

◆ The Summitt Family Quarterly ◆

Volume 4, Issue 1

April, 1998

From the Editor

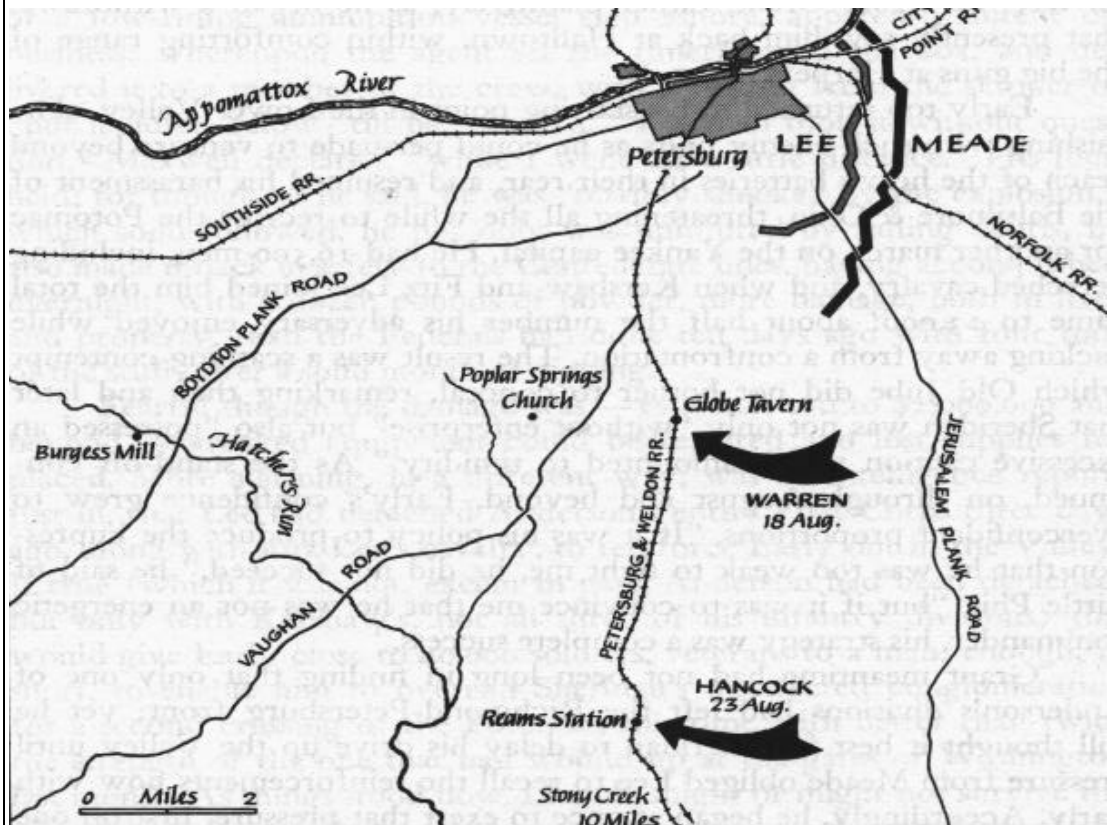
This issue begins our fourth year of publication for this newsletter. We would like to welcome our new subscribers and express our happiness at having some of our older subscribers back.

I hope that you'll forgive the slight tardiness of this issue. For those of you who don't know, I am the Midday and 6 PM producer for KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, Arkansas when I'm not putting this newsletter together. As I am writing these notes, it hasn't been twenty-four hours since we covered the funerals of the last of the victims who died in Tuesday's tragedy. I am exhausted mentally, physically, and emotionally, as are all of the staff at the station. I hope that you forgive me if this newsletter was not completed and mailed by the first of the month.

On a happier note, in regard to this issue, Glen Summitt has provided an excellent discussion of Isaac Summitt and the Battle of Ream's Station. Paul C. Summitt has done his normal excellent work in

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Isaac L. Summitt and the Battle of Ream's Station



by Glen Summitt

"Isaac Summitt raised the rebel flag for his unit, the Catawba Braves, and then charged the enemy for what would be the last time. He took his fatal gunshot wound not long after Union troops had ripped up miles of track along the Weldon Railroad, severing a key Confederate supply route at Ream's Station." (*Grant Takes Command* by Bruce Catton.)

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MARCUES E. SUMMIT

Born in Stinesville, Monroe County, Indiana,

7 February 1838

Died in Washington, Daviess County, Indiana,

Buried in Oak Grove Cemetery , Washington, Indiana

25 April 1921

Married Mary Catharine Stine in Stinesville, Indiana

02 January 1861

Born in Virginia

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opening up discussion concerning the Kentucky Summitts that we will be examining more closely in the future as we look for the connections between the various parts of the family. John Allen Summitt has provided us with a look at Marques E. Summitt. We also have pictures of Marilyn Summitt, Virgil Summitt, and others.

Enjoy the issue and please feel free to contact me by mail, email, or phone. Also, stop by the web page and leave your name and comments in the Guest Book.

later
paul



Above: Paul M. Summitt - Las Vegas, 1997 - Picture taken by Jaclyn Summitt while Paul was working on the tech edit of a book.

