

Lawson Cantley and Samuella Loudermilk Sitzes



An Aged Samuella Loudermilk Sitzes with Children, 1930's, Bloomfield, Texas

Lawson Cantley's father, Lawson Morrison Sitzes, was born in North Carolina, but his father's family moved west while he, Lawson Morrison, was a little boy. First, they moved to a German settlement in Madison, Missouri where Lawson Morrison grew up, but he ended up further down south in Arkansas, where he was married in 1848 in Hempstead County to Martha Jane Cantley. Lawson Cantley was born there the 30th of March, 1854. His father died a relatively young man and is said to be buried somewhere near what is now called Prescott, Arkansas. Lawson Cantley's mother also died young, a month after he was born, and she is likely buried in the same area.

Left as orphans by the early deaths of both parents, he and his two siblings grew up in the house of their Cantley grandparents. When Lawson Morrison 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 died a very wealthy man, and since the death of his second wife, Martha Cantley Sitzes, had left three motherless souls in his care, the orphans that his own 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 1875. 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, Texas, where Joshua stayed.

Lawson Cantley Sitzes was born in Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, and he went back to Arkansas to wed a girlfriend he had left behind when he went to Texas. Her name was Samuella Loudermilk, and he married her in 1879. Later, he moved his family to the Pilot Point area where they lived out their lives. Both were buried in Bloomfield Cemetery, but are now interred at Pilot Point Community Cemetery because a lake covered the land around Bloomfield. There are other Loudermilks buried in the cemetery in Prescott, Arkansas.

Information provided by Oscar Jean Sitzes from Abilene, Texas. Some info from a family tree compiled by Vera Lee Seitz in Miami, Texas.

Pilot Point, Texas History



Lake Ray Roberts at Sunset

Humans have inhabited the Isle du Bois region for over 11,000 years. Native American tribes such as the Kiowa and the Comanche lived in the area around the 1500s. Settlers arrived in the mid-19th century, driving out most Native Americans. The ruins of a 19th century homestead can be found in the Isle du Bois unit of the park.[2] Wikipedia

Ray Roberts Lake State Park

History

First campers

Early hunter-gatherers camped in this area, hunting game, gathering edible plants, and repairing their stone weapons. One site nearby, the world-famous Aubrey Clovis site, is 11,550 years old! These were some of the first humans in North America.

Archeologists find clues to the age of a site by the type of spear or arrow points found there. At the Aubrey site, they found Clovis points, which were the earliest known type of American projectile point.

Many hunter-gatherers have spent time here looking for food. From the 1500s, Comanches, Kiowas and Tonkawas frequented the area.

Explorers and settlers

Spanish and French explorers began passing through in the 1500s. The French influence is still felt– Isle du Bois is French for “island of the trees.”

For the most part, settlers did not arrive until the 1840s. This was not a peaceful process, as settlers and Native Americans clashed over the years.

After the Civil War, army units from Fort Richardson and Fort Sill offered protection, and eventually settlers and soldiers drove Native Americans from the area.

Most people who settled in this area came from states such as Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee. The woods may have reminded them of their former homes. Many settlers planted vegetable gardens, raised hogs and chickens, and kept cows. Like earlier peoples, they hunted wild game and gathered seasonal fruits and vegetables. You can visit the remains of an early homestead at Isle du Bois. People lived at the “Chimney site” from the late 1800s through the 1940s.



Plains Indian Camp

Painting of two Native-American men on horseback approach a group of tipis.

In the 1850 United States Federal Census, Lawson's Cantley grandfather was a Hempstead farmer who owned \$2250 in real estate. Ten years later, with Lawson and his siblings in the care of his grandparents, the Cantley fortune had soared to \$13,000 in real estate and personal wealth. Lawson was only six.

Lawson Cantley Sities in the 1860 United States Federal Census

Name Lasson C Sites

Age 6, Birth Year 1854, Birth Place, Arkansas

Home in 1860 Carouse, Hempstead, Arkansas

Post Office Albany

Household Members:

James Cantley 66

Sarah Cantley 60

Ebenazar Cantley 18

Joshua M Sites 10

Eliza E Sites 8

Lasson C Sites 6

While he was only six, it was his misfortune to become familiar with the odious practice of slavery. James Cantley in the 1860 U.S. Federal Census was a much wealthier man than he had been a decade earlier—wealthy enough to buy seven slaves.



Hempstead County, Arkansas Map

1860 Slave Schedules for Carouse, Hempstead, Arkansas

Name James Cantly

Residence Date 1860

Residence Place Carouse, Hempstead, Arkansas, USA

Number of Enslaved People 7

Role Slave Owner

All Enslaved People:

Gender Age

Female 27

Male 20
Female 8
Female 7
Female 5
Female 3
Male 2

Meanwhile, Lawson's future sweetheart and wife-to-be, Samuella Loudermilk, was born in 1860, Alabama. She was a half-breed Cherokee child who later moved into an Arkansas community where the Sitzes and other Germans had settled. Her Indian mother, Isabella, had been born and rescued off the infamous Trail of Tears in 1838. When she was seventeen she married the German, James B. Loudermilk.

Samuella Loudermilk in the 1860 United States Federal Census

Name Samuel E Loudermilk

[Samuella Loudermilk]

Age 4/12, Birth Year abt 1859

Gender Female

Race White

Birth Place Alabama

Home in 1860 Corrs, Pickens, Alabama

Post Office Gordo

Inferred Father, Jas B Loudermilk

Inferred Mother, Isabella Loudermilk

Household Members (Name) Age

Jas B Loudermilk 29

Isabella Loudermilk 22

Margt A Loudermilk 5

Jas E Loudermilk 4

John Loudermilk 2

Samuel E Loudermilk 4/12

Julius C B Johnston 31

Nancy S Johnston 25

Raleigh S Johnston 4

J A D Johnston 1

When Lawson Cantley Sitzes's father died in 1858 an inventory of his personal wealth left his grandfather a wealthy man.

