



ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS

Certified Genealogist® Certified Genealogical LecturerSM
Fellow & Past President, American Society of Genealogists
Past President, Board for Certification of Genealogists

141 Settlers Way, Hendersonville, TN 37075 • eshown@comcast.net
www.EvidenceExplained.com • www.HistoricPathways.com

- DATE:** 23 November 2017
- REPORT TO:** Witter Research Group
- SUBJECT:** **Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Logan County, Kentucky, Research**
- VARIANTS:** Wedder, Weider, Weiter, Widder, Widdow, Wieter, Wither, Witt (+ “s” at end of each)
- BACKGROUND:** One Samuel Witter, a millwright said to have been born in Pennsylvania about 1784, enlisted on 4 April 1814 in the 17th U.S. Cavalry, a Kentucky unit. He was recruited (place not stated) by Lt. James Hackley. Hackley’s recruiting station was in Logan County.
- The 1 June–30 October 1814 payroll for Witter’s Company identifies 14 individuals recruited by Hackley within 2 weeks before and after Witter. One Logan County recruit joined on 28 March; the next Logan County recruit signed up on 19 April. In the 3-week interval, Hackley appears to have ranged across Kentucky.
- One individual enlisted the same day and one enlisted the day before. These individuals should have been in the same locale as Witter, or no more than a day’s ride from him.¹
- Secondary issue: The 1830 census of Ohio County, Kentucky, places Samuel Witter next door to a widowed female named “Liddy” Lamb who may have been providing childcare for Samuel’s five motherless children under the age of ten. Preliminary research suggests she may be the Charlotte Brand who married in Logan County, 30 November 1813, Adam Lamb (d. Logan Co., 1818).²
- ASSOCIATES:** Brand, Charlotte (alleged wife of Adam Lamb)
Cravens, Thomas, 21 at enlistment on 5 April 1814 (only known locale is JessamineCo.)
Lamb, Adam (husband of Ruth Talkington & allegedly Charlotte Brand)
Parker, Lewis, 21, at enlistment on 4 April 1814
- QUESTIONS:** Can Witter, Cravens, or Parker be placed in Logan County? Can any other Witters be found in Logan County contemporaneously, who might be pursued as possible kin?
- LIMITATIONS:** This block of research is limited to pre-1820 Logan County resources microfilmed and then digitized by the Family History Library, Salt Lake City. All online resources were accessed 21–25 October 2017.

¹ See E. S. Mills, “Samuel Witter, 17th U.S. Infantry, War of 1812, Enlistment Record: An Analysis,” report to Witter Research Group, 15 December 2011; and Mills, “Samuel Witter’s Fellow Soldiers, Lt. Benjamin W. Sanders’s Co., 17th U.S. Regiment, War of 1812,” report to Witter Research Group, 11 October 2013; archived at Mills, *HistoricPathways* (<https://historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

² See E. S. Mills, “Samuel Witter (1784?–1849?); Wives: Rebecca Crask (1794?–1826?) & Synthianna [—?—]: Research Notes,” a working file updated 23 November 2017; archived at *HistoricPathways* under the “Research” tab.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Two individuals of similar surname appear in Logan in the studied period:

- 1811: Mary Widdows married Isaac Morris
 1813: Peter Widdows was taxed (this year only) for 50 acres, 3d class, on Red River & 1 male over 21

Samuel Witters, Thomas Cravens, and Lewis Parks were not found in this general survey.

RESEARCH NOTES

—TAX ROLLS—

COMMENT:

I am beginning this search with the annual tax rolls that exist from the creation of the county. These provide a reasonably reliable overview of all white males (or free males of color) who lived in a county long enough to come to the attention of the tax collector.

