

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Atchley R68

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Sevier County }

Be it Remembered that on the 22nd day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty in Open Court (it Being a court of Record for the said county of Sevier so made by the common law and statutes of the State and having the power of fine and imprisonment) Abraham Atchley aged sixty one years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and first May 1820 that the said Abraham Atchley inlisted for the term of eighteen months on the [blank] day of the month of August (the year he cannot Recollect) In the company commanded by Captain David May in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Lewis in the line of the state of Virginia on the Continental Establishment [see endnote] That he continued to serve in the said corps untill within a few days before the expiration of said term of eighteen months how many this declarent cannot Recollect precisely but does not believe they exceeded thirty and perhaps not half that number when he was discharged from said service in the said State of Virginia bautetort [sic: Botetourt] County that he was in the Seige of Little York which terminate in the Capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service except his own oath

And in pursuance of the act of first may 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed viz two hogs worth one dollar each and kettle worth one dollar and forty cents and pot worth \$1.75 cents and oven worth \$1.00 and pewter dish and four pewter plates worth about \$3.00 and axe worth \$1.75 cents one old hoe worth 75 cents

Abraham Atchley

And that he is able to work and is a day labourer by occupation has a wife named Aalsey about forty seven years of age five [sic] children viz John sixteen years old & Thomas thirteen years old Easther eleven years old who are capable of supporting themselves. James nine years old. William seven years old and George four years old which are incapable of support themselves or in any measure to contribute thereto

Abraham Atchley

State of Alabama } personally appeared in open Court before me Thompson M Rector Judge of the Jackson County } County Court in and for said County on the 19th day of May 1834 Abraham Atchley a resident of the County of Jackson and State aforesaid aged seventy four years the 25 of Oct next 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 the 7th 1832

That the year 1778 he being then a resident of Laudan [sic: Loudoun] County and State of Virginia he Volunteered under Capt Redican who was ordered by General Washing [sic: George Washington] to reenforce Fort pitt [at present Pittsburgh] which had before that time suffered some injury by the attacks of the Shawnee Indians he marched with his said Captain over the Alliganey [sic: Allegheny] Mountain along the old road cut out by General Washing & General Braddock [sic: Braddock's Road] and slept on the battle ground where Braddock met his defeat [at present Braddock PA, 9 Jul 1755] and then ascended the Manengahaley [sic: Monongahela] River to Fort Pitt & served out the tour of three months —

Some time after and just before the battle of Camblen [sic: Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] he volunteered again under one Capt Wadison Started and marched for Camden when when forty miles of the place heard that the battle was over and returned home having served two months the last Tour was long after this being still a resident of Laudan County and state of Virginia he was drafted in to the service of the United States for the term of six months and ordered to head quarters at Little York his Capt was of the name of David May his Cononel Andrew Lewis his commanding officer General Mullenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] the division to which he belonged marched through Augusta Virginia and lay there 2 days of [illegible word] more from thence to Richmond then to Williamsburg from thence to Bordens[?] Mill which had just been abandoned by the enemy some few 8 or 10 that remained was taken prisoners, from thence he marched to Little York the day after his arival he was posted with the French troops on the picket guard, was under the command of French officers but does not recollect their names during his stay which was untill the surrender of Corn Wallis he withstood several attacks of the enemy who salied forth every now and then during the siege he had three bullets shot through his hunting shirt but not injured by either. The French Troops with whome he lay were on the south side of York River he futher states he saw Corn Wallis surrender [sic: see endnote] and march with his life guard to the Town after the Surrender he was marched unto Winchester Barracks as guard to a Regiment of the British which had been taken prisoners remained there untill releaved by a new draft of Malitiamen May and Lewis still being his commanders from thence marched to Augusta in Virginia there he was discharged after having been in service for that campaign eight months He futher states he has no documentary evidence in suport of his services and that he knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can testify as to his services He hereby relinquishes ever claim whatsoever to a pention or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pention roll of the agency of any state in the United States

Question by the Court

Where and in what year were you born Ans I was born in Middlesex County State of New Jersey & was born in the year seventeen hundred & fifty nine

2^d qus Have you any record of your age & if so where is it Ans it is record in my Brother Thomas' family Bible who reside in Tennessee

3^d Where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the Revolutionary ware & where do you now live

Ans When called in to service I lived in the County of Laudon and State of Virginia from Virginia I removed to Tennessee & from Tennessee to Jackson County where I now live

4th How were you called in to the service were you Drafted did you Volenteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom did you substitute

Ans. I volenteered for the two first Tours of duty I served and the 3rd I was drafted as set forth in my Declaration

5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the Troops where you served such Continental & Malitia Regiments and the general circumstances of your service

Ans Capt David May was my Captain Col Andrew Lewis General Mullen Burge General Washington and as to the Regiments I have forgotten them

6th Did you ever Receive a Discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Ans. I Received a Discharge from the service after the Seige of Little York given Lieutenant Hignman which Discharge I lost while I resided in E Tennessee Sevier County and have never been able to lay my hands on them since

7th State the names of persons to whome you are known in your present Neighbourhood and who can testify as to your carrector for varecity and there belief as to your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans William Babb Jobe Wellhelms John Moon William Pruiett Blunt B Ruffen Peter Maples

