

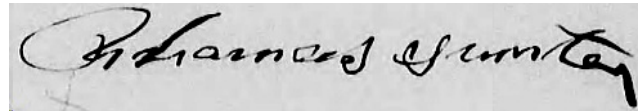
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Sumter R10312 Lydia Sumter NC
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Sep 2014.

State of Tennessee } On this the 6th day of July 1833 personally appeared in open Court before us
Knox County } James Anderson Robert Zindle and William Craighead three of the acting
Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Thomas Sumpter a resident of the said
County and State in the said County of Knox and State of Tennessee aged 71 or 72 years who being first
duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the
benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he entered the service of the United States under
the following named officers and served as herein stated That he was born in Abemarl [sic: Albemarle]
County Virginia on the 15th day of December 1761 or 1762 as he was informed by his parents He has no
record of his age He lived in Burke County North Carolina at which place some time in April 1788 [sic]
as he believes He substituted in the room and stead of his father William Sumpter [William Sumter] for a
six months tour against the Cherokee Indians under Capt Thomas Whitsan [sic: Thomas Whitson] in Col
Joseph McDowells Regiment of Militia in Gen'l Charles McDowells Brigade at which time we
Rendezvoused at Burk [sic: Burke] Courthouse in said County we then marched to Catheys fort on the
head of Catawby River [sic: Catawba River in present McDowell County NC] we made that our head
quarters and we scouted through the Country in quest of Indians we had no battle he lay there till his
time was out which was some time in October 1788 according to the best of his knowledge he was then
discharge his discharge was signed by the said Col Joseph McDowell but is lost long since He served at
this time six month for which he claims pension

Again while living at the same place aforesaid some time in July 1780 as he believes he
volunteered as a fifer for a six months tour against the british and tories under Capt Thomas Whitsan in
Col Joseph McDowells Regiment of Militia in Genl Charles McDowells Brigade At which time we
Rendezvoused eight miles above Ramsours Mill [Ramseur's Mill, Lincoln County NC] at one Wilson's
He marched to the head of the same part of the Catawby River and into Rowan County we lay some time
at Morisons Mill in said County we then marched into Iredal County [sic: Iredell County, formed from
Rowan County in 1788] and from there into Burk County we lay some time at William Sumpters
Marched from there to Catheys fort on the head of Catawby River we lay there a considerable time
probably between two and three month the time not recollected we scouted through the country in quest
of Tories and Indians we then marched to the head of the South fork of Catawby expecting to meet Col
Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] a british officer but he was defeated before we got there by
Applicants uncle Genl Sumpter [sic: Thomas Sumter; see endnote] we marched into Rutherford County
and he was there honourably Discharged his discharged his discharge was signed by Col Joseph
McDowell which discharge is lost long since He served at this time six months for which he claims
pension He was discharged in January 1781 as he believes Again while living at the place aforesaid
about the 1st of February 1781 He substituted in the room and stead of Richard Ramsay to serve out the
ballance of his tour of duty which had been a ten months tour one month of which tour was out when he
substituted under Capt William Sumpter who was declarants father He substituted in Burk County North
Carolina we marched to the narrows of the Yadkin River in Wilks [sic: Wilkes] County North Carolina
we lay there till he got his discharge which discharge was signed by Col James Rickerd his discharge is
lost long since he was discharged in the later part of May 1781 as he believes He served at this time
three months and a half for which he claims pension He served in the whole fifteen months and a half for
which he claims pension He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony
he can procure who can testify to his actual service There is but one Clergyman living in his
neighbourhood and he preaches to a number of diferant congregations and was so engaged that declarant
could not procure his testimony altho he endeavoured to do so
He continued to live in said Burk County North Carolina till about 1798-99 or there about the date not

certainly recollected he then moved to said Knox County Tennessee and lived there about twenty five years he then moved into Butler Ohio and lived there about eighteen month he moved back to said Knox County and has lived there ever since He thinks there was no regular officers with the troops where he served He was acquainted with Col Benjamin Clevelands and Col James Rickerds Regiments of Militia and as to the general circumstances of his service they are above stated He received three discharges from the service which are all lost long since and accounted for above He never did receive a Commission during the Revolutionary War but he rec'd an appointment as fifer from said Capt Whitsan and he served the first two tours towit twelve months as a fifer He is acquainted in his present neighbourhood with Smith Magus John Baliss Esq'r Robert Smith James Brown and George Graves Esq'r all of whom he believes would testify that he is a man of veracity and that they believe he served as a soldier of the Revolution He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid



Knoxville April 25 1843

Sir [James L. Edwards, Pension Commissioner] I am requested by Thos Sumpter a pensioner under the act of 7 June 1832 to ask for such information as will enable him to obtain pay due him from the Government for the following service for which he has never had any compensation

He volunteered under Capt John Band Sept 17 1794 & served as a soldier under him until 31 Decr following when he was discharged with a promise from his Captain that he should have his pay, as some future period, most of those who served at that time did subsequently receive their pay & also tracts of land, none of which was ever paid to the above individual, who also states that during the whole of the tour he fed and cloathed himself & horse.

There is now but one man living that he has any knowledge of who served at that time. he lives some 60 miles distant & should his claim be allowed on his proving the above facts the evidence of this individual can be obtained. Mr Sumpter is a nephew of the late Genl Sumpter & has 3 sons all of whom served under Gen'l [Andrew] Jackson & was with him in the battle of the Horse shoe [Battle of Horshoe Bend, 27 March 1814]. but the whole family are now in very reduced circumstances.

I am very respectfully yr obt ser/ Wm Goodrich

NOTES:

The only engagement between Gen. Sumter and Tarleton that might be considered a defeat for the latter was at Blackstock's Plantation in Union County SC on 20 Nov 1780. Tarleton's troops suffered more casualties than did those under Gen. Sumter (who was wounded in that engagement), but Tarleton remained effective in suppressing what little remained of the Patriot cause in northern South Carolina.

On 3 July 1847 Lydia Sumter applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Sumter in Burke County on 18 March 1790, and he died on 15 Jan 1846. Her application was certified by John Bayless. The file contains a family record certified by Isaac Bayless and transcribed below. Her claim was not allowed, because she was not a widow at the passage of the pension law under which she applied.

On 16 April 1852 Edward Sumter, 41, applied for the pension he considered to be owed to his mother, stating that his father, Thomas Sumter, died on 14 Jan 1845, and his widow, Lydia Sumter, died on 26 Aug 1850, leaving himself and the following other children: Elizabeth Bayless, Mary Anderson, and Elvira Kline.

Thomas Sumter and Lydia his Wife were Married ye 18th March 1790
Jean Sumter was Born January ye 18th AD 1791

John Sumter was Born October ye 29th AD 1792
James Sumter was Born September ye 17th AD 1794
Robert Sumter was born October ye 30th AD 1795
William Sumter was born March ye 13th AD 1797
Betseyann Sumter was born January ye 16th AD 1802
Susannah Sumter was born April ye 30th AD 1804
Lydia Sumter Daughter of Thos Sumter was born Aug't 8th 1806
Mary Sumter was born December ye 2nd AD 1807