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Descendants of Virgil Anderson Summitt

- 1 Virgil Anderson Summitt
1893 - 1973
+Mattie Lou Worrells
1893 - 1925
- 2 Clara Mai Summitt
1922 -
+Loise Earl Burnett, Sr.
1918 - 1994
- 3 Sherman Earl Burnett
1938 - 1938
- 3 Bonnie Ann Burnett
1940 -
+Billie Wayne Newell
- 4 Jeffery Lynn Newell
1961 -
- 4 Gary Wayne Newell
1962 -
- 3 Loise Earl Burnett, Jr.
1942 -
+Linda Carolyn Jones
- 4 Carolyn Renee Burnett
1964 -
+unknown Warren
- 4 Cathy Lynn Burnett
1970 -
+Unknown Hewitt
- 4 Joey Lynn Burnett
1974 -
- *2nd Husband of Clara Mai Summitt:
+Joseph Bruce Agee
3 Joseph Danny Agee
1947 -
+Mable Lee Spoon

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EARLY KENTUCKY SUMMITT FAMILIES

By Paul C. Summitt

Note: The Author should note at the outset that he does not consider himself a student of the early Kentucky Summitt families. This piece examines fragmentary notes relating to the first generation of Summitts in Kentucky spanning the period from 1780 to 1840 to encourage further study. A later article is planned for the next issue that will examine the second generation. Significant contributors to my notes have been Donna Summitt, wife of William Harrison Summitt Sr., of Ash Flat, Arkansas and Myron & Mary Elizabeth Robbins of Sheridan, Indiana. Myron Robbins had the wonderful opportunity to *walk the ground* in Summitt country in Kentucky and Mary has thoughtfully set his story to writing in a paper *The Summitt Family Story*.

Setting the Stage

It may be helpful to the "speculations" relating to the early Kentucky Summitts to briefly repeat the pre-Kentucky situation with individuals of similar name. This author remains convinced that the original "Summit(t)" settlers in this country were German immigrants with the German name "Sammet". This is not a universal conclusion, particularly with respect to the Kentucky Summitt families. Others reviewing Kentucky Summitts favor Scotland as their place of origin. [See Myron & Mary Robbins, "The Summitt Family Story"] Indeed, at least one researcher concluded that the early Kentucky Summitt families were members of the Shumate line from Scotland who inexplicably changed their names to Summitt about the turn of the 19th century. [Theodor-Friedrich von Stauffenberg, "The Shumate Family--A Genealogy" (1964)]

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"Isaac L. Summit was shot in the charge with the colors in his hands....," recalled Charles Parker, fellow soldier and friend who fought alongside him at the Battle of Ream's Station in Dunwiddie County, Virginia. August 25, 1864 was a day of battle much different from others Isaac had fought. It was the beginning of the end for the 32-year-old father of two from Catawba County, North Carolina.

Before the battle, the armies of Lee and Grant were immobilized in siege warfare along 25 miles of forts and trenches that began at Richmond and then swung down below Petersburg. Unable to seize Petersburg by surprise, Grant focused on severing a key supply line: the Weldon Railroad. (Paul C. Summitt's Notes; Freeport, Florida; 1998.)

Major General Gouverneur K Warren's V Corps made a successful strike along the line at Globe Tavern on August 18th. With one of two vital supply lines severed, Lee was forced to transport supplies by wagon from Stony Creek. (*Photographic History of the Civil War: Vicksburg to Appomattox*, Blackdog & Levanthol Publishers; New York; 1983.) This slowed

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the arrival of desperately needed supplies, including food and ammunition. With hopes of further delay, Grant ordered Major General Winfield Scott Hancock to proceed to Ream's Station, five miles below Globe Tavern.

By August 23rd, Hancock had arrived at Ream's Station and by sundown the following day his men had ripped up about three miles of track. While savoring his accomplishment that night, Hancock learned Lieutenant General A.P. Hill was moving directly toward his forces. Hill assaulted Hancock on the 25th, with the brunt of the fierce rebel blow coming down on three separate regiments from New York. A small number of Union troops fled, many surrendered, and before nightfall better than 2000 men found themselves prisoners of war. (*The Civil War - A Narrative: Red River to Appomattox*, Shelby Foote; Random House; New York; 1974.)

Two more divisions were enroute to backup Hancock, but he withdrew his troops and abandoned the line anyway. In total, Hancock lost 2,750 soldiers, either killed, wounded or missing; lost a dozen battle flags; nine guns; and abandoned over 3000 rifles. In contrast, Hill lost only 720 men . . . but Isaac Summitt was one of them.

Following the battle, Isaac was probably first moved to a field hospital, located just a mile or so behind the lines. Here, the wounded received immediate emergency attention in order to hold the afflicted over till transfer. Isaac was then transported to Camp Winder General Hospital in Richmond, on the Confederate Capital's western edge.

Winder was one of the largest of Richmond's medical centers, able to accommodate as many as 4,300 patients at a time. Ninety-eight pine buildings made up the compound over an area of 125 acres. Many wounded Confederate soldiers found themselves at Camp Winder. In fact, sixty percent of all wounded Confederates found themselves at Richmond military hospitals. (*Civil War Virginia: Battleground for a Nation*, James I. Robertson Jr.; University Press of Virginia; Charlottesville and London; 1991.)

Hospital workers dumped all of the facility's refuse into a trench, which completely encircled the Winder compound. Nine months out of the year a putrid odor permeated the air, making life miserable for both soldiers and staff alike. Isaac's experience at the military hospital was undoubtedly brutal. He arrived during the hottest part of the summer; one can only imagine the terrible smells of filth and death lingering in the air as he tried to recuperate from his wounds. Within two weeks he was dead.

Isaac Lanford Summitt (son of John, grandson of Jacob, and great-grandson of Johannes Francis) succumbed to his battle wound (Vulius Sclopet) on September 9, 1864 at Camp Winder General Hospital. (*North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: Roster*, compiled by Louis Manarin and Weymouth Jordan; 1990.) The location of his grave is unknown, but it is assumed he is buried in a mass unmarked grave somewhere in the vicinity of Richmond. Local grave diggers in Richmond buried hundreds at a time in shallow graves which were frequently exposed when it rained.

The Confederate effort at the Battle of Ream's Station succeeded in ousting the Yankees, but the Union Army still succeeded in its continued effort of derailing the line farther. On paper it was a decisive military loss for the Federals, but strategically a clear-cut victory in the Union's ongoing efforts to sever supply routes and eventually bring Lee to his knees. (*Grant Takes Command*, Bruce Catton, p. 352.)

The courage with which the Rebel Army fought at Ream's Station did not go unnoticed. General Robert E. Lee wrote the following letter to the governor of North Carolina:

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Marilyn Kay Summitt:
second child of Granville
Bryan Summitt.

