



Lawson Morrison was born in North Carolina in 1814. His birth and that of his thirteen siblings is recorded in a Bible belonging to his brother, Eli. John and Naamah Sietz/Seitz are his parents. He is their firstborn. The origin of the Morrison name is unknown, but it may have been added by a later generation of family researchers. Morrison does not appear on any of his authentic documents until 1848, just ten years before his death.

His earliest documentation is in Eli's Bible. Eli began this Sitzes's family ancestry with the parents of his and Lawson's parents.

In his Bible, published 1834, Eli, German that he was, methodically recorded the parentage of his father, the parentage of his mother, the birth dates of his father and mother, the marriage of his father and mother, and the births of the fourteen children of his father and mother. Lawson was firstborn.

*Eli's Bible. Page 2, His Parents  
1<sup>st</sup> Column*

*John Seitz, son of Peter Seitz and Elizabeth his wife, was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1784.*

*Naamah Seitz, born on March the 17<sup>th</sup> day 1794*

As it turned out, Naamah's birthday was nearly the same as that of the United States Constitution for which Peter Seitz, a grandfather, had fought in the American Revolution. According to the Bible record, John and Naamah got married about twenty years later, with Naamah being ten years younger than John. Her father was yet another, "John Seitz," and he had a wife named Salley. Future entries into the Bible provide a map of where Lawson lived, and a calendar of when his life began—and, like unto it—where and when his parents made the move to Missouri. Eli provided his map and calendar by way of the births of his brothers and sisters, starting with the marriage of his parents, John and Naamah.

*Page 2,  
1<sup>st</sup> Column, continued*

*John Seitz and Naamah Seitz, daughter of John Seitz and Salley his wife, entered the holy state of matrimony on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 1813, and they begat children as follows, viz.*

## *2<sup>nd</sup> Column*

- 1. Lawsan Seitz, son of John Seitz and Naamah was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina the 15th day January AD, 1814.*
- 2. Eli Seitz, son of John Seitz and Naamah was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina the 14th day of April 1815.*
- 3. Adaline daughter of John Seitz and Naamah was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina the 21st day of November AD, 1816.*
- 4. Emaline daughter of John Seitz and Naamah was ...*

Here, "BORN IN LINCOLN" is marked out and replaced by ..."born in Madison, Missouri." Thus, the family's move was made sometime before the birth of Emaline in 1819 while Lawson was a small boy.

- 4. Emaline Sitzes 1819*
- 5. Artamissa Seitz*
- 6. Rufus Easten Sitzes 1822*
- 7. Nancy Sitzes 1824*
- 8. Caroline*
- 9. Emmanuel 1826*
- 10. John Franklin Sitzes 1828*
- 11. Raleigh Sitzes 1829*
- 12. Emanuel Alvin Sitzes 1831*
- 13. Sarah Catharine Sitzes 1832*
- 14. Francis Marion, son*

The last eleven children listed in Eli's Bible were born in Madison, Missouri, Naamah giving birth every two years until she was past her child-bearing years. Lawson, her oldest child, was born the year following her wedding, and she had another son and a daughter in the next two years in Lincoln. The three youngsters had the experience of a lifetime, making the trip to Missouri through mountainous trails, over rivers and streams, and across prairies in one of the endless wagon trains of the day. Lawson was about five years old when he got to Missouri.



***NOTE: Sitzes became the spelling of choice for John Sitzes and subsequently became the spelling with which Lawson Sitzes and his line stayed.***

## 1800--1820

The first twenty years of the nineteenth century were eventful. Early on, President Thomas Jefferson doubled the size of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase. So, John Sitzes, and all his fellow Americans, had somewhere to spread out with their growing families.



### ***Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition Map***

*James Madison*



In the election of 1812 James Madison was re-elected President and would serve a second term. He presided over interesting times—starting off with a war. The American and English war that began in 1812, and was called the War of 1812, came to an end in 1814.



Thirty years after Lawson's grandfather, Peter, added his efforts to the Continental Army's efforts to blast the Redcoats back to England, the English returned in 1812 to have a go at a new generation of American soldiers. A few Americans were still mad at them for the first fight—patriotic anger which showed up in deeds such as crucial Congressional Acts passed in





support of pensions for Revolutionary War veterans who had defeated England the first time around. This time around, King George's son was on the throne, and it seems the British were still pretty mad too.

They burned down the relatively new White House, (*Pictured, Left*) and Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" as he watched Fort McHenry get bombed (*Pictured, Second, Left, National Park Service.*) The British fully intended to take back America, all the way to the potentially valuable shipping ports on the Mississippi River.



The Sitzes were not well represented in the War of 1812. In fact, after the war began, John and Naamah had their wedding in 1813, and John, at war age in his thirties, stayed busy starting his family. He and his wife became parents of Lawson Sitzes a war baby, of sorts.

