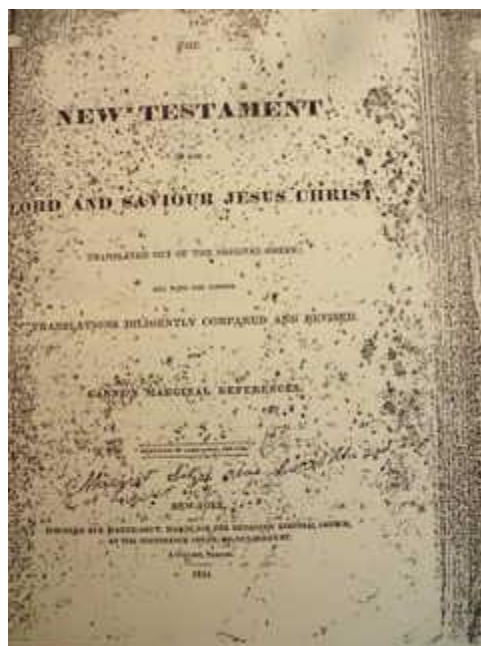


# John B Sitzes and Naamah Sietze in Eli's Bible



*Martin Luther New Testament in 1787 in German*



## Eli's Bible

John Seitz had a son whose name was Eli. Sometime after 1834 someone gave Eli a Bible. On the book's family pages, he began to record in his own handwriting and spelling his family's history—a history he had lived since 1815. His edition of the Holy Bible had been published in 1834, so, much of what he wrote covered the past nineteen to twenty years. They were action-packed years for the Sitzes family and for American families in general.

On page 2 of his Bible's Family Record he wrote that John, his father, was the son of Peter and Elizabeth Seitz, and that his father was born in October of 1784 in Lincoln County, North Carolina, directly after the Revolutionary War. His father, Eli wrote, married his mother, Naamah Sietz, in 1813. Naamah Sietz was born in 1794, making her ten years younger than John. Her parents were John and Salley Sietz.

Eli's entries:

### *1<sup>st</sup> Column*

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

*-Naamah Sietz, born on March the 17th day 1794.*

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

**Transcription by Helen Vaughan Michael of Eli's Bible, p2. Published, New York 1834.**

*Viz*, meaning, *Here's the list*, and the list followed—naming names, dates of birth, and places of birth of John and Naamah's fourteen children. The written use of a Latin term would indicate Eli having undergone a degree of higher education. Plus, he was a skilled record keeper. The history of his family can be gleaned from the information he left.

Time has not been kind to Eli's text. Paper pages have yellowed and the ink he used has faded. So has some of the language he used and the spellings he chose. Two pages of his Bibles show signs of being damaged by what is commonly called Scotch taped, a deed that occurred in the twentieth century after the 1901 invention of adhesive tape. Nevertheless, the singsong repetition of the births of each of his siblings is lyrical and makes his data memorable as well as valuable.

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

1. *L*awsan 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.

And on and on through all fourteen births, with little change, except for the family's move to Missouri shortly after the birth of Adaline and before the birth of Emaline:

4. *Emaline* daughter of John Seitz and Naamah was ...  
Here, "*Born in Lincoln*" is marked out and replaced by ... "*Madison, Missouri*."  
Thus, the family's 1819 move was made sometime before Emaline's birth.

4. *Emeline Sitzes* 1819
5. *Artamissa Seitz*
6. *Rufus Easten Sitzes* 1822
7. *Nancy Sitzes* 1824
8. *Caroline*
9. *Emmanual* 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 were born in Madison, Missouri, Naamah giving birth every two years until she was past her child-bearing age. From time to time Eli changed the spelling of the family name, spelling being in an experimental stage in all of American English.

Noah Webster had done his part in helping Americans with their new identity by publishing an American Dictionary of their language.



