
◆ The Summitt Family Quarterly ◆

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From The Editor

Well, did you ever think we'd get to this point? This issue starts our sixth year of publication. Six years ago we started with twelve people who wanted to know about their family's history and today we have around eighty. Over a hundred people have subscribed at one time or another over the past six years. And, while we are late quite often with an issue, we've never missed one yet. We don't plan on it either. I think everyone involved in this venture enjoys putting the effort out so that others in the family can learn about our ancestors.

This issue is, as I promised you last issue, full even though one of the articles I had planned didn't come through. Last issue I had told you about a book detailing the history of the 5th Tennessee Infantry, the unit that James Lee Summitt served with during the War between the States. We had planned to include an article by the author of that book, Bob Cannon, but unfortunately, he was unable to help us at this time. I did buy a copy of the book and I'll be showing you some of it here in this issue, as well as telling you how to get your own copy if you want one.

We're also continuing the records of St. Paul's Lutheran Church that we began last issue. We ended our

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6th Anniversary Issue

Jacob Summitt and the Early Sammets of Colonial America ***By Glen Scott Summitt***

Introduction

By Paul Clayton Summitt

On September 5th, 1753, a ship named Beulah originating in Rotterdam landed at the colonial port of Philadelphia with a German Lutheran passenger named Jacob Sammet. The German surname was apparently quickly translated into "Summitt" or some close variation in English records--a surnamed evolution insofar as can be determined common to this family name in the United States. This Jacob apparently remained in Eastern Pennsylvania for quite a while and then moved south to Hampshire County, Virginia in current West Virginia.

While early records are sparse and will be examined in more detail below, it should be noted here that by the 1770s and 1780s, Summitt(t)s with a growing body of evidence linking them to the Sammet name appear with increased frequency in Kentucky and North Carolina.

The most familiar Summitt/Sammet to readers of the Summitt Family Quarterly is the German Lutheran migrant Francis Summitt (1741-1818) who settled in Lincoln County, North Carolina in the latter part of the 1700s and raised a large family of 12 children, there consisting of six sons and six daughters. Most of his sons married in Lincoln County and at various times moved on to other frontiers in Tennessee and Indiana. Unfortunately, little information has been collected on the fate of his daughters. For details on this family see Summitt Family Quarterly, "Preliminary Comment on Francis Summitt & Family", Volume 1, Issue

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