

P. C. Withers

Personal information

Name: Peter Clay Withers
(P. C. Withers)

Birth: 21 May 1844
Clay County, Missouri

Withers grew up in Missouri in towns such as Platte, Fishing Pole, and Liberty as one of four children. As a young man of 17, he joined the Confederacy. He first came to Denton in 1863 with Quantrell's Command and liked it so well that he returned after the war with his family.



P. C. Withers

Considered one of Denton's "Old Settlers," he and his brother, J. A. Withers, found their life-long home in the city in 1968. He became one of Denton's most prominent citizens, dedicating much of his life to public service. He lived in a difficult and challenging time, and his life was varied and full of excitement.

He participated in the infamous raid on Lawrence, Kansas, with Quantrell's Raiders, spent some time in a Union prison camp, led a posse as sheriff in pursuit of the Sam Bass gang and, at various times, was self-employed as a grocer, saloon keeper, and land trader. Much of his career was spent as a tax collector.

Withers' home was located at 18 East Oak Street in Denton.

Death: 16 July 1917
Denton, Denton County, Texas

Cemetery: Oakwood Cemetery, Denton, Denton County, Texas; Block: 9-3
(GPS: 33° 12' 41" N 97° 7' 19" W)

Family: Parents: George Washington Withers and Susan Gano Price Withers
Spouse: Sarah Elizabeth (Bettie) Lacy (married 30 November 1870, Denton, Denton County, Texas)
Child: Nannie Tillery Withers

Military Service

Military Branch: Army, Confederate

Dates: Enlisted 1861, Missouri

Rank at Discharge: Enlisted as a Private

Era/Service: Civil War

Assignments: 1st Missouri Cavalry, Shelby's Brigade, Quantrells' Command [see synopsis below];
12 August 1863 – Attacked Lawrence, Kansas, in retaliation for the annihilation of Ocala, St. Claire County, Missouri



P. C. Withers

Company G, 9th Missouri Cavalry (Elliott's Cavalry)

Prisoner of War

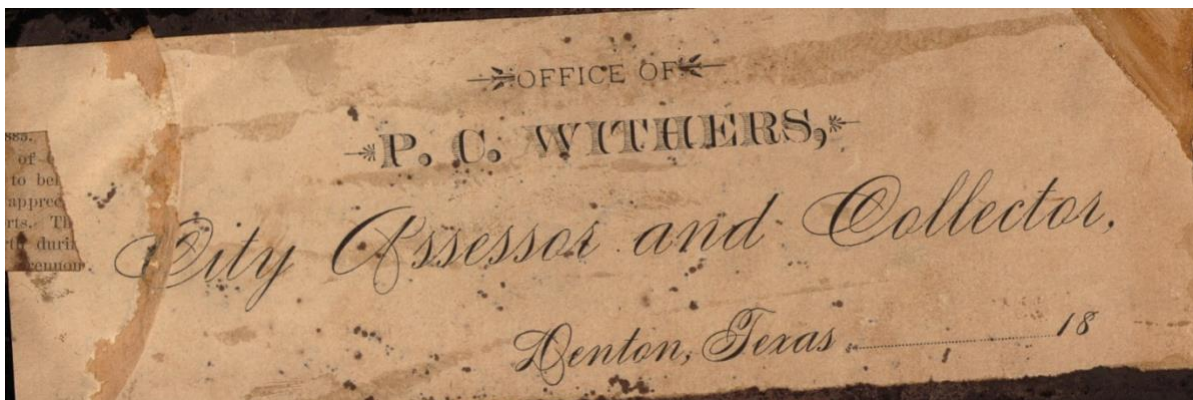
Pension: File Number 35117 (widow; dated 14 February 1918)

Oath of Allegiance: 07 March 1862
Liberty, Clay County, Missouri

Civilian Life

Education: Educated

Occupation: Grocer (1870), Denton County Sheriff (1877-1878), Saloon Keeper (1880), City Tax Assessor and Collector (15 years), Denton County Tax Collector (4 years), trader in land (1910)



(Source: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12529877/peter-clay-withers>;
contributed by Christopher Chenoweth)

Interests: Woodmen of the World

Sources:

