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- DATE: 15 January 2012
- UPDATED: 17 October 2017 to add details for Samuel of Kentucky and Illinois (pp. 25–28)
- REPORT TO: Witter Research Group
- SUBJECT: **Samuel Witter (1787–1876) and the War of 1812**
- BACKGROUND: One Samuel Witter (aka Witer), *a millwright said to have been born in Pennsylvania about 1784*, enlisted on 4 April 1814<sup>?</sup> in the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, a Kentucky unit. He was recruited (place unknown) by “Lt. Hackley,” then served under Capt. B. W. Sanders and Lieut. R. M. Ewing. He was discharged at Chillicothe, Ohio, on 7 June 1815. No other personal information is known about him.
- Meanwhile, Samuel Witter (aka Witer, Weeter, Weetar) *a millwright said to have been born in Pennsylvania on 12 May 1787*, first appears on record with the Franklin County, Pa., census of 1820, shortly after his marriage to Rachel “Lizzie” Smith. About 1840, Samuel moved his family to adjacent Bedford County then, about 1847–50, to Lawrence County, Ill. This Samuel was of age to fight in the War of 1812, but no service is known for him. He lived long enough to apply for both bounty land and a pension but, again, no such records have been found for him.
- For further background, see “Samuel Witter, 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry, War of 1812 Enlistment Record: An Analysis” dated 15 December 2011. That report identifies clues to be pursued and sets forth a work plan that will be initiated in the present assignment.
- TASK: This research segment will focus on
- the War of 1812 and its military actions;
  - relevant enlistment, bounty, and pension laws;
  - available bounty and pension collections; and
  - post-war identification of the various candidates for Samuel of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment
- QUESTION: Was the Pennsylvania millwright Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup> the same man as the Pennsylvania millwright Samuel Witter (1787–1876)?
- LIMITATIONS: 30 hours

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the results for Items 1–6 of the Work Plan of 15 December 2011. In brief:

- A clear copy of the enlistment record has been found and the 1814 enlistment date is confirmed.
- The officer who recruited Witter has been identified as Lt. *James* Hackley.
- Witter’s unit has been more specifically identified as the 4<sup>th</sup> Company of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment.
- One transcribed and published payroll has been found for Witter’s unit, dated June 1814, which identifies 76 comrades for further study.
- Engagements identified for Witter’s company include (a) the 1814 Battle of Michilimackinac, (b) 1814 destruction of Fort Erie (Can.), and (c) a winter–spring 1815 layover at Buffalo, N.Y., and Erie, Pa.

- Bounty land records have been located for Samuel of the 17<sup>th</sup> and the land has been tracked to Monroe County, Arkansas.
- War of 1812 rolls of Pennsylvania militia have been searched for Samuel, with potential results.
- **Three Samuel Witters have been identified as likely candidates for Samuel of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment.**  
The following table outlines the extent to which each “fits” the details known for the soldier.

<b>The Soldier</b>	<b>Our SW of Penn. &amp; Ill.</b>	<b>SW of Ky. &amp; Ill.</b>	<b>SW of Penn., Ohio &amp; Ind.</b>
Born: Penn.	Born: Penn.	Born: Ky., allegedly	Born: Penn.
Millwright	Millwright & farmer	?	Farmer
Dark hair/eyes/compl.	Dark hair/eyes/compl.	?	?
1814 Joined Ky. regiment 1815–20, used Muhlenberg Ky. lawyer/legislator as agent for bounty land.	1810–19 location unknown 1820–40, Franklin Co., Penn. 1850–76, Lawrence Co., Ill.	1810 B’ridge Co. Ky. 1820 Grayson Co., Ky. 1830 Ohio Co., Ky. 1840 Marion Co., Ill.	1806 Union Co., Ind. 1820–50 Preble Co. Ohio 1860 Huntington Co., Ind.
Located his military bounty land in Monroe Co., Ark.	Offspring left Ill. and moved to Monroe Co., Ark., supposedly lured by a family story of gold buried there.	No known presence in Arkansas	No known presence in Arkansas

- **Sufficient evidence still does not exist to eliminate any of the three as a candidate for Samuel of the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Regiment.**
- A DC-based researcher has been engaged to pursue Items 8–10 of the Work Plan of 15 December.

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	
<p><i>Page</i></p> <p>3 <b>Foundation Record for This Assignment:</b> Samuel Witter’s Service Summary</p> <p><b>NEW FINDINGS:</b></p> <p>4 <b>Enlistment Record: Readable Copy</b></p> <p>4 <b>17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Regiment</b></p> <p>4 Formation</p> <p>5 Recruiting</p> <p>6 Campaigns</p> <p>8 Discharge</p> <p>9 Officers &amp; Men of Witter’s Company</p> <p>8 Military Post Returns</p> <p>11 <b>Military Bounty Land</b></p> <p>11 1811–12 Legislation</p> <p>11 • Samuel Witter’s File</p> <p>13 • Witter’s Warrant Registration</p> <p>14 • Witter’s Patent</p> <p>15 1847–55 Legislation</p> <p>16 <b>Potential Prior Service in Pennsylvania Militia</b></p> <p>18 <b>Military Pension</b></p> <p>20 <b>Potential Candidates for Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>20 Samuel Witter (1787–1876) of Penn. and Ill.</p> <p>21 Samuel Witter (c1785–1840s) of Ky. and Ill.</p> <p>28 Samuel Witter (c1785–1860s) of Penn., Ind., Ohio</p>	<p><i>Page</i></p> <p>32 <b>Work Plan</b></p> <p>34 <b>Postscript</b></p> <p><b>ATTACHMENTS:</b></p> <p>1 Enlistment Register, U.S. Army</p> <p>2 Bounty Land File</p> <p>3 Bounty Land Warrant Register</p> <p>4 M848 “Index of Arkansas Patentees”</p> <p>5 Ark., “Military Bounty Lands” Register</p> <p>6 BLM Patent</p> <p>7 BLM Database Record</p> <p>8 Map: Samuel Witter’s Bounty Land, Monroe Co., Ark.</p>

**FOUNDATION RECORD FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT:  
Samuel Witter's Service Summary  
U.S. Army Enlistment Register**

“Records of Men Enlisted in the U.S. Army Prior to the Peace Establishment May 17, 1815.”<sup>1</sup>

No. 4951  
Name: **Witter, Samuel** [“Witer” is added below this]

**ORGANIZATION:**

Rank Rect. [Recruit]  
Regiment 17 U.S.I.  
Company Commander: [blank]

**DESCRIPTION:**

Height 5'4"  
Eyes Dark  
Hair Dark  
Coloring Dark  
Age 31  
Occupation Mill Wright

**WHERE BORN:**

Town or County [blank]  
State Pennsylvania

**ENLISTMENT:**

When Apr. 4, **1814**  
Where Kentucky  
By whom Lt. Hackley  
Period 5 years  
Remarks “D[uty] R[oster] dated Lexington Barracks, June 6[?] 1814  
Marched to Detroit May 14, 1815  
D. R., Capt. B. W. Sanders Co., Fb. 16, and  
I[nfantry] R[oster] Feb. 25/15, Present, private  
I.R., Lieut. R. M. Ewings Co., May 31/15 present, private  
Discharged at Chillicothe, Ohio, June 7/15, term expired  
See pension case.”

A clear contradiction still exists with this document. The alleged “May 14, 1815” march to Detroit is recorded out of chronological sequence (between 6 June 1814 and Feb. 25, 1815) and, as subsequently seen in this report, it does not fit the known whereabouts and activities of the units of the 17<sup>th</sup> regiment during the winter and spring of 1815.

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<sup>1</sup> *Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798–1914*, National Archives microfilm publication M233, roll 13, “Records of Men Enlisted in the U.S. Army Prior to the Peace Establishment, May 17, 1815,” vol. “S–W,” U.S. A., p. 123; consulted as “U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798–1914,” database and images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012).

## NEW FINDINGS

### ENLISTMENT: 1814

A clearer image of the Enlistment Register has been obtained. (See Attachment 1.)<sup>2</sup> This document confirms the reading made from the earlier copy and clearly shows 1814 as the year of enlistment.

### THE 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. REGIMENT

#### Formation:

The 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the U.S. Army was one of ten “regular army” units created under a Congressional Act of January 1812 in a buildup for the anticipated conflict with England. At the outbreak of the war, regulars were enrolled for a mandatory five years. However, a series of Congressional acts modified that in 1813 and 1814.<sup>3</sup> Given Samuel Witter’s enlistment on 4 April 1814, the law governing his enlistment would have been the act of 27 January 1814, which states:

“In order to complete the present military establishment to the full number authorized by law with the greatest possible despatch, there shall be paid to each effective able-bodied man who shall after the first day of February next be enlisted into the army of the United States, to serve *for the term of five years, or during the war, at his election, ...* the sum of one hundred and twenty-four dollars; fifty dollars of which to be paid at the time the recruit is enlisted, fifty dollars when he shall be mustered and have joined some military corps for service, and twenty-four dollars when he shall be discharged from service.”<sup>4</sup>

The 17th was initially a Kentucky unit. However, by early 1814 its ranks (and those of many other Army units) were severely depleted. According to the *U. S. Army Lineage Series*:

A mighty effort was made in 1814 to raise the Army to strength, and nearly 27,000 men came in, but in spite of this, four of the regiments had to be consolidated because they were too small. The 17th, 19th, 26th, and 27th were joined to form a new 17th and a new 19th, while the two highest numbered, the 47th and 48th, were redesignated the 27th and 26th, respectively.<sup>5</sup>

One classic study of Kentucky units in the War of 1812 provides a somewhat different version of the 1814 consolidation; it also identifies more fully the officers under whom Witter served:

“Organized under the acts of January 11 and June 26, 1812. *Consolidated May 30, 1814*, with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> regiments of infantry to form the present 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Infantry, United States Army.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 12<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2d Sess., 29 January 1813, chap. 16, was the first to reduce the minimum period to “one year, unless sooner discharged.” See also 13<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 5 July 1813 and 12 Aug. 1813, for various modifications.

<sup>4</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 13<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1st Sess., 27 January 1814, chap. 7, “An Act making further provision for filling the ranks of the regular army.”

<sup>5</sup> John K. Mahon and Romana Danysh, *U.S. Army Lineage Series: Infantry, Part 1, Regular Army* (Washington: Chief of Military History, U.S. Army, 1972), 14; htm edition at *U.S. Army Center of Military History* (<http://www.history.army.mil/books/Lineage/in/infantry.htm> : accessed 7 January 2012). The dates of the 1814 consolidation are not given here.

“Field and Staff—Col. Samuel Wells, Lieut.-Colonel Wm. McMillan, **George Todd**, Majors Richard Davenport, George Croghan, Richard Graham, Richard Oldham, etc. (17).

“4<sup>th</sup> Company—**Capt. B. W. Sanders**, Lieut. Cyrus W. Baylor, Ensign Richard Mitchell (117).

“7<sup>th</sup> Company—Capt. Wm. I. Adair, Lieuts. **James Hackley**, Thos. W. Hawkins, Ensign Thomas R. McKnight. (115).<sup>6</sup>

**Lieut. James Hackley** of the 7<sup>th</sup> Company, was the enrolling officer who recruited Samuel Witter *somewhere*. Typically, newly mustered recruits were then assigned wherever they were needed. The 4<sup>th</sup> company was the unit in which Witter served.

### Recruiting:

Recruiting for the U.S. Army Regulars was heavily handicapped during the war by competition with the states, each of which needed its own volunteers and enticed them with the offer of shorter terms. Published literature on the Regulars serving in the Old Northwest seems to offer nothing on Lt. Hackley’s activities but it does document some Ohio recruitment into the 17th. A local “military heritage” site focused on Warren County, Ohio, asserts that the 17<sup>th</sup> operated a recruiting office at Lebanon during the war, but provides neither a time frame nor documentation.<sup>7</sup> An 1891 compilation of “Kentucky soldiers” by that state’s Adjutant General’s Office more substantially dates a recruiting campaign in Ohio to *March 1814*:

“Roll of Field and Staff, Miller’s Regiment, U.S. Infantry, War of 1812—Commanded by Colonel John Miller:

John Miller, Colonel

[“Appointed or Enlisted”] July 9, 1812, Commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade at Black’s Rock

George Todd [*sic*], Lt.-Colonel

[“Appointed or Enlisted”] March 13, 1814, *Superintendent recruiting in Ohio*<sup>8</sup>

However, Miller and “Todd” [Tod] were Ohioans who had served in the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment since the inception of the war. Their involvement with Kentucky troops is clarified by Heitman’s *Historical Register of the United States Army*, which provides the following synopses for the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>:<sup>9</sup>

(p. 57)

#### **Seventeenth Regiment**

**Jan. 11, 1812, to May 17, 1815.**

Organized under the acts of Jan. 11 and June 26, 1812. The regiment was consolidated May 12, 1814, under the act of March 30, 1815, with the 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> regiments of infantry, to form the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> regiments of infantry. On May 17, 1815, under the act of March 3, 1815, the

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<sup>6</sup> A. C. Quisenberry, “Kentucky Troops in the War of 1812,” *Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*, 10 (September 1912): 51.

<sup>7</sup> “Warren County, Ohio War of 1812 Veterans,” *Warren County, Ohio Military Heritage* (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohwarren/military/1812.htm> : accessed 7 January 2012).

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, Soldiers of the War of 1812* (Frankfort: E. Polk Johnson, Public Printer, 1891), 340, for March 1814 “Roll of Field and Staff, Miller’s Regiment, U.S. Infantry, War of 1812, Commanded by Colonel John Miller”; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<http://www.archive.org> : accessed 7 January 2012).

