

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Adkins R58

Ruthey

fn123SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/29/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Whitley County

On the 21st day of October 1833 personally appeared before the Whitley County Court Thomas Adkins a resident of Whitley County Kentucky 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1777 in Ninety Six (now Lawrence district [sic, Laurens district] South Carolina) under Captain John Templeton of the South Carolina Militia & Lieutenant Oglesby was marched to Cambridge under Colonel Lanoy [sic ¹] thence to Augusta, Georgia thence to Brier Creek² where the [sic, they] had severe engagement with the enemy and was defeated; On the retreat several were drowned in crossing the Savannah River himself taken prisoner as he could not swim, he states that he was kept prisoners six months when he made his escape and joined his Army below Moncks Corner General Green [Nathanael Greene] and Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] Commanded under whom he served (some times in detached parties) during the War he has no documentary evidence by which he can ascertain the precise time of his service but feels confident he served three years at least and although but in one general engagement he served on many campaigns. Sometimes attached to one company & some times to another. At the close of the War, which ended his service he received a discharge and kept it for many years but cannot now find it, and further by reason of any fracter [sic, fracture?] Received on the head about __ years since, he is unable to give any other than the foregoing general details. He further declares that the first occurrences he clearly recollects and if cited to others he could also recollect, but that there is no person with whom he is now acquainted to aid his memory.

He hereby relinquishes every claim relative to a pension or an annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Adkins, X his mark

The following questions were propounded by the Court 1st Where and in what year were you born? Answer. I was born in Ninety Six South Carolina and believed in the year 1760. 2nd

¹ Could this be a corruption of "Leroy" and possibly intended as a reference to Col. Leroy Hammond who is known to have been at the Battle of Brier Creek?

² March 3, 1779. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/briercreek.htm>

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Answer. I have none. 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? Answer. In Ninety Six South Carolina when I entered the service since Tennessee and the last 25 or 30 years where I now live in Whitley County Kentucky. 4th How were you called into service? Answer I was resentful and the treatment we then received from King George induced me to declare in favor of liberty and in a fit of excitement volunteered & joined Captain John Templeton's Company of militia which I never regretted. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served. Answer. Col. Lensy, Col. Williams, Genl. Sumter, Genl. Greene. 6th Did you ever receive a discharge? Answer. I did at the close of the War and the one I never applied until the close of the War and then I received a discharge by order of General Greene but where it is I cannot say but believes it to have been burned nor did I ever considered it of any value. 7th State these circumstances of your service. Answer. I served against while under different men first under Captain Templeton was in the Battle at Briar Creek from thence was kept Prisoner 6 months escape & joined my Army but not my. I continued in service doing divers service until the close of the revolution some terms as one of a broken company, sometimes in small or broken regiments and many times not knowing to what company, Battalion or Regiment I belonged. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Thomas Adkins, X his mark

[William Siler, a clergyman, and George Tye gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

This day Thomas Adkins personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting justice of the peace for Whitley County and made oath to the following amendment to his declaration made before the County Court of Whitley County and State of Kentucky on the 21st day of October 1833 in order to procure the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service as a volunteer private as well as he can remember in 1777 under the officers named in the original statement -- he cannot state what was the length of this service which he undertook to perform but upon his oath states and deposes by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods below

First under Captain John Templeton, and others to whom he was transferred until the battle of Brier Creek 18 months -- that he was then taken prisoner by the British, and was kept in confinement part of his time in Savannah and part of his time on board of vessels, a length of time in the whole not less than 6 months when one of his companions forged a pass for himself and this applicant and by virtue thereof they made their escape -- that from the time he entered the service until he reached home, he was in service and in prison not less than 2 years.

Second that he volunteered and joined General Greene a day or 2 after the battle of the Eutaw Springs,³ in 1781, the dead still covered the ground, he saw hundreds scattered around the road -- that he served under Green not less than one month and for such service he claims a pension -- he states that he verily believes he served in the revolutionary war as much as 3 years but is certain that in the hold he did not serve less than 2 years and one month.

Given under my hand and this 16th of December 1833

S/ George Tye, JP

³ September 8, 1781

Amended declaration of Thomas Adkins in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

On the 17th of November 1834 Personally appeared in open Court before Charles Rockholt, John Lears, Daniel Fortner the Justices of the Whitley County Court Thomas Adkins who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory and probably by a hurt on the head he can not swear positively as to the minute circumstances of his services or its precise length but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades -- for one year and 6 months I served as a private he states that he entered the above service as heretofore described for a period he cannot recollect that when that period expired he again and again volunteered and continued in the service until taken a prisoner at Brier Creek he states that one of these renewals of service took place at Augusta but he cannot designate the precise spot where he made the other the mules.

