

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Henry Atkison S31529

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia } S.S.

Wilkinson County }

On this the fifth day of May [1834] personally appeared before the Justices of the Inferior Court of the County of Wilkinson and State aforesaid, sitting as a Court of ordinary, and being a Court of record, Henry Atkison a resident of the said County of Wilkinson and State of Georgia aged seventy three 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States voluntarily in the month of October 1776 in the Company of Capt. Jesse Williamson at Sussex Court House State of Virginia as a private in the militia of Virginia, that he marched from thence to old Surry Court House and from thence to Portsmouth Virginia under the Command of Captain Williamson and at Portsmouth joined Colonel Charles Harrison's Regiment or Brigade (he believes there were more than a Regiment stationed at Portsmouth at the time including continental or regulars and militia) but recollects no officer there higher in rank than Colo. Harrison; He remained stationed at Portsmouth and performed duty there for nine months as a private soldier and returned from thence to his home in Sussex County having faithfully served out his term, but received no written discharge. – That in the month of February 1778 or 1779 (he believes in the latter year) he entered the service of the United States again voluntarily under the command of Captain Thomas Newsome and marched to old Surry Court House the place of rendezvous, and from thence to a place known at that day, as Babbs old field, as a private in the Militia of Virginia, that at Babb's Old field the Company of Captain Newsome joined the army under the command of General Mulenburg (or Lunenburg) [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] that after three or four months he returned home on leave of absence, and rejoined Captain Newsome's Company at Babb's old field and remained and performed duty in the army under the command of General Mulenburg (or Lunenburg) Baron Steuben and General Weeden [sic: George Weedon] until the expiration of his term, a period of at least nine months, and received no written discharge.

That in the year 1780 he volunteered his service as a private soldier in Captain John Powell's Company and marched to Smithfield and joined Colonel Lawson's Regiment, at Smithfield were stationed a large army and believes that Colonel Lawson commanded, and that Captain Powell's Company was attached to the Regiment of Colonel Harry or Henry Gee, that he faithfully served out his tour of three months for which term he had volunteered, but received no written discharge as he now recollects. That a few weeks after his return home, and in the same year he again Volunteered his services as a private in Captain Wilson's Company and marched to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County] and joined the army under command of General Mulenburg (or Lunenburg) whilst in this tour he was a part of his time attached to Captain Larry House's [Lawrence House's] Company in the fourth Regiment of Virginia Volunteer's commanded by Colonel Gaskings [sic: Thomas Gaskins] and Major Devall (or Duvall) from Cabin Point he marched to Petersburg Virginia and then joined the army under the command of Baron Steuben General Mulenburg (or Lunenburg) and General Weeden and was in an engagement at or near Petersburg in the Spring of 1781 with the British and Tories [Battle of Blandford Hill, 25 Apr 1781], in which he received a wound in the head, the enemy took and destroyed a great quantity of Tobacco, provisions and other property, to the best of his recollection. He remained a few days only in the vicinity or Petersburg,, and the wound in his head being slight, he marched with the army to a point about, (as near as he can now recollect twenty miles above Richmond on James River, where the army to which he belonged joined General LaFayette and the whole army under General La

Fayette, then moved down to Richmond and encamped a few days as near as he now remembers) about four miles below the City of Richmond, from whence the whole army marched to Williamsburg and were there joined by the main army under the command of General Washington and thence he with the whole army marched to the investment of Little York or York Town, and remained there until the surrender of the British army under Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], after which the most of the militia were disbanded and permitted to return to their homes, and this deponent among the number, he was honorably discharged by Captain House, but remembers no written discharge and does not believe that he received any, if he did, it has been lost or destroyed, from the best of his recollection it was the latter end of October or early in November 1781 when he was discharged from service having faithfully served from the early part of the previous February. — He said Henry Atkison further declares that he has no record of his age, but was born in the State of Virginia in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty on the sixteen day of September of that year as he has been informed and verily believes that he was living in the County of Sussex State of Virginia when he was called into service and that he continued to reside in that State until the year 1800 when he removed to Hancock County in the State of Georgia, that he resided in Hancock County about five years and then removed to the adjoining County of Washington and there resided about four years, and from thence he removed to the adjoining County of Wilkinson in said State where he now resides and has continued to reside ever since.

Samuel Beall, Sampson Dixon, Wyatt Meredith William Wright are Citizens of the County of Wilkinson and know the said Henry Atkison and as far as ever they knew he bore and still bears a good character for truth and veracity, and in so far as they believe any thing upon tradition, they believe him to have been a revolutionary soldier. The said Henry Atkison hereby relinquishes every claim or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State. The said Henry Atkison further declares that he does not know of any surviving witness or person by whom he can establish the fact of his services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War. That he has no discharge in writing and if he ever had any it has been lost or destroyed, and that from old age and infirmity and consequent loss of memory, and being an illiterate man, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time of his services, but according to the best of his recollection and belief, he served not less than the periods herein before stated and at or about the different times as stated, and in every instance as a private soldier, and that for these services he claims to be entitled to a Pension under the provisions of the Act of Congress of June the 7th 1832.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 5th day of May 1834

Henry hisXmark Atkison

The said Court having propounded to the said Henry Atkison the interrogatories as prescribed by the War Department, he on his Oath in open Court makes answer thereunto as follows:

To the first, he says that from information and belief, he was born in Virginia on the 16th of September 1760.

