rate education . One of them studied law and the other medicine and both of them died. The oldest was named Elam and the other Levi. Madison and Albert only wish to make farmers therefore they did not incline to take a liberal education.

Your Uncle, D. A.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### DAVID ALEXANDER JR. AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

David Alexander, Jr. the youngest child of David Alexander and Elizabeth was born on Christmas day, 1772, in Cecil Co., Maryland on the plantation called Hispaniola, adjoining Bohemia Manor. Hispaniola is described in one of the deeds to lands that David sold as a plantation with a manor house. David was eight years old when his father removed to Mecklenberg, Co., N. C., and only 22 when he and his wife, Ann Caldwell, with several of her brothers removed to Kentucky. He purchased land and made his home first in Montgomery County, removing afterwards to Woodford County, near Versailles, the garden spot of the blue grass regions. Here he prospered in wealth, lands, houses, and negroes, served his country loyally in the war of 1812, raised a large family of children, all of them doing honor to his name and some of them distinguished as lawyers, doctors.

and representatives to congress. He died in 1833 at the age of 61 and was buried in the old Pisgah Presbyterian grave yard. David no doubt assisted in organizing the Pisgah Presbyterian church, as did his ancestors in Maryland Virginia and North Carolina. It is near Versailles and about ten miles from Lexington. Services are still held in this old church which is in a good state of preservation.

The following letter from Col. Archibald Cathey of Mechlenburg Co., N. C., and of revolutionary fame to David Alexander Ir., of Montgomery Co., Kentucky, written in 1807 is interesting, giving information as to crops and prices of corn, wheat and cotton and referring to the lawsuit mentioned before. Col. Cathey and David Alexander both married Caldwells. Reference in the letter is made to the relationship.

To Mr. David Alexander, Kentucky,  
Mechlenburg County, North Carolina, May 31st, 1807.

Sir:—I lift my pen to right once more, letting you know that we are all well, hoying you and your family are well also. Crops was very indifferent last season, corn is not to be had, and where it is is over one dollar per bushel, but it is not to be had. Wheat crops is very good where crops is of any account. The crops of cotton is so heavy that we raise but little wheat.

Sir, I am told that suit is commenced against you that I have long looked for from the eastern shores of Maryland. I have a neighbor I think could be of great advantage to you but I will state facts and you may judge what use to make of him or in other words, tell or let your attorney know the amount of his evidence. I I made particular inquiry af him and you will hear his answer.

1. Was you in the room at the time the obligation was signed? I was. 2. Did David Alexander sign it? No, he did not sign the obligation. Q. Who signed his name to that obligation? A. His brother, Thomas Alexander. Q. Did David Alexander acknowledge his name when signed? A. No, he did not. Q. Was he at the table when signing. A. No, he was not. Neither did he pay any attention to them. Q. Did he direct his brother, Thos. Alexander to sign for him? A. I do not know but I think not. Q. Was David Alexander and Thomas Alexander in co-partnership in trading? A. It appeared as if they was.

Sir, I have come as near as possible to the amount of the evidence that Patrick Johnston will make in the county and state aforesaid if it should appear necessary to take the evidence of the said Patrick Johnston and the laws of the state will admit of commissions to take the evidence at my house in Mechlneburg county, state of North Carolina, near Beattys Ford, before myself and Joh nHarris or Richard Boney, Esq. I believe I have stated things as well as I can in truth. You can act as you think best. Sir, you have a long time forgt me but I have not forgot you. Give my compliments to Cousin Anna and all her relations. Polly and her

mother send their compliments to all their relatives, in particular, Aunt Polly and their Cousin Anna.

Sir, excuse me for not writing more fully on other things. My mind is taken upon that suited you best  
I am yours to serve                      Col. Arch C. Cathey.

Mr. Dayid Alexander I cannot recollect the names of the creditors<sup>s</sup> in that obligation though I have seen it, I believe twice.                      A. C. to D. A.

The children of David Alexander and his first wife Ann Caldwell, were seven: John, Caldwell, James, Elizabeth, Jane, Harmon, Andrew and Mary.

The children of his second wife, Mary Frances Rankin, were six: William, Rankin, Adam, Thomas Calvin, Martha, David. Amanda.

John Caldwell Alexander married Nancy Wilson, removed to Palestine, Crawford Co., Ill. Was a practicing physician and a member of the legislature for several terms from Crawford Co. Had five children: John Houston, Angeline, Guy, William and David.

John Houston went to California in 49, made several fortunes and lost them. Returning, studied medicine, graduating at Miami College, Cincinnati, married Mary Tarkington, of Greensburg, Indiana. She belongs to an old revolutionary family and is a D. A. R. John Houston Alexander was surgeon of an Indiana regiment during the war.

