



Orangeburgh Genealogical Society

First Families of Orangeburgh District (SC)

SUMMERS

(SOMMERS)

First Family Biography

1. George Summers was born in about 1735 in Chester, England, according to his grave marker.^[1] However, the marker does not appear to be original to the time of his death, and the specifics of his birth have not been verified through other documentation. [See Research Note A] He died in Orangeburgh District, South Carolina in Jul 1781. He married Elizabeth Eisenhut [Hazelwood].

Summers petitioned the Council for 100 acres of land on 4 Jan 1773.^[2] He filed a plat of the property 25 Jan 1773.^[3] The land was granted in 1774^[4] and a memorial for 100 acres on Penn Branch (near modern Branchville) was subsequently filed with the Council.^[5] This quantity of property is consistent with Summers having no other persons in his household at the time that he arrived.

There is an oral tradition that Summers served with General Francis Marion in the Revolution and was killed at home while on 48-hour leave during July 1781 [See Research Note B]. Tradition states that he was buried where he fell, and since they had no coffin they cut down a tree and hollowed it out the length of a coffin and buried him in it.^[6, 7]

Children of George Summers and Elizabeth Eisenhut are [See Research Note A]:

- a. George Summers, Jr., born 22 Oct 1781 in South Carolina; died 1 Nov 1844 in Orangeburgh District, South Carolina. He married (1) Margaret Ratcliffe abt. 1813 in South Carolina. She was born 30 Sep 1793 and died 2 Jun 1825. He married (2) Mary Huff before 1827 in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. She was born 4 May 1804 and died 30 Nov 1879. George, Jr., and both of his wives are buried at the Summers Cemetery, Rowesville, SC.^[8]

George and Mary Summers donated to the trustees of Cattle Creek Campground two acres of land and about 15 poles to construct "The Stand" or Tabernacle built there. His home served as the Methodist minister's home.^[9]

RESEARCH NOTES:

- A. Some family researchers have reported that George Summers arrived in South Carolina with other family members. He is sometimes also identified as the son of titled English nobility. Neither claim has been verified. The first may arise from confusion with others of the same name in the colony. One George Sommers qualified as a Grand Juror (and thus an owner of substantial property) in St. Philips Parish, Charleston, in 1757 and 1767.^[10] A George Sommers petitioned for 2000 acres on the Santee River in 1759,^[11] and there are numerous other petitions and grants for substantial landholdings to one or more individuals of this name. One George Summers, who married Henrietta Rose, was a storekeeper and trader at Savannah Town (New Windsor Township).^[12, 13] No connection has been identified between these individuals or any other South Carolina immigrant and the Penn Branch settler of 1773-1774.
- B. No independent confirmation of Summers' service has been found, but formal muster rolls were not always maintained for Marion's troops and existing lists (often drawn from post-war claims) are not necessarily complete.

REFERENCES:

1. Orangeburg County Historical Society, Compiler. *Orangeburg County Cemeteries* Section II-B. (Orangeburg: Orangeburgh County Historical Society, August 2002), p.322.
2. Brent H. Holcomb. *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals, Vol. VII: 1771- 1774*. (Columbia: SCMAR, 1999), p. 179.
3. George Summers plat, 25 Jan 1773, Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series), 1731-1775, volume 21, page 211, item 2; Surveyor General's Office Series S213184; *South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH)*, Columbia.
4. South Carolina, "Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series)," database, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (www.archivesindex.sc.gov/: accessed 25 Nov 2011), entry for George Sommers, 23 Jun 1774, citing series S213019, v.31, p.148.
5. South Carolina, "Colonial Memorials," database, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* ("[http:// archivesindex.sc.gov/](http://archivesindex.sc.gov/)": accessed 25 Nov 2011), entry for George Summers, 5 Dec 1774, citing series S11101, v. 21, p. 211, Item 4.
6. Daniel Marchant Culler. *Orangeburgh District, 1768-1868, History and Records*. (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, 1995), p. 109.
7. George Smoak. "Pioneer of Branchville Community." Ms., n.d.

8. Orangeburg County Historical Society, Compiler. *Orangeburg County Cemeteries* Section II-B. (Orangeburg: Orangeburgh County Historical Society, August 2002), p.321.
9. Daniel Marchant Culler. *Orangeburgh District, 1768-1868, History and Records*. (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, 1995), p. 192.
10. Mary Bondurant Warren, Compiler. *South Carolina Jury Lists, 1718-1783*. (Danielsville GA: Heritage Papers, 1977), p. 113.
11. Brent H. Holcomb. *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals, Volume V: 1757- 1765*. (Columbia: SCMAR, 1998), p. 40.
12. Moore, Caroline T. and Agatha Aimar Simmons, ed. *Abstracts of the Wills of the State of South Carolina 1670-1740*. Vol. I. (Columbia: R. L. Bryan Company, 1960), P.247.
13. Hicks, Theresa M. *South Carolina Indians, Indian Traders, and Other Ethnic Connections Beginning in 1670*. (Spartanburg: Peppercorn Publications and The Reprint Company, 1998), Pp. 43-44, 145.

Other references to this surname found in the OGSGS Newsletters: Vol. 1 #19 p. 88; Vol. 1 #20 p. 107; Vol. 1 #21 p. 120; Vol. 2 #9 p. 125; Vol. 4 #2 p. 12.

Original Information provided by Rose M. Kendrick 09/17/02.

Updated by Lynn S. Teague 11/23/2011.

Family Migration

During the early and mid-Nineteenth century many descendants of the early Orangeburgh area families migrated to Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and other points west. The information we have provided about a family's migration to another state is an attempt to document those migrations in order to assist family researchers in connecting their ancestors back to Orangeburgh or account for missing branches of their families.

Some members from the SUMMERS family migrated into Mississippi. See the Orangeburgh Migrations Project for more information.

Please help maintain, correct and expand these pages. Send comments, corrections, updates and additions to: migrations@ogsgs.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: An initial implementation of these pages (and most of the information for them) was created by Gene Jeffries and published on this web site about 2002. The pages were removed from the web site when maintaining and updating the many files proved too onerous. With Gene's consent, we are republishing these files as an aid to Orangeburgh researchers and are working on streamlining the maintenance and update process.

DISCLAIMER: The family information included in Orangeburgh Family Migrations was compiled from a variety of sources, many of which are not documented. These pages have not been checked for accuracy and should not be treated as authoritative documentation on these families. They are provided as a hopefully helpful source of leads to further research into these families.