Four Witter possibilities appear—each of whom were taxed in one year only. Note that their first appearances are clustered around the 1810 year that Samuel Witters first appeared in Ohio and Breckinridge.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------|
| • Jacob Widir | 1809 | no land |
| • John Widir | 1809 | no land |
| • Samuel Whiders? | 1812 | 200 acres Drake Creek |
| • Peter Widdows | 1813 | 50 acres Red River |

Samuel Witter is dropped from the Breckinridge tax rolls in 1812 and does not appear again until 1816.

- 1792: Nothing relevant³
 1793: Nothing relevant
 1794: Nothing relevant
 1795: Nothing relevant
 1796: Nothing relevant
 1797: Nothing relevant
 1799: Nothing relevant.

Varous *Lamb*s appear in the 1790s and drop out now; none named Adam or Charlotte.⁴

³ All 1792–1815 rolls are imaged in Logan Co., KY, “Tax books 1792–1797, 1799–1815,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834476?cat=156098>).

⁴ In 1830 Ohio Co., Samuel Witter lived next door to an apparent widow named “Liddy Lamb.” She appears to be the “Charlotte Lamb” who was a near neighbor of Tarlton Whitter, 1820 Ohio Co. Online trees say she married Adam Lamb in Logan County. See 1820 U.S. census, Ohio Co., Ky., stamped pp. 112–13 (Charlotte Lamb, aged 26–45, 2 males 0–10) 114–15 (Tarlton

- 1800:** Nothing relevant
- 1801:** Nothing relevant. There is a *William* and *John May*, with no apparent link to those same-name men in Breckinridge, Grayson, and Ohio counties from whom Witter acquired land there.
- 1802:** Nothing relevant. A family of Witts begin appearing this year, who are clearly not Witters.
- 1803:** Nothing relevant. There are various *Briants* in the county, but not *Brands*. A Christian *Weller* appears this year, but the name is clearly written with “ll” rather than “tt.”
- 1804:** Nothing relevant. All names in the “W” section are not legible.
- 1805:** Nothing relevant. A John *Brander* appears on List 2 for the first time, taxed on 100 acres on Cave’s Creek, patented to “P. Blier?” A Frederick *Willer* appears adjacent to Christian *Weller*. Again, the “ll” is clear and the scribe did not use the handwriting convention of the era in which “tt” was written as two tall sticks without either a loop or cross bar.
- 1806:** Nothing relevant. Frederick and Christian are shown as *Weller*.
- 1807:** Nothing relevant. A Chloe *Waters* has appeared for several years but she is consistently *Waters*. *Witts* appears, specifically one John Witt. *Brantley* appears, but still no “Brand.”
- 1808:** Nothing relevant. The name of the taxpayer Elizabeth Briant (who has appeared for numerous years) is written in a way that it could be misread as *Brand*.
- 1809:** Nothing relevant on List 1. *Brandon* appears as a surname, clearly written. List 2 for this year is extremely faded in the “B” and “L” sections, but the “W” section is legible. There we find two consecutive entries:
- Widir, John** 1 white male 21+, 2 horses
Widir, Jacob 1 white male 21+, 3 horses (1809: page 26; *FamilySearch* image 642)⁵
- 1810:** Nothing relevant. Two Witts now in county: John (land on Elk Lick, granted to Roardy) and Robert (land on Elk Lick, granted to Edgar).
- 1811:** Nothing relevant. “Tarkerton” now appears. “Witt” taxpayers now include a Christopher.
- 1812:** **Whiders?, Samuel** **[Whidens?]**
 200 acres Logan County, Drake’s Creek, granted to “J. Buller,”
 1 white male 21+, 4 horses (1812: page 41; *FamilySearch* image 789)
- Witt:** Mills and Christopher Witt; the name is written as *Wills* but later rolls identify them as Witt.⁶ Robert Witt’s land (granted to Edgar) is now said to be on Muddy Creek. These taxpayers are clearly *Witts* and not *Witters*.