Is practising physician and pension examiner at Greensburg, Ind. Three children, John Joseph and Mary. Mary died in infancy. John married Miss Claudia Hill. Is manufacturing druggist, no children.

Joseph married Myrilla Morris Anderson, lives in Indianapolis, is druggist and salesman. One daughter, Margaret June, has remarkable musical talent.

Angeline married a Mr. Fletcher, lived in Springfield, Ill. Two children, son and daughter, both married.

Guy studied law, went through the Civil war, was captain of a company in an Illinois regiment. Practised his profession after his return from military service, was a brilliant lawyer. Married Miss Rhoda Decker of Crawford Co., Ill. Guy died leaving four children, John C., William Decker, Frank, Carrie.

John C. married Edith Taylor, have one child living, Joseph Vermon.

John C. Alexander died.

William Decker married Ava Wood. Have one child living, Catherine. They reside at Danville, Ill.

Frank and Carrie are not married and live at Robinson, Ill.

William Fithian Alexander was a twin brother

of Guy Alexander. He died at an early age.

Harmon removed from Woodford Co., Kentucky to Palestine, Ill. in 1817. Was a practising physician and also a member of the legislature and land commissioner for a number of years. Married three times. His first wife was Eliza Kitchell, daughter of Judge Joseph Kitchell of Palestine, Ill. One child, Mary Ellen, who died young. His second wife was Julia Kitchell a sister of his first wife. Three children Kitty, Catherine and James.

Kitty married E. E. Murphy, a merchant of Palestine, Ill. Three children. Henry died in infancy, Janette married George Newbold. Six children, two died. Guy, Roy, Ruth and Glenn are living at Robinson, Ill. Belle married Frank Fields.

Catharine married George Sweet. Had four children, Edward, Mary, Nellie and Allen.

James, son of Harmon married Adaline Runell of Marshall, Ill. Had several children.

James died.

Harmon's last wife was Jeretta Wilson. There were two children, William and Elizabeth.

William married Margaret Lanham. Have four children, Frank Wilson, Clifford Harmon, Bessie and Ray.

Clifford Harmon married Ruth Gudgely, of Hazleton, Ind.

Frank Wilson married Mignone Phillips of Palestine, Ill. Ray and Bessie unmarried.

Elizabeth daughter of Harmon married W. C. Eaton, banker of Robinson, Ill.

Elizabeth Alexander, daughter of David Alexander and Ann Caldwell, married John Gill, who was a soldier of the War of 1812 and was in the same company as David Alexander, who also was a soldier of 1812.

John Gill and Elizabeth Alexander had a large family of Children who grew to maturity, all dying save one of that mysterious disease of the early days in Illinois called milk sickness.

Celia, the only surviving child was married and living at Mattoon, Ill., at this time, thus escaping the sad fate of her family. Celia married a Rev. Mr. Chamberlin. They removed from Mattoon to Beloit, Wisconsin, had four sons, Thomas, Nelson, Joseph and James.

Thomas Chamberlin is at the head of the geological department of the University of Chicago. Married Miss Belle Wilson of Beloit. One son, Rollin, who is also in the geological department of the University of Chicago.

Nelson Chamberlin, farmer and stock breeder, Married three times. Three children, one mar-

ried, Joseph Chamberlin, is a Congregational minister and president of a college at Marietta, Ohio. Two children.

James Chamberlin, Congregational minister, lives at Berkeley, California. Three children.

Janet Alexander married William Gay and removed to Monroe County, Missouri. Two children a son and a daughter. Son died, daughter married Richard Durrett of Monroe County, where their descendants still live.

Mary Alexander married William Martin of Woodford County, Ky. They did not live long, left two children, Mary Frances and William; both married and descendants living in Kentucky

James Alexander married Betsey Hearst, daughter of a well known family of this name in Woodford County, Ky.

James Alexander was the only one of these Alexanders who remained in Kentucky, raising hemp and tobacco and increasing his lands and negroes. He left but one child to perpetuate his name, Charles Alexander, who married Mollie Daniels of Nicholasville. Are still living near Versailles in one of the beautiful homes of the "Blue grass." No children.

Andrew Alexander married and removed to Callaway County, Missouri. His oldest son was named David. It is thought some of his





descendants are still living there.

David Alexander's first wife, Ann Caldwell, died about 1809. He married his second wife, Mary Rankin in 1811 and only a short time before the war of 1812 in which he participated. The following is a copy of his discharge papers:

This is to make it known to whom it may concern that David Alexander, soldier in Cap't. Richard Menefee's Company composing a part of my regiment under the command of his excellency, Gov. Shelby, has served his country the period of 74 days and this is the evidence that said Alexander is entitled to a tour of duty for said period and testifying the honorable service of said David Alexander having acted the part of a brave soldier.