Current age 40

three daughters

Candace Angel

Jillian Kay

Emily Ann

one grandson, Mason.

Born in Sacramento, CA

Raised in Anchorage, AK

"Growing up in a pristine environment, both climate and attitude wise, I knew there was so much

to learn and see that I would always strive to do more. No matter what I would keep seeking new adventures and new hills to climb. With my world shaken in 1972 and the tearing apart of the family with the divorce of my parents, it was a long time before I really found direction again. I married and had three daughters and realized there was more to life. I was determined to go to college, get my law degree and raise my children to think free just as I was raised in Alaska. Through a divorce and a few moves around the country, I found life to be wonderful in South Florida. My girls are grown or growing, law practice is flourishing and life is a great thing to enjoy

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- 4 Timothy Lynn Agee
1969 -
- 4 Joseph Franklin Agee
1973 -
- 3 Lynda Sue Agee
1949 -
+Donald Wade Gillion
- 4 Jennifer Sue Gillion
1969 -
- 4 Donna Lynn Gillion
1974 -
- 3 Jimmy Lynn Agee
1950 - 1973
- 2 Willie Anderson
Summitt
1914 - 1964
- 2 J. L. Summitt
1919 -
+Sudie Mai Diggs



**Alexander and
Saline Summitt's
tombstones.**



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"Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia

August 29th, 1864

His Excellency Z.B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina

I have been frequently called upon to mention the services of North Carolina soldiers in this army, but their gallantry and conduct were never more deserving the admiration than in the engagement at Reams Station on the 25th instant.

The brigades of Generals Cook, McRae, and Lane: the last under the temporary command of General Conner, advanced through a thick abattis of felled trees under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery, and carried the enemies works with a steady courage, that elicited the warm commendation of their corps and division commanders and the admiration of the army.

I am with great respect your obedient servant.

R. E. Lee, General"

(*Southern Historical Society Papers. Vol. 9, pp 245-246. 1881.*)

Isaac enlisted at the formation of Company K, 46th North Carolina Infantry at Camp Mangum on April 16, 1862, the same day as Pinkney Summitt. Pinkney may be Isaac's older brother, known as Hubbard, or a close relative. According to Isaac's military records, he stood 5 feet 6 1/2 inches tall; his occupation was tanner. During the two years he fought for the Confederacy, he served as corporal in Captain Adolphus T. Bost's Company, known as the Catawba Braves. He was mustered in as a private and later promoted to 4th Corporal on November 1, 1862; 3rd Corporal January 1, 1863; 2nd Corporal May 6, 1864 and 1st Corporal on July 15th. (Daniel Summitt's Notes; Lexington, North Carolina; 1998.)

Isaac was born about 1832 in Lincoln County to John and Rebecca Robinson. His siblings included: P Heglar, Mary Catherine, Sarah Jane, Paulina Hagler, Martha and Barbary Margaret. John's second wife was Mary Camila Lee; they had one adopted daughter named Mary Propst. About five years before he enlisted, Isaac married Perlve Abernethy, the daughter of Phillip Abernethy and Polly (Orent) Arndt, on Feb. 1, 1857 in Catawba County. Soon after their marriage the farming couple had two daughters, Naomi and Margaret.

Naomi Elizabeth was born March 6, 1858 in Catawba. She married Joseph Isaiah Caldwell on January 5, 1881 in Mecklenberg, Caldwell Township. They lived in the Balls Creek section of Catawba where they raised twelve children. She died June 22, 1922. Margaret Ellen was born May 30, 1860 in Catawba. She married Perry Davidson Drum on September 16, 1880, in Caldwell Township. I am aware of three children, but she probably had more. She died November 8, 1927, in Catawba County.

In the 1870 Census, Perlve appears to be without her daughters. However, I am making the assumption that this is not another woman with the same name; unlikely, but this could be proven differently at a later date. She is listed as the 30-year-old head of household in Caldwell Township, Catawba. Her occupation is listed as "keeping house at home." Complicating matters, Perlve is listed with a 20-year-old Mary Summit, a 16-year-old Catherine Summit and an 8-year-old John Summit. I am not sure who these individuals are, but for certain Perlve is not the mother of 20-year-old Mary. In the same census, Naomi and Margaret are not listed with their grandparents, John and Rebecca. Where the two girls went during this time is not known, possibly Perlve's parents or the state.

However, it should be noted that after Isaac's death, Perlve gave birth to two boys: Phillip and Alexander.

Phillip Marion Summitt added an additional "t" to the Summit name -- reason unknown. He was born May 24, 1870 in Catawba; the same year Perlve was not with her daughters. He married Susen Crouse, the daughter of Robert Crouse and Rebecca Abernethy, on December

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27 January 1843
Died in Washington, Daviess County, Indiana,
Buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Washington, Indiana
31 March 1921

Marcues E. Summit is descended from Francis Summit (Frantz Sammet) a German immigrant who settled in Lincoln County, North Carolina about 1760.

Francis Summit - 1741-1818
+Dolly Unknown - abt 1740 - aft 1818
Christian Summit - 1769-1865
+Elizabeth Masters - 1781-1845
John Summit - 1804-1845
+Lydia Simmons - 1813-1900

Marcues E. Summit's Grandparents, Christian and Elizabeth Summit moved their Family from North Carolina to Stinesville, Monroe County, Indiana about 1828. There they cofounded the St. John's Lutheran Church which was later to become the "Old Dutch" Church. They are buried at the Old Dutch cemetery with some of their Children and descendants. The Old Dutch Church is still active today.

Marcues E. Summit the eldest, helped raise his three Brothers and one Sister after his Father, John Summit died when Marcues was seven years old. John and Lydia are buried at the Old Dutch Cemetery.

