

Barber Family in Louisiana

Samuel Barber joins the Army in 1801, arrives in Louisiana by 1806, marries in 1813, and moves his family to Texas in 1829

Alan Barber

1.0 Louisiana in the early nineteenth century

As residents of the twentieth century we often feel that the pace of change we experience far outstrips that of the eighteenth or nineteenth. Maybe not. When Samuel Barber was born in the 1780's, there were thirteen states in the union. He joined the U.S. Regular Army in 1801 when Thomas Jefferson had just been inaugurated president a few miles down river from Samuel's home. By the time the last of his children was married Samuel had been witness to, or an active participant in, the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, the Mexican Revolution, the Texas Revolution, and the Mexican War. By his death he could add the telegraph, railroad travel, and the Civil War. His teenage choice to join the Army resulted in Barbers becoming Southerners, and Texans.

To appreciate Samuel's choices and the environment he made them in, we need to understand what was going on the world around him. The British defeat of the French, and their ally Spain, in the French and Indian War in 1763 changed the political map of North America from Canada to Florida to Louisiana. The French had thoroughly colonized Canada and today's Louisiana and conducted thriving trade with the back country of both. In Louisiana they established cities at New Orleans, Natchitoches, and Natchez and posts at St Martinville, Opelousas, and Baton Rouge. But all this North American empire was lost to France by her defeat in the war. Britain gained Canada—with an unexpected and colorful result for Louisiana, discussed below. Spain gained New Orleans and Louisiana west of the Mississippi River—and in that day Louisiana extended all the way

to Canada. Britain gained all French territory east of the Mississippi, which included “West Florida”, today part of Louisiana. It is a credit to the persistence and strength of French culture that this bare sixty years of colonization has left its imprint permanently on Louisiana’s language, place names, architecture, and settlement patterns.

The American Revolution brought yet another political change to Louisiana when the Spanish, taking advantage of the British preoccupation on the Atlantic seaboard, seized West Florida and its capital Baton Rouge. With this act, Spain’s North American empire reached its maximum extent—and breathtaking it was, extending from Florida across the Gulf coast through present day Louisiana and Texas to Mexico and thence to South America. Their Louisiana holdings extended up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Canada. And at precisely this time their Franciscan padres had extended their string of missions on the Pacific coast all the way to Sonoma, in present California, where they met the southern fringes of Russian expansion.

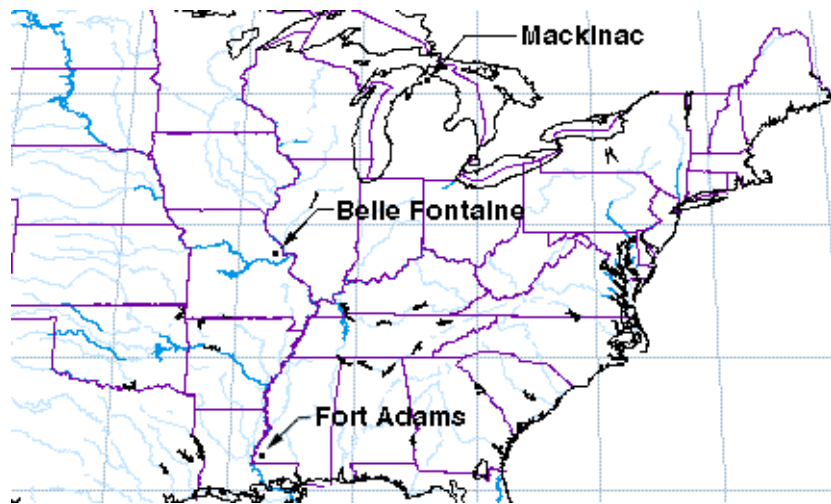
The speed with which Spain lost this empire was equally breathtaking. Samuel Barber arrived in Louisiana just as Spain’s empire was disintegrating and over the next forty years he watched, and probably helped, it disappear from North America. The collapse began as the King of Spain secretly gave Louisiana back to France (Napoleon was his brother) in 1800. The French, bankrupt by Napoleon’s adventures sent neither an army nor administrators to take control of their old colony; Spain continued to govern there. This development concerned Thomas Jefferson, then president, because most of the world commerce of the interior territories and states funneled through New Orleans and he feared newly revolutionized, expansionist France would choke the United States at this point. His fears seemed justified when, in 1801 American citizens reported new restrictions on trade in New Orleans when the annual flotilla of flatboats arrived from Tennessee and Kentucky¹. In 1802 Jefferson dispatched James Monroe to Paris with \$9,375,000 and instructions to buy New Orleans from Napoleon. Imagine his surprise when Monroe returned with a deed to all of “Louisiana”, broadly interpreted to mean the territory originally ceded to Spain from France in 1763—that is, the western drainage of the Mississippi River, extending all the way to Canada, and New Orleans. West Florida was still held by Spain.