The inheritance of Lawson and Joshua was extensive. 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 fifteen years later they had a memorable fortune to take to Fort Worth. For five of those fifteen years a civil war raked back and forth across Arkansas farms and left most southern farmers destitute, yet in 1870 the two boys had their money in hand when they struck out for Texas.

A Partial Inventory of the Personal Estate of Lawson Morrison Sitzes
Transcription of page 1 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 12th AD 1855 due the 1st day of January 1859 for \$1500. Bearing interest from _____ with ten percent {interest from} One brown Mare.

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

James Cantley in the 1860 United States Federal Census

Age 66, Birth Year abt 1794, Birth Place Virginia

Home in 1860 Carouse, Hempstead, Arkansas

Post Office Albany

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

His home in 1860 was in Carouse, Hempstead, Arkansas. After he grew up, he met and fell in love with Samuella Loudermilk whose family had moved into the Hempstead area. Nevada County, where Lawson found her, was formed during Reconstruction, 1871, in part from Hempstead County. Its county seat is Prescott, the town where Lawson's parents are reportedly buried. He was twenty-four; she was eighteen.

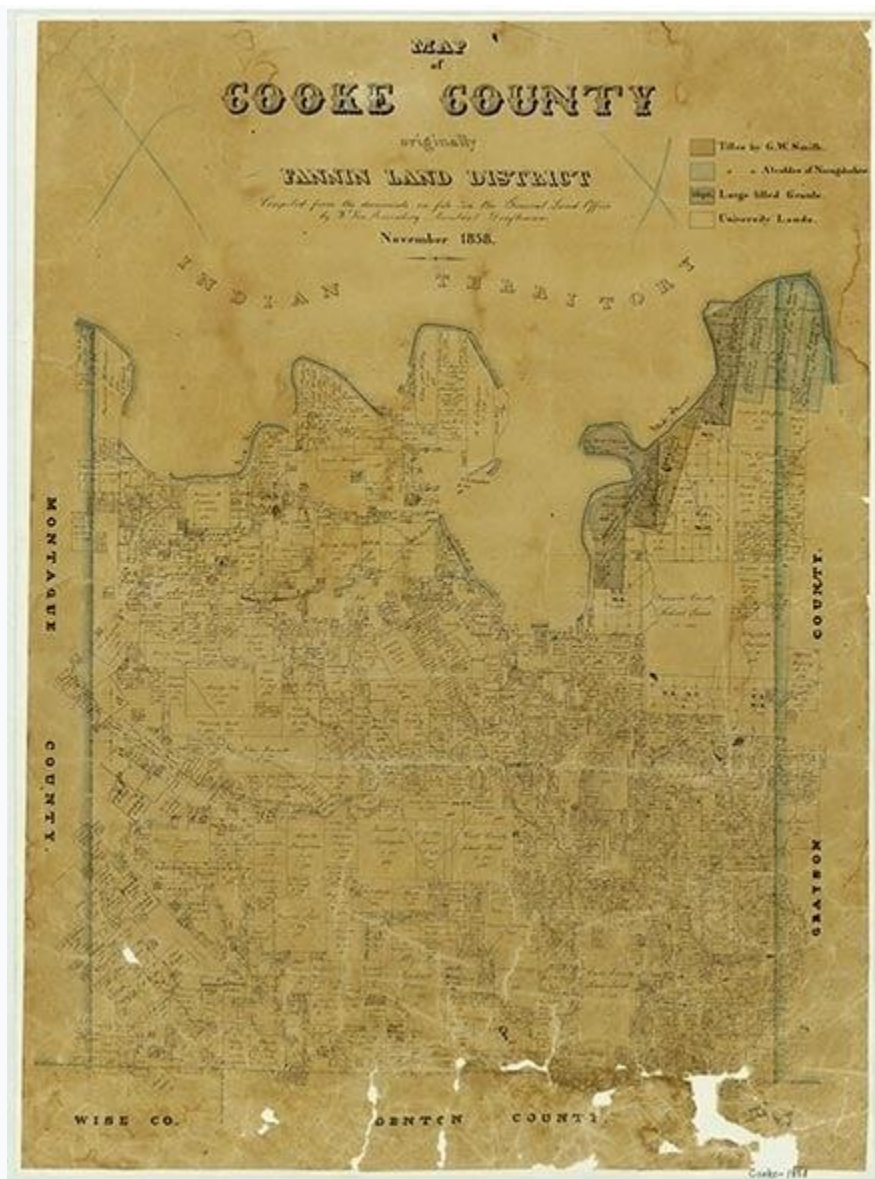
Marriage in Nevada County, Arkansas

Arkansas, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900
Name Lawson C. Sitzes
Spouse Sammie E. Loudermilk
Marriage Date 21 Dec 1878
County Nevada
State AR

Samuella Sitzes in the 1880 United States Federal Census

Age 20, Birth Date 1860
Birthplace Tennessee
Home in 1880 Missouri Town, Nevada County, Arkansas
Relation to Head of House Wife
Marital Status Married
Spouse's Name Lawson Sitzes
Occupation Housekeeper
Household Members (Name) Age Relationship
Lawson Sitzes 26 Self (Head)
Sammie Sitzes 20 Wife

There is no census for 1890, but babies born to the couple after 1894 were born in Bloomfield, Cooke County, Texas—near the Denton County line.