Marcues and his Brother Lawson Alexander Summit II were the only children to leave the Monroe County area. Lawson Alexander Summit II, who was named after his Uncle, married Kate Stine in Monroe County in 08 April 1870 where they had two children before moving to McLean County, Illinois where their third Child, George Daniel Summit was born 03 April 1877.

They later resided in Custer Co., Oklahoma where they are buried at the

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with new friends and new family. Thanks to the Quarterly and the internet, my family tree has helped me to solidify once again a strong family foundation. As some of you may know, my birth siblings, I and my father were finally reunited on March 8, 1998 after 26 years apart. I cherish every moment with family now.

Marilyn (Sunny) “

Robert Summitt Retires after 30 Years as Judge

I was recently mailed two copies of the newspaper article that appeared in the January 18, 1998 issue of the *Chattanooga Free Press* concerning the retirement of Robert Summitt. Robert is the brother of Helen Summitt Galyon and Flora Mae Keene, both of whom are subscribers to this newsletter. He is the son of Murray Summitt.

Robert Summitt held the longest tenure of any judge sitting in the state of Tennessee according to the articles I have read. Appointed as an interim judge, he only expected to serve a few months. Instead, he ran unopposed three times and still received the highest vote of any of the four circuit judges.

His family, as listed in the article, include: his wife Flo, four children, Virginia Anne Sharber, Robert Summitt, Jr. Laura Stephens, Martin Summitt, and grandchildren, Evan, Kate, and Meg

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Suffice it to say here, we know as fact that the original Francis Summit located in Lincoln County, North Carolina by 1769 was a German Lutheran immigrant named Johannes Frantz Sammet (1741-1818). No one knows when or where he entered the country. Some have speculated that he was the person recorded as Frantz “Samant” who entered the port of Philadelphia in 1768. This date fits with other information about the individual that the author believes was his eldest son, Christian Summit, born in North Carolina in 1769. On the other hand, the earliest “Sammet” known to enter the country was a German named Jacob Sammet who entered the port of Philadelphia on September 10, 1753 on the ship *Beulah*. Some have speculated that all of the early Summit(t) lines in this country originate with this Jacob Sammet who may have entered with his undocumented wife and minor children, including the North Carolina Francis Summit. A Jacob Sammet was subsequently known to have lived in Earl Township of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, but it is not know whether he was the 1753 Sammet or what happened to him. There is also a record that Christian Sammet married Marie Stahlern in a German Reformed Church in Philadelphia in 1755. In addition, a Christian Summitt was noted in court records in Yohogania County, Virginia (later a part of Pennsylvania) in 1777-1778. Finally, a Jacob Summet was granted land in current Hampshire County, West Virginia in 1778, apparently adjacent to land he already owned. This author is also aware of several Sammet families from Germany that settled in various sections of this country between 1848 and 1900 that almost immediately changed their names to “Summit(t)” in official records.

So much for names and origins. These are issues that may never be settled.

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This is the tombstone of
Naoma E. Summitt
Mar. 6, 1858 - Jun 22, 1928
Wife of J.I. Caldwell and
daughter of Isaac L. Summitt



This is the tombstone of
Margaret E. Summitt
May 30, 1860 - Nov. 8, 1927
Wife of Perry D. Drum and
daughter of Isaac L. Summitt

September 4, 1855 - Scarcely had the sorrowful surprise of our young friend's death somewhat subsided when again came the unwelcome news to Mr. Alexander Summitt of this place that on Tuesday afternoon in Hickory, his grandson George Callahan, son of Rev. Mr. Callahan, Methodist minister at that place, had received dread summons which must ever be obeyed, and that he slept the sleep that knows no waking. Strange that he too should have died at the same age as her whose death we notice above. 18 years, a bright promising young boy who bid fair to win a name for himself. He was preparing to return to Trinity College from whence he would have graduated next June. His remains were brought to Newton where the funeral was preached by Rev. Mr. Ivey, and amidst a large of concourse of friends he was laid to his final rest in the cemetery here at 12 o'clock on Wednesday morning. (Note: The "death we notice above" was Miss Mary Ramaseur (no relation to any Summitt) both died of Typhoid fever. This was posted to the website by Dan Summitt.

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Early Kentucky Summitt Families

These early Kentucky Summitt families were pioneers of the western wilderness of Kentucky County, Virginia. They came to Kentucky shortly after the Revolutionary War, probably from Pennsylvania. To keep things in perspective, the first permanent settlement in Kentucky took place at Harrodsburg in 1774 (county seat of current Mercer County). Daniel Boone settled Boonesboro in 1775. In 1780, Kentucky County was divided into three counties: Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln. These were in turn divided into nine counties by 1790. Bourbon County in the heart of blue grass country was formed from Fayette County in 1786. Kentucky became a State on June 1, 1792. Except as occasionally noted, the early Summitt families settled primarily in two adjacent counties carved out of old Bourbon County territory--Fleming formed in 1798 and Nicholas formed in 1800. The early period of settlement was one of isolation and much bloodshed from conflicts with local Indians. Many Kentuckians were involved in the War of 1812 with England. It has been noted that most of these early settlers came mainly from Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia and were of German, English, and Scottish descent. (*Everton's Handbook for Genealogists*, p. 94)

We know of five Summitts who came to Kentucky in the 1780s--three men and two women. These individuals were Christian Summitt, George Summitt, John Summitt, Susanna Summitt Wyatt (wife of John Wyatt) and Rosanna Summitt Swank (wife of John Swank). There are Kentucky Summitts that pop up in census records later that cannot be connected or accounted for without further research. A Nathan Summitt shows up in the Nicholas County, Kentucky 1810 census records as an over 45 year old head of household, with 1 male 10 to under 16 years, 2 females under 10, 1 female 10 to under 16 years, and 1 female 26 to under 45 years. He seems to be in the same generation as Christian and George and may even be a relative, but there is no other information on him and his is not listed in the 1820 census. While we might suspect that all of these early Kentucky pioneers were related and some have noted relationships, this author has not found any evidence one way or the other. The most compelling possible relationship is a close tie between Christian and George Summitt. Myron Robbins found family tradition in Kentucky held them to be brothers. Von Stauffenberg concluded that it was implausible that Christian was George's son. Hopefully, readers will enjoy the speculation with an open mind and a willingness to search for further evidence.