As the War of 1812 ended, John's family had a toddler in the house and Eli was on the way. Naamah could breathe a sigh of relief for her family, that the fighting was basically over. A peace treaty ending the two-year war was signed in Belgium in December 1814.

After Eli, Adaline joined their nursery--the last of this Sitzes clan to be born in North Carolina.



*The Battle of New Orleans was fought on January 8, 1815, between the British Army under Major General Sir Edward Pakenham and the United States Army under Brevet Major General Andrew Jackson, roughly 5 miles (8 km) southeast of New Orleans, Louisiana. **Wikipedia***

Although the war had ended, General Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 helped bring on an intense American pride over this "second war of independence." The war also resulted—in part—in Jackson becoming President of the United

States. Elected in 1828, Jackson served from 1829–1837. His Indian Removal Act, which forced thousands of Native American tribes out of the southern states and into Indian Territory, came after the Sitzes move to Missouri, but he opened up more land for white settlement, an opportunity of which several Sitzes men of the future took advantage.

John and his family started out on their adventure from Lincoln County, and on their way to Missouri in 1819 they would have seen plenty of Indians about whom they could tell future generations.

Before Lawson was grown, he got married at age seventeen and began doing his part to create a host of descendants. His young wife's name was Catharine Bess.

### *Catharine Bess*

*Catherine Bess in the Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805-2002*

*Marriage Date*      *16 Oct 1831*

*Marriage Place*    *Cape Girardeau, Missouri, USA*

*Spouse*                *Lawson Sitze*

### 1830

*John Sitze in the 1830 United States Federal Census*

*Home in 1830 (City, County, State)*    *German, Madison, Missouri*

*Free White Persons - Males - Under 5*      *3*

*Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9*      *1*

*Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14*    *1 Eli*

*Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19*    *1 Lawson*

*Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49*    *1 John*

*Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9*    *3*

*Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14*   *2*

*Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39*   *1 Naamah*

*Free White Persons - Under 20*                *11*

*Free White Persons - 20 thru 49*              *2*

*Total Free White Persons*                       *13*

*Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored)*    *13*

The 1830 census is the only census on which Lawson Sitzes of 1814 can be found. His life in the forties and his death in the fifties are told in military records, a second marriage, and the settlement of his estate.

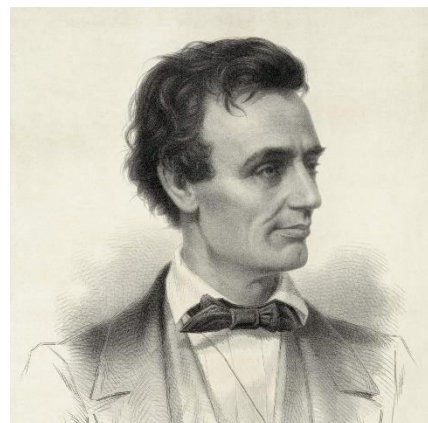
## The 1840's, a War and a Second Marriage

*The Mexican–American War was an invasion of Mexico by the United States Army from 1846 to 1848. It followed the 1845 U.S. annexation of Texas, which Mexico still considered its territory. Mexico refused to recognize the Treaties of Velasco, because they were signed by President Antonio López de Santa Anna while he was captured by the Texian Army during the 1836 Texas Revolution*

*Sectional politics over slavery in the United States were preventing annexation because Texas, formerly a slavery-free territory under Mexican rule, would have been admitted as a slave state, upsetting the balance of power between Northern free states and Southern slave states.[6] In the 1844 United States presidential election, Democrat James K. Polk was elected on a platform of expanding U.S. territory to Oregon, California, and Texas, with the 1845 annexation of Texas furthering that goal.[7] However, the boundary between Texas and Mexico was disputed, with the Republic of Texas and the U.S. asserting it to be the Rio Grande and Mexico claiming it to be the more-northern Nueces River. Polk sent diplomats to Mexico to try to buy the disputed territory, with California and everything in-between for \$25 million (equal to equivalent to \$706,264,916 in 2021), an offer the Mexican government refused.[8][9] Polk then sent a group of 80 soldiers across the disputed territory to the Rio Grande, ignoring Mexican demands to withdraw.[10][11] Mexican forces interpreted this as an attack and repelled the U.S. forces on April 25, 1846,[12] a move which Polk used to convince the Congress of the United States to declare war.[10] Wikipedia*

*Pictured, Congressman Abraham Lincoln 1847*

In 1846, newly elected Whig Congressman Abraham Lincoln criticized the Mexican War, calling it immoral, proslavery, and a threat to the nation's republican values. When President James K. Polk accused Mexico of shedding "American blood on American soil," Lincoln



famously retorted by demanding to know where the "particular spot of soil on which the blood of our citizens was so shed."

His was a lonely voice. In Arkansas, Lawson Sitzes joined hundreds of his fellow Arkansans to go quarrel with the Mexicans over their land in the Polk-Mexico war.

