

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Joseph Witherington S1938

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

Be it remembered that at the August Term of the Circuit Court of the County & State aforesaid, begun & held at the Court house in the Town of Franklin, County & State aforesaid on the first Monday of the sixth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty two, present Thomas Work [?], one of the Judges of Law and Equity in said State, presiding as Judge &c personally appeared in open Court on this the 5th day of September in the year aforesaid, Joseph Witherington, a resident of the aforesaid County & State, 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States, during the Revolutionary War, with Great Britain, some time in the month of May, 1776, as a Substitute for one whole Class of men in Hertford County, State of North Carolina, where he then resided, in Capt. Thomas Cotton's company of militia, Thomas Solomon [?] Lieutenant, George Wynn, Col. We marched to Willmington [sic, Wilmington], N. Carolina, where we remained three months, Gen. Moore commanded there—from this place he returned home. That he enlisted as a private in the Army of the United States in the Month of May 1777, with 2nd Lieutenant John Winbon or Winburn and served in the 7th Regiment of the N. Carolina Brigade or Battalion under the following named Officers. That when he enlisted as aforesaid he resided in Hertford County, State of North Carolina—whence after he enlisted he marched to Halifax, where upon his first arrival Col. Williams commanded, After sometime, Col. Mebane took the command, from Halifax he marched to Alexandria on the Potomac river, here Col. Mebane, having marched with us, as commander, commanded & Major Hardy Murfree, here we remained to be inoculated for the small pox & here his Lieutenant Winbon died of the small pox—thence we march to Pennsylvania to White Mash [sic, Marsh] Hill, where Gen. Washington's head quarters were, here he remained about two or three weeks, having in the interim several skirmishes—thence marched to take up winter quarters of Valley Forge—having in the march passed over the Schuylkill [River] in the night on a floating bridge—here at Valley Forge we remained during the Winter. At White Marsh Hill he was commanded by Col. Hogun, Maj. Hardy Murfree & Capt. John Baker, who had been wounded at the battle of Brandywine—some some days after he ^{Capt. Baker} left the corps—then Capt. Tilman Dixon took command of his company. At Valley Forge he remained under the Command of Maj. Ash until June or July 1778. Thence we marched to the White Planes [sic, Plains]. Here the North Carolina Brigade & the Connecticut Brigade were joined together. From this place he was ordered up the North river, as one of the guard, to guard a Mill & the army stores there collected, here he remained about three weeks, & then he returned to the White Plains—thence he went to Fredericksburg in Connecticut—thence we marched to Ringwood, in Jersey, thence we marched to Paromus Planes [sic, Paramus Plains], where we took winter quarters, being billeted among the inhabitants—this was the winter of '78 & '79. From the time the Ranks were settled at Valley Forge he belonged to the 1st Regiment of the North Carolina line, or troops, commanded by Col. Clark & by

Lieutenant Col. Mebane, Maj. H. Murfree or Ash, Capt. Tilman Dixon & Lieutenant Wotton [?]
—In the Spring of '79 we were ordered to Constitution Island on the North river, where we remained at work on the forts, till the Fall—thence we marched to Philadelphia, thence to Baltimore, thence to the head of Elk river—here we embarked in vessels & set sail & after proceeding a short distance, the vessels were all frozen up fast in the ice in the river, here we were compelled to disembark on the ice & marched out on the ice to the shore, where we encamped some two or three weeks, until our wagons could be again collected, after this affected, we marched to the Susquehanna river over which we marched on the ice, thence to George Town, where we crossed the Potomac on the ice, thence to Richmond where we crossed James River on the ice, thence to Petersburg, thence to Halifax N. Carolina where we halted some few days to recruit--thence to Wilmington where we crossed Cape Fear river, thence to George Town South Carolina, thence to Charleston where we arrived in March 1780. On our march to the place of Halifax Gen. Hogun took the command of the N. Carolina troops & continued in command until the town ^{of Charleston} capitulated & the other officers, as above mentioned, Gen. Lincoln being Commander in Chief. Here we continued at work the principal part of the time, on the breast works &c strengthening them until some time in April when the British besieged the place closely for twenty-five days, during all which time there was continued cannonading, firing &c at the expiration of which the town &c was surrendered to the British by capitulation & the troops [became] prisoners of War, & all the troops remained there prisoners, except the Militia, who were permitted to return home on parole. Here he remained a prisoner in the town about five months, then he was put on board a prison ship in the river where he remained about five months, then he was sent to the West Indies on board of a British ship commanded by one Davis, after some time, he went to St. Thomas--Here he contrived to make his escape & got aboard an American Brig called Edrienne commanded by Capt. Allcorn, thence we sailed to Philadelphia, here he received a pass signed by the same Allcorn & a Justice of the Peace, name not remembered, thence he went home where he arrived in July before Lord Cornwallace [sic, Cornwallis] was taken at York. He was born in Hertford County, State of North Carolina, on the 24th day of May, 1759—this he has recorded in his own Bible, transcribed from a Book of his father's called a Book of Sermons—here he resided till he enlisted as above mentioned, he enlisted with Winbon, or Winburn, as he then understood it for three years, or during the War, but he afterwards learned that his enlistment was for three years only—this mistake must have happened in the his [sic] transfer from Winburn to Capt. Baker—He never enlisted for more than the one term, or but the one time. After he returned home as above stated, he continued to reside in said Hertford County until about the year 1788, when he removed to Martin County N. Carolina, where he resided till the year 1813, when he removed to this Williamson County, Tennessee, where he has since resided. After the peace was concluded, in October or November, he went to Halifax where, by an advertisement, all the prisoners who had escaped from the British were required to assemble. Here he received a Discharge from Capt. Craddock or Cradick. This discharge he handed over to Lieutenant Walton—he took it & after some time he Walton gave him forty dollars & a printed Certificate for his, or in place of his discharge—this he kept some 14 or 15 years, when it was called in by the Legislature of N. Carolina. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except

the present & he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn and subscribed in open Court 5th September 1832

S/ P. Hazelk, &c.

S/ J. Witherington