

## THE SUMNER FAMILY

Compiled by Christine (Paradise) Sumner, wife of William Parks Sumner Jr. and mother of Ann Elizabeth (Sumner) ~~Sumner~~ and John William Sumner.

*Coleman!*

The name Sumner is derived from the word "somenour" or "summoner" as one who summoned people to court in the early days. Today people are served with a "summons," a paper commanding them to appear in court.

The name Sumner first appears in the year 1199 in England where Robert le Sumonur is found in Leicestershire. It is believed that some early families called Summer may well have descended from the Sumner family but the name Summer is a more common one and records keepers may have changed the spelling in some cases.

The first Sumner known to have come to America was one William Sumner found in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1635. He came to this country from Bicester, Oxford, England.

A John Bird Sumner was Archbishop of Canterbury in 1848 and Congressman Charles Sumner was one of the opposing leaders who fought bitterly against slavery to the point that he was hated by many of his contemporaries and, indeed, was physically attacked by a Representative from South Carolina.

The Sumners of Jackson County, Alabama, and possibly most of the descendants by that name in the South, descend from William Sumner who came to America from England about 1690-91 just after William and Mary ascended the throne.

William Sumner settled in Virginia and owned a "manor plantation" in Isle of Wight. (Another record says he settled on the Nansemond River). His wife's name is unknown. His parents are said to have been William Sumner and his wife Elizabeth Clemen (from a book on the Sumner family found in the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Walter Sumner of Mentone, Alabama). William had at least six children: JETHRO, JOHN, JAMES, WILLIAM Jr., DEMPSEY and a daughter, BARSHEBA. More on these children later.

Early Sumners in Nansemond County, Virginia, were: Dempsey, Jacob Sr., Jacob, James, Jethro, Jos., Pet., Richard, Samuel, William, Hesikoik(?), Edmd., John, Thomas, George, John, George.

The Sumners of Jackson County, Alabama, descend from JOHN Sumner, son of the above William. He was born about 1705 and died about 1754, married Elizabeth\_\_\_\_\_.

The will of a John Sumner that I believe was the son of

William is found in "Abstracts of North Carolina Wills" compiled from the original and recorded wills in the office of Secretary of State by J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State. Published Raleigh, North Carolina by E. M. Uzzell & Company, State Printers & Binders, 1910, p. 365:

April 18, 1754, January Court 1755. (Failed to note the county). John Sumner, deceased. Sons: Samuel (plantation where I now live), William (land I bought of Joseph & Gregory Stallings & John Knight & 3 negroes), Jacob, JOSEPH, (land at Tar River bought of Abraham Odum & 5 negroes), Moses (land bought of William Webb in Bertie County & 4 negroes), Daughter, Elizabeth Battle (wife of Elisha). Wife and Executrix, Elizabeth.

Witnesses were: Joseph Jones, John Benton Sr., Jasen Campbell, Rosanna Riddick, Jethro Benton. Clerk of Court, Will Halsey. Impression of coronet on seal.

It is interesting to note that John Sumner left his son, Joseph, land on Tar River and when Joseph Sr. made his will he left his land on Tar River to his son, John. He said this land "I had of Jesse Green" but the fact that he owned land on Tar River and our Joseph also owned land on this river seems to connect this family beyond any doubt to John, son of the emigrant, William.

From another source sent to me by Mr. J. C. Clemons, John's children are named as below and, as you can see, they are the same names that appear in the will above.

Jacob, born about 1720  
William, born about 1722  
Moses  
Samuel (married Martha "Patty" Alston)  
Elizabeth  
Joseph (This was Joseph Sr., see later).

Elizabeth Sumner, daughter of John and Elizabeth, married in Nansemond County, Virginia, in 1742 and died in Edgecomb County, North Carolina 19 January 1794. Her husband was Elisha Battle, Revolutionary War soldier born in Nansemond County, Virginia, 9 January 1723, died in Edgecomb County, North Carolina, 6 March 1799. They had a daughter, Sarah Battle, born in Nansemond County, Virginia in 1749, died in Edgecomb County 19 March 1802. Her second husband was Henry Horn Jr. born 10 June 1744, died \_\_\_\_\_ 1783 (DAR dates) in the Revolutionary War, married 1767. Their son, Henry Horn III, born 21 February 1783, married Lydia Read, died in North Carolina in 1809. They had a daughter, Sarah Battle Horn, born in North Carolina in 1804, died in Texas 1883. She married Samuel Marion Cooper, born in Georgia 1798 and died in Texas 1883. More on the Battle family later.

John Sumner witnessed a deed in Chowan County, North Carolina

as early as 1728 (Book 1, Ray p. 162). In 1728 he also sold land on Hawkins Creek to James Brown (Ray, 162) and deed was witnessed by John Hanna and Thomas Hawkins (Book 2, p. 446-Ray, p. 162). He was a Justice in Chowan County Precinct, North Carolina, in 1731 (Book 1, p. 449--Ray, p. 162). He was appointed a vestryman of St. Paul's Church in Edenton, Easter Monday, April 3, 1738, and Dempsey was appointed church warden. On July 10th, 1750, John Sumner and Dempsey Sumner were appointed Justices of the Peace for Chowan County, North Carolina. (Book 2, p. 296, Ray, p. 162). A Justice of the Peace in those days was a very important office.

Nothing has been found on Jacob Sumner, son of John, except there was a Jacob Sumner in Davidson County, Tennessee, in 1812 that could have possibly been him (Minute Book 1809-1812, Records of Davidson County Court of July Sessions 1812, enumeration of free male inhabitants).

Nothing is known of John's children Moses, Samuel and William.

One Moses Sumner witnessed the will of Samuel Webb 24 May 1754 (Grimes, p. 194).

John Sumner witnessed a deed on April 3, 1732, when "Will" Sumner bought land in Nansemond County, Virginia, "on Fryer's Pocosin." This Will was probably his father or brother.

Abraham Odom and his wife Sebell of Edgecomb County deed to John Sumner of Chowan County 12 January 1746. Witnessed by Gregory Stallings, William Sumner, Joseph Sumner (Deed Bk. 3, p. 61, Hoffman, p. 79).

A John Sumner witnessed the will of John Jones in Chowan County, North Carolina 2 February 1735 (36?). October Court 1736 (Grimes, p. 194).

Chowan County, North Carolina, 23 February 1748, John Sumner witnessed the will of Edward Arnold (Grimes, p. 10).

Perquimans County, Virginia, 9 November 1753, April Court 1754, Will of Abraham Ballard. Sons: Jethro, Kedah; daughters Apsilla Ballard, Bathsheba Ballard. Wife Elizabeth. Executrix Elizabeth and John Sumner. Witnesses: John Sumner, Sarah Norfleet and Phillisia Norfleet.

Will of Francis Cambridge in Upper Parish of Nansemond County, Virginia, 2 February 1710. Wife and Executrix Elizabeth. Witnessed by Andrew Ross, James Howard and John Sumner (Grimes, p. 60, Recorded in Book 1712-1722, p. 36, original missing)

The 1790 Census of Edgecomb County, North Carolina shows:

BATTLEBORO area:

John Sumner, Joseph Sumner, Hartwell Philips, Joseph Philips  
Benjamin Philips, Sara Philips and others...

SWIFT CREEK, Tar River area:  
Etheldred Philips

SPEED area:  
Henry Philips

Edgecomb County was taken from Craven County, Granville from  
Edgecomb and Orange from Granville.

The 1790 Census of Edgecomb County, North Carolina shows:

BATTLE, Elisha Jr., Jacob, Jethro, John  
DRAKE, David, Henry, Jesse, Sarah, William  
EXUM, Barnaba, Etheldred, John, Rachel, Susannah, William,  
William Jr.  
PHILIPS, Arthur, Benjamin, Etheldred, Hartwell, Henry, Joseph,  
Sarah, Solomon  
SUMNER, John, Joseph (this was probably father and son)

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The name BATTLE has been handed down in the Sumner family for  
more than 250 years. It can now be seen that the first Sumner  
connection to that name was when Elizabeth Sumner, daughter of  
John, and granddaughter of William the emigrant, married Elisha  
Battle about the year 1742.

The Battle family was one of great distinction. There is an  
Elisha Battle graveyard on Coolspring Plantation, Edgecomb County,  
North Carolina on highway 95. In that graveyard is found this  
stone (Williams & Griffin, p.11):

"Elisha Battle, born Nansemond County, Virginia, January 9,  
1723, Settled on this plantation in 1747. Member, Clerk and for  
many years, moderator of Kehukee Primitive Baptist Ass'n. Member  
for 20 years of Provincial General Assembly, member of State Senate  
and Constitutional Convention, Edgecomb's member of Commission of  
Safety during Revolution. Died on this plantation March 6, 1799.  
Patriarch of the Battle Clan. This stone was erected in 1935 by  
George Gordon Battle, New York."

This is the only stone found in this old graveyard.

More information on the Battle family with connections in  
Davidson County, Tennessee, can be found in the manuscript section  
of the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

In this same book is found on page 25:

Cavalry Churchyard (Episcopal), Tarboro, North Carolina:

Mary Sumner Blount, relict of Gen'l Thomas Blount, long a representative in Congress from this District and daughter of Gen'l Jethro Sumner, died December 13, 1822, in her 45th year.

Page 12, same book:

Battleboro, North Carolina Cemetery. Dr. Robert H. Mariott, born September 10, 1819, died September 7, 1873, wife Tempie Ann, daughter of Jos. Sumner and Mary Horn Battle, born November 18, 1835, died October 21, 1913.

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John Sumner, deceased, inventory taken by Jacob Battle, exr., no date, August Court 1797. Account of sale by the exr., May 30, 1797. Mary Sumner was the principal buyer and Edwin Sumner, Martha Sumner, Elizabeth Sumner and Nancy Sumner bought, November Court 1798. Items were purchased for the use of Nancy, Edwin, Daniel, Catheron, JOSEPH, and Betsey Sumner. Legacies were paid to Nancy Sumner, Elizabeth Sumner and Catheron Sumner, Nov. Court, 1798. Division of money arising from the estate, a small amount paid to Mary Hinton and equal but larger amounts divided among Edwin Sumner, Nancy Sumner, Elizabeth Sumner, Catherine Sumner, Daniel Sumner and JOSEPH Sumner, Dec. 29, 1798, February Court 1799. (Olds, p. 256). This seems to be a later John, possibly son of Joseph Sr.

Joseph Sumner, son of John and grandson of William the emigrant, was born about 1734. His will was probated in Edgecomb County, North Carolina, March Court 1795, died April, 1795. This Joseph's wife was Anna\_\_\_\_\_ and his three children at the time of his death were John, JOSEPH JR. and Charlotte. He named a grandson, Duke William Sumner (see later). Witnessing his will was: Elisha Battle, Jethro Battle, Demsey Battle.