<sup>9</sup> Francis Bernard Heitman, *Historical Register of the United States Army: From its Organization, September 29, 1789, to September 29, 1889* (Washington: The National Tribune, 1890), 57, 59; accessed at Google Books ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com) : 7 January 2012). For background on Miller and Tod, see David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler, eds., *Encyclopedia of the War of 1812* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1997), 84, 353–54. Also “Correspondence of Major Tod, War of 1812,” *Western Reserve and Northern Ohio Historical Society*, Tract No. 15 (April 1873): 1–3; digital images, “Correspondence of Major Tod, War of 1812,” *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012).

regiment was consolidated with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> regiments of infantry, to form the 3<sup>d</sup> regiment of infantry.

**Colonels.**

Samuel Wells, 12 March 12 to 12 May 14.

**John Miller, 12 May 14 to 17 May 15.**

**Lieutenant-Colonels.**

William McMillan, 12 March 12 to 12 May 14.

**George Tod, 13 March 14 to 17 May 15.**

**Majors.**

Richard Davenport, 12 April 12 to 1 April 13.

George Croghan, 30 March 13 to 21 Feb 14.

Richard Graham, 30 March 13 to 17 ay 15.

Richard Oldham, 9 April 14 to 17 May 15.

(p. 59)

**Nineteenth Regiment**

**June 26, 1812, to May 17, 1815.**

...

**Colonels.**

**John Miller, 6 July 12 to 12 May 14.**

George Paull, 12 May 14 to 31 Oct 14.

R. C. Nicholas, 4 Sept. 17 to 17 May 15.

**Lieutenant-Colonels.**

J. B. Campbell, 12 March 12 to 9 April 14.

T. B. Van Horne, 12 May 14 to 17 May 15.

**Majors.**

**George Tod, 12 March 12 to 13 March 14.**

[etc.]

The specific location at which Lieut. James Hackley recruited Samuel Witter possibly can be identified by the location of Witter's enlistment papers or the National Archives researcher's examination of the 1814–82 "**Registers of No. of Recruits**" for its details on April 1814 recruitment activity by Lt. Hackley.<sup>10</sup> It *might* also be identified by studying the service summaries (Register of Enlistment, M848) for each of Witter's fellow soldiers named in the 1 June–31 October 1814 payroll presented later in this report.

**Campaigns:**

The Samuel Witter service summary in the Enlistment Register does not identify any campaigns in which Witter served. One history of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry identifies two campaigns in which the regiment participated after Witter's enlistment. Its overview of the regiment's activities quoted below, mentions only one company of the 17<sup>th</sup>, but not that of Capt. Sanders:

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<sup>10</sup> Recruiting Division, 1814–1913; Records of Divisions of the Adjutant General's Office; Adjutant General's Records, RG 94. Described in PI 17, entry 94. Unmicrofilmed.

## **Niagara Campaign Summer 1814**

“Following Perry’s Victory on Lake Erie, the British retreated back to Canada and eventual defeat at the river Thames. The 17th was sent back to occupy Detroit with the bulk of the Northwest Army. With a reduced need for men, Capt. Chunn's company of the 17th was detached with another company of the 19th infantry for operations on the Niagara frontier. Arriving in Buffalo, Chunn's company was assigned to the training camp at Flint Hill, commanded by Gen. Winfield Scott to prepare for the invasion of Canada. On their way there, they were diverted to a raid on Dover, Canada on May 14. There they were employed to burn food stores and public property.

“The main invasion began on July 2nd with the attack and capture of Ft. Erie from the British. Assigned to Gen. Ripley's brigade, Capt. Chunn's company was attached to the 21st infantry along with Lt. Riddle's company of the 19th infantry. Together they were participants in the battle of Lundy's Lane on July 25th, attacking the British center, taking the crest of the hill and the artillery positions.

“Withdrawing to Ft. Erie, they remained for the siege of the fort by the British. *The remainder of the 17th arrived at Ft. Erie from Detroit on October 6th* [three weeks after the siege was lifted<sup>11</sup>] *onboard the Brig Niagara*. Capt. Chunn was cited for bravery and brevetted to Major for his defense of the American fortifications on Snake Hill during the British assault of August.

“Following the abandonment of Ft. Erie by the Americans in the fall of 1814, the 17th regiment was taken into winter quarters in Erie, Pennsylvania. They were here when the war ended in December. The regiment was disbanded during the post-war reductions, and the remnant was taken into the 3rd infantry.

## **Other Campaigns**

“While in Detroit in the summer on 1814, a portion of the 17th was detached to an expedition conducted by the Navy and Army to recapture Ft. Mackinaw. While able to cut off supplies to the British on the upper Great Lakes, the campaign soon became hindered by the loss of ships to Canadian raiding parties. Trying to repeat the British landing on Mackinaw Island also met with defeat. With these setbacks, the American force retired to Detroit where it remained for most of the war, conducting occasional raids into Canada.”<sup>12</sup>

Witter’s service summary notes his presence on two rosters during the post-war wind-down—both dated February 1815—but it does not state a location. It places him on a “March to Detroit” that apparently was launched on 14 May 1815, but it does not say where the march originated. That “March to Detroit” notation seemingly rules out the possibility that he was among the forces already at Detroit when the war ended.

If the service summary correctly places Witter at Lexington Barracks ca. 6 June 1814, then—time wise—it is all but certain that he did not participate in the June and July conflicts at Fort Erie and Niagara Falls. As subsequently seen under the “Military Pension” section of this report, Witter’s company did

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<sup>11</sup> Heidler and Heidler, *Encyclopedia of the War of 1812*, 67, dates the lifting of the siege as 21 September 1814.

<sup>12</sup> John Sec, “The Seventeenth Regiment of U.S. Infantry,” *Fort Erie and the War of 1812* (<http://www.iaw.com/~jsek/us17inf.htm> : accessed 7 January 2012).

participate in the bloody 4 August 1814 Battle of Michilimackinac (aka Ft. Mackinaw). Ostensibly, they would have been among “the remainder of the 17<sup>th</sup> [who] arrived at Ft. Erie from Detroit on October 6<sup>th</sup> aboard the Brig Niagara.”

Three weeks after the “March to Detroit” notation (*if the date is correct*), Witter was discharged at Chillicothe, Ohio. If his unit marched from Fort Erie, Ontario (across the Niagara River from Buffalo, New York), the trek would have covered roughly 400 miles, on foot. That rate of roughly 20 miles per day conforms to one Ohio officer’s report that 25 miles a day was average for troops carrying some 35 pounds of gear.<sup>13</sup>

#### **Discharge:**

On the heels of its 3 March 1815 Declaration of Peace, Congress enacted legislation to limit the size of the U.S. Army to a maximum of ten thousand men. The terms of that act also stated, “the President of the United States [shall] cause ... the supernumerary officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and *privates*, to be discharged from the service of the United States, from and after the first day of May next, or as soon as circumstances may permit.”<sup>14</sup>

Samuel Witter was not one of the 10,000 who stayed with the Army. Even though he did not serve the full five years for which he had obligated himself, his willingness to make that commitment had maximized his bounty under the act of 27 January 1824. The \$100 he received initially and the \$24 he received at discharge, would have a purchasing power of \$1,811 today.<sup>15</sup> In a place and time in which land could be purchased from the federal government at \$2 an acre, that war service could have bought him 62 acres.

#### **Officers & Men of Witter’s Company:**

A 1 June–31 October 1814 payroll for Witter’s company (one not abstracted into his War Department’s service summary) has been transcribed and published. That list is copied below, as a basis for eventual study of all pension applications filed by Witter’s compatriots who lived long enough to file for a pension:

Unless otherwise indicated, *the dates provided for all men on this list are the same as those provided for Witter: June 1, 1814–October 31, 1814.*<sup>16</sup>

“Roll of Captain B. W. Sanders’ Company, Kentucky Infantry—Commanded by Colonel John Miller.

B. W. Sanders, Captain  
Henry Crittenden, Lieutenant  
William Baylor, Lieutenant  
R. Mitchell, Ensign  
Obediah Norton, Sergeant  
John A. Eastland, Sergeant

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<sup>13</sup> Jennifer Davis McDavid, “Soldiers of the War of 1812,” Research Notes Number 19, *Library of Virginia* ([www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/m19\\_sold.htm](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/m19_sold.htm) : accessed 7 January 2012), quoting (but not citing) the reminiscences of Capt. Henry Brush. For an overview of Capt. Brush’s activities, see “A Short Chronology: The War of 1812 in the Northwest,” Ohio Historical Society, *Ohio Fundamental Documents* ([www.ohiohistory.org/onlinedoc/war1812/chronology/0007.html](http://www.ohiohistory.org/onlinedoc/war1812/chronology/0007.html) : accessed 9 January 2012). Also see *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774–Present* ([bioguide.congress.gov](http://bioguide.congress.gov) : accessed 9 January 2012).

<sup>14</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 13th Cong., 3d Sess., chap. 79, “An Act fixing the military peace establishment of the United States.”

<sup>15</sup> Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, “Purchasing Power of Money in the United States from 1774 to Present,” *Measuring Worth* (<http://www.measuringworth.com/ppowerus/> : accessed 7 January 2012).

<sup>16</sup> G. Glenn Clift, *Kentucky Soldiers of the War of 1812* (1931; reprinted, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), 344–45.



Hugh Harpham, Sergeant  
 James Iliff, Sergeant  
 Reuben Broughton, Sergeant  
 Matthew Burns, Corporal  
 Hiram Jamison, Corporal  
 Thomas Cravens, Corporal  
 John Boyd, Corporal  
 John Moseby, Corporal  
 John Stanton, Drummer  
 Wyatt McGibbery, Fifer

[Privates]

Avington, Stephen		London, Samuel	
Adams, Delaran		Lowry, Andrew	
Andrew, ____, 'Private Waiter'		Lambert, Cornelius	
Blythe, William		Lloyd, John	
Boston, Abner		McLain, James	
Bush, Edward	(Dead)	Moser, Jacob	
Barnett, Joseph		McMullen, John	
Baker, John		McNitt, Joseph	
Butler, John		Millery, Henry	(Died Nov. 1, 1814)
Bartram, Emely [ <i>sic</i> ]	(Oct. 29–31, 1814)	Monroe, John	
Bowler, William	(Dead)	Milburn, Jonathan	
Beck, James		Marks, Nathaniel	
Corbett, Samuel W.		Moore, Augustus	
Carter, John F.		Munsey, Reuben	
Collins, Henry		Munathan, John	
Cakendolpher, David		Moore, James	
Cook, Lodowick		Norris, Beverly	(Dead)
Cook, David		Pike, Oliver	
Cason, Reuben		Pool, John	
Calvert, Nash		Parker, Lewis	
Calvert, William		Roberts, John	
Campbell, John		Roberts, Jesse	
Darnell, Samuel S.		Ross, Benjamin	
Davidson, Robert		Roberts, Thomas	
Dunn, Hezekiah		Reece, David	(Nov. 4, 1813–Oct. 31, 1814)
Dunn, Gabriel	(Dead)	Richards, Samuel	
David, John	(Dead)	Reuben, _____	
Davis, Benjamin		Row, Robert	
Davis, James S.		Reynolds, Isham	(Dead)
Eldridge, John		St. Amour, Augustus	
Embleton, Richard		Stringfield, William	(Apr. 1, 1814–Oct. 31, 1814)
Flack, William		Stewart, Alex	(Dead)
Fuller, William		Savage, John	
Gilbert, William		Sherrard, Samuel	
Gilbert, William, Sr.		Swartzwalter, George	
Grissom, James	(Dead)	Sharpe, James	(May 26, 1814–Oct. 31, 1814)
George, Thomas W.		Sharp, John	
Hall, Aaron	(Mar. 21–Oct. 31, 1814)	Tubb, Jesse	

Hall, Samuel W. (July 2–Oct. 31, 1814)	Taylor, Berry
Hamby, Meshick	Temple, Dixon Y.
Hamilton, Andrew	Tillett, Jacob
Head, John	Tyree, John
Head, Benjamin	Tailor, James W.
Hunt, William	Wright, Reuben
Humphrey, William	White, Edward
Harning, Rudolph	West, James
Henry, Richard	<b>Witter, Samuel</b>
Igo, Jacob	Wheeler, Greenberry
Jenkins, Eli	Weakley, Abraham
Samuel Kerr	Wells, Berry
Joseph Long”	

The abstractor of this roll does not identify it as a *payroll*. To the contrary, he suggests that the dates may represent the dates of *enlistment* and the period of service. However, almost all the individuals on the roll carry the same beginning and ending dates—a circumstance typical of payrolls.

Note, particularly, the presence of John Baker on the list above. He will appear again in the “Military Pension” section of this report.

### **Military Post Returns**

In addition to payrolls, muster rolls, and duty rosters, the nineteenth-century records of the Adjutant General’s Office include a massive collection of morning reports, weekly reports, and monthly returns from (theoretically) each existing military post. Unlike the rolls, most reports and returns do not enumerate all soldiers—only the officers and the units stationed there at the time. Beyond that, they provide statistical data and details on “events.” Soldiers are typically mentioned only in the context of an event such as a furlough or illness.

These “post returns” have been reproduced by the National Archives on 1,550 rolls identified as microfilm publication M617. The records are arranged alphabetically by the name of the post. The descriptive pamphlet for that collection is available online at the National Archives website, as a searchable PDF.<sup>17</sup>

To identify any and all appropriate returns, without knowing where Witter’s unit might have been, I ran a search for “1814” and “1815,” then examined each hit to identify posts that would have been within the regions in which the 17<sup>th</sup> is known to have then been.

### **RESULTS:**

Negative. The only returns identified for any post in Kentucky, in the Old Northwest, or surrounding the Great Lakes were those for Detroit. However, they did not begin until August 1815, after Samuel Witter had been discharged.

## **MILITARY BOUNTY LAND**

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<sup>17</sup> *Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1800–1916*, National Archives microfilm publication M615; and descriptive pamphlet accessible at *National Archives* (<http://www.archives.gov> : 7 January 2012). M615, but not its “DP,” has been digitized by *Ancestry.com*.

