

Office of the Governor

South Carolina State House, First Floor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

March 6, 2016

Governor Haley:

South Carolina has denied the Revolutionary War Hero, General Alexander McIntosh, the proper recognition and honored place in South Carolina History. I plead his case before you Governor Haley. Please Honor General Alexander McIntosh for his life of service.... to the death for South Carolina.

Alexander McIntosh began serving South Carolina upon his arrival in 1756 from Maryland. He served until his death, the result of his service to South Carolina in the Revolutionary War.

Having been a Scottish Rebel who was captured and imprisoned in Liverpool, England after the Battle of Culloden in Scotland, Alexander McIntosh was sold into bondage and shipped to America on the prison ship the 'Gildart', arriving at Potomac on 5 May 1747 (The Directory of Scots, Banished to the American Plantations, 1650-1775 by David Dobson). Earning his freedom nearly ten years later, he headed for the Pee Dee and Black River areas along with his brothers. Accompanying him was a young African named Moses (Knight) who he claimed Alexander McIntosh raised him. Alexander married Eleanor James of the Welch Neck (Society Hill) James family, became a militia man and a Captain of Militia in 1757. From the History of Welch Neck Settlement, "In 1747, there grew up a settlement across the river on the west bank of the Pee Dee River. This location was higher and grew rapidly into a place of culture, learning, justice and trade. This was the first settlement in Darlington County. Long Bluff, the name given the expansion of Welch Neck, became the center of the Cheraws District. The Cheraws Circuit Court House was located here and served this area from 1768 until c1790. This Court House is the site of the famous Long Bluff Declaration of Independence in answer to the magnificent charge given the Grand Jury, November 15, 1774, by Judge William Henry Drayton. This is the environment that gave the area noble men such as **General Alexander McIntosh**, Colonel Abel Kolb, Colonel George Hicks, Colonel Thomas Lide and General Henry Wm. Harrington."

Reported in The History of the Old Cheraws, (Rt. Rev. Alexander Gregg, D.D. published in 1867, 1967, 1994, Genealogical Publishing Company: Baltimore, MD p. 87-89): "In 1756, the names of M'Intosh and M'Iver appear among the early records; "Alexander, the younger brother, settled on the east side of the river, a few miles below Long Bluff, in the Welch Neck. He married a Miss James, and had three children--Catharine, John and Eleanor. John married and died prematurely, leaving two children-Alexander and Eleanor--Eleanor M'Intosh married a Mr. Bembridge. {Author notes: in actuality, Peter Bainbridge of Frederick Co., Maryland, a man who was licensed to preach in 1784. He would become ordained in the Charleston Baptist Church and also take up medicine for which he was trained. He was a planter in Georgetown District, Charleston, from 1788-1800. His father was Capt. Peter Bainbridge, one of the Twelve Famous Judges of Frederick who repudiated the Stamp Act in 1765.}

Alexander McIntosh made his name known early by his service to the South Carolina colony during the French and Indian War. According to the General Assembly, Commons House, Committee to Audit the Public Accountants, Muster Roll, Pay Lists, and accounts for the Cherokee Expedition, 1759-1760 S165229, and Frontier Warfare (<http://state.sc.us/scdah>) **Alexander MKIntosh** was a Captain in "an army of militiamen, provincial troops and a small detachment of independents that left Charles Town in

October 1759 for the Keowee Valley" to restore order among the Cherokee who were attacking settlers. According to *Frontier Warfare*: "After arriving at Fort Prince George, commander Lyttleton, watched fretfully as his force melted away from desertion and disease. He hastily concluded a treaty and retreated to Charles Town." Incensed at the treatment of 21 Cherokee peace delegates taken as hostages by Lyttleton, they killed the fort's commandant after he was lured to a parley. In rage the fort soldier, killed the hostages. This resulted in raids deep into South Carolina by McIntosh's command. A list of Captain "Mkintosh's" muster rolls can be seen in state records.

The History of the Old Cheraws: "Acquiring probably a good property by his marriage to Miss James, he subsequently amassed a large fortune, and was prominently connected with the history of the Pedee in civil and military affairs. He was of handsome and commanding person, and possessed of a better education than was common in that day. His name will often appear in the following pages." (Page 90), "The M'Intosh's and M'Ivers were Presbyterians in the Mother Country." On 31 May 1760 (Item 302) "**Alexander McIntosh** (made claim for payment) for a Cart £15 and for a Horse £70 certified by Colonel Powell to be paid when Oath is made agreeable to the Resolution of the House, £85." (The Colonial Records of South Carolina, The Journal of the Commons House of Assembly, SCROOTS-D Digest V98 Issue #218).