2.0 Samuel in the Army

Few soldiers of any century think of their years in the army as “comfortable”, but imagine the lot of a soldier in the U.S. Regular Army at this time. Since the Revolutionary War the army had been continuously “downsized” by a nation that could ill afford the expense and, furthermore, intensely distrusted a standing army in peacetime. By 1802 the total enlisted force was fewer than 3,000 men.² Pay was poor, or nonexistent, illness was common, conditions on the

frontier were primitive, and travel was primarily by foot, even over long distances.

Samuel joined the army on June 30, 1801, enlisting for five years in the First Infantry³. Records do not indicate the location, but since he was living near Harpers Ferry, Va, it was most likely at Washington, DC. Records also do not indicate where he served before 1806, but this can be deduced from the records of his company commander, Captain Benjamin Lockwood, which are more complete. Assuming they were together for at least a couple of years before 1806 we can say a lot about Samuel's activities.



Map 1. U.S. Army posts at which Samuel served, 1803-1806.

On January 22, 1803 Samuel's company was ordered to what was possibly the most remote, most disliked post available at the time—Fort Mackinac, in what is today upper Michigan. With Lakes Huron and Michigan frozen in winter, supplies, if they arrived at all, came only in summer. By May the company was at the post performing their duties—primarily collecting taxes, protecting the trading post, and enforcing the borders against British traders in Canada, who had long done a profitable business with the Indians of the area, which was once British, of course, but now part of the United States.

President Thomas Jefferson's new Indian policies provided the orders which relieved Samuel from frozen Ft Mackinac and started him ultimately toward Louisiana. Jefferson profoundly desired good relations with the Indian tribes in the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, even as Indians in the east were being pressured to move west. He had recruited Meriwether Lewis from Samuel's First Infantry to lead an expedition to explore the new Territory. While Samuel was at Mackinac, Lewis and Clark had left St Louis loaded with a ton of gifts

and instructions from Jefferson to do everything possible to promote peace with the Indians. In addition, a trading post was ordered built in the new Louisiana Territory which would serve the Sac and Fox and other tribes on the lower Missouri and also encourage other eastern tribes to move west.

On February 20, 1805, orders were sent to Lt. Col. Jacob Kingsbury, commander at Mackinac, to move out with Captain Benjamin Lockwood's company, which was Samuel's company, as soon as the lakes opened. These orders, received with the first boat of the year on May 4, instructed Kingsbury and Lockwood to sail via Lake Michigan and the Illinois River to a cantonment (camp) on the Mississippi just above St Louis, where they would be joined by a detachment from Detroit⁴. Since the Adams, the ship which brought the orders, was also to take them across Lake Michigan, they had to leave in some haste. They left so quickly that the men, who had not been paid since the previous September, could not pay their local debts.⁴ By May 30 they were anchored off the shore of the future Chicago. In spring when the water is high it is possible to travel up the Chicago River and down the Fox and Illinois Rivers to the Mississippi with no portage and that is exactly what Samuel's company did after acquiring boats locally. They left on June 5 and in about fifteen days reached Portage des Sioux, on the Mississippi just above the confluence with the Missouri. Their orders were to locate and build a new fort, to be named Fort Belle Fontaine, the first U.S. post west of the Mississippi⁵.