### 1811–12 Legislation

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the new United States was land rich and cash poor. For several decades thereafter, the promise of free land became a major enticement for troop buildup in time of war. Under acts of December 1811 and January 1812, passed by Congress in anticipation of the upcoming conflict, men who enlisted for a five-year term were eligible for 160 acres upon completion of their service. Those acts explicitly forbade the assignment or transfer of the warrant to any party other than the one who served.<sup>18</sup> In an effort to prevent the circulation of the warrants, no warrants were issued directly to the men who served. They were retained by the General Land Office and a notice was sent to each veteran, alerting him that a warrant was available in his name. Even so, a brisk business existed in the sale of the *rights* to bounty land; and historians estimate that many, if not most, War of 1812 bounty land warrants were eventually cashed in by non-veterans.<sup>19</sup>

### Samuel Witter's File:

Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Regiment was one of those who claimed his promised land by proxy. His degree of involvement in the land's selection and settlement remains unknown. His bounty-land file consists of just two documents. (See **Attachment 2**.)

- A discharge certificate.
- A file "jacket," with basic details on the bounty land warrant issued in his name.

Both documents are created on preprinted forms. In the following full transcription, the data entered by hand appears in boldface Roman type.<sup>20</sup>

#### [*Jacket*]

"Warrant No. **23042 160a**  
War of 1812  
Act of **Dec. 24, 1811; Jan. 11 1872**  
Warrantee: **Samuel Witter**  
Soldier: **Same**  
Service: **17 Inf.**  
Nature of Claim: **Bounty Land Single**"

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#### [*Discharge: Back side*]

Samuel Witter Discharge  
Samuel Witter No. 2364  
17 Inf.

#### [*Discharge: Front side*]

[*marginal notation at top right:*]  
**Hon. Alny McLean**

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<sup>18</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 12<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1st Sess., 24 Dec. 1811, chap. 10, "An Act for completing the existing Military Establishment"; and 11 Jan. 1812, chap. 14, "An act to raise additional Military Force."

<sup>19</sup> See Anne Bruner Eales and Robert M. Kvasnicka, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*, 3d ed. (Washington: NARA, 2000), 185.

<sup>20</sup> Samuel Witter (Pvt., Lt. R. W. Ewing's Co., 17<sup>th</sup> Regt., U.S. Army, War of 1812), Bounty Land Warrant file 23042; Military Bounty Land Warrants and Related Papers; Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives, Washington, DC.

"By Order of Brig. Gen. Duncan M'Arthur, Commanding Eighth Military District:

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

KNOW YE, That **Samuel Witter** a **Private** of **Lt. R. W. Ewings** company, **Seventeenth** regiment of U.S. Infy. who was enlisted the **fourth** day of **April** eighteen hundred and **fourteen** to serve during the war, is hereby honorably discharged from the army of the United States, having faithfully served out the full period of his enlistment.

Said **Samuel Witter** was born in \_\_\_\_\_ [*sic*] in the **State of Pennsylvania** is about **thirty one** years of age, **five feet four** inches high, **Dark** complexion, **Dark** eyes, **Dark** hair, and by occupation, when enlisted, a **millright**.

Given at **Chillicothe, Ohio**

This **Seventh** day of **June** 1813 [*sic*]

George Tod

**E. J. Parker?** Lt. Colonel"

***Physical Analysis of Document:***

- Witter's specific place of birth is left blank.
- The surname of one signer is barely legible.
- Nothing on the document itself explains the top right reference to "Hon. Alny McLean." The penmanship is not that of the scribe.

***Content Analysis:***

*Identification of soldier:*

This Samuel Witter is clearly the man of the enlistment record. The date of enlistment, age, physical description, occupation, company, regiment, and lieutenant's identification all match. The word "single" on the jacket refers to the type of grant allowed under the law, not the status of the grantee.

*Identification of Hon. Alney McLean:*

The involvement of McLean strongly suggests that this Samuel Witter spent at least some time in Kentucky after his discharge at Chillicothe, Ohio. Before and after the war, McLean was an attorney in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. Post-war, he also served two terms in the U.S. Congress. The *Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress* provides the following:

"McLEAN, Alney, (1779–1841) a Representative from Kentucky; born in Burke County, N.C., June 10, 1779; pursued preparatory studies; moved to Kentucky; appointed surveyor of Muhlenberg County in 1799 and elected one of the trustees of Greenville on its formation; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Ky., about 1805; member of the State house of representatives in 1812 and 1813; served as a captain in the War of 1812; elected as a Republican to the Fourteenth Congress (March 4, 1815–March 3, 1817); elected to the Sixteenth Congress (March 4, 1819–March 3, 1821); served as judge of the fourteenth district of Kentucky from 1821 until his death; presidential elector on the Clay ticket in 1824 and on the ticket of Clay and Sergeant in 1832; died near Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Ky., December 30, 1841; interment in Old Caney Station Cemetery, near Greenville, Ky.<sup>21</sup>

Although McLean's involvement with Witter's bounty-land warrant is not explained on the document, one of two situations likely existed.

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<sup>21</sup> *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774–Present* ([bioguide.congress.gov](http://bioguide.congress.gov) : accessed 7 January 2012), for "Alney McLean."

- Men discharged from service in 1815 were eagerly sought by land speculators who offered to obtain the bounty land for them. Typically, the speculators paid the veteran a token for the right to “represent them in securing his land” and for a power of attorney that would allow the “representative” to sell the land after the patent was issued to the veteran. Among the most-common “representatives” were attorneys, land surveyors, the veteran’s own officers, and the members of Congress who passed the bounty-land act in the first place. (“Insider trading” by congressmen was as rampant in the nineteenth-century as in the twenty-first.)
- Veterans, postwar, also approached attorneys or respected community leaders in the area where they resided, seeking help in filing for the bounty land.

Both patterns suggest that Witter settled for at least a while, postwar, in the Muhlenberg area. That county lies in Southwest Kentucky, about seventy-five miles below the Ohio River and about a hundred miles from the Mississippi.

McLean’s biography offers two potentially relevant details:

- He was a county surveyor before the war, an occupation frequently found among land speculators who used their expertise with soil and topography to ferret out the most productive tracts of land.
- Between March 1817 and March 1819, McLean was not in Congress. The bio does not account for his activities. Ostensibly, he would have returned to his family and his law practice in Kentucky. The timing is relevant to any determination of when and where he became involved with Samuel Witter.

### Witter’s Warrant Registration

Recipients of bounty-land warrants under the Acts of 1811 and 1812 had five years after discharge to exchange the warrant for land. That land was awarded only in the territories of Michigan, Illinois (north of the Illinois River) and “Louisiana” (specifically, the region between the Arkansas and St. Francis Rivers that became Arkansas).<sup>22</sup> Shortly before the five-year deadline, Witter’s warrant was returned to the U.S. Land Office, in exchange for a tract of Arkansas land. (See **Attachment 3**.)

On 14 February, 1820, Witter’s warrant was recorded in the Warrant Registry as follows: “Samuel Witter, Private, 17 Infantry. Honl. A. McLean” “No. 23642.

“Pursuant to the second section of an Act of Congress passed the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 1812, authorizing the Secretary of War to issue Land Warrants to the noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers enlisted in the service of the United States, conformably to the acts of the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, 1811, and of the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 1812, **Samuel Witter**, late a **Private** in the company commanded by **Lieutenant R. W. Ewing**, of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment United States **Infantry**, is entitled to ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND, to be located agreeably to the said act on any unlocated parts of the six millions of acres appropriated by law for the original grantees of such military warrants; and this warrant is not assignable or transferrable in any manner whatsoever.

“Given at the War Office of the United States, this 14 day of February, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and twenty. **Loc[ation] Ark[ansas]. P146**. [Signed] J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War. Registered. [Signed] Nat. Cutting, Clerk.”<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 12<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 6 May 1812, chap. 77, “An act to provide for designating, Surveying and granting the military bounty lands.”

<sup>23</sup> *War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815–1858*, NARA microfilm publication M848, roll 11, “Warrants Issued under the Act of May 6, 1812; Volumes 79-83, and Three Unnumbered Volumes; Warrants 22383-24770,” unnumbered pages, warrants filed in numerical sequence.

The location of the land is identified by the U.S. General Land Office Register, “Index of Arkansas Patentees.”<sup>24</sup> (See **Attachment 4**.)

Witter, Samuel,  
Vol. 1:293  
SE 14 [Southeast of Section 14] Township 1 North, Range 2 West, Warrant 23,042

The State of Arkansas has also posted online digital images from its state-level register of military bounty lands issued within its bounds. That state-level register is arranged by legal description (section, township, and range). It contains no name index and the Arkansas website provides no database. Using the legal description of the land, Witter’s registration was locatable in the register (see **Attachment 5**).<sup>25</sup>

**Township 1N Range 2W**

To whom Patented:	<b>Samuel Wetter</b>
Quarter or Half of Sec.:	SE
No. of Sec.	14
No. of Warrant:	23,642
Date of Patent:	Nov. 27, 1820

**Witter’s Patent**

A digital image of the actual patent issued to “Samuel Wetter” is available at the online database maintained by the Bureau of Land Management. (See **Attachment 6**.) The quality of the download image provided by the website is poor; but the site offers the option to purchase a better copy. On the following transcription, made from the website image, boldface marks the words penned on the preprinted form.

“**James Monroe**, President of the United States of America, to All to whom these presents shall come, Greeting. Know ye That in pursuance of the Acts of Congress appropriating and granting Land to the late Army of the United States, passed on and since the sixth day of May, 1812, **Samuel Wetter** having deposited in the General Land Office a Warrant in **his** favor numbered **23,642**, there is granted **unto the said Samuel Wetter**, late a **private in Ewings Company of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry**, a certain Tract of Land, containing **One hundred & Sixty Acres**, being the **South East qr.** of Section **fourteen** of Township **one North** and Range **Two West** in the Tract appropriated (by the Acts aforesaid) for Military Bounties, in the Territory of Arkansas. To Have and to Hold the said **quarter** Section of land with the appurtenances thereof, into the said **Samuel Wetter** and to **his** heirs and assigns forever.

“In Testimony WHEREOF, We have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my Hand, at the City of Washington, this **Twenty Seventh** day of **November** in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and **Twenty** and of the Independence of the United States of America, the **forty-fifth**. By the President, **James Monroe**. [Signed] **Josiah Meigs**, Commissioner of the General Land Office.”

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<sup>24</sup> “U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789–1858,” database and images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 January 2012), for *War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815–1858*, National Archives microfilm publication M848, roll 1, target 2, “Index of Arkansas Patentees,” p. 257.

<sup>25</sup> State of Arkansas, *Historical Land Records* (<http://www.cosl.org/history/military.aspx> : accessed 7 January 2012), “Military Bounty Lands,” discussion and digitized register of same name, p. 9.

BLM’s accompanying database entry for the patent (See **Attachments 7 and 8**) places the land in **Monroe County, Arkansas.**<sup>26</sup>

***Samuel’s usage of the Arkansas land:***

Local land research in Monroe County, Arkansas, could not be done within the time limits of the present project to determine what Samuel did with his tract. Two situations commonly existed:

- Once the land was located, with the help of an “agent” who made the site selection for the veteran and carried out the formal land entry at the U.S. land office, the patent would be acquired by the agent, who then sold the land to speculators—also men connected to the attorneys. In these situations, the veterans were never physically in the locale where the land was located.
- Men who did choose to relocate to the area where bounty-land could be obtained were more careful in their selection of land. As with “squatters” without bounty-land warrants, they typically chose an unoccupied tract, threw up a cabin, cleared a few acres, and put a test patch under cultivation. If the first crops were adequately productive, they would then apply for the chosen tract. The five-year window allotted under the bounty-land act allowed time for land scouting and testing—if Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup> chose to go to Arkansas.

Research in the local land and tax records of Monroe County should resolve the question as to whether Samuel Witter was physically present in Monroe County.

1847–55 LEGISLATION

Four acts during this period provided additional lands for veterans and the widows and minors of deceased veterans. In brief:

**11 February 1847:**

This act was directed to new recruits for the Mexican War and is not relevant to Samuel Witter.<sup>27</sup>

**28 September 1850:**

“Each of the surviving [veterans], or the widow or minor children of deceased commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, or privates, whether of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who performed military service in any regiment, company, or detachment, in the service of the United States, in the war with Great Britain, declared by the United States on the eighteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and twelve, or in any of the Indian wars since seventeen hundred and ninety, and each of the commissioned officers who was engaged in the military service of the United States in the late war with Mexico, **shall be entitled to lands as follows: Those who engaged to serve twelve months or during the war, and actually served nine months, shall receive one hundred and sixty acres, and those who engaged to serve six months, and actually served four months, shall receive eighty acres, and those who engaged to serve for any or an indefinite period, and actually served one month, shall receive forty acres.** Provided, That wherever any officer or soldier was honorably discharged in consequence of disability in the service, before the expiration of his period of service, he shall receive the

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<sup>26</sup> Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” database and digital images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 7 January 2012), Samuel Wetter (Monroe County, Arkansas), Document Nr. 23642.

<sup>27</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 29<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess., 11 Feb. 1847, chap. 8, “An Act to Raise for a limited Time an additional military Force, and for other Purposes,” Sect. 9.

amount to which he would have been entitled if he had served the full period for which he had engaged to serve : Provided, **The person so having been in service shall not receive said land, or any part thereof, if it shall appear, by the muster rolls of his regiment or corps, that he deserted, or was dishonorably discharged from service, or if he has received, or is entitled to, any military land bounty under any act of Congress heretofore passed.**"<sup>28</sup>

This last provision disqualified Samuel Witter from receiving additional lands, as did the supplementary acts that followed.