“Witty” and others). 1830 U.S. census, Ohio Co., Ky. p. 248, line 11 (Samuel Witter) and line 12 (Liddy Lamb, 1 female 40–50 with 2 females 15–20, 1 female 10–15, 1 female 5–10; 1 male 20–30, 1 male 10–15, 1 male 5–10). This woman appears to be the Charlotte Brand who married Adam Lamb 30 November 1814 in Christian County. Whether “Brand” was Charlotte’s maiden name or whether she was then a widow is not known; Adam was indeed a widower, with four children by a first wife Ruth Talkington whom he had married in Logan County on 8 May 1804. Adam is said to have died in Logan in 1818. The 1820 Ohio census entry for Charlotte is compatible with that marriage. The 1830 census entry suggests that she may also have in her household her or her husband’s children from a first marriage. For Charlotte, see erin_stubin, “Erin Stubin Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/31379307/person/26112004528/>). Stubin also asserts that Adam was born in Somerset Co., Penn.—whose parent county, Bedford, was home to a German Witter family from Lancaster that I am also pursuing. See E. S. Mills, “Samuel Witter (1787–1876) & Wife Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–54): Research Notes,” a working file dated 5 December 1813; archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://historicpathways.com/download/SamWitResNotes.pdf>).

⁵ The 1810 census of Logan Co. carries a Jacob and John “Wydick,” adjacent names, but no Jacob and John *Widir*. See p. 791 (penned).

⁶ This Mills Witt likely stems from the Witt family of Albemarle/Amherst/Bedford County, Virginia. The first known Mills Witt is the proved son of Lewis Witt who died in 1774 leaving a widow Ann, believed to be Ann Mills, daughter of William and Mary Mills. He had brothers Robert and John who were contemporaneous with the Robert and John of Logan. Robert of Logan

COMMENT:

Samuel Witter was taxed on land in Breckinridge in 1811 but is missing from Breckinridge tax rolls in 1812. The Samuel above does not appear in Logan in 1811, but was here in 1812.

- 1813:** Still no Adam Lamb, even though he supposedly married in Logan this year to Charlotte Brand.⁷
- Widdows, Peter** resides Logan County; 50a on Red River, 3d rate; In whose name patented: blank; 1 white male 21+; 3 horses, mares, &c.⁸ No date for submission of his list. (p. 73, image 863)
- Witter/Whiders** No

COMMENT:

This Peter Widdows appears to have moved often in this decade of the 18-teens:

1810 census: Clark County, Kentucky
 1813 tax roll: Logan County, Kentucky
 1815–1816 tax rolls: Grayson County, Kentucky (simultaneously with Samuel in 1816)
 1820 census: White County, Illinois

Peter Widdows should be seriously considered as a potential kinsman of Samuel. In addition to their immediate proximity on the 1816 Grayson Co. tax roll, they are also linked through neighbors in both states. In White Co., 1820, *Peter had two census neighbors who had migrated there from Ohio Co, Kentucky: Richard "Arterbury" (next door to Peter) and Jesse Cravens (7 houses from Peter). Arterbury/Atterbury returned to Ohio County where, in 1830, he was 2 houses from Samuel Witter.*

More specifically:

- Cravens was taxed in Ohio County from 1803 to 1817, then dropped off the roll in 1818, when he moved to White County, Illinois.⁹
- Atterberry was taxed in Ohio County until 1819, dropped off the tax rolls in 1820, then returned in 1821. The 1830 census of Ohio County places him two households from Samuel Witter, in this sequence: *Lapsley Hall* (Samuel Witter's alleged brother-in-law, for whom Samuel named his son Lapsley Hall Witter), *Richard Atteberry, Henly Burch, Samuel Witter.*

In 1820, Atterberry appears on both the Ohio County and White County censuses with exactly the same household composition. The 1830 census does not show a man of his name still living in Illinois. By 1840, he had returned to Illinois, settling in Wayne County (next door to White) near Samuel's children.¹⁰

appears to be the father of this younger Mills Witt. For more on this family, see E. S. Mills, "William Mills (ca. 1699–1766); Spouse Mary (Walton?): Research Notes," a working file, 2 June 2016; archived at Mills, *Historic Pathways*, under the "Research" tab.