Early Map of Cooke County, originally Fannin Land District

Bloomfield was on a road that is now Farm Road 372, fifteen miles southeast of Gainesville in southeastern Cooke County. The community was reportedly settled in 1876 and had a post office from 1877 to 1907. Mrs. Angeline Jackson, sister of the first postmaster, named the community for a field of yellow wildflowers. Dr. John S. Riley, who settled two miles west of Bloomfield in 1871, was an uncle of the poet James Whitcomb Riley.

Methodist, Baptist, and Church of Christ congregations were organized and met in the school building; no church building was ever

erected. The Old Union School, the first school to serve the area, was a small, one-room log structure on Reason Jones's land. John Shipley was the teacher. The first school, nearer to Bloomfield, was established in 1879 and taught first by E. E. Runion (Runyon). Some years later two other schools were built, in the eastern and western parts of the school district. After these two buildings were destroyed by a tornado in 1888, a single school was rebuilt on the west side of Bloomfield. In 1929 the Bloomfield school district was incorporated with the new Union Grove district. Texas Almanac, est 1857

Students at Bloomfield School learned the poems of James Whitcomb Riley. A granddaughter of Lawson and Samuella attended the school, as had their own sons and a daughter. Their granddaughter, Flossie Marie Sitzes, born 1918, memorized Riley's poem, *Little Orphant Annie*, and was able to recite it until her death at eighty-four in 2002 when she was known as Flossie Marie Sitzes Vaughan.

Little Orphant Annie

By

James Whitcomb Riley, 1849 – 1916

*Little Orphant Annie's come to our house to stay,
An' wash the cups an' saucers up, an' brush the crumbs away,
An' shoo the chickens off the porch, an' dust the hearth, an' sweep,
An' make the fire, an' bake the bread, an' earn her board-an'-keep;
An' all us other childern, when the supper things is done,
We set around the kitchen fire an' has the mostest fun
A-list'nin' to the witch-tales 'at Annie tells about,
An' the Gobble-uns 'at gits you*

Ef you

Don't

Watch

Out!

*Onc't they was a little boy wouldn't say his prayers,—
So when he went to bed at night, away up stairs,
His Mammy heerd him holler, an' his Daddy heerd him bawl,
An' when they turn't the kivvers down, he wasn't there at all!
An' they seeked him in the rafter-room, an' cubby-hole, an' press,
An' seeked him up the chimbly-flue, an' ever 'wheres, I guess;*

*But all they ever found was thist his pants an' roundabout--
An' the Gobble-uns'll git you*

*Ef you
Don't
Watch
Out!*

*An' one time a little girl 'ud allus laugh an' grin,
An' make fun of ever'one, an' all her blood an' kin;
An' onc't, when they was "company," an' ole folks was there,
She mocked 'em an' shocked 'em, an' said she didn't care!
An' thist as she kicked her heels, an' turn't to run an' hide,
They was two great big Black Things a-standin' by her side,
An' they snatched her through the ceilin' 'fore she knowed what she's about!
An' the Gobble-uns'll git you*

*Ef you
Don't
Watch
Out!*

*An' little Orphant Annie says when the blaze is blue,
An' the lamp-wick sputters, an' the wind goes woo-oo!
An' you hear the crickets quit, an' the moon is gray,
An' the lightnin'-bugs in dew is all squenched away,--
You better mind yer parents, an' yer teachers fond an' dear,
An' churish them 'at loves you, an' dry the orphant's tear,
An' he'p the pore an' needy ones 'at clusters all about,
Er the Gobble-uns'll git you*

*Ef you
Don't
Watch
Out!*

This poem is in the public domain.

Bloomfield School, Then and Now

Pictured: 1. 1930's Annie Mae Sitzes on steps. 2. 2016 Classroom reenactment. 3. 1930's Class Photo



4. Pictured on a 2016 Field Trip, An Indirect Descendant of Lawson and Samuella Sitzes.



Sitzes-Loudermilk students in a 1930's school photo of a Bloomfield class. The two older boys standing in the back row are the twin sons of Herbert Franklin and Annie Mae Sitzes—Richard Dwayne and Lawson Wayne, commonly called Mutt and Jeff.

The first child of Lawson and Samuella was born in Arkansas in 1888. He was named Herbert Franklin Sitzes, but he was commonly called, Hub. Their next living child to be born in Arkansas was Lawson G. Sitzes, born 1892. Next, Claud, who was born in Cooke County, Texas was born in 1894. Their move from Arkansas to Texas almost landed them in Indian Territory, later the state of Oklahoma. Three baby Texans followed Claud.

Herbert Franklin would start out life in a home where his father still spoke German. Nevertheless, Lawson sent his children to the Bloomfield School where they learned to read and write English. Herbert Franklin's three children,

including Flossie Marie, would learn reading, writing, and arithmetic at a similar Bloomfield classroom as the one he had attended when his family moved to Cooke County, Texas.

