

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

Pension Application of Thomas Witten S6407

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 10 Jan 2015.

State of Virginia

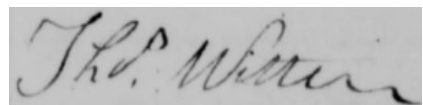
Tazewell County to wit

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Tazewell County in the state of Virginia, now sitting Thomas Witten a resident of Tazewell County and State of Virginia aged Eighty years in the month of January next 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he was Ensign, regularly Commissioned, and belonged to the company commanded by Captain Thomas Mastin, and Lieutenant James Maxwell when he first entered the service in the early in the month of June in the year 1776 and was attached to the state Regiment [sic: Montgomery County Militia] commanded by Col William Preston, and Major Walter Crockett, who was afterwards promoted to the appointment of a Colonel. That the duty which as Ensign aforesaid during the remainder of the year 1776 which devolved upon the said Thomas Witten, and the company to which he belonged, was to perform frequent scouting expeditions as Indian spies, to defend the western frontier of Virginia lying along the Valley of Clinch river from the head waters of Blue Stone [Bluestone] river to the forks of Clinch river within the now limits of Russell County in the state aforesaid, from the massacres of the Indians by whom the whole western border was then infested. That he resided in the now county of Tazewell in the state of Virginia, then perhaps Montgomery. That he does not now remember whether he was drafted or not, but thinks, that he was called out by an order of the commanding officer Col William Preston. That he was engaged in no general battle, or engagement, during his scouting expeditions in the year 1776, but partook in several little skirmishes, and was an eye witness to some of the many instances of inhuman butchery and massacre committed upon the frontier families within the range of his marches. That none of the regular soldiers were quartered in the western frontier for the protection and defence of the settlers, but that the militia was occasionally drafted and sent to the relief of the frontier from the then counties of Montgomery and Washington embracing all that section of Country now comprised in the counties of Lee, Scott, Russell, Tazewell, Giles, Grayson, Monroe &c &c. The said Thomas Witten further states, that he continued to act as an Ensign as aforesaid until the close of the revolutionary war. That he thinks he was engaged as an Indian spy aforesaid fully six months in each year, and the balance of each year were permitted by their commanding officers to return to their families, and remain at home during the winters of each year from the year 1776 until the termination of the revolutionary war, when the Indians ceased to annoy and murder the settlers upon the said frontier. That he does not now know what has become of his commission as Ensign, but thinks upon resigning, he surrendered it to his commanding officer, so that it is not now in his power to produce it. That he knows of three persons now living who can testify to his service aforesaid, by William Cecil [pension application R1823], Nancy Cecil, and Joseph Oney [S8909].

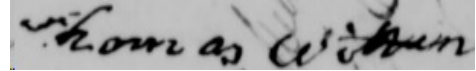
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



Virginia Tazewell County to wit:

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833 and in addition to the foregoing declaration, on his oath administered in due form, saith, that his original commission as ensign as mentioned in the foregoing declaration is lost. That the said commission was granted by what was then called a Committee of Safety, & signed by said committee constituted by a convention of Delegates for the counties and corporations in the Colony of Virginia, held in Richmond in July 1775. That he first entered the service as a minute man, provided b an ordinance of said convention, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 1776. That in that year he continued in active service as an Ensign until about the first of December. that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the length of his service, but he does know certainly that he served as an ensign more than six months in each year for seven years commencing in June 1776 and for which service he claims a pension  
Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833.

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Thomas W. Witten".

NOTE: A note on the pension certificate states that Witten died on 6 Oct 1841.