The commandant of said Regiment takes this last occasion to return to the officers and men his sincere thanks for their faithful service in his command and for the fortitude with which they submitted to privations and hardships and to congratulate them on the termination of their services which was as brilliant as the commencement was patriotic.

Col. John Donaldson, I. C. C., 2nd Reg't. Kentucky, mounted Volunteers, Richard Menefee, Cap't., November 26th, 1813.

David Alexander was one of the four thousand Kentucky mounted volunteers under Governor Shelby, who reinforced General Harrison Sept. 17th, 1813, in the Northwest. On the 29th of Sept. the Americans took possession of De-

troit, lost at Hulls surrender Aug. 16, 1812 and the 2nd of October General Harrison started in pursuit of the enemy. A desperate battle was fought. Tecumseh was slain and almost all of Proctor's command were killed or taken prisoners. By this brilliant victory all that Hull lost was recovered, the war in the Northwest was terminated and the volunteers dismissed, among them David Alexander.

The following memoranda and tax receipt are interesting:

Due Nicholas Tyler \$23.00 for taking or standing Tour of Duty on himself for John Gill and David Alexander, in Capt. Thomas Jemmisons Co., and in the Second Class of said Company.

Given under my hand and seal, the 27th of February, 1813.

J. S. MAGOWAN.  
Lexington, 5th Dec. 1804.

Rec'd of Mr. David Alexander, \$5.00, which I promise to pay to Henry Clay, Esq.

JOHN H. MORTON.

The farm of Henry Clay adjoined that of David Alexander and they were very close friends.

David Alexander died in 1833, his wife surviving him some years.

William Rankin Alexander, the oldest son of

David and Mary Rankin was born at Mt. Sterling Kentucky, August 9, 1813. He married Eliza Fleming, a noted beauty of Lexington, Ky. She was very fond of keeping the dresses she wore at this period and among them remain two in a perfect state of preservation. One a dark brown brocaded oil boiled silk, and made in the fashion of this time, low necked very short waisted, immense sleeves, filled out with stiffening and a long narrow skirt. The other a dark myrtle green silk made much in the same style and in which she often related she tripped "the light fantastic toe" with Henry Clay at a ball given in his honor at Frankfort. A bonnet worn with the green silk also remains. It is made of the silk of the dress—a very large front, with narrow crown running up at the back and trimmed with wide white satin ribbon, tied under the chin with same in a large bow. A white lace veil drooped from the high rim of this bonnet. The lace veil, which was of great value, was stolen some years ago.

William Rankin Alexander, was a contemporary of Henry Clay and a "confrere" of Abraham Lincoln. An old line Whig, he early manifested a spirit of intolerance for the traditions of slavery, imbibed no doubt from the Rankins, his mother's family. She belonged to the Rankins of Lexing-

ton, Ky, of whom Adam Rankin, the celebrated Presbyterian Divine of Lexington was a member. Upon the death of his father, David, William gave their freedom to the slaves that fell to his share. Two of them, Uncle Tom and Aunt Fannie, living at Madison, Indiana to a good old age. William Alexander was a patriot by right of birth. Like all Whigs he espoused the principles of the Republican party to which he and all his descendants have been faithful adherents. He was an inimitable story teller, a brilliant conversationalist and an extempore speaker of wit and magnetism. Of tall and distinguished personal appearance, he was beloved and respected by all, the rich and poor, by white and black. Clinging always to the good old doctrines of his ancestors, the Presbyterians of which denomination he was an Elder. He lived in Cincinnati during the Civil War, in which he was prevented from taking an active part, save as Captain of Home Guards, by an injury to the sight of one eye. This was not noticeable. His eyes were dark brown after the manner of the Alexanders, but the merry twinkle in them was all his own. He removed to Quincy, Ill., where he remained until his death in 1880. His first wife died in 1870. He married again a few years later Miss Jane Chapman. She be-

longed to a well known and highly respected family.

William and Eliza Alexander had seven children: David Fleming, died in infancy; Elizabeth Kinkaid, died aged 17; Mary Frances, Louise Amerrette, William Harmon, and Martha Cornelia.

David died at the age of two years. Elizabeth Kinkaid was remarkable for her beauty and talent as a writer. The depth of her learning and writings for one so young was most unusual and almost without precedent. Her mind seemed to fathom intuitively psychic, scientific and religious truths. "The immortality of the soul, independence of thought and political subjects were handled with equal ease by her facile pen and with the most extraordinary strength and beauty of diction. Truly a brilliant future and a bright star in the field of literature went out when she passed away.