*Noah Webster (1758–1843), the author of the readers and spelling books which dominated the American market at the time, spent decades of research in compiling his dictionaries. His first dictionary, A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language, appeared in 1806.*

*In 1828, when Noah Webster was 70, his American Dictionary of the English Language was published. There were 2,500 copies printed, at \$20 (adjusted for 2023 inflation=\$647.73) for the two volumes. At first the set sold poorly. When he lowered the price to \$15 (adjusted for 2023 inflation=\$485.80), its sales improved, and by 1836 that edition was exhausted.[6] Wikipedia*

A price list from the early American colonies lists a Bible at one pound, one shilling or 21 shillings, which is about \$600 in 2023 money. At these prices it's a wonder that anyone in the John Sitze family had access to a Bible, even in 1834.

Perhaps they had access to one of Webster's books, as well.

Noah Webster was not the only one who noticed New America needed some spelling guidelines in its new identity. More than one hundred years after the Revolution, people still struggled over what was "proper" English. As late as 1910, Mark Twain wrote,

*"...The English alphabet is a pure insanity. It can hardly spell any word in the language with any large degree of certainty. When you see the word chaldron in an English book, no foreigner can guess how to pronounce it; neither can any native. The reader knows that it is pronounced chaldron--or kaldron, or kawldron--but neither he nor his grandmother can tell which is the right way without looking in the dictionary; and when he looks in the dictionary the chances are a hundred to one that the dictionary itself doesn't know which is the right way, but will furnish him all three and let him take his choice. ...The sillinesses of the English alphabet are quite beyond enumeration. That alphabet consists of nothing whatever except sillinesses. I venture to repeat that whereas the English orthography needs reforming and simplifying, the English alphabet needs it two or three million times more." From, Uncle Cadmus, in "Simplified Spelling," Letters From the Earth, by Mark Twain.*

*Letters from the Earth is a posthumously published work of American author Mark Twain (1835–1910) collated by Bernard*

*DeVoto.[1] It comprises essays written during a difficult time in Twain's life (1904–1909) before his death in April 1910. Wikipedia*

In England's English, George Bernard Shaw was noticing the same thing a few years later. George Bernard Shaw, in part from his play, *Pygmalion*:

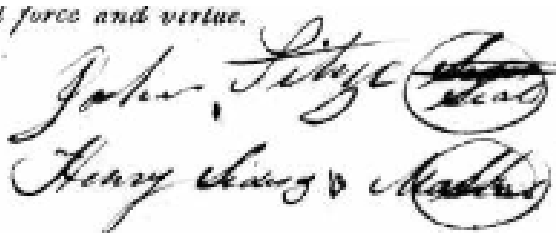
*The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it. They cannot spell it because they have nothing to spell it with but an old foreign alphabet of which only the consonants--and not all of them--have any agreed speech value. Consequently no man can teach himself what it should sound like from reading it; and it is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman despise him.*

*Pygmalion is a play by Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. It premièred at the Hofburg Theatre in Vienna on 16 October 1913 and was first presented on stage in German.*

*Shaw's play has been adapted many times, most notably as the 1938 film Pygmalion, the 1956 stage musical “My Fair Lady,” and its 1964 film version. Wikipedia*

This language quandary in which the German Americans found themselves—over the spelling of their own name—followed Eli and John from paper to paper. Signing his marriage bond to Naamah in 1813 in his own beautiful script, John chose the Sitze spelling.

