

Samuel Atherstich 1789 - 1856

Samuel Atherstich was born in Ryton, a hamlet of Bulkington near Foleshill, Warwickshire in about 1789, one of eight children of John Atherstich and Elizabeth Wormleighton.

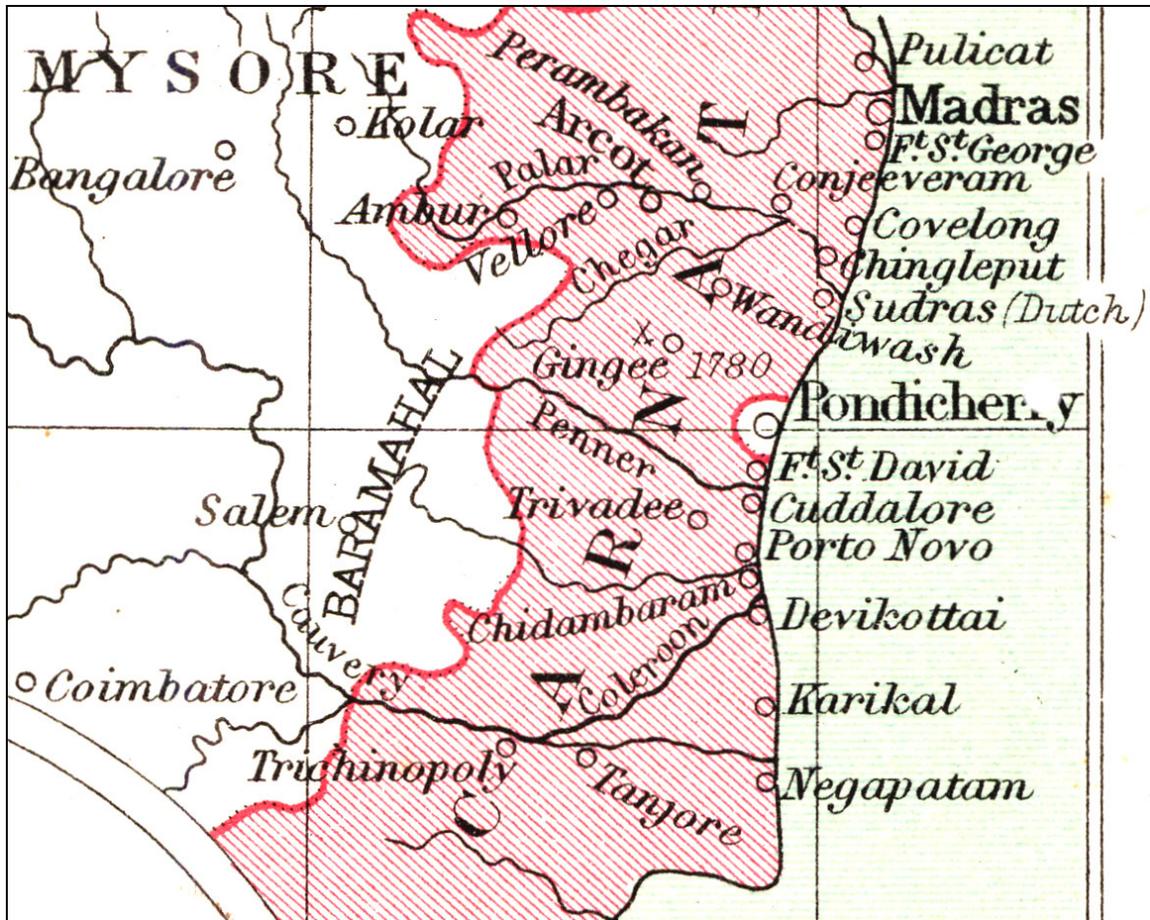
Samuel's branch of the Athersych family spelt their name variously as Atherstich or Atherstick but are in fact descendants of the Athersych/Athersuch family of Foleshill.

On 3rd April 1806 in Dublin at age 17 he signed up for unlimited service with the 30th foot (or Cambridgeshire) regiment and was enlisted with the 1st battalion. Why he was in Dublin and why he came to be recruited there remains a mystery.



Private in the 30th Foot Regiment, in the uniform of 1806

On May 6th 1806 the 1st/30th regiment marched from Hulsea Barracks to Portsmouth Hard where it embarked on several Indiamen. On May 13th a fleet of twenty-nine ships escorted by HMS Lion sailed for Cape of Good Hope. Their planned destination was Madras, but the ships carrying the regiment were diverted to Penang for military reasons arriving there on October 13th. The troops landed on October 16th but re-embarked on November 12th for Madras finally landing there on January 14th 1807.



Map of British occupied India in 1805

On January 18th 1813 the battalion was inspected by Major General Wetherall who commented "I have great pleasure in reporting the high state of order and discipline which distinguishes this corps." In the depressing climate both officers and men drank heavily. Nevertheless, in 1815 the inspecting officer wrote "I have no hesitation in saying that this is the best dressed corps I have met with in my service."

