

Company A, 120th OVI

SMITH, James* 13 Aug 1862

Private James Smith was age 18 when he entered service. He died 20 Jan 1863.[Seems this is not correct.]

No information on burial is given in the Roll of Honor, but it spells his given name as Jarius.

Father: Joseph SMITH

Mother: Mary ???? [Mary Smith died 18 Mar 1883.]

Birth: <1844>

Marriage:

Death: 1 Nov 1863 [Died on Steamer "Cahaba" at sea, Gulf of Mexico, going from New Orleans to New York.]

Cemetery: He was actually buried in a church cemetery in Key West, Monroe Co, FL. I have not seen him on Find a Grave. James died while on his way home by ship on furlough and was buried in Key West, Florida. See below in pension.

Not on Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865.

Pension Card: James H. SMITH, Co A 120th OH. Mother, Mary SMITH, applied for pension 20 Dec 1866. No state given. Application 139, 284; Certificate 124, 863.

Parents:

1850 Census, Wooster Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 125, Family 125: John SMITH, age 79 PA, farmer; Mary, age 48 PA; Samuel, age 21 OH, farmer; Nancy, age 17 OH; Christeann, age 15 OH; Isabella, age 13 OH; Levina, age 11 OH; Rebecca, age 9 OH; James, age 7 OH.

In about 1848, James was living and working with Joseph SNYDER on his farm.

Step brother, Leander SMITH:

1850 Census, Franklin Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 3, family 3: Leander SMITH, age 49 OH, farmer; Hannah, age 45 VA; Rebecca J., age 18 OH; Malinda E, age 17 OH; Harriet A, age 10 OH; Hannah F, age 10 OH; George WHITEHILL, age 32 PA; Henry BOWMAN, age 11 OH.

1860 Census, Franklin Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 964, Family 985 : Leander SMITH, age 59 PA, farmer; Hannah, age 53 VA; Harriet, age 20 OH; Hannah, age 11 OH; James SMITH, age 16 OH.

1870 Census, Franklin Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 38, Family 38: Mary SMITH, age 65 PA; Lyman, age 19 OH, work by the day.

1880 Census, Franklin Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 60, Family 66: Mary SMITH, age 78 PA, widow, palsied, parents born PA; Lyman SMITH, son, single, age 28 OH, farmer, parents born PA.

Pension at fold3.com :

James H. SMITH, Co A, 120 OH Reg. Claim for mother's pension: "The Adj. Gen. reports muster 14 Oct. 1862, and absent sick at New Orleans since Aug. 24, 1863. Surgeon General reports admission at N. O., for acute dysentery Aug. 23, '63, and returned to duty, "on furlough," Oct 29, 1863. Officer shows previous health, and believes soldier died of chronic diarrhoea contracted in line of duty. Fellow soldier shows death Nov. 1, 1863, of effects of chronic diarrhoea, while on transport from N. O. to N. York."

Mother Mary SMITH, resident of Wayne Co OH, post office Wooster. She was widow of John SMITH who died 25 July 1856. Hannah SMITH and Hannah F. SMITH witnessed for Mary. Mary had written in her family Bible that James died 1 Nov 1863. "Competent witnesses show that soldier was son of claimant; that he left no widow nor child, that she [mother] has no property nor means; that her husband died in 1856; that for several years before enlistment soldier furnished half her wood and other articles, besides \$80 [for horse sold to son of David Snyder, Wayne Co OH] and \$40 [pay for working for Joseph Snyder, Wayne Co OH] in money; that after enlistment he gave her \$50 bounty and sent her \$90. " Mary and John SMITH were married 9 Nov 1823, record in family Bible. James went to work on the farm of Leander Smith about 2.5 miles from Wooster when he was 14 yrs old, living there for 4 yrs while his mother lived in Wooster. James provided his mother with every other cord of wood that she used, while a step son furnished most of the other half, and James provided other articles to Mary. After that, James went to work for Joseph Snyder [Joseph and Julia lived in Franklin Twp] on his farm and the money earned was paid to Mary. Leander Smith, upon his death, left a colt to James which he sold to Daniel Snyder. Leander Smith was the step-son of Mary and he died 4 Feb 1861.

Mary earned a very small amount of money by sewing. After James' death, Mary lived "around among her married daughters, having no home anywhere...." Mary Smith died 18 Mar 1883.

21 JN 1869, affidavit from William PLUMER.

"State of Ohio

County S.S.

Before the undersigned personally came William S. Plumer late a member of the 16th Ohio vol. Inf. and at present a member of the firm of "Pickens & Plumer" wholesale dealers, Toledo Ohio, who being duly sworn says: That on or about the 29th of October 1863 that James H. Smith who was a private in Co A. 120th O.V.I. with others and this affiant were put aboard the Steamer Cahaba at New Orleans, to be sent to New York via the Coast; that while on their way, between New Orleans and Key West, the said James H. Smith died on the 1st of Nov 1863 (on Sabbath) at about 6 O clock in the evening of the effects of chronic diarrhoea - that their said ship touched at Key West on the Tuesday following and the said James H. Smith to my certain knowledge was there buried in a church yard, and he further swears that he has no interest whatever in this claim. William S. Plumer"

Letter home written by James H. Smith, punctuation added for clarity but kept spelling the same:

March 1st 1863

Millikens bend Lous?

Dear friends, it is with pleasure that I seat myself to inform you that I am well and hope that these few lines will find you all enjoying the same pleasure. I received your letter on the 1st of march for the first one for about two months. the health of the regiment is a getting better. we can muster about 250 men now. you say the conscript law has past. well they can say we are coming father abriham six hundred thousand more fore to put this rebellion down, no compromise, no flinch till it is done. so tell the boys that don't want to submit to the law to hide them selvs till this rebellion is closed and then come out like a thief. for my part I don't know what is a going to be done heare. the gun boats is a shelling some every night but I don't know wat they do, but I suppose for to stop forage of the rebbls. Capt Eason sote a letter home that we hadent enough to eat but he lies like the dickens for we have had plenty to eat always sine? the fight. the weather is very warm heare now. the boys try to get in the shad[e] heare about noon. I sould like to step in to meeting in the new church some nite and see the folks again but I am well enough satisfied heare. I am a cooking this weak. you better believe that I a make things git [does he mean good?] we draw a loaf of bread, a piece each day and beef once a week and Cincinatti ciding onc and awhile, but that don't bother me at all. when you rite to me tell me about the draft in franklin township. and John if you are on the list come to our regiment and we will be to gather, for it will take about 200 men to filup our regiment now. mother that money that I got for you \$3 take it out of that money that that John got. I forgot it be fore and take all that you need. tell lyman that I am all right. sid up with care. and I hope that barney case has a good time at home but the ?dive I care in this glorius rebellion. well as I have not much to rit I wont rite much. tell the boys that I would like to see about six hundred thousand of them down heare before long. rite soon and tell hannah to rite to me fer the peopl in wagon Co think that the soldiers has nothing to do heare but they are fooled. So rite soon and tell me the nurse at home.

??? Millikens bend March 1st?

James H Smith 1863

in care of H. H. Eberhart

120 Regt OVI

Research by Susie Holderfield

2001-2015

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