

Nathaniel Jasper Smith Biographical Sketch (Father of Rosa Delphine “Della” Waggoner)

Nathaniel Jasper Smith was born March 1841¹ in Rushville, Schuyler Co, Illinois². He was the fourth of 11 children of Thomas Smith and Nancy Vice Smith.³ We know very little about his younger years, however, we do know that at age 21 he was a farmer in Johnson Township, Scotland County, Missouri.

The Civil War came to Northeast Missouri quickly with the Battle of Athens on August 5, 1861, 4 months after war was declared. Nathaniel was just 20 years old when this battle took place in the adjacent county to where he and his family lived and was about 30 to 40 miles from their farm. As a result of this battle, the 21st Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment was formed. Nathaniel's older brother, John C. Smith⁴, served as one of the original officers of Company H. His younger brother, Thomas Benton Smith, enlisted 8 months later. Then on Nov. 14, 1862, 7 months after Thomas, Nathaniel enlisted in the Union Army. He also was assigned to Company H of the 21st Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment and he was “Mustered” in on Dec. 23, 1862 at Benton Barracks⁵, St. Louis, MO. by Colonel Benjamin Bonneville. He was single when he enlisted, stood 5' 7”, had brown hair and dark gray eyes. The 21st Regiment fought in at least 25 major battles¹³ in 6 states (Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Louisiana). At the Battle of Pleasant Hill¹², Louisiana on April 9, 1864, the largest Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River, Nathaniel was seriously wounded and spent several weeks in the hospital in Memphis, TN. He then was on furlough for 60 days beginning June 6, 1864. While home on furlough, on July 3, 1864 he married Mary Elizabeth “Molly” Gleason⁶ in Memphis, Scotland Co, Missouri. He was “Mustered out” February 11, 1865. He and his brother Thomas Benton both maintained the rank of Private during their military service. It is believed another brother, Charles⁴, also served with them in Company H of the 21st Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment.⁷ Also his future brother-in-law, Samuel Cameron, was an officer in the 21st Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment⁴, who later married Nathaniel's oldest sister, [Alletha Missouri Smith](#).



Nathaniel and Molly started their family with the birth of twin girls, Etta and Effie, born August 8, 1867. They were followed by Sherman U. (Jan. 30, 1870); Warren W. (Aug. 10, 1871); **Rosie Delaphine** (June 6, 1875); Maggie Bell (Sept. 22, 1885) and Clarence (May 4, 1886). In 1875 when **Rosie Delaphine** was 2 months old⁸, the Smiths moved to Kansas in a covered wagon, more than likely traveling on the Santa Fe trail⁹. It is believed that they homesteaded in Sharps Creek (Marquette) Township, McPherson County, southwest of the town of Marquette.



His wife, Mary Elizabeth died on November 29, 1887 at 42 years old. Her 2 youngest were 1 and 2 years old at the time. The 1900 census shows Nathaniel living in Webster, Woodward Co, Oklahoma with his son Warren and family¹¹. Then the 1905 census has him residing with his son Sherman and family back in South Sharps Creek Township, McPherson Co, KS¹¹. There is one record

showing Nathaniel remarrying about 1905 to Sarah Jane Divine.¹¹ The 1910 census seems to agree with this, mentioning that he had been married 5 years. That census also shows both Nathaniel and Sarah Divine residing Coffeyville, Montgomery Co, KS¹¹.

Nathaniel died June 28, 1911 at 70 years of age. He was buried in Excelsior (or Baker's) Cemetery, South Sharps Creek Township, McPherson Co, Kansas. A military headstone marks his grave.

¹This date was listed in RootsWeb. <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=AHN&db=dsb&id=I33407> We used it here because it agrees with him being 21 years old in 1862 when he joined the Union Army as shown in his enlistment records, even though the Book of Remembrances¹⁰ list his birth in 1846 – p.2, p.14, p.15.

²There is some confusion over Nathaniel Smith's birth place. Book of Remembrances¹⁰ lists his birth place either as Mt Sterling, Iowa or in Indiana. His enlistment records show it as being Rush Co., IL. RootsWeb shows it as being in Rushville, Schuyler Co, Illinois. We have concluded Rushville, Schuyler Co, Illinois because (1) it is across the Mississippi east of Northeastern Missouri, about 100 miles from Scotland Co., MO where he enlisted. Also, his wife was born and raised in Memphis, MO, which is the county seat of Scotland Co., (2), his brother's (Thomas Benton Smith) enlistment record show he was born in Rushville, Schuyler Co, Illinois as well, and (3) it would be easy for Rush Co., IL and Rushville, Illinois to be confused, especially since there is no Rush County, IL. Thinking he was born in Indiana is possible since it appears his parents were born there.

³The 11 children of Thomas Smith and Nancy Vice Smith are as follows (from Book of Remembrances¹⁰, p.15.):

Alletha Missouri Smith
John C. Smith
Charles Newton Smith
Nathaniel Jasper Smith
Thomas Benton Smith
Belle Smith
Matilda Smith
Elizabeth Smit
Ann Smith
Edward Smith
Frank Smith

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dsb&id=I33409> lists 12 children, several with different spellings plus one more than above, an H. Smith, born about 1865.