⁷ Erin Stubing, "Erin Stubing Family Tree," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/31379307/person/26112004528/>). Stubing cites no source for the marriage.

⁸ Many pages of this year's roll has a date for individual submissions of their list of taxable property. The page on which Peter Widdows appears does not have that.

⁹ See E. S. Mills, "Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Ohio County, Kentucky, Research Notes," 23 November 2017; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

¹⁰ **1810** U.S. census, Clark Co., Ky., p. 675 (penned), **Peter Widdows**, 1 male 26–44, 1 female 26–44, 1 female 10–15. 2 females –10 2 males –10, all white. Clark is east central Kentucky, on eastern border of Fayette Co. **1820** U.S. census, White Co., Ill., Wacontebey Twp., has **Peter Widdows**, 1 male 45+, 2 males, 26–44, 3 females 16–25, 4 males 10–15, 1 male 0–10, all white, living next door to **Richard "Arterbury"** (1 male 26–44, 1 female 26–44, 1 male 10–15, 1 female 0–10, 3 males 0–10) and

Richard's son Stout Atterbury, in Ohio County in 1824, married Fanny Crask, sister of Witter's first wife Rebecca Crask. Stout and Fanny, together with Richard and with Samuel and Rebecca's children, settled in Wayne County, Illinois (adjacent to White County) and founded together the "Little Flock" Baptist Church of Hickory Hill Township.¹¹

It is also germane to note that Samuel Witter's eldest son was named Abraham P. Witter.¹²

- 1814:** Still no Adam Lamb. Talkingtons do appear. John & William May continue to appear.
1815: Still no Adam Lamb. John "Lam" does appear; no land, 3 horses.
1816: Still no Adam Lamb. A Jonathan Lamb appears on Gaspard Creek with 2 tracts. Not all "L" surnames are readable.¹³
1817: Still no Adam Lamb. Jonathan is still there.
1818: Still no Adam Lamb. Jonathan is still there.
1819: Still no Adam Lamb or Adam Lamb estate.
1820: Still no Adam Lamb or Adam Lamb estate. By this point, his alleged widow Charlotte was in Ohio County.

—COURT RECORDS—

County Court Minute/Order Book A1, 1733-1812¹⁴

COMMENT:

Cravens: No
 Parker: Thomas, but no Lewis
 Witter: No

Ordinary Case Files Index, 1800–1942

COMMENT:

Donley, Willam C.–Lawson: **Adam Lamb** vs. Jacob Miller, filed 21 Dec 1801; "O-C-1 #7"¹⁵

7 houses from **Jesse Cravens**. White Co. is the parent county of Jefferson/Hamilton and Wayne Cos., where Samuel Witter's children settled. **1820** U.S. census, Ohio Co., Ky., Richard Artenbury (1 male 26–44, 1 female 26–44, 1 male 10–15, 1 female 0–10, 3 males 0–10). Ohio Co. tax rolls show the following: **1819:** Richd. Artenberry, 130a Rough Creek, patented to Winston, 1 male, 2 horses, \$520. **1820: absent.** **1821:** Richard Atterberry, 130a Pipe Run, patented to Winston, 1 male, 4 horse, total \$550; Samuel Witter's land was also various described on tax rolls of 1819–21 as being on Pipe Run and Rough Creek. **1830** U.S. census, Ohio Co., Ky., p. 248, line 9. **1840** U.S. census, Wayne Co., Ill., Richard Atteberry, p. 246 *verso*, line 7.