*is in full force and virtue.*



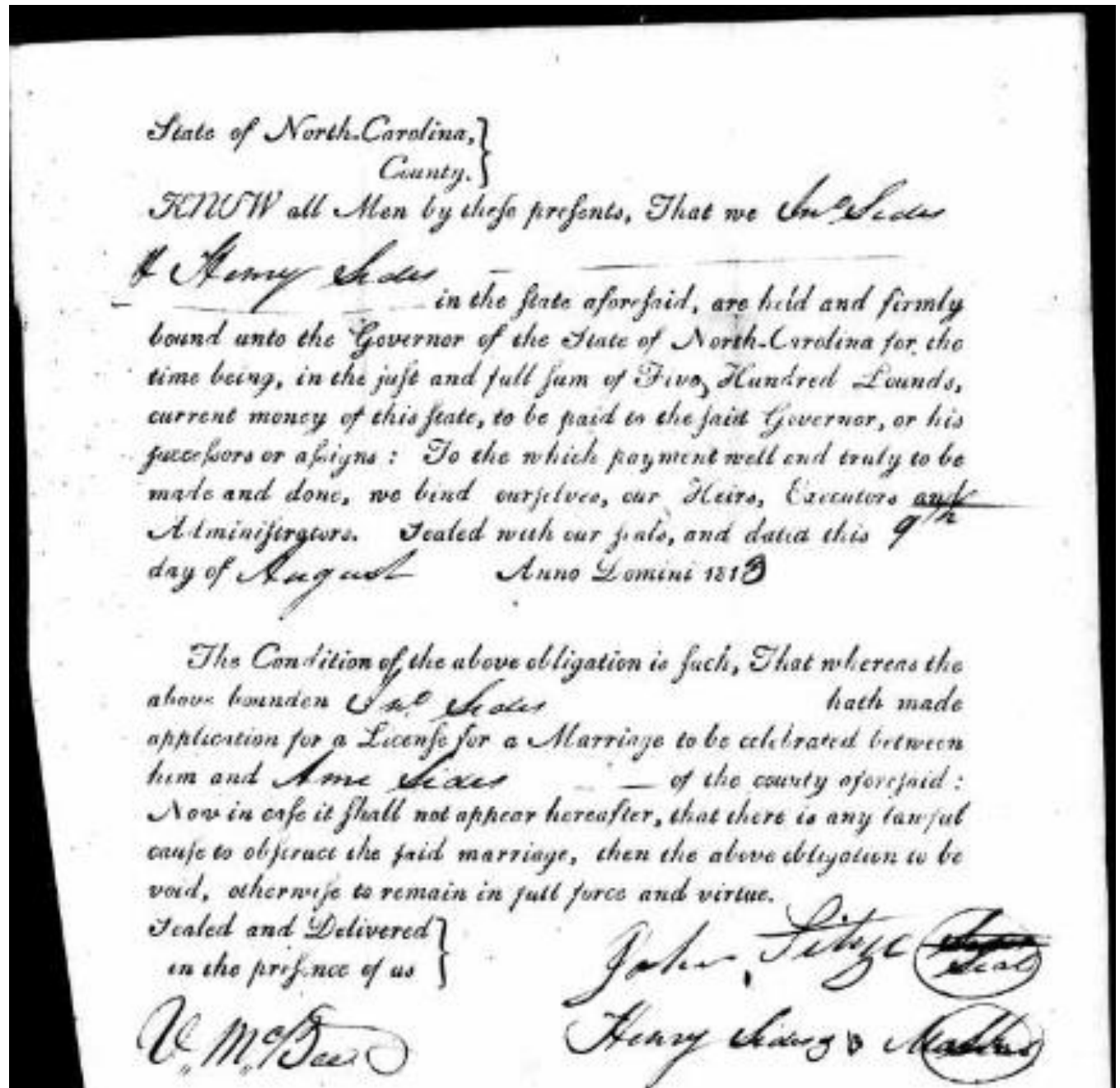
The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive script. The first line reads "John Sitze" followed by a circular stamp. The second line reads "Naamah" followed by another circular stamp. The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

*North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-2011 for Jno Sides/John Sitzes  
Lincoln Marriage Bonds (1785 - 1883)  
Marriage 9 August 1813, Lincoln, NC*

The paper was signed “Sitze” in his own handwriting and the spelling of his choice. It is the signature of man who has made up his mind on how he wants his name to look. A relative’s name, signed on the form with his

MARK, seems to be in the same handwriting of the clerk who filled out their names and dates on the rest of the paper. The same clerk who wrote Jno. for John may have written "Ann" for Naamah after struggling with that unusual name.

For £500, current money, John and Naamah were allowed to marry.