The next month was spent scouting for the best place to locate the fort, interrupted by Fourth of July celebrations a few miles away in St Louis, to which officers only were invited. There was considerable dispute among General James Wilkinson, the commander in St Louis, Colonel Kingsbury in the field, and Kingsbury's officers, regarding the best location for the fort. Illness among the soldiers was rampant, and many blamed it on life in the swampy areas near the river—they argued for locating the post high on a bluff above the river⁶. By late July Kingsbury and Wilkinson had prevailed and chosen a site "on a high, dry, narrow bottom of the Missouri, near a fountain of pure water"⁷, which gave the post its name, Belle Fontaine. It turned out to be neither high nor dry enough as it was often flooded. Illness continued; four years later the post was moved up to the bluff.

Building was soon well underway, but the soldiers-turned-construction workers may have longed for life back in Mackinac. Captain Lockwood's company had to be transported to the site by boat, since nearly all were sick. Desertions were common throughout this and later periods even though punishment, usually 100 lashes, was severe.⁸ In one instance Captain Lockwood wrote to Colonel Kingsbury, temporarily in St Louis:⁹

The men has been punished this Evening that was ordered except one that received but Forty Lashes before he fainted being a youth and a delicate Constitution. I should be glad if you could obtain his

pardon for the rest of his punishment and you know I have but little [—?] for a soldier guilty of such a crime—The Doctor informs me he will not be able to receive the Residue tomorrow morning.

Despite illness and stormy weather, construction continued. The men, and women, for the officers had their families with them, lived temporarily in tents. Permanent construction was evidently of sawn logs, for they were rafted down from “the islands” when water was sufficiently high, though bricks were also made, perhaps for foundations or for the bake house and oven which were among the first structures. The tents were outfitted with raised wooden floors by mid-August. Houses were built for the officers, along with a quartermasters store, and by October work was started on soldiers huts, fifteen men to a hut, four huts to a company. The work pace was such that additional sawyers had to be sent up from St Louis¹⁰—Samuel probably worked as a sawyer, as his occupation in 1807 was listed as sawyer.

Health in the camp continued poor. Captain Lockwood lost a child to illness in July. In October, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Hunt and his wife arrived to command the fort and his 1st Infantry Regiment (Samuel’s regiment) from Belle Fontaine. Though he had served rigorous postings before, including Valley Forge with General Washington, by 1808 both Hunt, at age 54, and his wife had died of unspecified illness¹¹. On September 23, 1806 General Zebulon Pike left his family at Belle Fontaine and commenced his expedition up the Missouri to eventually name Pike’s Peak, be captured by the Spanish, and return via Mexico two years later¹². Two months after his departure, his child died of illness. Bad conditions notwithstanding, on January 30, 1806, six months before his five year enlistment was up, Samuel re-enlisted for a second five years³.

In September of that year, though Samuel and his company had already left for Louisiana, Belle Fontaine was the first U.S. trading post encountered by Lewis and Clark on their return from their expedition. They stocked up, on credit¹³.

3.0 Samuel goes to Louisiana

In the spring of 1806, when Samuel’s company was still at Fort Belle Fontaine, the southern part of Louisiana looked like Map 2, except that the “Neutral Zone” had not yet been agreed upon. The section of the Louisiana Purchase approximating the modern state of Louisiana was organized into the Territory of Orleans, and the rest, which Lewis and Clark had only just explored, became the Louisiana Territory.