Lawson Cantley Sitzes in the 1900 United States Federal Census

Name Lawson C Sitzes

Age 45, Birth Date Mar 1855, Birthplace Arkansas

Home in 1900 Justice Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas

Marital Status: Married, Years Married 20

Spouse's Name, Samie E Sitzes {Samuella}

Father's Birthplace Missouri

Mother's Birthplace Arkansas {Alabama}

Occupation Farmer

Months Not Employed 0

Can Read Y

Can Write *Y*
Can Speak English *Y*
House Owned or Rented *Rent*
Farm or House *F*
Household Members (Name) *Age* *Relationship*
Lawson C Sitzes *45* *Head*
Samie E Sitzes *41* *Wife*
Herbert F Sitzes *16* *Son*
Larling G Sitzes *8* *Son*
Claude J Sitzes *5* *Son*
John G Sitzes *2* *Son*

1900

The last census for Lawson was taken in 1900. He died in 1908. Samuella was listed as a widowed farmer, with a home of her own in Bloomfield in 1910. In spite of numerous errors recorded in census reports, when compiled data of Dates, Names, and Addresses can be finalized by comparison, their paper DNA tells a story in which researchers become detectives who welcome a family's oral history. For instance, it's true that Samuella took over the family farm and ran it for more than twenty years.

Samuella Sitzes in the 1910 United States Federal Census

Age in 1910 *49*, *Birth Date* *1861*
Birthplace *Alabama*
Home in 1910 *Justice Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas*
Street *Pilot Point and Bloomfield Road*
Relation to Head of House *Head*
Marital Status *Widowed*
Father's Birthplace *Mississippi {Unknown Cherokee}*
Mother's Birthplace *Alabama {Unknown Cherokee}*
Native Tongue *English*
Occupation, Farmer
Industry ***General Farm***
Employer, Employee, or Other ***Employer***
Home Owned or Rented ***Own***
Home Free or Mortgaged ***Free***
Farm or House ***Farm***
Able to read *Y*

Able to Write Y

Number of Children Born 11 {History of, Unknown}

Number of Children Living 6

Household Members (Name) Age Relationship

Sammy E Sitzes 49 Head

Herbert F Sitzes 24 Son

Garland Sitzes 18 Son

Claude J Sitzes 15 Son

Jonnie G Sitzes 13 Son

Martha V Sitzes 10 Daughter

Wayne Sitzes 6 Son



Herbert Franklin Sitzes, in plain clothes, is pictured on the far right in a dapper array of his well-dressed siblings. Also pictured in no particular order are: Wayne, Claude, Vera, Garland, and John Sitzes. Circa, 1920's Bloomfield

Samuella and her Loudermilk Siblings, Early 20th Century Photograph

Margaret, James, John Austin, Samuella, and Frances--The children of Isabella Cummins and James B. Loudermilk. Made at a family reunion near Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Nevada County, Arkansas



Widowed in 1908, counted on her farm in 1910, Samuella does not appear in the 1920 census. After the death of Lawson Cantley, she would spend the last thirty years of her life, tending to their farm to her dying day. The last two decades of her life on the farm would be spent in the company of her youngest son, Wayne. He's listed as the farm's owner in 1930.

Born at the beginning of the Civil War, she had sons who served in World War I. The war to end all wars came up close and personal to Samuella when twenty-two-year-old Garland enlisted. Being German, he wanted to show his loyalty to his country. For as long as they lived, family members remembered being regarded with suspicion during WWI for having a German name. None of them dared speak the language they had heard their German father speak. On the other hand, Herbert Franklin signed his draft registration card as an Indian citizen.

Herbert Franklin Sitzes

REGISTRATION CARD *a. 1279*

SERIAL NUMBER *1922* ORDER NUMBER *2670*

1 Name in full *Herbert Franklin Sitzes* Age in years *34*

2 Home address *Plot Post Box Denton Tx*

3 Date of birth *Feb 24 1884*

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural born*

5 Where were you born? *Denton Tx*

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Farmer*

8 By whom employed? *Working for self*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Wife*

10 Married or single (which)? *Married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank *none*

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *Dependent wife*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

P. M. G. O. *Herbert Franklin Sitzes*

Form No. 1 (Red)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT *42-2-8-C*

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>X</i>		<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Black</i>

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.)

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Signature *W. M. Robinson*

Date of Registration *Sept 12 1918*

LOCAL BOARD OFFICE
County of *Cooke*,
State of *Texas*
Gainesville, Texas
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

PJ-6171 (OVER)

Claude Joshua Sitzes

REGISTRATION CARD *No. 16*

1 Name in full *Claude Joshua Sitzes* Age in years *22*

2 Home address *Plot Post Box Denton Tx*

3 Date of birth *11 24 1896*

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural born*

5 Where were you born? *Denton Tx*

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Farmer*

8 By whom employed? *Working for self*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Wife*

10 Married or single (which)? *Married* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank *none*

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *Dependent wife*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

P. M. G. O. *C. Sitzes*

Form No. 1 (Red)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT *42-2-8-A* ORDER No. *127*

1 Tell whether or short (specify which)? *tall* Slender, medium, or stout (which)? *Slender*

2 Color of eyes? *Brown* Color of hair? *Dark* Bald? *no*

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? *none*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Signature *W. M. Robinson*

Precinct *11*

County *Cooke*

State *Tx* *June 5th 1917*

Lawson Garland Sitzes, WWI Photo and Registration



Form 1 778 REGISTRATION CARD No. 38

1 Name in full Lawson Garland Sitzes Age in yrs 23

2 Home address Pilot Point Tex

3 Date of birth 1 24 1892

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? natural born

5 Where were you born? mt springs Tex W.D.A.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Farmer

8 By whom employed? self & mother

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18 solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? no

10 Married or single (which)? single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank none branch none years none Nation or State none

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? none

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

L. D. Sitzes
(Signature of registrant)

42-2-8-A REGISTRAR'S REPORT ORDER NO. 704

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? tall Slender, medium, or stout (which)? slender

