

THOMAS SUMMERALLS c1822-1862

Thomas Summeralls was born about 1822 in Telfair County, Georgia son of Thomas and Sarah (Nunez) Summerall. Most of the earliest records spell the name "Summerall" but later records including an affidavit by Lydia Ann (Pelam) Summeralls spells it as "Summeralls". She stated in 1893 that "I believe my husband's name was Summeralls though people sometimes write it Summerall-without the final "s"."

Thomas served several enlistments during the early Indian wars in Florida and south Georgia. The muster rolls of Capt. William B. North's Company, Florida Volunteers, reports that Thomas Summerall enrolled June 22, 1836 at Columbia County, by order of Gov. Call, and was discharged Oct. 22, 1836. He was paid for 4 months, without travel pay. The record of events says, "This company was greatly distinguished for its services and exploits in several brilliant affairs against the Creek Indians who were passing down attempting to join the Seminoles--killing a great many and taking prisoners on the frontier of Georgia, and along the Florida and Georgia line on the country bordering on the Suwaney and St. Mary's called the Okefeenokee Swamp."

Thomas enrolled in the same company on Jan. 21, 1837 at Ft. Reed by order of Maj. Gen. Thos. S. Jesup and discharged June 5, 1837, on roll stating that company was ordered to Ft. Gilliland for muster out but unable to assemble there for want of forage for horses. He was paid for 4 months and 16 days--no travel pay allowed.

He was enrolled again in Capt. North's company on June 16, 1837 at Camp North, and discharged Dec. 18, 1837 at Ft. Gilliland, Florida. He was paid for 6 months and 3 days, and 5 days travel--20 miles to rendezvous and 80 miles home. He is also reported enrolled in same company on July 12, 1838 (joined July 13) and discharged Jan. 12, 1839 at Ft. Gilmer, Florida. He was paid for 5 months and 30 days.

The muster roll of Capt. Aaron Jernigan's Company, Florida Volunteers, reports that Thomas Summeralls enrolled Nov. 6, 1840 and was discharged May 31, 1841 at Ft. Moniac, East Florida. He was paid for 6 months and 28 days including 3 days travel-30 miles to rendezvous and 30 miles from place discharged to home.

Thomas Summeralls married Lydia Ann Pelam in Columbia County, Fl. on May 28, 1842. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Elias Knight. Lydia Ann was born about 1825 according to the early census records, but in the 1900 DeSoto County census she stated that she was born in September 1814.

Children of Thomas and Lydia Ann Summeralls:

1. Henry Summeralls, born c1843; married Julia _____; buried in Joshua Creek Cemetery.
2. W. Riley Summeralls, born c1845 (tombstone gives April 15, 1842); died Dec. 8, 1911; married in Manatee County, Florida on Apr. 14, 1865, Margaret McLeod, daughter of William and Emily (Sloan) McLeod. Riley buried in Sardis Cemetery, Manatee County.
3. Thomas Summeralls, born c1852; married Sarah "Sally" _____.
4. Owen Summeralls, born c1855; married in Manatee County on Jan. 29, 1880, Jessie Blount.
5. Charles Summeralls, born c1857.