Mary Frances Alexander married Theodore Butterworth at Quincy, Ill., removing to Chicago in 1892, where they now reside. Mr. Butterworth came of good ancestry, from the Butterworths, of Birmingham, England, his father, Sylvanus Butterworth of New York, imported the first Short Horn cattle into Missouri by way of New Orleans. His mother's family were the Van-

divers of Virginia. Believing like his father in the improvement of stock, he began the publication of the Live Stock Journal twenty-five years ago. He has continued the publication in Chicago since 1895, where it takes first rank among Live Stock Journals.

Mrs. Frances Alexander Butterworth belongs to the Daughters of 1812, of which organization she is one of the vice-presidents. Her daughter Mrs. Virginia Parker is also a member of this historical and patriotic society.

The children of Theodore and Frances Alexander Butterworth are Virginia; Maud Fleming, died; Theodore Alexander; Francis Sylvanus, died, aged two years; Harold Theron Virginia married Dr. Charles Hadden Parker, of Chicago. He is of New England ancestry and old revolutionary stock. They have two children, Donald Delphonse, and Philippa Virginia.

Theodore Alexander married Agnese Hortense Parker, a daughter of Dr. James Parker of Santa Cruz, California, and a niece of Dr. Charles Parker. They have one child, Doris Parker.

Harold Theron has attained his majority and is unmarried. The two sons, Theodore and Harold are interested in the Live Stock Journal with their father. All live in Chicago.

Louise Ameretta Alexander married Dr.

Pierre Marks, of Quincy, but formerly of Cincinnati, where he enlisted for service in the Civil War, serving as assistant surgeon, but acting as first surgeon on the gunboat Fairplay in the naval service. He removed to Quincy after the war where he was proprietor of a drug store and followed his profession. Coming to Chicago some years ago he practiced medicine until his death the 12th of May, 1905. Dr. Marks and his wife, Louise Alexander had but one child, Marie Louise, a musician.

Pauline Alexander is unmarried and makes her home with her sisters in Chicago. She is an artist by profession and has done some very charming water colors.

William Harmon Alexander married Katherine Agnes Gerry of Quincy, Ill. Katherine Gerry comes of old revolutionary ancestry and is a D. A. R. She is of the famous family of Coverts on her father's side and on her mother's of Scotch descent. Her tastes are literary. She has been president of clubs and done much work in this line.

Harmon Alexander was proprietor of a drug store for some years in Quincy. His health failing he is not now engaged in any active business. Harmon and Katherine Alexander had ten children: William Harmon, Jr.;

Margaret Louise; Francis Fleming; Robert Watt; Paul Marks; Donald, died, aged four; Dorothy Cornelia; Mary Virginia; Eleanor Ruth. One child died in infancy.

William Harmon, Jr. married in Texarkana. Have one child, David Alexander. Harmon or Harry as he is called, is at present paymaster on a branch railroad running from Texarkana.

Francis and Robert are employed in the office of the Quincy Wheel Works. They have positions of trust and are in a fair way to make responsible and respected citizens of the United States.

Mark, the youngest son, is attending the University of Chicago. Francis and Mark belong to the state militia. Francis is a Lieutenant and has won many prizes and medals for marksmanship.

Cornelia Alexander married Edgar Sylvanus Butterworth, brother of Theodore. She died in 1890, leaving one daughter, Mabel. Her father married again and had a son, Edgar.

Edgar Butterworth, husband of Cornelia Alexander, died in Quincy, Ill., September, 1906.

Mabel Butterworth filled a responsible position in the Biological department of the Uni-

versity of Chicago for several years. She died in Chicago April 1st, 1907.

Adam Rankin Alexander married Clarissa Montgomery of Kentucky. They had two children, Frank and Araminta. Adam Alexander died in California.

Frank married, died in San Francisco.

Araminta married in Indianapolis. No children. Dead.

Thomas Alexander married Angeline Wilson in Palestine, Crawford Co., Ill. Had five children: Virginia, Elizabeth, Harry, Frederick and Edward.

Virginia married Amos Misenhelder of Palestine, Ill. They have four children, Ray, Frank, Bessie and Kitty.

Elizabeth died after attaining majority.

Harry married, lives in Palestine, Ill. Has four children.

Fred married, has two children. Lives in Indianapolis, Ind.

Edward married Miss Ida Freeman in Palestine, Ill. Have four children: Ruth, Herbert, Virginia and Samuel. They live in Chicago. Edward and his son Herbert are employed in the freight offices of the Illinois Central Railroad

Thomas Alexander died at Palestine 1898. His widow, Angeline is still living.

