The Goshen Settlement of
William Bolin Whiteside

Beebeeland
About Me

- SIUE History graduate in 2016
- Researched William B. Whiteside for senior project
- Currently technician for IRIS Center
  - Madison Historical tech developer
An Obelisk and Headstone
An Obelisk and Headstone
A Lone Obelisk
Who was William B. Whiteside?

- One of the first American settlers in the area
- Lived on SIUE land 1802 to 1833
- War of 1812 and Blackhawk War Veteran
- Son of Revolutionary War Veteran
- Second Sheriff of Madison County
1815 Plat Map
1815 Plat Map Zoom
Land Today
Historical Question

What caused early American settlers to drastically alter the environment of frontier Illinois between 1789 and 1833?
My Project

- Ideology: American settlers like the Whitesides felt culturally out of place, due to Native American and French presence. They responded by taming the wilderness to gain ownership.

- Materialism: Market capitalism turned nature into a commodity to be bought and sold.
The Whiteside Family

- English in origin
- Migrated to northern Ireland between 1650 and 1677
The Whiteside Family

William Whiteside migrated to Virginia between 1710 and 1740
The Whiteside Family

Family moved to North Carolina in 1760s
The American Revolution

- The Whitesides supported the patriot cause, fighting against the British and Native Americans
- William Bolin was born December 27, 1777
Migration to Illinois
Illinois in 1795
Frontier Illinois

- Native Americans
- French
- British
- George Rodgers Clark and American settlement
Illinois in 1795
Indian Warfare
Trouble with the Law

- Killing of Native Americans
- Kidnapping of African Americans
- Horse stealing
Move to Goshen Settlement
Goshen

- Settlement named by Rev. David
- Biblical reference
- Little Egypt
Lewis and Clark
Move to Goshen Settlement
The War of 1812

- New Madrid Earthquakes
- Served as ranger
- Blockhouse controversy
  - https://madison-historical.siue.edu/archive/items/show/500
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Blockhouse Controversy
After the War
The Whitesides and Stephensons

- No recorded interaction
- Stephenson represented the “civilizing” of the region to Whiteside
The Whitesides and Slavery

- Slavery in frontier Illinois
- Enslaved people owned by the William B. and Uel
  - Caty Smith
  - Tamor
  - Sam
- Winny v. Whitesides (1824)
Black Hawk War

- Major Samuel Whiteside commanded the Spy Battalion of four companies in 1831
- William Bolin captained one of these companies
- In 1832, Samuel promoted to Brigadier General, under his command was a 23-year-old Captain Abraham Lincoln
Death

- Sarah died July 1833, William Bolin died November 18, 1833
- Evidence for cholera
Legacy

- Whiteside School
- Whiteside County
whiteside.siue.edu
Conclusion

- Frontier history was alien to me. We share the same space and cultural heritage, but the Whitesides occupied a very different society that only starts feeling familiar in the 1820s.
- This history is largely hidden from us.