

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Atkins R291

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 31 Dec 2014.

State of Virginia } S.S.

Fayette County } On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September AD 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Fayette County now sitting, John Atkins a resident of Fayette County and State of Virginia aged about seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. that he entered the service of the United under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He enrolled himself as a volunteer in a militia company in the County of Henry and State of Virginia in which County he then resided under the command of Capt David Harrison for the term of six months which term he actually served. after he so enrolled himself as aforesaid he was marched to North Carolina against the Tories and Indians who was then committing depredations in that Country and was stationed at Osburns Mill [on Lovills Creek] in Surry County N Carolina where he was kept under fatigue the greater part of the term which term of service is proven by the affidavit of Thomas Kadle [sic: Thomas Cadle, pension application R1579] herewith annexed this service was rendered in the year 1779 as well as recollected. He was marched from Osburns Mill about the expiration of the term aforesaid to a place called Salsberry [sic: Salisbury] in North Carolina where he was discharged He then and there enlisted under Captain Thomas Henderson for the term of two years this enlistment he thinks was in the latter part of the year 1779 after he so enlisted he remained at Salsberry for some time and was then marched under the command of Capt Thomas Henderson to Guilford where they arrived the day after the defeat of General Gates [see endnote] and they assisted in burying the dead; they then continued their march to a place called ninety six in South Carolina where they joined General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene, siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] and was there kept under fatigue until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [sic: 19 Oct 1781] he was in no battles of consequence he was frequently attached to scouting parties and had some scrimmages after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis he was marched to Yorktown to guard the prisoners taken there; he was discharged at Yorktown and returned home to his fathers house in Henry County Virginia he received a written discharge from his officers but time and accidents has totally obliterated it he would say that he served at least two years in the army of the revolution he has no documentary evidence of his services and does not know of any person living by whom he could prove any of his services except Thomas Kadle whose affidavit is hereunto attached. he was born in Henry County State of Virginia [formed in 1776 from Pittsylvania County, which was formed in 1766 from Halifax County] and from the best information that he can procure in the year 1755 He remained in Henry County State of Virginia twenty or twenty five years after the close of the revolutionary war he then moved to Montgomery County State of Virginia where he resided about eight years he then moved to Cabell County Virginia where he resided five or six years he then moved to Fayette County Virginia where he resided one year on New River he then moved to Coal River in said County of Fayette where he now resides; He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state he received no commission He is known to Gibson Jarrett Martin Petry and Joseph Harper Esqr persons in his neighbourhood who can testify to his character for veracity and of the general belief of his having been a soldier of the revolutionary war Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Atkins

I Thomas Kadle of the county of Giles and state of Virginia do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with John Atkins of the County of Fayette and state of Virginia that I was in the revolutionary war with him I think in the year 1779 we were stationed at Osburns Mill in Surry County State of North Carolina. he was under the command of captain David Harrison and I was under the command of Captain David

Humphries [David Humphreys] I do not now recollect whether there was a regiment or what number of men or companys were there or what the army at that place was called we had the place aforesaid as a place of rendezvous where we continued near six months to guard against the depredations of the tories and Indians which time I know that the said John Atkins was in the service of the united states. after we continued here the term as aforesaid we were marched to a place called Salsberry where I last saw him during the war I enlisted there under Capt James Shepherd [sic: James Shepperd] and the said John Atkins I was informed enlisted under Capt Thomas Henderson he was marched to ninety six and I to yorktown he had frequently told me that he would enlist for two years at Salsberry and I believe that he did Given under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of Septr 1834 Thomas hisXmark Kadle

NOTES:

Atkins has evidently confused the defeat of Gen. Nathanael Greene at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC on 15 Mar 1781 with the defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1781.

The American troops left the siege at Ninety-Six SC on 19 June 1781, months before the surrender of Cornwallis.

Thomas Cadle's statement in support of Atkins's claim is very different from the declaration he made almost 20 years later in his own pension application.

John Atkins's claim was suspended "for further proof and specification."