¹¹ [Title of register not identified], p. 52, 9 Dec. 1824; imaged as "Kentucky, County Marriage Records, 1783–1965," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>), Ohio Co., 1807–1871 > image 201 of 591. 1840 U.S. census, Wayne Co., Ill., p. 253 *verso*, line 13, erroneously indexed by Ancestry as "House Ashberry." *History of Wayne and Clay Counties, Illinois* (Chicago: Globe Publishing Co., 1884), 121. For Stout Atterbury as son of Richard, see Trudy Heren, "Bork-Heren Family," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/69367150/person/30196002415/facts>), Stout Atterbury "Facts" page.

¹² See E. S. Mills, "Samuel Witter (1784?–1849?) Rebecca Crask (1794?–1826?) & Synthianna [–?–]: Research Notes," a working file, updated 23 November 2017; archived online at *Historic Pathways* under the "Research" tab.

¹³ "Tax Books 1816–1817, 1819–1826, 1828–1831, 1833–1834," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3J-FSY2-X?i=83&cat=156098>), frame 84 of 1167; citing film 8123. The 1816–20 notes above are all from this collection.

¹⁴ Logan County, Ky., County Court Minute/Order Book A1, 1733–1812 ; filmed at end of an index and typescript by Mrs. Wells Vick, compiler, "Index & Abstract Donated by Daughters of American Revolution, Russellville Chapter" (undated); FHL microfilm 2134955, item 2.

¹⁵ Logan Co., Ky., Ordinary Case Files Index, 1800–1942: Donley, William C.–Lawson, index cards; imaged at *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008142225?cat=788490>), image 7729.

Lawson, Delila–Rohen: microfilm 1943371, volume is not yet online
Rohrer–Zimmerman: microfilm 1943372, volume is not yet online.

Equity Case Files Index, 1802–1940, Watkins, Bailey-Zinmeister¹⁶

COMMENT:

Cravens: No
Lamb: None before 1840s
Parker: No Lewis
Witt: Robert and Mills, 1858
Witter: No

—DEEDS—

Deed Book A-1, 1792–1808¹⁷

COMMENT:

No relevant items gleaned. This deed book carries an index, but it indexes only grantors. Names of grantees appear (unindexed) in second column of each index page. I read every second column in search of possible Witter grantees.

The indexer's pattern for the indentureships of young men was to index the entry under only the boy's name—not the name of the man to whom the boy was bound. Therefore, for every indentureship in the index, I examined the document to ensure that Samuel Witter was not in the county finding apprentices (as occurred in Breckinridge 1810, while he was a resident of Ohio Co.)

I have not skimmed every page of the volume for names of witnesses and other kinds of embedded references.

Deed Book A, 1803–1805¹⁸

COMMENT:

This deed book carries both a grantor and grantee index. I have not skimmed every page of the volume for names of witnesses and other kinds of embedded references.

Deed Book B, 1806–1810¹⁹

COMMENT:

This deed book carries a grantor and grantee index, but pages are missing for

¹⁶ Logan County, Ky., Equity Case Files Index, 1802–1940, Watkins, Bailey–Zinmeister; FHL microfilm 1943368, imaged as film no. 007646837.

¹⁷ Logan County, Deed Book No. A-1, 1792–1808; imaged in “Vols. A1–A 1792–1808, 1803–1806 (Includes indexes),” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007900779?cat=318268>), frames 1–332; citing FHL microfilm 364581.

¹⁸ Logan County, Deed Book No. A, 1803–1805; imaged in “Vols. A1–A 1792–1808, 1803–1806 (Includes indexes),” frames 333–573.

¹⁹ Logan County, Deed Book No. B, 1806–1810; imaged in “Vols. B–C 1806–1813 (Vol. B has Index,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007900779>), frames 1-343; imaged from FHL microfilm 364581.

- A-D (grantor)
- F (grantor)

To cover the missing entries, I read every second column in both the grantor and grantee indexes. I have not skimmed every page of the volume for names of witnesses and other kinds of embedded references.