That at Brier Creek I was taken a prisoner and kept in confinement a period not less than 6 months then after I escaped from this confinement I joined General Greene & Sumter and served not less than one month and for such services I claim a pension -- I repeat the declaration heretofore made that I verily believe I served in the whole pay period not less than 3 years. He states that he has put himself too much trouble to find any witness living who had a personal knowledge of his service but the nearest approach he has been able to make is the affidavit here enclosed of Andrew Roads.

S/ Charles Rockhold, JP

S/ Palmer [?] Sears, JP

S/ Daniel Faulkner, JP

State of Kentucky Whitley County

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County & state aforesaid Thomas Adkins who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than 2 years the period mentioned below and in the following grade as a volunteer militia 2 years under Colonel Linoy Williams Asher Templeton, &c. and for such services I claim a pension.

The Deponent states further that he has no recollection of ever receiving any pay for his services that his services closed with the close of the revolution & that he never received any pay.

S/ Thomas Adkins, X his mark

[attested by James K. Gallion, JP, on July 29, 1835.]

[fn p. 56]

State of Kentucky Whitley County

On the 11th day of October 1835 personally appeared before me James K. Gallion a justice of the peace for said County Thomas Adkins aged 77 years who being sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Statements in addition to his former declaration made for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following officers and served as herein (and heretofore) stated First he served twelve months at the snow camps on Inneree [sic, Enoree] River South Carolina under Colonel Linsy commanded by Captain Templeton the date

not recollected but I believe the year previous to the British taking Charleston. He states he was then drafted and marched under his former officers to Ninety Six (or Cambridge) a draft was for 3 months at the expiration of which having served the full time he volunteered under Captain Williams & marched against Burntfoot Brown [Thomas Brown] and a body of Indians lying near Augusta their attack was unavailing and joined in with Colonel Asher [sic, probably Genl. John Ashe] (whether Colonel Williams was along he has forgotten) they marched & fought the battle of Brier Creek in Georgia. He had made his escape but not being able to swim the Savannah River as others did was taken prisoner by the British and kept below Brier Creek & in Savannah three months from the end of the period for which he was drafted until he made his escape amounted to not less than six months. The circumstance of his escape was (as follows) another prisoner by the name of Berry forged a writing by the presentation of which to the British guard got them to pass out of the guard bounds. Said Berry and he in about a week fell in with an officer ~~Mr.~~ Bush on Stono with whom the [sic, they] started for Greene's Army not far from Eutaw Springs. He remained under Bush during the time the Army lay at that place in all from the Time he escaped until he was disbanded three months. Making in all of actual service from his first rendezvous at the Snow Camps until he was disbanded two years of actual service.

He states that he has no dates by which to refer to the several periods of the war in the South and having left the Army returned home to Lawrence [sic, Laurens] being absent the whole time as stated. His father and mother were both dead on his return and having no friend to advise with never applied for either pay or discharge and if he did he has forgotten it.

He further states that by reason of old age & consequent impensuity [?] he has forgotten a great deal that should be important to have in his case and being far from the place of his service knows of no living witness by whom he could prove it.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this day and date before written.

S/ James K. Gallion, JP

S/ Thomas Adkins, X his mark

[fn p. 64]

State of Kentucky Edmondson County

On this 4th day of August 1842 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Edmondson Circuit, now sitting, Thomas Adkins, a resident of Edmondson County Kentucky, aged eighty 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; entitled, "An Act supplementary to 'An act for the relief of the surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution.'"

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit:

The Declarant states that he was born according to the best means of information touching that matter, in the year 1762 in the District of "Ninety Six" State of South Carolina; and that he entered the United States service about the first of January 1779, under Captain James Laird, being then seventeen years of age, as a volunteer for the period of six months; -- That Captain Laird raised a volunteer company under the requisition of Colonel Pickens, as soon as information reached the District aforesaid, that the British forces were infesting the State of Georgia. That said volunteer company attached themselves to Colonel Pickens, but remained under his control for a short period only, when said company was transferred to the command of Colonel Williamson, [Andrew Williamson] who was stationed near Augusta in the State of Georgia.

The declarant further states that Fort Augusta, as it was then called, was in the possession of a large force of Indians and some British and Tories under the command of a certain Colonel "burnt-foot" Brown (as he was then called) and that the forces of Colonel Williamson remained in that neighborhood but a short time, during which, however, Colonel Williamson attempted to storm the Fort but his [indecipherable word or words] proved ineffectual in consequence of the superior number of the Indians etc. over his forces and he was compelled to give up the siege.