2 Color of eyes? Brown Color of hair? Dark Bald? no

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? no

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Cent Robinson
(Signature of Registrar)

Precinct 11

City or County Cooke

State Tex Date of registration June 26/1915

John G. Sitzes

REGISTRATION CARD A. 1602

SERIAL NUMBER 1917 ORDER NUMBER 14979

1 Name in full John Gordon Sitzes

2 Permanent home address Rt. 2 Pilot Point Denton Tex

Age in Years 19 Date of Birth Nov - 19th 1895

RACE

5 white 6 white 7 white 8 white 9 white

U. S. CITIZEN

10 yes 11 yes 12 yes 13 yes 14 yes

15 Present Occupation Farmer 17 Employer's Name

18 Place of Employment or Business

19 Name Mrs. S. G. Sitzes

20 Address Rt. 2 Pilot Point Denton Tex

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Rev. 1911)

John Gordon Sitzes
(Signature of registrant)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 42-2-8-C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR	
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout	1	2	3	4
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Black</u>

22 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify)

23 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J. T. Robinson
(Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration Sept 12th 1915

Local Board for the County of Cooke, State of Texas, Gainesville, Texas (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

Wayne Sitzes, born in 1903, was too young for the WWI Draft.



The war was such that it required everyone chipping in. In the United States women and children worked in their communities organizing blood drives and collecting scrap metal. Mothers and daughters worked with the Red Cross, distributing items as varied as doughnuts and bandages. Some women even worked in factories producing war goods.

By the time the war ended the ladies had proven themselves enough that they earned the right to vote—a right for which activist women had been fighting since 1776. Before WWI, opponents of women's suffrage believed a woman's inexperience in military affairs made her a poor voting specimen in national elections—that it would even be dangerous to allow the female to vote in national elections.

Leslie Hume argues that the First World War changed the popular mood:

The women's contribution to the war effort challenged the notion of women's physical and mental inferiority and made it more difficult to maintain that women were, both by constitution and temperament, unfit to vote. If women could work in munitions factories, it seemed both ungrateful and illogical to deny them a place in the voting booth. But the vote was much more than simply a reward for war work; the point was that women's participation in the war helped to dispel the fears that surrounded women's entry into the public arena.[15] Wikipedia

It was a right which women had sought since the earliest days of the American Revolution, when Abigail Adams admonished her activist husband “not to forget the ladies.”



Abigail Adams

The men did not forget the ladies--for one hundred and fifty years *they heartily opposed* suffrage for their wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, aunts, and nieces. Not till the twentieth century, after the war, did they allow women like Samuella to finally vote.

In July 1848, at the Seneca Falls Convention in upstate New York, activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony began a seventy-year struggle by women to secure the right to vote.[114] Attendees signed a document known as the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, of which Stanton was the primary author. Equal rights became the rallying cry of the early movement for women's rights.
Wikipedia



Margaret Fuller



Margaret Cady Stanton



Susan B. Anthony

The Nineteenth Amendment (Amendment XIX) to the United States Constitution prohibits the United States and its states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. The

amendment was the culmination of a decades-long movement for women's suffrage in the United States, at both the state and national levels, and was part of the worldwide movement towards women's suffrage and part of the wider women's rights movement. The suffrage amendment passed the House of Representatives May 21, 1919, which was quickly followed by the Senate, on June 4, 1919. It was then submitted to the states for ratification, achieving the requisite 36 ratifications to secure adoption, and thereby go into effect, on August 18, 1920. The Nineteenth Amendment's adoption was certified on August 26, 1920. Wikipedia

Just so they could show that women were as capable of making mistakes as men, they previewed their success by getting an 18th amendment passed, which tried to tell Americans what they could drink. Failure of the prohibition amendment fills history books. But at least women admitted their mistake.

Constitutional Amendment 21 – “Repeal of Prohibition” Amendment Twenty-one to the Constitution was ratified on December 5, 1933. It repealed the previous Eighteenth Amendment which had established a nationwide ban on the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol. Wikipedia

The fight to repeal prohibition took Samuella into the decade of the thirties. In the 1930's she would meet, head on, the Great Depression.

In October of 1929 the American stock market crashed, and all over the world economic turmoil followed. All around her Texas farmers lost their farms, men lost their jobs, drought dried up rows and rows of crops, a giant dust storm blew in, and children suffocated and starved. Miraculously, Samuella and her farm survived.



