

# SIMONSON, JOHN SMITH

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Born at Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1796.

Son of Dr. Adam Smith Simonson and \_\_\_\_\_, a daughter of Reverend Obediah Jennings.

Married, Elizabeth Watson at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_\_\_.

Children, Jane (Mrs. George V Howk), \_\_\_\_\_  
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Enlisted at the age of 17 and served in the Niagara frontier campaign, War of 1812, as **Sergeant, Captain N. Knapp's Company, Swift and Dobbins Regiment, New York Volunteers**; honorably discharged November 8, 1814; served as **member** of General Court Martial from November 9, 1814 to May 31, 1815; moved to Charlestown, Floyd County, Indiana, 1818; Member, Ohio State Senate, 1828-30; Member, Ohio House of Representatives, 1841-46, and Speaker, 1846; commissioned Captain, Company G, U.S. Mounted Rifles, May 27, 1846; participated in the siege of Vera Cruz, Mexico, March, 1847, and the battles that followed; Brevet **Major** for gallant and meritorious conduct at the Battle of Chapultepec, where he commanded the Regiment after the fall of Colonel Loring and where he was wounded, September 13, 1847; distinguished himself in the attack on the Belen Gate, City of Mexico.

After the Mexican War he served in Oregon, 1849-51, and in Texas, 1852-55; arrived at Fort Union, N.M., November, 1856, and was at Fort Bliss, Texas, from January to March, 1857, went via Fort Thorn to a depot on the Gila River where he was stationed from May to July, 1857; returned to Fort Thorn and was on leave

of absence and sick from November, 1857, to August, 1858; traveled via Santa Fe and rejoined his Regiment at Fort Craig in October, 1858; in camp on the San Juan River in June and stationed at Fort Defiance from July to September, 1859; at Fort Union, N.M., from October, 1859, to August, 1860, when he was granted 14 months leave; promoted Colonel, 3d U.S. Cavalry, May 13, 1861; retired for disability resulting from exposure in line of duty, September 28, 1861.

Recalled to active duty and served during the Civil War -----, as Superintendent of Volunteer Recruiting Service at Indianapolis, Indiana; Brevet Brigadier General for long and faithful service in the Army, March 13, 1865; died at New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana, December 5, 1881, aged 85; buried Charlestown Cemetery, Charlestown, Clark County, Indiana.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rebellion Records, Series I, Vol. 31; Series II, Vol. 5, 6; Series III, Vol. 2.

Heitman, F.B. - Historical Register and Dictionary, U.S. Army, 1900, p. 888

Gardner, C.K. - Dictionary of the Army of the U.S., N.Y., 1860, p. 409.

Bancroft, H.H. - History of Arizona and New Mexico, S.F., 1889, p. 676.

Cyclopaedia of American Biography, N.Y., 1915, Vol. 5.

The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service records.

Hadden - History of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, pp. 36, 152, 226, 236, 676.

The Army and Navy Journal, December 10, pp. 401, Col. 1, 418, Col. 3, and December 17, 1881, p. 426, Col. 3.

#### WANTED

1. Obituaries in the New Albany Daily Ledger and other newspapers. not avail-  
able
2. The maiden name of his wife and when and where they were married. Elizabeth Watson; not known where married or date.
3. The given names of his children and the names of husbands of married daughters. Samuel W. Simonson and Jane S. Howk, Judge George V. Houck
4. The name of the cemetery where he was buried. Charlestown, Ind. Cemetery.