Alexander was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1761 in Craven County and, in 1764, **Alexander Mackintosh** was a "Deputy Receiver" of taxes for Craven County, South Carolina (p.115). Brother John and Alexander are listed as road commissioners in 1768 according to Gregg (p.114). Alexander is a Captain in His Majesty's Service in 1765 (p.120). On 12 April 1768, an Act passed by the Assembly of South Carolina, established a Parish in Craven County by the name St. David and for appointing commissioners for High Roads in the said Parish. **Alexander McIntosh** was listed as one of the commissioners assigned to supervise the building of a church and chapel (p.163-167). Monday, August 1 1768, the Commissioners met according to public notice at the house of Charles Bedingfield; **Alexander McIntosh**, James James and Robert Allison declined acting in the affairs of the church as they lived some distance away.

"South Carolina Baptists 1670-1805" (p.76): "The (Welch Neck) church, April 4, 1761, agreed to admit persons who had merely been sprinkled if they could satisfy the members as to their real convictions, but if at any time they showed any tendency to apostatize from the truth, they were to be debarred from communion. On May 2 (1761), **Alexander McIntosh** and Roderick McIver were admitted upon confession of faith and experience of godliness after signing the covenant

History of Old Cheraw by Gregg: "The names of Charles Augustus Steward, **Alexander M'Intosh** and William Henry Mills, were presented to his Excellency the Governor in June 1772, as suitable persons for Sheriff of the Cheraw District." and (p. 198) " On April 15, 1773, the Justices of the Court chose the Northern District to hold court and the Presentments of the Grand Jury made were presided over by the Foreman, **Alexander Mackintosh**. **Alexander** served on the Grand Jury throughout 1773 and 1774. The effect upon the minds of the people of having Courts of their own, holden among them, was now becoming apparent. Respect for the constituted authorities of the Province was partially restored, and the majesty of the law vindicated. Secure in the feeling that the guilty would not go unpunished, attention was naturally turned to those important subjects connected with the general welfare and progress of society, and hence the several matters brought to public notice by the Grand Juries, both for Legislative action, and district regulation and control." During this time, criminals were punished (burnt hand for the thief, publicly whipt (sic), and ear cut off for the horse-thief) recommendations were made to build a fence around the Gaol (jail) but also steps were initiated to establish Free Schools, the financing and completion of the parish church of St. David. At this time, there was no resident lawyer in the Cheraws District."

Addressing Colony Grievances
(*History of Old Cheraw by Gregg* Pages 217-218)

19 Nov 1774: "One of the early actions taken was the establishment of a Petit Jury to address Colony grievances; **Alexander McIntosh** was selected Foreman and on the "19th of November, the day following the address of the Petite Jury, made their Presentments in these words (relating first to local matter.

"I. We present, as a grievance, the want of a Law for clearing Pedee River, and to prevent trees being felled therein, its navigation at present being unsafe.

II. We present, as a grievance, the want of a Law to prevent the hunting of deer by fire in the night time, by which means many houses and neat cattle are destroyed, to the great damage of the owners.

III. We present Andrew Gibson for willful and deliberate perjury; by information of George Cusack

IV. We present, as a grievance of the first magnitude, the right claimed by the British Parliament to tax us, and by their acts to bind us in all cases whatsoever. When we reflect on our other grievances, they all appear trifling in comparison with this; for if we may be taxed, imprisoned, and deprived of life, by the force of edicts to which neither we or our Constitutional Representatives have ever assented no slavery can be more abject than ours.

"We are, however, sensible that we have a better security for our lives, or liberties, and fortunes, than the mere will of the Parliament of Great Britain; and are fully convinced that we cannot be constitutionally taxed but by Representatives of our own election, or by any laws than those to which they have assented. This right of being exempted from all laws but those enacted with the consent of Representatives of our own election, we deem so essential to our freedom, and so engrafted in our Constitution, that we are determined to defend it at the hazard of our lives and fortunes; and we earnestly request that this Presentment may be lied before our Constitutional Representatives, the Commons House of Assembly of this Colony, that it may be known how much we prize our freedom, and how resolved we are to preserve it."