- (1) Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Certificate No. 18587, Peter Clay Withers (1917), Austin, Texas, digital image, FamilySearch.org (online database)
- (2) Historical Data Systems, compiler, *U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*, P. C. Withers (1861), Duxbury, Massachusetts, *American Civil War Research Database*; Ancestry.com (online database)
- (3) National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, *Compiled Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Texas*, P. C. Withers, Series M322, roll 55, Ancestry.com (online database)
- (4) U.S. War Department Collection of Confederate Records, *Union Provost Marshalls' File of Papers Relating to Individual Civilians, 1861-1867*, Peter C. Withers (1862) National Records and Archives Administration, Record Group 109, microfilm publication M0345, roll 294, Washington, DC; Ancestry.com (online database)
- (5) National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC, *War Department Collection of Confederate Records*, P. C. Withers, microfilm publication M598, Record Group 109; Ancestry.com (online database)
- (6) Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Soldier's Application for a Pension, #4911, Peter C. Withers (1916), Austin, Texas; Ancestry.com (online database)
- (7) Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Confederate Pension Administration 1899-1958, Volumes 1-646 and 1-283, Pension File Number 35117, P. C. Withers (1918), Austin, Texas; Ancestry.com (online database)
- (8) 1850 U.S. Census, Clay County, Missouri, population schedule, Platte, dwelling 697, Family 697, George M. Wethers and Susan Wethers, digital image, Ancestry.com (online database), from National Archies, microfilm publication M432, roll 396, page 349B
- (9) 1870 U.S. Census, Denton County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 1, dwelling 56, Charles C. Lacy and Elizabeth S. Lacy, digital image, Ancestry.com (online database), from National Archives, microfilm publication M593, roll 1582, page 120A
- (10) 1880 U.S. Census, Denton County, Texas, population schedule, Denton, dwelling 18, enumeration district 102, Peter C. Withers and Sarah E. Withers, digital image, Ancestry.com (online database), from National Archives, microfilm publication T9, roll 1300, page 29B
- (11) 1900 U.S. Census, Denton County, Texas, population schedule, Denton Ward 2, dwelling 202, family 204, P. C. Withers and Bettie Withers, digital image, Ancestry.com (online database), from National Archives, microfilm publication T623, enumeration district 45, page 10
- (12) 1910 U.S. Census, Denton County, Texas, population schedule, Denton Ward 2, 18 East Oak Street, Peter C. Withers and Sarah E. Withers, digital image, Ancestry.com (online database), from National Archives, microfilm publication T624, roll 1546, page 1B
- (13) Texas State Library and Archives Commission, *1867 Voter Registration Lists*, P. C. Withers (1869), Austin, Texas; Ancestry.com (online database)
- (14) Ed F. Bates, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, McNitzky Printing Company (Denton, Texas), 1918, pages 66, 235, 237, and 314
- (15) Peter Clay Withers, FindAGrave.com, Memorial #12529877 (online database), citing Oakwood Cemetery, Denton, Denton County, Texas, contributed by R. M. Leahy

Author Information:

Name: Wanda Samek

Contact Information: samek@verizon.net

Date: 10 October 2020

Organization Represented: Star of Destiny Chapter NSCDXIC

General Disclaimer (if used for the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame)

This is a non-profit project developed by and controlled by the Texas Veterans Hall of Fame. Although we enter into collaborative associations with many supporting organizations, this site is not owned or operated by any Government body. All information found on this site has been obtained through fair use of public contribution and compiled information from family, friends, and historians to preserve the history of Texas Veterans. We've done our best to craft a valuable and historic path to honor our Texas veterans for their service, sacrifices and accomplishments, however, we make no claims of 100% accuracy. If you wish to submit corrections or suggestions, please contact us at info@tvhof.org.

Quantrell's Raiders

During the Civil War, organized bands of Confederate guerrilla fighters were an important factor in the struggle for control of Missouri, Kansas, and western Virginia. These groups were called "bushwhackers" by the North and "rangers" by the South. Union guerrilla bands were known as "jayhawkers," but did not have the same impact.

The best-known of the Confederate bands was Quantrell's Raiders. It was a small force of no more than a dozen men who harassed Union soldiers and sympathizers along the Kansas-Missouri border and often clashed with Jayhawkers.

Quantrell's Raiders were superb marksmen, accomplished horsemen, and fierce. Quantrell offered the services of his raiders to the Confederacy. Assignments included attacking teamsters who supplied the Union, repelling Union and Jayhawker raids, warding off Indian attacks, and rounding up deserters. The rangers were very effective in disrupting supply lines and proved a great help to the Confederate cause.

Union forces declared Quantrell an outlaw, the Confederacy promoted him to Captain, citizens in Missouri deemed him a hero.

As the war wore on, the guerrillas became rowdy, undisciplined, and attracted a dangerous element (such as Frank and Jesse James and Sam Bass). Warfare between companies of Confederate rangers and Union forces became vicious, and innocent civilians sometimes got caught in the struggle between the two factions.

- (1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantrill%27s_Raiders#:~:text=Quantrill%20Raiders%20were%20the%20best,James%20and%20his%20brother%20Frank;
- (2) <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/energy-government-and-defense-magazines/richard-cordley;>
- (3) https://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/j_r/quantrell.htm



Reunion of Quantrell's Raiders [Wikipedia.com]

(Source:

https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1SQJL_enUS786US786&sxsrf=ALeKk02vOQiy5KA_HICwzSL5RFtwm6zJSA:1602347515718&source=univ&tbm=isch&q=photo:+quantrill%27s+raiders&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjKiOzTuar_sAhVLVc0KHfooBfMQjJkEegQIDBAB&biw=1229&bih=539)