Three of these early Kentucky Summitts--John, Susanna Summitt Wyatt, and Rosanna Summitt Swank--can be dealt with quickly and with relative ease as this author knows little regarding them. George and Christian Summitt are a different and connected story.

John Summitt

John Summitt in Kentucky is listed as having acquired 630 acres of land in Jefferson County, Kentucky by entry dated January 27, 1783 on the waters of Beech Fork. (Jillson, *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds*, p. 293.) A John Summitt is also listed as marrying Margaret Snap on December 24, 1785 in Lincoln County, Kentucky.

The Snap connection may be an important one since George and Christian Summitt in Nicholas County were close neighbors and friends of the Snaps--Samuel, Peter, and John. One researcher noted that Samuel Snap was married to Katie, the sister of

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18, 1890 in Catawba. They had six children. He and his wife are buried at Mt. Rahama Baptist Church, Catawba County. Alexander Commodore Summitt was born on March 1, 1876. He married Laura Dora Bollinger, the daughter of Henry Lafatte Bollinger and Nancy Alice Johnson, on November 10, 1894. They had thirteen children. Dora enjoyed playing the piano. Alex was a farmer and carpenter. He died August 31, 1965 in Rowan County. The two are also buried at Mt. Rahama Baptist.

The boy's birth date discrepancies, when compared with Isaac's date of death, have led to much debate and speculation among direct descendants of all four children, including myself. An examination of Alex's marriage certificate states that his parents are Isaac and Perlve Summitt. But this is obviously impossible, Isaac cannot be his father. Phillip's marriage certificate is more revealing, it states that his mother is Perlve and that his father is "not known."

Several subscribers to this newsletter have re-verified the birth of the Summitt boys after Isaac's death. Ashley Summitt, a native Catawban who is currently studying law in Boston, also became aware through her own research that her great-grandfather Philip could not be the son of Isaac. And Loretta Bradshaw, of Charlotte, North Carolina, verified that only Isaac's two daughters, Naomi and Margaret, shared in his estate. Bradshaw is the great-granddaughter of Margaret.

A grandson of Alex's, Robert Shuping Jr., said his mother Maudella Alice Summitt did not like to talk about her father's situation and that it was understood within the family not to bring up the "question of his legitimacy." It should be noted that Maudella referred to Phillip as Alex's half-brother, so it appears that Phillip and Alex had different fathers as well. One of Alex's sons, Willie A. Summitt, believed his dad's mother was not Perlve. But that Naomi -- Isaac & Perlve's oldest daughter -- was actually the mother of Alex. At the time of Alex's birth, Naomi would have been 17-years-old and living with her widowed mother Perlve. Whether this is mere speculation or the actual truth, has not been determined yet. But this scenario is certainly possible and should not be ruled out.

We find Perlve, in the 1880 Census, with her daughters. She is listed as a 40-year-old head of household in Caldwell Township. Her children are listed as 21-year old Naomi, 20-year-old Margaret, 9-year-old Phillip and 4-year-old Alex. It has been suggested that Perlve remarried another Summitt, thus explaining why her sons kept the Summitt name. But I have always thought this doubtful. However, Dan Summitt, a contributing writer to this newsletter, has recently uncovered some valuable new information confirming Perlve's marital status following her husband's death.

Two separate pension files acquired by Dan from the North Carolina State Archives show that Perlve never remarried before Phillip and Alex were born. The pension requests were submitted by Perlve on May 23, 1885 and June 22, 1901. For a widow to remain eligible for a widow's pension, it was required she remain single. She stated in the applications that she never remarried. This alone proves she did not remarry another Summitt. From this information we can determine that both boys, Philip and Alex, were born to a widowed and unmarried Perlve Summitt.

In a written letter of support for Perlve's application, a life-long friend and neighbor named Charles Parker signed a sworn affidavit testifying to the fact that Perlve remained single and that Isaac did engage in all military activity with Company K until his death in 1864. Although Parker states that Isaac died on the battlefield at Ream's Station, this is not correct. This was probably just an assumption he made.

"State of North Carolina
Catawba County,

Personally appeared before the undersigned Clerk of the Superior Court this 9th of Nov. 1885. Charles Parker a citizen of this county who a credible witness and who after being duly sworn says he was well acquainted with Isaac L Summitt late member of Co K of the 46th regiment of NC Troops in the late War between the States. That on the day (sic) _____ 186__ Said Isaac L. Summitt was present with said company K 46th NC Troops acting as color bearer at the Battle of Reams Station in the State of Virginia that in said battle said Isaac L Summitt was shot in the charge with the colors in his hands and died on the field.

This he knows because said Isaac L Summitt was a neighbor of his whom he had known all his life and who had enlisted with him the said Charles Parker in the formation of said company K in Catawba County in the year 1862 and had constantly served in said company with him from the organization thereof until he was killed as above stated.

Said Charles Parker further states that he is also well acquainted with Perlve Summitt whose claim for pension is now

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pending and that she is the widow of said Isaac L Summitt that she has never remarried and that she has no property in the right of her said husband over three hundred dollars and holds no office under the United States or State of any kind whatever and has no interest in her claim.

(signed) C Parker

Known to and subscribed before me this 9th of Nov. 1885

(signed) PA Hoyle CSC"

The Summitt family of Catawba County North Carolina sacrificed heavily in the War Between the States. Not only did John and Rebecca lose Isaac, but this farming couple suffered the loss of P Heglar and, if their son, Pinkney as well. (*The Catawba Soldier of the Civil War*, George W. Hahn; Hickory, North Carolina; 1911.)