Joseph's son, JOSEPH JR. wrote his will 7 December 1793, and it was proved May term, 1795, in Edgecomb County, also. He named his wife Martha and the following children: Duke William (named earlier in his grandfather's will), William, Tobias, Joseph, EXUM and Jacob. Witnesses to this will were: Jacob Battle, Nathan (Barnett?) and Williamson Barnes.

In an old collection of Sumner letters (to be discussed later) there is a mention of "Tobe."

The wife of Joseph Sumner Jr. was Martha Philips, daughter of Joseph Philips and his wife Sara Exum, daughter of John Exum (DAR National No. 193125). John Exum's will was recorded in 1775 (Olds, p. 107). There was also an Etheldred Exum, 1779; Micajah Exum, 1785 and William Exum, 1795.

From the foregoing information you can readily see that the Jackson County Sumners descend from William, John, Joseph Sr., Joseph Jr. and Exum Sumner through his son James Exum Sumner Sr. who left Davidson County, Tennessee, and came to Jackson County, Alabama.

The children of Joseph Sumner Jr. and Martha Philips were:

Duke William, Tobias, Joseph, EXUM P., Jacob and Sarah.

EXUM P. Sumner married Temperance Drake in Davidson County, Tennessee, 9 January 1816 (see Drake family later). Exum P. Sumner died intestate in Davidson County, Tennessee, in 1852 or 1853 when his estate was settled. Jacob Battle Sumner, his oldest son, was appointed administrator. This litigation can be found in Davidson County, Tennessee, Wills 1853-1859, pp 100-201: Exum P. Sumner, deceased, Inventory of Estate. J(acob) B(attle) Sumner, Administrator. Among estate settlement, cash received from E. S. & R. C. Gardner returned in inventory \$13.60, etc; cash received from Steamers JAMESTOWN and NASHVILLE...Mentions Joseph L. Ewing and J. (or G.) Scruggs, J. L. Williams cost of sale of judgment on farm of H. B. Hinton. C. Lanier on order from P. Knight for part of account filed by P. Knight. N. O. and R. S. Love executed note for \$8.10...Thomas R. Jennings medical bill \$128.00. Recorded December 20, 1853, Davidson County, Tennessee. William D. Phillips a/c. George W. Sumner (son of Duke W.), J. L. Williams, N. O. Love a/c. Note and interest on N. T. Wilkerson, etc. The foregoing settlement made by me Jacob B. Sumner, Admr this 16th day June 1853, State of Tennessee Davidson County Court, July Term 1853.

Page 344 of this same book:

Martha Williams, deceased, receipts received of Churchill Lanier, Admr of Simon Williams, deceased, the sum of six hundred and nineteen & 66/100, etc. April Term 1855, Davidson County, Tennessee.

Page 371, same book: Simon Williams, deceased, Churchill Lanier, Admr. Recorded September 21, 1854. Mentioned Isaac Hunter, John L. Williams.

Page 372. The above settlement was made by me with Churchill Lanier, adm. the 3rd day of January 1854. F. R. Cheatham, Clerk.

The above Martha Williams was the mother of Exum P(hilips?) Sumner. After the death of her husband, Joseph Sumner Jr., in Edgecomb County, North Carolina, she removed to Davidson County, Tennessee, where she married Simon Williams on 11 December 1803. (Her will later).

The known children of Exum P. and Temperance "Tempy" Sumner were (probably not in order of their birth):

Jacob Battle Sumner  
James Exum  
Eliza P.  
Martha Ann  
Dorothy Jane  
Maria(h)

More on this family later. For easier reading for the layman we are giving a brief outline of the line of descent first and will go into detail about each family later in this document.

James Exum Sumner married Sarah Catherine Parks. Their children were:

James Exum Jr.  
William Battle  
Eliza Temperance  
Sarah Parks  
Ada Mariah  
Joseph John

Notice the use of all the old Sumner names: Exum, Battle, Temperance, Joseph John.

James Exum Sumner Jr. married Susan Mariah Wood. Woods Cove in Jackson County was named for her family. Their children were:

Annie Pearl  
James Browder  
Nannie Kate  
Julia Stella  
William Parks  
Hugh Felix  
Boyd Exum  
Wallace Wood

More later on these children but for the record of Ann Elizabeth and John William Sumner, William Parks Sumner married Faye Beatrice Thompson and their son, William Parks Sumner Jr. was the father of Ann and John.

Now we will go back to William and his children and give more details. The foregoing can be used as a guide to a better understanding of who we are talking about.

Back to the children of William Sumner, the emigrant, who settled in Virginia about 1690-1691.

JETHRO Sumner, born about 1703, died in 1752, married Margaret Sullivan. They were the parents of Jethro Jr. the famous Brigadier General who served on the staff of George Washington in the Revolutionary War. This Jethro was the first President of the

Order of the Cincinnati in North Carolina. WHEELER'S REMINISCENCES OF NORTH CAROLINA says Jethro Jr. was born in Virginia about 1730 and died in Warren County, North Carolina, about 1790 and that his father, William, came from England and settled near Suffolk, Virginia, about 1790. Another reference from the Archives in Nashville says he was Sheriff of Bute County, North Carolina, for some years...lead the Battle of Eutaw, September 8, 1781, where his charge with bayonets contributed to the success of that decisive battle. Sumner's Brigade of North Carolina Continentals..."The war being over he married a wealthy widow (Mrs. Heiss) of New Berne. They had a daughter, Mary, who married Hon. Thomas Blount (a Major Blount served under Jethro in the Revolutionary War). He is buried near Shocco Chapel in Warren County, North Carolina. The stone reads, "To the Memory of Gen. Jethro Sumner, one of the heroes of 1776."

There is a General Jethro Sumner Chapter of DAR in Hendersonville, Sumner County, Tennessee, the county that was named for him.

Two Jethro Sumners served with distinction in the Revolutionary War and sometimes in reading the old records it may be confusing. The other Jethro was a Captain and a first cousin to Jethro Jr., being a son of Dempsey Sumner and grandson of William the emigrant. This Jethro Sumner was born March 25, 1758, died April 16, 1830, married Elizabeth Turner. He died in Gates County, North Carolina, and his will, dated 5 October 1831, was probated at November Court 1833. He named wife Elizabeth, sons Charles E., John and Benjamin and daughters Mary Gary and Martha B. Riddick, wife of Mills Riddick. His son, Benjamin, was his administrator.

JOHN Sumner, son of William, has already been discussed.

JAMES Sumner, son of William, was born about 1708 in Perquimans County, Virginia, and died about 1752 Edenton, Chowan Precinct, North Carolina. He married Mary Blanchard.

A James Sumner left will in Perquimans County, Virginia, March 26, 1759. He names sons: Luke (2 plantations); James (3 plantations); Seth (land on Sutton's Creek); David (plantation where David Kelly now lives); Robert, William, Josiah, house and lots in Suffolk, Virginia. Daughters Mary and Penelope. Wife and Executrix, Mary. Witnesses were Thomas Hurdle and Demsey Sumner. Good impression of castleon seal on this document (Grimes, p. 365).

By this James having wife Mary, he is, in all probability, the son of William I.

Another James Sumner left will in Gates County, North Carolina, in 1787, naming wife Mourning; son Luke and several daughters (Book 2, p. 72, Ray, 162).



In 1808, a James Sumner was executor of the will of Sarah Brainer. This later James died in 1824 and named son Seth (Book 3, p. 327, Ray, 162).

WILLIAM Sumner Jr., born about 1710 in Virginia, died in 1731 (or 1736) married Bridget Sullivan. Nothing further is known about William but the following was found:

Bridget Sumner, Nansemond County, Virginia, was a widow, and sold lands to Jethro Sumner and wife, Margaret, being her half share of certain lands in Nansemond County formerly sold by John Keaton to Daniel Sullivan, his only son and heir, at whose deatyh the same had descended to Bridget and Margaret, his sisters. This deed (1736) was witnessed by John and James Sumner, Richard Brothers and Thomas Knight (Ray, p. 162--Book 3, p. 126).

It seems that this Bridget had to be the wife of William Jr. and John and James were her brothersin-law.

DEMPSEY Sumner, born about 1712 in Virginia, married about 1750, Martha Baker, daughter of \_\_\_\_\_, who died after 1779. He was a Justice in Chowan County, North Carolina, in 1750. He was appointed vestryman of St. Paul's Church on April 3, 1738, and still held this office in 1740 and was also Church Warden. He was one of the presiding officers of the County Court of Chowan County in 1746 and again in 1750. He represented Chowan County in the House of Commons in 1744-45 and again in 1757-59; was appointed commissioner to adjust currency in 1744. In 1750 he was a member of the Assembly in New Bern and in that same year he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He died in Gates County in 1779. His will, dated August 11, 1779, probated at the November Court of 1779, can be found in Will Book 2, page 296, Gates County, North Carolina.

Children of Dempsey and Martha (Baker) Sumner were:

Dempsey Jr., William, Jethro, Edwin, James Baker, Theirs, Martha (married Capt. James Riddick), Mary (married Dr. Thomas Petti or Peeti), Letitia, Elizabeth (married Jethro Ballard).

One Dempsey Sumner married Martha Arrington in Nash County, North Carolina 6 October 1866. (Williams & Griffin, p. 108).

A Dempsey Sumner witnessed the will of William Parker 27 December 1750 in Chowan County, North Caroline (Grimes, p. 280).

DAR Patriots Index: Dempsey Sumner, born 1725, died November 1779, married Martha Baker, continental soldier, North Carolina.

Nothing is known of Barsheba, daughter of William I.

One Richard Sumner left will in Bertie County, N. C., April 12, 1729, May Court 1729. His son, James, was his executor. He left James "my manor plantation". Names daughter, Charity Sumner, and wife, Mary. Executor, James Bryant. Witnesses: James Wood, Edward Green & John Sutton. (Grimes, p. 366).

There was a Richard Sumner and wife, Sarah, who had twin sons Richard and Samuel, born in 1717 (Ray, p. 162). This Samuel left will in Chowan County, North Carolina in 1765 (Will Book 2, p. 27, Ray, p. 162).

I do not know who this Richard was.

Luke Sumner witnessed the will of John Norfleet in Chowan County, N. C., September 10, 1753. (Grimes, p. 269). I do not know who he was.

Martha Sumner and Ann Sumner witnessed the will of William Hooks in Chowan County, N. C. February 18, 1746 (47?) (Grimes, p. 171).

Will of JOSEPH SUMNER

SR.