David Alexander married in Madison, Ind., and died a number of years ago. He was educated at Hanover, Ind. College and was a brilliant scholar. He left one daughter, Mary Frances.

Martha Alexander died young.

Amanda Alexander the youngest of David Alexander's daughters was a great beauty. She married a Mr. Janney of Marshall, Ill. Only lived a few years; left one son, Francis Janney. He married and lived in Terre Haute. Died a short time since. Left two children.

#### WILLIAM ALEXANDER

In the name of God, Amen. I William Alexander, late of that part of the kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland, but now of Cceil County, Maryland, merchant, being of sound mind and memory, blessed be God therefor, do think it convenient and necessary to dispose of such worldly estate with which it hath pleased Almighty God to bless me to which and I do this twenty-ninth of July, in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven and thirty eight, make, ordain and publish this, my last will and testament, in manner and form following, that is to say imprimis: I order all my debts and funeral expenses to be paid as soon as may be after my decease.

Item. I give bequeath, and devise unto my loving wife, Araminta Alexander and the heirs of her body by me, forever all of my estate, both real and personal, of every kind and denomination howsoever and what-

soever, but for want of such heirs of my said wife, Araminta, I burthen my estate in the province aforesaid with the payment of the sum of five hundred pounds sterling money of Great Britain, or to paid in twelve months after decease of my wife Araminta as also for want of such heirs with the disposition of all my real and personal estate that is actually in that part of Great Britain called Scotland in manner and form following:

I give and bequeath to my loving sister, Margaret Cleland, of the Parish and town of Whitburnshire of Galloway, Kingdom of Scotland, the sum of five hundred sterling money of Great Britain or to her heirs in twelve months after my decease and all my real and personal estate that is in that part of Great Britain called Scotland I give and bequeath to my cousin, Mary Donaldson, of the Parish of Galloway, in Scotland, I give and bequeath one hundred pounds sterling money of Great Britain. I appoint my loving wife Araminta executrix. In witness whereof I set my hand and seal,

WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

Witnesses present, WM. KYD,  
JOHN ROBERTSON,  
DAVID ALEXANDER.

#### WILL OF AARON ALEXANDER

In the name of God, Amen. The 15th day of Nov., 1171, I, Aaron Alevander, of North Carolina, Mechenburg County, being in perfect health and memory, thanks be given to God therefor, calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed

to all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul unto the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in such a decent manner at the discretion of my executrix, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to give me I give and devise and dispose of in the following manner. First, I give and bequeath to my son David Alexander, five shillings money of Great Britain. Second, I give and allow my well beloved wife, Mary, her full third of my movable estate. Third, I give to my son Aaron Alexander, all my real estate and I order my son Aaron Alexander to pay my son, John Brown Alexander, twenty pounds current money of Pennsylvania, when of age and if Aaron die under age or without heirs then John is to be heir. I do hereby constitute make, and ordain my trusty friend Zacheous Wilson, Sr., and William Alexander, my brother, my executors to this, my last will and testament, and I deny all wills and testaments before the date, Witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal, the day and the year above written.

AARON ALEXANDER.

WILLIAM HAYES,  
DAVID ALEXANDER.

#### WILL OF JAMES ALEXANDER.

In the name of God Amen. I, James Alexander of Mechenberg County & State of North Carolina, being in health of body and sound mind and memory, yet consider the uncertainty of life and being at present

called the go out to the field of war, and not knowing whether I shall return, I think it prudent as well as my duty to order and dispose of my worldly estate as follows:—

First. I order that my wife Rachel and family live upon and occupy my plantation with all the implements of husbandry now in my possession, and to keep in her possession all my stock of horses, cows, sheep, hogs and etc., and all my household furniture (if she remains a widow until my eldest son Moses be 21 years of age). Only my negro boy and such of my books as shall be thought necessary by my executor shall be put to public sale and the money arriving from the sale be put to the use as hereafter directed, and if my son Moses lives until he be 21 years of age. I give and bequeath to him my plantation on which I now live with all the appurtenances only my well beloved wife Rachel shall continue in possession of my dwelling house and have her maintenance of my plantation. While she remains a widow and my son Moses enjoying the plantation containing 300 acres of land shall pay net cash & every of the rest of my sons when they arrive to the age of 21 years forty pounds, he shall pay to each of the four sons, the sum of fifty pounds and to help him further therein to reserve them into his possession two work horses such as my executor shall think sufficient to carry on plantation work, and plow and Tacklings and such other tools as are absolutely necessary in carrying on a farm. And I leave him my saddle and one cow and calf, and to assist his mother in raising his younger brother's & sisters. My will further is that when my son Moses comes into possession of my plantation that I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife Rachel,