The United States’ acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase had, in fact, met with resistance from the Spanish. Though Jefferson purchased it from France in 1803, the French had acquired it from Spain only three years earlier—but only on paper; the Spanish still held all the military and civil posts throughout the ter-

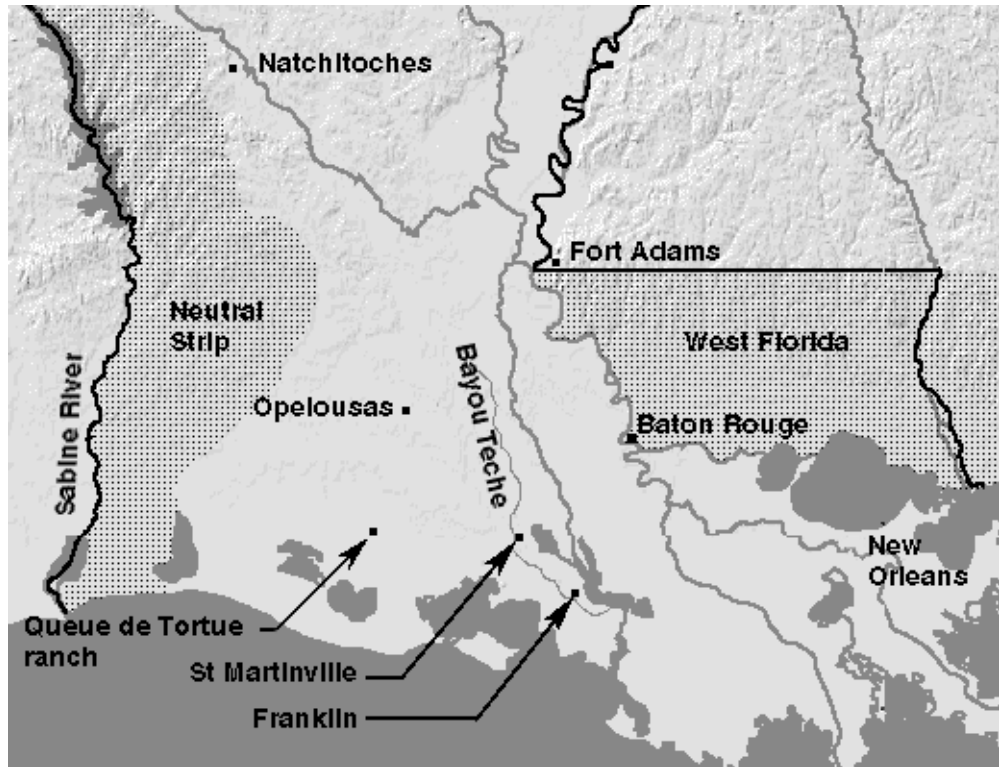
ritory. This American expansion had driven a wedge completely through the Spanish territory in North America and, understandably, they saw the potential for a domino-like loss of Florida to the east and *Tejas* to the west. The Spanish yielded no post in Louisiana without footdragging on their part and a show of military force on the Americans' part.

In 1806 both the eastern boundary with West Florida and the western boundary with *Coahuila y Tejas* were still in dispute as to their details. Jefferson contended that West Florida was in fact U.S. territory by virtue of the Louisiana Purchase, but he made no serious attempt to enforce that view immediately. On the west border the United States claimed territory all the way to the Sabine River, while the Spanish pointed out that nothing beyond the Rio Hondo drained into the Mississippi and thus was not part of the Louisiana Purchase. Spanish troops gathered across the Sabine and patrols were sent to the outskirts of Natchitoches. Rumors abounded that thousands of Spanish Regulars were reinforcing the militia troops already in *Tejas* and many expected a Spanish invasion. As a result, Jefferson ordered the Orleans militia called up and sent another thousand Regular Army troops to reinforce General James Wilkinson, the commanding officer¹⁴. Included was Samuel's company at Belle Fontaine, ordered on April 19, 1806 to Fort Adams, Mississippi, the nearest post to the Spanish troops across the Sabine River from Natchitoches¹⁵. By May 2, 1806, they had arrived¹⁶.

Wilkinson marched his troops to Natchitoches, but, alas, the rumors were false. The Spanish, badly outnumbered, fled to the *Tejas* side of the Sabine and the armies faced each other across the river. Samuel had his first glimpse of his future home, Texas, and here, most likely, he met the family that he would marry into and follow to Texas. For in the Orleans militia 8th Regiment at Natchitoches that fall, was Corporal Levi Barrow¹⁷, who, seven years later would sign Samuel's marriage bond to his half sister Elizabeth. Second in command of that regiment was George King, the man who would perform the marriage ceremony.