Abraham hisXmark Atchley

State of Alabama } personally appeared in open Court before me Thompson M Rector Judge of the
Jackson County } Court in and for said County Abram Atchley on this the 13th day of August 1835
A resident of the County of Jackson and State of Alabama aforesaid aged now near seventy six who being
duly sworn doth on his oath on his oath make the following supplementary declaration intended as an
amendment to an original Decleration by him heretofore made and to the War Department forwarded
bearing date the 19th day of May 1834 In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th
1832

States that that as heretofore stated he just before the battle at Camdan mentioned in his original
Decleration he Volenteered under one Capt Wadison and marched for Camden but haveing heard of the
battle before they got there they returned and marched home having been gone at least one month and
this applicant thinks more yet they had not been in the service the Two month for which they Volenteered
about this there was some confusing the men thought they ought to have a discharge for the Two Months
and to satisfy the men and settle this question the Capt went to the Col and asked him to settle the
question the Col said considering the men had volenteered freely and had been marched and they ought
to be entitled to a discharge for 2 months and therefore he claimed it in his original Decleration 2^d he
states he was drafted for six months and more under Capt David May as stated in his original Decleration
and this applicant states that at the surrender of CornWallis his time was within a few days of being out
meaning for the six months it was then nesary that the prisoners should be guarded to the Winchester
Barax in the State of Virginia a considerable distance from where they we then were stationed this
applicant states that his company was [illegible word] upon as a part of the guard the prisoners to the
barex aforesaid of this the men complained the question being refered to General Mulenburge said the
men who went on that expedition should receive a discharged and be paid for the time they were thus
engaged over the six months and this this applicant was imploid in that service and business Two months
thus inttiling him to a claim of an Eight Months Tour of duty and therefore claimed it in his original
Decleration this latter service was performed the Winter Season and laborious as any other by this
applicant performed
Abraham hisXmark Atchley

State of Alabama } On this 22nd day of August 1839 personally appeared in open Court Abraham
Jackson County } Atchley aged seventy eight years, who after being first duly sworn according to
law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress
passed on the 7th day of June 1832; saith that he was born on the 25th day of October 1761 five miles from
Princeton in the State of New Jersey from which place at the age of eleven he removed with his parents &
settled in Montgomery County in Virginia & then in the fall of 1771 [sic: changed by separate letter to
1777] he volunteered in the Company of Capt James Redikin for three months & marched against
Shawnee tribe of Indians at Fort pitt & marched thro the Red Stone settlement [now Brownsville PA] &
crossed the Alleganey Mountain at the old Battle ground of Genl Braddock & from thence took his old
trace to the Fort; & upon our arrival there the enemy had fled; & from the Fort we returning by the same
rout home, having been absent three months & was discharged at Leesburgh [sic: Leesburg] in Loudin
County Va; & this discharge which he then obtained for said service testified those things fully; but the
same was lost by him many years since. Stewart acted as Adjutant in this expedition to Fort Pitt, & his
discharge was signed by Capt Redikin.

Again this deponent saith he was drafted for three months & placed under the command of Capt David
May & marched to York Town against L'd. Cornwallis & attached to Genl Mulenberghs command, that he
was present & in service & performed duty at the time of Cornwallis surrender & for some time before: &
at the moment of surrender he was stationed on the French picket guards & acted as Orderly Seargeant to
his company [see endnote] & after the surrender he with a detachment from his Company with others
were ordered to take charge of the prisoners of war & guarded them on to Winchester Barracks, on the
Shanadow [sic: several miles from the Shenandoah] River after this service was performed he was

marched to & was discharged at Stanton [sic: Staunton] Va having served out the whole term for which he had been drafted; & his discharge for this service; which testified the facts, more fully has, also, long since been lost by him. Deponent saith after his return from Yorktown he remained in Virginia for some years, & then removed to & [illegible word] in Greene County Tennessee & about the years 90 or 91 as well as he can now remember, he was again drafted to perform a tour of duty against the Cherokee Indians, under the command of Capt Peter Bryant; & marched to the command of Genl Sevier & marched to Clinch River to the point now called Kingston, cutting out a road for their march from Knoxville to that point; where they were occupied for the full term of service in building a Fort for the protection of the Country; & returned to & was disbanded at Husting[?] in Tennessee.

Again this Deponent saith that in August 1815 he volunteered again in the service of the United States in the Company commanded by Capt. A Lawson for six months & was marched under the command of Genl Taylor from Knoxville Tennessee to Camp Mandeville[?] below Molele[?] point & where he remained until the first of March 1816 when he was there discharged; in this tour he was marched thro most of the creek Country & was in several of the Battles there fought; from this service he returned home & continued to reside in the County of Severe until the year 1828 when he removed to & settled in the County of Jackson Alabama where he still resides. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any state whatever.

Abraham hisXmark Atchley

NOTES:

David May was a Captain in the Botetourt County Militia, and Samuel Lewis (not Andrew Lewis) was Militia Colonel from that county. Atchley would therefore have been a militiaman. Militiamen generally served tours of only three months each. The pension acts of 1818 and 1820 covered only Continental soldiers.

Like many pension applicants, Atchley did not realize that Cornwallis did not personally surrender at Yorktown but delegated the task to his second in command, Gen. Charles O'Hara.

An Orderly Sergeant wrote each day's orders into an order book for each company. If Atchley had been an Orderly Sergeant one would expect him to have signed his own name.

On 18 Jan 1843 Atchley applied again for a pension under the act of 1832, deleting the claim for service after the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783, which was not covered under that act.

On 28 July 1854 William Atchley assigned power of attorney to obtain benefits considered due for service by his deceased father.