Samuella Sitzes in the 1930 United States Federal Census

Name Sammie E Sitzes

Birth Year abt 1860

Gender Female

Race White

Age in 1930 70

Birthplace Arkansas

Marital Status Widowed

Relation to Head of House Mother

Home in 1930 Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas

Map of Home Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas

Street Address Pilot Point and Mountain Springs Road

Age at First Marriage 20

Able to Read and Write Yes

Father's Birthplace Mississippi

Mother's Birthplace Alabama

Able to Speak English Yes

Household Members (Name) Age Relationship

Wayne E Sitzes 26 Head

Virgie M Sitzes 24 Wife

Robert J Sitzes 2 Son

Billie J Sitzes 0 Son

Sammie E Sitzes 70 Mother

John G Sitzes 30 Brother

Wayne E Sitzes in the 1930 United States Federal Census

Name Wayne E Sitzes

Birth Year abt 1904, Age in 1930 26

Gender Male

Race White

Birthplace Texas

Marital Status Married

Relation to Head of House Head

Home in 1930 Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas, USA

Map of Home Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas

Street Address Pilot Point and Mountain Springs

Home Owned or Rented Owned

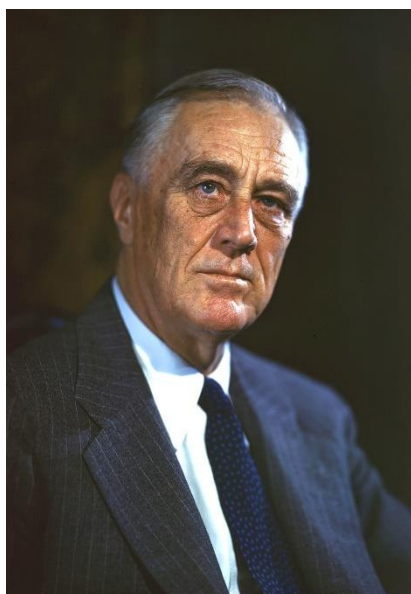
Radio Set No

Lives on Farm Yes

Age at First Marriage 23
Able to Read and Write Yes
Father's Birthplace Missouri
Mother's Birthplace Arkansas
Able to Speak English Yes
Occupation Farmer
Industry General Farm
Class of Worker Employer
Employment Yes
Household Members (Name) Age Relationship
Wayne E Sitzes 26 *Head*
Virgie M Sitzes 24 *Wife*
Robert J Sitzes 2 *Son*
Billie J Sitzes 0 *Son*
Sammie E Sitzes 70 *Mother*
John G Sitzes 30 *Brother*

By 1930 seventy-year-old Samuella needed help in running her farm, and her youngest son stayed with her till the end of her life. She died in 1938. Death came to her during another historical moment—the Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd U.S. President, Born: January 30, 1882



Franklin Delano Roosevelt, commonly known by his initials FDR, was an American statesman and politician who served as the 32nd president of the United States from 1933 until his death in 1945. He was a member of the Democratic Party and is the only U.S. president to have served more than two terms.
 Wikipedia

There was no radio on the farm for the family to hear FDR's Fireside Chats, but the radio made FDR, Comforter-in-Chief.

At the time there was no electricity in rural Texas, so the sounds of radio came through the magic of what was called a crystal set.

In 1922 the (then named) United States Bureau of Standards released a publication entitled Construction and Operation of a Simple Homemade Radio Receiving Outfit.[31] This article showed how almost any family having a member who was handy with simple tools could make a radio and tune into weather, crop prices, time, news and the opera. This design was significant in bringing radio to the general public. Wikipedia

1930's

President Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935.[1] Wikipedia

*The Social Security Act of 1935 is a law enacted by the 74th United States Congress and signed into law by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The law created the Social Security program as well as insurance against unemployment. The law was part of Roosevelt's New Deal domestic program. **By 1930 the United States was the only modern industrial country without any national system of social security.** Wikipedia*



In what he called fireside chats FDR kept Americans informed via the radio. He actually wanted people to know what he was up to. In a houseful of handy Germans, perhaps by 1935 Samuella's family benefitted from the use of a radio set that let her know she was eligible for a pension by virtue of living so long.

It was a benefit well earned.

Samuella Sitzes died of pneumonia after getting caught in a late spring storm of 1938. She had hurried out to the barnyard and got soaked in the rain from which she wanted to protect her chickens. She had kept her farm up and running for thirty years through other storms, droughts, war, and the Great Depression. She was seventy-eight years old.

Samuella Loudermilk Sitzes in the Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982

Name Sammie Ella Sitzes

[Samuella Loudermilk]