With his superior forces, Wilkinson could have negotiated a better deal but, as we shall see, he was eager to get to New Orleans. He arranged a sort of demilitarized zone on the Louisiana side of the Sabine, and each commander agreed that neither would enter with force. For many years this "Neutral Ground"

served as a de-facto border and was a lawless no-mans-land and haven for thieves¹⁸.



Map 2: Louisiana in 1807

4.0 Samuel un-enlists

Wilkinson hurried to New Orleans because of a letter he received at Natchitoches from his old friend, Aaron Burr. Burr had been searching for a worthy project since losing the 1804 nomination for vice-president and winning a duel with Alexander Hamilton. In his letter Burr said he had gathered 500 to 1000 men and they expected to arrive in Louisiana by December. He asked Wilkinson to join him--they would decide when he arrived what to do with their force, but he hinted at rebellion and military action against either American or Spanish forces. Instead of joining him Wilkinson wrote to Jefferson of a force of 8,000 to 10,000 men approaching Louisiana with hostile intentions and set out to fortify New Orleans defenses. The entire Regular Army, including Samuel, and much of the militia, some 1000 soldiers in total, were garrisoned in New Orleans in preparation for this "attack"! As it turned out, Burr's army included only 60 men and they never made it past Natchez, Mississippi, where Burr abandoned the plan and set out cross country. Arrested in Mississippi and deliv-

ered back to Washington, Burr was acquitted of treason after a six month trial in 1807.

But the soldiers no doubt had the time of their lives in New Orleans. Even in 1806 New Orleans was a very upscale, cosmopolitan city of 10,000. With a hundred year history of Latin, that is French and Spanish, culture, it was unlike any of the Calvinist, Presbyterian, or Anglican cities of the eastern seaboard. Shipping traffic was enormous to all the capitals of Europe and the Caribbean and surely any product conceivable was displayed in the shops of the Vieux Carre, as today. Imagine the effect on a soldier who'd spent his youth on a farm and five years in frozen Mackinac or beyond the frontier at a place like Belle Fontaine.

Samuel's last muster was in New Orleans on December 30, 1806³. On their return from their expedition Lewis and Clark had been assigned as governor and Indian Agent, respectively, of Louisiana Territory, and based on their experience had formulated a plan to deal with the Indians in the nearer parts of the Territory. They would build a series of trading posts combined with forts, much like Belle Fontaine, up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. With the trading posts they could cut the British traders operating from Canada out of the business. They could use the threat of a cutoff of supplies to keep the Indians in line and soldiers at the trading posts were available if force needed to be applied as a last resort. Samuel's regimental commander, Col. Thomas Hunt, who had stayed behind at Belle Fontaine during the Natchitoches and Burr affairs, was assigned to implement the Mississippi River portion of the plan¹⁹. Consequently, on March 11, 1807, Samuel's company was ordered north to Fort Adams¹⁶.

A few words about conditions in the Army will help explain why Samuel deserted on the way to Fort Adams. Conditions in the tropical south were abysmal; illness was so common that one year at Fort Adams there was not a single soldier well enough to send in the monthly report. Medicines were strictly rationed by penny pinching Washington and often not available. Desertions were common²⁰. Samuel's company commander, Benjamin Lockwood, died of illness at Fort Adams less than three months after his return. Samuel's regimental commander, Col. Thomas Hunt, died within a year at Belle Fontaine. As bad as these conditions were, it was worse for those who remained behind at New Orleans. Since it was too expensive to keep them in the city they were soon moved down the river about a dozen miles to an empty field beside, and three feet below, the river. There was no sanitation, no shelter, and endless rain. A request to purchase mosquito netting was denied. Due to increasing friction with Britain and an anticipated attack, reinforcements arrived continuously from the east, crowding the camp further. They all suffered from chills, fevers, dysentery, diarrhea, and other diseases. Pay was withheld and remained many months in arrears because desertions always rose after payday. By the time the troops were finally evacuated to Fort Adams in 1809 the results were over 800 deaths from disease, and 166 desertions out of 2,036 men²¹.