Pinkney Summitt was 33-years-old at the time of enlistment in Company H, 46th North Carolina Infantry (State Troopers). He was born in Catawba County and was listed as a tanner, like Isaac. The two probably worked together. He stood five feet nine inches. He was wounded during the war. Pinkney married Christina; their children were S.J., born about 1852, Perry about 1857 and Franklin about 1862.

At noontime on May 28, 1862 Pinkney attended religious services led by Polycarp Cyprian Henkel. He preached on 1 Timothy 1:15 to the 46th Regiment at Goldsboro, Wayne County. "After preaching Baptized 7 of the soldiers and confirmed 19. The same day at early candeliting, and at the same campground, I preached to the soldiers of the 49th Regt. a very attentive audience. Text 2 Cor. 3:18," wrote Henkel in his diary. Pinkney was listed as one of the 19 soldiers confirmed that day. A little over a month later, he was dead. He died from pneumonia on July 4, 1862.

Isaac's brother P. Heglar (Henry P.) was just 21-years-old when he volunteered on September 2, 1861 at Camp Fisher in Catawba County. After he was reported missing in action at Spottsylvania Courthouse on May 12, 1864, he is listed on the Union prisoner rolls as captured at the Wilderness. He was held as a prisoner of war at Point Lookout, Maryland. On August 10, 1864 Union troops transferred him to Elmira, New York where he died from chronic diarrhea on November 16, 1864. He was buried at Elmira Woodlawn National Cemetery. (*Confederate Service Record, 3 NC Roster of Troops*, p. 443.)

Without a doubt, the impact that the Civil War had on this branch of the Summitt family is astounding. Not only did Isaac and his brother lose their lives in service to the Confederate States of America, but also the life of Perlve was turned upside down, left alone with two young daughters. Presumably since she had had no income after Isaac's death, she could not care for her girls. By 1880, however, she is back with her daughters and two more children under her wing.

The hardship that Perlve went through as a widow cannot be understated. She died at the State Hospital at Morganton on August 11, 1917 and was laid to rest at Mt. Rahama. Whether we find out or not who fathered Phillip and Alex, still remains to be seen. Nevertheless, it should be remembered that the lives of Phillip and Alex, themselves, are an example of how the Civil War disrupted the makeup of even a fallen soldier's family.



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Sharber and Sarah Summitt.

Robert Summitt is a native of Monroe County, TN. He earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee and served in World War II. He is a past state commander of the American Legion and recipient of the Downtown Sertoma Club's National Heritage Award. He has been council president of the Boy Scouts for three years and is on the executive committee of the council. He is a winner of the Boy Scout's Silver Beaver Award. He serves on the board of the Salvation Army and is a member of the First-Centenary United Methodist Church. He is also a past president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference and a past chairman of the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

WIDOW'S CLAIM FOR PENSION.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

County of Gaston

On this 24th day of August, A. D. 1885, personally appeared before me, J. B. Elliott J. P., Sallie Summitt, age 52 years, and a resident in Cherryville post office in said County and State, and who being duly sworn makes the following declaration in order to obtain the pension under the provisions of an act entitled "An Act for the relief of certain soldiers in the late war between the States," entitled March 11th, 1885, that she is the wife of the late Daniel F. Summitt who enlisted in Co. D, 1st Reg. N. C. State Troops, on or about the 3rd day of August, 1861, to serve in the service of the late Confederate States, and that while in performance of duty in said Company and Regiment, in the State of Virginia, near on or about the day of 1864, he received a wound or wounds which terminated his life, died at Windsor Hospital Va.

She further states that she holds no office in the United States, State or County, from which she is receiving the sum of five hundred dollars in fees or as a salary, that she is not worth in her own right or the right of her husband, property at its assessed value for taxation to the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500), and that she has never received. That her husband's name appears on Stone Roster as David F. Summitt.
Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 24th day of August, 1885.

J. B. Elliott Justice Peace Sallie Summitt
Signature of J. P. Signature of Claimant.

Also, personally appeared before me, James H. Hall, who resides at Hull Cross Roads post office, in said County and State, a person whom I know to be respectable and entitled to credit, and being by me duly sworn, says that he is acquainted with Sallie Summitt the widow of the late Daniel F. Summitt of Company "D", 1st Regiment North Carolina State Troops, and that he believes her to be the identical person she represents herself to be, and that the facts set forth in her affidavit are correct to the best of

his knowledge and belief, and that he has no interest direct or indirect in this claim. That he has personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this application being a member of said Co.
Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 24th day of August, 1885.

J. B. White James H. Hall
Signature of J. P. Signature of Witness.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Gaston county.

To the Auditor of the State of North Carolina:

We certify that we have carefully examined the application of Sallie Summitt the widow of the late Daniel F. Summitt, who enlisted in Company "D", 1st Regiment North Carolina State Troops, for a pension under the provisions of an act entitled "An Act for the relief of certain soldiers in the late war between the States," entitled the 11th day of March, A. D. 1885, and the proofs filed in support thereof; that we are satisfied that the said Sallie Summitt is the widow of the late Daniel F. Summitt who enlisted in Company "D", 1st Reg. N. C. State Troops, on or about the 3rd day of

This is a scanned copy of Sallie Summitt's claim for a widow's pension. Sallie was the widow of Daniel F. Summitt.

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George and Christian. (Myron Robbins, note above) This author has no evidence of this. Another researcher noted that John and Peter Snap were cousins of George Summitt by reason of the marriage of their sister, Margaret, to his (George's) second cousin John (Shumate VI)(Theodor-Friedrich von Stauffenberg, noted above). While the marriage between John Summitt and Margaret Snap is documented, this author is unaware of any basis for the Shumate name or a source for the relationship conclusions.

It might be worth noting that there does seem to be a John Summitt with no identifiable parents that appears much later in records in Spencer County as being born about 1787 in Kentucky. George Summitt was not married until late 1789, so one might speculate that this later John is either the son of John and Margaret Snap Summitt or Christian and his unknown spouse. No one knows.