a horse or mare, such as she shall choose out of my stock and a saddle and her bed and furniture and all her other clothes and her chest and spinning wheel, and two milch cows and calves, and six sheep. Further, I give & bequeath to my daughter Prudence, a feather bed and furniture, and spinning wheel, further I order all books except Ambrose's works which I bequeath to my wife Rachel as long as she lives and at her death to be left among my children, and the rest to be equally divided among all my children;—and then I order all the rest of my goods & chattels to be sold and my wife Rachel to have a third part of the money arising from that sale and the remainder after what is necessary for schooling my children together with the money from my negro boy and other things sold before and what money may be found in my possession (?) at my decease shall be equally divided among all my children, and if any of these shall die before he comes of age, his part is to be divided equally between those who survive. Lastly I ordain and appoint my well beloved wife Rachel and my brother Matthew Alexander to be the sole executor of this my last will & Testament and have the oversight of all my estate during my eldest son's minority and then to take care that this my will be performed according to the true interest & meaning of the same. In witness thereof, I, the said James Alexander, have set my hand and seal, this 25th day of December, in the year of our Lord, 1779.

Signed, sealed & delivered

In the presence of us:— JAMES ALEXANDER (Seal)

ANDREW ALEXANDER

BENJAMIN ALEXANDER

ANDREW ALEXANDER

**Names mentioned in will of James Alexander, Father of  
John McNitt Alexander.**

Book of Wills No. 3—Page 100. County of Cecil, Md.  
Courthouse 36. James Alexanders Will.

In the name of God, Amen. June 17, 1772.

I, James Alexander of Cecil Co., in Maryland being  
of sound mind and memory, do hereby give & bequeath  
to my beloved wife Abigail.

Item .....

I give and bequeath to my grandson George Alex-  
ander .....

To Amos Alexander.....

To my beloved son Ezckiel Alexander.....

To my beloved son Hezakah Alexander.....

To my beloved son Josiah Alexander.....

I give and bequeath to my beloved son Jno. McNitt

To my beloved daughter Jemima.....

To my beloved daughter Elizabeth Sample.....

To my beloved daughter Abigial Bradley.....

To my beloved daughter Margaret McCay.....

JAMES ALEXANDER (Seal)



## INDEX

<i>Page</i>	<i>Page</i>
Alexander, Aaron ..... 23, 83	Alexander, John Caldwell ..... 68
Alexander, Abigail ..... 8	Alexander, John Houston ..... 68
Alexander, Abraham ..... 55	Alexander, John McKnitt ..... 55
Alexander, Adam ..... 55	Alexander, John Brown ..... 81
Alexander, Adam Rankin ..... 68	Alexander, Joseph McKnitt ..... 58
Alexander, Albert ..... 59, 60	Alexander, Joseph ..... 34, 42
Alexander, Amos ..... 23, 31	Alexander, Joel ..... 58, 59
Alexander, Amanda ..... 68, 82	Alexander, Jennie ..... 59
Alexander, Andrew ..... 8, 10, 25, 72	Alexander, Josiah ..... 23, 29, 31, 39
Alexander, Agnes ..... 9	Alexander, John ..... 8
Alexander, Ann ..... 48	Alexander, Katherine ..... 8
Alexander, Araminta ..... 40, 81, 82	Alexander, Kephia ..... 40
Alexander, Barbara ..... 8	Alexander, Kitty ..... 70
Alexander, Benjamin ..... 59, 60	Alexander, Louise Ameretta ..... 77, 79
Alexander, Bessie ..... 70	Alexander, Lydia ..... 40
Alexander, Caleb ..... 29	Alexander, Mary ..... 8, 9, 16, 25
Alexander, Clifford Harmon ..... 70	Alexander, Margaret June ..... 69
Alexander, Charles ..... 55, 72	Alexander, Martha Cornelia ..... 77, 80
Alexander, Carrie ..... 69	Alexander, Mary Frances ..... 77, 78
Alexander, Catherine ..... 69, 70	Alexander, Margaret Louise ..... 80
Alexander, Daniel ..... 59	Alexander, Mary Sample ..... 58
Alexander, David ..... 23,	Alexander, Martha ..... 68, 82
31, 32, 35, 45, 46, 51, 83	Alexander, Martha Rose ..... 58
Alexander, David, Jr. .... 45, 46, 48	Alexander, Martin ..... 8,
Alexander, Dorothy Cornelia .. 80	9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 22
Alexander, Donald ..... 80	Alexander, Mark ..... 27, 30, 31
Alexander, Edward ..... 81	Alexander, Madison ..... 59
Alexander, Elizabeth Kinkaid ... 77	Alexander, Moses ..... 9, 22, 23
Alexander, Elizabeth Sample ... 87	Alexander, Nancy Pharr ..... 58
Alexander, Elizabeth ... 43, 59, 71, 81	Alexander, Ophelia ..... 59, 60
Alexander, Eliza ..... 60, 61	Alexander, Paul ..... 29
Alexander, Eli ..... 23, 38, 39	Alexander, Paul Marks ..... 80
Alexander, Ellis ..... 59	Alexander, Pauline ..... 79
Alexander, Elinor Ruth ..... 80	Alexander, Prudence ..... 86
Alexander, Elias ..... 8	Alexander, Rachel ..... 41
Alexander, Esther ..... 8	Alexander, Robert ..... 60
Alexander, Ezra ..... 55	Alexander, Robert Watt ..... 80
Alexander, Ephraim ..... 42, 52, 53	Alexander, Richard Ford ..... 39
Alexander, Ezekiel ..... 53	Alexander, Ruth ..... 81
Alexander, Francis ..... 6,	Alexander, Rebecca ..... 39
10, 16, 17, 27, 28	Alexander, Sarah ..... 8, 42, 52, 59
Alexander, Francis Fleming ... 80	Alexander, Samuel 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15
Alexander, Fanny ..... 42, 52	Alexander, Susannah ..... 40
Alexander, Frank ..... 81	Alexander, Sophiah ..... 58
Alexander, Guy ..... 68, 69	Alexander, Thomas ..... 47, 52, 58
Alexander, Harmon ... 39, 40, 68, 70	Alexander, Thomas Calvin ..... 81
Alexander, Harvey ..... 59	Alexander, Violet Davidson ..... 58
Alexander, Harry ..... 81	Alexander, Virginia ..... 81
Alexander, Henry ..... 6	Alexander, William Earl of Stir-
Alexander, Hezekiah ..... 40, 55	ling ..... 3
Alexander, Henry Clay ... 59, 60, 74	Alexander, William Rankin .. 68, 74
Alexander, Herbert ..... 81	Alexander, William Harmon ... 79
Anderson, Cornelius ..... 6	Alexander, William Harmon, Jr. 80
Adair, Samuel ..... 28	
Alexander, Isaac ..... 51, 54, 58	