Most deserters, like Samuel, went immediately to West Florida, which had not yet been annexed and was administered by a Spanish governor in the capital, Pensacola, and locally by the commander of the fort at Baton Rouge. Deserters were common, and they were protected by the Spanish government. In August 1808 an American gunboat sailed into Spanish West Florida waters at Bayou Manchac and apprehended another American deserter, named Armstrong. This so outraged the commander at Baton Rouge, Don Carlos de Grand-Pre that he complained to the governor of Louisiana, W.C.C. Claiborne, who simply replied that the Spanish had a similar number of deserters at New Orleans. The Spanish governor escalated the complaint to James Madison, then secretary of state in Washington, who declared these actions a flagrant violation of Spanish sovereignty and ordered Armstrong and two other deserters returned.²²

When Samuel deserted, he was destitute, with neither spare clothes nor money. On October 14, 1807 in Spanish West Florida, Guillermo Herries (William Harris, in English) reported to governor Grand-Pre a complaint by Robert Jones, a local inhabitant²³. Jones claimed that Samuel Barber, who had been working for him, left without Jones' permission and "without having paid him for some clothes which the said Robert Jones had furnished him." Jones says Barber was a "deserter, having had permission from Your Excellency to remain two months in this jurisdiction" and that Barber had deposited that permission with his employer Jones, and further that Jones had learned that Barber was employed in Baton Rouge as a sawyer (probably Samuel's occupation in the construction of Ft. Belle Fontaine). Harris points out to the governor that many other Anglos have similarly flouted Spanish law by "employing deserters who do not have permission of residence from Your Excellency".

Harris was acting in his capacity as Syndic of Montesano, a bayou, a district, and a prosperous plantation just north of Baton Rouge (but within the city today).²⁴ A syndic was a local official, appointed by the governor to keep peace and act as advisor and this syndic, William Harris, with his brother George were leading citizens of the time.²⁵ Since the days of British ownership of West Florida this region was mostly occupied by Anglo immigrants from the Carolinas and Virginia because the blufflands there suited their style of agriculture, principally tobacco, and was quite unlike the bayou agriculture the French and Spanish practiced in the river lowlands. Among these Anglo farmers of West Florida was at least one family of Barbers, evidenced by a series of land and slave transactions in Feliciana Parish in 1802 and 1803²⁶. The Barber names include David, Mary, Antonio, and Thomas, but no Samuel. I do not know at this point whether any of these are related to our Samuel. They all disappeared by the time of the 1810 census, or were simply not counted; tobacco farming quickly depletes land and farmers commonly were forced to move on.

In any case Samuel, too, soon moved on. In the predawn hours of September 23, 1810, seventy-five Anglo citizens of West Florida crept into the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge, by an unguarded rear gate, and quickly took command. The Span-

ish surrendered West Florida and the Anglos proclaimed the independent Republic of West Florida, and raised a lone star flag. Within three months this new republic had been annexed to the United States and eventually became part of the state of Louisiana²⁷. Among the seventy-five insurgents at the fort that night were several deserters from the U.S. Army. None of them were ever prosecuted for desertion. Samuel saw none of this, however; he had moved on to Bayou Teche.

5.0 Life on the Lower Teche

It is not known when Samuel arrived on Bayou Teche, nor why or how, but we can place him precisely in the summer of 1810. The census taker that summer travelled the bayou from north to south, taking names.²⁸ Samuel owned no property, but his neighbors did. By locating the property of his neighbors in the census, we can place him on the bayou just below the town of Franklin.²⁹

Within a couple of decades the bayou would be lined with plantations, cattle ranches, and elegant homes and be served by river steamboats. Even in 1810 the bayou was fully populated by three distinct groups of inhabitants.