#### **22 March 1852:**

Eligibility included all who "were called into military service, and whose services have been paid by the United States" after 18 June 1812—whether the service was in militias, volunteer units, or regular troops—"upon proof of length of service as therein required." However, "**nothing herein contained shall authorize bounty land to these who have heretofore received or become entitled to same.**"<sup>29</sup>

#### **3 March 1855:**

Coverage was extended to all conflicts since 1790 and several categories of military employees; minimum service was reduced to fourteen days. All classes were entitled to 160 acres. If a person had previously received less than that, he was now entitled to the difference. **However, those who had received 160 acres under the acts of 1811 and 1812 were again ineligible.**<sup>30</sup>

### **POTENTIAL PRIOR SERVICE IN PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA**

Pennsylvania's statewide index to militiamen serving in the War of 1812 does not include any person surnamed Witter or any logical variant spelling or misreading.<sup>31</sup>

Considering the possibility that this derivative source might have mistranscribed the surname, I also flagged all "W" entries for individuals named *Samuel* and *Abraham*, then ran an 1810 and 1820 census search for their named officers and others identifiable for their companies. That exercise yielded no Samuel or Abraham whose associates were clustered in Franklin or Bedford Counties.

#### **Possible Service:**

##### **Samuel Witter/Widder/Weidner?**

One Samuel "Weidner" has been identified for the Franklin County Light Dragoons under Colonel Jared Irwin, Capt. Andrew Oakes, and Lt. Thomas Wilson. According to an 1887 history of Franklin:<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 31<sup>st</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 28 Sept. 1850, chap. 85, "An Act granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States."

<sup>29</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 32<sup>nd</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess., 22 March 1852, chap. 19, "An Act to make Land Warrants assignable, and for other Purposes."

<sup>30</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess., 3 March 1855, chap. 207, "An Act in Addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers."

<sup>31</sup> "War of 1812 Index of Soldiers, Undated," Series 2.61, RG2, Records of the Department of the Auditor General, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; digitized online at *Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission* ([http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r2-61War\\_1812Index/r2-61%20WarOf1812Interface.htm](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r2-61War_1812Index/r2-61%20WarOf1812Interface.htm) : accessed 7 January 2012.)

<sup>32</sup> *History of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co., 1887), chap. 8, no pagination shown; transcription and posting by Joyce Moore, *USGenWebArchives* (<http://files.usgwebarchives.net/pa/franklin/history/local/wbeers008.txt> : accessed 7 January 2012); punctuation and surname



“June 12, 1812, Congress declared war against Great Britain. ... During the three years of hostilities thirteen companies of Franklin County men were recruited and sent to the field of action. ... A large number of these was found in this county, many of them ready on short notice to march in effective martial display to the front. We have the names of the ANTRIM GREENS, a rifle company of 60 men; FRANKLIN COUNTY LIGHT DRAGOONS, 41 men - Captain, JAMES McDOWELL; CONCORD LIGHT INFANTRY, 30 men - Captain, MICHAEL HARPER; CHAMBERSBURG UNION VOLUNTEERS, 51 men - Captain, JEREMIAH SNIDER. These companies at once tendered their services, th[r]ough COUNTY BRIGADE INSPECTOR WILLIAM McCLELLAN, to the Government.

**“The first detachment of troops left the county September 5, 1812.** This was composed of the UNION VOLUNTEERS, the FRANKLIN RIFLEMEN, the CONCORD LIGHT INFANTRY, the MERCERSBURG RIFLES and the ANTRIM GREENS - total 264, officers and men. The quota of the county was 507, and the deficiency was made up by draft from the militia. MAJOR WILLIAM McCLELLAN was in command of the detachment. **They were sent to the northwest frontier, proceeding there by way of Bedford, Pittsburgh and Meadville, reaching the latter place in September. The troops were there re-organized into four regiments—two of rifles and two of infantry.** JEREMIAH SNIDER was elected colonel of the First Regiment, JOHN PURVIANCE of the Second Regiment. The four regiments being formed into a brigade under GENERAL TANNAHILL, DR. SAMUEL D. CULBERTSON, of Chambersburg, was appointed surgeon-in-chief; JOHN McCLINTOCK became captain of Snider's company, on the latter being made colonel, and GEORGE K. HARPER was promoted to the vacant lieutenantancy in SNIDER's company. The companies of CAPTAINS McCLINTOCK, REGES, and HARPER were in COLONEL SNIDER's regiment and those of **CAPTAINS OAKS and HAYS in COLONEL JARED IRWIN's regiment. Immediately after the re-organization, the command marched to Buffalo, reaching there in November, where it went into winter quarters, and remained until discharged, their term of enlistment expiring in January, 1813.**”

The 1887 author subsequently listed the officers and men known to serve in the various units. The second company on his list appears as follows:

CAPTAIN	– ANDREW OAKES	CORPORALS	– WILLIAM DUGAN
LIEUTENANT	– THOMAS WILSON		GEORGE SHARER
ENSIGN	– GEORGE ZEIGLER		HENRY SITES
SERGEANTS	– PETER CRAMER		JACOB GARRESENE
	JACOB GUDTNER		THOMAS BRADY
	JACOB FLETTER		JOHN POPER [PIPER?]
	JAMES PENNELL		

**PRIVATES**

WILLIAM BOLTON	JOHN GAFF	GEORGE SHAFFER
GEORGE BETTES	JOHN GARNER	SAMUEL SMITH
HENRY BRENDLINGER	WILLIAM GORDON	JOHN SNYDER
JOSEPH BYERLY	RICHARD KELLER	JOHN SREADER
SAMUEL BENDER	SAMUEL MARTIN	GEORGE STUFF
WILLIAM CARROLL	JAMES McCURDY	GEORGE ULLER
PATRICK DUGAN	SAMUEL McLAUGHLIN	<b>SAMUEL WEIDNER</b>
EVAN EVANS	WILLIAM OVELMAN	<b>DANIEL WEIDNER</b>
WILLIAM FOSTER	THOMAS PLUMMER	CHRISTIAN WILLHELM
THOMAS FLETCHER	WILLIAM SCULLY	

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capitalization follows the formatting of the online transcription. The source of these lists seems to be I. H. McCauley's *Historical Sketch of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Prepared for Centennial Celebration* (Harrisburg, Penn.: Patriot Publishing Co., 1878), 147–48.

COMMENT:

Re: Samuel and Daniel “Weidner”:

- No “Weidner,” or close variant spelling can be found on the Franklin County censuses of either 1810 or 1820 or in a literature search. (My past examinations of the original courthouse records focused on *Witter* and known variants at that time; *Weidner* was not among the potential variants that were searched.) In state-level patent records for the county, *Weidener* appears as one variant spelling of the surname of Jacob *Witter*.<sup>33</sup>
- “Widnor” is also noted as a variant spelling of the Witter surname in Fendrick’s biographical sketches of Revolutionary Soldiers who lived at some point in Franklin County. Specifically the sketch for Christopher Witter, who is said to have moved from Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, to Greencastle, Antrim Township, Franklin County, notes the variants “Widnor, Weider, and Widder” in the tax, church, and probate (1807) records created by this man and his sons Jacob, George, and Michael.<sup>34</sup>
- A search of the 1810 and 1820 censuses of Franklin, for all members of Capt. Andrew Oakes’s company, places nearly half of these men (including Oakes) in Antrim township. However, every township in Franklin County is represented by at least one man. Also, at least five of the men were from Metal Township, where Benjamin Witter appears in 1820 and John Witter had owned land as early as 1800.
- In January 1813 (as noted above) Samuel and Daniel “Weidner” were discharged at Buffalo. Literature and census searches of Franklin County and elsewhere in Western Pennsylvania has not yet revealed post-1813 records of a Samuel or Daniel “Weidner.”
- The official War Department index to War of 1812 pension records includes 4 Samuels of the surname Weidner and its phonetic equivalents Widener and Winer, as well as one Daniel “Whitner,” but none of these men are credited to the military unit above.<sup>35</sup>

### MILITARY PENSION

Samuel Witter’s service summary in the Enlistment Register ends with the words “See pension case.” The word “case” rather than “file” might suggest that he did not receive a pension but pursued a legal appeal, either through the bureau, through his congressman, or through the U.S. Congressional Court of Claims. However, the compilers of this register consistently used the term “case” for all the soldiers.

According to Eales’s and Kvasnicka’s guide to records in the National Archives:

“The War of 1812 series of pension application records ... chiefly concern pensions granted by acts of 1871 (16 Stat. 411) and 1878 (20 Stat. 27). The former **provided pensions to veterans who had been cited by Congress for specific service** if they did not later support the Confederate cause during the Civil War, and to many widows of such veterans if the marriage had taken place before the treaty of peace in 1815. The **1878 act provided for pensions to veterans who had served 14 days in any engagement** and to widows of such veterans.

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<sup>33</sup> Patent Index, P. Series (P-1 to P-19), 1781–1809 (series 17.154), vol. 1 (1781–1794), pp. 343–44; RG-17, Records of the Land Office, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg; digitized online at *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission* (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17PatentIndexes/r17-154PatIndP1Interface.htm> : accessed 8 January 2012). Also Franklin Co. Land Warrant Register, p. 54, Warrant Registers, 1733–1957, Series 17.88; Record Group 17, *ibid*.

<sup>34</sup> Virginia Shannon Fendrick, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, ca. 1944), 224.

<sup>35</sup> “United States, War of 1812 Index to Pension Application Files, 1812–1910,” database and images, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/records](http://www.familysearch.org/search/records) : accessed 8 January 2012), citing NA microfilm publication M313, no roll numbers.

“Interfiled or consolidated with the files in the series are some War of 1812 pension application files that previously formed a part of the Old Wars pension series. ...

“The ‘Old Wars’ series of pension application files relates chiefly to **claims based on death or disability** incurred in service in the regular forces between the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. **The claims concern service in the Regular Army, Navy, or Marine Corps during the War of 1812.**”<sup>36</sup>

In brief: unless Samuel Witter of 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Regiment applied after the 1878 act, it appears that the “case” referenced for him in his service summary would have claimed (a) a disability or (b) a citation of meritorious service by Congress. No trace of either was found in the following searches:

- *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*, National Archives microfilm publication M323, 102 rolls.<sup>37</sup>
- White, *Index to Old Wars Pension Files*.<sup>38</sup>
- White, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*.<sup>39</sup>
- *U.S. Statutes at Large, 1789–1875*.<sup>40</sup>
- *U.S. House & Senate Debates and Journals*.<sup>41</sup>
- *Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims* (Abstracted tables of Congressional claims cases prior to 1853).<sup>42</sup>

One of the three men identified as potential candidates for this War of 1812 veteran (see next section) died well within the time frame covered by all the materials above. A second *appears* to have died in the 1860s. The third man, our Samuel Witter, died 25 December 1876, leaving no widow or minors. If he appealed to Congress for a pension in the last year of his life, those records would not be among the Congressional records accessible online. They need to be sought elsewhere. Specifically:

- *U.S. Statutes at Large, 1876; U.S. House & Senate Debates and Journals*: These can be found at virtually every Government Documents Depository.
- *Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims ... Supplements*, 3 vols. (1873, 1882, 1891; reprinted, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., various years).<sup>43</sup>
- Supporting files at the National Archives: *If* a trace of a pension appeal is found for him in any of the above, then the supporting documents need to be identified and obtained from the National Archives.

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<sup>36</sup> Eales and Kvasnicka, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*, 173.

<sup>37</sup> *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*, National Archives microfilm publication M323, 102 rolls; accessed as “War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812–1815,” database and images, *Ancestry.com*; also cross-checked against the *Family Search* database for the same index.

<sup>38</sup> Virgil D. White, *Index to Old Wars Pension Files, 1815–1926* (Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Co., 1993).

<sup>39</sup> Virgil D. White, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*, 2 vols. (Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Co., 1992).

<sup>40</sup> Digitized at Library of Congress, *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates*.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims*, 3 vols. (Washington: W. M. Belt, 1853).

<sup>43</sup> *Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims*, 3 vols. (Washington: W. M. Belt, 1853), *Supplements*, 3 vols. (1873, 1882, 1891; reprinted, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., various years).

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**POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR SAMUEL WITTER OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup>**

The whereabouts of the soldier Samuel, after his July 1815 discharge, is unknown. The two censuses that bracket the war—although they missed countless people and their age information is frequently unreliable—offer three Samuel Witters (of whatever spelling) for further consideration.

1. Samuel Witter (1787–1876) of Pennsylvania and Illinois (our ancestor)
2. Samuel Witter (ca.1785–ca.1840s) of Kentucky and Illinois; alleged cousin of our Samuel
3. Samuel Witter (ca. 1785–1860s) of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio; likely first cousin to our Samuel

Each of these will be individually discussed, below.

**1.**

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876) of Pennsylvania and Illinois**  
(Putative parents: Johannis & Catherine Widder/Witter)

No new research has been done in this segment on our Samuel Witter. The following synopsis provides basic data for comparison to the other two Samuels.<sup>44</sup>

1787	Pennsylvania	Consistent birthplaces on censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1870
1810	Franklin Co., Penn.	Apparently in home of John (Johannis) Witter, Hamilton Township (John’s presumed brother Christoffel “Christophe” was the father of the 3d Samuel below)
1812–19	?	Activities unknown
1819–20	Franklin Co., Penn.	Married Rachel Smith (possibly Reafsnyder, Reifschmeider, etc.)
1820	Franklin Co., Penn.	Listed in Metal Township consecutively with John Witter, his putative father
1830	Franklin Co., Penn.	Fannett Township, 6 houses from Abraham Witter, putative brother
1839	Franklin Co., Penn.	He & Rachel sold land in Letterkenny Township, jointly with William and Anna Maria (Reifschmeider) Timmons
1840	Franklin Co., Penn.	Lurgen Township
1841–46	Bedford Co., Penn.	Taxed consecutively with son Benjamin and putative brother Abraham, both millwrights
1850–70	Lawrence Co., Ill.	Christy Township, cited as mill wright, “millerite,” and farmer
c1893	Monroe Co., Ark.	James Witter and sister Della Witter (Mrs. Finley Shown), children of Samuel’s son Benjamin, left Lawrence Co., Ill., and relocated in Monroe Co., Arkansas, allegedly following a family story of gold buried in Monroe. <sup>45</sup> The Showns settled 6 miles due west of the bounty land taken out by Samuel Witter of the 17 <sup>th</sup> Regiment.

