

ID: I0072 <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=joebryant&id=I0072>

Name: **James Jr. Simmons**

Sex: M

Birth: 10 JUL 1758 in Amherst Co., VA

Death: 1851 in Hawkins Co., Tennessee

Military Service: BET. 1777 - 1780 Revolutionary War enlisted Lynches Ferr (see notes)

Event: Aka (Facts Pg) **Will proven, Hawkins, Tennessee**

Note: Notes from JoAnn Loudon

He was in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted in the Army at Lynches Ferry, VA in 1777. Joel & Elizabeth Gillenwaters lived 2 miles from the Ferry at that time & Joel knew James Simmons then. James Simmons was discharged in 1780. Hawkins County, TN "Distant Crossroads" April 1992 published a copy of a letter from John Baldwin, El Paso, TX. Rogersville, TN January 18, 1821 which was a petition to the Secretary of War concerning James' Revolutionary War Pension being discontinued as he owned 100 acres of land. The petition states only 25 acres are tillable and in poor condition and could not even be rented for enough to support this frail, ailing old man. He has no one living to assist in his support. He fought with General Waynes and talks of that celebrated General's hardest fought battles.

There were many signers to the petition, some of whom were, Thomas Gillenwaters, Joel Gillenwaters, JP, S. Wilson, T.J. Gillenwaters, Robert Brice, David Gillenwaters, Elijah C Gillenwaters. W. T. Gillenwaters. His grandson, William A Simmons of Hawkins County, TN, stated James was from North Carolina. (I have a copy of this petition) Census records of Hawkins Cty state he was born in Virginia. At age 91, James wrote his will on Jul 17, 1847. It was filed in May 1851 in Hawkins County, TN & witnessed by William and George A Gillenwaters. On the 1850 US Census for Hawkins County, TN, James has the following people living with him: Alice b c1810; Mary b c1832; Louisiana b c1835.

"Gillenwaters & Related Families" by Barbara Gillenwater Brown, Albuquerque, NM 1991 Pg 34: "Land Records of Spartanburg Co. SC: Bk D, Pg 371-373 Feb 20 1796 James Simmons & wife Elizabeth (Spartanburg) to Terrell Wilkins (same); for 50 pounds sterling sold 127 acres on both sides of Goaches Cr; part of 247 ac. Witness Thomas Gillenwaters & William Wilkins. Signed James Simmons & Elizabeth's mark. Wit: Oath Apr 11, 1796 Thomas Gillenwaters to John Lipscomb. Rec May 16 1796. Dower renounced Elizabeth Simmons to James Jordan Apr 11 1796"

Pg 45: "On Febr 1, 1784, Joell & Elijah Gillenwaters sold 123 acres of land on Bollings Creek & Duck Bill branch in Amherst County.

It was land left to them by their father. James "X" Simmons made his mark as a witness to this land deal.

This is on the Hawkins County Genweb page under Revolutionary War Pension Rolls 1835:

JAMES SIMONS PRIVATE VIRGINIA CONT'L LINE
\$96.00 ANNUAL ALLOWANCE \$242.93 AMOUNT RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 3, 1819 PENSION STARTED
AGE 76

DROPPED MAY 1, 1820 RESTORED MARCH 4, 1833

The following is from "Gillenwaters & Related Families" by Barbara Gillenwater Brown of Albuquerque, NM 1991.

Page 15 "James Simmons, who married Elizabeth "Sallie" Gillenwater, daughter of Thos & Martha, states in his Revolutionary War Application: "Elizabeth (Sally) Gillenwaters was born abt 1763, married James Simmons.

