

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Summers W2192

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }

Wilson County }

On this 2<sup>d</sup> day of March 1853 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace and a Member of the County Court of said Wilson County which is a Court of record Mrs Levina Summers a resident of said County aged seventy five years on the 9<sup>th</sup> September next who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions make by the act of Congress past February the 3<sup>d</sup> 1853 granting pensions to such widows as was married to officers or soldiers of the Revolutionary war after the year 1800 & 6

That she is the widow of James Summers late of Caswell County State of North Carolina that her husband the said James Summers was as she always understood from him & others in the service of the United States during the revolutionary war that at or near the commencement of said war he was living in Caswell County NC and that he entered the service say some time in the years 1775 or 1776 as a musician or sargant and as an enlisted man she thinks for during the war in Captain Henry Dixons Company [Henry Dixon, made Captain 1 Sep 1775] She dose not recolect his Colonels name or the number of his regiment but thinks it was among the first regmts raised and dose rcolect that the Majors name as she understood from her husband that belong to said regmt was Major Thomas Donoho that he continued to serve for the greater part of said war that he was march first to the north and returnd back and was marched to South Carolina was engaged at the battle of Charleston SC [Siege of Charleston, spring 1780] & was there taken prisoner [probably at the surrender, 12 May 1780] but got away from the enemy in a few days that he was also at the battle of the Eawtow Spring [sic: Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] she thinks having again joined the army declarant has heard him speake of being in several other battles but she cannot recolect them that he continued in said service untill nearly the close of the war as she understood from him and have often heard him tell others that he served army of said war five or upwards of five years that his first Captain was promoted [to Maj. 4 Oct 1777; to Lt. Col. 8 May 1780] the next Captains name that he served under she dose not recolect but recals its having been speake of Henry Dixons death some time during the war [at Round O SC, 17 Jul 1782] that he was honorably discharged and returned home

She further declares that she was marid to this James Summers in Caswell County North Carolina by Esqr Joseph Brackin on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Febuary one thousand eight hundred and three 1803 that the first child of her self & her said husband was born in Novr 1804 that before she was marrid to said James Summers her name was Levina Gillispie that her first childs name was Lyda that her husband the said James Summers died in said Wilson County Tennessee on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1820 that since his death she has not again inter marrid but still remains his widow She further states that she has no documentary or record proof in suport of her claim nor dose she know of any one now living by whom she could prove his service that the old original record as kept by her husband which showed the dates of the births of his children was taken by her Son Henry Dixon Summers some years ago in order to copy it & which she supposes has been lost or destroyed She further states that her husband named one of our children after Capt Henry Dixon his old Captain She would further state that she always understood from her husband that he was entitled to (she thinks) one thousand acres of Land for his services but which by some means he was wronged out of as he always said he got no benefit from it she would further state that she understood from her husband that when he was taken prisoner at Charleston that one of his fellow soldiers by the name of James Coram was taken prisoner also but where he now is she cannot say or whether he is living she dose not no Sworn to & subscribed before me J. F. Hooker the date above Levine herXmark Summers

State of Tennessee }

Wilson County }

On this 3<sup>d</sup> day of March 1853 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County Mrs Abijah Smart a rsident of Rutherford County aged Sixty Six years who makes oath that she was

well acquainted with James Summers of Caswell County North Carolina from her earliest recollection that he then lived in said Caswell County and from her earliest recollection She always understood from him & others that the said James Summers was a Soldier or officer in the Revolutionary war as a regular that she has often heard him speak of being in the Service that he was engaged in Service through the greater part of the war also recolects on one ocasion of hearing him tell that while he was out in the Service he was marched to the north and while then in the State of New York he was permitted too visit a relation by the name of Hardin that he ascertained that they had suffered much from the Tories but the particular offers[?] or the length of time he served of course affiant cannot till only from what she has heard from him affiant further states she well recolects the circumstance of the said James Summers intermarrying to a Miss Levina Gillispie of Caswell County N C which marriage took place some time in the year Eighteen hundred and two or three (1802 or 1803) affiant was not at the marriage that she then lived about 6 miles from Gillespies but well recolects the circumstance and a short time thare after she heard the Justice of the peace Josep Braskin say that he married them She further states that about the year 1810 or 1811 affiant removed from Caswell County to Wilson County Tenessee and in a year or two afterwards the said James Summers removed and settled in the same neighborhood himself & wife Levina that they remained together as man & wife up to the death of the said James Summers which occurred in the year 1820 or 1821 that after his death the said Levina his widow remand unmarrid and is still living and is still his widow affiant has been well acquainted with her ever since and she has always been called & considered a truthfull woman affiant further states she is disinterested in the claim to a pension which she is informed the said Levina has made in rite of her said husband the said James Summers did  
Sworn & subscribed before me the date above witten  
Abijah herXmark Smart

[A Philip Smart also deposed.]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, WILLIAM HILL, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the muster-rolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that James Summers a Musician in Capt. Dixon's Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, entered the service on the [blank] day of [blank] 1777 for the term of the War, was Fife Major 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1778 private 1<sup>st</sup> December 1778 Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Febry 1780. a land Warrant was issued for his services 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1783. Given under my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1853  
Warrant No 310 for 857 Acres W. Hill Secretary of State  
[The file includes a copy of the survey of this land in Davidson County NC on what appears to be Red River.]

NOTE: On 16 Feb 1857 Lavina Summers, 77 or 78, applied for bounty land. On 27 Feb 1861 Levina Summers applied to have her pension transferred to Saline County IL for the following reason: "My children had moved to Illinois and I moved hear to be with them and to enjoy their Company."