

# Samuel Witter (1787–1876)

& wife

## Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–54)

### RESEARCH NOTES

#### Samuel Witter Family Summary:

Born:	b. 12 May 1787; <sup>1</sup> Tom’s Creek Hundred, Frederick County, Maryland <sup>2</sup>	
Parents: <sup>3</sup>	Johannis (John) Witter, b. <i>bef.</i> 1755; d. 1820–30, Franklin Co., Pa. <sup>4</sup> Katrine (Catherine) [–?–], b. <i>bef.</i> 1755; d. 1810–20, Franklin Co., Pa. <sup>5</sup>	
Married:	c. 1819–20, <b>Rachel “Lizzie” Smith</b> , <sup>6</sup> b. c. 1802; d. 15 October 1854, Lawrence Co., Ill. <sup>7</sup>	
Occupation:	Millwright, <sup>8</sup> miller, farmer <sup>9</sup>	
Died:	25 December 1876, Lawrence Co., Illinois <sup>10</sup>	
Residences:	Frederick County, Maryland	1787–1800 <sup>11</sup>
	Franklin County, Pennsylvania	1800 to 1838–39 <sup>12</sup>
	Bedford County, Pennsylvania	1838–1846 <sup>13</sup>
	Lawrence County, Illinois	c. 1847–1876 <sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Witter tombstone, Brian Cemetery, 5.5 miles SW of the town of Sumner, Ill., off Highway 1801 in Section 30, Township 3N, Range 13W. Photograph supplied 23 June 1977 to Elizabeth Shown Mills by Eugene Laws, Sumner. Laws, a grandson of Samuel’s daughter Sarah by her husband William Laws, then owned the farm on which the cemetery stood. The marker’s material and style appear to be contemporaneous with the date of death.

<sup>2</sup> Birthplace based on parental residence at time of birth.

<sup>3</sup> See subsequent proof argument at pp. 5–7. John’s wife is named in multiple deeds from 1802–10. I have found no record created by John near the time of Samuel’s birth that names his wife. Samuel named his third daughter *Catharine*.

<sup>4</sup> Extrapolated from 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses, abstracted under those dates.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> See subsequent proof argument under date of 1819–20.

<sup>7</sup> Rachel Witter tombstone, Brian Cemetery; photograph supplied 23 June 1977 to Elizabeth Shown Mills by Eugene Laws.

<sup>8</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., p. 13 (stamped), dwell. 180, fam. 180 (Samuel Witter, “Mill Wright”). 1860 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., Luken Township, p. 157 (penned), dwell. 14, fam. 13 (Samuel Witters, “millerite”). Unless otherwise noted, all census entries were last viewed as *Ancestry.com* images.

<sup>9</sup> Bedford Co., Pa., tax rolls of 1842–44, abstracted below under that year. Also 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., Lukin Township, p. 14 (penned), dwell./ fam. 91 (Samuel Witters, “farmer”).

<sup>10</sup> Samuel Witter tombstone, Brian Cemetery.

<sup>11</sup> The obituary of Samuel’s proposed brother Abraham Witter in *Fulton Republican* (McConnellsburg, Pa.), 2 March 1882, places Abraham’s family in Frederick Co., Md., at his birth on 11 July 1786 and states that they moved to Franklin Co., Pa., when he was 11 (i.e., 1797). However, Johannis Witter’s first deed in Franklin Co., dated 1800, identifies him as “of Tom’s Creek Hundred, Frederick Co., Maryland.” The only Witter, etc. family I’ve found in Frederick for that period was John (Johannis) Witer who was established on “John Witer’s Lane” of Tom’s Creek Hundred by 1782. Relevant documents are all abstracted below.

<sup>12</sup> Samuel first appears on Bedford Co., Pa., tax rolls in late 1838. See Bedford Co., “Board of County Commissioners, [Triennial] Assessment Book (Copy), 1835–1844 (1 vol.),” p. 102; Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL roll 1,449,112. In April 1839 he and Rachel, together with William and Anna Maria Timmons, sold 18 acres they jointly owned in Letterkenny Twp., Franklin Co., and make no further appearances in Franklin. For the land sale, see Franklin Co., Deed Book 18:155.

<sup>13</sup> See the numerous Bedford Co. notes abstracted later in this paper.

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Name variants: Waiter, Weetar, Weeter, Weider, Weidner, Weter, Wetter, Wheeler, Widder, Widdows, Widow, Witer, Wither, Witter, Witters. Also (in derivative source): Mitter and Mithers.

- Children:
1. BENJAMIN WITTER, b. 12 August 1820, Franklin Co., Pa.; d. 31 July 1872, Lawrence Co., Ill.<sup>15</sup> As a young “milright,” he married (1) Susanah [–?–], in Bedford Co., Pa., in 1842.<sup>16</sup> In 1850, as a “house carpenter,” he lived in Richland Co., Ill, just across the line from his father’s farm in Lawrence Co.<sup>17</sup> About 1854, Benjamin married (2) **Malinda Day**, born 5 December 1833 (daughter of Jesse Day and Catherine Shick) and died 24 Dec. 1926.<sup>18</sup> In 1860 he was enumerated as a farmer in Bonpass Twp., Richland Co.<sup>19</sup> In 1870, he was a farmer in Christy Township, Lawrence Co.<sup>20</sup> Benjamin and Malinda are my great-grandparents.
  2. ELIZABETH WITTER, b. 11 February 1823, Franklin Co., Pa.; d. 30 August 1889, Lawrence Co., Ill.<sup>21</sup> Married c.1843, Bedford Co., Pa., **Joshua Jones**, a shoe and boot maker, b. 1818–19, Maryland, to Samuel and Elizabeth Jones.<sup>22</sup>
  3. WILLIAM WITTER, b. 17 November 1825, Franklin Co., Pa.; d. 27 June 1895 in Norris City, White Co., Ill. Married **Lavinia Catherine M. Barham** (b. 10 January 1828; died 21 February 1906) 24 September 1849, Lawrence Co.<sup>23</sup> The 1850 census identifies William as a farmer.<sup>24</sup> He later operated the Palo Alto post office from his home.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See research notes below for this time frame.

<sup>15</sup> Witter Family Records, a loose sheet compiled from various unnamed Bibles; in possession (October 1970) of Chloe Bowen Stacey (Mrs. J. O. Stacey) of Olney, Ill., who was the granddaughter of Benjamin’s daughter Melissa Witter Coffman (Mrs. Amzi Coffman); 1970 typescript by Mrs. Stacey in possession of Elizabeth Shown Mills. A marker placed in Brian Cemetery by offspring in the twentieth century appears to err in saying “Benjamin Witter, 1821–1872.”

<sup>16</sup> He is said to be single on Bedford Co.’s 1842 Tax Roll, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL microfilm 1,449,374. He is enumerated with wife Susannah on Bedford Co.’s Septennial Enumeration, 1842, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL 1,449,375.

<sup>17</sup> 1850 U.S. census, “Clay & Richland Cos.,” Illinois, p. 149 (stamped), reverse side, dwell. 938, fam. 942.

<sup>18</sup> Witter Family Records. The first child of Benjamin and Malinda is said to be James, born 2 August 1855. Benjamin’s first wife, Susannah, was still alive at the time of the 1850 census; the family record does not identify her or give her death date, but it notes that Benjamin had two children who were Malinda’s step-sons: Samuel (18 July 1844–4 May 1870) and Joseph (10 Jan. 1849–).

<sup>19</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Richland Co., Ill., Bonpass Twp., Olney p.o., p. 2, dwell./fam. 17.

<sup>20</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., Christy Twp., Sumner p.o., p. 36 (stamped), dwell./fam. 142.

<sup>21</sup> *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>) : accessed 1 January 2010, “Elizabeth Jones” obelisk, imaged at memorial page 73779155, “Elizabeth Witter Jones”; contributed by Carol Knoell, citing Brian Cemetery, Sumner Co. The obelisk does not name her parents; that identification comes from Witter Family Records.

<sup>22</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., p. 11 (stamped), dwell./fam. 155 (Joshua and Elizabeth Jones). For the proof argument that establishes the identity of Joshua as son of Samuel and Elizabeth, see E. S. Mills, “Smiths & Joneses: How to Succeed with Families of Common Name,” session S-412, National Genealogical Society Conference, St. Charles, Ill., May 2015; recorded by PlayBack Now. The marriage of Elizabeth and Joshua is approximated from the age of their first child.

<sup>23</sup> Witter Family Records. Also Ada Miller, *Early Marriage Records, Lawrence County, Illinois, 1821–1849* (Dallas, Tex.: Privately Printed, 1961), citing vol. C-D, p. 249.

<sup>24</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Lawrence O., Ill. p. 1 (verso), dwell./fam. 14 (William and Catherine Witter) Also *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>) : accessed 19 April 2016), tombstone of William Witter and “Catherine, his wife,” image posted at memorial 128348285, by J. F. Ehrhart, citing Mt. Nebo Cemetery, Hamilton Co., Ill.

<sup>25</sup> Orion Burtis Witter (Dahlgren, Ill.) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, undated letter c. 1970. Mr. Witter identified himself as the grandson of William and Catherine and the son of Benjamin Franklin Witter (b. 10 Jan. 1851).

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4. BARBARA ANNA WITTER, b. c.1827–28, Franklin Co., Pa.; married **Isaac Mathias** c.1847, in Pa.; (2) **Ransford T. Bourne**, 18 May 1859 (he d. 21 May 1862, Memphis, TN, Civil War); and (3) **James Vanfossen** in Ill.; apparently d. 27 May 1903, Lawrence Co.<sup>26</sup> She did not move to Illinois with her parents, but migrated 1850–58 with her Mathias children.
5. [FEMALE CHILD], b. c. 1825–30, Franklin Co., Pa.; tallied on 1830 census, but not 1840.
6. [FEMALE CHILD], b. c. 1825–30, Franklin Co., Pa.; tallied on 1830 census, but not 1840.
5. CATHERINE “CATE” WITTER, b. May 1832, Franklin Co., Pa.; married **John Melrose**, 23 April 1854, Richland Co., Ill. Last on record on the 1900 census of Richland Co.<sup>27</sup>
6. MARTHA “NANCY” WITTER, b. 1834, Franklin Co., Pa.; d. before 13 March 1871, Lawrence Co, Ill. Married (1) 12 June 1856, Lawrence Co., **Dr. Schuyler Sumner**; (2) **William Amos Jones**, with whom she moved (c1875-80) to Sebastian County, Arkansas and left a large family.<sup>28</sup>
7. MARGARET ELLEN “MAGGIE” WITTER, b. 10 September 1836, Franklin Co., Pa.; died November 1933. Married **George Brumfield**.<sup>29</sup>
8. SARAH JANE WITTER, b. March 1839, Franklin or Bedford Co., Pa.; m. (1) **William M. Beaird**, 7 July 1861, Richland Co., Ill., and (2) 8 March 1874, **William Laws**, Lawrence Co., Ill.<sup>30</sup>
9. HARRIET WITTER, b. April 1841, Bedford Co., Pa.; married **Dr. Schuyler Sumner** 13 March 1871, Lawrence Co. Last on record 1900, Myrtle Creek Precinct, Douglas Co., Oregon.<sup>31</sup>
10. JOHN W. WITTER, b. 25 May 1845, Bedford Co., Pa.; d. 22 August 1930, Sumner, Lawrence Co., Ill. Buried, Sumner City Cemetery. Never married.<sup>32</sup> He is said to have “owned and

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<sup>26</sup> See, under 1830, the discussion of discrepancies in records relating to Barbara Anna.

<sup>27</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Richland Co., Ill., Claremont, ED 119, sheet 16-A, dwell. 40, fam. 41 (Catharine Melrose). For her Richland Co. marriage to John Melrose on 23 April 1854, see “Illinois Statewide Marriage index, 1763–1900,” *Illinois State Archives* (<http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html>) : accessed 13 July 2009). Catherine’s nickname is from Maude Hawkins (Cedar Vale, Kans.), letter to Elizabeth Shown Mills, 28 February 1971, granddaughter of Catherine’s sister Elizabeth (Witter) Jones. Mrs. Hawkins spoke of Catherine as “Aunt Cate.”

<sup>28</sup> Witter Family Records identifies her husband only as “Sumner.” Lawrence Co., Ill., Marriage Book E:65 documents that 1856 marriage of Martha Witter to Schuyler Sumner. A marriage record for Martha “Nancy” to William Amos Jones has not found. The death record of their son William A. Jones Jr. (d. 31 October 1932, Beeville, Bee County, Texas) states that he was born 1 March 1863 in Illinois. See “Texas Deaths, 1890-1976,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1983324>) : accessed 23 June 2019). The oldest child attributed to Amos and Nancy Jones on the 1880 census (Charles H.) cites him as age 21, placing his birth between 2 June 1858 and 1 June 1859. See 1880 U.S. census, Sebastian Co., Ark, ED 180, sheet 73 (stamped p. 582), dwelling/family 111; NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d), roll 0057; FHL microfilm 1,254,057.

<sup>29</sup> Witter Family Records. Also “Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916–1946,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>) : accessed 22 December 2009), for “Margret Ellen Brumfeild,” widow of “George”; Ancestry cites FHL microfilm 1,675,056.

<sup>30</sup> Witter Family Records place her birth at “about 1838.” The 1850 census entry for her parental household (abstracted later in this report), places her birth between 2 June 1838 and 1 June 1839. The 1900 census states that she was born in March 1841. She and Laws were the parents of Eugene Laws, who owned the family farm in 1977 and photographed graves for me from the Brian Cemetery on that farm.

<sup>31</sup> The Witter Family Record places her birth at “about 1841.” The 1850 census entry for her parental household, places her birth between 2 June 1840 and 1 June 1841. The 1900 census record states that she was born in April 1849. Presumably the birth month is correct, in which case the spacing of her siblings suggests 1841 was the likely year for her birth. As adults, she and her sisters seem to have regularly shaved years off their ages. See 1900 U.S. census, Douglas Co., Oregon, Myrtle Creek Precinct, ED 57, sheet 3-A, dwell./fam. 62 (Harriet Sumner). For her 13 March 1871 marriage to Dr. Schuyler Sumner, who had previously married her sister Nancy, see Lawrence Co., Ill., Marriage Book E: 446.

<sup>32</sup> “Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916–1947,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.Ancestry.com>) : 22 December 2009), John W. Witter. Also *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>) : accessed 17 April 2017), memorial

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operated a flour mill and one other property.”<sup>33</sup> In his older years, he lived with his sister Margaret.<sup>34</sup>

SIBLINGS

1. ABRAHAM WITTER, b. 11 July 1786, Frederick Co., Md.;<sup>35</sup> d. 27 January 1882, at his residence in Taylor Township, Fulton Co., Pa.”; married **Catherine Piper** of Amberson’s Valley, Franklin Co., said to be the daughter (but more likely the sister) of Daniel Piper whose wife **Mary Witter** (1784–1865).<sup>36</sup>
2. (Possibly) PETER WITTER, born before 1771, see his data below.
3. (Possibly) JOSEPH WITTER, born c. 1770–80,<sup>37</sup> married **Sarah** [–?] by 1822; resident of Letterkenny Township, Franklin County, 1827 baptisms of daughters Catharine (b. 15 Dec 1822) and Mary (b. 1826).<sup>38</sup>
4. (Possibly) BENJAMIN C. WITTER, d. c.1823, for whose estate letters of administration were granted in Franklin Co. on 23 September 1823, to Abraham Witters and George Witters, with George Varner and Adam piper as sureties.<sup>39</sup> He is not a head-of-household on the 1820 census. However, the adjacent households of Johannis and Samuel had three unidentified males aged 18–26, of whom two might be Benjamin and George.
5. (Possibly) GEORGE WITTER, b. before 1802, given that he was of age to serve as administrator in 1823. (See Benjamin above.)<sup>40</sup>

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page for John W Witters (1844 [sic]–1930), memorial no. 32932293, citing Sumner Cemetery; maintained by Charlotte Eagleson Sechrest (contributor 46534968). Also 25 MayHis enlistment record curiously states that he was born in “Orange, Pa.” although his father was being taxed that year in Bedford Co. See subsequent notes. Orange lies in Columbia Co., some 175 miles Northeast of Bedford.

<sup>33</sup> O. B. Witter (Dahlgren, Ill.) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, undated letter, c.1970. Mr. Witter, aged 85 at the time, identified himself as the grandson of John’s brother William Witter and said that he knew John in his youth.

<sup>34</sup> Maude Hawkins (Cedar Vale, Kans.) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, 8 July 1973. Maude’s grandmother was Elizabeth (Witter) Jones, sister of Margaret and John.

<sup>35</sup> Based on parental residence at time of birth.

<sup>36</sup> McConnellsburg, Pa., *Fulton Republican*, 2 March 1882, obituary of Abraham Witter, names his father-in-law Daniel. For Daniel’s wife, see ELagenbach, “Archer, Lagenbach Family Tree,” *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/familytree/person/tree/7486402/person/-801549098/facts?\\_phsrc=Wle58&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/familytree/person/tree/7486402/person/-801549098/facts?_phsrc=Wle58&_phstart=successSource) : 19 April 2018), “Facts” page for Daniel Piper. As evidence of the wife of Daniel Piper, Lagenbach appends the death certificate of their daughter: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate of Harriet Piper Shearer, 5 March 1906, Lurgan Township, Pa., citing parents as “Daniel Piper,” b. Pa., and “Mary Witter,” b. Pa. *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39578400> : accessed 19 April 2018) offers the image of a tombstone carrying her maiden and married names, with birth and death years; however, it is a plaque of more-recent vintage (mounted on a stone), bearing names and dates of Piper Family Members who died between 1788 and 1904. **Mary (Witter) Piper, born two years before Abraham, could not be the sister of Abraham and Samuel unless she were Daniel Piper’s second wife and stepmother to his daughter Catherine.** However, the 1806 birthdate commonly given for her by descendants (without contemporary evidence) falls three-to-four years after the years commonly given for Daniel and Mary’s marriage (1802–1803).

<sup>37</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., p. 286, line 22 (Joseph Witter, aged 50–60; female 40–50, 2 females 0–10).

<sup>38</sup> Frederick Sheely Weiser, *Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hall, Letterkenny Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Parish Register, 1790–1869* (N.p.: N.p., 1970), page number not shown on photocopy provided to me.

<sup>39</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Will Book C: 667.

<sup>40</sup> This relationship is proposed because George served as co-administrator with Abraham of Benjamin’s estate. He should not be confused with a George who lived earlier in Franklin, son of Christopher Witter Sr., of Greencastle who left a will probated September 1807, in which he named “Jacob as eldest son; son George; son Michael; son-in-law and dau. Frederick and Elizabeth Hauk; Executors: friends Michael Tice and George Beck.” The published notes from the will assert that Christopher’s heirs in 1818 executed a deed (Franklin Co. DB 12:186) stating that “Jacob, Michael, and George, were the only three sons and male heirs of Christopher Weider—and that George died in “\_\_\_\_\_ County of **Kentucky**.” This source also states

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PARENTS, ORIGIN & CHILDHOOD

PRE–1800

FRANKLIN CO., PA

Kinship?

No Witter households have been found in Franklin County at the time of Samuel’s birth. Four men of comparable surname appear there during the childhood of Samuel and his putative brother Abraham: Jacob, Peter, Christophel, and Johannis. Of the four, Johannis is the only one whose information is compatible with Samuel in all ways. Brief synopses follow for each man, in order of their first known appearance in Franklin County’s records:<sup>41</sup>

**Jacob Weider (Weidener). 1790–1794.** This Jacob warranted and/or patented four tracts of land in Franklin County during 1790–94. One lay on Conococheague Creek in Montgomery Township; the other locations have not yet been identified in this project. Jacob is not found on the 1800 census of Franklin and he has not been conclusively placed elsewhere, before or after his Franklin County residence. He may be the Jacob Widir who emerged in Logan County, Kentucky, in 1809, together with a John Widir. Both were males over 21, with no land; their only taxable property were horses: 3 for Jacob and 2 for John.<sup>42</sup>

**Peter Witter (Wither). ca. 1793–1805.** Peter’s arrival date is unknown. He first appears on the 1794 tax roll of Peters Township, Franklin County, where his wife was **Catherine Ober**, daughter of John Ober who had died in Franklin in 1793 and left a probated estate naming Catherine and her husband. In 1798, Peter and Catharine sold their land in Peters Township. From 1800–6 Peter lived in Metal Township, adjacent to **John Witter (Johannis Widder)** who arrived by 1800 from Tom’s Creek Hundred, Frederick County, Maryland. In 1802, Peter and John swapped portions of their lands. The 1800 census attributes to Peter’s household no males old enough to be Samuel or Abraham. Peter (born by 1771) appears of an age to be the oldest son of Johannis and brother of Samuel and Abraham. He has not been found past the 23 February 1805 deed in which he and Catharine sold their Metal Township land to Michael and John Clapsaddle of Peters Township. Peter signed with a German signature.<sup>43</sup>

One Peter “Widdow” also migrated to Kentucky where indirect evidence links him to Jacob of Logan County and to Pennsylvania—specifically to another Pennsylvania-born millwright Samuel Witter (var. Widdows). Born 1766–84, the Kentucky Peter has been first found on the 1810 census of **Clark Co., Ky.**

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that this Christopher Witter was named in a 1786 deed as a trustee of the German Reformed Congregation of Greencastle. See Virginia Shannon Fendrick, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, c.1944), 224.

<sup>41</sup> For complete details and documentation on each man, see file copies of “Jacob Weider: Research Notes,” “Peter Witter: Research Notes,” “Christoffel ‘Stophel’ (Christopher) Witter: Research Notes,” and “John Witter (Johannis Widder): Research Notes”; ESM’s digital folder Desktop>GenealogyFiles>Family Files>Witter>Individual Research Notes.

<sup>42</sup> Logan Co., KY, “Tax Books 1792–1797, 1799–1815,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834476?cat=156098>), 1809, p. 26. They 1810 U.S. census, Logan Co., Ky., carries no “Widir” but does enumerate a Jacob and John “Wydict” as adjacent entries; see p. 791 (penned).

<sup>43</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 6: 118 (Witter to Witter), 173 (Witter to Witter), 417 (Witter to Clapsaddle).



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In 1813, he was taxed in **Logan County** (where an unidentified **Mary Widdows** had married Isaac Morris in 1811). The 1816 tax roll of **Breckinridge County** cites Peter and Samuel, two listings apart, with Peter owning no land and likely living on the land of the landowner Samuel. Before 1820 Peter migrated to **White Co., Ill.**, where the census enumerates him next door to the Kentucky Samuel’s in-laws.<sup>44</sup>

**Christoffel “Stophel” Widder (aka “Christopher” Witter, Wither). 1800–06.** Christoffel was born 5 July 1758, Lancaster Co., Pa., and died 4 May 1825 Union County, Ind.)<sup>45</sup> He is believed to be the “Christofel, son of Christofel Widder” who, on 23 May 1782, married Anna Maria Ulrich, “d. of the decd. Georg Ulrich” in Lancaster County.<sup>46</sup> However, at the sale of his land in 1806, his wife “Barbary” participated.<sup>47</sup> He first appears in Franklin on 8 April 1794, when he bought land in Fannett (now Metal) Township, identifying himself as “late of Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.”<sup>48</sup> He is enumerated

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<sup>44</sup> All these points are developed in E. S. Mills, “Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Logan County, Kentucky, Research,” report to Witter Research Group, 23 Nov. 2017; archived at *Historic Pathways* under the “Research” tab. See also Lalla McCulley, *Logan County, Kentucky, Records*, vol. 1 (Lewisburg, Ky.: P.p., 1961), 65 (Widdows); imaged at *FamilySearch*, file 107621801.pdf.

<sup>45</sup> *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23242942/christopher-witter/photo> : accessed 19 April 2018), gravestone image, memorial 23242942, Christopher Witter, said to be buried in Witter Cemetery at Liberty, Union County. Also said there to be a Revolutionary War private, 3d Battalion, Lancaster Co. Militia.

<sup>46</sup> Luther R. Kelker, translator, *Baptismal and Marriage Records, Rev. John Waldschmidt, Cocalico, Moden Krick, Weisse-Ichen Land and Seltenreich, Temeinde, Lancaster County, Penna., 1752–1786* (reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield 1996), 261, marriage of Christofel Widder and Anna Maria Ulrich. The alphabetized marriage and baptismal lists in this compilation do not contain any other Widder (or variant spelling), but does include other Ulrich entries.

Waldschmidt was pastor of “Reyer’s Reformed Congregation” from 1752–1762, according to a 1942 typescript headed “Church Protocol (Record) for the Reformed Congregation of Reihers Church begun 1766 by John George Wittner of Bellheim, Palitinate, V.D.M. ordained and called by the Fathers of Holland,” p. 1. This page also states that the Reiher/Reyer church was known as Zion’s of Brickerville) in 1942 and that its record book was a large, leather-bound folio volume ... which has at present (1942) 440 pages. For the imaged typescript, see “Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1699–2013,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) > PA-Lancaster > Ephrata > United Church of Christ > Bethany United Church of Christ. The Witters are not found in this typescript.

“Christopher Widder and wife” do appear as “baptized members” of the Cocalico/Conestoga German Baptist (Dunkard) Congregation on a list dated 1770. See Robert L. Hess and F. Edward Wright, *Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Church Records of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, vol. 5 (Lewes, Del.: Colonial Roots, 2001), 131.

For a representative online tree, see Cynthia Bolin, “Bolin Family Tree,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/35438127/person/28081706606/facts/citation/140250147703/edit/record/facts> : accessed 19 April 2018), Facts page for “Christopher Witter.” Bolin also attaches an image of a Lancaster tax roll for 1786, Cocalico Township, on which “Christopher Witter” appears. One John Witter is also on the roll, 6 names before Christopher. I have not yet studied the Lancaster tax rolls.

In 1970, Mrs. R. O. Hawkins (Cedar Vale, Kans.) reported correspondence with one “Wayne C. Mann of Kalamazoo Mich.” who asserted (no evidence stated) that the Witters came to the U.S. through Brooklyn, New York. Specifically: “Christophal Witter b. 1731 Germany; married Mary Kiser, b. 1732, Holland; had 2 sons, Christopher, b. 1756 Lancaster Co., Pa. m. Mary Ulery [sic], b. 1763, birthplace unknown”; the second son was unidentified. See Hawkins to Mills, 7 October 1970.

<sup>47</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 9:545, Stophel Witter (German signature) and wife Barbary of Metal Township to Christopher Hoe, late of Montgomery Twp., sale of land purchased of Thomas Armstrong and recorded Book B:181.

<sup>48</sup> Franklin Co., Deed Book B:181 (purchase from David Armstrong who purchased from Thomas Armstrong). Also Deed Book 9: 545, Stophel Witter (German signature as Widder) and wife Barbary (X) to Christopher Hoe, “late of Montgomery Twp.,” land adj. Robert Elders; witnesses R. Childerstone, Patrick Davidson.

An older Christopher (Christoffel) Witter is said to have been in Greencastle, Franklin Co., as early as 1786 when he was one of several trustees of the German Reformed Congregation who purchased land for a burying ground. His will was probated in 1807, wherein he named sons Jacob, George, and Michael, and a daughter Elizabeth married to Frederick Hauk. In 1818 heirs to the will, living in Indiana, (according to a published abstract) said that Jacob, George, and Michael were the “only 3 sons and

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**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

adjacent to John and one household from Peter in 1800. That position and his age both suggests that he was a likely brother of Johannis. Christoffel did have a son Samuel and others of age to be Abraham. However, he moved his family in 1806 to Union County, Indiana, where in 1809 he was a founder of the Dunker Congregation. His home still stands there.<sup>49</sup>

**Johannis Widder (aka John Witter, Witer, Wither). 1800–aft. 1820.** Born before 1755, according to the 1800 census, he is first found on record in Tom’s Creek Hundred, Frederick County, Maryland, 1782, where his residence was stable enough to prompt a court reference to “John Witer’s Lane.” He sued a debtor in 1785–86 (as “John Witter”), and received patents to two tracts in 1796 (“John Witter”). In 1800, saying he was of “Tom’s Creek Hundred, Frederick County, Maryland,” he made his first known appearance in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, buying a tract in Metal Township, where he lived almost consistently for the next two decades. The 1800 census, which sequences John with Christoffel and Peter, assigns to his household males of age to be Abraham and Samuel. The 1820 census, which is semi-alphabetized by surname, enumerates him consecutively with the newly married Samuel; John’s household that year seems to include Abraham’s family, as well as two other males 18–26. In John’s early Franklin County deeds, he signed his name as “**Johannis Widder.**” Deeds between 1802 and 1810 identify his wife as **Katrine** and **Catharine**. Associations within the records that follow suggest that she may have been a Shyock or Witherow—both families that also came to Franklin from Frederick County.

Two unresolved issues counter the hypothesis that Johannis fathered Samuel and the widespread belief that he also fathered Abraham:

- The ten-month spacing between alleged birth dates of two living sons, which is possible but not common.
- All 1850 and later censuses for both Samuel and Abraham consistently place their births in Pennsylvania, not Maryland where Johannis appears to have lived at the time of their births. Against the census data for Abraham, however, we must weigh his obituary that asserts a birth in Frederick County, Maryland—the site of Johannis’s residence in the period Abraham and Samuel were born.

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male heirs of Christopher.” My preliminary work in the Lancaster and York counties of colonial Pennsylvania suggests that there were two different, adult, Christopher (Christoffel) Witters in that area in the 1760s period who were not father and son. Both seem to have migrated out to Franklin County, with our line settling in Amberson Valley (Fannet Township) and the other line in Greencastle, Loudoun Township. For the 1807 will and 1818 probate data created by and about the Greencastle line, see Virginia Shannon Fendrick, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, c.1944), 224.

<sup>49</sup> Rev. Merle C. Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren* (<http://www.unioncounty.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/> accessed 8 Jan. 1812), part VI, “The Dunkers.”

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MARYLAND NOTES

**NOVEMBER 1783**

**FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Coroner’s inquest

“Deceased: Lewis Poole

Date of death: Found dead on November 17, 1783, inquisition November 17, 1783

Coroner: John McAlister, Justice of the Peace

Cause of death: Died of ‘cold and fatigue.’

Jury: James Morrison, Peter Troxall, John Troxall, Robert Roberts, Thomas Richford, Patrick Rogers, Abraham Boone, George Smith, Jacob Smith, Aron Rowe, William Murdock, and David Tanner, all residents of **Toms Creek Hundred**, Frederick Co.

Comments: Inquisition taken in Toms Creek Hundred. Body of deceased found **at the end of John Witters lane.**<sup>50</sup>

**NOVEMBER 1785–AUGUST 1786**

**FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Tax records

“A List of Insolvencies that are Charged with Amerciments at November 1785 and March and August 1786... A List of Insolvencies that are not to be got ... [many dozens of names] .. **John Witer** and George Lutes ats Fredk. Black.”<sup>51</sup>

COMMENT:

I found no explanation for the abbreviation “ats.”

**1786-89**

**PENNSYLVANIA OR FREDERICK CO., MARYLAND**

Birth of brother.

**Abraham Witter (Weetar, etc.)**, who is clustered with Samuel in numerous records below, is widely said to be Samuel’s brother, although no known researcher provides supporting evidence or mounts a proof argument. The evidence found to date—presented in the notes that follow—supports that hypothesis with no significant conflicts. Abraham was born in either Pennsylvania or Maryland between 1786 and 1789, according to the 1850–80 censuses. His obituary explicitly addresses his birth and subsequent arrival in Pennsylvania:

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<sup>50</sup> Stefanie R. Shaffer, *Inhabitants of Frederick County, Maryland*, vol. 1, 1750–1790 (1998; reprinted, Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, 2001), 152; citing “Coroner’s Inquests 1778–1789; Maryland Archives C772-1 1/41/7/34.” Frederick County’s original courthouse records and colony-level patents have not yet been studied.

<sup>51</sup> Stefanie R. Shaffer, *Inhabitants of Frederick County, Maryland*, vol. 2, 1749–1800 (1997; reprinted, Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, 2001), 152; citing “Frederick County Court papers 1757–1758, Maryland Archives C773-11 1/4/7/5.”



**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1882, at his residence in Taylor township, Fulton county, Pa., Mr. Abraham Witter, aged 95 years, 7 months, and 16 days. [*i.e.*, *born 11 July 1786*]. The deceased **was born in Frederick County, Md., in the year 1786. He came with his father to Franklin county when eleven years of age, his father settled at Carrick Furnace, [i.e., ca. 1797, Metal Township]** and when a young man [he, Abraham] learned the millwright trade. He followed that trade for 15 or 20 years. He married a daughter of Daniel Pipers, of Amberson’s Valley, by whom they had thirteen children, seven girls and six boys, all of which are living. Four of the boys were in the late war at one time, and all got home safe; the deceased was with the militia at Baltimore in war of 1812. Abraham Witter did the millwright work of the Duncannon iron works, which is still in use yet. In 1812, with his family, he moved to Bedford county, now Fulton, and engaged in farming. He has eighty-four grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren. He had been a member of the United Brethren church for fifty-four years.”<sup>52</sup>

COMMENT:

- Despite the statement that Abraham moved his family to Bedford in 1812, he has not been found in a Bedford record until the 1840 census. In 1830 he was enumerated in Franklin, six houses from Samuel; and in 1820 his family seems to be living with his father John, adjacent to Samuel. (See notes below for the 1810–50 period.)
- No militia or military record has been found for Abraham, although he was of age to serve.
- The only Witter (or conceivable variant) whom I have placed in Frederick County thus far is John Witter/Witer (who signed as Johannis Widder) in his Franklin County records, below.
- The assertion that he married a *daughter* of Daniel Piper presents a problem—more likely confused offspring should have said *sister* of Daniel Piper. Daniel, a son of Adam Piper, married Mary Witter, daughter of Johannis, soon after the Witters moved to Franklin County.<sup>53</sup> If Abraham married Daniel’s daughter, he not only married his own niece but (in order to have a family by 1812) married her when she was only six. See discussion of Mary (Witter) Piper in the “Siblings” section of the Family Summary at the start of this paper.

**12 MAY 1787**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Birth<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> McConnellsburg, Pa., *Fulton Republican*, 2 March 1882, obituary of Abraham Witter. Also 1850 U.S. census, Fulton Co., Pa., pop.sch., p. 90 (stamped), dwell. 85, fam. 87, “Abram Weeter.” Also 1860 U.S. census, Fulton Co., Pa., pop. sch., Spursville P.O., p. 170 (stamped), dwell./fam. 156, “Abram Waiter.” Also 1870 U.S. census, Fulton Co., Pa., pop. sch., Hustontown P.O., dwell. 78, fam. 76, “Abraham Witter.” Also 1880 U.S. census, Fulton Co., Pa., pop. sch., Taylor twp., E. D. 208, p. 10, dwell. 73, fam. 75, “Abraham Witter.”

<sup>53</sup> For a common reconstruction of this family, with only partial evidence provided, see the previously cited ELagenbach, “Archer, Lagenbach Family Tree,” *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/familytree/person/tree/7486402/person/-801549098/facts?\\_phsrc=Wle58&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/familytree/person/tree/7486402/person/-801549098/facts?_phsrc=Wle58&_phstart=successSource)), “Facts” page for Daniel Piper, and *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39578400>).

<sup>54</sup> Eugene Laws (Sumner, Ill.) to Elizabeth Shown Mills, 23 June 1977. Laws, a grandson of Samuel’s daughter Sarah by her husband William Laws, supplied a photograph of the stone, whose material and style appear to be contemporaneous with the date of death. The cemetery at that time stood on Laws’s farm, 5.5 miles SW of the town of Sumner, off Highway 1801 in Section 30, Township 3N, Range 13W.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Date of birth calculated from Witter’s tombstone in Brian Cemetery, Christy Township, Lawrence County, Illinois:

SAMUEL WITTER  
Died  
Dec. 25, 1876  
89Y, 6M, 13D

COMMENT:

The 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses (see abstracts under those dates) cite Samuel’s age as 63, 71, and 69 respectively—suggesting a birth between 2 June 1786 and 1 June 1802. All three censuses consistently state his birthplace as Pennsylvania.

**1796**

**FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Land patent

“Witter, John; 1796; The Last Scrape; 4 ¼ ac; IC#G 683. Certificate in the name of Peter Mantz.”<sup>55</sup>

**1796**

**FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Land patent

“Witter, John; 1796; Sweep Stakes; 37 ½ ac; IC#L 84. Certificate in the name of Peter Mantz.”<sup>56</sup>

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**PENNSYLVANIA NOTES**

**24 APRIL 1800**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land purchase

**John Nolle [Noble]** and wife Agnes of **Metal Township** to **John Witter of Toms Creek Hunded, Frederick County, Maryland**. Sale for 25£ land granted by Proprietors of Pennsylvania to **John Clark** by order of survey dated 2 April 1767, No. 355, a tract of 165 acres and 60 perches adjoining **Ashbridge** & others in Metal Township, described as

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1850 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., p. 13 (stamped), dwell. 180, fam. 180. 1860 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., Luken Township, p. 157 (penned), dwell. 14, fam. 13. Also 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., Lukin Township, p. 14 (penned), dwell./fam. 91.

<sup>55</sup> Stefanie R. Shaffer, *Inhabitants of Frederick County, Maryland*, vol. 2, 1749–1800 (1997; reprinted, Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, 2001), 44; citing “Frederick County Land Patents 1749–1800, Maryland Archives Index 55.” **Note:** This volume also has abstracts for a John Weller, along with Jacob, Jacob Jr., John Jr. and Thomas. I see nothing that overtly connects them to the Witter family. Also a John Willer (and Jacob) from 1744

<sup>56</sup> Stefanie R. Shaffer, *Inhabitants of Frederick County, Maryland*, vol. 2, 1749–1800 (1997; reprinted, Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, 2001), 102; citing “Frederick County Land Patents 1749–1800, Maryland Archives Index 55.” The original patent records need to be examined.

Beginning at a hickory,  
then S26° W to a white oak  
then S 78° W to a hickory  
then by **Brown’s** land S3° W 48p to a white oak  
then S35° W 50 p to a hickory  
then S22° E 56.25p to a post by **Robert Walker’s land**,  
then S63° E 23 p to a hickory  
then N 37° E 34p to a maple by **Ashbridge**  
then N81° E 54.25p to a white oak  
then N 29.5° E 186.5p to a Black oak by **Ashbridge’s land**  
then N 63° W 105p to beginning

Witnesses: John Kyle, John Chamberlain, John Wallen  
24 April 1800: Noble acknowledged receiving the sum  
29 May 1800: deed recorded<sup>57</sup>

**AUGUST–DECEMBER 1800**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Census

(p. 948 [actually 947])

John Mackey

James Mackey

John <b>Witherow</b>	1 male	26–45	1 female	16–25
	2 males	0–10	1 female	0–10
<b>James Witherow</b>	1 male	26–45	0 females	

John Harper

Thos. Shannan

Josh. Noble

John Snider

Thos. Melone

<b>Chris<sup>t</sup> Wither</b>	1 male	26–45	1 female	26–45
	1 male	10–16	1 female	0–10
	2 males	0–10		

(p. 947 [actually 948])

<b>John Wither</b>	1 male	45+	[John]	1 female	45+ [Catharine]
	3 males	16–26	[Abr, Sam’l]	1 female	10–16
	2 males	10–16			
	2 males	0–10			

Hanah Elder

	1 female	45+	
2 males	16–26	1 female	10–16
1 male	10–16		

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<sup>57</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 5:28

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

<b>Peter Wither</b>	1 males	26–45 [Peter]	1 female	26–45 [Catharine]
Johana [John] Elliott	1 male	26–45	1 female	26–45
	1 male	16–26	1 female	10–16
	1 male	10–16	1 female	0–10

Archd. Elliott  
 Robt. McConnell  
 Catharine McQuin  
 Owin Kelly  
 Peter Noah  
 Mathew Boswell  
 Henry Cunningham

<b>Saml. Withrow</b>	1 male	45+	1 female	26–45
	3 males	0–10	3 females	10–16
			1 female	0–10 <sup>58</sup>

**COMMENT:**

A marginal note on John’s page states “This is part of Metal Township. It belongs between pages 932 and 933.”

A marginal note on Christoffel’s page reads “This is part of Metal Township. It belongs between pages 932 and 933.” Christoffel’s page is numbered 948 while John’s page is numbered 947. The order of those pages seem to be reversed. Christoffel and John should be adjacent, with Christoffel at the end of 947 and John at the start of 948. Otherwise, John’s “before” neighbors do not match his land. As noted in the 1800 deeds, John bought Noble land in 1800 and in 1802 bought more Noble land owned by James Withrow (6 houses above Christoffel).

Note in 1800 above that John is 12 houses from Samuel Withrow. On the 1810 census, after the 1810 sale by John and Catherine of what seems to be all their land, John is again enumerated just several houses from **Samuel Withrow**.

The household composition of this Christoffel Witter matches that of the “Christopher” Witter of Greencastle, Antrim Township, Franklin Co., who left a will probated in 1807, in which he named three sons and one married daughter.<sup>59</sup> However, the above “Chris” is enumerated in Metal Township (Northwest Franklin Co.) rather than Antrim (Southeast Franklin Co.).

**Hannah Elder:**

The presence of this single (likely widowed) woman with a young family, between John Wither and Peter Wither, suggests that she is part of their family. Widows of that era did tend to settle

<sup>58</sup> 1800 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., p. 48 (top left), 947 (right toward bottom), 326, extreme right bottom; John Wither is line 1 on page; erroneously reassembled with Fannet Township. Ancestry’s database for this census year presents Peter and John’s surname as “Mither” and Samuel Withrow as “Mithrow.”

<sup>59</sup> Virginia Shannon Fendrick, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, c.1944), 224.

near family members for support. In 1810, although he is in a different township, John Witter is just 4 houses from one **James Elder**.

***Walker & Ashbridge***

The 1800 deed for 165 acres identifies Robert Walker as adjacent landowner. Walker in 1800 is enumerated in Hamilton Township (p. 849, penned, lower right). I have not found on this census the adjacent landowner William Ashbridge.

**6 MAY 1802**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land exchange

**James Withrow** of Metal Township to **John Witter** and **Catrine Witter his wife** of the same place. Sale for 60£, land in Metal Township described as

Beginning at a Spanish oak  
then S40° E 53p to a white oak  
then along land of **Withrow** S 46° W 21p to a black oak  
then along land of **Withrow** S61.5° W 24p to a black oak (formerly **Morrison's**)  
then N61° W 30p to a white oak corner  
then along land of **John Witter** N28° E 58p to beginning

Total: 12 acres & 80 perches, being a tract of land surveyed to **William Ashbridge** by application dated 27 December 1768 (No. 5306) and conveyed by him and his heirs to **John Witherow** and **John Noble** and conveyed by Noble to Jno. Withrerow who conveyed to **James Witherow**.

Witnesses: John M. Allen, Edward Connell.

**6 MAY 1802**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land exchange

**John Witter (s/ Johannis Wittar)** and **Catrin Witter (x) his wife** of Mettal Township to **James Witherow** of same, sale for 60£, a tract of land described as

Beginning at a hickory saplin[g] at or near the Conocheague Creek [Conococheague]  
then N28° 39.5p along lands of **James Witherow** to a post  
then S 83.5° W 36p to a hickory on the Conochogaeue Creek by lands of **John Witter**  
then down sd. Creek S 29° E 35.5p to the beginning

4 acres & 58 perches, being part of a tract formerly belonging to John Clark, conveyed by him to John Noble Sr. & then conveyed by him to John Witter.

Witnesses: Edward Connell; John McAllen

Acknowledged 29 September 1802.

**COMMENT:**

The Witherows should be thoroughly studied as potential family of Catherine. Numerous Witherows appear among my autosomal matches at FTDNA and cannot be placed elsewhere into my tree.

The pair of documents below introduces another potential in-law.

**2 APRIL 1811**

**BEDFORD CUNTY, PA**

Probate Record

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Letters of administration granted to **Jacob Whitmer** on estate of **Abraham Witter, decd.** Bond for \$600, with **Jacob Fore** and **George Brown** as sureties.<sup>60</sup>

**6 AUGUST 1811**  
**BEDFORD COUNTY, PA**

Probate Record

**Jacob Whitmer**, admr. of goods of **Abraham Witter decd.**, filed account of administration. Balance in his hands of \$706.55 ½. Proceedings continued until 9 August 188, at which time, Whitmer was ordered to distribute proceeds “according to law.”<sup>61</sup>

This Orphan’s Court record does not identify heirs, nor does it mention minors, suggesting that he had no minors and possibly no heirs in the region. The deceased Abraham Witter has not been identified. Considering possible identities:

- He is not the Abraham born about 1786, son of John and brother of Samuel. This Abraham should be explored as a possible sibling of John or, more remotely, his father.
- Agewise, he should not be the Revolutionary War soldier Abraham of Lancaster who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3d regiment, along with a **George, John and Christopher Witter/Widdow**. In a bounty land application filed in 1821 by his brother **Isaac Widdow**, Abraham is said by Isaac to have reenlisted “a few years after the war ... under Capt. Sigler who was formerly his Lieutenant and ... was killed, as this deponent was informed, on the Wabash River.” Isaac identified himself as “the only surviving legitimate heir” of Abraham. An Abraham who died about 1811, if he were a veteran of the Revolution, would *seem* too old to still be on active duty. Isaac at that time was living in Washington Co., Md. *However*, as proof of his relationship to Abraham and proof of Abraham’s service, he acquired depositions by two men living then in Franklin Co., Pa.: **John Small** and **Isaac Miller**, the latter of whom said he served with Abraham under Capt. Doyle.<sup>62</sup>

The possibility is strong that Whitmer is married into the Witter family, given his administration of the estate—or the Witters have married into the Whitmers.

Abraham Witter of Franklin is said (by his obituary) to have moved to Bedford in 1812; by 1838–40, the brothers Samuel and Abraham Witter were both Bedford residents.

**31 AUGUST 1803**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land exchange

**John Witter** (s/ Johannes Widdar) of Mettle Township and **wife Catharine** (x) to **Peter Witter** of same, in consideration and in Exchange of 2 certain tracts of land, John Witter and wife do convey to Peter Witter 2 tracts of land described as

Beginning at a black oak on a corner and

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<sup>60</sup> Bedford Co., Pa., Orphans Court Docket 2: 182.

<sup>61</sup> Bedford Co., Pa., Orphan’s Court Docket 2: 237.

<sup>62</sup> Abraham Widdows bounty-land file (Pvt., Penn. Line, RW), claimed by Isaac Widdows; imaged in “Revolutionary War Pensions,” database, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/246/28462772> : accessed 18 April 2018), also images 28462779, 28462782, 28462798, and 28462802.



**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

run with other land of said **John Witter** N 7.5° E 2p to a corner stone  
then S64° E 6p to a stone  
then S7.5° W 2p to a black oak  
then by other land of said **Peter Witter** N64° W 6p to beginning

also

Begin at a post &  
run with other lands of **Peter Witter** N 65° W 15p to a post,  
then by lands of **John Witter** S32° W 32p to a post  
then 65° E 25p to a post  
then N 6° E 32p to a post & beginning

4 acres & 10 perches

Land was sold by John Noble & wife Agnes [no date]

Witnesses: **R. Childerstone; William Wilson** (x)

Proved by R. Childerstone, J.P.<sup>63</sup>

**31 AUGUST 1803**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land exchange

**Peter Witter** (German signature) of Metal Township and **wife Catharine** to **John Witter** of same. In exchange for two tracts of land conveyed by John and bearing same date, Peter and wife conveys the following:

Begin at a stone, a corner  
then running with land of **John Witter**, S 81° E 2p across the spring to a stone  
then with other land of **Peter** 8° W 6p to a stone  
then with same N 81° W 2p to a stone  
then with same S8° W 6p to beginning

Total: 6 perches, including a small spring

Also: begin at a post and

run with lands of **John Witter** N 63.5° W 20p to a walnut  
then by other land of **Peter** N 40° E 54p to an Elm  
then by **John Elliott's** land S 55° E 30p to an elm  
then by land of **Peter Witter** 56.75° W 36p to a white oak  
then 40.5° W 20p to a post & beginning.

Total: 7 acres, 2 perches, except for 2 perches for a road in the second tract. **Patrick Davis & wife Martha** sold the land to **Peter Witter** on **9 April 1791**, recorded in Book D: 330.

Witnesses: R. Childerstone; William Wilson.

Proved same day by Childerstone.<sup>64</sup>

**27 MAY 1806**

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<sup>63</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 6:173

<sup>64</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 6:118.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land purchase

Johnson Eteidt of Peters Township to **John Witter**, sale for \$40, lot 15 in Town of Loudon, described as  
Beginning at corner of Lot 14 on Main Street  
Then E 50' to an ally of 10'  
then S along ally 200'  
then W 50' to corner of Lot 14  
then N 200' to beginning

Witnesses: James Johnston; James Buchanan.

COMMENT:

Some rents (specified) are being credited. I did not have time to copy all detail before closing.

This is a younger John Witter. In 1810 (see below, under that date) he is enumerated in Peters Township, where Loudon is located. He is of age to be an older (possibly oldest) son of John of Tom's Creek Hundred.

**9 APRIL 1810**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, PA**

Land sale

**John Witter (s/ Johannis Widdar**, in German script) and **Catrin (x) his wife** to **James Withrow** for \$60, sale of land in Metal Township described as

Beginning at a Spanish oak  
then by lands of James Withrow N 27.75 ° E 37p to a black oak marked as a corner  
then N65 ° W 10p to a post as a corner  
then S27.75 ° W 42p to a post  
then N 83.5 ° E 11.75p to beginning

being 10 acres & 75 perches, part of a larger tract granted by proprietors to John Clark and from Clark to John Noble and by Noble and wife Agness to Witter on 24 April 1800.<sup>65</sup>

Witnesses: Arch<sup>d</sup> S. McCune; John E. **Childerstone**

Proved 13 April 1810 by Archibald S. McCune, Esq., J.P. who states that “Katrine” is of full age.

**18 APRIL 1810**

**FRANKLIN CO. PA**

Land Sale

**John Witter (s/ Johannis Widder**, in German script) and **Catrin (x) his wife of Mettal Twp** to **William Pott** of Peters Township for \$4,800. Sale of land in Mettal township described as

Beginning at a stone on **Clapsaddle's** lands,  
then S 28° [sic] W 102 perches to a white oke | *Said to be 26° in Noble deed*  
Then S 78° W 22 [sic] p to a Post | *Said to be W 75 in the Noble deed*  
Then S 3° W 48p to a post  
then S 35° W 40 p to a post

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<sup>65</sup> Franklin Co., Deed Book R E:28.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

then S22° E 56.25p to a post  
then S 63° E 23p to a hickery | *all calls up to this point are in the Noble deed*  
then N 88° W 39p to a stump  
then N 75° W 16p to a stump  
then S 37° E 129p to a dogwood  
then N 43° E 152p to a Gum  
then N 52° W 18p to a chestnut  
then W14p to a chestnut  
then N 43° W 54p to a white oke  
then N 40° W 53 to a Spanish oke  
then N 27.33° E 55p to a hickery  
then N 29° W 35p to a hickery | *on Conochogeague Creek*  
then N 83.5° W 34p to a post | *according to Deed Book 5:429*  
then N 27.33° E 42p to a post  
then 65° W 27p to a post  
then S 26.5° W 32p to a post  
then N65.33° W 24p to a hickery  
then N 16° W 2p to a hickory  
then N 23° E 34p to a post  
then N 40.5° E 20p to post |  
then N 56.33° E 36p to an elm | *these 4 calls match the Peter-to-John deed of 1803*  
then N 55° W 30p to a Elm | *but are written in reverse.*  
then S 40° W 54p to a chestnut |  
then N 65° W 5p to a post  
then N 8° E 6p to a post |  
then N 81° W 2p to a post | *these 3 calls match the Peter-to-John deed of 1803*  
then S 8° W 6p to a post |  
then N 65° W 12p to a post  
then S 27° E 2p to a post  
then N 64° W no? perches to a post  
then N 27° W 2 perches to a post  
then N 65° W 8.25 perches to the beginning

being 278 acres and 131 perches, with an allowance of 6 acres per hundred for roads.

Witnesses: Archi<sup>d</sup> S. McCune & James Kyle

Proved 18 April 1810 by Arch<sup>d</sup> S McCune<sup>66</sup>

COMMENT:

John & Catrin is also said to have acquired this land as follows:

John Noble & Agnes his wife to Witter	24 April 1800	Bk E:28
James Withrow to Witter	6 May 1802	Bk E:3808
Peter Witter & Catrin his wife to Witter	31 Aug 1803	Bk F:118

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<sup>66</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., nDeed Book 9:35.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

James Withrow & Jennet his wife to Witter	9 Apr 1800	“not yet recorded”
William Morrison to Witter	17 Apr 1810	“not yet recorded”

The deed is for 178a 131p. John’s recorded purchases and sales at this point have him holding just 166 acres (less 3 perches). The unrecorded purchases of 1800 and 1810, from Withrow and Morrison, would seem to make up the difference. Because these deeds are unrecorded and we do not know the acreage, we cannot determine whether John has hereby disposed of all his land or whether he still has land to farm in Metal Township. In the census taken late this year, he is a resident of Hamilton Township.

Note **Clapsaddle** as adjoining neighbor. On 23 February 1805, Peter Witter and wife Catharine of Metal Township sold three tracts of Metal land to Michael Clapsaddle and John Clapsaddle of Peters Township. Two of these were said to adjoin “John Witter.” One of them was a 4 acre, 10 perches “moiety” of a tract (i.e., half or part) which had been purchased by Peter in 1791 and sold by John to Peter, in an exchange of land, on 31 August 1803 and recorded at Bk F: 173.

The two adjacent Witters, John and Peter, are surely kin. Their census ages suggest that they are more likely father and son.

Peter, in a 1798 deed to **Michael Swagart** (Bk 6:176) also sold land in Peters Township that had been granted 2 August 1766 to John Irwin of “Peters Township, then Cumberland County, now Franklin.” Peter had purchased the tract on 17 April 1792.

Michael Swagart was Peter’s brother-in-law. Swagart married Mary, daughter of John Ober. Peter Witter married Catherine, another daughter of Ober. Other Ober heirs were Fanny who married Henry Cryder; Christian Ober of Dauphin Co., PA; Jacob Ober; Henry Ober; Barbara Ober married to Henry Christman; and Elizabeth married to John Flickinger.<sup>67</sup>

## 1810

### FRANKLIN CO. PA

#### Census

Samuel Witter does not appear in the county as a head-of household. No Witters are enumerated in Metal Township, although the county deed records place all their land there. The John Witter household, formerly of Metal Township, appears on the list for Hamilton Township, which lay six or so miles away but was not adjacent.<sup>68</sup> (A pegleg of Letterkenny Township separates Metal and Hamilton. The inherited land that Samuel and wife sold in 1839 lay in Letterkenny but was on Conodoconet Creek, some distance to the north.)<sup>69</sup>

### Hamilton Township

p. 148 (also 897½)

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<sup>67</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 6:176–78.

<sup>68</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., Hamilton Township, pp. 147–48, especially 148 (the latter is also numbered 897½), line 1. For the identity of Johannis Witter’s wife as “Catherine,” see Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Books 5:380 (1802), 5:429 (1802), 6:173 (1803); 9:35 (1810), 221 (1810).

<sup>69</sup> Franklin Co., Pa., Deed Book 18: 155.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

<b>Witter, John</b>	1 male	45+	[John]	1 female	45+	[Catherine]
	3 males	16–25	[Sam?, Abr?, and ____?]	1 female	16–25	

**Neighborhood:**

[*Last name in col. 1 adjoins first name in col. 2*]

Snyder, Adam	Elliot, Joanna [1800 neighbor]
Snyder, John [1800 neighbor]	Widney, Margaret
Malone, Thomas	Philips, Samuel
<b>Hoe, Christian</b>	Elliot, Archibald [1800 neighbor]
Campbell, Thomas	Woods, William
Elder, James [1800 neighbors]	Woods, Hugh
Gettis, Paul	Larman, John
McKelvy, William	McConnell, Francis
Verner, John	McConnell, Joseph [Robt. McC was 1800 n’bor]
Armstrong, William	Harvey, James
<b>Witter, John</b>	McEntire, Samuel
Belche, Sarah [female 16-25, living alone]	McCune, Archibald
Wilhelms, Jacob	<b>Withrow, Samuel</b> [1800 neighbor]

**COMMENT:**

Note **Christian Hoe** and **James Elder**, who were four to six households above John. In 1806 **Christian Hoe** of Hamilton Township bought the Metal Township land of Christoffel Witter—land said to adjoin a creek and Robert **Elders**, previously owned by Thomas and David Armstrong.

The presence of **Sarah Belche** adjacent to John presents the possibility of another daughter. It would have been highly irregular for a female 16–25 to live alone in this society. A daughter, married and then widowed, might return home. Some enumerators arbitrarily split households, when there were widows or other grown individuals of a different surname. (They were paid by the household, not the number of names.) While it’s also possible that Sarah could belong to the Wilhelms family on the other side of her, this seems less probable since she is named *before* the Wilhelms.

**Two other Witters** appear elsewhere in the county. Neither have households that could contain both Samuel and Abraham. Both are of age to be older sons of John:

- *Peters Township: John*, 26–44, female 16–25, 2 children 0–10, extra male 16–25. (This should be the John who bought Lot 15 in the town of Loudoun in 1806.
- *Antrim Township: Jacob*, 26–44, female 16–25, male 10–15, female 0–10, Antrim Township. (Note, that one Jacob Witter is also said to be a son of a Christopher Witter (“Weiter”) who will was probated 1807 in Greencastle naming “Jacob, Michael, and George” as his (only) three sons.<sup>70</sup>)

**1812–1815**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**

<sup>70</sup> Virginia Shannon Fendrick, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, c.1944), 224.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Militia service?

The statewide index to militiamen serving in the War of 1812 does not include any person surnamed Witter or any logical variant spelling.<sup>71</sup>

COMMENT:

Considering the possibility that this derivative source might have mistranscribed the surname, I 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 yielded no Samuel or Abraham whose associates were clustered in Franklin and Bedford Counties.

It is likely that Samuel did not serve. Christoffel Witter, 1800 neighbor, was an ardent Dunkard (and a founder of the Dunkard community in Union County, Indiana). This sect, like Quakers, opposed military service.<sup>72</sup> According to an Illinois descendant of Samuel who kept family records: “In religion, the family was like Quakers.” This characterization suggests that Samuel also adhered to the Dunkard creed.<sup>73</sup>

**5 SEPTEMBER 1812–JANUARY 1813**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Militia service?

One Samuel “Weidner”—identity unproved—appears among the Franklin County Light Dragoons under Colonel Jared Irwin, Capt. Andrew Oakes, and Lt. Thomas Wilson. According to an 1887 history of Franklin:<sup>74</sup>

“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

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<sup>71</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 & Museum Commission* (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r2-61War1812Index/r2-61%20WarOf1812Interface.htm> : accessed 7 Jan. 2012).

<sup>72</sup> Rev. Merle C. Rummel, *The Virginia Settlement or the Four Mile Church of Brethren* (<http://www.unioncounty.lib.in.us/GenwebVA4mile/> : accessed 8 Jan. 1812), part VI, “The Dunkers.”

<sup>73</sup> Chloe Bowen Stacey (Mrs. J. O. Stacey) of Olney, Ill., to Elizabeth Shown Mills, undated letter c.1970. Mrs. Stacey was the granddaughter of Benjamin’s daughter Melissa Witter Coffman (Mrs. Amzi Coffman).

<sup>74</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.usgwarchives.net/pa/franklin/history/local/wbeers008.txt> : accessed 8 January 2012); the above punctuation and surname 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, Pa.: Patriot Publishing Co., 1878), 147–48.



**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

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 in the online transcript:

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
	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	

**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, although one Margaret *Widney* appears on the 1810 census four households from John Witter. (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 I searched.) As shown early in this set of research notes, *Weidener* was one of

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
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- the variant spellings of the surname subsequently found in state-level land records for Jacob Witter.<sup>75</sup>
- “Widnor” is also 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 moved from Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, to 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>76</sup>
  - A search of the 1810 and 1820 censuses of Franklin, for all members of Capt. Andrew Oakes’s company, places nearly half of them (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 Samuel Witter appears in 1820 and John Witter had owned land since 1800.
  - In January 1813 (as noted above) Samuel and Daniel “Weidner” were discharged at Buffalo. No further trace of a Samuel or Daniel “Weidner” has been found in Franklin County or elsewhere in Western Pennsylvania.
  - At this point, the evidence suggests that Daniel and Samuel “Weidner” were not Witters/Widdows.
  - Considering the absence of Samuel Witter/Widder from other Franklin County records during this 1813–20 period some researchers assume he is the Samuel Witter—a millwright from Pennsylvania, as was our Samuel—who enlisted 4 April 1814 in the 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Regiment in Kentucky. However, the Kentucky volunteer, who saw action in the Niagara Campaign, was a different Samuel.<sup>77</sup>

**FEBRUARY–MARCH 1814**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**

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<sup>75</sup> See 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; imaged at *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission* ([http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17/PatentIndexes/r17154PatIndP1Inter face.htm](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17/PatentIndexes/r17154PatIndP1Inter%20face.htm) : accessed 8 Jan. 2012). Also Franklin Co. Land Warrant Register, p. 54, Warrant Registers, 1733–1957, Series 17.88; Record Group 17, *ibid*.

<sup>76</sup> Virginia Shannon Fendrick, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, ca. 1944), 224.

<sup>77</sup> For the identification of Samuel Witter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry, War of 1812, see my following research reports, all archived at E. S. Mills, *Historic Pathways* (<https://www.historicpathways.com>) under the “Research” tab.

- “Samuel Witter, 17th U.S. Infantry, War of 1812, Enlistment Record: An Analysis,” report, 15 Dec. 2011.
- “Samuel Witter (1787–1876) and the War of 1812,” report, 15 January 2012 (updated 17 Oct. 2017).
- “Samuel Witter’s Fellow Soldiers, Lt. Benjamin W. Sanders’s Co., 17<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry, War of 1812,” report, 20 Feb. 2012 (updated 17 Oct. 2017).
- “Samuel Witter’s Arkansas Bounty Land, War of 1812,” report, 11 Oct. 2013.
- “Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Logan County, Kentucky, Research,” report, 23 Nov. 2017.
- “Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Breckinridge County, Kentucky, Research,” report, 23 Nov. 2017.
- “Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Grayson County, Kentucky, Research,” report, 23 Nov. 2017.
- “Samuel Witter, War of 1812: Ohio County, Kentucky, Research,” report, 23 Nov. 2017.
- “Samuel Witter (1784?–1849?) & Wives Rebecca Crask (1794?–1826?) and Synthianna [–?–]: Research Notes,” a work-in-progress last updated 27 Nov. 2017.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
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Militia service?

The 1887 history of Franklin County presents no further War of 1812 action for Franklin County units until **early 1814**, when Pennsylvania’s governor “ordered a draft upon the State for troops.” The narrative continues this way:

“Franklin, Cumberland, York and Adams Counties’ quota under the call was 1,000 men, **the men from this county to assemble in Loudon on the 1st of March**. CAPTAIN SAMUEL DUNN, of Path Valley, had a company of forty men. These at once volunteered. The balance of the county's quota was 175 men. CAPTAIN SAMUEL GORDON's full company from Washington, and **CAPTAIN STAKE's partial company from Lurgan, rendezvoused at Loudon**. **WILLIAM McCLELLAN in command, who took them to Erie, leaving Loudon March 4**. MAJOR McCLELLAN's official report says the command, 221 privates, was officered by one major, three captains, five lieutenants and two ensigns. **At Erie, they were put in the Fifth Regiment**, commanded by COLONEL JAMES FELTON; JAMES WOOD, of Greencastle, was major; THOMAS POE, of Antrim, adjutant. The latter was a brave and gallant soldier. He was a man born to command. It is told of him that by the mere power of his presence he quelled an outbreak of his men in camp, and by a word forced them to go quietly to their quarters. He fell mortally wounded at the battle of Chippewa, July 6, 1814.

**“CAPTAIN JACOB STAKE lived between Roxbury and Strasburg**. DR. W.C. LANE says of his command: ‘He went as a captain of drafted men as far as Erie, at which place his company was merged into those of CAPTAINS DUNN and GORDON].’<sup>78</sup>

COMMENT:

No Witter or similar name appears on the 1814 list, although Abraham Witter’s obituary states that he fought in the **Defense of Baltimore**—the famed conflict of 12–15 September 1814 that led Francis Scott Key to pen the poem that became America’s national anthem. The “Loudon” referenced above was the now-historic Fort Loudoun in Franklin County.

**Re Capt. Jacob Stake:** He and most of the Stake/Stech family in 1820 and 1830 resided in of Letterkenny Township, where Samuel Witter and wife Rachel co-owned property in 1839. In 1830, at which time Samuel and Abraham Witter lived 5 houses apart in Fannett Township, one of the Stech brothers was enumerated *adjacent* to Abraham and 4 houses from Samuel.

**CA. 1819–20**

**FRANKLIN? CO. PA**

Marriage

No marriage record has been found for Samuel and Rachel. Pennsylvania at that time did not require marriages to be recorded. *Presuming* that the couple married prior to the birth of the eldest known child (Benjamin, see below under 12 August 1820), then their marriage likely occurred in 1819.

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<sup>78</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.usgwarchives.net/pa/franklin/history/local/wbeers008.txt> : accessed 8 January 2012); the punctuation and surname capitalization, above, follows the formatting of the online transcription.

**CA. 1819–20**  
**FRANKLIN? CO. PA**

Analysis

**Rachel’s identity** remains unsettled. Direct evidence exists but its information is secondhand, contradictory, and recorded long after the fact. Significant indirect evidence seems to contradict the direct evidence. No hypothesis can be considered a valid conclusion until and unless it withstands the first criteria of the Genealogical Proof Standard: reasonably exhaustive research. That criteria has not yet been met.

The evidence for Rachel’s identity (for which details and documentation are presented in chronological sequence within this set of research notes) could be summarized as follows:

1. All known records created during her lifetime cite her only as Rachel or Rachael Witter.
2. No known document created in her lifetime assigns her a maiden surname.
3. She and Samuel, jointly with William Timmons and wife Anna Maria, sold a tract of land in Franklin County, Letterkenny Township (see abstract under 8 April 1839)—land for which there is no purchase deed, warrant, or patent in their names, jointly or severally. The implication is that the two couples are heirs to inherited land. One of four possible kinships would typically exist here:
  - Anna Maria was née Witter and a sister of Samuel Witter.
  - Rachel was a sister of William Timmons.
  - Rachel was a sister of Anna Maria.
  - William Timmons was a half-brother of Samuel Witter.
4. Anna Maria (aka “Tillie”) was née “**Rayfsnyder**” according to the death certificate of her youngest son, Henry “Harry” Clay Timmons.<sup>79</sup>
5. A separate line of descendants—one that seems to have not yet connected itself to the Henry Clay Timmons line in any online genealogy or “tree,” identifies Anna Maria’s maiden name as “Reifsnider” or “Reifsmider,” but provides no evidence. This identification traces back to an early LDS effort, also undocumented.<sup>80</sup> *Refsnyder, Reafsnyder, Reifsnider, Reifsmider*, and other variant spellings appear in numerous records of Letterkenny Township. All clearly refer to the same core family.
6. Twentieth-century death certificates for Rachel’s two youngest children identify her surname as “**Smith**.” When her youngest son John died in 1930, the informant (“Mrs. G. T. Roth, Judsonia, Arkansas,” John’s great-neice) stated that John was the son of Samuel Witter and “**Lizzie Smith**” and that both parents had been born in Pennsylvania. When Rachel’s youngest daughter Margaret died in 1933, the informant (identity not yet known) identified Margaret’s mother as “**Rachel Smith**.”

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<sup>79</sup> “Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916–1947,” *Ancestry.com*, for “Harry Clay Timmons,” who died 6 March 1925.

<sup>80</sup> *Pedigree Resource File*, CD 129, “William Ward Timmons,” Pin 948263; “Anna Maria Reifsmider,” Pin 948264 (Provo, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah (now FamilySearch), n.d.)

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

7. No other known document calls Rachel “Lizzie.” It is possible that Mrs. Roth (née Anna F. Witter, daughter of James, granddaughter of Benjamin, and great-granddaughter of Samuel and Rachel), was simply confused. She was born several decades after the death of Rachel and was taken to Arkansas as a child by her parents. “Elizabeth” was a family name—the name of Samuel and Rachel’s eldest daughter (Mrs. Roth’s great-aunt), Elizabeth Witter Jones. At Mrs. Roth’s birth, Elizabeth Jones was still alive and living in the Illinois community in which Mrs. Roth was born. Possibly, when asked for the name of John’s mother, she recalled the aged aunt. On the other hand, John died in a home he shared with an older sister Margaret, who could have been Mrs. Roth’s informant; as Rachel’s daughter, Margaret would be expected to identify her mother correctly. In that case, one might hypothesize that Rachel carried a double name *Rachel Elizabeth* and was called “Lizzie” within the family.

(As an aside: this illogical attribution of the nickname “Lizzie” to a woman named Rachel is echoed among the offspring of Anna Maria Timmons. While all records found to date for Anna Maria call her “Anna” or “Anna Maria,” the 1925 death certificate of her son—informant not identified—calls her “Tillie,” which is not a standard nickname for either Anna or Maria.)

The name *Elizabeth* was passed on by both Rachel and Anna Maria. Rachel gave the name to her first-born daughter; Anna Maria gave that name to her first known daughter. See Timmons notes under date of 8 April 1839, below.)

8. My line-by-line, page-by-page study of all surviving Smith/Schmidt records in the Franklin and Bedford County courthouses has yielded no evidence of a Witter connection. The strongest evidence of Rachel’s identity is the deed of sale executed jointly with the Timmons.
9. The Harry Clay Timmons death certificate, which identified his mother as Tillie Rayfsnyder, also asserts that his mother was born in Germany. This data parallels the 1820 census data for the Samuel Witter household which reports one individual in the family of foreign birth, but does not identify *which* household member. (In addition to Samuel and Rachel, there was a male 18–26 and a female 10–16.) The 1850 census data, however, assigns a Pennsylvania birthplace to both Rachel and Anna Maria, setting Rachel Witter’s birth at ca. 1801–2 and Anna Maria Timmons’ birth at ca. 1804–5.
10. Research on the Reifschneiders has yet to yield any evidence—direct or indirect—to identify Rachel or place Anna Maria into a birth family.
11. Research on the Timmonses has not yielded direct evidence for the birth family of William Timmons. It does reveal several female-headed households of the appropriate time period that might include William and Rachel. While a number of online trees exist for William and Anna Maria, none offer clues to his parentage.
12. Autosomal DNA tests, over the past eight years, have not yielded any matches to others who claim Reifschneider or Timmons ancestry.
13. Autosomal DNA tests *do* yield matches to individuals claiming descent from the merchant **John Shyock (Shyock)** who lived adjacent to Rachel and Samuel in 1830—a man of Rachel’s generation, not old enough to be her father. Preliminary work on the Shyocks several parallels:
- John Shyock was allegedly born in Frederick County, Maryland, in the same period in which Samuel Witter’s proposed parents lived there.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
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- A Benjamin Shyock appears on the Franklin County tax roll 1821, just months after Rachel and Samuel named their first son Benjamin. However, the fact that Samuel also seems to have had a brother Benjamin suggests that a Shyock relationship might be through his mother Catherine, who married John Witter in Frederick Co., Md., where Shyocks then lived.
- An earlier Benjamin Syock was enumerated 1790 in **Hopewell Township of Cumberland County** (Franklin’s mother county), with 2 males under 21 and 3 females—6 households from one John Morrison and 26 from one John Clark.<sup>81</sup> The evidence is suggestive because
  - The first land purchase John Witter made in Franklin (1800) was land patented by one John Clark.
  - One James Morrison was a 1783 associate of John in Frederick County and in 1810 John bought land from one William Morrison.
  - **Hopewell Township of Cumberland Co. lies just across the county line from Amberson’s Valley, where Abraham Witter’s father (ostensibly John) settled when he came to Franklin.** (See the map at fig. 1.)
- On 26 March 1794, Benjamin *von* Scyoc received a warrant for “an improvment joining the land of **[Adam] Piper**, Peter Marshall, Thomas **Timmons** and John **Timmons** in Fannet Township of Franklin Co. (Amberson Valley).<sup>82</sup>

TO DO:

- Complete *thorough* research in all **Reifsnnyder/ Reifsmyder** and **Timmons** records available for Franklin County—and all records created by their associates and neighbors.
- Conduct thorough research on the **Shyocks** of Franklin, Cumberland, and Frederick.
- Investigate whether county lines and township lines had small alterations within Franklin, Cumberland, and Bedford in the 1790–1840 period.

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<sup>81</sup> Cumberland Co., Pa., p. 22 (verso), line 17. This appears to be the Revolutionary War soldier Benjamin Schyock of “Pennsylvania, Revolutionary War Battalions and Militia Index, 1775–1783,” database with images (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 April 2017), card reading “Schyock, Benjamin / Quarter Master Sergeant / Associators and Militia / vol. 1, p. 714”; cited to “Revolutionary War Battalions and Militia Index Cards, Philadelphia ... Historical Society of Pennsylvania.”

Benjamin Syock/Shyock/Schyock has not been identified in the Cumberland or Franklin Cos. census of 1800. John and James Morrison, John Clark, and one Samuel Withrow (the name of a John Witter neighbor in Metal Township 1800 and Hamilton Township 1810) are all enumerated in close sequence in Lurgan Township, Franklin Co., in 1800. Lurgan adjoined both Fannett of Franklin and Hopewell of Cumberland. See fig. 1.

<sup>82</sup> See, for example, Franklin Co. Land Warrants, #3, 26 March 1794; FHL microfilm1028733. Warrant 59, issue to John Timmons on 2 May 1802, identifies Thomas Timmons as an adjacent landowner and places them in Amberson Valley.



Samuel Witter (1787–1876)  
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**Fig. 1.**  
**Witter Sites in Franklin, Bedford, and Cumberland Counties, Including**  
Amberson’s Valley in Franklin  
Fannett, Metal, Letterkenny, Jurgan, and Hamilton Townships of Franklin  
Hopewell Township of Cumberland  
Dublin Township of Bedford<sup>83</sup>



**1<sup>ST</sup> MONDAY, AUGUST 1820**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA.**

Census

**Metal Township.** Returns for this year consist of several different lists, each semi-alphabetized by first letter of surname. *John and Samuel are listed adjacent at the end of 11 “W” entries for Metal Township.*<sup>84</sup>

<sup>83</sup> Unidentified map imaged in *U.S. GenWeb Archives* (<http://usgwarchives.net/maps/pa/county/frankl/frankln2.jpg> : accessed 12 Jan. 2010).

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**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

(p. 386; adjacent households)

<b>Witter, John</b>	1 male	45+	[John]	1 female	26–45	[wife of Abraham?]
	1 male	26–45	[Abraham?]	1 female	10–16	
	2 males	18–26	[Benj.? Geo.?]	3 females	0–10	
	2 males	10–16				
	4 males	0–10				<i>3 engaged in manufactures</i>
<b>Witter, Samuel</b>	1 male	26–45	[Samuel]	1 female	16–26	[Rachel; no child yet born]
	1 male	18–26	[Timmons?]	1 female	10–16	[Rachel’s sister?]
						<i>1 foreigner, not naturalized</i> <i>No occupation shown</i>

**COMMENT:**

John and Samuel are the only households in Metal Township with a surname similar to *Witter*. The oldest female in John’s household should not be Catharine, who was already 45+ on the 1810 census (i.e., born before 1765). If Catherine’s oldest child, Abraham, was born 1786, then Catherine should have been born ca. 1772 or before. She could be no younger than 48. It is not likely, at that age, that she had 7 children born in the last 10 years.

The “foreigner not naturalized” in Samuel’s household should not be either Samuel or Rachel. Samuel would be a natural-born American. Rachel, if born elsewhere, would have been naturalized via “derivative citizenship” at her marriage to an American.<sup>85</sup> The age of the female 10–16 corresponds to that of Anna Maria Raifsnyder, who (extrapolating from children’s ages on the 1830 and 1840 censuses) did not marry William Timmons, a millwright like Samuel, until ca. 1823 or 1824. However, the age of the extra male in Samuel’s household also matches that of William Timmons. I should not rule out the possibility that the Timmonses may be the extra male and female in Samuel and Rachel’s home. It is also possible that the extra male in his home might be a hired hand or apprentice. Millrights needed labor to assist them.

Although John sold what may be the last of his land in Metal Township in April 1810 and is enumerated in Montgomery Township on the August 1810 census, he is now back in Metal. I found no more land purchases for him.

**12 AUGUST 1820**  
**FRANKLIN CO., PA**  
 Birth of child

**Benjamin Witter**, eldest son of Samuel and Rachel, was born 12 August 1820 and died 31 July 1872, according to family records held by his Lawrence County descendants in 1970.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., p. 86 (stamped), p. 386 (*sic*; penned), lines 18–19; Ancestry’s database misreads this name as “Wilton.”

<sup>85</sup> John J. Newman, *American Naturalization Processes and Procedures* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1985), 22.

<sup>86</sup> Witter Family Records, a loose sheet compiled from various unnamed Bibles; in possession (October 1970) of Chloe Bowen Stacey (Mrs. J. O. Stacey) of Olney, Ill., who was the granddaughter of Benjamin’s daughter Melissa Witter Coffman (Mrs. Amzi Coffman); 1970 typescript by Mrs. Stacey in possession of Elizabeth Shown Mills.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

**11 FEBRUARY 1823**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Birth of child

**Elizabeth Witter**, eldest daughter of Samuel and Rachel, born 11 February 1823 and died 30 August 1889, according to her obelisk in Brian Cemetery, Sumner, Illinois.<sup>87</sup>

**17 NOVEMBER 1825**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Birth of child

**William Witter** aka Witters, second son of Samuel and Rachel, born 17 November 1825 and died 27 June 1895 in Norris City, White County, Illinois.<sup>88</sup>

**1827–28 (1825-35)**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Birth of child

**Barbara Anna Witter**, second daughter of Samuel and Rachel, likely born ca. 1827–28, although census data provide a broader date range of 1825–30.<sup>89</sup>

**CA. 1830**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Birth of child.

A child should have been born in this gap between Barbara Anna (ca. 1827–28) and Catherine (1832). The 1830 census, abstracted below, reports an otherwise unidentified female child in this age bracket. She has not been identified. *If* she lived to adulthood, she likely married before 1850 and possibly stayed behind in Pennsylvania, considering that the Illinois family’s personal records have no trace of her.

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<sup>87</sup> *Find A Grave* ([http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSsr=41&GScid=104865&GRid=737\\_79155&](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSsr=41&GScid=104865&GRid=737_79155&) : accessed 1 January 2010), “Elizabeth Jones” obelisk, image at Elizabeth Witter Jones memorial page 73779155, Brian Cemetery, Sumner, Lawrence Co., Ill.; Carol Knoell, contributor. The marker does not name her parents; that identification comes from Witter Family Records.

<sup>88</sup> Witter Family Records.

<sup>89</sup> Much more work needs to be done on Barbara Anna. The Witter Family Record says only that she married “first a Fausin, then a Mathias” and was buried in Brian Cemetery. Census records, if identified correctly, show her to have married Isaac Mathias *first*, by whom she had at least three sons, Benjamin (b. ca. 1848, Pa.), Samuel (b. ca. 1849–50, Pa.) and William (b. ca. 1851, Pa.) before marrying James Vanfossen, with whom she is enumerated in 1870-80 in Lawrence Co. Ill. One “Anna” Mathias, aged 75, is called “mother” of the unmarried William on the 1900 census; “unk.” is given for Anna’s birth month and year, William’s birth year is incorrect, their home had no other occupants, and the informant is unknown. Brian Cemetery has one “Anna Mathias,” b. 22 May 1824; d. 27 May 1903.

See 1850 U.S. census, Huntingdon Co., Pa., pop. sch., Clay Township, p. 233, dwell. 91, fam. 91 (Isaac Mathias, 27; Ann 24; Benjamin F., 2; Samuel 1). also 1850 U.S. census, Butler Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Union Township, p. 294-B.; dwell. 129, fam. 130, James “Vanfossen,” with his first family. Also 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., town of Sumner, p. 1, dwell. 4, fam. 4 (James Vanfossen, 52; Ann Vanfossen, 35). Also 1880 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., Sumner-Christy township, p. 32, dwell. 109, fam. 109 (James Vanfossen, 62, Ann, 50, b. Pa., f & m b. Pa.), p. 38, dwell. 175, fam. 176 (Benjamin Mathias, 32, b. Pa.); and Dennison Township, p. 17, dwell. 155, fam. 158 (Samuon 27 Jel Mathias, 30, b. Pa.); and Christy Township, p. 2, dwell. 18, fam. 18 (William Mathias, 29, b. Pa.). Also 1900 U.S. cens., Christy Township, ED 110, sheet 15-B, dwell. 343, fam. 345 (William Mathias, b. Apr. 1848; Ann Mathias, 75). *Find A Grave* ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), memorial 33043793, Annie Mathias, May 22, 1824–May 27, 1903, contributed by Charlotte Eagleson Sechrest.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

**1830**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Census

Fannett Township. Unalphabetized.<sup>90</sup>

(p. 215, lines 1–11)

<b>Witter, Abraham</b>	1 male 40–50	[Abraham]	1 female 20–30	[wife née Catherine Piper]
	1 male 5–10		1 female 10–15	
	1 male 0–5		1 female 0–5	

**Stake, John [Stech]**

[*skip 5*]

<b>Wither, Sam<sup>l</sup></b>	1 male 20–30	[Samuel]	1 female 20–30	[Rachel]
	1 male 5–10	[Benj.]	1 female 5–10	[Elizabeth]
	1 male 0–5	[William]	3 females 0–5	[Ann, ]

<b>Skyock, John</b>	1 male 40–50		1 female 30–40	9 total
	1 male 10–15		2 females 15–20	
	2 males 0–5		1 female 5–10	
			1 female 0–5	

[*skip 2*]

<b>Piper, Daniel</b>	1 male 50–60	& family	[father of Abraham Witter’s wife & mother of Mary Witter]
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Neighborhood:

[*First page of Fannett Twp; the last name in col. 1 links to the first name in col. 2.*]

**Witter, Abraham** [m. Catherine Piper]

**Stake, John**

Hawney, John

Taylor, John

Stewart, Samuel

Stewart, George

**Wither, Samuel**

**Shyock, John**

Rain, John

**Piper, Daniel** [m. Mary Witter]

Fricker, Andrew

Shields, John

Shields, Thomas

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

Ray, Robert

**Piper, Robert**

Barnhart, Mary

Riddle, David

Fagan, Barnibus

Lathers, John

Barnhart, Daniel

Taylor, Caspor

Rollins, Leiah [*female*]

McGea, Adam

Stevenson, Thomas

**Piper, Adam**

[*End of page*]

<sup>90</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., Lurgent Township, p. 343, line 12.

COMMENTS:

**Abraham’s neighbors:**

Because Abraham is the first listing for Fannett District, his relative position amid neighbors is obscured. The fact that he is the first listing could indicate one of several things: (a) he lived along the township line, (b) he lived adjacent to the enumerator, who started from his own home; or (c) he was a townsperson and the enumerator started in town and worked his way out into the rural regions and back again.

The county’s return does not identify the census taker for most districts—including Fannett. Note, however, that the final page of many of the districts is filmed with the first page of the subsequent district. To reconstruct the districts in order, we must use the penned number in top left corner of even-numbered pages. (The stamped number in top right corner was added by the Census Bureau when the district returns were combined and bound in a register.) The district preceding Fannett, in the original numbering scheme, was Southampton. The individuals at the end of this district do not match known Witter neighbors.

**Piper:**

Daniel Piper’s daughter married Abraham Witter, according to Abraham’s obituary transcribed on page 2 of these notes. Daniel Piper’s wife was Mary Witter—ergo, she should not be a sister of Abraham and Samuel.

In 1850 in Illinois, Abraham Piper, son of Daniel, lived next door to William Witter, son of Samuel.<sup>91</sup>

**Shyock:**

See the prior discussion of possible Scyock, Schyock, Shyock kinship under the analysis of Rachel Witter’s identity at 1819–20

**John Stake (Stech):**

In 1840, John Stake’s widow **Barbara Stake** was enumerated next door to **William Timmons** in Letterkenny Township. (Note that Samuel and Rachel Witter named 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter **Barbara**. However, Barbara was also the name of Samuel’s aunt, wife of Peter Witter.) In 1839, **William** and **Anna Maria Timmons**, together with **Samuel** and **Rachel Witter**, sold a tract of land they co-owned in **Letterkenny Township** on Conodoquinet Creek. (See 8 April 1839, below.)

**Other Witters:**

**Letterkenny Township: Joseph Witter** (50–60), who lived with a female 50–60, a female 5–10, 1 female 0–5, and a male 0–10.<sup>92</sup>

This Joseph of Letterkenny was one age bracket older than Samuel, which could mean they were anywhere from one year to nineteen years apart in age. A Lutheran, Joseph had two daughters (by wife **Sarah**) baptized on the same day in the **Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church** at Pleasant

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<sup>91</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., p. 1 verso, dwellings 14–15, families 14–15.

<sup>92</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., p. 286, line 22.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Hall, Franklin Co.: **Catharine**, b. 15 Dec. 1822, and **Mary** b. [illegible] 1826, both baptized 27 August 1827 (Salem Register, 1790–1896, p. 52).

**MAY 1832**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Birth of child

**Catherine Witter**, daughter of Samuel and Rachel, was born in May 1832, according to 1900 census.<sup>93</sup>

COMMENT:

No Civil War pension file has been found for John or Catherine Melrose.

**CA. 1834**

**FRANKLIN CO. PA**

Birth of child

**Martha “Nancy” Witter** was born in 1834, in Pennsylvania, as daughter of “Samuel Witter” and “Rachel Smith,” according to the Witter Family Record.<sup>94</sup>

COMMENT:

“Nancy” is typically a nickname for Ann. This Nancy had an older sister Barbara Anna, who was actually called Ann or Anna by multiple censuses and her tombstone.

**10 SEPTEMBER 1836**

**FRANKLIN? CO. PA**

Birth of child

**Margaret Ellen “Maggie” Witter** was born 10 September 1836, in Pennsylvania, as daughter of “Samuel Witter” and “Rachel Smith,” according to her death certificate dated 20 November 1933.<sup>95</sup>

**1838 [Late]**

**Bedford Co., PA**

Tax roll

Bedford Township. Semialphabetized list. No exact date. If the tax roll adhered to the practice that was followed in Bedford in years for which dates are found, it would have been compiled in late 1838 and certified about the first of 1839.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Richland Co., Ill., Claremont, ED 119, sheet 16-A, dwell. 40, fam. 41 (Catharine Melrose). For her Richland Co. marriage to John Melrose on 23 April 1854, see “Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763–1900,” *Illinois State Archives* (<http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html> : accessed 13 July 2009). Witter Family Records cites an “about 1831” birth for Catherine and an undated marriage to “Wm. or John Melrose.”

<sup>94</sup> The 1850 census enumeration of the parental household (subsequently abstracted in these notes), places *Nancy’s* birth between 2 June 1833 and 1 June 1834. The Witter Family Record states that she married a “Mr. Sumner.” For the marriage of *Martha* Witters to Schuyler Sumner, 12 June 1856, see Lawrence Co., Ill., Marriage Book E: 65. Schuyler subsequently married her sister Harriet.

<sup>95</sup> “Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916–1947,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 22 December 2009), for “Margret Ellen Brumfield,” who died 18 November 1933; Ancestry cites FHL microfilm 1,675,056.

<sup>96</sup> Bedford Co., Pa., “Board of County Commissioners, [Triennial] Assessment Book (Copy), 1835–1844 (1 vol.),” p. 102; Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL roll 1,449,112.



**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

<b>Widow, Samuel</b>	Occupation:	[Blank]*
	Patent:	114 acres
	Rates:	5
	Cows:	3
	Valuation:	366

**COMMENT:**

I have read all Bedford Co. tax rolls from 1786. This is the first reference to an individual whose name is phonetically equivalent. Reading on through 1850, I found no prior or subsequent reference to this Samuel “Widow”—*unless* he was the miller Samuel Witter (Weeter, etc.).

Three pieces of contradictory evidence need to be considered here:

- In April 1839, Samuel Witter and wife sold land in Letterkenny Township, Franklin County, conjointly with another couple, at which time they were *said* to be residents of Letterkenny. The possibility exists that the person who drafted the document, after naming all parties, may have written “All of Letterkenny Township” as an assumption about the owners of the Letterkenny land.
- As shown below, Samuel is enumerated in 1840 in Franklin, not Bedford.
- In this era, Pennsylvania created county-level assessment rolls triennially. When the next Bedford roll was created in 1841, Samuel and Abraham would both be assessed in Bedford.

It is also possible that Samuel did not make a “clean” move to Bedford but, instead, bounced across the county line a time or two before deciding to stay in Bedford.

**MARCH 1839**

**FRANKLIN OR BEDFORD CO., PA**

Birth of child

**Sarah Jane Witter**, daughter of Samuel and Rachel, born about March 1839.<sup>97</sup>

**8 APRIL 1839**

**FRANKLIN CO., PA.**

Land sale

**William Timmons** (s) and wife **Anna Maria** (x) and **Samuel Witter** (s) and wife **Rachael** (x), sell to **John Gunter**, all of **Letterkenny**, for \$425, 18 acres and 40 perches “neat measure,” in Letterkenny described as follows:

“Beginning at a beech tree on the **Conodoquinet Creek**, thence up same 146.8 perches to a spruce stump, thence S23° W97.75 perches to a gum, thence by land of **John Deardorff**,

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<sup>97</sup> The Witter Family Record places her birth at “about 1838.” The 1850 census entry for her parental household (abstracted later in this report), places her birth between 2 June 1838 and 1 June 1839. The 1900 census record states that she was born in March 1841. As adults, she and her sisters seem to have regularly shaved years off their ages. 1900 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., Christy, ED 110, sheet 4-B, dwell. 83, fam. 84 (Sarah Laws). For her marriage to William M. Beaird on 7 July 1861, see Richland Co., Ill., Marriage Book 2: 28; for her 8 March 1874 marriage to William Laws (as Sarah Jane Baird), see Lawrence Co., Ill., Marriage Book G: 92.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

formerly part of the same, S42.5° E 41.4 perches to a post, thence S 9° E 48.5 perches to a chestnut, thence S 81.5° E 182 perches to beginning.”<sup>98</sup>

Witnesses: Wm. S. Thompson.

Proved by Thompson 8 April 1839, who attested that Anna Maria and Rachael are of full age.

COMMENT:

**The land:**

Conodoquinet Creek was the notheastern bound of Letterkenny Township; it separated Letterkenny from Lurgan and was just a few miles from both Amberson Valley and Hopewell Township of Cumberland County.

**Timmons:**

Like Samuel Witter, William Ward Timmons was a millwright. The 1860 census cites William as 60 (older than most active millwrights) and Anna as 55, with Mat. 21, David 18, Jno. 16, Eliz. 15, Hen[ry] 12, and Anna M. 12.<sup>99</sup>

According to numerous (undocumented) family trees at *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry*, son David’s middle name was that of another area family: **Byers**.

**1840: Lurgan township:** William Timmons and family are enumerated between **Barbara Stake** and Wm. Little. John **Gunter**, who bought the Witter-Timmons land in 1839, is on the same page but 23 households away. Between him and the Timmonses is John **Deardorf**, whose property adjoined the Witter-Timmons land.<sup>100</sup>

**1850:** I have not found this Timmons Family on the 1850 census. Apparently, their whole neighborhood is missing that year; their 1860 neighbors likewise seem to be missing in 1850.

**1860, 1870, 1880:** Letterkenny Township.

The Timmons son Henry also migrated to Illinois. His death registration cites his birth as 24 September 1847 in Franklin Co., Pa., and death as 9 March 1925 in Fulton, Whiteside Co., Illinois [northwest Illinois]. A retired boiler maker, he was said to be the son of William Timmons of Scotland and “Tilly Rayfsnyder” of Germany.<sup>101</sup>

The Scottish birth attributed to William—Rachel’s potential brother—invokes the 1820 census which places 1 foreign-born, unnaturalized person in Rachel and Samuel’s home. (I should also consider the possibility that William and Tilly may be the extra male and female living with Samuel and Rachel that year.) However, various Timmons, were in Amberson’s Valley as early as

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<sup>98</sup> Franklin Co. Pa., Deed Book 18:155.

<sup>99</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., Letterkenny twp., p. 532, dwell. 587, fam. 586.

<sup>100</sup> 1840 Franklin Co., Lurgan twp., p. 346 (stamped), 3 lines from bottom: **Wm. Timming** (Timmins?) 1 male 30–40, 1 female, 20–30, 1 female 10–15, 1 male 10–15, 1 female 5–10, 1 male 5–10, 1 female 0–5. Also in 1840 one (1 female 60–70; 1 female 20–30) appears on the last page of Fannet Township, in “Amberson Valley, where the immediate households before her include **Stakes** and **Pipers** (stamped p. 268).

<sup>101</sup> “Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths index, 1916–1946,” *Ancestry*.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

1787—considerably before William’s birth. In particular, one Thomas Timmons is named as a neighbor of William Ward of Conondoquinet Creek in 1787—particularly noteworthy because a riff of online trees identify William Timmons as William *Ward* Timmons.<sup>102</sup>

TO DO:

- Complete thorough research on **William** and **Anna Maria Timmons**.
- Work deeds and probates for **John Deardoff** to determine how and when he acquired his part of the larger tract from which the Witters and Timmonses jointly held just 18 acres.

**1839 [Late]**  
**Bedford Co., PA**

Tax roll

Bedford Township and Dublin Township: Neither Samuel nor any other Witters/Widdows appear.<sup>103</sup>

COMMENT:

Two similar-surname men make their first appearance in North Woodberry Township of Bedford County—both “Single Freeman”: **Jacob Weter** (taxed \$.06) and **David Wetter** (taxed \$.50). In subsequent years, both their names are spelled as “Witter.” I found no record suggesting a connecton to Samuel or Abraham; not did I find anything to disprove a connection.

**1840**  
**FRANKLIN CO., PA**

Census

Lurgent Township. Unalphabetized.<sup>104</sup>

<b>Witter, Sam<sup>1</sup></b>	1 male	50–60	[Samuel]	1 female	60–70	[?mother/m-in-law?]
	1 male	15–20	[Benj. or Wm.]	1 female	40–50	[Rachel]
				1 female	15–20	[Elizabeth]
	11 total / 0 occupations shown			2 females	10–15	[Barbara and ?]
				2 females	5–10	[Martha, Catherine]
				2 females	0–5	[Margaret, Sarah]

Neighbors:

[*The 13 names in column 2 appear sequentially after the 13 names in column 1*]

Hamilton, Robert	Mowry, ____
Martin, Montgomery	Wright, John
Burkholder, Jacob	Reabanck, ____
<b>Burkholder, Sam<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Byers, John</b>
Whisler, Jacob	Russel, John

<sup>102</sup> See, for example, Franklin Co. Land Warrants, N16–Z1, Warrant 20, 23 Aug. 1787, 30 acres warranted to **William Ward** in Fannet Twp, adjoining **Thomas Timmons**, William Loucher, **Adam Piper** and Patrick McGee. Also see warrant 2, warrant to Benjamin “van Scyoc,” Anderson’s Valley, **adjacent to Thomas and John Timmons** on 26 March 1794. Also see 1818–19 discussion of Rachel Witter’s possible identity and the Scyock associations.

<sup>103</sup> Bedford Co., Pa., 1839 Tax Assessment Roll, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL roll 1,449,113.

<sup>104</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Pa., Lurgent Township, p. 343, line 12.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Bar, James  
Holmes, Robert  
Ershner, John  
Hassell, Charles  
Dehl, Peter  
Rouse, George  
**Witter, Sam<sup>1</sup>**  
Clappingier, Henry  
[cont. in column 2]

Houck, Wm.  
Pye, Margaret  
Donovan, Joseph  
Hunter, Francis  
Speer, Wm.  
Jones, Peter  
Binkey, Peter  
Keonz, John

COMMENTS:

- 1 son is missing from Samuel’s household. It seems likely that Benjamin, the eldest but still single son, is out on his own.
- Abraham Witter, Samuel’s proposed brother, has already settled permanently in adjacent Bedford County, Dublin Township.<sup>105</sup>
- **Samuel Burkholder**, in 1830 (Fannett Twp. p. 269), lived 7 houses from the apparent widow **Catherine Reifsnider**. In 1840, **Mary Reifsnnyder** was enumerated in Letterkenny, where the Timmonses and Witters lived when they sold their jointly owned land in 1839. Both Rachel Witter and Anna Maria Timmons named daughters *Catharine*. However, (a) because that is also one of the most common German names, it alone does nothing to establish a pattern; and (b) Samuel Witter’s mother appears to be named Catherine.

**1840 [LATE]**  
**Bedford Co., PA**

Tax roll

Bedford Township and Dublin Township: Neither Samuel nor any other Witters appear.<sup>106</sup>

**1841**  
**BEDFORD CO., PA**

Tax roll

Triennial Assessment Book for Dublin Township, “W” section; showing exact sequence from which neighborhood clues might be drawn.<sup>107</sup>

Wolf, Jacob Senr.

Wolf, J. & Do.

Winegarner, Conrad

Winegarner, Jacob

Wilds, Rachel [1844 roll identifies her late husband as *Benjamin*]

Winegarner, John

**Witter, Abraham**

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<sup>105</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Bedford Co., stamped p. 411 verso, line 22, Abraham “Wheater.”

<sup>106</sup> Bedford Co., 1839 Tax Assessment Roll, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL roll 1,449,113.

<sup>107</sup> Bedford Co., 1841 (Triennial) Assessment Book, p. 331; FHL microfilm 1,449,112.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Patent Land: 323  
Horses: 3  
Cattle: 4  
Value: \$674.05

**Witter, Samuel**

Improvement: 200  
Horse: 1  
Cattle: 1  
Value: \$288

Wollett, Jacob

Wollett, Benjamin

Waidman, Thomas

Wilson, Widow

Wolf, Jacob

Walker, Thomas James [sic]

Walker, John

Welch, William, Taylor, house & lot

Wilds Heirs [heirs of John]

Wilds, William

**COMMENT:**

No record of Samuel’s “improvement” has been found in Bedford County deeds, grants, or warrants, at the local or state level.

The word *improvement*, as typically used, indicates that he had settled open land and made improvements upon it, although he had no legal claim to a title. This was a fairly common practice, by which men selected a piece of land, then cleared and planted some of it to test its productivity, before paying the fees for a warrant and survey.

**APRIL 1841**

**BEDFORD CO., PA**

Birth of child

**Harriet Witter**, daughter of Samuel and Rachel, was apparently born in April 1841.<sup>108</sup>

**14 JANUARY 1842?**

**BEDFORD CO., PA.**

Tax roll

Certification of Dublin Township assessment roll for 1841, semi-alphabetical by first letter of surname. Consecutive entries:<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> The Witter Family Record places her birth at “about 1841.” The 1850 census entry for her parental household (abstracted later in these notes), places her birth between 2 June 1840 and 1 June 1841. The 1900 census record, however, states that she was born in April 1849). As adults, she and her sisters seem to have regularly shaved years off their ages. 1900 U.S. census, Douglas Co., Oregon, Myrtle Creek Precinct, ED 57, sheet 3-A, dwell./fam. 62 (Harriet Sumner). For her 13 March 1871 marriage to Dr. Schuyler Sumner, see Lawrence Co., Ill., Marriage Book E: 446.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

**Witter, Abraham**

Patented acres:	333
Horses:	3
Cows:	4
Value (total):	\$674

**Witter, Samuel**

<i>Warranted</i> acres:	200
Horse:	1
Cows:	1
Value:	\$288

COMMENT:

- I did not get full neighborhood for want of time at FHL.
- Note that Samuel’s land is now said to be “warranted”—i.e., he has received a warrant authorizing him to have it surveyed in his name. No record of the warrant or the survey has yet been found. It is also possible that Samuel is renting land warranted by someone else and is charged with paying taxes as part of the lease.

**NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1842**

**BEDFORD CO., PA.**

Tax Roll

Dublin Township *assessment list*.<sup>110</sup>

**Witters, Samuel, farmer**

Warranted acres	200
Horses	2
Cattle	2
Valuation (total)	\$368

**Ditto, Abraham**

Patented Acres	333
Value	\$400
Horses	2
Value	\$40
Cattle	3
Value	\$756

“Single Free men”

**Witters, Benjamin** [no data]

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<sup>109</sup> Bedford Co., 1841 Tax Assessment Roll, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL microfilm 1,449,374.

<sup>110</sup> Bedford Co., 1842 Tax Roll, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL microfilm 1,449,374.

“List of Taxables ... entitled to Vote”

Witter, Samuel  
Witter, Abraham

COMMENT:

- Benjamin is noticeably absent from the voter list, although he was past 21.
- The Witters who were earlier in North Woodberry Township do not seem to be in the county this year.

Benjamin appears to have married between the creation of this roll and the roughly concurrent taking of the septennial enumeration, below.

TO DO:

Get voter laws in effect in Pennsylvania at that time, to answer the following questions:

- Was land ownership required for voting?
- If *not*, then why is Benjamin not listed as entitled to vote?
- If *so*, then why does there not seem to be a land grant or deed to Samuel?

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1842

BEDFORD CO., PA.

Census

“Septennial Enumeration of Dublin Township, 1842.”

The instruction at the head of the roll reads as follows:

“To John A. Keepers, Assessor of the township of Dublin, in the county aforesaid. Greeting: You are hereby required to make out two complete lists in Alphabetical order, containing a just and true account of the names, surnames, and occupations of every taxable person of the age of twenty one years and upwards, whether male or female, resident within the township aforesaid. The number of all negroes, mulattoes, and people of color held as slaves within the said township, carefully and accurately to take in a separate list distinguishing their sexes, and as near as may be their several ages—And at the same time to make out one other separate list, containing the names of the deaf and dumb persons, if any resident in the said township, distinguishing their sexes and as nearly as may be their several ages.

“The duties here assigned, you shall well and faithfully discharge, or answer the contrary under the penalty of one Hundred Dollars [and] make a return to the Commissioners of the county of Bedford, aforesaid, at their office in Bedford, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December A. D. 1842.

“Witness, the Hands and Seal of said Commissioners, at their office aforesaid, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Novr. in the year of our Lord, one thousand 1842.”<sup>111</sup>

Semi-alphabetical by surname. The complete “W” list is shown below, for contextual clues.

Wolet,                      Jacob L., farmer                      1 male

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<sup>111</sup> Bedford Co., Septennial Enumeration, 1842, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL 1,449,375.



**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Ditto,	Mary		1 female	
Wolet,	Benjamin, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto,	Catharine		1 female	
<b>Weter,</b>	<b>Samuel, Farmer</b>	1 male		
Ditto	<b>Rachel</b>		1 female	
<b>Weter,</b>	<b>Benjamin, Milright</b>	1 male		[eldest son of Samuel]
	<b>Susanah</b>		1 female	
<b>Weter,</b>	<b>Abraham, Farmer</b>	1 male		[Abr. has no son 21+]
Ditto	<b>Catharine</b>		1 female	
Wingardner,	John, farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Mary		1 female	
Windgardner,	Jacob, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Elizabeth		1 female	
Windgardner,	Abraham, Laborer	1 male		
Windgardner,	Conrad, Farmer	1 male		
Wolf,	Jacob Sr?, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Margaret		1 female	
Wolf,	Jacob Jur., Laborer	1 male		
Wilds,	Tomson, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Margaret		1 female	
Woodcock,	Thomas, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Catharine		1 female	
Welch,	Wm., Constable	1 male		
Ditto	Sarah		1 female	
Welch,	David, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Elizabeth		1 female	
Wilson,	Henry, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Nancy		1 female	
Walker,	John, Laborer	1 male		
Ditto	Mary		1 female	
Walker,	James, Farmer	1 male		
Wilson,	Samuel, Farmer	1 male		
Wilds,	William, Farmer	1 male		
Ditto	Eliza		1 female	
Waniol?	William, Laborer	1 male		
Ditto	Catharine		1 female	
Widman,	Thomas, Miller	1 male		
Ditto	Mary		1 female	

**TO DO:**

Septennial returns are also said to exist at the state archives for **Franklin County, 1786 and 1800–42**. These need to be searched. [For a fuller discussion of the septennial censuses, see *Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania* (<https://www82.safesecureweb.com/genpa/research/taxrecords.html>).