Gender Female

Race White

Death Age 78

Birth Date 11 May 1860

Birth Place Alabama

Residence Date Abt 1938

Residence Place Pilot Point Road, Texas

Death Date 27 Jun 1938

Death Place Precinct 3, Cooke, Texas

Father James B Loudermilk / Mother Elizabeth Cummin

Spouse Lawson Cantley Sitzes

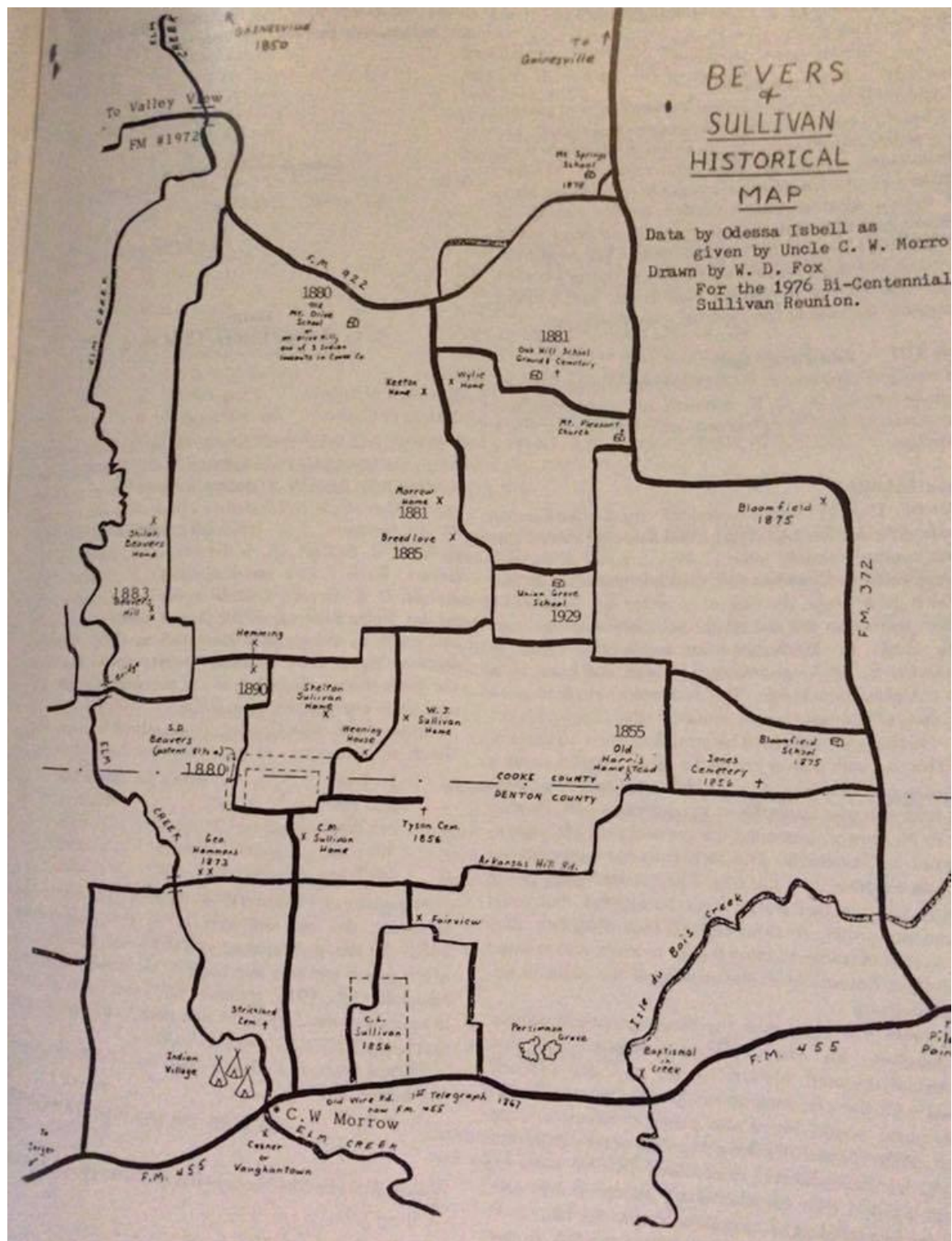
Cause broncho pneumonia

After her death Samuella's farm was known as the Wayne Sitzes farm. It was remembered as such in 1972 in a United States Corps of Engineers report concerning the damming of Elm Creek to make a new reservoir. The Sitzes farm was one of the sites that went under the resulting overflow. By 1972 her land in Bloomfield was known only as the Wayne Sitzes Farm. In fact, her grave, as well as the graves of Lawson Cantley and their children had to be moved from Bloomfield to higher ground in a Pilot Point graveyard.

Pilot Point Community Cemetery



The Damned of Elm Creek's Damming



An old map drawn up by "Professor Morrow" of Elm Creek to Bloomfield.

E. Dale Odom

A SYSTEMS EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
OF THE AUBREY RESERVOIR PROJECT ON ELM FORK
OF THE TRINITY RIVER IN NORTH TEXAS

by

THE INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
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Final report submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Fort Worth District,
in fulfillment of Contract DACW63-72-C-0052,
on 30 June 1972.

Corps Report 1972 NTSU

VAUGHANTOWN
WAYNE SITZES FARM
LAKE RAY ROBERTS

by the project; ② the affected area includes the site of another community in Denton County about a mile south of Farm Road 455 and just west of the Elm Fork (see Plate IV). Originally known as the Sullivan Community founded in 1847 (34), it went through stages known as Cozner, and perhaps other names, but in recent years was referred to as Vaughantown. It never reached the size of Bloomfield but was representative of the intensive agricultural use of the Elm Fork bottom land in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and of a population density that has not been apparent there for several decades now. No structures remain there now and no intensity of interest revealed by visitors is apparent. Yet most of the long-time residents of northern Denton County and southern Cooke County remember it with some nostalgia, having attended church or bought groceries there. Again, the sites of other such communities exist outside the affected area, so the community has no unique distinction; ③ the affected area includes the site of the old H. C. French mineral well located on the Wayne Sitzes farm on Farm Road 372, just south of Bloomfield, (see Plate IV). It was operated as a commercial enterprise in the 1890's and early 1900's, and was representative of the belief widely held then of the general medicinal qualities of mineral water of this type. The well was visited, mostly by local people but also by people widely scattered across the region as certified to by the ubiquitous testimonials accompanying the advertising for the well. It has not been operated commercially for several decades and now has only historical interest. Although the well still exists and is used, it does not of course have the same character, or same structure around it, as in its earlier period of use. There is no intense interest in it and it does not represent a unique historical phenomenon. Tioga, a few miles northeast, had several such wells; and 4) many other events, too numerous and mundane to mention specifically, occurred within the affected site, that have significance only to people who live in the area or once lived in it and return occasionally to visit. While such events have no particular historical significance, the sites where they occurred cannot be inundated without having an emotional impact.

Lawson Cantley and Samuella Loudermilk were originally buried in Bloomfield Cemetery but had to be dug up and reinterred in Pilot Point, Denton County when Lake Ray Roberts covered the original Bloomfield site—one of the investigated sites that could not “be inundated without having an emotional impact.”





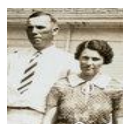
The Children of Lawson Cantley and Samuella Loudermilk Sitzes



Herbert Franklin "Hub" Sitzes
1884–1952



Lawson Garland Sitzes
1892–1944



Claud Joshua Sitzes
1895–1964



Johnnie Gordon Sitzes
1898–1972



Vera Sitzes Sanders
1900–1986



Wayne Sitzes
1903–1980

There is nothing in the documents of Lawson Cantley Sitzes to indicate he had any knowledge of the household of children Lawson Morrison Sitzes had fathered in Missouri. His half-siblings, his father's second family, are never mentioned.

