

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

Pension Application of John Atkins S37690

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, to wit:

At a monthly court held for the county of Orange at the Courthouse, on

Monday the twenty seventh of April one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

John Atkins, a resident of the County of Orange, came into Court, this twenty seventh day of April 1818, and declared upon oath, that he entered the service of the United States in the revolutionary war as a soldier, in a company [raised in Orange County] commanded by Capt George Stubblefield of the fifth regiment, and Virginia line on continental establishment, and continued in said service from February 1776, when he entered it, to February 1778, when he was discharged honorably, and received a discharge, which he has lost; that he is in such poor and reduced circumstances as to need the aid of his country to support him. And Obadiah Terry [possibly pension application W8781] also personally appeared in court and declared upon oath, that within his own knowledge, the foregoing declaration and statement of John Atkins is true.

State of Virginia; SS: At a quarterly court continued and held for the County of Orange at the courthouse on Tuesday the twenty ninth of August one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

On this twenty ninth day of August 1820, personally appeared in open court, in the county of Orange and district of Virginia aforesaid (it being a court of record so made by the constitution and laws of the state, exercising common law Jurisdiction to an unlimited amount, keeping a record of its proceedings and having the power of fine and imprisonment) John Atkins, aged sixty nine years, resident in the aforesaid county of Orange, in the aforesaid district, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows viz. In the company commanded by Captain George Stubblefield in the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment commanded by Colonel [blank] in the line of the state of Virginia on continental establishment; that he made a former original declaration the date whereof is the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year 1818; that he received a pension certificate the number whereof is 6404. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 as follows towit: Schedule of property belonging to John Atkins as herein before referred to – Forty six acres of land which I estimate at three dollars per acre, being very poor, two small horses, one of which was given me by my friends, two cows and calves, and one yearling, two sows with pigs, six small hogs, four sitting chairs, one pine table, a small quantity of household, kitchen and table furniture, and two pine chests. Witness my hand this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 1820. Signed "John Atkins"

I, the said John Atkins, do further declare, that I am in my seventieth year, that I have no occupation other than cultivating the little spot of land afs'd. that I am too infirm to maintain myself by my own labour; I have an infirm wife eighty years old, unable to work; there are three other persons living with me, named Betty Groom and her two children Betty and Solomon, the mother, Betty Groom, about forty nine years old, Solomon about twenty and Betty, the daughter about sixteen, they are able to maintain themselves by their own labour, which is their only reliance for a maintenance, and all persons over whom I have no control.

Dear Sir [Col. P. Barbour, Washington], Avery, December 27<sup>th</sup> 1820

I received your letter dated the 19<sup>th</sup> inst I went yesterday to see Mr. John Atkins, and found him in a worse situation than I had any idea of. he is upwards of 70 years of age, has the palsy and the rheumatism very bad, he is not able to work, his wife is 81 years of age, and is helpless, he has one horse thirteen years old four feet five inches high, I know the horse was given him, he has two cows that has calves they are small and poor, except his land, I believe every thing he owns would not sell for fifty dollars I know very well, if his neighbour had not have furnish him provisions, gratis, four or five years past he could not have lived if his pension is taken from him, he must become an expence to his county in a short time. Mr. Atkins has forty six acres of land eighteen or twenty cleared, seven or eight acres in corn, every year, and makes very little, say from five to ten barrels of corn a year, and is work'd by a poore woman and her two children Betty Groom, makes more by her loom than she makes by working the land and is a good nurse for the old people, Mr George Morris, perchest upward of two hundred acres of land two years since and gave \$1 – 25 pr acre and I know it to be as good land as Mr. Atkins – I know Col. Barber that you are acquainted with the land in that part of the county, it is very poore

Yrs. &c. Yelverton Cowherd

[On 27 Aug 1822 Atkins made another declaration similar to the one in 1820 but with the following schedule of property:]

Forty six acres of land, one small horse thirteen years old, one cow and calf, one heifer, two old iron pots with holes in them, one dutch oven, parcel old pewter, four old chairs, one old table, parcel old knives and forks, parcel old plantation tools

Signed "John Atkins"

I am in my seventy second year, I have no occupation other than attending the little spot of land aforesaid that I am too infirm to maintain myself by my own labour, that I have an infirm wife eighty two years old unable to work there are three other persons living with me named Betty Groom and her two children Betty & Solomon, the mother Betty Groom about fifty one years old Solomon about twenty two and Betty her daughter about eighteen years old they are all able to maintain themselves by their own labour which is their only reliance for maintenance and all persons over whom I have no control.

NOTE: A document in the file states that Atkins died on 18 Mar 1837.