

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Atkinson S15352

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }

County of Pike } SS.

On this 26th day of December 1833 personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace for said county in the county of Pike and State of Kentucky, James Atkinson resident in the county of Pike and State of Kentucky aged Eighty six 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 7th 1832. that he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated – to wit. for six months in the militia of the state troops of virginia in the county of Pittsylvania under Captain James Brier [probably James Brewer], and Col. Robt. Daulton [Robert Dalton?] on the 7th day of May 1778. from there he was marched directly to Petersbug [sic: Petersburg] and after remiaing there till June 1778 about the 15th he was then marched to Albemarle Barracks to Guard some prisoners there, and to be ready to opose the enemy if he should make an attack, he remained here untill the first of November 1778 and there our company was ordered to march to Richmond & having served out of his time he received a discharge some time in that month and returned home his discharge before spoken of was not given in writing, but a letter to Col. Daulton Stating the service but he never presented it and never obtained any thing more than the above letter & certificate

On the 22^d day of March next year 1779 he enlisted as a common soldier for three years. went under Captain Chas White as recruiting officer and under Col. Aikin in Pittsylvania – he was amediately marched to a place on the bay called Portsmouth [sic: Portsmouth] oposite Norfolk [sic: Norfolk] and there guazed[?] some tories or against them that would accompany the british and plunder and steale the tories would hide in a large swamp, and we frequently had several skirmushes after them and shot and killed two in August 1779. he remained here till October 1779 and from there was marched to a town called Williamsburg where there were some troops. from this place to Richmond where we rendevouzed that winter 1779 in the month of April 1780 Four[?] companies was marched & he with them, to Norfolk. he here remaind four months, and their allowed a furlow of forty days to go home, in the month of September he got back having been gone from Norfolk only 17 days. we guarded millitary stores untill Gen Arnold during that fall came up the Chesepeake bay [sic: Benedict Arnold arrived Chesapeake Bay 30 Dec 1780] and we retreated over to a large swamp and from there we went to Petersburg and Gen Phillips was there [William Phillips, arrived after 20 Mar 1781]. from there we went to Richmond and was was joined by Gen Layfayette [sic: Lafayette, 29 Apr 1781] and kept the british out of that place. this was in December 1780 [sic]. the upper works were marched after this to Camel court house va [sic: Campbell Courthouse; Campbell County organized from Bedford County in 1782]. here we staid till we joined Gen Greene in March 1781. we re-enforced him, and this applicant was severely wounded in the battle of Guilferd [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and was compeled to leave the service – he was discharged by Col Aikin, after he got home on the 30th July 1781, he served in all about 30 months He knew many officers & Regts during his service – 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 – sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] James Atkinson

Questions and Answers –

1. Where and in what year were you born

Ans. I was born in Pittsylvania [sic: formed in 1766 from Halifax County, which was formed from Lunenburg County in 1752] Va S. 3^d April 1747

2^d Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Have it recorded by my father in the family; it was in Virginia the last I heard of it

3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live

Ans. I was in Pennsylvania, and I lived there for a while after the war, and then moved to Kentucky where I now live

4 How were you called into service were you drafted, did not you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Ans I was a volunteer first for 6 months and enlisted for three years in the second place and got wounded at Guilford and was discharged because I was an invalid,

5 State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served. such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I knew Gen Lafayette Gen Mullenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] Col Bluford [sic: Abraham Buford]. Gen Lee [probably Lt. Col. Henry Lee], Col. Nathaniel Clay. Col. Williams [probably Otho Holland Williams of MD] Col. Morgan, George Savage Mercer [probably Mercer]. Gen Guiss [probably Gist] and [William] Smallwood Col Gillus[?] he served in all in actual service 30 months, he first served as a volunteer for 6 months then he enlisted for three years and served under Gen Mullenburg and Gen Lafayette, he guarded some stores and some baggage wagons. he was in the battle of Guilford and there got severely wounded and disabled. and returned home and was discharged by Col Jos Akin a Col. in the Regular service, in consequence of his wounds to the Secty of War. he served as a Militia man called state troops. his name will be found on the roll -6. did you ever a discharge from service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

ans I recd a discharge certifying my former service under Gen Greene and before it was signed by Jos Akin I did not receive one at the barracks the part [illegible word]

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the revolution

Ans William Reig, Simeon Justic Jr Gen William Ratliff. Col Geo. Powell, Thomas Owen Thom's. Hackney - the Revd William Tackite, Revd Theo. Powell. to John C Lester John Nunney James Rowe Sr. James Rowe Jr. Joseph Harless. [signed] James Atkins

State of Kentucky }
County of Pike } SS.