Neither is the half Indianship of his wife, Samuella. Except for their son's claim on his WWI draft card of Indian citizenship, made by Herbert Franklin, no document tells of Samuella's Cherokee mother. Only the copper-toned complexion and hair black as a raven's wing of this German's descendants testified of their Native American heritage. Samuella, after all, was a fair-haired half German herself.

Herbert Franklin, the eldest son, could recall his father speaking German. Other children recalled their father being an orphan. How growing up as an orphan affected Lawson is not known. When Lawson died young in 1908, all his children were still living at home, and Samuella was left to raise them as a widowed single mother.

These fatherless Sitze children were brought up in a community without a church. It would be interesting to know why the people of Bloomfield, unlike folks all over the rest of the United States, never felt the need to build a church.

Religion may not have been of any particular interest to Lawson and Samuella but education may have been. All their children were educated in the English language and could read and write and speak English.

At least one of their children became a community leader in Bloomfield where the Sitzes seemed to be well-known. The following story appeared on Ancestry.com: *Claude Sitzes, a Lawman's Story*

Keeping the Peace in the '50's

Claude Sitzes was another one of the Pilot Point Sitzes boys, and he spent a large part of his early life farming and ranching and playing baseball. He was a pitcher of no mean ability.

He loved to tell a story and was about as good at it as anyone I ever saw. Claude was a special friend of mine and responsible for several of the stories I prize.

Late in middle life, Claude moved to town and became the city Marshall, and he was a good one, almost impossible to fluster. I never heard him raise his voice to anyone he ever arrested.

When I was in the store at Pilot Point in the middle '50's, a fellow from my hometown - who was the best hand at doing most anything in the way of work that I ever saw, as well as being an incurable drunk -

came to town as drunk as a skunk. Claude told him to get out of town or he would be forced to incarcerate him in the local hoosegow, a rock building behind Yarbrough's Grocery about 8x10 feet in dimension. It had only a small airhole with bars over it and lacked most of the accommodations and amenities now demanded by the soft hearted federal judges.

My friend told Claude that he was not ready to leave town and was promptly escorted to the calaboose. About dark, Claude bought him a lunch at Ernestine's and took it to him. When he opened the door to give him his lunch, the drunk slugged him, ran over him and lit a shuck for Aubrey. He hit Claud a very sound wallop in the eye, which promptly took on the color of a ripe prune and caused the Marshall no little embarrassment.

The next morning, Claud came by the store, and he had his gun strapped to his side, which was a rare occurrence. There was steel in his eyes, and he told me that he was going down to my hometown and get this man and bring him back to jail and that he really hoped the man offered some resistance. He came back in about 30 minutes, and he had his man.

Claud told me one of my prize tales. He was raised in the Bloomfield Community or somewhere out there, and he told me that they were wont to have revivals in brush arbors in the summertime, as was the custom in all early day rural communities, and that the copperhead snakes were so thick at night that they were a real nuisance.

He said that most everyone in the community had joined the church as they did every summer, only to backslide promptly and be ready for the next revival - all except one old boy, who was considered a real catch for the daughters of the good ladies in the community. The fellow was a drinker and a mule cusser, even though a good worker, and he was a holdout from the church, although he attended every night. The ladies had worked the summer out trying to get him to come around.

One night, they felt they were especially close. They had him surrounded on one of the bridge plank benches in the dim light of the kerosene lanterns, and he was crying softly as they begged and persuaded, "Just get down on your knees and pray to God. Just lay your heart on the line to God."

He had taken about all that he could take, and, sobbing, he sank to his knees in the grass and weeds between the rough benches.

"Oh, God," he said. "Oh great and good God....There is the biggest (deleted) copperhead snake that I ever saw."

Promptly after this profane outburst, he treaded the air for a minute above the snake and lit out of there. The ladies had to wait until another time to convert him.

By J.W. Smotherman. Printed in the **Pilot Point Post Signal**.
No date for publication.



Marshall Claude Sitzes

The peril of conducting outdoor services for Bloomfield folks with no church building. . . . In spite of the danger of snakes and storms, no church building was ever put up by the backsliders of Bloomfield.

Backsliding was significant. If J.W. Smotherman had access to earlier stories about the Sitzes boys, he may have heard just how significant.

The Prohibition Era was a breeding season for criminals. The desire for an alcoholic drink was national, and the craving of the good citizens of Bloomfield for a mug of German beer or glass of wine was as robust as anywhere else. Family lore has long embraced stories of two of the "Sitzes boys" who knew how to make the drinks that made folks happy—illegal though they were. Revenuers in the mid '30's searched out the Sitzes' illegal still and were shot. The story goes that the Sitzes families banded together, hired a "New York" lawyer, and got their bootlegging gunmen acquitted.

Samuella's part in the affray is not known.

THE END

This Sitze Tree in America:

Flossie Marie Sitzes 1918, Texas
 Herbert Franklin Sitzes 1884, Arkansas
 Lawson Cantley Sitzes 1854, Arkansas
 Lawson Morrison Sitzes 1814, North Carolina
 John B. Seitz 1784, North Carolina
 Peter Sitz 1750

The Family Tree of Lawson Cantley Sitzes



Great Grandson Art, by Don Paul Vaughan, 1948-2011