"We recommend that these Presentments be published in the several Gazettes of this Province. +"

Alexander M'Intosh, Foreman. L.S.

Henry W. Harrington L.S.

Thomas Ayres. L.S.

... (abt. 17 other names.

(See American Archives; Vol. 1, p 959, SC Gazette Dec 16-23, 1774)

Printed in the South Carolina Gazette, January 6-13, 1775, are the names of the magistrates chosen for Cheraw District. Included among those is the name of **Alexander M'Intosh**.

"The establishment of the British Stamp Act in 1765 caused unrest throughout the colonies. After the uprising in Boston, (The Boston Tea Party--tea sent into South Carolina was not allowed to be sold either) the Colonies proceeded to judiciously appoint representatives to a Congress of Deputies, the Continental Congress. South Carolina was the first to take this step toward a Continental Union. The alarm went up and on July 6, 1774, Charles-town was filled with one hundred and four Deputies, representing all parts of the Province, except Greenville, St. John's, Colleton and Christ Church Parish. The Representatives elected to assemble in Charles-town on the 11th of January 1775, "were to receive an account of the proceedings of the late Continental Congress, to elect delegates to another Congress, to be held the ensuing May, to elect a new General Committee and to establish such regulations as the exigencies of the times might render necessary." The following gentlemen were elected from St. David's Parish (of Craven County): The Honorable George Gabriel Powell, Claudius Pegues, Henry Wm. Harrington, **Alexander M'Intosh**, Samuel wise, Esq. and Col. George Pawley. "

As a result of the 11 January 1775 meeting, a "Provincial Congress" was formed and **Alexander McIntosh** was appointed on the Committee of Inspection for St. David's. (p228 Gregg's). The Provincial Congress met again 1 June 1775 and of the 5th day of the session resolved to raise 1500 infantry, rank and file in two regiments; and 450 Horse Rangers. (p.236) "Proper pay, clothing and provisions were assigned them; and the troops so raised were to be subjected to military discipline and the articles of war, in like manner as the British troops were governed."

"So great, we are told, was the military ardor among the gentlemen of the Province, that the candidates for commissions in the proposed regiments were four times as numerous as could be employed; and in their number were many of the first families and fortune. In making a selection among the numerous candidates that offered, care was taken to choose men of influence, decision and spirit, residing in different parts of the Province, so as to unite all its energies in common cause."

"Four or five had the recommendation of having served in the war of 1756; but other candidates were preferred solely on the ground of their possessing the natural qualifications requisite for making good officers, in addition to their holding an influential rank among their fellow citizens (also see Drayton's Memoirs, V I, pps-255-256). Soon after the resolution was passed for raising the regiments, a ballot for officers was held. Of these, **Alexander M'Intosh** of Cheraws, was elected Major of the 2nd Regiment. He had held the commission of Captain for some years. His decision and energy, with a commanding person and ample fortune, gave him peculiar fitness for the position." (See Gregg's p 236). **Major McIntosh** was soon promoted and continued in active service.

On 13 January 1776, **Alexander McIntosh** was Major of the Militia when the Council of Safety of Charles-town sent him a letter worrying about three ships of war at anchor near their bar. "To this spirited appeal, Major M'Intosh, with other officers and many of the militia from the Pedee, responded". Congress voted on the 19th of February 1776 to promote Major M'Intosh to Lt. Colonel of the First Regiment. From this time on, Col. M'Intosh was engaged in constant service."

"The Legislative Council and General Assembly met at Charlestown on Tuesday 17 September 1776. Colonel George Pawley and **Colonel Alexander McIntosh** from St. David's were absent; the latter doubtless being engaged in military service." (Gregg's p. 275)

On 9th April 1777, writs of election were issued for filling up vacancies in the General Assembly. One member was returned from St. David's in the room of the **Hon. Alexander M'Intosh**, who had been elected member of the Legislative Council."

"In consequence of the unsettled state of affairs the Court for Cheraw District did not sit again until the fall of 1778, and after that no more until the war was over. During this time a lucrative trade was carried on by wagons with the States south of New Jersey. Commerce flourished and plenty abounded. With the exception of occasional incursions by the Tories along the border, there was little to mar the pleasures of the calm which thus succeeded the opening storm. And even the spirit of the Tories was crushed by the brilliant victory of Fort Moultrie, and the departure of the enemy." (Gregg's p.278).