*In April, 1846, the United States went to war with Mexico over the disputed question of the Rio Grande boundary. To vindicate the shedding of "American blood upon the American soil," Congress on May 13 gave President James K. Polk authority to call into service up to 50,000 volunteers. Two days later Secretary of War W. L. Marcv addressed a letter to Governor Thomas S. Drew of Arkansas, requesting him to organize immediately one regiment of cavalry, or "mounted gunmen," and one battalion of infantry. The cavalry regiment was to rendezvous at Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, where the men would be mustered into the service of the United States. The infantrymen were to report to Fort Smith as replacements for the troops on the frontier, now all ordered to the Rio Grande by General Taylor. [1] In response Governor Drew issued a call for volunteers on May 27. [2] Wikipedia, 2016*

Lawson Sitzes, who had left his family and had taken up residence in Hempstead, answered the governor's call.

### *Lawson Morrison Sitzes, Muster Roll*

*Military Record of Lawson Morrison Sitzes*

*Mexican-American War of 1847-48.*

*Capitol Guards, Co. A, 6th Arkansas Volunteer Infantry*

*Enrolled at Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, 30 June 1846*

*Captain Albert Pike's Company E, "The Little Rock Guards,"  
Yell's Regiment, Arkansas Mounted Volunteers, 30 June 1846*

*History: This company mustered on:*

*31 August 1846 at San Antonio, Texas;*

*31 October 1846 at Monclova, Mexico;*

*31 December 1846 at Hacienda de Patos, Mexico;*

*28 February 1847 at Saltillo, Mexico;*

*7 June 1847 at Monterey, Mexico.*



*With examples of fellow enlistees:*

ADAMSON, William; Pvt.

ANSON, Hiram; Pvt. disab. disc. 25 Sept. 1846 at San Antonio

BALES, Stephen; Pvt.

BARNES, William; Pvt. disab. disc. 10 Sept 1846, San Antonio

BLUNDEN, William N.; Bugler

Etc

Etc

Etc

SCHNEIDER, Joseph; Farrier

**SITZES, Lawson; Pvt.**

SMITH, Elias; Pvt

SMITH, Woods; Pvt. disab. disc. 25 Sept 1846 at San Antonio

STEPHENSON, James T.; Sergeant.

STEPHENSON, John C.; Sergeant.

SULLIVAN, Chris; Sergeant. wounded at Saltillo 23 Feb 1847

TERRY, John; Pvt.

THARPE, John D.; Pvt.

TOLER, William; Corporal.

USSERY, Morgan; Pvt

WHITE, Newton; Pvt. age 18 died 13 Feb. 1847 Los Polonius

WHITELY, Lambert A.; Sergeant.

WOLFE, Charles; Pvt.

WOODRUFF, Alden; Pvt. appted 2nd Lt. 12th Regt. U.S. Army

Published in the "Capitol Guards Sentinel," September, 1998, "Captain Pike and the Little Rock Guards, (Company A, 1st Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry), July, 1846"

Captain Albert Pike's cavalry made up the last of the ten companies that would form the Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry Regiment that reported for duty at Old Washington, Hempstead County. Hempstead had become Lawson's home, and would remain so for the rest of his life.

### *Hempstead County, Arkansas*

*Hempstead County is Arkansas's fourth county, formed on December 15, 1818, alongside Clark and Pulaski counties. The county is named for Edward Hempstead, a delegate to the U.S. Congress from the Missouri Territory, which included present-day Arkansas.[4] Wikipedia.*

*Military Years 1846-1848*

The Arkansas cavalry unit in which Lawson found himself was in the same political quandary the United States was in. Quarreling between the Whigs and the Democrats in Washington DC spilled over into the military arena and continued as the War with Mexico was being fought. Lawson's unit was under Captain Albert Pike, a Whig, who had an appreciation of military practices--which the other Arkansas commanders lacked--a condition that quickly led to chaos for Lawson and his particular band of brothers.

On July 18, 1846, his Arkansas regiment began its march toward Mexico with the high morale new recruits sometimes show for war—waving flags, bragging, and singing songs. By the time they reached San Antonio, Texas, six weeks later, many of the 793 Arkansas volunteers, and Captain Pike, doubted the competence of the generals and military leaders in charge of Arkansas troops.