## INDEX

	Page		Page
Alexander, James	3,	Chamberlin, Nelson	71
	8, 12, 16, 23, 31, 41, 72	Chamberlin, James	72
Armstrong, Robert	39	Chamberlin, Joseph	72
Anderson, Myrilla Morris	69	Chamberlin, Rollin	71
Baltimore, Lord	16, 17, 19, 31, 34	Councilman, Martha	31
Bouchelle, Peter	12	Chamberlin, Thomas	71
Bodman, John	53	Chapman, Jane	76
Bowen, Walker	49	Coverts, ———	79
Bouldin, Alexander	29	Crozier, John	24
Bouldin, Richard	24	Crooks, Robert	49
Bouldin, James	24	Cleland, Margaret	83
Bouldin, Tamizon	38	Daniels, Mollie	72
Bouldin, Thomas	29, 36	Decker, Rhoda	60
Biddle, Orville	29	Decker, William	60
Burke, John	58	Durett, Richard	72
Burroughs, Cassandra	60	Donnaldson, Col. John	73
Burroughs, Katherine	60	Donaldson, Margaret	83
Brevard, Thomas	29	Donald, ———	3
Brevard, Benjamin	36	Eaton, W. C.	71
Brevard, John	12	Evans, Gen. Alexander	32
Brevard, Robert	41	Fleming, Eliza	75
Bledsoc, Moses	48	Ford, Richard Bouldin	35
Butterworth, Edgar	80	Fields, Frank	70
Butterworth, Mabel	80	Fletcher, Burwell	60
Butterworth, Maud Fleming	78	Fletcher, Alice	60
Butterworth, Francis Sylvanus	78	Fletcher, Ellen	60
Butterworth, Harold Theron	78	Fletcher, Richard	60
Butterworth, Sylvanus	78	Fletcher, Robert	60
Butterworth, Theodore	78	Fletcher, Ida	60
Butterworth, Theodore Alex'r.	78	Foster, Susannah	20
Butterworth, Virginia	78	Foster, Mary	21
Butterworth, Doris Parker	78	Foster, James	20
Caldwell, Ann	43, 46	Foster, Rebecca	21
Caldwell, Elizabeth	43	Foster, Elizabeth	21
Caldwell, John	9	Foster, William	12, 21
Caldwell, Joseph	9	Freeman, Ida	81
Caldwell, Thomas	29	Gerry, Katherine	79
Carle, M.	25	Gill, John	49, 71, 74
Calvert, Frederick	34	Graham, William	53
Cathey, Col. Archibald	67	Glenn, Solomon	41
Catto, George	33	Glenn, Samuel	37, 38
Copeland, Laura	60	Glenn, A.	37
Copeland, Earl	60	Gilpin, Joseph	34
Copeland, Florence	60	Gilmer, Andrew Crow	38
Copeland, Madison	60	Gudgely, Ruth	71
Copeland, Benjamin	60	Gay, William	72
Copeland, Jane	60	Hearst, Betsey	72
Copeland, Lulu	60	Harrison, Gen.	73
Copeland, Wfl	60	Harris, Kitty	60
Craig, Thomas	25	Harris, Dr. R. B.	60
Covign, Mary A.	24	Harris, Samuel	54
Churchman, John	18	Hill, James	48
Crooks, Robert B.	49	Hill, Claudia	69
Cowan, Thomas	21	Herman, Ephraim Augustine	16, 19
Councilman, George	31	Hutchinson, Rev. Alexander	13

# INDEX

	Page	Page	
Holtham, John .....	26	Newbold, Ruth .....	70
Johnston, Patrick .....	67	Newbold, Glenn .....	70
Janney, Francis .....	82	Patton, Robert .....	26
Jimison, Capt. Thomas .....	73	Phillips, Mignone .....	71
Jones, Griffith .....	6	Price, James .....	21
Jackson, Katherine .....	61	Polk, President .....	61
Jones, Joseph .....	48	Polk, William .....	60
Key, Francis .....	34	Peebles, John .....	49
Kyd, William .....	82	Pugh, John .....	49
Knight, John Leech .....	34	Price, William .....	29
King, John .....	61	Parker, Dr. Charles Hadden ..	78
King, Robert .....	61	Parker, Virginia .....	78
King, Azile .....	61	Parker, Donald Delphonse .....	78
King, Ophelia .....	61	Parker, Philippa Virginia .....	78
Kimbro, Clarence .....	61	Parker, Dr. James .....	78
Kimbro, Elizabeth .....	61	Parker, Agnise Hortense .....	78
Kimbro, John .....	61	Peirce, Benjamin .....	29
Kimbro, Obadiah .....	61	Pearce, Henry .....	29
Kimbro, Julian .....	61	Rankin, Mary Frances .....	68
Kitchell, Eliza .....	70	Robertson, John .....	83
Kitchell, Julia .....	70	Rucker, Benjamin .....	61
Kitchell, Judge Joseph .....	70	Richardson, Thomas .....	29
Lowry, Mary .....	24	Richardson, William .....	10
Lowry, Robert .....	25, 29	Sweet, George .....	78
Lincoln, Abraham .....	75	Sweet, Edward .....	78
Lanham, Margaret .....	70	Sweet, Mary .....	78
Leatherman, Charles .....	59	Sweet, Nellie .....	78
Marks, Dr. Pierre .....	79	Scott, Alexander .....	29
Marks, Marie Louise .....	79	Shelby, Gov. .....	73
MsKnitt, John .....	26	Strawbridge, Thomas .....	6
McDonald, Alexander .....	3	Suttle, Katherine .....	57
Montgomery, Clarissa .....	81	Suttle, Annie .....	59
McCormick, ——— .....	31	Sutton, William .....	61
Misenhelder, Amos .....	81	Stratton, Thomas .....	23
Misenhelder, Ray .....	81	Smith, David .....	22
Misenhelder, Frank .....	81	Taylor, Edith .....	69
Misenhelder, Bessie .....	81	Tarkington, Mary .....	68
Misenhelder, Kitty .....	81	Taylor, Jeremiah .....	35
Misenhelder, Ben .....	81	Tool, John .....	46, 53
Murphy, E. E. .....	70	Tyler, Nicholas .....	74
Murchley, Frederick .....	49	Thompson, Richard .....	12
Moon, George .....	49	Thompson, John .....	22
Magowan, J. S. .....	74	Vandergriff, Jacob .....	12
Martin, William .....	72	Vandiveres ——— .....	77
Martin, Mary Frances .....	72	Van Bibber, Matthias .....	11
Menefies, Capt. Richard .....	73	Van Bibber, Jacob .....	29
Makemie, Rev. Francis .....	7	Wilson, Jerretta .....	70
Morton, John H. .....	74	Wilson, Belle .....	71
McGanns, John .....	48	Wilson, Nancy .....	68
Nash, Thomas .....	24	Wilson, Zaccheus .....	84
Newbold, George .....	70	Wilson, Angeline .....	81
Newbold, Guy .....	70	Worth, Major .....	57
Newbold, Roy .....	70		