⁴The web page: <http://mo21infantry.tripod.com/21coh.htm> has links to "Officers" of Company H, "Privates" of Company H and a list of "Additions" to Company H. John C. Smith, oldest brother of Nathaniel, is listed on the "Officers" page as is Samuel Cameron, his future brother-in-law. John C. rose from Second Sergeant to First Sergeant. We concluded he was Nathaniel's brother because (1) his name is the same and his age is right (3 years older than Nathaniel) for the John C. Smith that is listed in Book of Remembrances¹⁰, p.15, but born in Marion Indiana. His residence is listed as Scotland County, MO, the same as Nathaniel's.

Listed on the "Additions" page is a Charles N. Smith with very little information given. He would be 5 years younger than Nathaniel though the Book of Remembrances¹⁰ p.15 shows him older than Nathaniel. However <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dsb&id=I33408> shows him born in 1846, 5 years after Nathaniel.

⁵<http://www.thecivilwarmuse.com/index.php?page=benton-barracks> - Directions to Benton Barracks [Waypoint = N38 39.907 W90 13.223] which was located at the site of present day Fairground Park at the corner of Grand Blvd and Natural Bridge Blvd in St. Louis, Missouri 63107.

⁶[Click here](#) to see a copy of the recorded marriage license.

⁷All facts given here concerning Nathaniel's and his brother's enlistments were taken from: <http://mo21infantry.tripod.com/21cohpriv.htm>

⁸ This was taken from letters written to Ralph Waggoner by a relative whose family traveled with them and settled in Rice County, Kansas, adjacent to McPherson County on the west.

⁹Unless they had a reason to travel to southern Missouri, the Santa Fe trail would be the logical route to take since it began in northern Missouri and crossed through the center of McPherson County.

¹⁰ Berdie Randles Jacob's Book of Remembrances found at <http://www.13waggoners.com/genealogy.pdf> or in the menu of this website. Go to "Family Records" then "Berdie Jacob's (Edna) 1978 Book of Remembrances".

¹¹ Marriage to Sarah Jane Divine: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dsb&id=I33389> and <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dsb&id=I33556>

¹² There are several good online discussions of the Battle of Pleasant Hill including <http://www.battleofpleasanthill.com/history.asp> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Pleasant_Hill

¹³ Following is a more complete history of the Missouri 21st Regiment Infantry and is taken from: <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unmoinf3.htm#16> .

Organized February 1, 1862, from 1st and 2nd Northeast Regiments Missouri Infantry.
Attached to:
Dept. of Missouri to March, 1862.
1st Brigade, 6th Division, Army of the Tennessee, to July, 1862.
1st Brigade, 6th Division, District of Corinth, Miss., to November, 1862.
1st Brigade, 6th Division, Left Wing 13th Army Corps (Old), Dept. of the Tennessee, to December, 1862.
District of Columbus, Ky., 16th Army Corps, Dept. of the Tennessee, to May, 1863.
4th Brigade, District of Memphis, Tenn., 5th Division, 16th Army Corps, to January, 1864.
1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 16th Army Corps, to December, 1864.
1st Brigade, 2nd Division, Detachment Army of the Tennessee, Dept. of the Cumberland, to February, 1865.
1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 16th Army Corps (New), Military Division West Mississippi, to August, 1865.
Dept. of Alabama to April, 1866.

SERVICE

Ordered to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., March **1862**.
Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6-7.
Advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., April 29-May 30.
Occupation of Corinth and pursuit to Booneville May 31-June 12.
Duty at Corinth until September. Battle of luka September 19.
Battle of Corinth October 3-4. Pursuit to Ripley October 5-12.
Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign November, 1862, to January, **1863**.
On post and garrison duty at Columbus, Ky.; Union City, Tenn.; Clinton, Ky., and Memphis, Tenn., until January, **1864**.
Ordered to Vicksburg, Miss., January 26, 1864.
Actions with guerrillas at Islands Nos. 70 and 71, Mississippi River, while en route, January 29, on steamer "William Wallace,"
Meridian Campaign February 3-March 2.
Queen Hill February 4. Red River Campaign March 10-May 22.
Fort DeRussy March 14.
Occupation of Alexandria, La., March 16.
Battle of Pleasant Hill April 9.
About Cloutiersville April 22-24.
At Alexandria April 26-May 13.
Retreat to Morganza May 13-20. Mansura May 16.
Yellow Bayou May 18.
Moved to Vicksburg, Miss.. thence to Memphis, Tenn., May 22-June 10.
Action at Old River Lake or Lake Chicot June 5-6.
Smith's Expedition to Tupelo, Miss., July 5-21.
Camargo's Cross Roads, near Harrisburg, July 13.
Tupelo July 14-15. Old Town Creek July 15.
Smith's Expedition to Oxford, Miss., August 1-30.
Tallahatchie River August 7-9. Abbeville August 23.
Moved to Duvall's Bluff, Ark., September 1-6.
March through Arkansas and Missouri in pursuit of Price September 17-November 16.
Lone Jack November 1.
Moved to Nashville, Tenn., November 25 December 1.
Battle of Nashville December 15-16.
Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28.

Moved to Clifton, Tenn., thence to Eastport, Miss., January 2-7, **1865**, and duty there until February 9.

Moved to Vicksburg, Miss., thence to New Orleans, La., February 9-21.

Campaign against Mobile and its Defenses March 17-April 12.

Siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely March 26-April 8.

Assault and capture of Fort Blakely April 9.

Occupation of Mobile April 12.

March to Montgomery April 13-25, and duty there until June.

Moved to Mobile June 1. Duty at Mobile and other points in Alabama until April, 1866.

Mustered out April 19, 1866.

Regiment lost during service 2 Officers and 68 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 5 Officers and 234 Enlisted men by disease. Total 309.