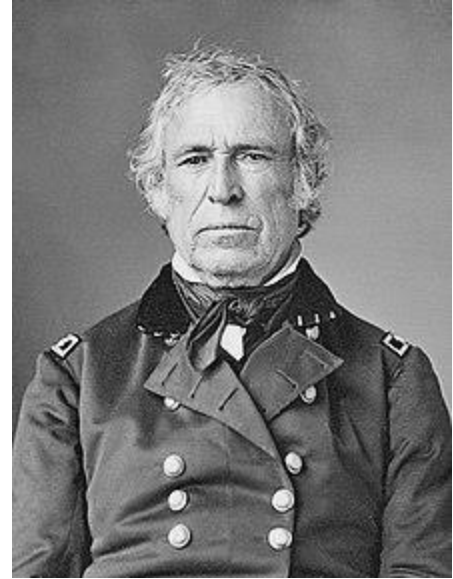
Men they knew and admired did not reconnoiter for campgrounds or survey the area for safety and defense. Sanitation measures which had been enforced for every military encampment since George Washington was a General, were unknown. Daily drilling, guard duty, and picket assignment was lacking. Months after their enlistment, uniforms had not been provided. Old, useless weapons were handed out. Captain Pike complained, "*The pistols given us are old, the sabres soft, and the caps for the carbines--only one in two or three will explode.*"

While other Arkansawyers went untrained and undisciplined, Captain Pike had the Little Rock Guards going through daily close-order drill. His men were eager to get into action, but their captain's biggest battle was against inefficiency rather than against the Mexicans. As General Zachary Taylor led his army deeper into Mexico, the Arkansas volunteers had been waiting. Waiting for four months. Captain Pike's Little Rock Guards, disciplined by their insistent leader, withstood the wait better than the rest of the Arkansas volunteers, but their army morale suffered. Some men were wishing they could go home about the time they found themselves ordered on a march deep into Mexico to assist General Zachary Taylor of Kentucky.

Pike's men were sent to an outpost called Las Palomas where his men relieved a Kentucky cavalry regiment.

### *General Zachary Taylor*

*Zachary Taylor was an American military leader who served as the 12th president of the United States from 1849 until his death in 1850. Taylor was a career officer in the United States Army, rising to the rank of major general and becoming a national hero for his victories in the Mexican–American War. His top priority as president was to preserve the Union.*



*He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in 1808 and made a name for himself as a captain in the War of 1812. He climbed the ranks of the military, establishing military forts along the Mississippi River and entering the Black Hawk War as a colonel in 1832.*

*In 1845, during the annexation of Texas, President James K. Polk dispatched Taylor to the Rio Grande in anticipation of a battle with Mexico over the disputed Texas–Mexico border. The Mexican–American War broke out in April 1846, and Taylor defeated Mexican troops commanded by General Mariano Arista at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, driving Arista's troops out of Texas. Taylor then led his troops into Mexico, where they defeated Mexican troops commanded by Pedro de Ampudia at the Battle of Monterrey. Defying orders, Taylor led his troops further south and, despite being severely outnumbered, dealt a crushing blow to Mexican forces under General Antonio López de Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista.*

Wikipedia



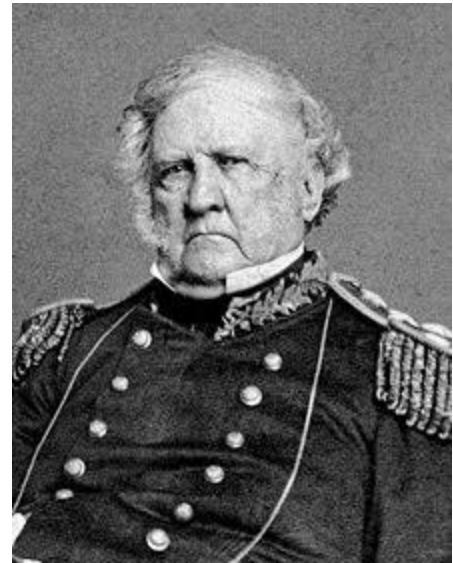
Battle of Buena Vista by Carl Nebel

Taylor's defiance of orders came about during days of rumors of war, but nary a fight with their declared enemy. The strain of waiting around was too much for some of the rowdier Arkansas boys, but not for those who were trained by Pike. General Taylor, about to engage the enemy, took the time to chastise those who were causing trouble.

To neutralize the nerve wracking consequences of holding their fire, Pike engaged the Guards at Las Palomas with soldiering. From reveille to sunset they marched and drilled. When the wait for battle was over, his men joined the fight—even though Taylor only had 4,700 men to put against a Mexican Army of 21,000.

Winfield Scott

*Winfield Scott was an American military commander. He served as Commanding General of the United States Army from 1841 to 1861, having taken part in the Mexican–American War. He was known as Old Fuss and Feathers for his insistence on proper military etiquette, as well as the Grand Old Man of the Army for his many years of service.*  
Wikipedia



To prepare for the war, late in 1846 the United States recruited regiments of Arkansas regulars to help launch a mission against Vera Cruz and to march inland to Mexico City. Captain Allen Wood of Carroll County raised a company of Arkansans for the Twelfth Infantry, and they joined the forces of General Winfield Scott in the summer of 1847. Wood's Arkansans fought in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco on August 19 and 20, on the outskirts of Mexico City. In a matter of weeks, Mexico City had fallen to Scott's forces. Among the dead and the wounded and conquering heroes of the War with Mexico were the sons of Arkansas. Back in Arkansas, where they had signed up, celebrations welcomed them home.



*General Winfield Scott's march, from Vera Cruz to Mexico City, 1847*

*Mexican–American War  
Winfield Scott entering Plaza de la Constitución after the  
Fall of Mexico City*





### The Final Years

Lawson was among those returning home, but home had moved from Missouri to Arkansas. After it was over, when Lawson returned to Arkansas from the war there is no indication that he and his first wife stayed in touch. Catharine Bess Sitzes eventually settled in Bess, Missouri and Lawson settled in Arkansas where he married a second wife, twenty-year-old Margaret Cantley.

*Martha J Cantley in the Arkansas, US County Marriages Index, 1837-1957*

*Name Martha J Cantley, Age 20*  
*Birth Year abt 1828*  
*Residence Hempstead, Arkansas*  
*Spouse's Name Lawson M Sitzer*  
*Spouse's Age 33*  
*Spouse's Residence, Hempstead, Arkansas*  
*Marriage Date 28 Dec 1848*  
*Marriage County Hempstead*

The census taker of 1820 had missed the Sitzes the first year they were in Missouri. But, in the 1830 census, when Lawson was counted, not all was well with the oldest son of John Sitzes. Regrettably, a very, very young teenage Lawson was about to leave the family and marry a Bess girl from the neighborhood shortly after the 1830 census taker showed up. It was a marriage that didn't last, but it lasted long enough for the young couple to bring a lot of children into the world. Lawson abandoned his house full of kids for his stint in the War with Mexico, 1846-1848, and he never returned to them.

The Bess family seems to have been known by the Sitzes families far back into 18<sup>th</sup> century Lincoln County. It's possible, even probable, that Lawson was named after a Lawson Bess.

The 1860 census lists his father's worth at an astounding \$3650.00. John Sitzes may have been the wealthiest man in the neighborhood. The list includes a young Bess family from the laboring class. Perhaps Lawson married a laborer's daughter, notwithstanding, there also were Bess folk who were prosperous. After Lawson left her, Catherine Bess Sitzes took her fatherless waifs to a place called Bessville, Bollinger County, Missouri.

*Bessville, Bollinger County,  
Missouri Township, Crooked Creek*

*Bessville is an unincorporated community in Crooked Creek Township in eastern Bollinger County, Missouri. The community lies on the east bank of Crooked Creek and is located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of Marquand in adjacent Madison County.[2]*

*The community was established as a stop on the Belmont branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad. It was laid out soon after the railroad was built in 1869. The community was named for Sam Bess, who ran the first store, and Levi Bess, who was the community's first postmaster.[3] The first post office in the area operated between 1856–1864, and then again between 1871–1955 after the construction of the railroad.[4] Wikipedia*

Catherine Bess Sitzes raised her children in Bessville where several of them prospered and went on to live productive lives. Catherine lived to be eighty. She died 27 July 1894, and is buried in Bessville as the wife of Lawson Sitzes.



*Catherine Bess Sitzes  
Wife of Lawson Sitzes  
27 Jul 1894*

Lawson died in 1858, while his parents still lived. His young wife, Martha Jane Cantley, had died four years earlier. They had three children: Joshua Morrison Sitzes, born 1850; Eliza E. Sitzes 1852; Lawson Cantley Sitzes, born 1854. It's possible that Martha Jane died in childbirth with the birth of Lawson Cantley. Her baby was born March 30<sup>th</sup>; she died May 9<sup>th</sup> in 1854. There is no official record of why she, or her forty-four-year-old widowed husband, died so young.

Curiously, as if he were in good health and had plans, one year later he was issued a land grant. The grant was dated March 1, 1855 and signed by President Franklin Pierce.

*Lawson Sitzes*  
*in the U.S., General Land Office Records, 1776-2015*  
*Name Lawson Sitzes*  
*Issue Date 1 Mar 1855*  
*Place Hempstead, Arkansas, USA*  
*Land Office Washington, Arkansas*  
*Original URL*  
<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

When Lawson died in 1858 an inventory of his estate included a wealth of worldly goods and livestock. Plus, there were notes from men who owed him thousands of dollars. He was a very wealthy man, and since the death of his second wife, Martha Cantley Sitzes, had left three motherless waifs in his care, the orphans that his death left in the care of their Cantley grandparents were the heirs of a substantial inheritance.

The inheritance of his two sons was substantial enough that it was still talked about in family lore up into the twenty-first century:

*Two orphan boys born in Washington, Hempstead County Arkansas, found their way to Fort Worth about 1870. Joshua Morrison Sitzes and his younger brother, Lawson Cantley, were promptly relieved of their inheritance monies by some fast-talking city slicker in the dusty squalor of the rapidly growing cowtown in lawless North Texas.*

*The two young men originally had planned to venture further into Texas, but their new financial circumstances made it imperative that they change their plans. With what little money they had left - and for a reason now unknown - they decided to go to Pilot Point.*

**Author Unknown**

Perhaps their father's newly acquired real estate fattened their inheritance pot:

872 E  
**CERTIFICATE**  
 No 6460

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

*To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:*

**WHEREAS** *Lauron Sitzer of Campbell County, Maryland*  
 has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the RIGHTS OF THE LAND OFFICE, at *Washington* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Lauron Sitzer* according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 21st of April, 1820, entitled "An act to regulate further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the South East quarter of the North West section of Section 36, in Township 10 North, Range 12 West, in the District of Columbia subject to sale at Washington at a price of *Twenty Dollars*.

according to the official list of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Lauron Sitzer*.

**NOW KNOW YE**, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premium, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Lauron Sitzer* and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, tenements, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereto belonging, unto the said *Lauron Sitzer* and to his heirs and assigns forever.

**In Testimony Whereof**, *Franklin Pierce* PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

**GIVEN** under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, this *first* day of *March* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *seventy* and of the Independence of the United States the thirty *seventh*.

**BY THE PRESIDENT:** *Franklin Pierce*  
*W. C. Baldwin* Secy  
 Manager, LANDS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

1858

*Lawson Sitzes in the Arkansas, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1818-1998*

*Name Lawson Sitzes*

*Probate Date 15 Nov 1858*

*Probate Place Hempstead, Arkansas*

*Inferred Death Year 1858*

*Inferred Death Place Arkansas*

*Item Description Administration Bonds, Etc, Vol K-L, 1854-1863*

*Individuals Listed (Name) Lawson Sitzes*

When the census taker showed up in Hempstead, Arkansas in 1860 he found the orphans of Lawson Sitzes living with their Cantley grandparents. The wealth of Grandpa Cantley had increased markedly since the census that was taken ten years earlier in 1850.

*James Cantley*

*in the 1860 United States Federal Census*

*Name James Cantley*

*Age 66*

*Birth Year abt 1794*

*Gender Male*

*Race White*

*Birth Place Virginia*

*Home in 1860 Carouse, Hempstead, Arkansas*

*Post Office Albany*

*Dwelling Number 1023*

*Family Number 1023*

*Occupation Farmer*

*Real Estate Value 4000*

*Personal Estate Value 7895*

*Household Members (Name) Age*

*James Cantley 66*

*Sarah Cantley 60*

*Ebenazar Cantley 18*

***Joshua M Sites 10***

***Eliza E Sites 8***

***Lasson C Sites 6***



It can be assumed that much of the increase in James Cantley's "Personal Value" came out of the estate of his daughter's husband, via their three orphans. It can also be assumed that he took good care of their inheritance, if ten years later they took their fortune to Fort Worth.

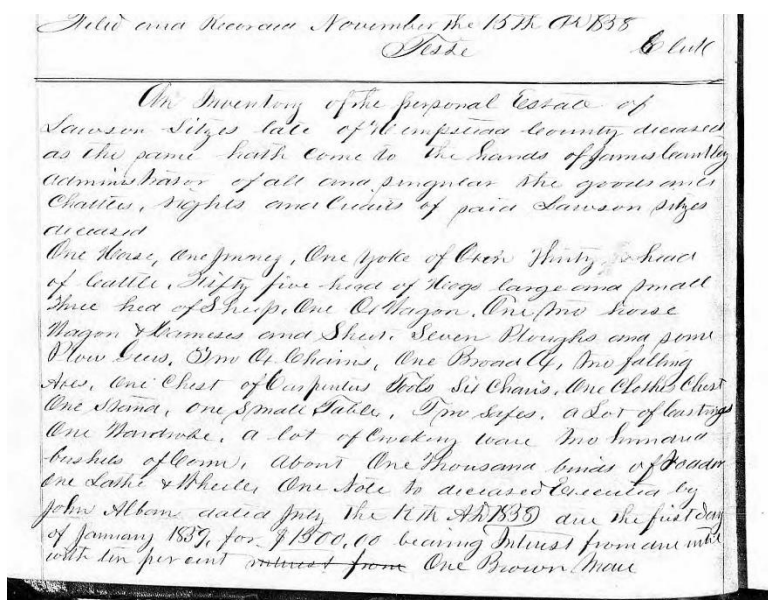
*An Inventory Of The Personal Estate Of Lawson Sitzes  
Transcription by Helen Vaughan Michael*

*An inventory of the personal Estate of Lawson Sitzes late of Hempstead County, deceased, as the same hath come to the hands of James Cantley, Administrator of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of said Lawson Sitzes, deceased.*