*Naaomah, Copied from an Ancestry .com Tree*

*Naaomah Seitz was born in Lincoln County on March 17, 1794. Naamah was only three years of age at the death of her father, or rather the writing of his will. She was 19 when she and John Seitz were married August 9, 1813. Henry Sides signed the Marriage Bond with John (probably a brother) which was for 500 pounds. Most bonds were for 50 pounds, why this one was so high might have been because she was under 21 and her father was dead.*

*Lawson, her oldest child, was born the following year, and another son and daughter in the next two years. Naamah must have been about twenty-three years old when she took her children to Madison County, Missouri. Her children had to be vigorous and healthy and Naamah a very good mother for a baby was born every year or two until there were fourteen children. The youngest son died at thirteen years of age and the daughter born two years before him died when she was nineteen. Except for these last two children, the others lived to become adults and have their own families.*

*What a manager she must have been to feed, clean and clothe that many children and two adults. Growing, preserving and preparing food, spinning, and weaving and sewing, etc. would take a lot of organizing.*

*About 1855, all the children were in homes of their own and in the 1860 Madison Co. Census, John is 75 and Naaomah is 65 living alone. John died six months later in December. Naaomah lived five more years until the fall of 1865, as her son-in-law Reuben Watts applied for letters of administration Nov. 3, 1865. Her last days were spent with her daughter Nancy Caroline Watts. In the records (census, etc.) Naaomah has appeared as Namah, Ann, Naomi, Hannah, and Nancy.*

**Author Unknown**



## *Madison, Missouri*

According to Eli's Bible, his parents, John and Naamah, moved from Lincoln, North Carolina to Madison, Missouri before the 1820 census was taken. Evidently, John's parents moved with them. So many Germans moved into the same Madison, Missouri neighborhood that their community was called German, Missouri.



### German Township, Madison, Missouri

*Marquand Township is located in the eastern part of Madison County. This township was first organized in 1842 and called German Township due to the many German settlers who were there. German Township remained until . . . 1918, May 7, . . . all citizens . . . petition praying that the name of their township be changed from German Township to Marquand Township. The reason given was the feeling which existed during World War I against even the word German.*[1][2] Wikipedia

John's reason for moving half way across the continent may have had something to do with a national economic crisis. The Missouri Compromise in 1820 opened up some good land deals for suffering citizens. According to the provisions of an Act of Congress the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1820 entitled, "an Act making further provision for the Sale of Public Lands," the General Land Office was dealing in a lot of land.

*The Missouri Compromise (also known as the Compromise of 1820) was a federal legislation of the United States that balanced desires of northern states to prevent expansion of slavery in the country with those of southern states to expand it. It admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state and declared a policy of prohibiting slavery in the remaining Louisiana Purchase lands north of the 36°30' parallel.*[1] *The 16th United States Congress passed the legislation on March 3, 1820, and President James Monroe signed it on March 6, 1820.*[2] **Wikipedia**

## 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 broods.



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



In the election of 1812 James Madison was re-elected President and would serve four more years. 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.

## The War of 1812

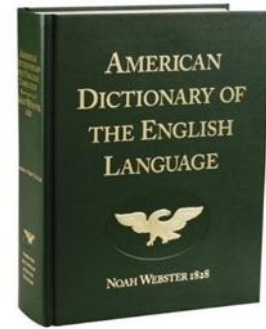


Click on the Menu Below for the Appropriate Page

Thirty years after his 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—anger which showed up in events such as the adoption of the U.S. Constitution with its contemptuous attitude toward the notion of the divine right of kings--a document of which James Madison himself was considered the father. Then there was the



creation of Noah Webster's dictionary--advocating the Americanization of the English Language, and significantly, there were 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, BOTTOM, 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 fray. In fact, after the war began, John got married. He and Naamah had their wedding in 1813, and John stayed busy starting his family. He and his wife became parents of Lawson in 1814.

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 three-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.

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 Tennessee and Alabama and into Indian Territory, opened up more land for white settlement, an opportunity of which several of the Sitzes/Seitz/Sides men took advantage. John and his father started out on their adventure from Lincoln County.

### *Peter Sitzes in the 1810 United States Federal Census*

*Name Peter Sides*

*Residence Date 6 Aug 1810*

*Residence Place Capt Andrews District, Lincoln, North Carolina, USA*

<i>Free White Persons - Males - Under 10</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25</i>	<i>2=John, b 1784, unmarried</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over</i>	<i>1=his father Peter at 60</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - Under 10</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over</i>	<i>1=his mother Elizabeth at 50</i>
<i>Number of Household Members Under 16</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Number of Household Members Over 25</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Number of Household Members</i>	<i>12</i>

