

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

Pension Application of Richard Thomas Atkinson S37691

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

Virginia: Be it remembered, that at a court held in and for the County of Monongalia, at the courthouse of the said county, on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, in the year 1820, personally appeared in open court, {being a court of record, which proceed according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, and keeping a record of its proceedings} Richard Thomas Atkinson, upwards of seventy five years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows, That he enlisted under the name of Richard Thomas, for the term of three years, in the month of June {as well as he can recollect} 1776 in Martinburg [sic: Martinsburg] in Virginia, by Lieut Nathaniel Pendleton, in the rifle company commanded by Capt. [Gabriel] Long in the regiment commanded by Col. Stephenson [Col. Hugh Stephenson's Virginia and Maryland Rifle Battalion] as he has been lately informed by said Pendleton, in the line of the State of Virginia or Maryland on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said corps until about the month of August 1776 when he marched from Martinsburg thro' Philadelphia to Fort Lee on the North river. after being at the latter place for some time he crossed over to Fort Washington on York Island, about fifteen miles above the city of New York, under the orders of Gen'l. Washington, at which time Col. [Robert] Magaw commanded Fort Washington, that after being at Fort Washington for some time; Cornwallis storm'd the fort and out works [16 Nov 1776], he on one side and the Hessians on the other; during the engagement a forty gun ship lay between forts Washington & Lee, which prevented Gen'l. Washington who was at Fort Lee with some troops, from crossing over to us, our troops amounted to about 2500 men the enemy it was said had a much larger force; Col. [Moses] Rawlings' regiment fought very bravely; he recollects one circumstance particularly; a British officer ordered him to carry the american colours out of the fort, he did so, and on his way out he saw one of his fellow soldiers belonging to Capt. Long's company, whose name was Mason, at Mason's request he lowered the colours, Mason pulled them off the standard, put them within his breeches, and he pitched the standard down the North river hill; the same colours Mason kept and gave to Gen'l. Washington, as Mason afterwards informed him – the fort surrendered, and we were all made prisoners of war – at this time he can recollect the name of several of his fellow soldiers, John Keene, William Boyd, Daniel Heartly [possibly Daniel Hartley, pension application S36571], Patrick Howeringham, David Gray (sargent,) Thomas Rogers &c but does not know that any of them are alive. After the surrender of Fort Washington, he with the other troops, was marched down to Harlem where they were kept until next morning and then marched to New York, where they encamped on the common for several hours before the enemy got a place to confine us in, at length we were confined in a sugar house, and then in a vessel of war, that he was soon after taken sick & removed to the hospital, on his recovery he was compelled to attend on the sick in the hospital and subsequently permitted to go in and out when he pleased, that at length he effected his escape about the month of June (1777.) {he recollects eating some ripe cherries on his escape} in the ferry boat. got across to Long Island and down the Island about 140 or 150 miles [sic]. on the way he was informed that four americans were at a house, about 20 or 30 miles off and if he travelled all night {it being then about sunset} he could reach them and cross the river that he travelled all night and at daylight in the morning reached the beach of the East river just in time to recall the men. that they returned took him into their boat, and crossed the river to a little town called Fairfield [possibly in CT]. that he was taken before a magistrate who examined him and observed that at any time he would give me a pass; he remained at Fairfield at work for a tavern keeper about ten days, when an American officer came there on his way to join the army at Pecks-kill [sic: Peekskill NY] on the bank of the North river with

an extra horse, and on application, he with the officer went to Pecks-kill. on arriving there Gen'l. Putman's [sic: Israel Putnam's] brigade was crossing at the Kings ferry. Gen'l. Putman signed the pass that was given by the magistrate, and he hurried on thro' the State of New Jersey to where Gen'l. Washington and troops were encamped, not far from Philadelphia, that his pass was shown to Gen'l. Washington by an aid, which aid enquired of him if he would venture to join the army, that he replied yes, and the aid promised to have a return made for his pay, that he was again placed in Capt. Long's company. the Col. Stephenson's regiment. Soon after the enemy attempted to cross over at Chadds ford, the slaughter was great, the stream was red with blood. on the very same day [11 Sep 1777] the battle of Brandywine was fought. that he was in that battle during its continuance. {and he can declare without fear of contradiction, that he did his duty on that day; for he believes that he performed the duty of a soldier} but we were defeated. travelled all night and next morning got to Chester, from thence through Philadelphia to Germantown, and about fifteen miles from the latter place, encamped. From here a forced and unexpected march was made on the enemy, and attacked at Germantown [4 Oct 1777], but the fog was so thick, that confusion took place and we were forced to retreat, much he thinks owing to Gen'l. Stephens [sic: Adam Stephen], who on that morning appeared to be drunk: that he was one who attacked Chews house, which was full of Hessians, which he tried to set fire to, in doing so one of his companions was killed by his side, and a bayonet run in his breast, which wound to this day he can feel when eating or drinking – that we retreated about twenty miles, where he was placed under the care of a surgeon, that he continued with the army for three months, when he was sufficiently recovered to return home, that he got a discharge from Capt. Long, which he kept a long time, but cannot tell when or how he lost it – that he has no other evidence in his power of his services, except a certificate of said Pendleton, which he got by informing Mr. Pendleton of circumstances that he could not well forget – that the reason why he enlisted under the name of Richard Thomas was, that he was a soldier previous to the Revolution in America in the service of George the 3<sup>d</sup> and when he was enlisted by Pendleton it was thought advisable for him to enlist in the name of Richard Thomas, otherwise if he was taken prisoner, he might be recognized – this he thinks was frequently the case. That he made his declaration in order to obtain the provisions of the act of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 before the aforesaid County court of Monongalia on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April in the year 1819 – 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 to wit.

A few plates, knives & forks

One old chest, {which we use for a table}

One bible, a few other old books

(signed) Richard Thomas Atkinson

That he has no occupation, that his wife is about 77 years of age and almost helpless, that but one of his children lives with him, a daughter Margaret, now about thirty years of age, that he resides on the land of a distant connexion William Stewart, on whose bounty and the labour of his daughter he has measurably to depend, and without some assistance from his country the public must soon assist to support him and his aged consort; that he has been a member of the methodist church for a number of years, and from the members of that church he has frequently been aided, that his wife can spin a little, for which Mrs. Stewart pays her liberally & that he cannot always hope to have his daughter with him –

I certify that I enlisted into Captain Long's company of Col Stephenson's regiment of Riflemen, in Berkeley County in Virginia in the Summer of the year 1776 Richard Thomas a Soldier. That he marched

under my command, as first Lieutenant of the Company, to Camp on the North River. That in November of the same year I was ordered with my Command, and part of the Regiment to Fort Washington, where we were made prisoners by the surrender of that place. I have no doubt that Richard Thomas near Morgan Town [Morgantown] in Virginia, from the account he has given of several particulars relating to those transactions is the same person enlisted by me & who served as aforesaid, and that he is entitled to a pension

Nath Pendleton Newyork Novem'r. 10<sup>th</sup> 1819