On 1st of March 1777, we now hear again from Major Wise, now of the Continental Line, in the following letter to Capt. H.W. Harrington, Esq. Pedee, 'My Dear friend, --We are once more ordered to Georgia, the State being actually invaded and a whole company of our regiment at Ft. M'Intosh taken Prisoners. Samuel Williams was with the party that took our people Sam Wise. (Note on p 278 of Gregg's--Ft. McIntosh was a stockade on the St. Jues. Winn our Captain behaved well).

"With a country recently settled, and most of the inhabitants poor, it was expected that matters of material interest would first engage the thoughts of the people." Now that the state was in a "comparative repose and with brighter prospect for the future, the people of St. David's District assembled at the Meeting House on 13 Dec 1777 to promote learning for the future generations. According to Reverend Mr. Pugh's Journal: "Assembled at the Meeting House, in Society to promote learning; and on the 20th, 'went to Dr. Mills', about the Society's rules." "On the 31st, also went to the Neck, to the Society, signed the rules, chose officers, &c." The names of those who participated in the organization were as follows, viz:

General Alexander M'Intosh, Colonel George Hicks

Col. Thomas Lide Capt. Thomas Ellerbe

(Fifteen other names are also listed but these head each column-See Gregg's History of Old Cheraw p 281)

"Under the Act of 1778, no volunteer company was to be formed, and those previously existing were to be disbanded whenever there should cease to be fifty effective men on their muster rolls. No regiment was to be divided unless containing more than twelve hundred men. **Lt. Col. M'Intosh** was appointed to the command of the brigade, embracing the eastern portion of the State. **Col. M'Intosh** gained no little note upon the opening of the campaign in Georgia, by a reply to the enemy, which became a well-known saying in the army. It was February 1777, when a body of British troops, arriving at Sunbury, a party of them detached to demand the surrender of the fort, of which **M'Intosh** was in command. **His answer was "Come and take it"**, which they deemed it expedient not to attempt to do."

In March 1778, the state militia was officially divided into three brigades. **Alexander McIntosh was made a Brigadier-general, appointed to command the brigade embracing the western portion of the state.** He held the militia rank of Brigadier-General for the remainder of his life in the State but was made a Colonel in the Continental Army under General Moultrie.

Gregg further reveals: "the act of incorporation of March 28, 1778 names **Alexander M'Intosh** as an officer with two others for the purpose of endowing a "seminary of learning" in the Cheraw District to instruct and educate the youth in the necessary branches of knowledge." (The St. David's Society was formed in 1777. It took its name from the Guardian Saint of Wales. Members subscribed \$30,000 to endow a free public academy to instruct the youth of the area in the fine arts of language, math and the classics. St. David's Academy was one of the first free public schools in the Nation and most certainly in the South. The school has had a most profound influence on this State. It helped transform the Upper Pee Dee into the cultural and intellectual center that guided this area during the formative years of our State and Nation.) By the time the Constitution was adopted in March, the representation re-apportionment had been completed and provisions made for election of Senators. Elections were held the last Monday of November and the Senator for St. David's was the **Honorable Alexander M'Intosh.**"

The close of 1778 saw more active and vigorous preparations than before for a decisive blow upon the South. In December of that year, Savannah was taken, and South Carolina became a frontier state, calling for redoubled efforts on the part of her people. "The public spirit was roused to the highest pitch, and everywhere military movements were being made. The churches deserted, and the inhabitants generally in a state of commotion and alarm. **Lieut. Colonel McIntosh** was now actively engaged in the service of the State. After the evacuation of Augusta by the enemy, he was detached, in command of a company of regulars, with a party under Col. Howard, in all about 200, to follow the enemy and harass them in the rear. **Col. M'Intosh appears to have possessed, in an eminent degree, the confidence and affection of Genl. Moultrie.**"

Gregg cites correspondence between Moultrie and Alexander that is replicated in Wallace's History of South Carolina:

"Col. Alexander McIntosh at COOSAWHATCHIE.