1820

By 1820 John Sitzes had a family living in Madison County, Missouri. For whatever reason, the census taker missed him, but a recent article on family history in a local Madison, Missouri newspaper places John in Missouri as early as 1819, just as Eli claimed:

known.  
Peter Seitz Sr. and his son John  
B. Seitz served on the grand jury  
in 1819 in what is now Madison  
County, Missouri. There has al-  
ways been confusion about the

### ***John Sitze in the 1830 United States Federal Census***

<i>Home in 1830 (City, County, State)</i>	<i>German, Madison, Missouri</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - Under 5</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19</i>	<i>1 Eli</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49</i>	<i>1 John Sitzes, b. 1784</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39</i>	<i>1 Naamah, b. 1794</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Under 20</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>All Persons (White, Slaves, Free Colored)</i>	<i>13</i>

Not all was well with the oldest son of John Sitzes. Regrettably, a very, very young teenage Lawson had left the family and married a Bess girl from the neighborhood before 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 would abandon his house full of kids for a stint in the War with Mexico, 1846-1848.

### ***John Soltes/John Sitzes in the 1840 United States Federal Census***

<i>Home in 1840 (City, County, State)</i>	<i>Madison, Missouri</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - Under 5</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29</i>	<i>1 Eli</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59</i>	<i>1 John Sitzes</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49</i>	<i>1 Naamah Sitzes</i>
<i>Slaves - Females - Under 10</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Slaves - Females - 24 thru 35</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Persons Employed in Agriculture</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Persons Employed in Manufacture and Trade</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Free White Persons - Under 20</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Free White Persons - 20 thru 49</i>	<i>2</i>



So, not only could the family afford books, by 1840 John Sitzes had become involved in some kind of manufacture or trade—perhaps carpentry--and prospered enough that the family acquired three female slaves to help with all the kids. Including the slaves, there were nineteen people in his household.

### *John B Sides, Americanized in the 1850 United States Federal Census*

Name John B Sides/John B Sitzes

Gender, Male/Race, White

Age 65; Birth Year abt 1785; Birthplace, North Carolina

Home in 1850, Madison, Missouri, USA

Occupation Farmer/Industry, Agriculture

Real Estate \$3650

Household Members

John B Sides 65 John Sitzes

Hannah Sides 56 Naamah Sitzes

Emanuel Sides 24

Ranghly Sides 21 Raleigh Sitzes

Alvin Sides 19

Sally Sides 18

**SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in** \_\_\_\_\_ **in the County of** Madison **State of** Missouri

**of** Missouri **enumerated by me, on the** 29 **day of** Oct **1850.** Peter H. Prange **Asst. Marshal**

253

Dwelling-house numbered in order of visitation.	Family numbered in order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place or Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year. Actual day of marriage within this year.			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, Black, Colored, or Indian.				10	11	12		
1		Washington & Prange	62	m				Missouri					1
2	809	Davis & Sides	28	m		Laborer		Missouri					2
3		Mary Sides	19	f				Missouri					3
4	810	Robert Sides	28	m		Farmer		Missouri					4
5		Harvey C. Sides	25	m				Missouri					5
6		Napoleon Sides	2	m				Missouri					6
7		Robert C. Sides	72	m				Missouri					7
8	811	John B. Sides	65	m		Farmer		North Carolina					8
9		Naamah Sides	56	f				North Carolina					9
10		Emanuel Sides	24	m		Laborer		Missouri					10
11		Ranghly Sides	21	m		Laborer		Missouri					11
12		Alvin Sides	19	m		Laborer		Missouri					12
13		Sally Sides	18	f				Missouri					13
14	812	Harvey Sides	25	m		Farmer		North Carolina					14
15		Robert C. Sides	72	m				North Carolina					15



The 1850 census was the first time John B. appeared on paper using a middle initial. The Sides spelling could be the census taker Americanizing Sitzes, and the “B” initial might represent differentiation from another Sitzes in the neighborhood who stuck an “A” initial in their name. It was not unusual for folks at that time to change the name on their new U.S. mailboxes in order to help out the post riders.

For the first time, the 1850 census listed the names of children. Emmanuel, Raleigh, Alvin, and Sally--who were first listed in their brother Eli's Bible--are still living at home. The addition of their names simplifies identifying the right Sitzes family.