An original copy of this will was obtained by Christine Sumner from the North Carolina Library and Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina, September 3, 1976. It was taken from Edgecomb County, North Carolina Wills 1768 to 1830, Vol. IX, p. 57:

In the Name of God Amen. I, Joseph Sumner of Edgecomb County and State of North Carolina, being of perfect Mind and Memory, thanks be to God for the same, and calling to Mind that it is appointed for all Men once to die, do constitute, make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament and touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with I give demise and dispose of in the following Manner.

\_\_\_\_\_ My Will and Desire is for all my just Debts to be paid.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Wife Anna Sumner two Negros (viz) Hagar and Dick. Allso two feather Beds and Furniture, four Cows and Calves, two Sows and Pigs, and one stear three years old, the black Mare, a Side Saddle and bridle, the clock (Real?), three turned chears, one chest, and half of my Pewter and iron Pots, to her, her heirs and assigns forever. I allso lend to her the Plantation I now live on and Land which I purchased of Abraham Odom during her life. I allso lend to her during her Widdowhood as much of the land on the River which I had of Jesse Green, as She may think Proper to sow flax on for her own use,

Item. I give and bequeath to my son John Sumner, all the

Negros, their Increase and other Things which I have given into his possession, allso my Land and Plantation on tar River which I had of Jesse Green, except the Privelege of sowing flax lent to my wife during her widdowhood to him, his Heirs and assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Joseph Sumner all the Negros, their increase and other things, which I have given into his Possession, and allso all the remaining Part of my Lands which lie in Edgecomb County, to him his Heirs and Assigns forever, only that my Wife is to have the use of this Part lent to her as above.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter, Charlotte Sumner, all the Lands which I hold in Nash County, allso two Negros (viz) Harry (Mary?) and Siller, a young Mare fit for use, a Side Saddle and Bridle, two feather Beds and Furniture, one Chest, three turned chears, half of my Pewter and iron Pots, four Cows and Calves and one three year stear and two Sows and Pigs, to her, her Heirs and Assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my grandson Duke William Sumner, one Negro Named Pompey, to him, his Heirs and Assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath my Still and all the remaining part of my Estate, to my Wife Anna Sumner and my three children (viz) John Sumner, Joseph Sumner and Charlotte Sumner to be equally divided amongst them (but not to be sold) to them, their Heirs and Assigns forever. I do allso nominate and appoint my Son Joseph Sumner and Jacob Battle to be whole and sold Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I do hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 11th Day of January 1783

Joseph Sumner (Seal)

Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the said Joseph Sumner, as his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us, who were present at the Time of the Signing and Sealing whereof

Elisha Battle X  
Jethro Battle  
Dempsey Battle

Edgecomb County, May Court 1785. The within will was produced in Court proved by the Oath of Elisha Battle the (Same?) were at the same time qualified & the will ordered to be recorded

Test

Edward Wallace

Note: It is very significant to note that the above Joseph Sumner names his GRANDSON Duke William Sumner proving that the later Joseph Sumner (who names his SON Duke William Sumner) is Joseph Jr.

The maiden name of the wife of Joseph Sr. is not known and nothing is known of his children John and Charlotte but Joseph Jr. also left his will in Edgecomb County and it is known that he was the ancestor of the Sumners of Jackson County, Alabama.

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Will of JOSEPH SUMNER JR.

This will is recorded in Edgecomb County Wills, 1758-1830, volume IX, page 58. A photostatic copy was obtained from the North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina, by Christine Sumner, September 3, 1976.

In the name of God, I Joseph Sumner of the County of Edgecomb and state of North Carolina, being Sick and weak in Boddy but of Sound Mind and Memmory, thanks be to God, and knowing that it is appointed for all Men to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, and Dispose of my Estate in the following Manner, and Form (viz)

First I lend unto my loving Wife Martha Sumner three hundred acres of Land lying between Beach (Runn?) Swamp and the Purchase Patent Line, including the Plantation whereon I now live, which I lend to her during the Time She remains my Widdow. I also lend to her during her Widdowhood, One Negro Woman, named (Judoff?) and one Boy Named Jim;

I give unto my loving Wife one Negro Woman named Seal, and one Boy named Luke to her and her heirs forever. I also give her one mare called Soup, with a Saddle & Bridle, and one Horse called Damon, and my Riding Chare and Harness, three cows and calves, six Ewes and Lambs, three Sows and Piggs, one four (Grass?) Stear, two Beds and Furniture & Bedsteads, two Chests, half a Dozen Knives and forks, half a Dozen Pewter Plates, two Basons, two Dishes, one large Iron Pott and hooks and Rack one Flax & one Wollen Wheel and Such other Part of my houshold Furniture and Plantation Utensills, as my Executors hereafter named Shall think Proper for her Support; also I give unto my beloved Wife the fourth Part of my Cotton and Flax and Corn and Meat for her Familys use and one Half of my Wheat, as also Corn Foddow, etc., to Support her Stock. It is my Will and Desire that all my Land, except what I have lent my Wife, be rented out by My Executors untill my Son Duke William Sumner arrives to lawful age or if not living, the next (best?) and then to be Equally divided as near as may be between my five sons, viz; Duke William Sumner, Tobias Sumner, Joseph Sumner, EXUM Sumner and Jacob Sumner; Provided that if my Wife Should die or Marry before that Time it is my Desire, that the Land I have lent her be also Divided. It is also my Will and Desire that my Executors Sell all my Estate except Land and Negros and what I have given and lent to my Wife, and I hereby impower my (SQ?) Executors to Sell at their own Discretion without the assistance of the Sheriff, it is also my

Will and Desire that my Execut. (hire?) out my Negros untill my aforesaid son Duke William, shall arive to Lawful Age or if not living my next oldest child, and then the Negros, together with the (Hire?) and rent of the Land and all my other Estate after being sold, paying my Just Debts, and Raising, Schooling and Supporting my Children, be Equally divided as near as may be between my Sons & Daughters (viz) Duke William Sumner, Tobias Sumner, Joseph Sumner, EXUM Sumner and Jacob Sumner and Sarah Sumner Provide that if my Wife should Die or Marry before the aforesaid Time that the Negros I have lent her be also divided it is also my (wish?) and Desire that my Executors should rent out my Land and hire out my Negros at their Discretion;

Lastly I do appoint my Friends, Etheldred Philips, Jacob Battle and Demsey Battle Executors of this my last will and Testament Revoking all other Wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand & Seal this 7th Day of December 1793.

Joseph Sumner (Seal)

Signed Sealed Published & Declared in  
Presents of

Jacob Battle  
Nathan (Barnett?)  
Williamson Barnes X

Jacob Battle qualified

Edgecomb County May Term 1795. The within will was duly proved in open court by the Oath of Williamson Barnes an Subscribing Witness thereunto...The Executor was at the same time Qualified and the will ordered to be recorded.

Test

Edward Hall C. C.

Edgecomb County, North Carolina, August Court, 1795, Joseph Sumner, deceased. Inventory taken by Jacob Battle, executor. September 1, 1795. Accounts of sales by the executor, June 23, August 8, September 22, November 22 and December 17, 1795 and April 9, 1796, February Court 1797.

Expenses were paid for Jacob Sumner, Duke William Sumner, Tobias Sumner, EXUM Sumner and Salley Sumner. Said Joseph Sumner, deceased, was guardian to the estate of West Pope.

Martha Sumner was paid for boarding and part clothing six white children and two black ones, February Court 1797. Account current with the exr., February Court 1798. Additional account current with the exr. Items were purchased for Jacob, Sally,

Joseph, Exum, Duke Wm. and Tobias Sumner.

Funeral expenses were paid for the burial of son Joseph, February Court 1799. Account current with the exr., November Court 1799. Account current with the exr., November Court 1799.

Division of personal estate among the children of said decd., namely, Duke W. Sumner, Tobias Sumner, Salley Sumner, Exum Sumner and Jacob Sumner, December 30, 1799, August Court 1800. Account current with Jacob Battle, exr., November Court 1807.

Joseph Sumner, deceased. Inventory taken by Joseph Sumner, exr., April 18, 1785, May Court 1785. Account current with Joseph Sumner, Junr., exr., February Court 1787.

DAR Patriots Index:

Joseph Sumner, born 1761, died December 30, 1827, married Mary Knight, soldier, Georgia. (I don't know who he belongs to. A descendant says he was from Edgecomb County, North Carolina and she is sure he is of the same line as Joseph who married Martha Philips).

DAR Patriots Index:

Joseph Sumner, born about 1748, died April, 1795, married Martha Philips, soldier, North Carolina (ancestor of the Jackson County Sumners).

Also in the Index: Thomas Sumner, born \_\_\_\_\_ died December 22, 1791, married Anna Baker, soldier, Georgia. (I don't know who he was but listed here for others in the future).

In addition to the wills of Joseph Sumner Sr. and Joseph Jr. who names Exum Sumner, we have the DAR application of Mrs. Nina Bass Stratton Foster.

Mrs. Foster, the wife of Edgar M. Foster, lived on Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee, when she made application for DAR on 13 October 1924 through the General James Robertson Chapter in Nashville. She said she was the daughter of Mosely T. Stratton born 17 August 1845, died 14 July 1910 and his wife Laura Sumner born (Mar? Nov?) died (March?) 22, 1892, married 15 May 1874.

She said that Laura Sumner was the daughter of Jacob Sumner born June \_\_\_\_ 1822, died 28 January 1872, and his wife Mary Bass, daughter of John Bass born November \_\_\_\_ 1793, died 19 May 1860, and his wife Temperance Sumner born 16 September 1812 died 23 November 1899, married 13 January 1831.

Jacob Battle Sumner and Mary Bass married 12 December 1845. She was born 8 December 1831 and died 12 March 1858. Mary is

buried at Springhill Cemetery, Madison, Tennessee, along with some of her children (more later) but Jacob is not buried there or has no stone.

Mrs. Foster continues her application..."the said Temperance Sumner was the daughter of Duke W. Sumner born 27 April 1778, died 15 May 1844 and his wife Mary Drake born 27 November 1779 and died June\_\_\_\_1813, married 1799. They were married 22 June 1832.

She said Duke W. Sumner was the son of Joseph Sumner born about 1748, died April\_\_\_\_1795 and his wife Martha Philips born\_\_\_\_and died after her husband's death in 1795. They married 1777.

"The said Martha Philips was the daughter of Joseph Philips and his wife Sarah Exum. The said Sarah Exum was the daughter of John Exum.

"...the said Joseph Sumner is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence, while acting in the capacity of soldier in North Carolina militia.

"Joseph Sumner rendered active service during the Revolutionary War as a soldier in the militia of Edgecomb County, North Carolina, as is shown in the North Carolina Army Accounts now in the Department of Archives, Hall of History, Raleigh, North Carolina, Vol. 9, p. 30, folio 1. Special certificate delivered to Treasurer's Office and charged pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly December 1789.

