

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Richard Shackelford S38369 VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 May 2015.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Virginia King and Queen County 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1822  
I Richard Shackelford enlisted in the year 1775 as a private Soldier in the revolutionary war for three years in the State line under Lieutenant Thomas Armistead a recruiting officer who was an Officer in a company commanded by Capt. Abner Crump attached to the battalion commanded by Major [Thomas] Meriwether, which said battalion was part of the first Virginia regiment, commanded by Colo. George Gibson and served the whole of the three years under Gen'l. Mulenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] and after the expiration of the three years I enlisted in the continental line during the war: and I was in the battles of Monmoth [sic: Monmouth, 28 Jun 1778], Stony point [16 Jul 1779] & york town [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]

I John Deane [John Dean S39427] do hereby certify that I was with Richard Shackelford from the time of his enlisting until the Close of the war; that the statement made by him is correct to my certain knowledge. He conducted himself well during the time of his enlistment & was honourably discharged at the end of the war  
[King and Queen County, 2 July 1822]

[The following are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Essex County]

To The Honourable Members of the General Assembly of Virginia.

Your Petitioner Richard Shackelford of the County of Essex begs leave humbly to represent to the Legislature of Virginia that in the year 1777 he enlisted under Captain Thomas Armistead as a soldier in the first Virginia Regiment was enrolled & performed duty as a State soldier, & was afterwards turned over to the Continental army & remained in it until the close of the war, & whilst in Continental service was wounded in the ever memorable battle at Monmouth.

Your Petitioner has, in the first instance, in obedience to the advice of his friend made application through his late Representative Robt. S. Parnett[?] to the war department of the U. S. for that relief which his advanced age indigence & decrepitude imperiously urged him to solicit, but his application has been rejected & so far as I can understand because his name has not, by some omission, neglect or mismanagement has not, been registered among those, who have received a bounty in lands from the U. S. Government notwithstanding he received at the return of peace his land Warrant & being, at the time, in pecuniary difficulties, sold the same to a speculator in the City of Richmond for a very inconsiderable sum. But notwithstanding this first disappointment in not being recognized as a soldier of the Continental Army, & in consequence, not receiving from the General Government that assistance which he was induced to expect from a grateful Country your Petitioner flatters himself that it will be no bar to the exercise of the magnanimity & liberality of his native State in whose defence he first embarked his life & his fortunes that the present and all future generations in this happy Republick might enjoy peace rest & freedom.

The members of your honourable body will not expect your Petitioner to recount in glowing language those privations, difficulties & dangers that characterised that eventful struggle – the struggle for American Independence. To Marshall, Ramsey, Gordon, & to others equally gifted & patriotick he resigns this pleasing task – To their historickal labours he refers you for a recital of the arduous sufferings of the Revolutionary soldier – suffice it therefore for him to add; that he is one of that remnant of Revolutionary worthies – of that heroick band that gave liberty to this Country: – & makes him bold in

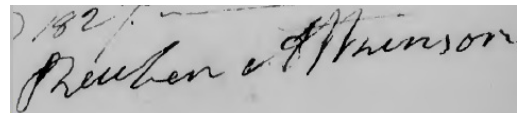
the decline of life whilst oppressed by adversity to beg charity of his native state, hoping that the Justice of his cause will be favourably considered, & that his sinking form trembling limbs & bleached locks, which denote his fast approach to that bourn from where no traveller returns, will so far recommend him to the sons of those whose valour has preserved the liberties of their Country, as not to permit him to expire in a state of poverty amidst a nation of enlightened freemen – consequently he indulges the pleasing or rather consoling expectation that his humble petition will not be despised & rejected; by your honourable body, but that they will after a candid investigation of the matter extend to him the hand of relief by the passage of an act placing him on the pension list; & as a grateful citizen in duty bound will forever pray &c

Richard Shackelford

We the undersigned are of opinion that Rich'd. Shackelford is entitled to, & ought to receive a pension from his Country. [Sixteen signatures.]

I do hereby certify that Mr. Richard Shackelford of the County of Essex, was, during the Revolutionary war embodied with the Virginia State Troops & performed service with them, he was with many others turned over as an auxiliary force to the continental army, where I have no recollection of having seen him being myself attached to a different Regiment, until immediately after the battle of Monmouth, and I have the strongest reasons to believe that he was engaged in that battle, & that he was honourably discharged from service – Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1827.

Reuben Atkinson [pension application S6544]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Reuben Atkinson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There is a faint date "1827" written above the signature.

Dec'r. 13<sup>th</sup> 1827 ref'd to Claims/ 1827 Dec'r 21<sup>st</sup> Reasonable/ 22<sup>d</sup> Reported/ 29 Bill drawn

Additional Evidence in the Case of Richard Shackelford.

Memo. that on this 10 May 1829 Richard Shackelford produced the further evidence of Travis Gatewood, in support of his claim for a pension.

The said Travis Gatewood being first sworn deposed & saith that the said Richard Shackelford is poor – that he has a life Estate in a Tract of land of One hundred Acres and has no slaves, but a few Cattle & Horse & further he saith not.

Dec'r. 18<sup>th</sup> 1830 ref'd to R'y. C'ms Geo. Wright/ Rejected 31<sup>st</sup> Jay 1831

[The following is from the federal pension file.]

County of Essex State of Virginia

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1831 personally appeared in open court being a Court of Record, for the County of Essex Richard Shackelford resident in said County, aged seventy five years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his Oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress, of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, and the first of May 1820 that he, the said Richard Shackelford enlisted for the term of three years on the first day of April in the year 1777 in the State of Virginia in the Company Commanded by Captain Abner Crump in the regiment commanded by Colonel George Gipson [sic: George Gibson] in the line of the State of Virginia on the first Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps until March the 10<sup>th</sup> 1780 when the said Richard Shackelford reenlisted under Captain Abner Crump for the term of five years or during the war, that he continued to serve in said Corps until October the 17<sup>th</sup> 1781 when was discharged from service at York Town in the State of Virginia that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any State except Virginia, and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension The want of correct information and the aid of

some active friend, and in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> may 1820, 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 —

Schedule of property at present owned by Richard Shackelford

33 acres of Land with a small dwelling house situated thereon worth per acre 2½ doll's. one Loom one plow 2 hoes 1 axe, five head of hogs. This declarant is by occupation a farmer and from his advanced age is unable to do but little towards supporting himself, his daughter Lucy C Gordon aged forty years and her two young children Arthur Gordon aged 9 years Horris Gordon 6 years compose his family by reason of the tender age of the children they are unable to render any service towards their support. That since the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property at that time I owned one horse five head of cattle & about 15 or 20 head of Hogs since that time, I have lost my horse by death and all of my cattle died with the distemper my stock of Hogs have reduced to five head in number such have been the changes in my property since the year 1818

[On 24 Sep 1831 Shackelford was issued a certificate for a pension of \$8 per month.]

NOTES:

A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after 1 Sep 1780 includes the following: Rich'd. Shackleford/ age 22/ height 5 6¼/ farmer/ born in King and Queen County/ residing in Essex County/ brown hair/ blue eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 20 Sep 1780 for 18 months.

In the [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) is a file on Richard Shackelford, but it contains only copies of documents from the federal pension file.