The Declarant further states that soon after leaving Augusta Colonel Williamson marched his forces, in conjunction with General --, to a place called Ray's Cowpens, on Briar Creek, near where said Creek runs into the Savannah River on the Georgia side. Here the American forces were surprised by a large force of British under General Prevost and totally defeated with great loss, and that the distinction was so great that they were completely disorganized. The Declarant states that he was under the command of Captain Laird and Colonel Williamson during this engagement and that after their defeat at Briar Creek, the remnant of said volunteer company that escaped a destruction returned, still under the command of Captain Laird to the District of "Ninety Six," where their services were much-needed in protecting the inhabitants from the foraging parties of the British under the Lord Rawdon and Colonel Stewart, who was in possession of the fortress at Ninety Six. The declarant states that at the expiration of his tour of 6 months for which period he first volunteered, he did not leave the service, but that he still continued as an active private soldier under the immediate command of Captain James Laird who was under the command of Generals Lincoln, Greene and Williamson at various periods; that he, the Declarant, was in no engagements after his return from Briar Creek to Ninety Six except occasional skirmish with the British and Tories, until the American forces under General Greene were compelled to leave the said District after making a [indecipherable word] assault upon Lord Rawdon and Colonel Stewart at the Fort at "Ninety Six" That General Greene was forced to abandon said District of Ninety Six in the spring of 1781.

The Declarant further states that the next and last battle in which he was engaged was fought at Eutaw Springs in South Carolina between General Greene and Colonel Stewart and in which Colonel Stewart was defeated. The Declarant states that owing to the lapse of time, old age, and the consequent loss of memory he is unable to give a detailed or minute narrative of the events which transpired from the date of the battle at Briar Creek which was early in March 1779 until the defeat of the British at Eutaw Springs early in September 1781. That during the said interval between the aforesaid engagements he, the Declarant was actively engaged in the said US service, building forts fortifications etc. etc., and that according to the best of his recollection, he served, as a soldier from the first of January 1779 until about the middle of October 1781 and that by such service he claims a pension.

The Declarant further states that about the middle of October 1781 he received a Discharge from General Greene and left the said service; but that he has long since lost said Discharge and that he does not know of any person who can testify to his services as a soldier -- that his revolutionary associates are either dead or their residence unknown to him. And the Declarant in answer to the interrogatories of the Court aforesaid, states so far as said interrogatories have not already been answered in the body of the foregoing Declaration: -- That he has no record of his age. That he was living when first called into service in Ninety Six District South Carolina and that he has lived since he left said service in said District aforesaid till they left there in 1799 for Lincoln County Kentucky where he lived till 183[last digit illegible] and he now lives in Edmondson County Kentucky. The Declarant further states that he does hereby relinquish 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.

S/ Thomas Adkins, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Augustus M. Barret, Clerk

[Frederick Meredith, a clergyman, and James Oller gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 13: On May 18, 1853 in Whitley County Kentucky, Mrs. Ruhey Adkins, 94, made application for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Adkins; that she married him January one, 1782 in Laurens District South Carolina; that they were married by John Montgomery; that her name prior to her marriage was Ruthey Linch [sic, Ruthey Lynch?]; that her husband died August 5, 1845; and that she remains his widow.]

[Facts in file: the veteran's widow was born in 1759; she died August the 11, 1853 in Whitley County Kentucky; the following children survived their mother, Jeremiah Adkins, Thomas Adkins, Margaret, the wife of Daniel Petrey; Sarah Petrey, a widow, and Luke Atkins, aged in 1854, 69, 68, 56, 54 and 46 years respectively.]

[fn p. 50]

State of Kentucky County of Laurel

On this 28th day of April 1853 personally appeared before me John Casteel Esquire for the County and State above named Jacob Gabbert [sic, Jacob Gabbard⁴] a Revolutionary Pensioner of Laurel County and State above named who being first duly sworn as the law directs upon his oath makes the following Statements that he was in the Army of the Revolutionary War in the State of South Carolina at which time he formed an acquaintance with Thomas Adkins deceased of Whitley County Kentucky who he has been informed previous to his death applied for a pension for his Revolutionary Services from the State of South Carolina that while in said service he frequently met with the above named Thomas Adkins in the detachment to which he belonged on one occasion his detachment to which he belonged was marching [to] Join the Main Army at the battle of the Cowpens but before they reached the battle was over and said Atkins was guarding the prisoners. A few years after the war of 1812 he twice met with the said Atkins in the adjoining County Whitley County Kentucky that they both knew each other well spent a night together each time they met talking over the incidents of the Revolutionary war which old soldiers always do I frequently saw Atkins under Colonel Pinkney [Pinckney] at other times under a Colonel by name of Williams or Williamson -- That he Gablert performed his last services under Captain McDowell that he firmly believes that the said Thomas Adkins served upwards of 2 years for he frequently saw said Atkins in the Revolutionary services near 3 years, that said Atkins same to be in very active scouring companies. I formed a thorough acquaintance with said Atkins that Atkins above named while in company with him in Whitley County Kentucky told him he came from the State [of] South Carolina that he said Atkins in the Army of the Revolution after the siege of Ninety Six he thinks Atkins was discharged shortly after the siege of Ninety Six and knows the claim could be a just one for Atkins performed good services for the United States in the Revolution and died some years since in Whitley County as he has always been informed leaving a widow and several children that from his own knowledge the said Atkins was married to Ruthey Linch about the year 1782 or 83 in the State of South Carolina from the age of their oldest child he did not see them married but lived together as man and wife

⁴ [Jacob Gabbard S30431](#)

65 years.

