

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Peter Witham S32071

fn8VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/10/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. 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. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Owen County: SS: Owen Probate Court May term 1834

On this 12th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable John Dunn sole Judge of the Probate Court of said County, and now sitting, Peter Witham aged 71 years, a resident of said County and State who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Amended 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 under the following named Officers and served as herein stated, to wit. That he was drafted in the company commanded by Captain Fisher Rice [Ficher Rice], that said Company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Alcock in the Brigade of General Edward Stephens [Edward Stevens]; on or about the first of March 1781 for a tour of three months. That they rendezvoused at the Court House in the County of Culpeper in the State of Virginia being the same County in which they were drafted as aforesaid, from thence they were marched to near James town, and after they had been there a short period of time a skirmish took place, and we were ordered to retreat, that after this affair took place we were marched back in the direction we came down, stopping at different places for a short time at each and thence we were marched back to Culpeper, and our time having expired we were discharged, that there was a bridge at the place where the battle aforesaid was head the name of which applicant has forgotten.

That in a few days after his return home, another company was drafted as he was informed to take their places, that in this last named tour he hired as a substitute of James Atwood for a three month tour in the company of Captain Ambrose Bohannon that said company was attached to the Regiment of Colonel Slaughter, that it was part of a brigade of General Stephenson, the Adjutant was by the name of Welch, in this tour as in the first we rendezvoused at Culpepper Court House, thence we were marched to Richmond, crossing Rappahannock River at Raccoon ford, thence southwardly to Moben Hill [Malvern Hills], here a man was hung for deserting and robbing a house as this applicant was then informed, whose name was Allen, thence back to Richmond, thence to Williamsburg, here the term of service for which applicant hired came to a close and applicant cannot be certain at this time whether they were discharged from the tour, and they were detained as volunteers or how, this much however he distinctly recollects that they had no respite from the service, but were still kept under the same officers save one Captain Haynes was his name and were marched from Williamsburg in the direction of Yorktown that they arrived in the neighborhood of Yorktown some days before the battle at that place, that a few days before the engagement applicant with many others were employed in ditching and preparing for the battle, that he was in battle from the commencement till the close of it, that during the battle the hearing of many of them was much affected by the firing of the

cannons, applicant received no other injury from the engagement, here, many prisoners were taken, that the company to which applicant belonged was marched to Winchester, as guard on the prisoners to the Barracks at that place, and there remained as such, till the term of six months expired, from the time he was hired as aforesaid, when he was discharged, and returned home again.

That about the year 1794 or 1795 applicant thinks it was in the fall of that year, he was drafted in the County of Culpeper in the company commanded by Captain Robert Robuck, that the company was attached to the command of Colonel Campbell, Thornton Taylor was Adjutant, that the reason he has for believing it was in the fall is that it was muddy and snow was on the ground part of the time, that they were marched northwardly to Fort Cumberland here applicant seen General Washington for the last time, that from thence they were marched under the command of General Lee across the mountains and on to Beason town in the Western part of Pennsylvania and from thence back home and were discharged, that applicant understood at the time that this trip was to make the people pay the tax on whiskey called the excise, that in this tour they had no engagement. That at the battle of York he saw Generals Washington, Lafayette, Wayne and others, the most of whom came to them at Williamsburg, that being illiterate and young at the time, and his memory now much impaired he cannot be more certain and definite in this declaration in detailing the particulars of his service.

That he was born in Culpeper County in the State of Virginia on the 9th day of March 1763. That he has no record of his age. That his knowledge is traditionary. That he lived in Culpeper County when called into service and continued to live there for many years after that County was divided and applicant was thrown into that part of the County afterwards called Madison County, from thence he moved to Cumberland County in the state of Kentucky lived there between 19 and 20 years and from thence moved to Owen County Indiana his present place of residence. That he was drafted and served as a septic to as here before stated, that he received written discharges for all his services, and that they are all lost or destroyed and have been for many years, that he does not recollect distinctly by whom his discharges were signed, the first he thinks was handed to him by his Captain.

That he has served as a private as above stated for the term of one year, and for which he claims a pension or for so much as he may be entitled under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That the original declaration is not herewith returned to the Department for this reason, it was drawn up by Hugh L. Levingston and Thomas F. G. Adams upon whom he has called for it on several occasions, that they inform him, they do not know where it is, and applicant believes it to be lost or mislaid so that it cannot be found at this time.

That he has no documentary evidence of his service and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes 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 in the union.

S/ Petter Witham, X his mark

sworn to and subscribed the date first written

S/ T. C. Johnson, Clk.

[George M Moore and Samuel Scott gave the standard supporting affidavit there being no clergyman in the neighborhood.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]