First were descendants of the French colonists of the eighteenth century. Termed Creoles if they were born in Louisiana, they were well to do, lived in towns, shopped in New Orleans, kept in touch with relatives in France, and spoke classical French. Many lived in St Martinville, where they maintained an elegant Catholic church *St Martin de Tours*. Many had property in the country around Samuel, and carried names such as Louis Desmaret and Francois Prevost.

The second group were present as a result of the French loss of Canada to the British by 1755, mentioned in the second paragraph of this chapter. The French who had lived for generations in Nova Scotia, which they called Acadia, were expelled by the British. These Acadians scattered over North America and France, but many were ultimately attracted to French Louisiana where they became small farmers and fishermen, just as in Canada. They rarely lived in cities, spoke a country French many generations removed from that of Paris, and came to be called “Cajuns”. The Bayou Teche was on the eastern edge of the grasslands and prairies of Louisiana—here most Cajuns became cattle raisers. Joseph Guidry was a Cajun neighbor of Samuel’s.

The third group were Anglos, dominant in West Florida, but a small minority here on the Teche. They were the most recent arrivals, and most came from Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia. Many, like Samuel’s future in-laws, were attracted by the prospect of cheap land, and became small farmers and stock raisers. Warren Buford and Joshua Garret were Anglo neighbors of Samuel’s.

It's not known what attracted Samuel to the Teche from West Florida. It is known that the Barrows were frequent visitors and it could easily be that his new friend Levi Barrow, whom he probably met in the Army at Natchitoches recommended the Teche, where employment was easy to find and apprehension as a deserter was unlikely. The Barrow ranch on the Bayou Queue de Tortue was only 26 miles from St. Martinville, where their children were baptized at *St Martin de Tours* church, and Barrow cattle would have been driven to market in New Orleans by a route that followed the Teche for its full length and crossing south of the Atchafalaya swamp by a land route to New Orleans. Whether from the Barrow family or from locals on the Bayou Teche, it's almost certain that Samuel's introduction to cattle ranching—the occupation to be pursued by him and at least three more generations of Barbers—occurred here. The prairies to the west of the Teche had seen large scale cattle ranching for 50 years by the time of Samuel's arrival and cattle already outnumbered people by fifteen to one.³⁰ It's likely that Samuel found work with one of the many cattle ranchers who lived along the Teche, possibly first doing construction as he had in the Army and at Baton Rouge, then inevitably drawn to cattle.

The next official record for Samuel is his marriage record in Opelousas in 1813. It seems likely he simply worked on ranches between 1810 and 1813, but one author has another theory. Margaret Hensen believes Samuel participated in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition.³¹ Mexico had declared its independence from Spain in 1810, but only achieved it in 1816 after years of intermittent skirmishes and full battles. This expedition was one of them. Gutierrez de Lara was a wealthy Mexican and Augustus McGee was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army patrolling the Neutral Ground in 1812. Gutierrez convinced McGee to resign his commission and join him on an expedition to free Texas from Spanish control. By August they had put together a small army of some 130 adventurers, mostly from Louisiana, crossed the border and easily took the Spanish fort at Nagodoches. They continued across Texas, their army growing quickly from the local population, Spanish deserters, and more recruits arriving from the U.S. They took Trinidad (Liberty) and by November they had taken the major fort at La Bahia (Goliad, today). In February a major Spanish attempt to retake La Bahia failed badly and Gutierrez' army (McGee had died in February) continued on to take the capital at Bexar (San Antonio) and declare victory in Texas. The army partly disbanded and many of the Americans went home. By August of 1813, however, the Spanish had marshalled their forces and defeated Gutierrez' at the Medina River very decisively, with only 93 out of 850 Americans surviving and straggling back to Louisiana.^{32,33} The only evidence that Samuel participated in this expedition is oral tradition that he "fought at Goliad". There was a major battle of the Texas Revolution at Goliad in 1836 that Samuel surely did not participate in, so the alternative explanation was the Gutierrez series of battles at Goliad in 1812-1813. If Samuel was there, it is likely he did not remain with the expedition to San Antonio and the Battle of Medina, or surely he would have related his very narrow, and unlikely, escape from death. This is much specula-

tion—the only sure thing we know is that on November 14, 1813, he was in Opelousas, Louisiana; there he married Levi Barrow's half sister, Elizabeth.

