The Patriot Timothy Smith was a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends, a religious group informally known as Quakers. His commitment to pacifism, one of the tenets of Quakerism, was put to the test when the Revolutionary War started in 1775. Believing that war and conflict were against God’s wishes, Quakers disowned some of Smith’s extended family members for bearing arms or supporting war measures. At age 32, Smith decided to remain faithful to his religion while demonstrating allegiance to the Patriot cause by joining the Continental Army in a non-combatant role: as a teamster responsible for transporting vital supplies to military forces.
Washington’s enormous challenges involved transportation—infantrymen failed, as those soldiers lacked the skills needed to drive the wagons and care for the horses. To solve the issue, General Washington approved a proposal to enlist teamsters for the duration of the war, creating a professional organization to deliver supplies in a timely manner. A Wagon Department, subordinate to the Quartermaster General, was created in 1777 with full responsibility for overland transportation.

On September 15, 1779, Smith joined Captain Israel Burrows’ Team Brigade, part of the Wagon Department. Burrows’ Brigade consisted of eight four-horse wagons maintained in Trenton, N.J. In 1780, Smith enlisted again for six to nine months. By 1780, according to historian Erna Risch in her book, *Supplying Washington’s Army* (University of Michigan Library, 1981), “the Wagon Department had 11 deputy wagonmasters general, 108 men specifically enlisted as wagonmasters, three soldiers serving as wagonmasters, 156 enlisted wagoners, 104 wagoners taken from among the soldiery, and 272 hired wagoners.”

**Post-War Life**

Not much is known about Smith’s day-to-day service as a teamster, but after the war, he and his family lived in Burlington County until they moved to Washington County, Pa., in 1789. The Smiths and their seven children were enumerated in the U.S. census of 1790 in Franklin Township, Fayette County, Pa. In 1794, they moved to Redstone Township in Fayette County, where land records indicate Smith bought and sold large land holdings. Sarah died there in 1803.

Five years after Sarah’s death, the Quaker Redstone Monthly Meeting granted Smith permission to return to Shrewsbury and marry Hannah Williams, who was 15 years his junior. It is likely that they knew each other when Smith lived in Shrewsbury, as they attended the same Quaker meetings. He stayed in Shrewsbury for two years, and they were married there in 1810 in a Quaker ceremony. After the marriage, Smith sold his properties in Fayette County, and they moved to Cumberland Township, Greene County, Pa., where records show he purchased around 400 acres between 1810 and 1822.

Smith died in Greene County in 1822 at age 75. On April 19, 1822, executors Daniel Smith and Job Garey filed the inventory of his considerable estate, which included a horse, cattle, books and a bookcase, a desk and other furnishings. The inventory also showed stock in the Monongahela Bank as well as debts owed to him.

After he died, Hannah went to live with one of Smith’s sons by his first marriage, Micajah, and his wife Esther in Gladesville, W.Va. Hannah died there in 1842 and is buried near the couple in the Gladesville graveyard.

---

*Ellen E. Stanley, member of Abigail Wright Chamberlin Chapter, Melbourne, Fla., is a descendant of Timothy Smith.*