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<sup>44</sup> For additional details and documentation, see file copy of E. S. Mills, “Samuel Witter (1787–1876): Research Notes.”

<sup>45</sup> As related by Finley Shown to his oldest grandson, William C. “Bill” Shown (b. 1914) and reported by Bill to Elizabeth Shown Mills.

2.

**Samuel Witter of Kentucky and Illinois**

(Likely father: Samuel)

This Samuel Witter, as a youth, seems a compatible prospect for a man who enlisted in a Kentucky regiment. His location is ideal. However, his the only known record to cite a birth for him places that birth in Kentucky and the only known trade associated with him—bridge-building (1835–36) does not match that of the soldier. The pros and cons are as follows:

*Pro:*

- He was in Kentucky at the time the 17<sup>th</sup> was created as a Kentucky regiment.
- He remained in Kentucky after the war, making it likely that he would use a Kentucky attorney as an agent to acquire his military bounty land.
- His age is appropriate.

*Con:*

- His birth place is unproved but is said by descendants to be “Breckinridge Co.,” Kentucky.
- No record has been found that identifies him as a mill wright (or any other occupation).
- The 17<sup>th</sup>, as a Kentucky regiment, existed for two years before he would have enlisted; and he is not found on any known surviving militia roll.

As an overview of what is known and alleged:

c1785	Breckinridge Co. KY	Alleged birth place and time. (If born here, it would then have been Jefferson or Nelson County)
1810	Breckinridge Co. KY	Apparently one of 3 males 16–25 with Samuel Witter, 26–44 (see census below)
c1810	Breckinridge Co. KY?	m. Rebecca Crask; said to be daughter of Vincent Crask (d. 6 Nov. 1805 Breckinridge Co.); and wife Sarah Wilson (m. 1785, Richmond Co., Va.). <sup>46</sup>
1820	Grayson Co., KY	(see census below)
1830	Ohio Co., Ky.	(see census below) 3 houses from brother-in-law Lapsley Hall <sup>47</sup>
1835	Marion Co. IL	(see below) Entered federal land along Wayne County line in T1N R4E
1836-40	Marion Co. IL	Built and operated toll bridge over Skillet Fork of the Little Wabash <sup>48</sup>
1840	Marion Co., IL	(see census below); Lapsley Hall is in adjacent Wayne County
1850	[Not found]	Left children in Ohio Co., Ky., and Wayne/Jefferson/Hamilton Cos., Ill. <sup>49</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Becka1965 “Samuel and John Kella Witter,” message posted 10 August 2001, “Witter – Family History & Genealogy Message Board”; and Eva Bryant, “Vincent Crask married Sarah M. Wilson in 1785,” message posted 15 March 2006, “Richmond – Family History & Genealogy Message Board,” *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012). Eva Bryant cites “‘Marriages of Richmond County, Va. 1668-1863,’ a book by George H. S. King, published in 1964.” Also Patrick Allen Thomas, *My Genealogy Home Page* (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/h/o/Patric-A-Thomson/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0232.html> : accessed 7 January 2012), for “Vincent Crask (b. 04 Apr 1767, d. 06, Nov 1805,” undocumented data.

<sup>47</sup> Lapsley Hall m. Nancy Crask, 7 December 1820; see Jordan Dodd, “Kentucky Marriages, 1802–1850,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012); for the Lapsley Hall connection, also see Marklive1, “Crask Connection because of Lapsley Hall,” message 30 September 2010, “Witter – Family History & Genealogy Message Board,” *Ancestry.com*, undocumented.

<sup>48</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives at the Second Session of the Ninth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, Begun and Held ... in the Town of Vandalia, December 7, 1835 (Vandalia: J. Y. Sawyer, 18335), 295. Journal of the House of Representatives at the Second Session of the Ninth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, Begun and Held ... in the Town of Vandalia, December 7, 1835 (Vandalia: J. Y. Sawyer, 18335), 41.

<sup>49</sup> Monica Kohler, “Witter in Illinois,” message posted 3 March 2001; and Sue Newell, “Witter In Illinois, message posted 19 June 2003; and Cherosis, “Witter’s and Horton’s of Grayson,” message posted 30 April 2000; all in “Witter – Family History &

COMMENT:

Kentucky: Breckinridge, Grayson, and Ohio Counties were all clustered adjacent to each other.

Illinois: Marion, Wayne, Jefferson, and Hamilton were all clustered adjacent to each other.

No known researcher has identified the parents or origin of this Samuel Witter. Numerous online trees allege a birth in Breckinridge County, Kentucky, in 1785. Breckinridge did not exist at that time, although the area had been settled by white families. The genealogy of Breckinridge is as follows:

1800	Breckinridge	cut from Harden
1793	Harden	cut from Nelson
1785	Nelson	cut from Jefferson
1780	Jefferson	cut from Kentucky County, Virginia

If Samuel was, indeed, born in what became Breckinridge, then he was likely born in Jefferson or Nelson.

*Possibly* Samuel stemmed from the Witters of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who produced our Samuel Witter (1787–1876). Our Samuel’s daughter, Elizabeth, married Joshua Jones about 1840. On 23 September 1973 Elizabeth and Joshua’s granddaughter wrote the following about the nearby Witter family who arrived in Illinois from Breckinridge County, Kentucky:

“Our William [the writer’s great uncle, who was a son of Samuel] found out about these Witters living in Hamilton Co. and went to see James C. [Witters] and reported they were cousins.”<sup>50</sup>

The following census and land records provide a foundation for further study on this Kentucky-Illinois Samuel.

**1810**

**Breckenridge County, KY**

[No district cited]<sup>51</sup>

**Witter, Samuel**

1 male	26–44	1 female	16–25	8 total
3 males	16–25	1 female	10–15	1 slave
1 male	10–15			

COMMENT:

*If* the above ages are correct, then a male who was in the 16–25 category on the official census date (8 August 1820) could have been born as early as 9 August 1784. Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment was said to be 31 on his July 1815 discharge, which apparently copied his April 1814 enlistment—placing his birth about 1782–83.

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Genealogy Message Board,” undocumented. Also Marklive 1, “Crask Connection because of Lapsley Hall,” op. cit. Kohler states her descent from Lapsley Hall Witter. Newell and Cherosis state descent from Samuel’s daughter Nancy Witter who married Alphonzo Horton, undocumented.

<sup>50</sup> Maude (Mrs. R. O.) Hawkins, Route 1, Cedar Vale, KS 67024 to Elizabeth Shown Mills, 23 September 1973; letter in possession of Mills.

<sup>51</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Breckinridge Co., Ky., p. 301, line 6; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M252, roll 5. All individuals in the household were white.

Census neighbors of the Breckinridge household—individuals offer the best clues to the pre-Kentucky origin of the Witters—are briefly extracted below. Particularly note **James Eidson** and **Reuben Huff**.

NEIGHBORS:

*James Eidson*

William Love

Peter Kinder

James Moredock

Jane Kennady

Arnold Elder

Saml. Crawford Junr.

Joseph Mason

John Taber

George Glascock

George Bruington

Wm. Moorman, Junior

**Samuel Witter**

*Reuben Huff*

[*Cont'd at top of col. 2*]

Amos Williams

Andrew Miller

Kimbal Carlton

Abiel Nicholds

Barnard Sums

John Miles

Uriah Thompson

Robert Allen

Wright Cunningham

Thomas Sloan

Daniel Waggoner

Jonas Bye

Thomas Miles

Richard Herrel

Gregory Clascock

**1820**

**Grayson County, KY**

[*Entries are semialphabetized by first letter of surname*]<sup>52</sup>

**Witter, Samuel**

1 male 26–44

1 female 26–44

5 total

3 males 16–25

1 female 0–10

1 engaged in agriculture

COMMENT:

In the “W” section, this Samuel Witter is surrounded by Wilsons, presumed relatives of his mother-in-law Sarah Wilson Crask. The next “W” name after his was that of Joseph Wilson, 45+. According to Crask researchers, Sarah was the daughter of a Joseph Wilson.<sup>53</sup>

The county seat of Grayson Co., Litchfield, was roughly 75 miles from Greenville, where the lawyer Alney McLean held his practice. As a circuit judge, McLean would have ridden circuit throughout eight to a dozen counties surrounding his home base, going from county seat to county seat for as much as six months of the year. As a frontier lawyer, he likely did the same. Those circuits and the local stay-overs during court sessions would have exposed him to many newly released veterans who did not care to relocate hundreds of miles away in order to make use of their bounty-land warrants. For attorneys with cash to spare, it was a rich opportunity for land speculation.

<sup>52</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Grayson Co., Ky., p. 155, line 17; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M33, roll 21. All individuals in the household were white.

<sup>53</sup> Patrick Allen Thomas, *My Genealogy Home Page* (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/h/o/Patric-A-Thomas/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0232.html>): accessed 7 January 2012), for “Vincent Crask (b. 04 Apr 1767, d. 06, Nov 1805,” undocumented data.

**1830**

**Ohio County, Kentucky**

Hartford District<sup>54</sup>

**Witters, Samuel**

1 male 40–49                      0 females  
 1 males 15–19  
 1 male 10–14  
 3 males 5–9  
 2 males 0–5

NEIGHBORS:

James Odle	<b>Lapsly Hall</b>	Wm. Mathews Sr.
<b>Henry Eidson</b>	Richard Atenberry	John Kelly
E W. Moore	Henly Burch	Thos. Bivens
David Atterberry	<b>Samuel Witters</b>	Jones? Cunningham
Lawson F? Mathews	Liddy Lamb	John Whitenhill
George Mathews	Wm. Mathews Jr.	John B. Haynes
Sam Mathew	Jeddiah Ashcroft	Wm. H? Roby
[Cont. at top of col. 2]	[Cont. at top of col. 3]	<b>Lewis Huff</b>

COMMENT:

Samuel of 1810 resided between families surnamed **Eidson** and **Huff**. This younger Samuel of 1830 also resided between families surnamed **Eidson** and **Huff**. Neither are particularly common names.

As previously noted, his neighbor Lapsly Hall is said to be his brother-in-law, the two having married sisters.

Many undocumented “trees” at *Ancestry.com* and elsewhere claim a different chronology and a garbled identification for this Samuel of 1820 Grayson County and 1830 Ohio County. The most-common alternate allegations are these:<sup>55</sup>

Witter, Samuel J.  
**Born:** ca. 1780, Baltimore, Maryland  
 Marr.: ca. 1821 Rebecca Crask  
 1820: Grayson County, Ky.  
 1830: Washington Co., Ky.  
 1840: Breckinridge Co., Ky.  
 Died: 6 May 1846, Washington Co., KY

Aside from lacking proof of birth, death, or identity, this chronology has other problems. The 1830 Washington County man was one Samuel Water, who can be traced there under that surname through numerous records.<sup>56</sup> The 1840 Breckenridge man was age 20–29 in 1840, clearly a younger generation than the Samuel Witter who headed a household in 1820. Unlike

<sup>54</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Ohio Co., Ky., p. 248, line 11; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M19, roll 40. All individuals in the household were white.

<sup>55</sup> For example, see PatriciaBrown76, “Walter S. Farlow” tree; Lynn Davis Watson (aka mcldw11461), “Davis/White; Hall/Vining; Watson/Hammond/Krebs Family Tree,” *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>56</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Washington Co., Ky., p. 136, line 15; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M19, roll 42. All individuals in the household were white.



the older men, born in an era in which middle names were uncommon, the younger 1840 male also carried a middle initial.<sup>57</sup>

## 1835

### Marion County, Illinois

U.S. Land Office, Vandalia. 16 October 1835. Cash Sale to **Samuel Witter** of Marion County, 40 acres described as SE¼ of SW¼, Section 23, Township 1N, Range 4 E, located in Marion County.<sup>58</sup>

#### COMMENT:

Witter's land lay roughly one mile from the county line that Marion shared with Wayne County. Samuel's alleged sons Abraham, Lapsley, and James C.—as well as his daughter Nancy Horton—would eventually move across the Kentucky border into Wayne and then Hamilton County.

## 1835–36

### Marion-Wayne Counties, Illinois

Legislative actions.

9 December. "Mr. Clark gave notice, that on Monday next, or some day thereafter, he should ask leave to introduce a bill, for 'An act to authorise Samuel Witter, to build a Toll Bridge, across the Skillet Fork of the Little Wabash river, on the state road leading from Fairfield [Wayne Co.] to Salem [Marion Co.]'."<sup>59</sup>

14 December. "Mr. Clark, agreeably to previous notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill, entitled. 'An act authorizing Samuel Witter to build a Toll Bridge.' Which was read the first time; and Ordered to a second reading."<sup>60</sup>

15 December. "The bill for 'An act authorizing Samuel Witter to build a toll-bidge;' Was read the second time; and On motion of Mr. Clark, referred to a select committee. Ordered, That Messrs. Clark, Frazer and Pace, be that committee."<sup>61</sup>

16 December. "Mr. Clark, from the select committee, to which was referred the bill entitled, 'An act authorising Samuel Witter to build a Toll Bridge.' reported the same back to the House with sundry amendments, which were read and concurred in. Ordered to be engrossed for a third reading."<sup>62</sup>

21 December 1835. "Mr. Frazer gave notice that on Wednesday next, or some day thereafter, he will ask leave to introduce a bill for 'An axct for the benefit of Wamuel Witter'."<sup>63</sup>

22 December 1835. "The engrossed bills, entitled, '... 'An act to authorise Samuel Witter to build a Toll Bridge' ... Were severally read the third time, and passed. Ordered, That the titles of the bill be as aforesaid, and that the clerk carry said bills to the Senate, and ask their concurrence therein."<sup>64</sup>

24 December 1835. "Mr. Frazer presented the petition of sundry citizens of Marion connty [sic], praying the passage of 'An act to authorise Samuel Witter to build a Toll Bridge.' And on his motion the reading thereof was dispensed with, and the same was laid on the table."<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Breckinridge Co., Ky., p. 421 (and unnumbered facing page), line 25; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M704, roll 105. All individuals in the household were white.