6.0 Samuel starts his family

Levi Barrow had, in all likelihood, come to Louisiana with his father Reuben, step mother Mary Jane Johnson, brother Vincent, and half sister Elizabeth between 1790 (when Elizabeth was born in Mississippi³⁴) and 1795 (when she was baptized in St Martinville, Louisiana³⁵). In the mid 1780's the Barrow family was living in Alabama, so Mississippi may have been simply a transit stop between Alabama and Louisiana^{36,37}. The oldest children, Levi and Vincent, were born of Reuben's first wife, Fanny Kennedy, probably in Georgia. Elizabeth was the first child of his second wife Mary Jane Johnson. The Barrows, by about 1799³⁶, settled on property that Reuben claimed he purchased from an Attakapas Indian chief³⁸, located on the Bayou Queue de Tortue (Tail of the Tortoise), about 30 miles southwest of Opelousas and 26 miles west of St Martinville. Here another nine children were born to Reuben and Mary Jane, with each baptized at St Martinville or Opelousas. As mentioned above, Samuel probably met Levi Barrow when they served at Natchitoches during the border dispute with Spanish *Tejas* in 1806. Or they could have met in the cattle business on the prairies west of Bayou Teche, or even in the Gutierrez-Magee expedition nine months earlier. Samuel did not live in the Opelousas area before his marriage—a census published the day before the wedding showed the Barrow family and future in-laws Foreman and Winfrey, but no Barbers³⁹.

The War of 1812 arrived in Louisiana in the winter of 1814-1815, culminating in the Battle of New Orleans in January, 1815. Samuel and his new brother-in-law Levi served together in the Louisiana militia, 16th Regiment under Colonel John Thompson and General Flaujac⁴⁰. They did not see action, as their regiment was kept in reserve in the Attakapas area⁴¹, but we do know from this that Samuel lived in the Opelousas area after his marriage. Their first child, Amos, was born November 26, 1814, just six weeks before the Battle of New Orleans.

Levi Barrow was apparently the first of Reuben's family to move north to Rapides Parish. The census of 1810 lists him there, but he apparently kept personal property on the Bayou Queue de Tortue ranch of his father and possibly was managing the property. In 1817 Levi died, leaving a widow and two young children, Aaron and Melina. In August Reuben sold the ranch to Ephraim and Joseph Foreman (his daughter Rachel was married to John Foreman) and in December the inventory of Levi's estate at Tortue listed extensive property, including farm implements and animals⁴². Levi's widow remarried immediately, and by the 1820 census both the Barber family and old Reuben Barrow were living in Rapides Parish.

It's not known where Samuel lived from the time of his 1815 service in the War of 1812 and 1820 but it's fair to assume he moved north to Rapides by the time of Levi's death and Reuben's move there. Samuel and Betsy's second child, Anna, was born August 13, 1817, the same day that Reuben sold the Bayou Queue de Tortue ranch. John Albert, their third, was born in 1818, probably in Rapides Parish. Samuel's family's whereabouts are a mystery from this time until 1828 when they moved to Texas, but Reuben, Benjamin, Joseph Addison, and Melissa, were all born, presumably in Rapides. There is no evidence that Samuel ever owned property, but even this is uncertain: the destruction of Alexandria by union troops in 1864 included the courthouse. All tax, property, and census records are lost.

During the decade of the 1820's Samuel's neighbors and kin were moving to Texas in increasing numbers. In 1824 his neighbor E.H.R. Wallis, who was married to Betsy's sister Sally, along with Betsy's brothers Solomon, Benjamin, and Reuben Jr. all packed their goods and trailed their animals to Liberty County, Texas⁴³. In 1829 Samuel and his family arrived in Newton County, Texas, just across the Sabine River from Louisiana where, on February 17, 1830, the last of their children, Laura Elizabeth, "Eliza", was born⁴⁴.

7.0 Notes

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