*One horse, one Jenney, one yoke of Oxen, thirty head of cattle, fifty-five head of Hogs, large and small, Three head of sheep, one Ox Wagon, one two-horse wagon & harness and Shoes?. Seven Ploughs and some Plow \_\_\_\_\_. Two Ox chains, One Broadax, two falling axes, one chest of carpenter's tools, six chairs, one clothes chest, one stand, one small table. Two safes, a set of castings. One Wardrobe. A lot of cooking ware. Two hundred bushels of corn.*

*About one thousand \_\_\_\_\_ of Fodder? One lathe and Wheel?, One Note to deceased Executor? By John Alban dated July 12<sup>th</sup> AD 1855 due the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1859 for \$1500. Bearing interest from \_\_\_\_\_ with ten percent {interest from} One brown Mare.*

The Original Document (followed by Four Pages)



list specifying each article appraised and  
the value and showing the total amount  
of said appraisement to be Six thousand and fifty  
nine dollars and fifty cents is a true and  
perfect additional appraisement bill of said  
estate made by us on this the 11th day of  
November 1838

John, D. Grindle Appraiser  
Jno. B. Sanders of estate of  
J. M. Daniel Estate of William  
deceased

Filed and Recorded November the 13th A.D. 1838  
Attest

Now all men by these presents that the  
James Cantley as principal and John B. Samsfur  
and Jacob J. Whitson as securities are held and  
firmly bound unto the State of Arkansas in  
the just and penal sum of eight thousand  
dollars, for the payment whereof well and truly to  
be made, the bona fides our heirs, Executors and  
Administrators jointly by these presents, witness our  
hands and seals at Washington Ark., this 13th  
day of November A.D. 1838.

The condition of the above obligation is  
such that whereas the last will and Testament of  
Lawson Sarges deceased, hath been duly proven  
and recorded, of which said will James Cantley is  
named Executor, now if the said James Cantley as Ex-  
ecutor of the last will and Testament of Lawson  
Sarges deceased, shall make or cause to be made a  
true and perfect inventory, of all and singular  
the goods and chattels, rights and credits of the  
said deceased, which have or may come to the  
hands possession or knowledge of him the said  
James Cantley or into the hands or person of  
any other person for him, and the same so  
made shall return and shew in the office  
of the Clerk of the Court of Probate for the County  
of Hempstead within fifty days from the date  
of the above obligation, also all and singular  
the goods and chattels, rights and credits of the  
deceased, which shall come to the hands

possession of the said James Cantley, he shall well and truly, administer according to Law, and pay the debts and legacies of the deceased, as far as his assets will extend, and the Law direct and further make or cause to be made, just and true accounts of his executorship, and make due and proper settlements thereof from time to time, according to Law or the Lawful order sentence or decree of any Court having competent jurisdiction, and shall moreover well and truly do and perform all other matters touching such executorship that are or may be prescribed by Law, or enjoined on such Executor by the Lawful order sentence or decree of any Court having competent jurisdiction then the above obligation to be void and of none effect, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set  
 (Seal) my hand and affixed the seal of my  
 the day and year first above written  
 James Cantley (Seal)  
 J B Sandusky (Seal)  
 J Whitledge (Seal)

I approve the above Bond as sufficient

S J Sandusky Clerk  
 Filed and Recorded November the 15th A D 1855  
 S J Sandusky Clerk

County of Hempstead, N  
 The State of Arkansas  
 to all persons to whom these presents shall come  
 greeting.  
 Know ye that the last Will and Testa-  
 ment of Lawson Dugas deceased, hath in due form  
 of Law been exhibited proved and recorded in  
 the Office of the Clerk of the Court of Probate  
 for Hempstead County a copy of which is hereto  
 annexed; and in as much as it appears that James  
 Cantley has been appointed executor in and by the  
 said last Will and Testament to execute the same  
 and to the end that the property of the testator  
 may be preserved for them who shall appear to

have a legal right or interest therein, and that the  
 said last will may be executed according to the se-  
 quest of the Dissaver; that he may authorize him  
 the said James Leach as such executor to collect  
 and receive all and singular the goods and  
 Chattels rights and claims, which were of the  
 said Lawson Sides, at the time of his death &  
 whatsoever lands or possession the same may be  
 found; and to perform and fulfill all such duties  
 as may be imposed upon him by said Will, so far  
 as that shall be properly and lawfully charge him,  
 and in general to do and perform all other acts which  
 now are or hereafter may be required of him by Law  
 in testimony whereof Simon D. Hancock, Clerk of  
 the Circuit Court and W. Offin Clerk of the  
 Court of Probate in and for the said County  
 of Hampshire, have hereunto set my hands  
 and affixed the seal of said Court at Office  
 in Washington this 15th day of November 1838