<sup>58</sup> Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," digital images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 7 January 2012), Samuel Witter (Marion County, Illinois), Accession Nr. IL2560\_\_001, Patent 7651.

<sup>59</sup> **Update Oct. 2017:** *Journal of the House of Representatives at the Second Session of the Ninth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, Begun and Held ... in the Town of Vandalia, December 7, 1835* (Vandalia: J. Y. Sawyer, 1835), 41.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 54.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 68.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, 75.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, 113.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, 122

31 December 1835. “The bills entitled, ‘... An act for the benefit of Samuel Witter;’ ... Were severally read the second time; and Ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.”<sup>66</sup>

1 January 1836. “The engrossed bill entitled, ‘An act for the benefit of Samuel Witter;’ Was read the third time; and, on motion of Mr. Frazer, The bill was amended by inserting the words ‘Town one north.’ The bill then passed as amended. Ordered, That the title of the bill be as aforesaid, that the clerk inform the Senate thereof and ask their concurrence therein.”<sup>67</sup>

12 January 1836. “A message from the Senate, by Mr. Thomas their Assistant Secretary: ‘Mr. Speaker,— The Senate have concurred with the House of Representatives in the passage of a bill from the House of Representatives entitled ... ‘An act authorizing Samuel Witter to build a toll-bridge.’”<sup>68</sup>

## 1839

### Marion & Clay Counties, Illinois

U.S. Land Office, Vandalia. 16 October 1835. Cash Sale to **Samuel Witter** of Marion County, 39.2 acres described as SW¼ of NW¼, Section 5, Township 2N, Range 5E, located in Clay County.<sup>69</sup>

#### COMMENT:

Witter’s Clay County land lay roughly 9–10 miles northeast of his Marion County land. He did not move onto the land, however. He was still in Marion in 1840.

## 1 February 1840

### Marion County, Illinois

“Laws of Illinois In force, Feb. 1, 1840. AN ACT to amend ‘An act authorizing Samuel Witters to build a toll bridge across the Skillet Fork of the Little Wabash.’

“Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That the aforesaid Witters, or his legal representative, is hereby allowed to demand and receive the followign rates of toll from each person or persons for crossing said bridge, to wit: for each head of hogs, sheep, or goats, crossing said bridge, one cent; for each head of cattle, horses, mules or asses, the sum of three cents; for each foot passenger, six and one fourth cents; for each man and horse, twelve and a half cents; for each one horse waggon or carriage, eighteen and three fourth cents; for each two horse waggon drawn by horses or oxen, twenty five cents; for each four horse waggon, thirty seven and a half cents, whether drawn by horses or oxen, for each six horse waggon, whether drawn by horses or oxen, fifty cents; the said Witters shall be allowed to demand and receive for any species of property not herein enumerated in proportion to the above rates of toll. Said Witters shall not be allowed to exact any toll from people going to or returning from worshipping Almighty God. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage. APPROVED, February 1, 1840.”<sup>70</sup>*

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<sup>65</sup> Ibid., 143

<sup>66</sup> Ibid., 193.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., 201.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., 295.

<sup>69</sup> Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” digital images, General Land Office Records (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 7 January 2012), Samuel Witter (Marion Co., Ill.), Accession Nr. IL0310\_\_222, Patent 1706.

<sup>70</sup> **Update: Oct. 2017:** *Laws of the State of Illinois, Passed by the Eleventh General Assembly ... Held at Springfield, on the Ninth of December, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Nine* (Springfield: William Walters, Public Printer, 1840), 78.

## 1840

### Marion County, Illinois

[No district cited]<sup>71</sup>

#### Witter, Samuel

1 male	50–59	1 female	30–39	5 people total
1 male	10–14	1 female	5–9	2 engaged in agriculture
1 male	0–5			

#### COMMENT:

According to descendants, after the death of Samuel's wife Rebecca he married a second time to a woman named Synthanna.<sup>72</sup> This second wife would appear to be the female 30–39 above. *If she survived until 1878, a pension file could exist under her name; however, it was not found under known and logical variant spellings in the previously described search of standard indexes.*

## 1850 U.S. Census

No trace has been found of this Samuel Witter in Illinois, Kentucky, or any other state under all conceivable variant spellings. His land on Skillet Fork of the Little Wabash was clearly valuable property. If he moved, a deed of sale should be filed locally. If he died there, a probate should exist.

In 1850, Samuel's alleged son Lapsley Witter was enumerated in Kentucky, newly married.

### Ohio County, Kentucky<sup>73</sup>

Witters, Lapsley, 26, male, farmer, birthplace unknown

Mary, 18, female, birthplace unknown

Sarah F., 5/12, female, b. Ky.

#### COMMENT:

No other Witters have been found in the county. Lapsley would not stay in Kentucky. His 1880 census entry indicates moves into Missouri by 1866, Texas by 1869, and Washington Territory by 1872. His 1880 census data reports a Kentucky birthplace for his father.

## 1880 U.S. Census

### Yakima County, Washington<sup>74</sup>

Witter, Lapsley, white, male, 54, married, shinglemaker, b. Ky., father b. Ky., mother b. Ky.

Mary, white, female, 35, married, keeping house, Ill., Ky., Ky.

Hinman?, white, male, 14, son, at home, Mo., Ky., Ill.

Carrie, white, female, 11, daughter, Texas, Ky., Ill.

Jim?, white, male, 8, son, Washington, Ky., Ill.

Dennis, white, male, 6, son, Washington, Ky., Ill.

Mary, white, female, 3, Washington, Ky., Ill.

La Clair, Ceşk, white, male, 40, boarder, farmer, France, France, France

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<sup>71</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Marion Co., Ill., pp. 173 verso and 174, line 1; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M704, roll 64. All individuals in the household were white. *Ancestry.com* mistakenly places this household in "Macon" County.

<sup>72</sup> Monica Kohler, "Samuel and John Kella Witter," message posted 3 March 2001, "Witter – Family History & Genealogy Message Board," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012); Ms. Kohler does not cite a source and adequate time does not exist to pursue the point in the present project.

<sup>73</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Ohio Co., Ky., Dist. 2, p. 199 (penned), dwelling 623, family 623.

<sup>74</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Washington Territory, Yakima County, p. 423-B (stamped), East Kittitass Precinct, ED 46, p. 20, dwelling 239, family 242.

3.

**Samuel Witter (c1785–aft. 1860) of Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio**  
(Father: Christoffel “Christopher” Witter)

This Samuel Witter of Union County, Indiana, and Preble County, Ohio, also seems to be a reasonable candidate for the man recruited by the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The pros and cons are as follows:

*Pro:*

- His location was appropriate. Union and Preble Counties were only fifty or so miles from the Kentucky line, and he could easily have been recruited by a Kentucky unit.
- His age is appropriate.
- His birthplace is consistently given as Pennsylvania.

*Con:*

- No record has been found that identifies him as a millwright, only as a farmer.
- He was born into a family of Dunkards, a religious faction that opposed military service, although his brother and brother-in-law did serve.

As a cursory overview of what is known and alleged:

1785–86	Pennsylvania	Born to Christoffel “Christopher” Witter (of Franklin Co., 1794–1806) <sup>75</sup>
c1806	Union Co., IN	Moved with parental family to Four-Mile Creek along the state line, adjoining Preble Co., OH <sup>76</sup>
1810	Union or Preble	(Census missing for both Ohio and Indiana)
1820	Preble Co., OH	(See below)
1820	Preble Co., OH	Married neighbor Mary Brown <sup>77</sup>
1823	Preble Co., OH	Mary sued Samuel and her father-in-law “Christopher” Witter <sup>78</sup>
1830	Preble Co., OH	(see below)
1840	Preble Co., OH	(see below)
1850	Preble Co., OH	(see below)
1860	Huntington Co., IN	(see below)

**ca. 1785–1806**

The identification of this Samuel as son of Christoffel “Stoffel” (aka Christopher) Witter complicates the goal of our project: that is, the identification of Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup>—the Pennsylvania-born millwright described as having dark coloring, dark eyes, and dark hair.

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<sup>75</sup> Preble Co., Ohio, Chancery Record D, 1819–1824, p. 204, Mary Witter vs. Samuel Witter and Christopher Witter, petition for alimony.

<sup>76</sup> For complete details and documentation, see file copy of “Christoffel ‘Stoffel’ (Christopher) Witter: Research Notes.”

<sup>77</sup> Preble Co., Ohio, Chancery Record D, 1819–1824, p. 204, Mary Witter vs. Samuel Witter and Christopher Witter, petition for alimony. Mary Brown’s brother Henry married Samuel Witter’s sister Susanna in Union County, Ind., in that same year 1820; both Browns are said to be children of William and Sarah (Guffy) Brown of Albemarle Co., Va.; see Rev. Merle C. Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of the Brethren* (<http://www.union-county.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/Other%20Families.htm> : accessed 8 January 2012).

<sup>78</sup> Preble Co., Ohio, Chancery Record D, 1819–1824, p. 204, Mary Witter vs. Samuel Witter and Christopher Witter, petition for alimony.

Samuel of Preble was, apparently, the first cousin of the millwright Samuel (1787–1876) of Franklin and Bedford Counties, Pennsylvania. Physical similarities would not be surprising.

The Union-Preble Witters had also come from Franklin County, Pennsylvania. There, between 1800 and 1806, Christoffel “Stoffel” Witter was the adjacent neighbor and putative brother of John Witter (aka Johannes Widder), who is believed to have fathered the millwrights Samuel (1787–1876) and Abraham (1786–1882).<sup>79</sup>

In 1806, Christoffel sold his Franklin County land and moved to Indiana Territory. His purchases across the next decade would straddle the Indiana-Ohio line. His earliest-known land acquisition there was in Union Township, Union County, Indiana, in 1806. On 10 April 1812 he also purchased a tract in adjacent Preble County, Ohio, described as the SE¼, Sect. 32, Township 6, Range 1.<sup>80</sup> His son Samuel, thus far, has not been found on any record prior to the 1820 census.

## 1812–15

### Union County, IN & Preble County, OH

German Dunkards (Church of the Brethren) settled the Four-Mile Creek community along the state and county line in 1803.<sup>81</sup> The church they formally established in 1809 was the first Church of the Brethren congregation in Indiana.<sup>82</sup> The most detailed history of the Four-Mile Dunkards identifies Christopher Witter as one of the original two 1809 deacons. It also includes a number of individuals who intermarried with the Witters and were Samuel’s neighbors when he first appeared on record in Preble County, 1820.<sup>83</sup>

According to this history:

“The Dunkers hold the sixth commandment to be true as the Bible says it: ‘Thou shalt not kill.’ The Dunker belief in Pacifism has set the church apart throughout its history. It has led to persecution and ridicule, imprisonment or worse, through every conflict and war our nation has faced. It has led to condemnation and violent attack by neighbors and even personal friends. It has brought arguments and splintering within Dunker families, as youth faced by the peer pressures of the community in the hysteria of war fever, decided against their own family’s faith. ... It has faced the Brethren on the Four Mile, when there was Indian threats during the War of 1812 and local militia were formed.”<sup>84</sup>

For the War of 1812 era, this history notes just one Dunkard who succumbed to militarism: Samuel Witter’s brother-in-law, Isaac Miller, a scion of one of the most prominent Four Mile families. Young Miller had married Maria Witter, daughter of Christopher, in Preble County in 1811.<sup>85</sup> In 1813, he

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<sup>79</sup> For the various documents linking Christoffel, Johannes, and Johannes’s alleged sons Samuel and Abraham, see file copy, Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Samuel Witter (1787–1876): Research Notes,” latest update.

<sup>80</sup> Bureau of Land Management, “Land Patent Search,” database and digital images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch> : accessed 8 January 2012), Christopher Witter (Preble County, Ohio), Accession Nr. CV-0013-355 (Credit sale, Cincinnati Land Office). Also see *Biographical and Genealogical History of Wayne, Fayette, Union, and Franklin Counties, Indiana* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1899), 467; the family members who gave this data in 1899 asserted that Christopher was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1760.

<sup>81</sup> Rev. Merle C. Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren* (<http://www.unioncounty.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/Page2.htm> : accessed 8 January 2012).

<sup>82</sup> Ronald J. Gordon “The Migration and Expansion of the Brethren in America,” *Church of the Brethren Network* (<http://www.cob-net.org/america.htm> : accessed 7 January 2012).

<sup>83</sup> Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren*, part VI, “The Dunkers.” Rev. Rummel’s history is accompanied by a photograph of the Christopher Witter home; see <http://www.union-county.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/Christopher%20Witter%20House.JPG>

<sup>84</sup> Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren*, part VI, “The Dunkers.”

<sup>85</sup> Two other siblings of Samuel and Maria also married in Preble County: Sally Witter married Jacob Ritter on 15 June 1815; and Jacob Witter married Agnes “Hewstin” (Houston) on 21 March 1816. The marriages of Maria, Sally, and Jacob Witter are

reportedly joined the militia that mustered at a “gathering” at Xenia, some fifty miles away in Greene County, and subsequently “died of camp sickness.”<sup>86</sup> One surviving militia roll, that of Capt. William Van Cleve’s Company, includes both an Isaac Miller and Jacob *Witters*,<sup>87</sup> Samuel’s brother.

On 26 September 1820, shortly after the taking of the 1820 census that reported Samuel as a single male, he married his neighbor, Mary Brown. In mid-1823, they temporarily separated and the ensuing court documents identify Samuel’s father. Mary’s suit for alimony was, in fact, filed against Samuel and her father-in-law, Christopher Witter.<sup>88</sup>

## 1820 U.S. Census

### Preble County, Ohio

Israel Township, p. 107<sup>89</sup>

[Unalphabetized. Witter is shown below in neighborhood sequence, for further study as needed.]

