

The Witcher Family

Cemetery

Established 1848 (?)

In Commemoration of

150 Years

1833-1983

At The Old Home Place

Published by the Family

1983

DEDICATION

We dedicate this booklet to our mother,
Sarah Donnell Younger (1882-1973) who
instilled in us a reverence for our ancestors
and a desire to know more about them.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed .
.. ." Proverbs 31:28



Sallie Donnell Younger

We wish to express our gratitude to the following people who have assisted us in the compilation of material concerning their relatives who are buried in the cemetery: Linda Ball, Lou Gann, Nellie Mullins, and Alverda Hill for data on the John A. Witcher Wilhite, Ann Gorrell, and Mary Jane Cumpton for the Canidas, family; Violet Driskell for information on the Smiths; Lillie Saylor and Barbara Nell for details on the Witcher, Donnell and Boulware families.

This booklet was compiled in 1983 by Virginia Younger Finley and Bob Younger. Our apologies for any misinformation or items left out. See that we have corrections for the next printing. Copies are available at

the Cemetery, Mrs. Ruester or from the
Publisher. her. Price \$3.00 for paperback
and \$10.00 for hardcover.

ISBN NO. 089029-311-00

Published for the Witcher Cemetery by
Morningside House, Inc. 260 Oak St.,
Dayton, Ohio 45410

4

www.mogenweb.org/

WITCHER FAMILY GENEALOGY

Names in *ITALICS* denote persons buried in Witcher Family cemetery.

The originator of the Witcher family in America was William Witcher, Senior, who was born in England in 1724 and died in Pittsylvania County, Virginia in 1808. He was a vestryman in the Church of England and a Captain in the American Army in the American Revolution, at first in March 1777 against the Cherokees on the Western border and again in the fall of 1780 in the Greene Campaign in South Carolina and under Daniel Morgan at Cowpens on January 17, 1781 where American Independence was assured.

The year of William Witcher, Sr.'s emigration to Virginia is unknown, and his year of marriage to Ann Majors in 1762 (or Liddy Atkinson) is also unknown, but this couple had 8 children who lived to marry. They are:

1 John, who had 9 children, and his family went to Georgia.

2 William, Jr. (married 1 Apr. 1782 Pittsylvania Co., Va.) Molly Dalton, had at least 9 children, and had many famous descendants. Their daughter Nancy married Capt. John Keene and they were ancestors of the late Lady Nancy Astor. They were also ancestors of Capt. William Addison Witcher who practiced law at Georgetown, Missouri, and edited a paper at Liberty, Missouri before returning to Virginia to command the

21st Virginia Infantry under Stonewall Jackson in the Stonewall Brigade.

3 Daniel Witcher married Sally Ward. This couple's children moved to Western Virginia.

4 Ephraim Witcher, Jr., who married Jensey Adams 11 Feb. 1796 were the parents of the three Witcher brothers: Caleb, Ephraim and James, who came to Saline County, Missouri. We know nothing of their other four children who did not come to Saline County; namely, Jensey, who married William Law; Agnes, who married George W. Young; Betsy, who married Thomas Wingfield; Nancy, who married Thomas King.

5 James married Martha Meese Watson; they had at least 7 children. Their son Ephraim moved to Montgomery County, Missouri. 6 Caleb married Giddy Watson and this family went to Ray County, Missouri, married 10 Dec. 1799 in Pittsylvania Co. 7 Elizabeth married Abraham Razor. 8 Rachel married William Morrison.

Caleb Witcher 1796-1857.

Caleb, Missouri Witcher Brother No. 1, grandson of William Witcher, Sr., and son of Ephraim Witcher, Jr., born 1796, married Dorothy Dangerfield, 27 Oct. 1820 in Pittsylvania Co., born 16 Apr. 1793 and they had the following children:

1 John A. Witcher, 4 Feb. 1821, died 18 Jan. 1892, married Nancy Dickerson, b. 4 Mar 1822, d. 4 Apr 1881.

2 Ephraim O'Brien Witcher (known as Black Eph), 22 Jan 1823, never married.

3 William H. Witcher, 1825, also never married, and family tradition has it he died of measles at Alton Federal Prison during the Civil War.

4 Kiziah Jane Witcher, 22 Jan. 1828, never married. Died 1903.

Kiziah Jane Witcher, always referred to as Aunt Jane, was crippled by an accidental gunshot wound when she was 17 years old. Of course this never kept her from helping to raise a lot of homeless children including

Phillip Hooker who at the age of 10 was left there by his father who recognized a good home, and Sallie Donnell, a great niece, whom Jane and Eph took in when she was 56 and Eph was 61.

Sallie always told of her Aunt Jane who would drag a stool to sit on while hoeing the garden. She owned the 40 acres between the Cemetery and New Salem Church, which was paid for by selling onion sets.

Eph made extra money by raising good horses, and made at



Ephraim O'Brien Witcher 1823-1908

least one trip to Texas hauling osage orange (maclura pomifera) "hedge apple" seed to plant hedge rows with before barbed wire.

I have heard my mother tell of Caleb's family coming to Missouri in a horse cart and 10-year-old Ephraim O'Brien Witcher, 1824-1908, walking all the way. Caleb and Dorothy and their five children were accompanied on this trip by Dorothy's sister



Dorothy Jane Witcher Donnell and her Aunt
Katie

Dangerfield (From a Very Unusual Colored
Tintype).

Catherine Dangerfield, 1799-1866 and
Dorothy's mother Elizabeth Watson, 1762-
1848, whose grave may be the oldest in the
Witcher Cemetery. We do not know her
maiden name before she married Mr.
Dangerfield or where she married Mr.
Watson. But she rode to



William Patrick Witcher 1827-1908

Missouri in that horse cart on a feather bed. They arrived in 1833 and built a cabin where the concrete silo now stands on the Younger farm. They had a good spring of water close by and they soon had 20 acres of land cleared and in cultivation, had set out an orchard