**1843 [Late]**  
**Bedford Co., PA**

*Tax roll.*

Dublin Township. Semialphabetical. [Full list of “W” entries not extracted for want of time.]<sup>112</sup>

**Weters, Samuel, Farmer**

Warranted acres	200	Value	\$400
Horses	2	Value	\$70
Cattle	2	Value	\$20
Total:			\$426
[County] Tax:			\$2.55
[State] Tax:			\$ .95

**Weters, Abrahiah [Abraham]**

Patented Acres	300	Value	\$500
<b>Sawmill</b>	1	Value	\$50
Horses	2	Value	\$70
Cattle:	2	Value	\$24
Total Value			\$840
[County] Tax			\$5.04
[State] Tax			\$1.68

COMMENT:

Samuel’s son Benjamin was not found on this list.

**1844**  
**BEDFORD CO., PA.**

*Tax roll.*

Dublin Township, “W” section; all names in exact sequence, thereby offering contextual clues.<sup>113</sup>

Wilson, Henry, farmer

**Weetar, Samuel, farmer**

<b>Patented</b> acres	150
Value	\$400
Horses	2
Value	\$40
Cattle	2
Value	\$14
Total val.	\$454

**Weetar, Benjamin, trade**

<sup>112</sup> Bedford Co., 1843 Tax Assessment Roll, Pennsylvania State Archives; accessed as FHL microfilm 1,449,377.

<sup>113</sup> Bedford Co., 1844 (Triennial) Assessment Book, pp. 543–44; FHL microfilm 1,448,113,

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Cattle	1
Value	7
Total val.	18
Winegarner, John, farmer	
<b>Weetar, Abraham, d<sup>o</sup></b>	
Patented land	333 acres
Value	800
<i>Saw mill</i>	1
Value	40
Horses	2
Value	40
Cattle	4
Value	28
Total val.	606

Wolf, Jacob, Gent.  
Wolf, Jacob, Jr., farmer  
Winegarner, Conrad, Gent.  
Winegarner, Jacob, farmer  
Wollet, Jacob L., farmer  
Woodcock, Thomas, farmer  
Woodman, Adam  
Wilds, Widow of Bj.  
Wilds, Thompson, farmer  
Wilson, Samuel, farmer  
Wilds, John, Heirs of

(p. 544)  
Wollett, Benjamin, farmer  
Wilds, William, Gent.  
Wilson, James  
Welch, William  
Welch, David, Gentleman  
Wildes, George, Gentleman  
Wildes, John, Gentleman [taxed on nothing]  
Walker, James, farmer  
Woods, Joseph, trade  
Warner, William, laborer  
Walker, James J., farmer

COMMENT:

**Other Witters:**

**Thomas** of North Woodberry Township and **William** of South Woodberry.

Samuel's acreage has decreased by 50 acres, although Bedford County deeds have no record of a sale. His remaining acreage is said to be patented. However, I have not yet located a record of a patent to him.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

Meanwhile, Abraham has gained 33 acres since the last tax roll, also without benefit of deed.

**15 MAY 1845**  
**BEDFORD CO., PA**  
Birth of child

**John W. Witter**, the youngest son of Samuel and Rachel, filed for a pension on 23 July 1930, stating that he was born 15 May 1845 in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. A Civil War company muster, dated 22 February 1865, asserts a birth in Orange, Pennsylvania (Columbia County, about 175 miles to the Northeast)—a location that cannot be reconciled with known facts about his parents.

**1845**  
**BEDFORD CO., PA.**  
Tax roll

Dublin Township. Semialphabetical by first letter of surname.

<b>Weeter, Samuel:</b>	\$54 valuation	\$.48 county tax	\$ .3016 state tax
<b>Weeter, Benjamin:</b>	\$20 valuation	\$.18 county tax	\$ .0206 state tax
<b>Witter, Abraham, farmer</b>	\$556 valuation	\$5.00 county tax	\$1.8000 state tax

COMMENT:

Samuel has obviously disposed of his land in preparation for his move to Illinois, where his former neighbors and his daughter’s in-laws (Samuel Jones, his brother Joshua Jones Sr. and the latter’s wife Elizabeth) moved in 1839. Samuel seems to have remained in Bedford one more year, however. The late 1846 roll includes him; the late 1847 roll does not.

Bedford County deeds offer no record of the land’s disposal—nor its acquisition. Possible explanations:

- Samuel may not have owned the warranted land on which he paid taxes. In various times and places in the past, *renters* signed lease contracts by which *they*, rather than the owners, were responsible for paying the taxes.
- Samuel might have sold it to a family member, with the deed going unrecorded for decades or generations.

TO DO:

Extend the deed search down through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, for a tardily recorded sale.

**1846**  
**BEDFORD CO., PA.**

*Tax roll*

Dublin Township. County taxes only. Semi-alphabetical by first letter of surname.

<b>Weeter, Samuel:</b>	\$54 valuation	\$.32 county tax
<b>Weeter, Benjamin:</b>	\$20 valuation	\$.12 county tax

[skip one]

<b>Witter, Abraham, farmer</b>	\$550 valuation	\$3.34 county tax
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**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

*Single Freeman roll:*

**Weter, Stephen** [No amount shown. Stephen is Abraham’s oldest son.]

**1847**

**BEDFORD CO., PA.**

Tax roll

Dublin Township. Semialphabetical by first letter of surname.

**Witter, Samuel:** Not found

**Witter, Benjamin:** Not found

**Witter, Abraham, farmer**

“Located” land:	333 acres	\$500 value
Horses:	2	\$40 value
Cattle:	3 (over 4 years)	\$30 value
Total valuation:		\$570 “state and county”
Yearly income:		\$641

**COMMENT:**

- Samuel’s move from Pennsylvania to Illinois can be placed between the 1846 and 1847 tax assessment rolls. This placement agrees with the 1850 census data for the household of Samuel’s daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Joshua Jones Jr., which show a four-year-old born in Pennsylvania and a two-year-old born in Illinois. See census notes below.
- On the 1849 Septennial Return, Abraham (aged 63) and his son Stephen (aged 26) are in the Clear Ridge community. In 1850, they fall off the rolls of Bedford, due to the creation of the new county of Fulton, along the Franklin County line.<sup>114</sup>

**1820–1850**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

*Land patents*

A search of the state-level **warrant** and **patent** index books through 1850 revealed no land warranted or patented to Samuel Witter. That search was conducted only in the “W” section of each volume, which indexes the name of the patentee. The entries also identify the previous warrantee, most of whom bore a different surname. *I did not read all pages of all volumes for possible references to Samuel as a warrantee of land later patented by another man.*<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> Bedford tax rolls, FHL microfilm 1,433,960; and 1850 U.S. census.

<sup>115</sup> Patent Indexes, P Series (1781–1809), series 17.154, and Patent Indexes, H Series (1809–1957), series 17.155; also Warrant Registers, 1733–1957, series 17.88; all in 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 1–3 January 2010).

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

**3 SEPTEMBER 1850**  
**LAWRENCE CO., ILL**

*Census*

[No District Cited]<sup>116</sup>

180/180	<b>Samuel Witter</b>	63	male	Mill Wright	\$150	Penn.	
	Rachel “	48	female			“	
	Catherine “	19	female			“	
	Nancy “	16	female			“	att. sch.
	Margarette “	14	female			“	“ “
	Sarah “	12	female			“	
	Harriet “	9	female			“	
	John “	4	male			“	

**Neighborhood:**

Note that Samuel and Rachel are 25 households from their married daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Joshua Jones Jr. (son of Samuel Jones and nephew-in-law of the widow Elizabeth Jones who resided next to Samuel, below). In order to include both families in the neighborhood cluster, the following census extraction is a large one.

Data for each include name, age, occupation, and birthplaces to reflect key social patterns and potential kinships. The migration and naming patterns to be drawn from the data might also yield clues to the unidentified siblings of Samuel and Rachel—as well as the unknown family of Susan[ah], first wife of their son Benjamin.

*Note: “Ia.” was the 1850 abbreviation of Indiana, not Iowa.*

- 152 Oldham, James 37 chair maker \$100, Md.; Caroline 31, Penn.; Ann 12, Ohio; Thomas 9, Ia.; Martha 7, Ia.; John 4, Ia.; Henry 2, Ills.; Charles 6/12, Ills.; *and*  
Hammersley, Charles 25 chairmaker, Ia.
- 153 Passmore, Preston 27 farmer, Penn.; Rachel 25, Ohio [no children]
- 154 Morgan Henry M. 25 farmer \$500, Ohio; Edith M. 24, Ohio [no children]
- 155 **Jones**, Joshua 31 shoe & boot maker \$200, Md.; **Elizabeth [Witter] 27, Penn.**; William 6, Penn.; Samuel 4, Penn.; Benjamin 2, Ills.; Lafayette 1/12, Ills.
- 156 Pierce, William 34 farmer, Md.; Elizabeth 26, Ia.; Asa 12, Ohio; Solomon 6, Ills.; Mary 4, Ills.; Isabel 1, Ills.
- 157 Williams, John J. 29 farmer \$450, Ills.; Nancy 30, Ky.; Joseph 7, Ills.; Mary J. 5, Ills.; Martha 3, Ills.; Pemina 1, S.C. [*sic*]
- 158 Travis, William 72 farmer \$600, Tenn.; Lydia 68, Tenn.  
Malone, Martha J. 6, Ills.
- 159 Hensell, Adam 39 carpenter, Ohio; Elizabeth 40, Ohio; Mary M. 20, Ohio; Sarah J. 17, Ohio; Daniel 11, Ohio; John 9, Ills.; Adam 5, Ills.; Peter 1, Ills.
- 160 **Jones**, William 36 farmer \$500, Md.; Sarah 26, Md.; Elizabeth 10, Ills.; Jane 8, Ills.; Thomas 6, Ills.; John 4, Ills.; Melissa 3/12, Ills. [William is the first cousin of Joshua at 155 and son of Elizabeth at 179. See file copy of “Joshua Jones: Research Notes”]
- 161 Cooper, William 28 farmer \$800, Ky.; Martha J. 28, Ills.; Mary A. 8, Ills.; Samuel N. 5, Ills.; Sarah J. 3, Ills.; G. W. 7/12, Ills.; *and*

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<sup>116</sup>1850 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., pop. sch., [no district, no post office], folios 11–14 (stamped), particularly 12 verso (Samuel Witter). All individuals extracted above are enumerated as “white.”

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

- Turner, Edna 16, N.C.
- 162 Harlan, Lydia 40 \$1500, Ky.; Thomas 18 farmer, Ills.; James 14, Ills.; Ellen 11, Ills.; *and*  
 Fyffe, Wilson 28 Ills.
- 163 West, Maria 38, Ky.; William 14, Ills.; Sarah 10, Ills.; Lafayette 1, Ills.
- 164 Crump, Edward P. 27 farmer, Ky.; Sabra 32, Ia.; George F. 5, Ia.; Zachary 3, Ia.; Sylvester 3/12, Ia.
- 165 Woodsworth, William 33 wool carder, Ohio; Catharine 25, Tenn.; *and*  
 Fowler, George W. 2, Ills.; *and*  
 Woodsworth, Frances 26, Tenn.; James 9, Ills.; Mary 4, Mo.; Sarah 2, Mo.
- 166 Newell, Samuel 65 farmer \$3000, Va.; Sarah 61, Va.; Mary 34, Ills.; Eusebia 22, Ills.; Thomas 20 farmer,  
 Ills.; Samuel 18 farmer, Ills.
- 167 Hays, Sandy A. 43 farmer \$250, Va.; Jane 42, Ky.; Elizabeth 20, Ia.; Hiram 17 farmer, Ia.; Sarah 15, Ia.;  
 Mary 13, Ia.; William 10, Ia.; James 4, Ills.
- 168 Kirkpatrick, Thomas 26, Ills.; Elizabeth 26, Ia.; Emily 2, Ill.; George 1, Ill.
- 169 Watson, Hezekiah 54 farmer, Tenn.; Amy 4, Tenn.; Emaline 22, Ia.; George 15, farmer, Ills.; Perry 13,  
 Ills.; Hiram 11, Ills.; William 1, Ills.
- 170 Coxe, Levi 53 farmer, Tenn.; Elisabeth 45, Ky.; Minerva 10, Ills.; Caroline 7, Ills.; Emaline 7, Ills.;  
 Lafayette 6, Ills.; James Mc 3, Ills.; Rebecca 2, Ills.
- 171 McClean, William 48 farmer, Ohio; Elizabeth 40, Ohio; Admiral 23, Ills.; Sarah 18, Ills.; Ealsey 16, Ills.;  
 Mary 13, Ills.; Amanda 9, Ills.; Marion 5, Ills.; Erica 1, Ills.
- 172 Robinson, William 28 farmer \$400, Ills.; Mary 22, Ills.; Mary M. 3, Ills.; Sophia 1, Ills.; Catherine 3/12, Ills.
- 173 Cooper, George W. 50 \$2000, Va.; Mary 49, Ky.; Mary 17, Ills.; Emaline 15, Ills.; Sarah 13, Ills.; Martha 9,  
 Ills.; *and*  
 Cooper, James 24, Tenn.; Washington 22, Ky.; Hiram 21, Ky.; Cooper, William 21, Ky.
- 174 Kimmel, George 30 farmer \$200, Ia.; Cordelia [Quick] 30, Ky.; Sarah J? 1, Ill.
- 175 Abernathy, Martha 47 \$400, Ky.; George 18 farmer, Ky.; Sydney 14, Ky.; Elijah 12, Ills.; Sarah Ann 10,  
 Ills.; Elizabeth 7, Ills.
- 176 Combs, Murphy 26 farmer \$200, Penn.; Susannah **[Jones? Witter? Landis?]** 24, Penn.; Marian 5, Ills.;  
 Andrew 3, Ills.; Harrison 1, Ills.
- 177 Briant, Frederick 45 farmer \$200, Germany; Susan [Delong] 24, Penn.; Catharine 3, Ills.; Mary 1, Ills.
- 178 Brian, Jacob 42 farmer \$1,000, Germany; Eliza [Landis] 31, Penn.; Catharine 8, Ills.; Frederick 6, Ills.;  
 John 4, Ills.; Martin 2, Ills.; *and*  
 Landis, Susannah 63, Penn.
- 179 **Jones, Elizabeth** 63 Md.; Jesse 17, Penn.; Mary Ann 19, Penn. [Widow of Joshua Sr., formerly of  
 Bedford, living on NE of SW S30, T3N R13W; ½ mile from Witter, below.]
- 180 **Witter, Samuel** [living on NW of NW S31 T3N R13W, land patented to son Benj. Witter, who had  
 moved across line to Richland Co. and acquired other land there.]
- 181 Gines, Henry 36 farmer \$800, Penn.; Ester [Moelliger] 36, Ohio; Amanda 11, Ohio; Christiana 9, Ohio;  
 Henry 7, Ohio; Philip 3, Ills.; Catharine 1, Ills.
- 182 Ridgley, Richard 75 \$500, Md.; Mary 69, Md.; *and*  
 Doan, Sarah M. 4, Ohio
- 183 Ridgeley, John 24 farmer, Ohio; Mary 19, Tenn.; Ann Maria 2, Ills.; Margaret 1, Ills.
- 184 Ridgeley, Alfred 20 farmer, Ohio; Elizabeth 18, Ia.
- 185 Bunn, Benjamin 38 farmer \$1200, Ohio; Mary **[Shick?]** 33, Ohio; Catharine 14, Ohio; Mariah 13, Ohio; Eli  
 12, Ills.; Hiatt 10, Ills.; Jonathan F. 7, Ills.; Mary A. 4, Ills.; Winfield Scott 2, Ills.; *and*  
**Shick**, John 68 farmer \$800, Penn. [*His granddaughter Malinda Day soon became the 2d wife of Benjamin  
 Witter, son of Samuel. This is my line*]
- 186 Shick, George 30 farmer, Ohio; Dulcena 25, Ohio; Angeline 7, Ohio; Melissa 5, Ohio; Robert 3, Ohio;  
 George 1, Ohio;  
 Shick, Abram 19, Ohio [*Malinda Day Witter, in 1867, named a daughter Dulcena for her aunt-in-law,  
 Dulcena Shick.*]
- 187 Ridgely, George W. farmer \$500, Md.; Mary 44, Penn.; Richard 18, Ohio; Marion 16, Ohio; Mary J. 14,  
 Ohio; William 11, Ohio; Benton 8, Ills.; Cynthia 5, Ills.; Eliza 2, Ills.; *and*  
 Inyard, Clarisse 22, Ohio; Inyard, Mary Ann 1, Ills.



**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

- 188 Corrie, Thomas 35 farmer \$1800, Scotland; Olivia 39, Scotland; James 14, Ills.; George 13, Ills.; William 8, Ills.; Thomas N. 4; Ills.; *and*  
Moore, Pallas 22, Tenn.; Delila 15, Ills.
- 189 Bell, William 27 farmer, Tenn.; Minerva 20, Ohio; Mary Ann 3, Ills.
- 190 Moore, Edward 37 farmer, Tenn.; Elizabeth 27, Germany; Nancy 8, Ills.; Clarisa 6, Ills.; Thomas C. 8/12, Ills.
- 191 Moore, John 29 farmer \$150, Tenn.; David S. 4, Ills.; Pallas 2, Ills.
- 192 Edmundson, Elbert S. 24 farmer, Tenn.; Malinda 18, Ill.; *and*  
Anderson, John 20 apprentice, Tenn.; *and*  
Wagley, Ephraim 16 apprentice, Ia.