The application states, "Give below references, by volume and page, to the documentary or other authorities upon which you found your record:

"North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Vol. 5, p. 62, folio 2

"Report of Auditors of Wilmington District, March 1784-April 1785, no. 3618, vol. 9, p. 30, folio 1; vol. 6, 64, 2; vol. 9, 30, 1; vol. 10, 108, 3.

"Family Bible Records

"Will of Joseph Sumner, Wills of Edgecomb County, North Carolina, Book C, p. 326, 1795.

"Will of Matthew Drake, Wills of Nash County, North Carolina, Book 2, p. 92, 95, 1810. (More on her Drake family data later).

"My Revolutionary ancestor was married to Martha Philips at Edgecomb County, North Carolina, 1777."

"Their children were:

Duke William Sumner, born April 27, 1778, married Mary Drake  
Tobias  
Joseph  
EXUM P. married Temperance Drake  
Jacob  
Sarah

"This application made out by Penelope Johnson Allen, former State Historian, DAR."

Mrs. Foster was a granddaughter of Jacob Battle Sumner, brother of James Exum Sumner Sr. who came to Jackson County, Alabama, from Davidson County, Tennessee. Her application proves that the wife of Joseph Sumner Jr. was Martha Philips, daughter of Joseph Philips who later lived in Davidson County, Tennessee.

Some records of the Philips family were furnished by Mr. J. C. Clemons, Scottsboro, Alabama. These were photocopied from a book but I failed to get the title, etc. I record them here for future reference. Notice all the old family names used here again: Etheldred, Exum, Joseph, Hartwell, etc. I do not know what connection many of these have to the Sumner family but as they are all connected I am listing here for future reference. These were probably recorded in Edgecomb County, North Carolina:

Col. Etheldred Philips, inventory taken by Figures Lewis, Benja. Phillips and Exum Lewis, May 9, 1795, August Court 1795. "...Said Etheldred Philips deceased was Sheriff in 1793 and public accounts for that year had to be adjusted, May Court 1798. Division of negroes agreeable to the will among Jane Philips, widow of the decd.; Charlotte Jackson, daughter; Exum Philips, son; Elizabeth Philips, daughter; Sally Philips, daughter; Nancy Philips, daughter; Eaton Philips, son; and Figers Philips, son, Feb. 20, 1799, Feb. Ct. 1799...Jane Philips principal buyer.

Other buyers: Exum Philips Jr., Exum Philips Sr. Eliza. Phillips, Hartwell Philips, Salley Philips, and Frederick Philips, Aug. Ct. 1799. Division of estate agreeable to the will among the same persons listed in the above distribution, Oct. 25, 1799, Nov. Ct. 1799.

Exum Phillips, inventory taken by Jacob Battle, exr., Jan. 1803, Feb. Ct. 1803...buying...Matthew Philips, Exum Philips, Fred Philips, November Court 1804. Account current with Jacob Battle and Elias Bryan, exrs. Penelope Nicholson was paid for boarding James and Thomas Philips; legacies were paid to Matthew and James Philips; board paid for Joseph Philips, Thomas Philips and Polley Philips, January 10, 1805, February Court 1805.

HARTWELL PHILIPS, accounts of sales by EXUM Philips, Junr. and



Frederick Philips, exrs., December 18 and 19, 1801, and January 15, February 20, and April 19, 1802. F. Philips was the principal buyer and Olive Philips, Jean Philips, Jane Philips, Elizabeth Philips, Elizabeth Philips, Junr., Exum Philips, Senr., and Exum Philips, Junr., were buyers, May Court 1802. Frederick Philips, Exum Philips, Junr., and Exum Philips, Senr., exrs., Oct 15, 1801, November Court 1802. Account of sale of part of the property by Fred'rk Philips, exr., June 19, 1802, Feb. Court 1804...Division of money arising from the estate among the lawful representatives, namely Mary Clary, Rebekah Hancock, Frederick Philips, Jane Philips, Olive Weeks and Elizabeth Philips, September 28, 1805, November Court 1805. Sale of negroes agreeable to the will, to be divided among the four children of HIS last wife, February Court 1807. Account current with Frederick Philips and Exum Philips, exrs., February Court 1807. Account current of the heirs of his wife with Frederick Philips, exr., August Court 1807.

JAMES J. PHILIPS, Peggy B. Philips, Phereby J. Philips, Elizabeth Philips, and Penninah T. Philips, children of F. Philips, account current with Frederick Philips, guardian. Legacy was received from Charles Coleman, exr. of Catherine Peele, decd., August Court 1817. Account current with the guardian, May Court 1818.

JANE PHILIPS, inventory taken by Exum Philips, exr., March 5, 1804, August Court 1805. Account of sale by the exr., November 5, 1804 Eliza. Philips, Exum Philips, Sally Philips, Nancy Philips, and Charlotte Jackson bought everything, August Court 1805...Division of residuary estate (money) according to the will equally among all of her children, namely, Charlotte Jackson, Exum Philips, Sally Philips, Nancy Philips, Eaton Philips and Figures Philips, November 1805, November Court 1805.

JOAH PHILIPS, inventory taken by Sarah Philips, admrs., November 28, 1797, February Court 1798. Account of sale by the admrs., February 17, 1798. Henry Philips, Sarah Philips, and David Philips were buyers, August Court 1800.

JOHN PHILIPS (orphan) inventory taken by Etheldred Exum, January 1805, February Court 1805. Etheldred Exum, Admr., Etheldred \$Exum, Frederick Philips and Jane Philips bought the small estate, February Court 1805...Division of money arising from the estate equally among the six lawful representatives, to wit, Mary Clary, Rebekah Hancock, Frederick Philips, Jane Philips, Olif Weeks, and Elizabeth Philips, sisters and brother of said decd., August 20, 1805, August Court 1805.

JOSEPH PHILIPS, inventory taken by Etheldred Philips and Exum Philips, exrs., December 3 and 4, 1784, November Court 1785. Account current with Etheldred Philips, acting exr. Funeral expenses were paid October 24, 1784. Division of money arising

from the estate among Benjamin Philips, Exum Philips, Joseph Philips, Sarah Philips, Joseph Sumner and wife and Etheldred Philips, August Court 1789. (So you can see this Joseph Philips was the father of Sarah Philips who married Joseph Sumner.

NANCY PHILIPS, account current with David Philips, admr. Account received as her proportionate share of her father's estate, with William Philips as her former guardian, November Court 1803. Account received as her proportionate share of her father's estate, with William Philips as her former guardian, November Court 1803. Additional account current with the admr., February Court 1804. Division of money arising from the estate equally among the nine claimants, namely, Ann Durden; Benja. Philips, William Philips; Solomon Philips; David Philips; Andrew Philips; Elizabeth Wiggins, wife of Thomas Wiggins; Peggy Gardner, wife of Jonathan Gardner, Junr.; and Hardy Philips, April 28, 1804, May Court 1804.

As you have seen in the foregoing records Exum P(hilips?) Sumner was the son of Joseph Sumner Jr. and his wife Martha Philips, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Exum) Philips. When Joseph Sumner Jr. died, Exum's mother, Sarah, married Simon Williams 11 December 1803 in Davidson County, Tennessee, where she had removed after Joseph's death.

The 1820 census of Davidson County, Tennessee, shows:

Escum Sumner, 1 male age 26-45; 1 female 26-45; 3 females under 10. They were living next door to Simon Williams.

The will of Benjamin Williams, Edgecomb County, North Carolina, 1793, names children Simon, Elisha, Mary and Benjamin.

The will of Joanna Williams recorded in Bertie County, North Carolina, January 12, 1747 (48?), July Court 1756...sons Richard and Thomas. Daughter Eliza Smith. Grandchildren Simon Williams, Arthur Brown, Mary Smith, Penelope Williams and Mary Harrell. Witnessed by John Harrell & Easthr Cheatam.

Joseph John Sumner, son of Joseph and Martha (Philips) Sumner, and brother of Exum P. Sumner, drowned in the Gulf of Mexico. He had a son named William Henry Sumner born 24 September 1813 and died 30 June 1816. The story of his death is more fascinating than fiction. He had gone to Louisiana with some of his relatives, including Thomas Martin (who had married his cousin \_\_\_\_\_ Philips, daughter of Joseph Philips?), to homestead land and raise sugar cane.

On Sunday morning 28 December 1813, during the War of 1812, Joseph Sumner, Thomas Martin, a Mr. Patten and a Mr. Coffey and others took a schooner and set out to find badly needed supplies that were hard to come by because of the war. They finally found some supplies and were returning home when a terrible storm came up

on their second night out. They dropped anchor and stayed with the boat until daylight when they thought they might safely resume their trip but they soon found their boat to be sinking. They started throwing things out of the boat hoping they could save it but it was of no use the boat was slowly sinking. They had a yawl and all except three or four men got in that. Joseph Sumner, Mr. Patten, the pilot and a servant stayed with the schooner, a part of which was still out of the water, while the others tried to make it the half mile to land to get help. Mr. Coffey, "one of the sailors," returned later to find Joseph, his arms around a plank, drowned. Mr. Patten and the pilot could not be found. The servant was hanging on the most perfectly (insincible?), they brought them ashore.

Joseph was buried on a nearby island. They had lost all their provisions and had only a small yawl with which to try to get home. Two days later they were rescued by the famous pirate Jean LaFitte who treated them with the greatest possible kindness, taking them aboard his vessel and giving them a bountiful breakfast. LaFitte gave them a schooner and provisions and sent Mr. Martin's wife a dimigon of Madari wine and "the first pineapple cheese I ever saw." He gave Mr. Martin a warm cape with a hood attached.

In later years when LaFitte was on the run and decided to surrender he sent a servant to Mr. Martin who arranged for him to give himself up.

"Mrs. Sumner, my nearest neighbor," Mrs. Martin later wrote, "was with me the evening before they arrived home. We were fearful some accident had happened being gone much longer than we expected. But it came soon for her. I never witnessed greater grief and sorrow. Long did she moarn for her dear husband. She was the mother of two little boys. His brother sent for his remains which were brought and buried at his home 1813." (I wonder if the brother referred to was Exum or maybe Duke W.). (Taken from the Memoirs of Martha Philips Martin on microfilm in the Tennessee State Library and Archives).

The above Martha Philips Martin was the daughter of Joseph Philips and his wife, Milbury Horn. In her memoirs she gives a vivid account of her life and times and much information about her family. She was born in 1792 and married Thomas Martin in 1809. He was from County Down, Ireland, and landed in New York in 1800. This family was close friends to Andrew Jackson who visited their home on more than one occasion. Mrs. Martin tells of visiting him shortly before he died.