James Simmons enlisted in the Army at Lynches Ferry, VA in 1777. Joel & Elizabeth lived 2 miles from the ferry at that time. Joel knew James Simmons then. James Simmons was discharged in 1780"

Pg 34 "Land Records of Spartanburg Co. SC: Bk D, Pg 371-373 Feb 20 1796 James Simmons & wife Elizabeth (Spartanburg) to Terrell Wilkins (same); for 50 pounds sterling sold 127 acres on both sides of Goaches Cr; part of 247 ac. Witness Thomas Gillenwaters & William Wilkins. Signed James Simmons & Elizabeth's mark. Wit: Oath Apr 11, 1796 Thos Gillenwaters to John Lipscomb. Rec May 16 1796. Dower renounced Elizabeth Simmons to James Jordan Apr 11 1796"

Pg 45 On Febr 1, 1784, Joell & Elijah sold 123 acres of land on Bollings Creek & Duck Bill branch in Amherst County.

It was land left to them by their father. Their brother, Thomas, received more land. James "X" Simmonds make his mark as a witness to this land deal.

This info abstracted from a book, originally printed in the 1880's, popularly known as "Perrin's History of Kentucky". Most libraries have this book in their Kentucky collection.

There is a biographical sketch of William A. Simmons, born May 10, 1843 in Hawkins Co., TN. His father is identified as James G. Simmons, born 1801, who married Sallie Gillenwater, no date given. In the Civil War, William A. Simmons (born 1843) enlisted first in Company G, Ninth Kentucky Infantry, then (1863) served in Company C, Thirty-Seventh Kentucky Mounted Infantry. GRANDFATHER James Simmons, from North Carolina... pension for Revolutionary War service.

Received from John D. Baldwin, El Paso, Texas
Microfilm Frame # 1099 & 1100
"DISTANT CROSSROADS" APRIL 1992

Rogersviffe Tennessee
January 18th, 1821
Dear Sir

At the request of Mr James Simmons, late a Revolutionary pensioner I am forwarding a petition signed.... by a number of his respectable neighbors, with aff of whom I believe you are acquainted. It is intended for the inspection of the Honorable Secretary of War. And it is in the nature of additioal proof with respect to the ofd man's condition in life and indigent Circumstances. The Secretary has discontinued him on the list on account of (it is presumed S.) his owning about 100 Acres of Land which in a comparative Point of viewing might be deemed sufficient to support the old man and Mr. Cafhoun, under that impression, no doubt, acted properly in discontinuing his pension.

I was present when Mr Simmons was examinedd in Court with respect to the vafue of his land and upon being interrogated by said court, replied that he would not be willing to take less than what the sum which is affixed to it in his Schedufe annexed to his Decfaration, but aftho he Spoke this conscientiously, and the Court has fixed accordingly, yet no person in the County would be willingg to give him more than half that sum in cash, and was it rented out, it would contribute but little to his support. As you wiff perceive from this certificate, and as the old man has no person on whom he can depend to work it. he must [seek assistance] ftom some quarter. On [Referring] to his original Decfaration filed in the War Departmen, wiff be found James Simmons version of General Waynes luck. & I now must mention, Sofdier's having been in some, if ot aff, of that cerebrated General's hardest fought battfes [.....] & I assure You Sir, I felt for this old mans Situation & upon my handing the notification of Mr Edwards answering to the old man his being discontinued when I [witnessed] him burst into a flood of tears at is forlom & destitute condition. He said he had hoped his Country would continue to extend to him benevofent and charitable aid during the final years he yet had to live and he had been taught to expect. But that he still hoped the Honorable Secretary of War upon Reconsideration of his [further testimony] would restore him. I observed to him that in case Of further disability (which he is fiabfe to every day on account of

age & infirmity, his own County would interpose its assistance and rescue him from total misery & want and advised him to submit in Silence. But he persisted in saying he would "try again" through You to recover that which his hard serious situation in life so Eminently Entitled him to Receive. And since then I have seen a letter addressed to Your Speaker, I think, on the subject of Rev. Pen. in which the Secretary says that in one instance he continued a Pensioner whose amount of property exceeded \$300 Mr Simmons amounts only to \$290.58 & his land only to \$150.