**COMMENT:**

The \$150 property valuation credited to Samuel is roughly that of a horse and typical household furnishings in a yeoman family.

As in Pennsylvania, no land ownership record has been found for Samuel. However, platting the lands of the three Jones families (Widow Elizabeth, son William, and nephew Joshua), as well as those of Samuel Witter’s married sons Benjamin and William, reveals that all are clustered together along the Lawrence-Richland county line.

Sons Benjamin and William are enumerated across the county line in Richmond (several tracts in S30 and S36 T3N R14W), as in Joshua Jones’s father Samuel Jones (SW of NE S36 T3N R14W).

**28 SEPTEMBER 1850**

**Legal context**

On this day, Congress passed a law providing additional **bounty land** to veterans and dependents of past wars. The relevant terms of this law were as follows:<sup>117</sup>

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That each of the surviving, 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 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**

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<sup>117</sup> *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 31<sup>st</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess., 28 Sept. 1850, Chap. LXXXV, “An Act granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States.”

**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.”**

COMMENT:

I have found no evidence of a bounty land application filed by Samuel under this law—further diminishing the possibility that he served in the War of 1812.

## 22 MARCH 1852

### Legal context

A new Congressional act of this day extended the 1850 **bounty land** law in several regards:<sup>118</sup>

- 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, or regular troops—“upon proof of length of service as therein required. ... “Nothing herein contained shall authorize bounty land to these who have heretofore received or become entitled to same.”
- The new act also counted the time spent marching “to the place where they were mustered ... were discharged [when that distance was “more than twenty miles from the place where the unit was organized. The marching credit was calculated at 20 miles per day.
- Bounty land warrants would now be “assignable, by deed or instrument of writing.”
- Any person who was entitled to a preemption right in federal land would be able to use the warrant in payment for the land at the rate of \$1.25 per acre.
- Bounty land warrants could be used for unpatented land anywhere in the public domain.

## 15 OCTOBER 1854

### LAWRENCE CO. ILL

#### Death

**Rachel Witter**, wife of Samuel, died this day and was buried in Brian Cemetery.<sup>119</sup>

## 3 MARCH 1855

### Legal context

By a supplementary act of this day, Congress extended **bounty-land** benefits in several ways:<sup>120</sup>

- Beneficiaries would now include any “surviving commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, whether of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who were regularly mustered into the service of the United States, and every officer, commissioned, and non-commissioned, seaman, ordinary seaman, flotilla-man, marine, clerk, and landsman in the navy in any of the wars in which this country has been engaged” since 1790.”

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<sup>118</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>119</sup> Photo of tombstone, supplied by Eugene Laws to Elizabeth Shown Mills, 23 June 1977.

<sup>120</sup> U.S. *Statutes at Large*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., 3 March 1855, Chap. CCVII, “An Act in Addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

- “Wagon-masters and teamsters who may have been employed, under direction of competent authority in time of war in the transportation of military stores and supplies were now eligible.
- Those who had served as volunteers at the British fleet attack on Lewistown, Delaware, in the War of 1812 were also eligible.
- All classes were entitled to 160 acres. If a person had previously received less than that, he was now entitled to the difference.
- Surviving widows—or in the absence of a widow, a minor child or children—were entitled to the quantity that a deceased veteran would receive under the new act.
- Service less than 14 days would not qualify, unless “the person shall actually have been engaged in battle.”
- Certificates and warrants were again assignable

COMMENT:

Again, there is no evidence that Samuel applied for land under this act. This was the last bounty land act passed by the Federal government.

**8 AUGUST 1860**  
**LAWRENCE CO., ILL**

Census

Lukin Township, P.O. Olive.<sup>121</sup>

14/13	<b>Samuel Witters</b>	71	male	Millerite	\$800/150	Penn.	
	Margaret “	22	female	Domestic		“	
	Harriet “	16	female	D <sup>o</sup>		“	att. school
	John “	15	male			“	att. school

**Neighborhood:**

1/1 Bunn, Benj. 56 farmer \$4000/800, Ohio; Mary 45, Ohio; Eli 21 farmer, Ills.; Hyatt 18 school teacher, Ills.; Finley 17 farm laborer, Ills.; Mary A., Ills.; W. S. 12, Ills.; B. F. 6, Ills.; *and*  
Finley, Martha 26 school teacher, Ohio

2/2 Ketcher, Jacob 47 farmer \$1200/600, Penn.; Martha 43, Penn.; Sanford 21 carpenter, Ohio; Adolphus 19 farmer, Ohio; Barshesia 17, Ohio; Marion 12, Ohio; Samantha 4, Ind.; Jane 2, Ills.

3/3 Davis, Mr. [*sic*] 34 carriage maker \$1200/600, Tenn.; Mary Jane 30, Ohio; Penny J. 8, Ills.; Lucy 6, Ills.; Hiram 10/12, Ills.

4/4 Mills, Reuben 34 C. Laborer \$/100, Tenn.; Susan 13, Tenn.; Helery 10, Tenn.; Sarah 9, Tenn.; William 6, Ills.; Nancy 1, Ills. [*see also household 5*]

5/5 Shick, George 41 farmer \$6000/800, Ohio; Duls[e]na 35, Ohio; Malissa P. 15, Ohio; Robert 13, Ohio; George 11, Ohio; Chambers 9, Ills.; Albert C. 4, Ills.; Matilda J. 1, Ills.; *and*  
Mills, Jemimiah *female* 13, Tenn. [*apparently belongs in household 4*]

6/6 Mann, John Jr. 28 farmer \$300/150, Ind.; Elizabeth 24, Ky.; Sarah E. 5, Ind.; Louisa H. 1, Ind.

7/7 Shick, Abraham 29 farm laborer \$/150, Ohio; Emaline 21, Ind.; Adaline 2, Ills.; Malvira 1, Ills.; Edward 3/12, Ills.; *and*

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<sup>121</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., Lukin Township, P.O. Olive, pp. 155–59, especially p. 157 (Samuel Witters). All individuals named above are enumerated as “white.”

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

- Shick, Martin 30 farm laborer \$/200, Ohio; Sarah E. 38, Penn.; Sarah A. 4, Ills.
- 8/8 Apling, David E. 41 farmer \$/400, Ky.; Sarah A. 40 Ky.; George P. 20, farm laborer, Ky.; Mary 18, Ky.; Winfield 16, farm laborer, Ky.; Annie 12, Ky.; Wesley 11, Ky.; Annie [sic] 3, Ky.; Fillmore 9, Ky.; Sidney 1, Ills. [*apparently Arbuchnot Apling at end of next household should be here*]
- 9/9 Shick, John V. 47 farmer \$4000/1000, Ohio; Elizabeth 37, Ind.; Frances 14, Ills.; Peter 12, Ills.; Mary 11, Ills.; John H. 9, Ills.; David L. 7, Ills.; Joseph L. 6, Ills.; Quincy C. 10/12, Ills.; and Shick, John 86 “unknown [birthplace]”; and Apling, Arbuchnot 14 female Ky. [*see preceding household*]
- 10/ “Not Occupied”
- 11/10 Lagrange, Aaron 29 farmer \$300, Ind.; Martha Ann 26, Ohio; Sarilda 6/12, Ills.; and Lagrange, Nancy Ann 56 Va.; and Shick, Amelia J. (2, Ills.) [*This child probably belongs in household 9*]
- 12/11 Corrie, Alexander 31 farmer \$/250, Ohio; Caroline 25, Ills.; William 6, Ills.; Andrew 5, Ills.; Sarah 3/12, Ills.
- 13/12 **Jones**, Joshua 42 shoe maker \$1200/300, Md.; Elizabeth [**Witter**] 38, Penn.; William 17, farm laborer, Penn.; Samuel 15, Penn.; Benjamin 13, Ills.; Lafayette 10, Ills.; Franklin 8, Ills.; Joshua 5, Ills.; Ensley J. 2, Ills.; and Jones, John H. 27 farm laborer, Md.; and Hinsbarger, Sarah 9, Ills.
- 14/13 Witters, Samuel**
- 15/14 Goins, Henry 48 farmer \$3500/800, Penn.; Easter 47 domestic, Ohio; Amanda 21, domestic, Ohio; Henry S. 17 farm laborer, Ills.; Philip C. 13, Ills.; Catherine 11, Ills.; Fannie 9, Ills.; Easter 2, Ills.
- 16/15 Michael, Jacob 25 farmer 4700/200, Ohio; Catherine 25 domestic, Ohio; Sarah C. 5, Ills.; Rose Ann 3, Ills.; Wm. W. 1, Ills.
- 17/16 Ridgely, Alfred 24 farmer \$700/300, Ohio; George 9 domestic, Ills.; Elizabeth J. 1, Ills.; Sarah 24, Ky. [*Apparently Sarah, in last place, should be the “domestic” in second place, rather than the child George being a domestic.*]
- 18/17 Shick, Peter 27 farmer 4700/200, Ohio; Mary Ann W. 22 domestic, Md.; Martha J. 5, Ills.; Ammasoda J. 3, Ills.
- 19/18 Bedine, John B. 39 farmer \$200, France; Mary 36 domestic, France; Jane 11, Ohio; Marie 8, Ohio; Mary Jane 7, Ohio; Amelia 5, Ohio; Elizabeth 1, Ohio
- 20/19 Bedine, Claude, 69 farmer \$3000/500, France; Jane 68 domestic, France; and Bedine, John C. 29 farmer, France; Malinda 19, domestic Ohio
- 21/20 Grout, Elmer 20 farmer \$1200/200, NY; Mary F. 22 domestic, Ohio
- 22/21 Corrie, Andrew 55 farmer \$5000/1200, Scotland; Elizabeth W. 51 domestic, Tenn.; George H. 23 farm laborer, Ills.; Wm. H. 21 carpenter, Ills.; John T. 18, farm laborer, Ills.; Harriet A. 14, Ills.; Jacob A. 11, Ills.; Charles E. 8, Ills.; Thomas E. 5, Ills.
- 23/22 Worstell, Sophronia 47 domestic \$600/200, Ohio; George W. 23 farm laborer, Ohio; Thomas J. 20 farm laborer, Ohio; Elizabeth 18 domestic, Ills.; Moses C. 16 farm laborer, Ills.; Cynthia 12, Ills.; Isaac C. 10, Ills.; Sylvester 8, Ills.
- 24/23 Hazleton, Warren 36 farmer \$3000/400, NY; Lucy J. 30 domestic, Tenn.; Sarah 12, Ills.; Wm. H. 10, Ills.; Alsa 8, Ills.; Mary E. 6, Ills.; Lucy J. 4, Ills.; Louis A. 1, Ills.
- 25/24 Corrie, Thomas 47 farmer \$5000/\$1200, Scotland, Olive 50 domestic, Tenn.; William 18 farm laborer, Ills.; Thomas N. 14, Ills.

**COMMENT:**

Note that

- Samuel Witter and daughter Elizabeth Jones are enumerated in adjacent households. Ten years earlier, Witter and his daughter’s aunt by marriage (also named Elizabeth Jones) were adjacent, while Witter’s daughter in that year was 25 households away. The difference in proximity between 1850 and 1860 should stem from the path taken by the census taker, rather than a residential move by one of the households.

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

- Witter in both years is enumerated adjacent to Henry Gines/Goins. Others in the neighborhood overlap from 1850–60—particularly Bunns, Corries, Ridgelys, and Shicks.

It is clear from the census and land correlation that the Witters and Jones lived in the same location in 1850 and 1860—and 1870, as well. Aside from the core families of Witter, Jones (inlaws), Bunn, Corrie, Ridgely, and Shick (inlaws), the community saw the usual outflux and influx of families across each ten-year period.

**13 JULY 1870**  
**LAWRENCE CO., IL**

*Census*

Lukin Township, Olive P.O., Lawrence Co.<sup>122</sup>

91/91	<b>Samuel Witters</b>	69	male	Farmer	\$2000/650	Penn.	citizen
	John	25	male	Works on farm		“ “	“ “
	Mariah	22	female			“ “	
	Mary	20	female			“ “	
	Annie	18	male			“ “	

**Neighborhood:**

81/81 Ridgley, John Jr. 34 farmer \$800/300, Ill.; Thomas 32 *female* keeping house, Ill.; Olive 10, Ill.; Newton 8, Ill.; Stephen 6, Ill.; Fanny 2, Ill.; *and*  
 Ridgley, Mary 92, Va.

82/82 Hill, Isaac 33 farmer \$1600/650, Ind.; Louisa 27, Ohio; Martha 10, Ill.; Wesley 8, Ill.; Sarah 4, Ill.; Susan 10/12, Ill.

83/83 Knipp, John 45 blacksmith \$/500, Ill.; Angaline 37 keeping house, Ohio; Henry 17, works on farm, Ill.; Marion 15, Ill.; James 13, Ill.; William 11, Ill.; Nancy 7, Ill.

84/84 Morgan, Stephen 44 farmer \$2500/600, Indiana; Mary 43 keeping house, Ind.; William 22, works on farm, Ind.; Mary 10, Ill.; Sarah 8, Ill.

85/85 Wright, James, 48, farmer \$2500/750, Ind.; Sarah 30 keeping house, Ill.; David 21 works on farm, Ill.; Eliza 12, Ill.; Nancy 10, Ill.; Elizabeth 9, Ill.; Mahaly 7, Ill.; Lafayette 5, Ill.; **Della** 3, Ill.; Susan 6/12, Ill.

86/86 Gaddy, Fuller 39 farmer \$/200, Ill.; Terecee 38, Ill.; George 13, Ill.; Elizabeth 11, Ill.; Sine? *male* 5, Ill.; Mary 5, Ill.; Lucy 3, Ill.; Eana 1, Ill.; *and*  
 Gaddy, George, 60, Tenn.

87/87 Gaddy, James 68 farmer \$2000/500, Tenn.; Elizabeth 63, Tenn.; John 40, Tenn.; Lucy 18, Ill.; George 25, Ill.; Jane 15, Ill.; Martha 12, Ill.; George 8, Ill.; Mary 6, Ill.; Thomas 4, Ill.

88/88 Wooden, John 37 farmer, Ill.; Elizabeth 36 keeping house, Ill.; Percillah 12, Ill.; Malinda 11, Ill.

89/89 Hill, James 30 farmer \$1000/400 Ky.; Sarah 29 keeping house, Ill.; William 7, Ill., Mary 4, Ill.

91/91 **Witters, Samuel**

92/92 Bell, Elijah 41 farmer \$600/250, Tenn.; Mariah 28 keeping house, Ill.; Catharine 8, Ill.; Ned 6, Ill.; Nancy 4, Ill.; John 2, Ill.

93/93 Bell, Thomas 43 farmer \$600/350, Tenn.; Jane 35 keeping house, Ill.; Nathan 16, Ill.; John 14, Ill.; James 12, Ill.; Thomas 10, Ill.; Constantin 7, Ill.; Jane 3, Ill.

94/94 Bass, John 67 farmer \$2400/600, Tenn.; Elizabeth 62 keeping house, Va.; William 17 works on farm, Ill.; Mary 25, Ill.

<sup>122</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Lawrence Co., Ill., Lukin Township, pp. 12–16, especially p. 14 (Samuel Witters). 245. All individuals enumerated in this neighborhood were classed “white.”

**Samuel Witter (1787–1876)**  
**Rachel “Lizzie” Smith (1802–1854)**

- 95/95 Holsen, Frederick 29 farmer \$4000/1350, Hanover; Nancy 25 keeping house, Ill.; William 5, Ill.; Charles 3/12, Ill.; *and*  
Holsen, Herman 22 works on farm, Hanover
- 96/96 Kennitt, James 53 farmer \$700/300, Ill.; Hester 52 keeping house, Ohio; Barbara 16, Ill.; Lenora 10, Ill.; Franklin 13, Ill.; Ellen 6, Ill.; *and*  
Kennitt, James 23, Ill.; Susan 18, Ill.
- 97/97 Taylor, Cornelius 45 farmer \$1200/350, Penn.; Eliza 32 keeping house, Ind.; Jesse 13, Ill.; Malvina 11, Ill.; Margaret 8/12, Ill.; William 9, Ill.; Thomas 7, Ill.; Ruben 5, Ill.; Hector 8/12, Ill.
- 98/98 Gardner, Jesse 43 farmer \$400/250, Penn.; Racheal 34, Ill.; Stephen 14, Ill.; Sarah 12, Ill.; Martha 8, Ill.; Allen 6, Ill.; John 4, Ill.; Samuel 8/12, Ill.
- 99/99 Bass, John 25 farmer \$/150, Ill.; Agusta 19 keeping house, Ind.
- 100/100 Bass, Ezekiel 30 farmer \$1000/500, Ill.; Caroline 24 keeping house; Illinois; Ella 3, Ill.; George 2, Ill.; Theodore 3/12, Ill.

**COMMENT:**

The data for the Witter household errs so radically that it seems to be given by someone outside the family. On the other hand, the extent to which neighborhood children are listed out of chronological sequence suggests that the enumerator himself was exceptionally careless.

Either explanation warrants questioning the validity of the substantial increase in property value attributed to the Witters between 1860 and 1870, as well as the radically younger age given for Samuel here in 1870.

**25 DECEMBER 1876**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Death.

Died 25 December 1876, according to his tombstone in Brian Cemetery, Christy Township:

SAMUEL WITTER/ Died/ Dec. 25, 1876/ 89Y, 6M, 13D

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