To the second he says that he knows of no record of his age. He believes there was a record of his age in a prayer Book which belonged to his father, but what became of it he does not know.

To the third, he says, he lived in Sussex County State of Virginia, that he continued to reside there after the War until the year 1800. that in the year 1800 he removed to the State of Georgia, and has resided in Georgia ever since as stated more particularly in the body of his declaration, and that he now lives in the County of Wilkinson State of Georgia.

To the fourth, he says that the first time he entered the service in 1776 he went as a Volunteer – the second time as a Volunteer, and in each subsequent tour he volunteered his services to defend the rights and liberties of the American people – that in two tours not enumerated in his declaration he went as a substitute, once for Peter Randal and once for Joel Atkison

To the fifth, he says that he has stated in his declaration the general circumstances of his services and the names of Field and Company officers under whom he served. He repeats again the names of Generals Washington, La Fayette, Steuben, Weeden and Mulenburg (or Lunenburg) he cannot distinctly

recollect which, Colonels Harrison, Gaskings & Lawson, Major Devall (or Duvall) and Captains Williamson, Newsome, Powell, Wilson and House.

To the sixth, he says that he never received any written discharge as he knows of, and does not believe that he ever did, but if he ever received any it has been lost or destroyed.

To the 7th He gives the names of Samuel Beall, Sampson Dixon, Wyatt Meredith, William Wright as referred to in the body of his declaration. Henry hisXmark Atkison

The following is submitted as an explanation to the declaration of Henry Atkison of Wilkinson County Georgia, made on the 5th day of May 1834, heretofore forwarded to the Pension Office of the United States and returned on the 29th August last for further explanation:

1st. He says, that in October 1776, he knew that his age was then registered in a prayer book, which book he obtained and showed to an Officer, and being then over sixteen, his name was enrolled with the Militia of the county, he being desirous to enter the service. He then volunteered as stated in his declaration, under Captain Williamson. When his tour of three months under Capt. Williamson expired, he immediately volunteered with others of his company, under Captain Cumming as he believes and served under him for a term of three months, and then again volunteered under Captain Wilson as well as he now recollects, and served three months longer, making altogether the term of nine months, as set forth in his declaration – during this period he was permitted to return home several times for clothing &c but was all that time actually engaged in Military service, and not in any civil employment or pursuit whatever.

2^{ndly}. As regards his services in 1778 - 9 of nine months he tenders this explanation. That at the close of the first three months tour under Capt. Newsome, he took the place of a man by the name of Joel Atkinson for three months in Capt. Sill Bell's Company, but from some cause unknown to him at this time, Capt. Newsome took the command of Capt. Bells Company, either voluntarily or substituted for him, so that Capt. Newsome commanded a company for two tours of three months each tour. The third tour of three months was in the Company of Captain Henry Jarratt, and in the place of a man by the name of Bonner, and as substitute for him – these three tours together make the period of nine months, as specified in the declaration – and during which period he was not engaged in any other manner than that of military duty.

3^{rdly} In explanation of his services in the year 1780, He says that after the tour which he served in his own place for three months under Capt. Powell, he substituted for Peter Randall in the Company of Capt. Wilson and served three months, and the next tour in succession was in his own turn under the command of Capt. House, the Virginia Militia being at that time classed, as he then understood; these two latter tours together make the period of six months, during all of which periods he was engaged in no civil employment or pursuit whatever; but strictly attending to the discharge of his military duties as a soldier. He believes, but does not know, that the several officers under whom he served, held their respective appointments from competent authority, the several corps in which he served he always believed were regularly embodied as militia, as the uniformly performed their regular duties as such. He knows of no living Witness by whom he expects to prove his services, further than heretofore proven.

The foregoing explanations have been obtained from Mr. Atkison on a careful conversation with him, and by propounding various questions to him on the subject of his services. He is under the impression that it not infrequently happened, that where were militia, and particularly volunteers, were called out for three months only, that they some times served for a longer period, in consequence of not being relieved by other troops at the expiration of the three months, but continued in service until the proper relief arrived.

The foregoing explanations can be verified to by Mr. Atkison, if it should be deemed necessary.

I am acquainted with Mr. H. Atkison and know him to be very infirm in body, and that his recollection is greatly impaired by time and bodily infirmity, and that he is a man of strict Veracity.

Wm. Y. Hansell

[Certified by Henry Atkison on 10 Feb 1835.]