Joseph John Sumner's remains were brought home to Nashville and buried at "Sylvan Hall" the home of Captain Joseph Philips, Revolutionary soldier. The farm is located on Dickerson Pike, 6 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee. His tombstone reads:

"Beneath this inscription lies the unfortunate Joseph John Sumner who was born August 14, 1780 and perished in the Gulf of Mexico on the Morning of December 28, 1813....."

Buried beside him is a son, William Henry Sumner, September 24, 1813, June 30, 1816. Other inscriptions found in this old cemetery are:

Joseph Phillips (spelled with two l's), October 31, 1763, May 22, 1822, born in North Carolina and settled on this place in 1791.

Milbiry (Horn) Phillips, wife of J. Phillips, December 4, 1764, December 19, 1851, born in North Carolina and settled on this place in 1791.

William D. Phillips, son of Joseph and Milbiry Phillips, born on this farm April 19, 1804, died where he was born and lived, June 15, 1879.

Eliza Dwyer, wife of William D. Phillips, daughter of Daniel and Bridget Dwyer, born at Roscrea, Tipperary County, Ireland, August 3, 1801, died May 10, 1871.

Margaret Thomas, wife of Josiah F. Williams, and daughter of Joseph and Milbrey Phillips, September 30, 1799-1844.

To the Memory of Josiah F. Williams, this monument is erected by his children; he was born on the 2nd day of February, 1780 and died on the 29th day of November, 1851. His life was characterized by inflexible honesty, sterling \_\_\_\_\_, the most unpretending \_\_\_\_\_, etc.

Sally Phillips, August 1, 1783, January 19, 1859, William Williams and Sally Phillips married February 11, 1807.

William Williams, April 15, 1776, March 6, 1872.

In Memory of Charlotte Phillips, who died July 23, 1811 in the 16th year of her age.

Henry Williams, a moral and intelligent youth, 1 May 3, 1814, July 14, 1826

Elisha Williams died August 17, 1811, age 72 years, married March 25, 1775 and had 6 children, William, Betsey, Joshua, Elisha, Josiah, Martha

Sacred to the Memory of Eliza N., daughter of William Williams, wife of Evander McIver, departed this life March 28, 1826, in the 19th year of her age. (Evander is mentioned in the old collection of Sumner letters owned by the late Emmett Sumner).

Mary, daughter of William and Sarah (Sally) Williams and wife of Robert M. Porter, born October 26, 1816, married December 4, 1838, died March 21, 1839.

Martha H. Williams, November 29, 1809, November 3, 1833.

Robert, infant son of J. F. and M. T. Williams

Evander McIver Williams, May 5, 1829, December 27, 1855

David D., son of J. F. and M. t. Williams, January 11, 1829,  
February 17, 1829

William, son of William D. and Eliza Phillips, September 3,  
1846, July 11, 1862

"Father" William P. Harding

"Mother" Milberry C. Phillips (It is interesting how many different ways this name is spelled all in the same family)

Sarah, infant child of William D. and Eliza Phillips who died July 1823, age 6 months.

#### SMYRNA CHURCH, TENNESSEE

William Phillips, September 10, 1788, October 2, 1877

Sara Phillips, wife of William Phillips

#### OLD CITY CEMETERY

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Mary Williams, born August 9, 1790, died April 15, 1828

Elisha Williams, Jr., born October 20, 1822, died October 31,  
1848

Sara J. Ray Childress, born July 31, 1815, died March 14, 1850

In Memory of Joseph John P. Williams, born December 10, 1817,  
died May 31, 1852.

In Memory of Henry J. Williams, youngest son of Elisha and Mary Williams, born June 30, 1825, died April 18, 1855 (James Exum Sumner Sr. was his administrator).

Sarah H. Williams, consort of Elisha Williams, born November  
\_\_\_\_\_1735, departed this life September 1, 1857 (no doubt, this

birth was typed wrong-I got it from a book-It probably should be 1785.

#### CITY CEMETERY

Nashville, Tennessee

William H. Sumner from New Orleans, Member of Convention Held in Nashville; died August, 1810 (Was he a member of the same family as Joseph John Sumner who went to Louisiana and drowned there? There is an old letter in the Emmett Sumner collection from a James Johns of New Orleans to E. P. Sumner, Nashville, Tennessee)

#### DICKSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE MARRIAGES

Joseph Phillips to Martha Williams, October 14, 1812 by Edmund Crutcher. Able Williams and Joseph Phillips, Sureties.

When Sarah Catharine (Parks) Sumner, wife of James Exum Sumner, Sr., died she left her old trunk to Emmett Sumner who later moved to Amarillo, Texas. The old trunk was full of old letters and papers dating back to the 1800s. I will always be grateful to Emmett for sharing these old letters with me. From them I was able to glean the names of James Exum's brothers and sisters and it gave me a good foundation on which to build the Sumner family tree.

Contained in the old trunk was the original will of Martha Philips-Sumner-Williams:

#### Last Will and Testament of

#### MARTHA WILLIAMS

The last will and testament of Martha Williams in the name of God Amen!

I, Martha Williams of the County of Davidson and State of Tennessee being in a low state of health but of a sound mind and disposing memory do make and publish this as my last will and testament revoking all others by me heretofore made, viz:

1st. It is my will that all my just debts and burial expenses including an enclosure around my grave and such other things as may be deemed proper and necessary about the same be first paid out of any monies that I may leave or out of the first that shall come to the hands of my executors

2nd. It is my will that all my land together with my stock of every kind, my household and kitchen furniture and farming utensils

and crop of every kind that I may leave on hand be sold by my executors on such terms as they may deem best and the proceeds to be equally divided among all my grandchildren share and share alike.

3rd. I will to my grandson Jacob B. Sumner the following slaves, viz--Aaron, Daniel, Nancy and Sally and their future increase now in his possession..

4th. I will to my grandson James E. Sumner the following slaves viz--Henry, Anna, Harriet and Nelson and their increase now in his possession.

5th. I will to my grand daughter Eliza P. Sumner the following slaves viz--Patty, Anthony, son of Patty, John, Levi and Frank and their increase now in her possession and also Mose now in my possession for and during her natural life and at her death to her children if she shall leave any, but if she shall leave none the said slaves are to go to her brothers and sisters of their lawful heirs.

6th. I will to my grand daughter Martha Ann Lanier, my slaves Celia, Ben, Sam and Jessie and their increase now in her possession and also Edna and increase now in my possession for and during her natural life and at her death to her children and in case she dies without children the same is to go to her brothers and sisters or their lawful heirs---

7th. I will to Grand daughter Jane Love the following slaves, viz: Judy, Bidy, Pompey, Henry and Randall now in her possession and their increase and also Milberry now in her possession and their increase and also Milberry now in my possession and increase for and during her natural life and at her death to her children and if she shall die without children then the same is to go to her brothers and sisters and their lawful heirs.

8th. I will to my Grand daughter Maria Hinton, my slaves Sterling and Betsy now in her possession and their increase and also Ellen now in my possession and increase for and during her natural life and at her death to her children and if she shall leave no children then to her brothers and sisters or their lawful heirs

9th. I will to my Grand Daughter Susan Williams my slaves Hannah, Penny, Bob and Cherry now in her possession and increase and also Jane now in my possession and increase for and during her natural life and at her death to her children and if she shall die without children the same shall go to her brothers and sisters or their lawful heirs.

10th. I will the residue of my property consisting of slaves Cherry, Lucy, Sam, Lizette, Malinda, Rhoda, Rose, Davy, George,

Bias, Peter, James, Taylor and Jordan and any money or other things not hereuntofore specially bequeathed to be equally divided among my seven grandchildren viz

1. Jacob B. Sumner
2. James E. Sumner
3. Eliza P. Sumner
4. Jane Love
5. Mariah Hinton
6. Martha A. Lanier

and

7. Susan Williams the portions falling to my Granddaughters Eliza P. Sumner, Susan Williams, Jane Love and Mariah Hinton to be subject to the same restrictions as contained in items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, of this my will and that all the property above given to my said Grand Daughters shall be to their sole and separate use and free from the debts of their husbands.

11th. It is my will that a division of my property as above set forth shall take place as soon after my death as possible. I do hereby ordain and appoint Jacob B. Sumner and James E. Sumner executors of this my last will and testament and it is my will that they be not required to give security Given under my hand and seal this the 17th Day of April 1855.

Martha X Williams (Seal)

Test }William D. Phillips

}S. S. Hall

A true copy attest

T. (F?) R. Chattam? Cheatam?) Clerk

On the outside of the third page: "Martha Williams, Copy of Will, fee \$1-----"

All the grandchildren named in the above Will seem to be brothers and sisters, however, I have not found anything to prove that Susan Williams was a sister although I think she was. A Susan was mentioned in the old Sumner letters. This Susan was married to J. J. Abernathy by then. He writes to James Exum Sumner and reminds him not to forget Susan's ladies book. In another letter he mentions Susan's condition.

It seems that James Exum Sumner may have been a foreman over a farm in Murfreesboro for J. J. Abernathy in the mid-1850s.

Susan Abernathy left a will in Lincoln County, Tennessee, 9 March 1876, naming husband J. J. Abernathy and children Henry J., Mary and Ida (I also copied a child as "Susan E. Sumner" or "Susan



and S. E. Sumner"), all the land I possess to be divided equally.

(Signed) Susan E. Abernathy

Witnesses: Sherrod Williams  
David L. Gipson

This record was taken from Lincoln County, Tennessee, microfilm records and I failed to note the book and page.

MARTHA ANN SUMNER married Churchill Lanier. She is believed to have been the oldest child of Exum P. and Temperance (Drake) Sumner. Many members of this family are buried at Springhill Cemetery, Madison, Tennessee, near Opryland.

I found these stones quite by accident. We had taken the children to Opryland June 5, 1976, and by the time we got there it had started to rain. We were riding around waiting for the rain to stop when we passed this large cemetery. I suggested we ride through it and see if I could recognize any names as so many of our families came from Davidson County. I immediately recognized names that I had become so familiar with on paper:

Church S. Lanier, born July 7, 1855, died May 23, 1903 "A man true to every position in life."

Annie Gray, wife of Church Lanier, died February 2, 1899 (These graves are on the Gray lot. There are more Grays buried here; buried near Jacksons. An Andrew Jackson Gray buried here).

