

## Life and Times of Simon Sommers – 8 June 2013

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Simon Sommers, born 23 Nov 1747 in Fairfax County, Virginia, was the eldest son of John Summers and Susannah Adams. He had two brothers, John and William, and two sisters, Mary and Sarah. He died at his homestead, "Sommerville", in Alexandria County, 02 Dec 1836.

In the summer of 1775, Sommers engaged as an Ensign in Col Grayson's Minute Battalion. In March of 1776 he was appointed Lieutenant and Adjutant in the 6th Virginia Regiment, Continental Line, and transferred to the 2nd VR, CL, on 14 Sep 1778. He served in the Campaigns of 1777 & 1778 and would see action at the Battle of Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777. Even though Sommers was ill throughout the war and was twice on extended medical furlough, he maintained

his active duty status throughout the war, retired in 1781 and was pensioned.

Of historical note, Sommers served at Valley Forge for the winter of 1777-78 and he was one of the officers who signed the Congressionally mandated Oath of Allegiance. An updated version of this oath is still taken today by all immigrants when they become US citizens.

After the war, Sommers was actively involved with the Methodist church, attending the General Conferences in 1796 and 1800, where it is noted that he "was a Christian educated gentleman" and the he was "socially intimate with [General Washington]." He became a bonded surveyor for Alexandria County and court records show he was active in that role over a 20 year period primarily surveying parcels of land to be bought and sold.