[begin line 7]

*Rich. Sloan*

Saml. Wiley

Leven Bishop

Jno. Hamilton

Thos. *Brown*

***Saml. Houston***

Jno. Gamble

Wm. Rays? Jr.?

Jas. Stuart

*Nathan Brown*<sup>90</sup>

**Witter, Saml.** 1 male 26–44 1 person total 1 engaged in agriculture

Jno. Bishop

Isaac Ballinger

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indexed in Jordan Dodd, “Ohio Marriages, 1803–1900,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 January 2012). Three other siblings went southwest across the nearby Union-Franklin county line to marry; Catherine married John Coffman on 1 April 1819; Susannah married Henry Brown on 2 May 1820; and John married Susannah Coffman, 22 August 1833, as per Dodd, “Indiana Marriages, 1802–1892,” also at *Ancestry.com*. Original marriage records have not yet been obtained for further details and for confirmation or correction of Dodd’s data.

<sup>86</sup> Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren*, part VI, “The Dunkers.” Rummel offers an undocumented genealogy of the Christopher Witter family as an appendix at <http://www.union-county.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/witter.htm>, but he erroneously states that Samuel Witter “d. 1857 Preble Co., OH.” As subsequently shown in these notes, Samuel was still alive in 1860, living with his daughter and son-in-law in Huntington Co., Ind. Rummel also lists a number of children supposedly born to Maria (“Mary”) Witter and Isaac Miller in the 1820s—data that contradict his above assertion that Isaac died in the War of 1812. He also asserts the outmigration, beginning in the 1830s, of a younger Samuel and John Witter to Portage Prairie [a new Dunkard community in St. Joseph Co., Indiana] and the ca. 1850 removal of Abraham Witter to Iowa.

<sup>87</sup> Ohio Historical Society, *War of 1812: Roster of Ohio Soldiers*, database ([www.ohiohistory.org/resource/database/rosters.html](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/database/rosters.html) : accessed 9 January 2012), citing “*Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812*. Adjutant General of Ohio. Transcription, 1916. R973.525571 A2.”

<sup>88</sup> Preble Co., Ohio, Chancery Record D, 1819–1824, p. 204, Mary Witter vs. Samuel Witter and Christopher Witter, petition for alimony.

<sup>89</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Preble County, Ohio, Israel Township, stamped p. 107, line 17; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, citing

<sup>90</sup> The Nathan Brown adjoining Samuel in 1820 is apparently not the Brown family into which Samuel married. Nathan Brown’s family is the subject of Marsha Hoffman Rising’s “Problematic Parents and Potential Offspring: The Example of Nathan Brown,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 79 (June 1991): 85–99. According to Rising, the Sloans and Caldwelles were also Brown in-laws and Thomas Medill, Esq., served as coexecutor of the will of Nathan’s brother George. These Browns were offspring of Irish-immigrants by way of South Carolina. Rising’s article does not discuss the Witters or others in this neighborhood cluster.

Robt. Douglass  
Jno. Pollock  
Martha Foster  
*Jonathan Caldwell*  
*Jno. Caldwell*  
Wm. McCury  
[End of page]

COMMENT:

The residence of Samuel Houston, enumerated 4 houses from Samuel Witter, is placed on Rev. Merle C. Rummel’s map “Four Mile – 1820,” spanning the Ohio-Indiana border. Other 1820 householders depicted on this map—on the Indiana side of Four-Mile Creek—include Samuel’s father “Chris” and brother John.<sup>91</sup>

Richard Sloan, Samuel’s 1820 neighbor 10 houses removed, captained a War of 1812 unit.<sup>92</sup> The lists surviving for the Preble County men in the War of 1812 do not include Samuel, but few such lists survive.

1830

PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

Israel Township<sup>93</sup>

Ancestry’s 1830 database for Preble County places Samuel Witter on p. 309, but the page is so illegible that the data could not be extracted by Ancestry—or by me.

1840

PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

Israel Township<sup>94</sup>

**Witter, Samuel**

1 male	70–79 [sic]	1 female	40–49	3 people total
		1 female	15–19	1 engaged in agriculture

COMMENT:

Samuel’s age is clearly in error, when compared to all other census data for him. The young female in his household is apparently Lydia, the daughter with whom he lived after the death of his wife Mary. (See 1860 census data.)

1850

PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

Israel Township<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> Rummel, “Four Mile – 1820,” *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren* (<http://www.union-county.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/Four%20Mile%20-1820.gif> : accessed 7 January 2012). See also Rummel’s “Four Mile Map” that depicts early roads through that part of Ohio and Indiana (<http://www.union-county.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/Four%20Mile%20Map.gif>). Christoffel “Christopher” Witter owned land in both Preble Co., Ohio, and Union Co., Ind.

<sup>92</sup> *History of Preble County, Ohio, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches, 1798–1881* (Cleveland, Ohio: H. Z. Williams & Bro., 1881); html edition (without pagination), *Ohio Genealogy Express* ([http://www.ohiogenealogyexpress.com/preble/prebleco\\_settlement.htm](http://www.ohiogenealogyexpress.com/preble/prebleco_settlement.htm) : accessed 8 January 2012), chap. 13.

<sup>93</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Preble Co., Ohio, Israel Township, p. 309; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M19, roll 138.

<sup>94</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Preble Co., Ohio, Israel Township, p. 53 (verso), line 5; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M704, roll 421.

<b>Samuel Witter</b>	64	male	white	farmer	\$7000	Pennsylvania
Mary “	56	female	“			Virginia
Sarah Brown	90	female	“			Virginia

1860

HUNTINGTIN COUNTY, INDIANA  
Dallas Township<sup>96</sup>

Joseph Leedy	44	male	white	farmer	\$9600/4000	Virginia
Lydia “	40	female	“			Indiana
Samuel “	20	male	“			Ohio
Jonas “	18	male	“			Ohio
Marian “	14	female	“			Ohio
Sarah J. “	12	female	“			Ohio
John “	13	male	“			Ohio
Elizabeth “	7	female	“			Ohio
Abraham “	5	male	“			Indiana
Jessie “	4	male	“			Indiana
<b>Samuel Witter</b>	74	male	white	farmer	\$10,000/	Penn
Abraham Eller	40	male	“	farm laborer		Virginia
Mary Frazee	20	female	“	servant	\$/150	Ohio

1870

Not found on U.S. census. *Presumably* dead.

## WORK PLAN

Items 1–4 reflect work that remains to be done from the initial analysis of 15 December 2012. Items 5–6 are built upon the findings discussed in this present report. The feasibility of this list should be reevaluated when the DC researcher submits the results of his search.

1. **“Regular Army Enlistment Papers, 1798–1912”**; Records Relating to the Regular Army, 1798–1926; Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, RG 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C. Described in PI 17, entry 91. Unmicrofilmed. A researcher has been contacted, but she has made no date commitment.
2. **“Muster Rolls of Regular Army Organizations, 1784–Oct. 31, 1912”**; Muster Rolls, 1784–1912; General Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, RG 94. Described in PI 17, entry 53. Unmicrofilmed. Need full copies of the rolls on which Witter is said to appear: 6 June 1814, 16 and 25 February 1815, and 14 May 1815. A researcher has been contacted, but she has made no date commitment.

<sup>95</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Preble Co., Ohio, Israel Township, p. 379, dwell. 2157, fam. 2164; digital image at *Ancestry.com*, citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 723. Ancestry’s database entry for Sarah mistakenly gives her age as “20.”

<sup>96</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Huntington Co., Indiana, Antioch Post Office, Dallas Township, p. 85, dwell. 557, fam. 575. This daughter and son-in-law of Samuel, Lydia and Joseph Leedy, married 21 April 1839 in Preble Co., according to Dodd, “Ohio Marriages, 1803–1900.”



3. **“Registers of No. of Recruits,” 1814–82;** Recruiting Division, 1814–1913; Records of Divisions of the Adjutant General’s Office; Adjutant General’s Records, RG 94. Described in PI 17, entry 94. Unmicrofilmed. Need to search for April 1814 recruitment activity by Lt. Hackley. A researcher has been contacted, but she has made no date commitment.
4. **War of 1812 Pension Application Files.** Digitized files are being placed online by FamilySearch.com and Fold3. However, the digitization of these files has just begun. **When new postings are consulted, the search should include not just the surname “Witter” and its variants but all individuals who have been identified as his comrades in this report and possibly other rolls to be found by the DC researcher.** Old veterans frequently testified for each other and, even when an ancestor is not directly named in a comrade’s file, the activities described therein may assist with research on the elusive ancestor.
5. **Serial Set & Related Records, Government Documents Section, Vanderbilt Library.** Post-1875 research needs to be done in *Statutes at Large, House & Senate Journals, House & Senate Miscellaneous Documents*, etc., for a further trace of the Samuel Witter pension “case.”
6. **Monroe County, Arkansas, Land and Tax Rolls.** An initial order has been placed with the Family History Library for the following items:
  - 1019813 Surveyor’s Record, Vol. A (1898), List of property assessed for taxation (1877, 1889), and J. P. Docket (1875–1901) [No other tax or survey records for Monroe County are available through FHL]
  - 1019814 Index to Deeds, 1830–1911
  - 1019817 Deeds, A–D, 1830–53
  - 1019818 Deeds, E–G, 1853–1859
7. **Preble County, Ohio, Local Records.** Complete and thorough research needs to be done in all available records for Preble County—courthouse, church, private manuscripts, etc.—for Samuel Witter, his family, and his associates. The original file should particularly be sought for the 1823 separation and alimony suit of Mary (Brown) Witter against Samuel and his father. The fact that the father is involved might simply mean that the father has cosigned a promissory note for the son. However, it might also suggest that the two men were engaged in some joint financial or occupational activities. Deeds and tax rolls should also be given priority in the quest to identify Samuel Witter’s occupation.
8. **Union County, Indiana, Local Records.** The same thorough research needs to be conducted for Samuel and his kith and kin in Union County, where he grew to maturity.

## POSTSCRIPT

17 October 2017

This project was shelved, for want of time, soon after the completion of this report. Shortly before returning to it today, I discovered the legislative acts instigated by Samuel Witter of Kentucky and Illinois in 1835–40. To consolidate my known information for this Samuel, on which new research will be based, I have updated the prior report and added the new material at pages 26–28 herein.

## ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Enlistment Register
- 2 Bounty Land File
- 3 Bounty Land Warrant Register
- 4 M848 “Index of Arkansas Patentees”
- 5 Ark. “Military Bounty Lands” Register
- 6 BLM Patent
- 7 BLM Database Record
- 8 Map: Samuel Witter’s Bounty Land, Monroe Co., Ark.

RECORDS OF MEN ENLISTED IN THE U. S. ARMY

PRIOR TO THE PEACE ESTABLISHMENT, MAY 17, 1815.

No.	NAME.	ORGANIZATION.			DESCRIPTION.			WHERE BORN.			ENLISTMENT.		REMARKS.	
		DATE.	REGIMENT.	COMPANY COMMANDER.	HEIGHT.	HAIR.	COMPLEXION.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	TYPE OF COURT.	RATE.	WHERE.		AT WHAT TIME.
4944	Wiley, Samuel	1813	5th Regt	Co. B	5 1/2	Black	Dark	24	Farmer	Married	1st Lt	1813	W. Va.	Enlisted at Winchester, Va. 1813. Served in the 5th Regt. 1813-1814. Promoted to 1st Lt. 1814. Served in the 5th Regt. 1814-1815. Discharged at Winchester, Va. 1815.
4945	Wiley, Samuel	1813	5th Regt	Co. B	5 1/2	Black	Dark	24	Farmer	Married	1st Lt	1813	W. Va.	Enlisted at Winchester, Va. 1813. Served in the 5th Regt. 1813-1814. Promoted to 1st Lt. 1814. Served in the 5th Regt. 1814-1815. Discharged at Winchester, Va. 1815.
4946	Wiley, Samuel	1813	5th Regt	Co. B	5 1/2	Black	Dark	24	Farmer	Married	1st Lt	1813	W. Va.	Enlisted at Winchester, Va. 1813. Served in the 5th Regt. 1813-1814. Promoted to 1st Lt. 1814. Served in the 5th Regt. 1814-1815. Discharged at Winchester, Va. 1815.
4947	Wiley, Samuel	1813	5th Regt	Co. B	5 1/2	Black	Dark	24	Farmer	Married	1st Lt	1813	W. Va.	Enlisted at Winchester, Va. 1813. Served in the 5th Regt. 1813-1814. Promoted to 1st Lt. 1814. Served in the 5th Regt. 1814-1815. Discharged at Winchester, Va. 1815.
4948	Wiley, Samuel	1813	5th Regt	Co. B	5 1/2	Black	Dark	24	Farmer	Married	1st Lt	1813	W. Va.	Enlisted at Winchester, Va. 1813. Served in the 5th Regt. 1813-1814. Promoted to 1st Lt. 1814. Served in the 5th Regt. 1814-1815. Discharged at Winchester, Va. 1815.
4949	Wiley, Samuel	1813	5th Regt	Co. B	5 1/2	Black	Dark	24	Farmer	Married	1st Lt	1813	W. Va.	Enlisted at Winchester, Va. 1813. Served in the 5th Regt. 1813-1814. Promoted to 1st Lt. 1814. Served in the 5th Regt. 1814-1815. Discharged at Winchester, Va. 1815.

Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914, National Archives microfilm publication M233, roll 13, "Records of Men Enlisted in the U.S. Army Prior to the Peace Establishment, May 17, 1815," vol. "S-W," p. 123; digital images, "U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914," ANCESTRY.COM (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 February 2012).