Susanna Summitt Wyatt

There is a substantial amount of information available concerning the Wyatt family. Whether it deals with the Wyatt family of Susanna Summitt or not has not been determined by this author. The following information is summarized from the publication *Colonial Families of the Southern States of American: Wyatts of Virginia*: John Wyatt of Harrison County, Kentucky was born June 4, 1748, in London, England and died in Millroy Indiana on June 17, 1833. He married Susanna Summitt, of Spottsylvania County, Virginia, in Lincoln County, Kentucky on December 2, 1784 (McAdams, *Kentucky Pioneer and Court Records*). Susanna was born in March 1754 in Virginia and died July 26, 1823 in Kentucky. They both are buried at Millroy, Indiana. John Wyatt resided in Botetourt County, Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War. He entered the Continental Army in 1778, served until the end of the Revolutionary War and was present at the siege of Yorktown. After the war, John Wyatt went to Mercer County, Kentucky. In 1794, he moved to Harrison County, where he resided for thirty-one years. John and Susanna must have had some children since it is noted that John Wyatt was remembered by his grandchildren as an old English gentleman, with powdered hair, knee britches, silver knee and shoe buckles, and silk stockings--not exactly a vision of Daniel Boone.

John and Rosanna Summitt Swank

The only note this author has on this family states that John Swank came to Kentucky in 1780 with Jacob Van Meter and other families. He and his wife, Rosanna Summitt Swank, lived in a fort 2 miles Northeast of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Indians killed John Swank and his wife administered his estate in 1794 (no source indicated).

Christian and George Summitt

George Summitt may have come to Kentucky as early as 1780. Christian Summitt, thought to be the brother of George, probably came about the same time. Sometimes, Christian is listed as Christopher Summitt. Not only is the name Christopher associated in some sources with the Hinkston Fork property, a Christopher Summitt is recorded as also having acquired 121 acres of land from a Virginia land grant in Mercer County, Kentucky, surveyed October 19, 1787 (Book 11, page 433). On February 24, 1783, Christian acquired some 328 acres of land on Hinkston Fork in Fayette County, Kentucky a short distance west of the present town of Carlisle in Nicholas County (Jillson, *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds*, p. 293). Family tradition noted by another researcher holds that a fort was built on the site for protection that became known as "Summitt Station." Summitt Station is also noted in several histories of Kentucky. At the time, Fayette County was very large. Later, it was carved into a number of other counties, including Nicholas County. It is believed that this parcel of land was the center of the principal Summitt family in Kentucky for at least seventy years. From this family, this author believes most descendants of Kentucky Summitts will find their roots.

Obviously, the information available on these early individuals is sparse. In addition to the early land records, we note a Christian and George Summet are listed as living in Bourbon County in 1791 (Heineman & Brambaugh, *First Census of Kentucky--1790*, p. 91). George Summett is noted as being an Ensign commissioned officer in the 13th Bourbon County regiment, August 9, 1792 (Clenn Clift, *the Cornstalk Militia of Kentucky*). Christian apparently bought or was granted another 90 or so acres of land in Bourbon County on September 28, 1798 (Flison Club Publication No. 33, *The Kentucky Land Grants*, p. 241). Whether this property adjoined his other land is unknown. Christian Summitt was listed on the Nicholas County 1800 tax list. Christopher Sumet and George Sumit appear in a Kentucky tax list for 1800 (Clift, *Second Census of Kentucky--1800*, p. 286). Christian Summitt and George

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Summit are named as executors in the will of Thomas Foster dated October 30, 1808 in Nicholas County (King, *Early Kentucky Wills*, p. 192).

George Summitt married Rosanna Graham on October 1, 1789 (*Bourbon County Marriage Book 1*, p. 2). They immediately started having children. The 1810 Nicholas County census lists George as head of household over 45 years of age, with 2 males 10 to under 16 years, 2 males 16 to under 26 years, 2 females under 10 years, 3 females 10 to under 16 years, 1 female 16 to under 26 years, and 1 female over 45 years. We learn from the 1850 census that Rosanna was born about 1766 in Pennsylvania. George probably was about the same age. Thus by 1810, George and Rosanna Graham Summitt appear to have four sons and six daughters. As the reader will note later, this 1810 tabulation appears to constitute all of the children of this couple. Two of the younger females cannot be accounted for later.

Christian Summitt, on the other hand, is listed in the 1810 census as a head of household over 45 years old, with 1 female under 10 and 1 female over 45. The author's notes indicate that Christian sold the land on Hinkston Fork in 1814 to George Summitt and Peter Snapp (*Deed Book D*, p. 145-149). Another researcher has stated that Christian sold 220 acres of the land to George Summitt and 105 acres to Samuel Snapp by deed dated April 30, 1815--noting that Samuel Snapp's wife Katie was a sister of Christian and George Summitt (Myron Robbins, noted above). While these minor conflicts should be checked, it has no real bearing on the narrative. This sale of land is the last known reference to Christian Summitt in Nicholas County Kentucky records and there is no known information on Christian's wife or possible children. This author believes that Christian was probably substantially older than George was and may have died shortly after this land transaction. He may even be buried on the farm. It was an extensive practice in early days to have a family cemetery on the premises. Such observations, however, are purely speculative.

George Summitt and Rosanna stayed, lived, and prospered on the property purchased from Christian until their deaths; three of their sons and a daughter continued on thereafter. While the author is aware of some census notations relating to the George Summitt family in both the 1820 and 1830 census records, the next important records relating to the family arise out of George's will and the probate proceedings following his death in May 1838 (May 1838 Term of Court, Will Book E, p. 436).