In a village nine miles north of Ridgeland, can be found evidence of the colonization, wars, upheaval and recovery. Events of some 300 years are embodied in Coosawhatchie's existence. Here, an early trading post was established in the days of the Proprietors, to deal with the Yemassee, Euhaw and Coosaw Indians. This phase ended after the uprising of 1715 caused the expulsion of the red people to Florida. Under the royal governors of the Carolina province, Coosawhatchie thrived as a commercial town; a stopping point on the stagecoach road between Charleston and Savannah. Its strategic location caused it to figure prominently in the American Revolution. Letters passing between General William Moultrie and **Colonel Alexander McIntosh** show their plans to join forces at Coosawhatchie, as an endeavor to block the British drive toward "Charlestown."

"(Sent by express)

"Black Swamp, Apr. 29, 1779

Dear Sir

You must endeavor to join us, if you can without any great risk. I wish you could have given me an account of the enemy's number. I could better judge how to act; the light horseman informs me you imagine them upwards of three hundred men. I think you were right to retreat in time, as your force would not be equal to theirs by any means. I expect soon to have accounts from you and more particulars.

I am, &c.,

William Moultrie.

Col. Alexander McIntosh replied:

Coosawhatchie, Apr. 30th, 1779

Dear General:

Last night two deserters from the enemy came to Bee's Creek; they were of the light infantry. They say Col. Maitland commanded yesterday, that he had the light infantry, and the 2nd battalion of the 71st regiment, amounting to eight or nine hundred men; that they were to send for three field-pieces and three six-pounders, with a reinforcement to make them up to 1500 men; that they did not know the Colonel's plan, but that they heard it said that he intended to proceed to Charles-town, and that he had thirty or forty Indians with him. I have given Genl. Bull and Col. Skirving information of these particulars; the men are so lame that I cannot be up before tomorrow night. We are all safe.

I am, etc.,

Alexander McIntosh."

(see Moultrie's Memoirs, pps. 389 & 401)

There are two accounts in Wallace's History of South Carolina of the race to Charlestown, "As Moultrie retreated from the Black swamp, he learned the enemy had crossed the Savannah River at Two Sisters Ferry and was rushing to Coosawhatchie in order to interdict and cut Moultrie's forces off from Charlestown. Moultrie beat him to the Village of Coosawhatchie and the river of that name, but was obliged to retreat before much superior forces."

In the disposition of the troops for the defense of Charleston in March 1779, Brigadier General **Alexander McIntosh** (4th Brigade of SC Militia) *the Fifth Continental Regiment, had the redoubt, on the right of the line and was selected by Moultrie as one of the Commissioners for arranging terms with the British for the surrender of the town, from which humiliating duty he (Alexander McIntosh) begged to be excused, but was finally persuaded to act.* In February, the Fifth South Carolina Regiment was combined with the 1st Regiment South Carolina. Brigadier General Alexander McIntosh is listed in The American Revolution in South Carolina at: http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_siege_of_charleston.html

On May 12, 1780, the forces, the forces under General William Moultrie were captured following the Siege of Charleston. Paul J. Rastatter's article, "*Rebel Prisoners Detained in North America*" reveals where Alexander may have been sent after capture: ...After the British capture of Charlestown in 1780, large numbers of men from South Carolina militia units were incarcerated in St. Augustine (Florida). The regular, Continental forces captured at Charlestown were placed in prisons in and around the city. A special prison camp was set up outside Charlestown at Haddrell's Point (xxxi). A few of the soldiers but most of the American naval personnel were placed aboard prison ships in Charleston Harbor...."

General Alexander McIntosh died November 18th 1780. He died testate so it probably wasn't expected so no will was written; being a prisoner, whether at Haddrell's Point or in a prison in Charleston, would probably mean "no access to a lawyer" to prepare to will....

The Reverend Evan Pugh of the Welch Neck Baptist Church, preached,

"He died on the 18th of November 1780. In every position in life, this patriotic and honored citizen maintained the most exemplary character, and it was his happiness to fill every position to which he was called with fidelity and honor. As shown by his correspondence, he possessed, in an eminent degree, the confidence and respect of General Moultrie. Of superior mental endowments and a well-balanced character, possessing an ample fortune, he was enabled to exert an influence beyond most of his contemporaries in the service of his country, in which he was active and prominent from the very beginning of the struggle for liberty."

I respectfully request that South Carolina officially honor this great but forgotten South Carolinian.

Thank you Governor Haley for your Service to South Carolina's people!



David Erwin Bell, President

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