Should Mr. Calhoun think proper to reconsider his Case & Restore his Pension, this much I will say for old Mr Simmons that not a more worthy meritorious soldier of the Revolution has been continued and none who deserves it better. Of his 100 acres but 25 is capable of being cultivated and You knowing by leasing that out, it would not support him, -better for him had he given it away, if the possession of it should be the means of depriving him of his pension.

Rogersville as well as Washington City has not escaped the prevailing sickness. A number of your intimate friends have been and some yet are near the Gates of Death, among this latter are Doc Carden & Lady - Rob' Grimbell. MR. Graves friends are clearly looking for his Exit, all hopes have vanished of his Recovery now. Yet he has lingered longer than was first expected.

I am Sincerely Your Friend

The Honorable In' Rhea D. Alexander

"DISTANT CROSSROADS"

APRIL 1992

Received from John D. Baldwin, El Paso, Texas

We the undersigned being well acquainted with James Simmons of the County of Hawkins in the State of Tennessee late a Revolutionary pensioner but lately stricken off of the Rosters by the Honorable the Secretary of War on Account of the said James Simmons owning one hundred acres of land Do hereby Certify that said land is of the most inferior quality; there being also of that quantity not more than twenty five acres that is tillable and that very much worn out and off under bad fence, and the improvements on it not of much value, that said Simmons is very frail & feeble, afflicted with pain which disable him from supporting himself and furthermore believe that if any Revolutionary Soldier is entitled to, or deserves a Pension, the said James Simmons is one of that number on account of his Situation in life, as well as on account of his Service.

Given under our hands this 1st day of January 1821.

Joel Giffenwaters JP
Henry Klepper
T J Giffenwaters
S Wilson
Thos Giffenwaters
John Starnes
Alexander Williams William Carmack
Aaron Williams John Carmack,
Thomas Hamlen Francis Isenberg
Jacob Klepper Jacob B. Groves
William Klepper Elijah C. Gillenwaters
W T Gillenwaters
Hays Lewis
John Sherfy David Molsbee
Michael Klepper William Molsbee Sr.
Joseph Sherfy William Molsbee
Spencer Acuff
Robert Brice
Richard M Starnes
David Gillenwaters
W.....Reynolds
W Wilson

George Myars
Cary James
Richard Coal
John Kansinger
John Howe
Edward Eidsan
Staphel Younas
William Brice
Cornelius Carmack
Telsie Stocky

Microfilm Frame #1096 "DISTANT CROSSROADS" APRIL 1992

"Amherst County, Virginia, In the Revolution, Lost Order Book, 1773--1782"

Lists James Simmons who moved to Hawkins Co., Tenn., dated Aug. 1818:

b. 10 July 1758: enlisted Jan. 1777: under Ensign William Powell, Capt. James Franklin, 10th Va. Regt., Gen Weedon's Brig. Gave his discharge to his father who lived in Rutherford Co., N.C. Placed on Pension Roll Sept. 30, 1819.

Hawkins County, Tennessee Genealogical and Historical Society:

Will Book 1 - Pages 452-453

James Simmons, dated 7 July 1847, proven May Term 1851.

Son James G., Black Boy Ben, dau. Polly Acuffs heirs

son John, dau. Nancy Williams, dau. Frances Patterson, dau. Betsy Lewis, son Thomas dau.

Rachel Spears, Lucinda, Matilda and Thomas

(verbatim as written)

Father: James Simmons, Sr. b: 19 JAN 1732/33 in England - emigrated early 1750s

Mother: Unknown b: in See notes

Marriage 1 Elizabeth Gillenwaters b: ABT. 1763 in Amherst Co., VA

Children

1. John Simmons b: in Rutherford, North Carolina
2. Polly Simmons
3. Nancy Catherine Simmons
4. Thomas Simmons
5. Elizabeth Betsy Simmons
6. Rachel Simmons
7. Matilda Simmons
8. Frances S. Simmons b: 22 MAR 1795 in North Carolina
9. James G. Simmons b: 13 MAY 1801 in Hawkins Co., Tennessee