Deed Book C, 1810–1813²⁰

COMMENT:

This deed book carries no index. Given that this volume approaches the critical period in my search for the origins of Samuel Witter—and the period that Peter Witter, Christopher Witter/Witt, and Mills Witt first appear on the tax rolls—I skimmed every page for

- document label naming grantor and grantee
- witness signatures

Deed Book D, 1813–1815²¹

COMMENT:

This deed book carries no index. I skimmed all entries through the end of 1814. Deeds are being recorded quite promptly, as a rule.

Deed Book E, 1815.²²

COMMENT:

This deed book carries no index. For want of time in this project, I have not yet skimmed every page for embedded entries. While Samuel Witter is now off at war, there is at least a possibility that an older deed witnessed by him might have been filed.

Deed Book F, 1817–1818.²³

COMMENT:

This deed book carries no index. For want of time in this project, I have not yet skimmed every page for embedded entries.

—PROBATE RECORDS—

Will Records Index, vol. 1, 1795–1812²⁴

COMMENT:

The index shows two items of possible value:
Talkington, Elizabeth, p. 314

²⁰ Logan County, Deed Book No. C, 1810–13; imaged in “Vols. B–C 1806–1813 (Vol. B has Index),” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007900779>), frames 345–632; imaged from FHL microfilm 364581.

²¹ Logan County, Deed Book No. D, 1813–15; imaged in “Vols. D–E 1813–1817,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLX-L9LS-K?i=29&cat=318268>); imaged from FHL microfilm 364583.

²² Logan County, Deed Book No. E, 1815; imaged in “Vols. D–E, 1813–1817.

²³ Logan County, Deed Book No. F, 1817–18; imaged in “Vols. F–G 1817–1819,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008192734?cat=318268>), frames 345–632; imaged from FHL microfilm 364584.

²⁴ “Kentucky Probate Records, 1727–1900,” browsable database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9P39-YP8?wc=37R2-MNP%3A173478001%2C174129201&cc=1875188>).

The digitized pages for this volume end abruptly at p. 214 (image 121 or 121), without the usual filmed target stating that it is the end of the volume.

Will Books 1-B, 1795-1823²⁵

COMMENT:

No item of interest.

“Kentucky Probate Records, 1727–1900”

—MISCELLANEOUS REGISTERS—

Land Entries, 1807–1858²⁶

COMMENT:

Cravens: No

Parker: No

Witter: No

Index to Surveys, 1796–1906²⁷

COMMENT:

This volume contains individual indexes to original vols, A–G. Volumes A–E cover pre-1822. Volumes F–G cover the rest of the century

Cravens: No

Parker: No

Witter: No

—PUBLISHED RESOURCES—

1782—

Military pensioners.

Covers Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Indian Wars²⁸

COMMENT:

Cravens: No

Parker: No

Witter: No

²⁵ Logan County, Ky., Will Books, 1-B, 1795–1823; FHL microfilm 364608.

²⁶ Logan County, Ky., Land entries, 1807–1858 [FHL label for untitled volume]; imaged as FHL microfilm 2134955, item 3.

²⁷ Logan County, Ky., Index to Surveys, 1796–1906; imaged as FHL microfilm 355903.

²⁸ Lucy Kate McGhee, *Logan County Kentucky Pensioners, Revolutionary, War of 1812, and Indian Wars* (Washington, D.C.: Privately printed, n.d.); imaged at *FamilySearch*.

1804–1811
Marriages²⁹

Lamb, Adam to Ruth A. Talkerton
Morris, Isaac to **Widdows, Mary**

5/8 1804
10/5/1811

[no source cited]
[no source cited]

²⁹ Lalla McCulley, *Logan County, Kentucky, Records*, vol. 1 (Lewisburg, Ky.: P.p., 1961), 64 (Lamb) 65 (Widdows); imaged at *FamilySearch*, file 106218_01.pdf. This source has no bride named Charlotte or Lotty. It does have one Liddy Martin who married William Travens, 25 January 1799 (p. 72).