S/ Jacob Goblert, X his mark

[fn p. 72]

State of Kentucky Hart County

On this the 20th day of May 1843 personally appeared before the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, John Cannon⁵ who being first duly sworn according to law doth, on his oath make the following statement in relation to the services rendered by Thomas Adkins, now of Edmondson County Kentucky, in the militia of South Carolina during the War of the Revolution.

This Affiant states that he was well acquainted with Thomas Adkins in the District of Ninety Six South Carolina before the War of the Revolution. He states that he became acquainted with said Atkins when said Atkins frequented the blacksmith shop in which this Affiant worked.

This Affiant states that he knew said Atkins when said Atkins entered the Service under Captain James Laird and Colonels Williamson & Pickens for a tour of six months, from the said Ninety Six district, on the first January 1779, when the citizens of Ninety Six were raising arms under Colonels Williamson and Pickens, before the siege at Fort Augusta in Georgia and the battle at Brier Creek; and this Affiant knows that said Atkins went as a soldier in said company and that said Atkins was absent with the Army until after their defeat at Brier Creek, and that soon after his return he again entered the service under Colonel Pickens and continued in service until the Siege at Ninety Six as a scout and minute man in defending the people from the Tories & British. This Affiant frequently met with, and saw said Atkins while in the service above mentioned and knows that said Atkins rendered Service in the South Carolina militia from early in January 1779 until the Siege of Ninety Six in June 1781; and this Affiant states that said Atkins was at the Siege of Ninety Six as a Soldier that said Affiant saw said Atkins during the siege; and that after said Siege said Atkins still continued in Service until the latter part of September 1781. This Affiant believes that said Atkins was at the battle of Eutaw Springs. This Affiant states that after this Affiant returned from his last tour of six months in pursuit of the retreating British from Eutaw Springs, in January 1782, this Affiant again became acquainted with said Atkins and he states that said Atkins was universally considered by all with whom he was acquainted as being a Soldier and as having served as such during the Siege at Fort Augusta in the Spring of 1779 until after the battle of Eutaw Springs in September 1781. This Affiant further states that said Atkins at this time is personally present with this Affiant and that this Affiant and him have just had a long talk by which the striking events of the War of the Revolution had been refreshed in his recollection and in consequence of which this Affiant is enabled to make the foregoing statement.

S/ John Cannon, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the date on the first page written.

C. C. Board, JPHC

[fn p. 75]

State of Kentucky County of Rockcastle

On this the 15th of March 1853 before me Daniel Tuder a justice of the peace for the County and State above named personally appeared Thomas Magers⁶ a Revolutionary Soldier of

⁵ [John Cannon S30309](#)

⁶ This *MAY* be [Thomas Magers \(Majors\) S30564](#), although the description of the services of this veteran do not

this County who being first duly sworn as the law directs upon his oath makes the following statement. That he was well acquainted with Thomas Adkins and his wife Ruthy, whose maiden name was Ruthy Linch that she resided in Lawrence [Laurens] district South Carolina State, that shortly after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia some 3 or 4 months he was present a [and] saw the above named Thomas Adkins and Ruthy Linch married in Lawrence district State of South Carolina that he knew said Atkins before the war and saw him in the service under Captain James Land, Colonel Pickens and General Greene before his marriage in the spring '81 and always heard said Atkins served upwards of 2 years in the militia service of South Carolina he knows said Atkins was a good Soldier and done the United States good service that he has been well acquainted with said Atkins and wife up to the said Atkins death which took place some 6 or 8 years since in Whitley County Kentucky that he has been often at said Atkinses house in Whitley County Kentucky before said Atkinses death and that said Atkinses widow is still living (Ruthie Atkins) a widow in Whitley County Kentucky and has not married since the death of her said husband Thomas Adkins and is informed she is applying for a Pension on account of the Revolutionary Services of her deceased Husband Thomas Adkins and knows the US government ought to grant her a pension he states he is not interested in said pension or acting as agent.

S/ Thomas Magors, X his mark

remotely match those of the applicant. This is the only pensioner I could find who was a likely candidate to be this affiant.