February 14th 1829 the regiment embarked for England on three ships (The Alfred, The James Pattison and The Barrett Junior) after nearly twenty three years' service in India.

In June that year the regiment disembarked at Gravesend and on 27th the service companies were united at Chatham. Samuel received his discharge at Chatham on 29th June 1829. His discharge certificate records that he was "worn out, constitution impaired from long service in tropical climate." His rank was "private" and his conduct was recorded as "good".

On July 1st 1829 the regiment started to march to Portsmouth and thence to join the depot at Albany Barracks in the Isle of Wight. A correspondent of the Morning Post gives us a glimpse of the regiment as it passed through Brighton on 6th. "The Marine Hotel was rendered very gay yesterday; the 30th Infantry having marched into town.

The men had a veteran appearance; some of them were very much the worse for wear, the greater proportion looked healthy. They left us this morning for the Isle of Wight where there depot is and where the aged and infirm in their ranks will receive their discharge."

Samuel's army record gives the following physical description: height 5'7", hair light brown, eyes grey, complexion fair.

Because of his long army service (almost 23 years as a private) Samuel became an out pensioner of Chelsea Hospital. He must have very soon returned to Warwickshire after his discharge as his first pension payment at the rate of 1s 6d per day was made on 5th August 1829 in Coventry.

A little over a year later, on 24th October 1830 he was married in St James's church Bulkington to Ann Webster, some 12 years his junior with whom he subsequently had three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Ann.



St James Church Bulkington where Samuel and Ann Webster were married in 1830

For the rest of his civilian life Samuel was a labourer. He died in Chapel Street, Ryton, on 28th January 1856 aged 70 of heart disease (Morbus Cordis). His death certificate clearly shows his surname spelt as Athersuch!

657
Company

HIS MAJESTY'S

Regt. of Foot.



Whereof Genl Sir Tho. Biddford is Colonel.

These are to Certify,

I. **Age and Entitlement.** THAT Samuel Atherstich born in the Parish of Wiggleton in or near the Town of Hammill in the County of Yorkshire was enlisted for the aforesaid Regiment at Wharfedale in the County of Yorkshire on the third Day of April 1806 at the Age of Seventeen for Unlimited Service

II. **Service.** THAT he hath served in the Army for the space of Twenty-two Years and 100 Days, after the Age of Eighteen according to the subjoined

STATEMENT OF SERVICE.

IN WHAT CORPS	Period of Service		Sergeant-Major		Qr. Mr. Sergeant		Sergeant		Corporal		Trumpeter or Drummer		Private		Serving prior to the Age of Eighteen to be deducted		Total Service		
	From	To	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	
<u>30th Regt of Foot</u>	<u>1806</u>	<u>1828</u>																	
Total of Service.																			
In East or W. Indies																			

III. **Discharge and Cause.** THAT by Authority of General Biddford dated 29th June 1829 HE IS HEREBY DISCHARGED in consequence of being worn out, computation 100 days

IV. **Not disqualified for Pension.** THAT he is not known to be incapacitated by the Sentence of a General Court Martial, from receiving Pension

V. **Character.** THAT his general conduct as a Soldier has been Good

VI. **Settlement of all Demands.** THAT he has received all just Demands of Pay, Clothing, &c. from his Entry into the Service to the date of this Discharge, as appears by his Receipt underneath.

VII. **Acknowledgment of the Receipt of all Demands.** I Samuel Atherstich do hereby acknowledge that I have received all my Clothing, Pay, Arrears of Pay, and all just Demands whatsoever, from the time of my Entry into the Service to the time of this Discharge.

Certified by Samuel Atherstich Signature of the Soldier

VIII. **Dispositions &c. &c.** TO prevent any improper use being made of this discharge, by its falling into other hands, the following is a Description of the said Samuel Atherstich. He is about Twenty Years of Age, is Six Feet Seven Inches in height, Brown Hair, Green Eyes, Fair Complexion, and by Trade or Occupation a Labourer

At the Seal of the Regiment, at Wharfedale this 29th Day of June 1829

Signature of the Commanding Officer. Genl Sir Tho. Biddford
1829, confirmed Genl Sir Tho. Biddford

Army Discharge certificate for Samuel Atherstich, 1829

References used in the compilation of this account.

Bannatyne, N. 1923. History of the 30th Regiment.

National Archive references:

WO 12/4571 - Regimental muster for 1806/7 in Wallajabad

WO117/2 - Pension admissions

WO 22/22 - Pension returns

WO 97/484/26 - Certificate of discharge

WO 17/137 - Monthly Army list 30th Foot regiment

WO 17/425 - Monthly Army list 30th Foot regiment

WO 379/6 - Disposition of the Army - 30th Foot regiment 1806-7.