JACOB CONRAD SMITH
Company "C"
133rd West Virginia
Militia

Died March 16, 1864
Camp Sumter, Andersonville, Georgia

JACOB CONRAD SMITH was born about 1833 in the part of Lewis County, (West) Virginia that became Upshur County in 1851. He was one of more than 30,000 men who served as "Home Guards" in the (West) Virginia Militia during the Civil War.

Serving in a State Militia was one way to support the cause of the Union. They guarded the railroads, fought the Rebel Guerrillas and, in general, protected their communities, usually on a part-time basis. Some of the men served in regular Union regiments, either before or after serving in the Militia.

Jacob C. Smith enrolled on August 19, 1862 in Company "C" 133rd Regiment West Virginia Militia and mustered in September 16.

The son of Joshua M. and Elizabeth D. (Henderson) Smith of Upshur County, Jacob Conrad Smith was one of at least twelve children. His siblings were: Henry F., Elizabeth A., Alpheus M., John H., Mary J., Ernestine A., Samantha, Marcelia A., James, George and Anna.

On October 7, 1854, in Upshur County, Jacob Conrad Smith married Elizabeth Willoughby, the daughter of Alfred Willoughby and Elizabeth "Betsy" Carter. By the time he began his service in the militia on September 16, 1862, he was the father of three children, George Coleman, Charles W. and Manda B., with another son, Jacob W., born on September 24.

A year later, on Saturday morning, September 12, 1863, Jacob was with his comrades of Company "C" as they practiced their drills in Centerville, Upshur County. The men were attacked by Rebels and nearly seventy were captured and taken prisoner. Jacob Conrad Smith was among them.

The men were marched to Richmond and sent to prison camps. Jacob Conrad Smith died at "Camp Sumter," more commonly referred to as "Andersonville," on March 16, 1864, making him one of the earliest inhabitants of the facility. He may have been held at Libby or Belle Isle Prisons, near Richmond, until Andersonville opened at the end of February 1864. Since he died so soon after his arrival, he may have been in a debilitated condition when he entered the gates. At that time, the prison was not actually completed and many of the prisoners completely lacked shelter. Of course, he might

have died for many other reasons, including murder.

Of the 68 men captured at Centerville, 45 of them perished, most of disease in the notorious Rebel prison camps.

Jacob Conrad Smith is one of the countless men not listed in the prisoner and death records at Andersonville. Neither the circumstances of his death nor his burial place is known.

In 1868, Elizabeth Smith filed a claim for a Federal pension, based on her husband's service in the 133rd Militia. Her children were under the age of sixteen and she apparently believed that she and her children were entitled to a pension, just as the widows and minor children of other soldiers were.

But the 133rd Militia was a STATE organization, not Federal, and her pension application was rejected. She received $79.73 from the State of West Virginia.

Jacob Conrad Smith and many of his comrades of Company "C" lost their lives during the Civil War, most in the wretched death camps of the south. But since they were in a State Militia, they did not qualify for the Civil War medals awarded by the State of West Virginia to all Union soldiers or their families.

The following are transcribed records from the pension application of Elizabeth Smith, #65,278, National Archives:

> The State of West Virginia,
> Adjutant General's Office,
> Wheeling, MARCH 11th, 1868
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> I certify that the name of JACOB C. SMITH, (a private) is borne upon the Muster of Co. C., 133rd Regiment West Virginia Militia as having been enrolled on the NINETEENTH day of AUGUST 1862, and mustered into the STATE service on the SIXTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER 1862.Upon the records of the said company on file in this office, the above named JACOB C. SMITH is reported as having been captured by the rebels at Centreville W. Va. on the Twelfth day of September 1863 and DIED IN REBEL PRISON AT ANDERSONVILLE, GA on the 16th day of March 1864. I further certify that ELIZABETH R. SMITH, representative of said Jacob C. Smith, was paid the sum of Seventy-nine dollars and seventy-three cents ($79.73) by the State of West Virginia on account of the services of the deceased.
>
> I. H. Duval, Adjutant General
> II.

JACOB CONRAD SMITH

State of West Virginia
UPSHUR County

On this 29th day of AUGUST 1868, personally appeared before me JACOB WAUGH Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the County and State aforesaid ELIZABETH R. SMITH, a resident of -, in the County of UPSHUR, in the State of WEST VIRGINIA aged 34 years, who being duly sworn, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the second section of the Act of Congress, increasing the Pensions of Widows and Orphans, approved July 25, 1866. That she is the widow of JACOB R. SMITH who was a PRIVATE in Company "C", commanded by CAPT GOULD, in the 133rd Regiment of WEST VIRGINIA STATE MILITIA in the war of 1861 and that by reason of his death in the service aforesaid she MADE HER APPLICATION UNDER THE ACT OF JULY 14th 1862 bearing date 29th AUGUST 1868. She further swears that she has the following named children of her deceased husband and herself under sixteen years of age, who are now living; the date of whose births were as given below, to-wit:

1. CHARLES W. SMITH born MAY the 18th 1856.
2. GEORGE C. SMITH born OCTOBER the 17th 1857.
3. MANDA B. SMITH born MAY the 6th 1860.
4. JACOB W. SMITH born SEPT 24th 1862.

She further declares that the above are all of the living children of her said husband who were under the age of 16 years at the passage of said act, and that she has not re-married since the death of her said husband nor has she abandoned the support of any one of the children above named, nor permitted any one of the same to be adopted by any other person or persons as his, her, or their child, and that she hereby appoints CHAS. MOLLOHAN, of Gallipolis, Ohio, her Attorney to prosecute this claim, and receive the certificate to be issued.

My Post Office address is SAGO, UPSHUR CO WVA
Signed ELIZABETH R. SMITH

The story of Company "C' of the 133rd Militia was an exceptional event.