Martha A. Lanier, wife of C. Lanier and daughter of E. P. and Temy Sumner, November 1, 1818, August 26, 1857

Chl Lanier, September 22, 1806, September 14, 1889

W. I. Lanier, born April 19, 1831, died February 26, 1908

Margaret Lanier, born April 20, 1841, died May 5, 1917

James M. Lanier, born March 27, 1870 (failed to copy death date)

William O. Stratton, 1840-1908

Lizzie Hall Stratton, 1843-1921

Carrie M. Stratton, 1866-1877

Susan E., wife of Willis S. Stratton, August 12, 1822, Oct. 4, 1873

Mary (Heat?), daughter of W. S. & S. E. Stratton, June 27,

1855 (infant)

Willis Swann died April 13, 1832, age 65 "father, son and daughter reinterred in one grave"

(Willis Swan Jr and Jane Swann on lot with Morgans)

William Swann born Powhattan Co., Va. 1790 died August 6, 1853, Davidson Co., Tenn.

Mary A., Wife of Madison Stratton, March 13, 1815, March 6, 1874 (failed to copy stone for Madison Stratton)

Madison, infant son of Mary A. and Madison Stratton

In another part of the cemetery:

C. D. Sumner, 1872-1930

Elizabeth Sumner, 1874-1937

Hubbard Saunders Sumner, May 16, 1876, April 19, 1941

Gertrude Buckner Sumner, November 9, 1894, December 24, 1966

DOROTHY JANE SUMNER married Nicholas O. Love. They, too, are buried at Springhill on a beautiful plot with a towering monument "LOVE."

Dorothy Jane Love, 1824-1897

Nicholas Osborn Love, born 1822, died 18907

William E. Love, born December 18, 1857, died December 17, 1911

James Benjamin Love, 1853-1858

Newton Herbert Love, 1850-1881 (He is shown on the 1850 census with Dorothy Jane and N. O. Love)

Minora Love, 1855-1889

Jennie Love Anderson, July 20, 1861, August 7, 1893

ELIZA P. SUMNER, born about 1826, married William H. "Billie" Adams. It is believed they lived in Jackson County. If memory serves me correctly I think Lena Smith Johnson told me they lived here. Many early Jackson County marriages were performed by W. H. Adams. After the Civil War Eliza and Billy moved to Cordova, Mexico, along with Robert "Bob" Russell where they homesteaded land but conditions were terrible there according to letters Eliza wrote back to her family and she may have returned to Nashville. Nothing is known of any children.

MARIAH SUMNER, born about (1816?), married Harrison B. Hinton in Davidson County, Tennessee, on 30 November 1837. Among their children (1850 census) were: Joseph C. (E?), born about 1838;

Sarah S., born about 1840; William H., born about 1842 (he was a doctor...sent prescription to James Exum Sr. while he was in Arkansas; John O. (D>?), born about 1845; Jacob L., born about 1847; James E., born about 1849.

JAMES EXUM SUMNER. We will cover his family later.

JACOB BATTLE SUMNER, born June\_\_\_\_1822, died 28 January 1872 (DAR Nat. No. 193125) married 12 December 1845 Mary Bass, born 8 December 1831 (her tombstone in Springhill Cem. says 1831, the Stratton DAR papers say 1832). Mary Bass Sumner died 12 March 1858. It is not known where Jacob Battle Sumner, brother of James Exum, is buried. He has no tombstone at Springhill. He may have died in Arkansas where he lived after the Civil War. Jacob and Mary had a son "Jimmy" and a daughter Laura who married Mosely T. Stratton on 15 May 1874. She was born 24 March 1852 and died 22 March 1892. Her husband was born 17 August 1845 and died 14 July 1910. Before her death at age 93, Ada Sumner Smith, daughter of James Exum Sumner, told Christine Sumner, "one of them married a Stratton." Mary Bass was the daughter of John Bass and his wife Temperance Sumner, daughter of Duke William Sumner and his wife Mary Drake. Temperance was born 16 September 1842 and died 23 November 1899. She married John Bass 13 January 1831 (DAR papers). Duke William Sumner was born 27 April 1778, died 15 May 1844. His wife, Mary Drake was born 27 November 1779 and died June, 1813. Duke William Sumner was named in the will of his father, Joseph Sumner, of Edgecomb County, North Carolina.

These tombstones are also found at Springhill:

Mary D. Sumner, consort of J. B. Sumner and daughter of John and Temperance A. Bass, Dec. 8, 1831, March 12, 1858

John B. Sumner, December 24, 1851, January 10, 1879

Martha J. Williams, born February 16, 1816, died November 29, 1859, wife of Alexander

William H. Williams, March 16, 1861, April 23, 1897

William Williams, Feb. 25, 1819, Feb 12, 1888

Lizzie B. Williams, Aug. 25, 1831, Aug. 30, 1918

In the 1850 census, Davidson County, Tennessee, Jacob Battle Sumner is shown as age 26. His wife is shown as age 16 and living with them was a child, Sarah, age 6. Mary Sumner was too young to have been this child's mother so it may have been Jacob's by an earlier marriage. James Exum Sumner speaks of Sarah in his letters to Kate during the Civil War and asks Kate to bring her with her to camp to see him. In another letter he says he doesn't know why Sarah would treat her so badly. It makes one wonder if this may

have been a daughter of James Exum by an earlier marriage. He was 37 when he and Kate married and in those days they usually married younger. Kate was only 17.

JAMES EXUM SUMNER Sr. was born 11 August 1825 in Davidson County, Tennessee, and died in Jackson County, Alabama, 4 February 1877 (This is the date on his tombstone. Other records say February 21 and February 22). He was only 52. He married Sarah Catherine "Kate" Parks, daughter of William Dulaney and Lucinda Jane (Kirby) Parks, in Jackson County, Alabama 12 November 1862. Kate was 20 years younger than he was being born 22 February 1845, Scottsboro, Jackson County, Alabama, died 17 January 1935, Jackson County, Alabama.

James Exum Sumner seems to have been a very well educated man. According to descendants he spoke several foreign languages including French and Latin. According to the late Edward Sumner, son of James Browder and Della (Hancock) Sumner, he studied at Cumberland Law School at Lebanon, Tennessee. Walter Sumner, son of Joseph John Sumner and Idella Hayes Sumner, told me that his Grandma Kate told him James Exum studied law at Lebanon. After the Civil War he taught school for awhile here in Jackson County but no record has been found of his practicing law. It is possible he attended college at Cumberland but did not study law or if he did indeed study law, he must not have finished. From the wording of his letters to his wife during the Civil War it is evident that he was a well-educated man.

It is not known if he was already in the Confederate Army when he married Kate 13 November 1862 during the Civil War or not but if he wasn't it was not long before he joined. He was engaged in several battles and was encamped at Shelbyville, Tennessee, before he was captured by the Union Army and sent north to Camp Chase, Ohio, where he was imprisoned until the end of the war.

That long harsh Ohio winter in prison was indescribable. According to an account by a man who spent such a winter there, some of the barracks were still unfinished and many had no roofs. Many of the prisoners died with typhoid while others starved or simply froze to death ("Three Hundred Days in A Yankee Prison" by John H. King, M. D., Surgeon, Confederate Soldiers Home, Atlanta, Georgia, 1904).

According to the late Mrs. Lou (Smith) Baker, (daughter of Ada Sumner Smith), of Scottsboro, when James was released he had to walk home. She said it took him all summer, sleeping in ditches or anywhere he could find shelter. He was half-starved when he reached home and never fully regained his health. He went to Arkansas and settled near the river "where the Arkansas and White rivers met" according to Mrs. Baker. His brother, Jacob Battle "Jake" Sumner, also settled there but it is not known if they went together or whether Jacob was already there. The place where they

settled was called "Sumner's Landing." (Emmett Sumner told me he visited this place). James Exum and Kate built a house, or cabin, on the river but the mosquitoes were so bad and they had so many chills they moved back to Jacob's place until winter.

Life in Arkansas proved to be miserable for James and Kate. The river overflowed destroying all their crops and flooded their home. Then Kate contracted cholera and except for a miracle she could have died. When she had sufficiently recovered she returned to Jackson County to the home of her father where she remained until James could raise enough money to get home and have enough for them to "get a start." Their second child, William Battle, was born while his father was still in Arkansas. Kate wrote her husband that their babe was one of the most beautiful children she had ever seen and that the oldest one (James Exum Jr.) was such a bright little boy.

Having lost all his crops, James resorted to cutting wood, stacking it on the banks of the river and selling it to steamboats that came by. When he finally had enough money to come home he stopped in Huntsville and bought food and furniture. They rented a farm from a relative and lived the rest of their lives in Jackson County, rearing a large family here where many of their descendants live today.

After the death of James Exum Sumner, Kate married John Wesley Shook. She is buried between them in the old Parks Cemetery just off highway 79 near Scottsboro. Just before she died and barely able to speak, Ada Sumner Smith told me "Mr. Shook was a wonderful step-father." Mr. Shook was born July 31, 1834, and died March 4, 1906.

Their children were: (from Bible records in possession of Mrs. Lena (Smith) Johnson, daughter of Ada (Sumner) Smith)

JAMES EXUM SUMNER JR., born 1 April 1866, married 25 November 1866, Susan Mariah Wood. He died 20 September 1941. (More later).

WILLIAM BATTLE SUMNER, born 17 November 1867, married 5 July 1896, Ada May Selby, born 31 May 1874, died 31 March 1913. She died and he married Frances Lewis, born 19 October 1881. The name Battle has been handed down in the Sumner family for over 250 years. From obituary of William Battle Sumner, Sr.:

"...survived by Oscar, Delbert, Supree, Emmett, Oliver and W. B. Jr., daughter Mrs. Meredith Bynum (Ada) and sister Mrs. Jesse Smith and daughter Illa.

ELIZA TEMPERANCE SUMNER, born 21 October 1869, married 25 November 1877, Granville "Josh" Carter. She died 9 April 1902. She was named Temperance for her grandmother Sumner. Their children were:

Hugh Lee Carter born February 19, 1893

Ida Mae Carter born December 26, 1890, married John Swafford. She died August 2, 1950, in Anniston. Her daughters were Clara (Mrs. Clarence Adams), Mrs. Raymond Allison, Mrs. C. E. Royfield of Anniston, (Elis?) of Port Arthur, Texas and Hugh of Anniston.

Mattie Kate Carter born November 29, 1888, married Carl Reed, died in insane asylum

Ada Viola Carter born November 17, 1897

Paul D. Carter born July 29, 1900

Carrie Lola Carter born May 16, 1899

SARAH PARKS SUMNER, born 29 September 1871, married 10 April 1892 Jefferson Davis Wallace. She died 24 February 1942 and is buried Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Jackson County, Alabama. She was named for her mother.