The census lists John Sitzes worth at an astounding \$3650.00. He may have been the wealthiest man in the neighborhood. There is a Bess family from the laboring class. Perhaps Lawson married a laborer's daughter.

### ***John Sitz in the 1860 United States Federal Census***

*Name John Sitz [Sitzes]*

*Age 75/Birth Year, abt 1785, Birth Place, North Carolina*

*Home in 1860 German, Madison, Missouri*

*Post Office Fredericktown*

*Occupation Farmer*

*Real Estate Value 1600*

*Personal Estate Value 5000*

*Household Members (Name) Age*

*John Sitz 75*

*Nancy Sitz 65*

Ten years later, John Sitzes is still a wealthy man. Valued at nearly \$7000, he is far better off than many of his neighbors. Happily, he no longer keeps slaves, and with sons in the area, he probably runs a family farm.

The 1860 census is the last word on John Sitze, while he lived. Since he was a man of substantial property and died without leaving a will, two of his sons, John F. Sitzes and Raleigh Sitzes, were appointed, “administers of all and singularly, the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of the said John Sitzes at the time of his death.” In the end, the court, and his sons, were using the *Sitzes* spelling he had preferred in life.

## Death of John Sitzes

**Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988**

Name John Sitzes

Probate Date 5 Jan 1861

Probate Place Madison, Missouri, USA

Inferred Death Year 1861

Madison County 3<sup>rd</sup>

The State of Missouri to all persons to whom these presents shall come greeting: Know ye, That whereas John Sitzes late of the County of Madison, died intestate as it is said having, at the time of his death, property in the State, which may be lost, destroyed, or diminished in value, if speedy care be not taken of the same, to the end, therefore, that said property may be collected, preserved, and disposed of according to law, we do hereby appoint John S. Sitzes and Raleigh Sitzes, administrators of and one singular, the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of the said John Sitzes at the time of his death with full power and authority to secure and dispose of said property, according to law, and collect all monies due said deceased and in general to do and perform all other acts and things, which are, or hereafter may be required of them by law. Intestimony whereof I Thomas Holladay Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Madison aforesaid

other acts and things, which are, or hereafter may be required of them by law. Intestimony whereof I Thomas Holladay Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Madison aforesaid have hereunto signed my name and affixed the seal of said Court, at office this fifth day of January A.D. 1861.

*[Seal]* Attest Thomas Holladay Judge of the Probate Court of Madison County Mo.

Recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D. 1861, Jas. Thos. Holladay Judge of Probate

***Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766- 1988***  
***Transcription by Helen Vaughan Michael***

*Name John Sitzes*

*Probate Date 5 Jan 1861*

*Probate Place Madison, Missouri, USA*

*Madison County}*

*The state of Missouri, to all persons to whom these presents shall come, greetings. Know ye, that whereas John Sitzes late of the county of Madison, died intestate as it is said having at the time of his death, property in the state which may be lost, destroyed or diminished in value, if speedy care be not taken of the same\_\_\_\_\_ the end, therefore, that said property may be collected preserved, and disposed of according to law, we do hereby appoint John F. Sitzes and Raleigh Sitzes, administers of all and singularly, the goods and chattels, rights and credits which were of the said John Sitzes at the time of his death with full power and authority to secure or dispose of said property, according to Law, and collect all monies due said deceased and in general to do and perform all other acts and things which are, or hereafter may be required of them by law. In testimony whereof I, Thomas Holloway, Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Madison aforesaid, move hereunto signed my name and affixed the seal of said county at office this fifth day of January AD 1861.*

*Seal*

*Attest Thomas Holloday, Judge of the  
 Probate Court of Madison County, Mo.*

*Recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January AD 1861 For Thomas Holloday, Judge of the  
 Probate Court of Madison County, Missouri*

While the court got his name right, probably at the direction of his two sons, no one told the undertaker. His tombstone reads, *John Seitz*. His death came in 1861, and Naamah died two years later.



John Seitz  
B. October 9, 1784  
D. 1861

Son of: Peter & Elizabeth Seitz

John Sitze, 1784-1861



Naamah Sietz Sitze, 1794-1863

**The End**