

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Atkinson R292

Martha Atkinson

f9NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/2/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[State of Ohio] Gallia Court of Common Pleas October Term 1851

On this 26 day of October A.D. 1851 appeared in open Court Martha Atkinson aged Seventy Six years a resident of Gallia County and State of Ohio, who being duly sworn by said Court according to law deposeth and saith in makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed on the 29th of July 1848 "An act for the relief of certain surviving widows of Officers and soldiers of the revolutionary Army" for the services of her late husband Joseph Atkinson who was a private in the war of the Revolution from the year 1778 until the termination of the same in the year 1783. That her said husband was enlisted at Hillsboro in North Carolina for during the war, and served under Captain Litle [perhaps William Lytle of the NC Continentals], but in what Regiment or under what Colonel she does not remember to have heard him state but she distinctly remembers hearing him state that he was at the battle of Guilford Courthouse [March 15, 1781], and at Cross Creek, and when Lord Cornwallis left North Carolina he was retained there to assist in keeping down the Tories had great trouble in keeping the Tories down until Lord Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781] to General Washington in 1781 –

That her said husband has frequently stated during his lifetime that he remained in service until peace was made. She also states that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim, nor can she prove the services aforesaid, as the last witness of the same, to wit, Benjamin Williams¹ late pensioner from Gallia County departed this life during the year past, must therefore rely upon the evidence of service to be obtained from the records of the war Department.

She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Atkinson on the 26th December 1790 by John Douglass a Justice of the Peace at Randolph County in Virginia, that her maiden name was Martha Dunkin, and that her husband died at Gallia County and State of Ohio on the 7th of March 1815 aged 55 years. She also declares that she cannot procure evidence of her marriage from the records of Randolph County in Virginia, and that her family record was burnt in a dwelling house she lost in the year 18 said – that she was married to said Atkinson after he left the Army, but previous to the 2nd day of January 1800. She further states that she is a widow and has so remained since the death of her said husband, and that she has never before made application for a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid

¹ [Benjamin Williams S7897](#)

S/ Martha Atkinson, X her mark

[John H Safford and Robert Safford, Jr. gave a supporting affidavit.]

[p 4: On October 26, 1851 in Gallia County of Ohio, Peter Blazer and Francis Blazer gave testimony that they were well acquainted with Joseph and Martha Atkinson during the lifetime of Joseph; that they lived together as husband and wife; that at the death of Joseph Martha married Benjamin Collins and in a short time afterwards she had satisfactory evidence that Benjamin Collins had a wife living, from that time she withdrew from any connection with Benjamin Collins which was some 20 years ago and since which time Benjamin Collins has died. They also testify that they well remember Joseph Atkinson saying that he was at the battle of Guilford Court house in North Carolina.]