ADA MARIAH SUMNER, born 12 October 1873, married 9 January 1890, Jesse Lee Smith, who was born 30 October 1868. She died 20 March 1972, Scottsboro, Alabama. Aunt Ada was loved by all who knew her. I will always regret that I did not get interested in the family until she became too ill to talk to me. I interviewed her just before she died when she was well into her nineties and she told me that Sumner County, Tennessee, was named for "our folks." She also remembered the Love family and that she had visited with them. She was named for her Aunt Mariah. Children of Ada Mariah Sumner and Jesse Lee Smith were: (from the Bible records of their daughter, Lena Smith Johnson):

Eva Lou Smith was born June 4, 1891 (she lived well into her 90s)

Nannie Smith was born August 23 1893

Ina Kate Smith was born December 5, 1895

Willie Lee Smith was born January 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Hattie Smith was born December 19, 1898

J. D. Smith was born January 5, 1903

Lena Smith was born June 5, 1906

James Odell Smith was born June 2, 1917

Annie Marie Smith was born May 21, 1921

JOSEPH JOHN SUMNER, born 30 July 1875, married Rosa Idella Hayes, born 10 October 1881, died 19 October 1944, at 1:20 a.m. He died 19 December 1943, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and is buried in the old Parks Cemetery. Rosa Idella Hayes was the daughter of James and Martha P. Hayes of Jackson County, Alabama. Their children were (from the Bible record of their daughter, Mary Nell Sumner Holder-not in order of their birth):

Jeff Sumner born October 15, 1913

Moses Exum Sumner born August 15, 1908

John William, born July 7, 1903

Walter Thomas born March 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mattie Irene born February 14, 1906 married Roy C. Taylor and  
had two children, one of which was Jerry of Louisville, Kentucky.  
Mary Nell, born June 5, 1924, married Richard Holder and had  
Richard, Mickey and Emmett Larry  
Sallie, born February 28, 1901, married Clyde Hollis, son of  
William M. Hollis  
Hugh, called "Jada" married Veda Maud Thompson and had one  
son, Hugh Jr. who married Joan Keasling and had a son Brett

The bible record of James Exum Sumner Jr. was furnished to me  
by Virginia (Anderson) Keeble, daughter of Pearl (Sumner) Anderson,  
daughter of James Exum Sumner Jr.

JAMES EXUM SUMNER JR. was born April 1, 1866, He married  
November 25, 1886, Susan Mariah Wood, born January 28, 1861. She  
was the daughter of Thomas Browder Wood. Woods Cove in Jackson  
County was named for this family. See them later.

James Exum Sumner Jr. was in the road-building business and  
was said to have been a very good and successful business man. He  
worked on many of the early roads in Jackson County along with his  
son William Parks Sumner and his grandson Lester Anderson. His  
nickname was "Ec." He died September 20, 1940, and his wife died  
February 26, 1945.

Children of James Exum Sumner Jr. and Susan Mariah Wood were:

Annie Pearl Sumner was born August 25, 1887 and died December  
11, 1955. She married Arthur Boyd Anderson May 5, 1907

James Browder Sumner was born October 9, 1888 and died August  
6, 1963. He married Della Lou Hancock March 12, 1918

Nannie Kate Sumner was born July 11, 1890, and died June 12,  
1954. She married Lawrence Beard November 24, 1934

Julia Stella Sumner was born August 12, 1892, never married

William Parks Sumner was born July 23, 1894 and died April 23,  
1929. He married Faye Beatrice Thompson August 5, 1928

Hugh Felix Sumner was born October 19, 1896, married Sarah  
Jane Davis October 3, 1920

Boyd Exum Sumner was born May 29, 1898 and died \_\_\_\_\_1939.  
He married Mary Ruth Beard November 17, 1923.

Wallace Wood Sumner was born June 23, 1900 and died June 18,  
1901

BOYD ANDERSON BIBLE RECORD

This Bible record was furnished by Virginia (Anderson) Keeble, daughter of Pearl (Sumner) Anderson.

Arthur Boyd Anderson was born May 5, 1885 and died January 6, 1919

Annie Pearl Sumner was born August 25, 1887, died December 11, 1955, buried Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Alabama

Arthur Boyd Anderson (father of Arthur Boyd Anderson Jr.) was born 1854 and died 1928

Laura Barclay Anderson (mother of Arthur Boyd Anderson Jr) was born 1857 and died 1922

Children of Arthur Boyd Anderson and Annie Pearl Sumner:

Virginia Garrison Anderson born February 26, 1908, married to Hugh Keeble March 16, 1929, no children.

Lester Boyd Anderson born June 14, 1910, married Eula Gladys Chandler September 25, 1937, no children.

WILLIAM PARKS SUMNER SR.

William Parks Sumner Sr. and Faye Beatrice Thompson, daughter of John Looney Thompson and Carrie (Keeble) Thompson, were married in Jackson County, Alabama, 5 August 1928. "Will" was killed in a truck accident on 23 April 1929. He and his father were primary road builders in Jackson County. He was killed on a curve by the old fairgrounds near the present Sanders Veterinary Clinic. Will was a World War I veteran. He was buried at the old Parks Cemetery but some years ago Faye had him reinterred at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Alabama.

William Parks Sumner Jr. was born 7 August 1929, four months after his father's death. He married on 16 July 1960, Christine Paradise, daughter of Jesse and Alma (Lindsay) Paradise, born 5 April 1934.

Their daughter, Ann Elizabeth, was born 23 August 1964, married Robert Burns Shook II, 10 September 1988. She is a student at Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham, Alabama, 1992. This is the same school her great, great grandfather, James Exum Sumner is said to have attended before it was moved to Birmingham.

Their son, John William Sumner, born 6 January 1967, is a Finance major at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama, 1992.

*Divorced  
Affair  
Married  
March 1995  
Steven Michael  
Coleman*



HUGH FELIX SUMNER

This Bible record furnished by their daughter, Ruby Sumner Cope

Hugh Felix Sumner was born October 19, 1896

Sarah Jane Davis was born June 1, 1900

Hugh Felix Sumner and Sarah Jane Davis were married October 3, 1920

Sarah Jane Davis Sumner died June 2, 1968

Their daughter, Ruby Sumner was born August 5, 1926

Their son, Robert Sumner was born\_\_\_\_\_

Ruby Sumner married Fred Thomas Cope Jr. born December 16, 1921. They married April 27, 1946

Children of Ruby and Fred Cope:

Patricia Eileen born March 14, 1948, married George Warren Herring October 20, 1967, and had Michele Lea, born March 23, 1968  
Paulette Jane born August 25, 1950  
Thomas Hugh born March 22, 1959

Thomas Cope Sr. was born February 8, 1901 and died November 30, 1963. His wife, Pauline Hall Cope was born August 21, 1900

Robert Sumner, son of Hugh Felix and Sarah Jane, married Frances Cargile in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1945. They had a son, James Nolan Sumner born February 11, 1954. Frances was the daughter of James A. Cargile, born September 26, 1896, died January 7, 1958, and his wifed Ada L. Cargile.

Excerpt from a letter to Christine Sumner from Ruby Cope:

"Dad said his grandfather's name was Browder Wood. Doc Hugh F. Swaim's mother was a sister to Grandmother Sumner. His two daughters were Vesta Hembree and Estell Porter. Julie Law Allen (Mrs. Walter) and Ermie Law are brother and sister and were distant relatives to Grandmother Sumner. Dad knows of a Joe Releford (Rutherford-CPS) but didn't know if they were related.

"Eliza Hackworth's mother was a first cousin to Grandfather Sumner. Judge John Snodgrass's mother was a first cousin, too. Bill Payne's mother was a first cousin also. I don't know if any of these three persons are brother and sister. Eliza Hackworth is the only one living (this letter was written 15 February 1969)

Note by Christine Sumner: I remember Uncle Hugh and Aunt Janie very well. I was very fond of both of them. They were kind and friendly and always so nice to me. Uncle Hugh was an avid golfer and played until his health would permit it no more. I'll always remember them fondly though I was young and working when they lived near us and I never got to spend much time with them.

#### JAMES BROWDER SUMNER BIBLE RECORD

Copied from the original in possession of Della (Hancock) Sumner by Christine Sumner, June 26, 1968.

James Browder Sumner, age 26 and Della Hancock, age 20 were married March 12, 1916, by C. W. Shipp in Scottboro, Alabama

James Browder "Jim" Sumner was born October 9, 1888 and died August 6, 1969

Della Hancock Sumner was born May 28, 1896

Charles Edward Sumner was born November 20, 1920

Mary Katherine Sumner was born June 29, 1923

Charles E. Sumner and Jeanette Spence were married June 28, 1948

Mary Katherine Sumner married Jesse James DeLoch September 15, 1945

James Browder Sumner was a soldier in WWI, serial no. 4295951, Private, Battery E, 138th, The U. S. Army; discharged at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, January 8, 1919; enlisted at age 29, blue eyes, brown hair, ruddy complexion, 5' 11" tall, farmer. Inducted August 7, 1918. Foreign Service October, 1918 to December 21, 1918.

- - - - -

#### Obituary of Sarah Catherine Parks Sumner Shook

##### MRS. KATE SHOOK PASSES AWAY

As the Sentinel goes to press at noon Thursday word comes of the death of Mrs. Kate Sumner Shook, one of the oldest and best known women of Jackson County. She died at the home of her son Will B. Sumner in Scottsboro, where she had been very ill for many months. She would have been 90 years old on February 22 and probably leaves the largest congregation of descendants of any Jackson County woman. Suitable obituary to "Aunt Kate" will appear next week.

The editor of this paper considered her one of his best friends and supporters and she told him no later than Monday night that she "wanted to go" because she had suffered so much and was ready for the Master to call her home.

The funeral will take place Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the Parks Cemetery.

#### Obituary of James Exum Sumner Jr.

##### EXUM SUMNER PASSES AWAY

Exum Sumner, age 74 years, passed away at his home three miles south of Scottsboro early last Friday morning, September 20, 1940, after an illness that stretched over a period of years. The funeral was held Saturday afternoon at the Parks cemetery on the side of the ridge in sight of Mr. Sumner's home, with Rev. J. A. Bentley, pastor of the Scottsboro Methodist church preaching and burial was in charge of Scottsboro Funeral Home. Nephews of the deceased acted as pallbearers.

Mr. Sumner leaves to mourn his passing his widow, three daughters, Mrs. J. L. Beard, Miss Julia Sumner, Mrs. Boyd Anderson and two sons, Jim and Hugh Sumner, all of Scottsboro community. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Sallie Wallace and Mrs. Ada Smith and one brother, John J. Sumner also of this community.

The deceased had spent most of his life farming, but was an expert pike road builder and for many years during road building periods he was in charge of this work over this county. He was a man who worked hard and lived an honest life, devoted to his family and shouldering his burdens without complaint. His family pioneered this area and helped carve homesteads out of wilderness. His own life followed that pattern of simple living and always being mindful of one's first obligations in every sense. Exum Sumner, although having a gruff voice, was a man of much wit and humor and kindness to those who knew him valued his friendship to the highest degree. He lived a long and useful life and the tears in the eyes of so many kin and neighbors at the graveside bespoke more than any written words just how much he was valued in this life.