*Samuel Witter*

*Discharge*

*Samuel Witter*

*No. 23,642*



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER OF BRIG. GEN. DONALD M. WILKINS,  
COMMANDING OFFICER MILITARY DISTRICT

KNOW YE THAT

being the only one who was discharged from the Army of the United States during the war, is hereby honorably discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

company, and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

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and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

and was discharged from the service of the United States, having faithfully served the same for a period of one year and eight months, and

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ATTACHMENT 2: Bounty Land File

*D*

*For the Hon. Mr. Lee*  
*Chaplain*



BY ORDER OF BRIG. GEN. DUNCAN MARTHUR, COMMANDING EIGHTH MILITARY DISTRICT.

To all whom it may Concern.

KNOW YE, That *Samuel Miller* a *Private* of *Co. B. M. Ewings* company, *Seventeenth* regiment of *M. S. Infy* who was enlisted the *fourth* day of *April* eighteen hundred and *1862* to serve during the war, is hereby honorably discharged from the army of the United States, having faithfully served out the full period of his enlistment.

Said *Samuel Miller* was born in *Illinois* in the *State* of *Pennsylvania* is about *thirty one* years of age, *six* feet *ten* inches high, *Dark* complexion, *Dark* eyes, *Dark* hair, and by occupation, when enlisted, a *Millwright*.

Given at *Belleville* this *seventh* day of *June* 1862.

*Samuel Miller*  
*Private*

No. *Daniel B. Ranney*  
*Private*  
*35 Infantry*

No. *73041*

Pursuant to the second section of an Act of Congress, passed the 6th of May, 1812, authorizing the Secretary of War to issue Land Warrants to the noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers enlisted in the service of the United States, conformably to the acts of the 24th of December, 1811, and of the 11th of January, 1812, *Daniel B. Ranney*

WARRANT

late a *Private* in the company commanded by *Captain* *Wm. Hardaway* of the *35<sup>th</sup>* Regiment United States' *Infantry* is entitled to ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND, to be located agreeably to the said act on any unlocated parts of the six millions of acres appropriated by law for the original grantees of such military warrants; and this warrant is not assignable or transferable in any manner whatever.

*How: Jas Jones*

*Lee* GIVEN at the War Office of the United States, this *11* day of *February* A. D. one thousand eight hundred and *Twenty*

*Asks*  
*J. C. Calhoun*  
Secretary of War.

Registered. *Wm. Cutting* Clerk.

No. *Samuel Miller*  
*Private*  
*17 Infantry*

No. *73042*

Pursuant to the second section of an Act of Congress, passed the 6th of May, 1812, authorizing the Secretary of War to issue Land Warrants to the noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers enlisted in the service of the United States, conformably to the acts of the 24th of December, 1811, and of the 11th of January, 1812, *Samuel Miller*

WARRANT

late a *Private* in the company commanded by *Lieutenant* *W. M. Ewing* of the *17<sup>th</sup>* Regiment United States' *Infantry* is entitled to ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND, to be located agreeably to the said act on any unlocated parts of the six millions of acres appropriated by law for the original grantees of such military warrants; and this warrant is not assignable or transferable in any manner whatever.

*How: A. W. Lean*

*Lee* GIVEN at the War Office of the United States, this *14* day of *February* A. D. one thousand eight hundred and *Twenty*

*Asks*  
*J. C. Calhoun*  
Secretary of War.

Registered. *Wm. Cutting* Clerk.

ATTACHMENT 4 : Index of Arkansas Patentees

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS**

Roll 1

Target 2

Index of Arkansas Patentees

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS**

"U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858," database and images, ANCESTRY.COM (<http://www.ancestry.com>), for War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858, National Archives microfilm publication M848, roll 1, target 2, "Index of Arkansas Patentees," p. 257.

Arkansas Patentreers: SE 1/4 Sect. 14, T1N R2? W

256.

257

NAME	No.	Page	Section	Township	Range	Meridian
William Jones	1	1	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	2	2	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	3	3	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	4	4	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	5	5	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	6	6	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	7	7	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	8	8	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	9	9	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	10	10	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	11	11	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	12	12	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	13	13	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	14	14	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	15	15	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	16	16	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	17	17	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	18	18	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	19	19	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	20	20	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	21	21	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	22	22	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	23	23	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	24	24	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	25	25	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	26	26	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	27	27	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	28	28	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	29	29	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	30	30	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	31	31	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	32	32	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	33	33	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	34	34	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	35	35	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	36	36	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	37	37	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	38	38	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	39	39	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	40	40	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	41	41	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	42	42	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	43	43	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	44	44	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	45	45	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	46	46	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	47	47	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	48	48	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	49	49	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	50	50	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	51	51	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	52	52	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	53	53	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	54	54	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	55	55	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	56	56	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	57	57	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	58	58	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	59	59	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	60	60	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	61	61	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	62	62	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	63	63	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	64	64	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	65	65	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	66	66	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	67	67	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	68	68	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	69	69	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	70	70	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	71	71	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	72	72	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	73	73	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	74	74	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	75	75	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	76	76	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	77	77	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	78	78	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	79	79	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	80	80	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	81	81	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	82	82	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	83	83	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	84	84	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	85	85	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	86	86	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	87	87	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	88	88	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	89	89	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	90	90	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	91	91	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	92	92	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	93	93	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	94	94	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	95	95	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	96	96	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	97	97	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	98	98	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	99	99	N. 61	E. 14	14	24
William Jones	100	100	N. 61	E. 14	14	24





Downship. 1. West Range. 2. N. 1820

To whom Patent	Quantity of Acres	No. of Secs	No of Acres	Date of Patent	
Genl. Stiles Jr	S.E.	19	14.23	Nov 27 1820	
James Ansell	N.E.	19	7.50	Nov 27 1820	
John Trascuoides & the heirs of Genl. Trascuoides	S. H.	14	23.741	Nov 27 1820	
Samuel Walter	S. E.	14	23.642	Nov 27 1820	
George Webb	N. H.	20	16.854	Nov 27 1820	
David Penning	N. H.	8	22.554	Nov 27 1820	
Bytham Sacomb	S. H.	8	22.551	Nov 27 1820	
Francois Parks	S. E.	12	42.71	Nov 27 1820	
Robert Brown	S. E.	10	21.079	April 26 1821	
Thomas B. Sprau	N. 1/2	24	16.9	May 7 1821	
John Kay	S. E.	21	22.751	May 7 1821	
John P. Sabau	S. H.	10	23.422	May 14 1821	
Mrs. Oran	N. H.	31	24.315	May 14 1821	
Halter Clark	N. E.	31	57.5	May 14 1821	
Isaac Kubbell	S. E.	26	10.321	Nov 27 1820	
Richard Rice	N. H.	8	21.702	Nov 27 1820	see above times
John Best	S. H.	8	21.300	Nov 27 1820	see above times
John Rolston	N. E.	15	22.622	Nov 27 1820	
Charles Byrnes	S. E.	35	20.815	Nov 27 1820	
Alex <sup>r</sup> Porter	N. E.	18	22.192	Nov 27 1820	
Andrew Satten	S. H.	20	13.757	Nov 27 1820	
Mrs. Brannan	S. E.	17	22.366	Nov 27 1820	
Mrs. Parnon	S. H.	17	22.372	Nov 27 1820	
Jacob Waller	S. H.	35	13.626	April 16 1821	
Deborah Thorton & the heirs of James Thorton	N. H.	35	23.577	April 16 1821	
Coleman, Kinley	S. H.	25	22.963	May 28 1821	
Prof <sup>r</sup> Foeter	N. E.	28	17.813	July 9 1821	
Col <sup>l</sup> Rutherford & heirs of John	N. H.	29	23.764	July 9 1821	
Sybau Reugen	S. E.	30	24.393	Augt 14 1821	
W. L. ...	S. H.	20	13.757	Nov 27 1820	



ATTACHMENT 6: BLM Patent for Samuel Witter's Bounty Land

292 En<sup>o</sup> James Monroe

President of the United States of America,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Know ye, That, in pursuance of the Acts of Congress appropriating and granting Land to the late Army of the United States, passed on and since the sixth day of May, 1812, Samuel Witter

having deposited in the General Land-Office a Warrant in his favor, numbered 23642 there is granted unto the said Samuel Witter

late a private in Ewings Company of the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry a certain Tract of Land, containing One hundred & sixty Acres being the South East 1/4 of Section fourteen of Township one north Range Two West in the Tract appropriated (by the Acts aforesaid) for Military Bounties, in the Territory of Arkansas

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said quarter Section of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Samuel Witter

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the Seal of the General Land-Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my Hand, at the City of Washington, this Twenty seventh day of November in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the forty-fifth



By the President, James Monroe

Josiah Meigs Commissioner of the General Land-Office.

# ATTACHMENT 7: BLM Database Record

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PRIVATE CLAIMS

## General Land Office Records



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Accession Nr: AR2920\_\_292 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Arkansas Issue Date: 11/27/1820 Cancelled: No

Patent Details

Patent Image

Related Documents

Printer Friendly

### Names On Document

WETTER, SAMUEL,  
 WETTER, SAMUEL

### Miscellaneous Information

Land Office: Arkansas  
 US Reservations: No  
 Mineral Reservations: No  
 Tribe: ---  
 Militia: ---  
 State In Favor Of: ---  
 Authority: May 6, 1812: ScripWarrant Act of 1812 (2 Stat. 728)  
 General Remarks: ---

Military Rank: ---

### Document Numbers

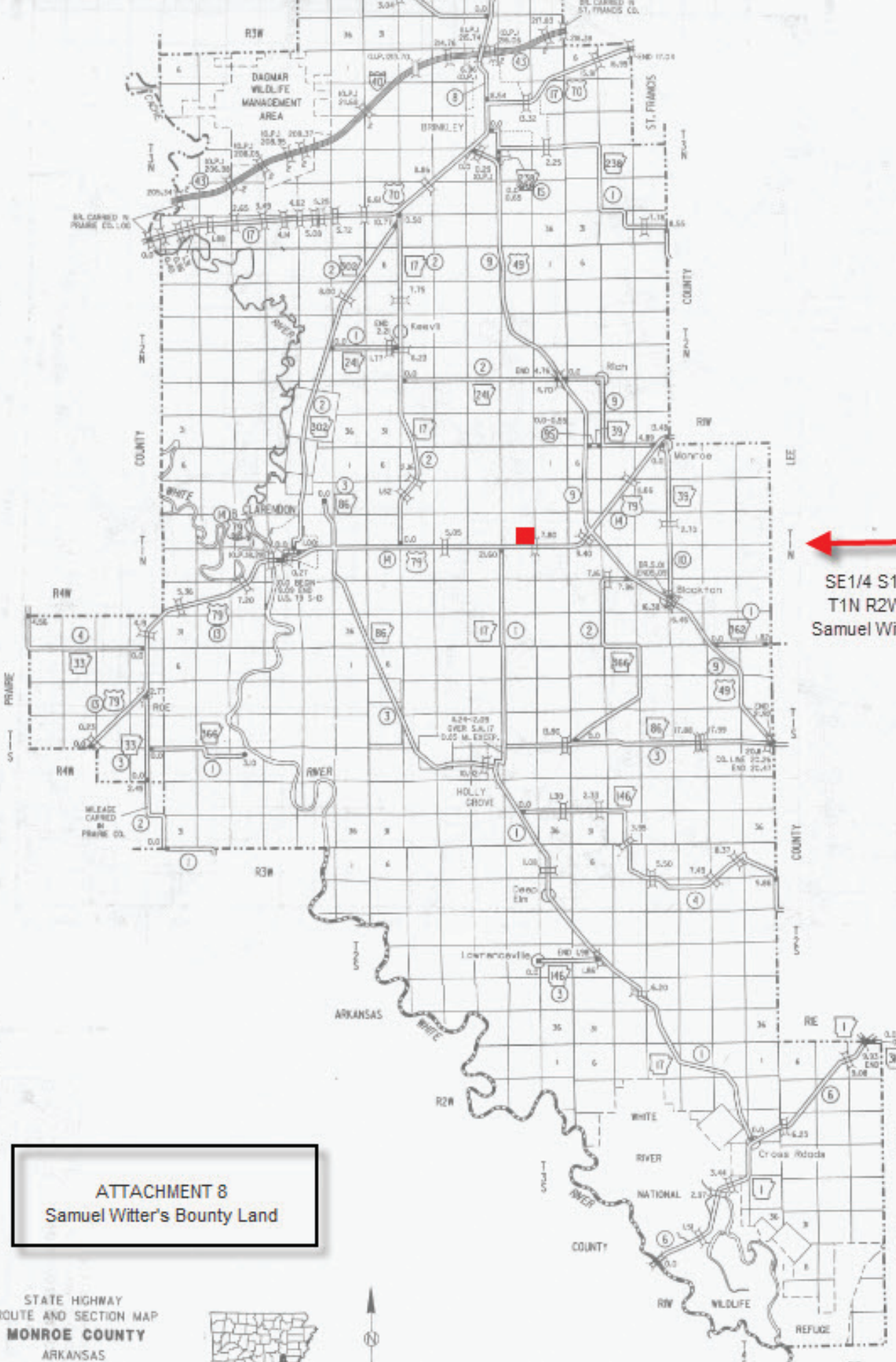
Document Nr: 23642  
 Misc. Doc. Nr: ---  
 BLM Serial Nr: AR NO S/N  
 Indian Allot. Nr: ---

### Survey Information

Total Acres: 160.  
 Survey Date: ---  
 Geographic Name: ---  
 Metes/Bounds: No

### Land Descriptions

Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	AR	5th PM	001N - 002W	SE¼	14		Monroe



←  
 SE1/4 S14  
 T1N R2W  
 Samuel Witter

**ATTACHMENT 8**  
**Samuel Witter's Bounty Land**

COUNTY MAP PRODUCED BY  
 COMPUTER ASSISTED CARTOGRAPHY

DISTRICT 1

STATE HIGHWAY  
 ROUTE AND SECTION MAP  
**MONROE COUNTY**  
 ARKANSAS  
 SHOWING  
 BRIDGE LOG NUMBERS