S. D. Hancock Clerk  
 Filed and Recorded November the 15th 1838  
 W. Offin Clerk

The Inventory of the personal Estate of  
 Lawson Sides late of Hampshire County deceased  
 as the same hath come to the hands of James Leach  
 administrator of all and singular the goods and  
 Chattels, rights and claims of said Lawson Sides  
 deceased  
 One Horse, one mule, One flock of Chickens, 30 Head  
 of Cattle, Fifty five head of Hogs large and small  
 Three head of Sheep, One Cart Wagon, One two horse  
 Wagon & Harness and Saddle, Seven Ploughs and some  
 Plow Gears, One A. Chains, One Broad Gy, One falling  
 Axe, One Chest of Carpenter Tools Six Chairs, One Cloth Chest  
 One Bedstead, one small Table, Two Sides, a Lot of Lard  
 One Wardrobe, a lot of Crockery ware Two Iron and  
 bushels of Corn, About One thousand pounds of Potatoes  
 one Saddle & Whistles One Debt to deceased Executed by  
 John Albane dated 1st Jan. the 11th 1838 due the first day  
 of January 1839, for \$1500.00 bearing Interest from date made  
 with ten per cent interest from One Brown Mare

One Note to same executed by John M. Allen dated July the 14th A.D. 1835 due the first day of January A.D. 1860 for \$1500.00 to bear interest at the rate of ten per cent from the first day of January 1839 until paid.

One Note to same executed by E. W. Bradley dated March the 21st A.D. 1835, due the 25th day of December 1835 for \$95.00 ten per cent from and till paid, with a credit of \$35.00 dated March the 13th 1836.

One Note to same executed by Lewis (Mr) Bradley dated January the 17th A.D. 1836 due the 25th day of December 1836 for \$105.00 to bear ten percent interest from and till paid.

One Note to same executed by Miss Lewis dated July the 17th A.D. 1838 due one day after date for \$300.00 The Executors & Heirs

The State of Arkansas  
County of Hempstead

I James Landley as Executor of the last Will and Testament of Lawson Setzer deceased do swear that the above and foregoing is a full inventory of all the money goods Chattels Books Papers and evidences of debt due or becoming due belonging to the Estate of said deceased, as far as I have been able to ascertain, and that I was not indebted to, or bound in any contract to the deceased at the time of his death kept as stated in the Inventory.

Given to and subscribed by James Landley  
before November 9th A.D. 1838

I James Landley  
Subscribed and Recorded November 15th A.D. 1838  
State of Ark.



An inventory of the personal Estate of Lawson Sitzes late of Hempstead County, deceased, as the same hath come to the hands of James Cantley, Administrator of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of said Lawson Sitzes, deceased.

One horse, one Jenney, one yoke of Oxen, thirty head of cattle, fifty-five head of Hogs, large and small, Three head of sheep, one Ox Wagon, one two-horse wagon & harness and Shoes?. Seven Ploughs and some Plow \_\_\_\_\_. Two Ox chains, One Broadax, two falling axes, one chest of carpenter's tools, six chairs, one clothes chest, one stand, one small table. Two safes, a set of castings. One Wardrobe. A lot of cooking ware. Two hundred bushels of corn.

About one thousand \_\_\_\_\_ of Fodder? One lathe and Wheel?, One Note to deceased Executor? By John Alban dated July 12<sup>th</sup> AD 1855 due the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1859 for \$1500. Bearing interest from \_\_\_\_\_ with ten percent {interest from} One brown Mare.

*Filed and Recorded November the 15<sup>th</sup> AD 1855*  
*Attest* *E. L. L.*

*The Inventory of the personal Estate of Lawson Sitzes late of Hempstead County deceased as the same hath come to the hands of James Cantley Administrator of all and singular the goods and chattels, rights and credits of said Lawson Sitzes deceased*

*One Horse, one Jenney, One yoke of Oxen Thirty head of cattle, Fifty five head of Hogs large and small Three head of Sheep, One Ox Wagon, One two horse Wagon & harness and Shoes, Seven Ploughs and some Plow Gear, Two Ox chains, One Broad Ax, Two falling Axes, one Chest of Carpenter's Tools Six Chairs, One Clothes Chest One Stand, one Small Table, Two Safes, a Lot of castings One Wardrobe, a lot of cooking ware Two hundred bushels of Corn, About One thousand bushels of Fodder one Lathe & Wheel, One Note to deceased Executor by John Alban dated July the 12<sup>th</sup> AD 1855 due the first day of January 1859, for \$1500.00 bearing Interest from and until with ten percent interest from One Brown Mare*

There is nothing in Lawson's recorded history to explain the complexities of a man, to tell why he would leave his family to go to war, or to show how he made his fortune, or to let his descendants know why he died young—not even a tombstone. For now, his epithet lies in an inventory list of his estate—a list that includes a chest of carpenter's tools. The communities of the West needed houses, barns, churches, schools, stores, jails, and business quarters; and they needed men, who were skilled, with the tools to build them. Lawson Sitzes owned a chest of carpenter's tools. Maybe he was a builder of communities.

**The End**