References for data on the Sumner and, later, the Drake Family are:

"Index to Hathaway's Register, The Lost Tribes of North Carolina, Part I," Compiled and Edited by Worth S. Ray, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1971.

"Early Marriages of Nash County, North Carolina," Ruth Smith Williams & Margarette Glenn Griffin, published by Joseph W. Watson, 1968.

"Abstracts of North Carolina Wills," Compiled from the Original

and Recorded Wills in the Office of Secretary of State of J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State, Published Raleigh, North Carolina by E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers & Binders, 1910.

"Abstracts of Deeds, Edgecomb Precinct, Edgecomb County, North Carolina, 1732-1758. Deed Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6." Margaret F. Hofmann, 1969.

# Joseph William Sumner

Follow Actions

No path found to Joseph William Sumner.



## Joseph William Sumner

Gender: Male

Birth: January 19, 1748  
Edgecombe, NC, United States

Death: April 1795 (47)  
Edgecombe County, North Carolina, United States

Immediate Family: Son of Joseph William Sumner Sr. and Anna Sumner  
Husband of Elizabeth Sumner  
Father of John Sumner, Duke William Sumner, Tobias Sumner, Jacob Sumner, Etheldred Philips Mori, and 4 others

Added by: Faustine Darsey on April 14, 2016

Managed by: Faustine Darsey, Ursula Steinberg and Charles John Zurbriggen

Matches

Research this Person

Contact Profile Managers

View Tree

## Confirmed Matches

1-5 of 8

- Joseph William Sumner in GenealogieOnline Family Tree Index
- Joseph Sumner in MyHeritage family trees (F E Dickerson Tree Site)
- Joseph Sumner in MyHeritage family trees (Cooksley Web Site 1)
- Joseph W Sumner in MyHeritage family trees (Lundahl Web Site)
- Joseph Sumner in MyHeritage family trees (Barnes Web Site)

Overview Media (1) Timeline Discussions Sources (61) Revisions DNA

## About

A Patriot of the American Revolution for NORTH CAROLINA

## Statistics

Family Tree 4,371

Blood Relatives 10,000

Ancestors 39

Descendants 1,333

Followers 3

## Immediate Family

Showing 12 of 12 people

- Martha Sumner wife
- Tobias Sumner son
- Jacob Sumner son
- Etheldred Philips Mori daughter
- John Sumner son
- Joseph John Sumner son
- Exum Phillips Philips Sumner son
- Anna Sumner mother
- Duke William Sumner son
- Sarah (Sallie) Driver daughter
- Matthew Horn son
- Joseph William Sumner Sr. father

## Recent Projects

Patriots - Daughters of the American Revolution

## Top Surnames

Sumner, Mori, Sumner Sr., Duke and 2 others

Hilda Kight (born Kight)  
1872 - 1922

John Kight  
1872 - 1922

James Kight  
1820 - ?

### Source



Family site:

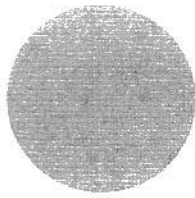
**Barnes Web Site**

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Site manager:

Dee Ann Barnes

[Contact Dee Ann](#)



MyHeritage Family Trees

Joseph William Sumner  
1748 - 1795



## Joseph Sumner

1748 - 1795

Birth:

1748

Death:

Apr 1795

Edgecombe, Edgecombe, North Carolina, United States

## Family members

### Parents

Joseph Sumner  
1781 - 1837

Mary Kight Sumner  
1781 - 1840

### Siblings

John Sumner  
1788 - 1837

Mr. Sumner  
1788 - 1837

Rev. Sumner  
1788 - 1837

Mr. Sumner  
1788 - 1837

Mr. Sumner  
1788 - 1837

Mr. Sumner  
1788 - 1837



# John Sumner

(1765 - 1797)



Photos:

**12**

Records:

**87**

Born in **Edgecombe, Edgecombe, North Carolina, USA** on **1765** to Joseph Sumner and Anna Duke. John Sumner married Mary Ann Murphree and had 6 children. He passed away on **04 Apr 1797** in **Edgecombe Co, NC**.

## John Sumner family tree

### Parents



**Joseph Sumner**

1734 - 1783



**Anna Duke**

1740 - 1783

### Spouse(s)



**Mary Ann Murphree**

1770 - 1842

### Children



**Catherine Sumner**

Unknown - Unknown



**Daniel R Sumner**

1790 - 1835



**Nancy Sumner**

Unknown - Unknown



**Joseph John Sumner**

Unknown - 1822



**Edwin Sumner**

1782 - 1837



**Elizabeth (Betsy) Rivers**

1814 - 1879

Wrong John Sumner? See other search results for John Sumner

## Search for your family members



# Joseph William Sumner

Follow

Actions

No path found to Joseph William Sumner.



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Birth: January 19, 1748  
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Father of John Sumner, Duke William Sumner, Tobias Sumner, Joseph John Sumner, Sarah Sallie Driver and 4 others

Added by: Faustine Darsey on April 14, 2016

Managed by: Faustine Darsey, Anissa Stormberg and 2 others

### Matches

Research this Person

Contact Profile Managers

View Tree

### Confirmed Matches

1-5 of 8

<

**Joseph William Sumner** in GenealogieOnline Family Tree Index

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**Joseph Sumner** in MyHeritage family trees (Barnes Web Site)

>

- Overview
- Media (1)
- Timeline
- Discussions
- Sources (61)
- Revisions
- DNA

### About

A Patriot of the American Revolution for NORTH CAROLINA. DAR Ancestor # A110025.

History

### Statistics

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Family Tree     | 4,371  |
| Blood Relatives | 10,000 |
| Ancestors       | 39     |
| Descendants     | 1,333  |
| Followers       | 3      |

### Immediate Family

Showing 12 of 12 people

View All

Test View Add Family

|  |  |  |
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Managed by: Faustine Darsey, Ursula Steinberg and Charles John Zurbrigger

Matches  
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Navigation: < [Icons] >

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Showing 12 of 12 people

|                                    |                                     |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Martha Sumner<br>wife              | John Sumner<br>son                  | Duke William Sumner<br>son          |
| Tobias Sumner<br>son               | Joseph John Sumner<br>son           | Sarah (Sallie) Driver<br>daughter   |
| Jacob Sumner<br>son                | Exum Phillips Philips Sumner<br>son | Matthew Horn<br>son                 |
| Etheldred Philips Horn<br>daughter | Anna Sumner<br>mother               | Joseph William Sumner Sr.<br>father |

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Patriots - Daughters of the American Revolution

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Added by: Faustine Darsey on April 14, 2016

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Showing 12 of 12 people

Text View Add Family

|                                     |  |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Martha Sumner<br>wife               | John Sumner<br>son                     | Duke William Sumner<br>son          |
| Tobias Sumner<br>son                | Joseph John Sumner<br>son              | Sarah (Sallie) Driver<br>daughter   |
| Jacob Sumner<br>son                 | Exum Phillips Philips<br>Sumner<br>son | Matthew Horn<br>son                 |
| Etheidred Phillips Horn<br>daughter | Anna Sumner<br>mother                  | Joseph William Sumner Sr.<br>father |

## Recent Projects

Patriots - Daughters of the American Revolution

## Top Surnames

Sumner, Horn, Sumner Sr., Duke and 2 others

DAR #193125

Application of Nina Bass Stratton Foster

Wife of Edgar M. Foster

Gallatin Road

+ashville, Tennessee

October 13, 1924

General James Robertson Chapter

DAR APPLICATION OF Nina Bass Stratton

SUMNER LINE

DAR # 193125

DIRECT LINE FROM Joseph Sumner, b. Virginia in 1748 and died in Edgecomb County, North Carolina in April 1795

I, Nina Bass Straton Foster, being the age of eighteen yhears and upwards hereby apply for membership in the Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from *Joseph Sumner*, who was born in Virginia on the \_\_ of \_\_ ca 1748 and died in Edgecomb County N.C. on the \_\_ day \_\_ 1795. His place of residence during the Revolution was Edgecomb County, N. C.

I am the daughter of Mosely T. Stratton, born Aug 17, 1845 and died July 14, 1910 and his wife Laura Sumner, born Mar (Nov?) died March(?) 22, 1892, married May 15, 1874

2. The said Laura Sumner was the daughter of Jacob Sumner, born June \_\_ 1822 and died January 28, 1872 and his wife Mary Bass

Mary Bass was the daughter of John Bass, born Nov, 1793, died May 19, 1860 and his wife Temperance Sumner, born September 16, 1812 and died Nov 23, 1899, married January 13, 1831

The said Temperance Sumner was the daughter of Duke W. Sumner, born April 27, 1778, died May 15, 1844 and his wife Mary Drake, born Nov 27, 1779, died June, 1813, married 1799

The said Duke W. Sumner was the son of Joseph Sumner, born about 1748, died April, 1795 and his wife Martha Phillips, born \_\_\_\_\_ died after her husband.  
Married 1777

The said Martha Philips was the daughter of Joseph Phillips and his wife Sarah Exum.

The said Sarah Exum was the daughter of John Exum

The said Joseph Sumner is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of soldier in North Carolina militia.

Joseph Sumner rendered active service during the Revolutionary War as a soldier in the militia of Edgecomb County, North Carolina, as shown in the North Carolina army accounts now in the Department of Archives, Hall of History, Raleigh N.C., col. 9, p. 30, folio 1. (Specie?) certificate delivered to Treasurer's Office and charged pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly, December 1789.

February 1, 1782

Give below references, by volume and page, to the documentary or other authorities upon which you found your record.

North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, vol. 5, p. 62, folio 2

Report of Auditors of Wilmington District, March 1784, April 1785, No. 3618, vol. 9, p.30, folio 1; vol 6, p 764, folio 2; vol 9, p. 30, folio 1; vol 10, p 108, folio 3

Family Bible Records

Will of Joseph Sumner, Wills of Edgecomb Co., NC, Book 2, pp 92-95 (1810)

My Revolutionary Ancestor was married to Martha P hillips at Edgecomb Co. NC  
1777

Their children were:

Duke William Sumner, b. April 27, 1778, who married Mary Drake

Tobias

Jospeh

Exum P. (married Temperance Drake, sister to Mary)

Jacob

Sarah

Signed Nina Bass Stratton Foster,

Nashville, Tennessee, 2 Oct A.D. 1924

“This application made out by Penelope Johnson Allen, State Historian, DAR