



TARRANT COUNTY TXGENWEB

Barbara Knox and Rob Yoder, County Coordinators

Copyright © 2008-2012. All rights reserved.

Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Samuel Cecil Holiday Witten

Compiled by Michael Patterson
Copyright 2008-2012. All rights reserved.

Samuel Cecil Holiday Witten was born in Kentucky on September 29, 1819. He moved to Spring Garden, Miller Co., Missouri with his parents when a boy. There he married Jenetta Miller (June 27, 1821-February 27, 1897) on December 24, 1840.

Witten brought his family to Texas in 1854 and settled in present-day Colleyville about ¼ mile south of the intersection of Glade Road and Jackson Drive. Witten and another native Kentuckian, Jonathan Riley, are generally considered to be the two founding pioneers of today's Colleyville. Witten's family cemetery is still present there on Jackson Court.

During the War, Witten was a member of Gano's Guards, and later he became a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. He worked as a farmer, surveyor, and cattleman. He was one of the founders of Spring Garden School along present-day Cheek-Sparger Road. Witten and his family owned large tracts of land in present-day Colleyville, most of which was between Glade Road and Cheek-Sparger Road, west of State Highway 121 and east of Highway 26. Witten's home sat south of Glade Road about where Jackson Drive and Jackson Court intersect, a short distance west of the family cemetery.

In 1890, Witten sold his home here and moved to Corpus Christi, Texas where he died on November 2, 1891. He lies buried there in Old Bayview Cemetery. His wife died in Amarillo, Texas at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Isabella M. Mason, and is buried there in Llano Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Witten were the parents of ten children: George Washington Witten; Pinckney Lafayette Witten; Sarah Susannah Witten; Mary Lousetta (Mrs. Ryan) Harrington; Isabella Margaret (first married to a Mr. Mason, lastly to Cadwell W. Raines); Jenetta Josephine (Mrs. William R.) Joyce; Eleanor Victoria (Mrs. David H.) Harris; William Cecil Witten; Samuel C. H. Witten, Jr.; and Gano Price Witten.

A short obituary for Witten appeared in the Corpus Christi Weekly Caller on November 7, 1891: *“WITTEN—On Corpus Christi Cliffs, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. I. M. Mason, on Monday, Nov. 2d., 1891 at 3 p.m., Mr. S. C. H. Witten, a native of Virginia, aged 72 years, 1 month and 2 days. Mr. Witten, who came to Corpus Christi in August 1890, was a member of the Christian church, from Tarrant County.”*



Samuel C. H. Witten's headstone in Corpus Christi



Mrs. S. C. H. Witten's headstone in Llano Cemetery, Amarillo, Randall Co., Texas. Photo courtesy of Nancy Abraham



Above and left: Mr. and Mrs. Witten at their home near the Witten Cemetery in present-day Colleyville



WITTEN CEMETERY

THIS CEMETERY WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF SAMUEL CECIL HOLIDAY WITTEN (1819-91), WHO CAME TO TEXAS IN 1854. A SUCCESSFUL LANDOWNER, HE ALSO SERVED AS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND DEPUTY COUNTY SURVEYOR. WITTEN FIRST USED THIS BURIAL SITE IN 1857 FOR THE INTERMENT OF HIS SON WILLIAM. ALSO BURIED HERE ARE ANOTHER SON GEORGE (1841-68), WHO DROWNED WHILE ON A CATTLE DRIVE, AND A SON-IN-LAW RYAN HARRINGTON (1829-84), A PARTICIPANT IN THE 1849 CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH. SAMUEL WITTEN AND HIS WIFE MOVED TO CORPUS CHRISTI IN 1890 AND THE CEMETERY WAS LATER USED BY FAMILY DESCENDANTS.

(1981)