

Alexander Leith

Alexander Leith was born around 1707 in Mainland of Europe, son of [probably] Andrew? Leith.

Note about the birth of Alexander: Alexander Leith, born around 1707.

[Source: CBG, Compagnie De Invalides R.A. The Hague no. 3250: 58 years old in 1765].

Probably born outside of Scotland (no records of an Alexander Leith, born around 1707 have been found in the Scottish church books).

Many members of the Leiths from Aberdeen (the place where this branch of the Leith comes from) were professional soldiers.

We assume that his father and possibly brothers or cousins also served in a Scottish or English regiment.

Retired sergeant in Woudrichem in 1765, 58 years old, weak sight and body discomfort; served for 38 years in the Stuart Regiment, in the Munro company. Income as Gep. Sergeant NLG 10 p. month.

Note 1. Entered approximately 1727 the Scottish Regiments; the 2nd Schotten Regiment was stationed in Meenen from 1725-1728, but perhaps entered into one of the other Regiments.

Note 2. Compagnie van Munro, 1st Bat. 3rd Regiment Schotten (Stuart)

Note 3. It is not certain that Alexander also served his first years as a soldier in the 3rd Regiment.

Household of Alexander Leith

He married to (someone possibly named) Isabella in church. Around 1736 in Bergen Op Zoom.

Source: Willem Vlietstra

No information about the marriage is available. Probably around 1736, but sooner or later is also possible.

Also the name of Alexander's wife (not yet) found.

Note 1. Since many of the first daughters were named Isabella, we can assume that Alexander had those children together with one Isabella (naming after all was tradition).

Note 2. No records of this marriage have yet been found in the Scottish church registers.

No records of this marriage were found in the registers of the garrison places of the Regiments Schotten either. Perhaps the data went wrong.

The wedding book of the Regiment Schotten (3) only contains data for the years 1767-1781. A wedding book did exist, but it was lost. [Source: Mac Lean]

Children:

- Andrew (Andries) Leith (Lieth) ± 1737-> 1788
- John Leith ± 1742 - ????
- Alexander Leith ± 1745-1793
- George Leith 1752-1801
- Jan Leith 1755-> 1781

Research work about family ties in Scotland from Willem Vlietstra:

Based on a search on the internet for the occurrence of the Leith family name (hundreds of entries) in relation to the Alexander, Andrew and George first names, only Aberdeenshire in Scotland remains as birthplace of our branch of the Leith family.

In the church book (1671-1721) of Old Machar, Aberdeenshire, Scotland we find the following entries;

- Baptism of a son Alexander Leyth, father Pat. Leyth on 13-06-1647
- Baptism of a son Alexander, father Alexander Leith on 23-11-1657
- Baptism of a son Andrew, father George on 11/5/1665
- Baptism of a son Andrew, father George Leith on 25-10-1674
- Baptism of a son Andrew, father Andrew Leit on 27-06-1681
- Baptism of a son Andrew, father Alexander Leith on 03-02-1689
- Baptism of a son Andrew, father Alexander Leith, mother Marg. Donaldsone on 3/15/1696.
- Marriage of Andrew Leith X Issobell Cuper on 16-08-1656
- Marriage of George Leith X Elsbet Stragn on 05-05-1657
- Marriage of Alexander Leith X Violet Malice on 16-06-1677

Possibly the mentions of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, Scotland also give clues:

Baptism of a son Alexander, father William Leith, mother Elspet Lumsden on 14-01-1677 and from a later date:

- Baptism of a son Alexander, father Alexander Leith, mother Mary Forbes on 17-02-1776
- Baptism of a son Andrew, father John Leith, mother Isabel Wilson on 09-08-1776.

See also mentioning Edingarioch or Likelyhead, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

History of the Scottish Brigade

From the beginning of the Eighty Years' War until the end of the 18th century, a considerable part of the army of the Republic of the United Netherlands consisted of mercenary regiments. Scottish mercenaries played an important role in this. The Scottish Brigade was a Dutch army unit from the 17th and 18th centuries, formed by three Scottish regiments, rented from Great Britain. These regiments were numbered Regiments Scots 1, 2 and 3, but were known in particular by the names of the regimental commanders, as was customary during the 18th century.

Regiment Schotten (1716 Halkett, 1742 de Villegas, 1746 Stuart)

The regiment was established in 1603 as Scott or Bucleuch's Regiment Schotten. In 1746 the Regiment was expanded to 2 battalions, each with a grenadier company and six musketeer companies. In 1772 the regiment was nationalized and the official name was established as Regiment Schotten 3. In 1783 the official name was established as Regiment Nationalen 23.

Although the regiment officially bore a number / name, it was only used on their weapons and equipment, and they were better known by the name of their commander (Colonel).
Colonel:

- 07/24/1716 Alexander Halkett, 11-03-1727 Sergeant, 21-03-1740 Major General
- 27-03-1742 George de Villegas, 16-05-1747 Lieutenant General
- 18-03-1746 Charles William Stewart, 16-05-1747 Major General
- 30-07-1772 John Stuart, 24-08-1772 Major General, 10/15/1787 Lieutenant General

If the colonel held a higher rank, another colonel became commander of the regiment:

- 07/15/1740 George de Villegas
- 11/26/1754 John Stuart
- 18-03-1766 Ralph Dundas
- 00-02-1776 Willem Jan Herman Hamilton or Silvertonhill, 15-10-1787 Major General
- 10/15/1787 Henry Balneavis.