George Summitt executed his will on May 3, 1838, witnessed by Sam'l S. Snapp and Mason Richey. It was signed with his "mark". The Will was proved in the Nicholas County court in Carlisle on May 21, 1838. A James Stitt, who George labeled as "my friend", was the named Executor of the estate, with Andrew Ashbrook (Malinda's husband), Elijah Summitt and Samuel Snapp joined as surety on the executors bond. In the Will, George Summitt identifies Rosanna as his wife, his sons Jacob, James, Elijah and John, and his daughters Malinda Ashbrook, Cynthia Hook, Charlotte Wyatt and Tena West (a deceased daughter). George's son John apparently did not stay around the home place. Frankly, there probably is no way to positively identify any contemporary John Summitt as George's son. Still, an effort should be made at some point to make an educated guess. George also noted four grandchildren (not by name) as heirs of daughter Tena West, deceased, and his granddaughter Ann Eliza West (for a special gift). "Tena" is his daughter "Christina" married to John West. Ann Eliza West was the daughter of Charlotte and Michael West and not one of the four heirs of Tena (Christina) Summitt West. Charlotte married her second husband, John Wyatt, July 3, 1834 in Nicholas County. This accounts for all of the males listed in the 1810 census, but only accounts for four of the six females.

From the language of the will it is apparent that Rosanna Graham Summitt, the widow, is given the benefit of one-third of all real and personal property and the right to live in "the mansion house" until her death. George's daughter Charlotte Wyatt is given thirty-five acres of land outright--apparently the land surrounding the "mansion" with Charlotte living with her mother. Three sons--Jacob, James, and Elijah--were to ultimately split the rest of the land equally after the widow died. For this benefit, Jacob, James, and Elijah were to pay an aggregate amount of \$1000.00 to be parceled out to Malinda, Cynthia, John, and the four Tena West grandchildren. Jacob, James, and Elijah were to "remain where they now live until the death of my wife, then the land to be equally divided as will best suit them, or as near as may be. Jacob to have his one third part where he now lives, James to have his one third where he now lives, and Elijah his one third where he now lives." This arrangement gives rise to some interesting possibilities. There is substantial evidence that separate cemeteries existed on the land occupied by Jacob and Elijah. To paraphrase Myron Robbins' narrative, there was a small cemetery on the south side of the tract with a

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small part walled in probably by slaves with solid limestone rocks. There was no opening in the wall so one had to climb over the crumbling stones. It appeared that Jacob had walled in the small section for his family although the Samuel Snapp family was also buried there. The larger cemetery around the small one was almost destroyed by time and had been returned to farm and pasture. The stones within the wall were so old and weather worn that some could not be read. The locals indicated slaves also had been buried in the cemetery but not in the walled part. There might well have been a cemetery associated with the "mansion house" and the land left to Charlotte, as well as with the James Summitt tract.

It is apparent that son John was not considered an integral part of the economic accumulation of wealth of the family and no doubt lived in another local.

Court records in Nicholas County show that James Summitt may have sold his interest in the land by deed dated May 28, 1839. This needs to be further researched, since other records indicate he continued to live in the area. This May 28, 1839 document describes the property as being the tract of land "on which the said George Summitt died, and known by the name of 'Summitt Station Tract', situated in the county of Nicholas on the waters of Hinkston, and on what is called the Georgetown Road, and containing about 190 acres, besides a small parcel devised to Charlotte Wyatt by the said George Summitt." This tract is obviously the land acquired from Christian in 1814-1815.

While Myron Robbins has noted that the Summitt Station Tract was known before, during, and after the Civil War as the "Summitt Plantation" and that the Summitts owned slaves, there is no evidence from George's will that he owned any slaves at the time of his death in 1838. Myron does note that census records show that James Summitt owned ten slaves in 1840 and that others in the Summitt family had from two to seventeen slaves. George may have owned slaves, but other sources such as census records will have to be studied to establish that fact. Certainly, Kentucky was a slave state and it would not be surprising if this over 220-acre farming operation had slaves before the Civil War.

In the May 1854 Term of Court in Nicholas County, Jacob Summitt petitioned the court to appoint persons to divide and allot the land left to him, James, and Elijah, or other person entitled thereto. A report was completed and submitted to the court in the June 1854 Term. The importance of this action is that the widow has died and the land could be apportioned under the terms of George Summitt's will. It will be remembered that Rosanna G. Summitt is listed in the 1850 Federal census for Nicholas County as an 84 year old head of household living with her daughter Charlotte West age 49 and granddaughter Ann E. West age 22.

Having waded through the small available material on George's estate, this author believes there had to be a much more comprehensive file kept on this extended complex probate apart from occasional entries in court docket books. Whether it is stashed away somewhere in an archives or other repository is unknown. This would certainly be a project worth pursuing locally or in the Kentucky archives.

Insofar as we know, George and Rosanna's three sons and daughter Charlotte continued to live on the Summitt Station Tract for the rest of their lives and certainly into the 1860s. The other children, including son John, from all counts appear to have remained in their appointed 1838 places and it would be left to the next generation to move on. It should be noted that a John Summitt cannot conclusively be identified as the son of George and Rosanna; but it will be interesting to speculate on this issue in a sequel. It is at least known that he was alive when George died in 1838 and that he benefited to some degree from George's estate.

To outline the family of George and Rosanna Graham Summitt: Children, Jacob Summitt, James Summitt, Elijah Summitt, John Summitt, Christina Summitt, Malinda Summitt, Charlotte Summitt, and Cynthia Summitt

The relevant known marriages for this family are:

- John Summitt married Margaret Rickets March 17, 1814 in Fleming County, Ky. [Proof of lineage with respect to this John Summitt is a debatable issue for a later time.]
- James Summitt married Mariah Barnett October 18, 1818 in Nicholas County, Ky.
- Christina Summitt married John West October 21, 1819 in Nicholas County, Ky.
- Jacob Summitt married Minerva Storey October 24, 1819 in Bourbon County, Ky.
- Malinda Summitt married Andrew Ashbrook on March 3, 1820 in Nicholas County, Ky.

The Summitt Family
Quarterly
P.O. Box 635
Cardwell, MO 63829

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

In This Issue...

Early Kentucky Summitt Families

Isaac L. Summitt
Virgil Summitt
Marques Summitt
Daniel F. Summitt