On this 24th day of February 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace for said county in the county of Pike and state of Kentucky James Adkinson resident in the county of Pike and State of Kentucky aged Eighty six years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he entered the service of the United States, under the following mentioned officers and served as herein stated, under Col. Robt Daulton, Capt James Bruer in Pyttsylvania County, Virginia in the State troops of the said State, for six months on the 15th June (as he remembers) 1778 from this County he marched Albemarl barracks at this place he remained Guarding the prisoners that had been taken in the North [at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777] until the month of Nov'r. 1778, from this place in the aforesaid month of Nov'r. he was marched to Richmond Virginia, and in this month or December he was discharged for his Tour of six months. his discharge in this instant was not in writing a letter was given him certifying he had served out his time in order that his Col might give a formal discharge. his best impression is that he was discharged in December about the 15th or 20th

2^d Tour.

The [?]^d of May 1779 he engaged as a common private in the Virginia troops for three years in Pittsylvania county Virginia, under Col Aikin, Captain Charles White, an officer who recruited and enlisted men, he was immediately mustered into service under his officers and about the 29th May 1779 he was marched a

considerable distance down the cuntry to the Bay near the mouth of James River to a place Portsmouth in Virginia the neighbourhood around this place had been considerably annoyed by some Tories in disguise, who had some runaway negroes with them and stole and pilfered a great deal, and as it was then said killed several men tho shipping [possibly "sleeping"] were laying in the bay in sight. those robbers took refuge in a large swamp on the river about seven miles from Norfolk Va, they collected a small force, and in a small encounter with them and the scouts in August 1779 two or three were killed, he remained here on duty until October following and they aggressions of the Tories had been put down his Company was then marched to a Town called Williamsburg, at this Town there were several companies of State troops. one Company of Regulars and a Regiment under Gen Clay of Militia he was not there, the provisions for the winter service had been removed or a quarter part thereof, to Richmond he was marched to Richmond where he was rendezvoused until April 1780. he cleaned fire arms during his stay at this place, and there was a Captain and his company of Hessians there for a while that were prisoners about this time the British from N. York threatened to invade Virginia, and many Regiments of Militia were raised. he marched to Norfolk Va. and there obtained a furlow for 40 days. he had remained at Norfolk from May to Sept 1780 when he got the furlow just mentioned & he went to Pittsylvania, and was gone about seventeen days. returned. Gen Mullenburg commanded the troops, and Gen [Robert] Lawson was also sometimes in Camp. there had been collected considerable quantity of Bacon, and flour, and salt beefe and other military stores for the army which were deposited over in Norfolk, he remained here guarding them during that fall. Gen Arnold came in ships and one General Philips up the bay and burnt several towns and forced us to retreat from Norfolk, this was in Decr 1780 or the first Jany 1781 he cannot now recollect precisely. he was marched to Petersburg and from there near Richmond he himself was in the Town. the Army was encamped by the Marquis De la Fayette who opposed the British from coming into Petersburg and Richmond, from the place the up Cuntry Militias was marched to Camel Ct. House Virginia in Jany 1781 during the month of February 1781 he remained here, until the Virginia troops joined Gen. Green. from Pittsylvania (he was marched from Camel Ct. Ho. to Pittsylvania) he then joined the army of General Greene under Col Aikin who however did not undertake gon with the troops. he was in the battle of Guilford court house North Carolina called some times Martinburg [sic: Martinsville]. he was severely wounded in the battle which was in March 1781. After this he served no more being unable to do so. in June he got home and on the 30th July 1781 he was discharged at Pittsylvania (not at Fayette County as the copy of the discharge sets out) from further service, & the then six months Tour because he had served long enough to exempt him independent of his wounds he states he was constantly in the service from the 22^d May 1779 till the battle of Guilford in North Carolina in March 1781 except seventeen days being then an invalid he quit service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[signed] James Atkinson

At a Court Martial held at the Courthouse of Fayette County the 30th Day of July 1781
It Appearing to the Court Martial that James Atkinson be Cleared from Serving his Six Months Tour & it is ordered that he be Discharged from the same, on his serving a six Months Tour the Southern States agreeable to a Late call for a further part of our Militia to Join General Greene

A Copy Test

Jas. Akin C C Martial