

## Ovid Wellford “James” Smith



<b>Born</b>	November 9, 1844 Fredericksburg, Virginia
<b>Died</b>	January 28, 1868 (Aged 23) Columbus, Ohio
<b>Allegiance</b>	 United States of America
<b>Service/branch</b>	 United States Army
<b>Years of service</b>	1861 - 1866
<b>Rank</b>	Private
<b>Unit</b>	 Company I, 2nd Ohio Infantry
<b>Battles/wars</b>	Great Locomotive Chase
<b>Awards</b>	 Medal of Honor

**Ovid Wellford “James” Smith** (November 9, 1844 to January 28, 1868) was a Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. He served during the Civil War as a Private in Company I, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Member of the Andrews Raiders.

Enlisted at the age of 16 by claiming he was 22. Volunteered for the Raid. Enrolled as James Smith without parents' knowledge or permission in Company. I, 2nd Ohio Infantry Regiment on August 15, 1861, Circleville, Ohio. Mustered September 3, 1861 at Camp Dennison, Ohio. Appointed Corporal, September 25, 1862. Discharged October 10, 1864, Camp Chase, Ohio, expiration of term of service.

He volunteered for the Andrews Raid on April 7, 1862. Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor as one of the raiders even though, like raiders Hawkins and Porter, he was never on the "General." The youngest of the volunteers for the Andrews Raid, little was known about Private Smith despite his award of the Medal of Honor.

Detained enroute to Big Shanty by Confederate Army, joined the Confederate Army to avoid suspicion, and missed the chase part of the Raid. Smith was captured near Huntsville, Alabama, and did not participate in the remainder of the raid.

He was imprisoned in Swims Jail in Chattanooga because his partner Llewellyn escaped their Confederate unit. Eventually, he escaped back to his Union Army unit. After Smith escaped, he participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Missionary Ridge. Mustered out of the Army in 1864 due to ill health. He was awarded the Medal of Honor on July 6, 1864.

He later moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he died of pneumonia on January 28, 1868.

Family links:

Parents:

Samuel Chandler Smith (1796 - 1880)

Mary Griffith Smith (1804 - 1889)

**Siblings:**

Lewis Smith (1820 - 1864)

Tacy Amelia Smith Boardman (1826 - 1899)

Caroline Emily Smith (1829 - 1881)

Elizabeth Maylen Smith Sprigg (1830 - 1918)

Howard M Smith (1832 - 1900)

Elon Galusha Smith (1834 - 1914)

Philander K. Smith (1842 - 1902)

**Citation**

One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta.