REEL 5

Collection Title THE PAPERS OF SAMUEL SMITH

Series and/or Container

Shelf/Accession No. MSS 18,974

86-38 (rev 4/75)

Smith, Samuel, 1752-1839.
Family papers, 1772-1911. ca. 3100 items.

Army officer, merchant, U.S. Representative and Senator from Maryland, and mayor of Baltimore. Correspondence, letterbooks, military and political papers, notebooks, diaries, financial and legal papers, writings, printed matter, and other papers, chiefly 1777-1865. Includes papers, 1772-1850, of Samuel Smith relating to such topics as trade and tariffs, the rechartering of the Bank of the United States, the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812, the business of the U.S. Senate,

(continued on next card)

relations with Great Britain and France, and Maryland politics; papers, 1804-1867, of Smith's son John Spear Smith (ca. 1790-1866) relating to diplomatic service in Russia and Great Britain and Confederate military activities in Virginia during the Civil War; and papers, 1796-1830, of Samuel Smith's brother Robert (1757-1842) relating to his service as Secretary of State and his various real estate investments in Baltimore. Correspondents

(continued on next card)

include John Q. Adams, Nicholas Biddle, James Brown, John C. Calhoun, Churchill C. Cambreleng, Henry Clay, William H. Crawford, Albert Gallatin, Christopher Hughes, Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, Joseph Kent, Edward Livingston, Louis McLane, James Madison, James Monroe, John Montgomery, Robert Morris, John Nelson, Robert Carter Nicholas, Wilson Cary Nicholas, William Pinkney, Thomas J. Randolph, Richard Rush, Jonathan Russell,

(continued on next card)

Robert Carter Smith, Aaron Vail, Martin Van Buren, James Wilkinson, and Levin Winder.

Gift of Robert Hill Carter and B. Noland Carter, 1952; additional purchases and transfers, 1904-1970.

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Biography of Gen. Samuel Smith
to his resignation
May 1779

1834

General Samuel Smith.

A Sketch of the ~~[illegible]~~ life of General Samuel Smith ~~[illegible]~~ ~~given for [illegible]~~ during the war of the Revolution.

He was born in Carlisle in Pennsylvania on the 27 day of July 1752, he is now 82 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, his person erect, his mind unimpaired, his memory perfect; animated in debate as his last speeches in the Senate of the United States in 1832 have shown. His grandfather of the same name was left by his father Hugh (an Englishman) in independent circumstances; ~~he~~ for emigrated from Ireland in 1721, settled in Lancaster County, Pen. was elected High Sheriff of that County ten out of twenty years, he purchased lands, made an Establishment and sent for his wife and his son John, then six years of age, ~~the father of the General~~ ~~[illegible]~~ who on coming of age married Mary Buchanan the daughter of Rev Buchanan, ~~who had~~ also ~~was elected~~ high sheriff of the same County. ~~[illegible]~~ years alternately. ~~The grandfather~~ Gen. ~~[illegible]~~ the first born of this marriage, John Smith, received from his father, a mill and plantation, which he sold and removed to Carlisle, then a frontier town; he had built the first house in that beautiful Borough; he there commenced business as a merchant, and was very successful. His house was the head quarters of General Stanwix after Braddocks defeat. He had been elected for a series of years to the Legislature of Pennsylvania ~~and called to be elected as his associate Mr Allen of Philadelphia~~.

The General was sent to the Latin School of the Rev Mr Duffield at six years of age, and had got as far as the sixth Aeneid of Virgil when ~~he had just passed his eighth year~~ at that period September 1760, his father removed to Baltimore, took with him a capital of forty thousand dollars, and commenced business as a merchant. His arrival with that of his brothers in law Mr Buchanan & Mr Smith and Mr Steele & Mr William Spears, who were all men of capital gave the first impulse to the commerce of Baltimore then a small town, having not more than 18 or 20 houses west of the [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~

father was elected with J. T. House as members from Baltimore to form the Constitution of the State Government in 1776 and afterwards represented the City for several years in the House of Delegates. – There being at that time no schools in Baltimore he was sent to an excellent academy at Little Elk (afterwards removed to Newark) where he remained about two years, ~~and had nearly attained to the same points in Pingle, on the sixth Ennid~~, when he was called home to a school established in Baltimore, at which he continued until he had passed 14 years of age, he had gone through the latin and some of the greek classics. He has always complained that the frequent change of schools had prevented his education from being as good as it ought to have been. From the school he was placed in his fathers counting house, where he remained until he had passed the age of nineteen. In May 1772 he embarked in a ship of his fathers (placed under his control) laden with flour for account of the French Government, on arrival at Havre de Grace the Ship with her cargo were ordered to London and from thence to Bristol, where she discharged and was there chartered by him to take a cargo from Falmouth to Penice. The intention of his father, was, that he should be placed in the counting house of his correspondents in London; he however, believed that he would derive no benefit from that plan, and he embarked in the Ship on her voyage to Penice, the passage was short, a pilot was taken on board in sight of the City who ran the Ship on shore, the shock unshipped the rudder, and after getting off the ground, she became unmanageable, and was filling fast with water, the lives were all saved, they landed from the boats on the island of Malamocco, from whence after three days, they were permitted to go to Penice, where he remained eight weeks during the Carnivals, thence he proceeded to Rome and witnessed the last two weeks of the Carnivals, during which the Theatres were opened – he spent a month in Rome, daily engaged in visiting all the public and private buildings of note, from Rome he proceeded to Leghorn, Pisa, Genoa, Nice and Marseilles, staying sufficient time at each place for his objects; from Marseilles he went to Barcelona, and thence through Valencia, Alicante Granada and Malaga to Gibraltar, where he remained three weeks and was treated with great attention by General Elliott, by whom, and Officers was directed to shew him all the works of that stupendous fortification – he continued his travels to Cadiz and thence through Seville, Badajos & Elvas to Lisbon, where he remained two months, and at the invitation of Capt Bennet embarked on board the Alborough Sloop of War and after a tempestuous passage in the month of January arrived safe at Plymouth – on his arrival in London he was informed that his father had taken him into partnership, he visited a great part of England, purchased goods for the new concern, and embarked on board the St George in company with a Major Gordon and arrived in Philadelphia on the day that the first Congress met, viz on the 4th day of September 1774. – The General continued until January 1776 successfully employed in commerce, he had joined an independent Company of young gentlemen under Capt Gist, was soon made a Sergeant and subsequently Adjutant to the Company. – On the 3 day of Jany 1776 the General received a commission as Captain in Smallwood's Regiment raised for the service of the State – three companies were stationed at Baltimore under the command of Major Mordecai Gist (afterwards a Brigadier General) they were disciplined by the General Thos Capt Smith, whilst in

that situation he was ordered by Mayor Gist, at the request of the Committee of Safety of Baltimore, to proceed to Annapolis in a small Schooner to prevent the escape of Governor Eden, and on his arrival to present his dispatches to the Council of Safety, and take its orders - he performed that service and was received very coolly by the Council, who considered itself insulted by a subordinate body undertaking to act on a subject of such high importance - his orders were to return immediately - the conduct of the Baltimore Committee was induced by a letter ~~from~~ to that body from General Charles Lee ~~Lutton~~ then in command at Charleston S. C. handing a copy of an intercepted letter from Governor Eden of an obnoxious character, with his advice, "that the Governor should be arrested and held until exchanged for any Officer of high rank, who might thereafter be taken by the Enemy." Mr Samuel Purviance (Chairman of the Baltimore Committee ~~then~~) Mayor Gist and Capt Smith were summoned to appear before the Convention held at Annapolis to answer for this alleged assumption of power; Mr Purviance was reprimanded, the two officers were justified as military men acting under the orders of a known civil authority. The State armed S[illegible] was ordered to drive off a British Sloop of War which had appeared [illegible] off the mouth of the Patapsco annoying the Bay craft, in which Capt. Smith (at his request) embarked with his Company - the Sloop however had gone down the Bay and no action took place. — Small[illegible]wods Regiment was taken into the service of the United States, and marched in July 1776 to join the main army under Gen[illegible]ral Washington, there at

at the battle of Long Island the Regiment with the Delaware battalion comprising a force not exceeding 1200 men under the commands of General Lord Stirling took possession of a commanding position on the extreme right of the American army; it was opposed to a force exceeding 3000 men under the command of Genl Grant who (when Col Grant) had said in the House of Commons, that, with 5000 men he could march from one end of the Country to the other, he had served in America in the war of 1756; he however made no attack except a little skirmishing during the day; in the evening a scouting party brought in a Sergeant and ten or fifteen Grenadiers, from whom information was received that the left and main body of the American army had been defeated, and that they had been securing the field for Stragglers - a retreat was immediately ordered, and was made most injudiciously in files - where the Regiment mounted a rising hill, a British Captain appeared as if alone, in a hollow of the roads, he waved his hat, and it was supposed that he meant to surrender, where he clapped his hands three times, on which signal his Company rose and gave a heavy discharge - the three Companies in front broke, Capt Smith wheeled his company into platoons and was advancing to the attack, when he was ordered by Lord Stirling to form in line, his Lordship went to the left of the Regiment and ordered three Companies to cross the roads, where he was taken prisoner, the men surrounded and almost all killed, for the Hessians gave no quarter on that day - the loss of the Regiment was about 250 - the residue got off as best they could - Capt Smith took his Company through a marsh until he was stopped by the dams of a ~~little mill~~ tide mill, then filled and two deep for the men to ford, he and a sergeant swam over and got two stabs into the waters on the ends of which they forced over all who could not swim, he found the Regiment in a

very strong redoubt with a small outpost in front
he was ordered, Col. Smallwoods and Lt Col. Ware have
the Regiment. They had been on a Picket Martial and the
Regiment had in consequence been commanded by Major Gist
during the action, about midnight one of the corporals informed
Capt. Smith that he had been up and down the lines and not
a man was to be seen - in consequence he sent his two lieutenants
to go up and down the lines, on their return, they reported that
all the troops had gone; where they knew not, in consequence
he removed his Company into the main redoubt; he presumed,
that he had been left as a forlorn hope, he was however relieved
by the arrival of Col. Ware, who told him that the Regiment
was by that time in New York and ordered him to march for the
ferry; he passed Genl Washington who asked him how it happened
he was so late, he answered that he had received no order until
a few minutes past, he arrived in time to embark in the last
boat, and had scarcely got off from the wharf, when the British
light horse appeared on the hills and fired their carbines without
doing any injury to his men. The Regiment marched
immediately to Harlem about eight miles from the City where
it lay encamped ~~about a quarter~~ ~~after~~ until the enemy landed on York
Island; it then moved to the height ~~[illegible]~~ near Fort Washington pitched their tents and
advanced to the heights of Harlem to cover the militia retreating
along the North River - the enemy made no advance that
day, and the Regiment returned at night to their encampment
a smart skirmish took place the next day between a Virginia
Regiment and a detachment of the enemy, Smallwoods Regiment
was ordered to reinforce but did not march, the enemy had
retired; a few days thereafter, the army marched to the White
plains, Smallwoods Regiment covered the rear and halted
within about a mile of the lines once encamped on a commanding
hill, the river Bronx running between it and the enemy, Capt

Smith conversed with a British Officer on the river's banks, ~~in~~ ~~inviting him to engaging for his friend~~ ~~they parted~~ ~~[illegible]~~ and
advised him to retire lest he might be shot by the Yagers
over whom he had no control - early next morning an order
to march immediately was received, the men were eating but
had to leave their kettles without eating - the Regiment took
a strong position on a high hill - the enemy occupied a hill
equally high, the Bronx running in a deep valley between
them, General McDougal a brave and gallant officer commanded
the detachment consisting of Smallwoods Regiment, the Delaware
battalion, the New York and a Connecticut Regiment making a
force not exceeding two thousand men - a cannonade commenced
the enemy showed few men, ~~the Americans in full view sitting~~
~~or laying down~~, the enemy's object appeared to be to dismount
the artillery, one the rear of which was Capt. Smith's Company,
a ball struck the ground and on its rebound took off the head
of Sergeant Westbay over the shoulder of Capt. Smith - a column
of Hessians drew down towards a ford on the right, and the
Regiment marched to meet them, ~~a peasant had the left of~~
~~his nose shot off, he exclaimed "Goe damn them they dont~~
~~come here they shoot"~~ the Hessians appeared to hesitate and
not to be disposed to ford the river; where the British ~~grenadiers~~ grenadiers
came down and the Colonel was heard distinctly to order the Hessians
to open to the right and left and make room for the British grenadiers
to pass - the grenadiers crossed the river; it was a gallant sight to see
them steadily, without a flutter march up a very steep hill exposed
to a constant roar of cannon and musquetry, until they had attained the
summit, where the Americans overpowered by numbers were compelled
to save themselves as best they could; Capt. Smith being on the left
was not apprized of their departure, he was so deeply engaged that
he escaped with great difficulty, his men saving themselves by his orders.
The Officers of the Regiment carried guns and in the acts of firing, Capt.
Smith's left arm was struck by a spent ball, he thought it had

him broke his hands by shaking that it was not and he continued in his post, on his retreat he stopped with two men behind a stone fence and they took deliberate aim at an advanced party of the enemy, he visited the spot afterwards and found blood; whilst there he witnessed a most gallant act of Capt. Lilly of the Massachusetts artillery, he had placed his guns on the knoll of a hill, the light horse there made a charge on him, he kept his fire until they were within fifty yards of him and then discharged his four pieces; horses and men fell, and those who were left, scattered. he took his guns safe into the lines, Genl. Smith mentioned the facts to the elder Adams, who gave him a Captaincy in the provisional army. Capt. Smith overtook Colonel Smallwood, he had been shot through the wrist, he left one man with him, and with the other he went to a hay stack, behind which he collected about one hundred ~~men~~ stragglers, and marched them within the lines. In passing (in company with Lieutenant Plunkit, brother of the celebrated Lord Plunkit Lord Chancellor of Ireland) a New England Regiment, - the men eating; a young private rose and said, I guess you have been in the action? yes; and may be you have eat nothing to day? No - not for 24 hours. the men all rose and eat no more until ~~they~~ we had satisfied ~~their~~ our hunger. General Washington was near with his suite which drew some shot from the enemy. ~~General Smith has always said, that he on that day had eaten himself into the General's notice, and thereby obtained the command of that Island the succeeding year. Capt. Smith had been previously known to General Washington.~~ In the action of the White plains Smallwoods Regiment lost 104 men about one fifth of their whole number. — The baggage having been sent into the interior, the army followed, and the enemy marched upon Fort Washington, Smallwoods Regiment (after a few days rest) crossed the North River and on its march met an express from General

Green to Major Gist (then in command of the Regiment) to hasten his march to Fort Lee, thence to cross the rivers for the defence of Fort Washington at that time attacked by the enemy; another order came soon after to march to Hackensack; Fort Washington having surrendered. Fort Lee on the right bank of the North River having been evacuated, the enemy crossed and appeared before the town - the houses which contained military stores were set fire to and the Regiment retired to Aquacanunk bridge where it halted some days, Major Gist, Captains Stone and Smith were deputed to write one General Washington then at Newark - they informed him that the Regiment and Delaware Battalion were reduced to 250 Men who were worn down with fatigue and guard duty, and requested that it might be relieved by some other Regim.t the General said in answer "I can assign no other Regiment in which I can place the same confidence and I request you will say so to your gallant Regiment" - on this answer being told to the Regiment (formed in a circle for the purpose) the men gave three cheers and declared their readiness to submit to every fatigue and danger - the baggage having been sent on, the Officers had each only one shirt, Capt. Smith carried a knapsack and had had two, one of them was lost (whilst washing) - on the appearance of a reconnitering party of the enemy, the Regiment retired the next day and halted a day or two near Amboy, (where Capt. Smith received a visit from Col.l M. Allen of Philadelphia on his return from the North, he observed "When we entered the service of our Country we meant not independence; I intend to resign, and advise you to pursue the same course" certainly since Capt. Smith I meant not independence when I entered

the army, but I went from the whole and whatever Congress determines I will obey, besides I think the declaration, right and wise - they separated Col Allen resigned and went to England where he died. - The Regiment continued its retreat to Brunswick where the main army then was, the bridges were broken down and the main body pursued its retreat to the Delaware, leaving Small=
=woods and the Delaware battalion to cover the retreat - the enemy appeared and after some skirmishing the corps retired at night - the rain fell in torrents and the march was dreadful, many of the men were exhausted and remained behind, the night was very dark, the roads made deep by the artillery and wagons which had passed; every step above the ancle and many to the knee - the Regiment got to Rocky Hill about day light having marched all night; and halted there a day or two, until the enemy's parties began to appear, it then retreated and arrived at Trenton about midnight, the army had all passed the Delaware except General Washington his suite and guard, he passed the river and the Regiment landed on the opposite shore about day light having eaten nothing all the preceding day; its numbers reduced by battles, sickness and desertion to ninety men and a few officers. It may not be improper here to state that ~~to correct and error in Marshall's history of the life of Washington, he supposed that~~ the retreat of the army through Jersey ~~had~~ if ~~been~~ was covered by the 3d Virginia Regiment, ~~(he was led into the error by that~~ A Regiment having been the rear Regiment of the main army - ~~when~~ whilst Smallwoods and the Delaware ~~Regiments~~ Battalion had always been from six to twelve miles in the rear of the whole; ~~of this fact General Smith approving Judge Marshall's~~

~~some years past, but not of the cause of the error for he had not then known it, he came to its knowledge incidentally afterwards and he regretted that he had not communicated it to the Judge before his second edition was published.)~~ - Congress had ordered each State to supply its quota of troops. Maryland to furnish seven Regiments. In the last days of December 1776, Capt Smith a day or two after passing the Delaware received a commission of Lieutenant Colonel to the 4th Regiment to be commanded by Col Josias Carvell - its Major the afterwards celebrated Col Howards, and returned to Baltimore where he commenced the recruiting the new Regiment - early in the year 1777 he joined the army, the seven Maryland Regiments, the Delaware and a Regiment called the Congress's own, under Col Hazen formed a division under the command of Major General Sullivan and were encamped near Morris Town in Jersey, ten or twelve miles from Elizabeth Town, - the main force of the enemy having gone to sea, an expedition was planned to attack his post on Staten Island, and badly executed by Sullivans division. Col Ogden who was riding the Island crossed at the Blazing Star ferry made some prisoners and had recrossed by the time the division had got on the Island opposite Elizabeth Town - some of the enemy escaped in boats, few were seen and none were taken. The division assembled at the Blazing Star ferry and commenced passing, Col Smith passed in the last boat, having Major Jack Stuart with about 100 men, who fought a force from New York most gallantly, until overpowered by numbers, he was made prisoner and put on board the dreadful prison ship, from which he escaped by descending silently and swimming to the

I now shod. Col Smith was particularly attached to Major Stuart, they had fought a duel - he went with a flag of truce and delivered a bill on London for £25 Stg to a British Officer who honorably conveyed it to Major Stuart - the division soon after marched to join the main army, which had assembled to meet the enemy then arrived in the Chesapeake - it halted at Chester, Col Smith had been Officer of the day, and on his return to head quarters, he found that Genl Sullivan had assembled the field officers of the division - the General addressed them in a complimentary manner, and said, that he had been informed that some of them had written to their friends in Congress censuring his conduct in the attack on Staten Islands - no one answered, for they had previously determined not to answer. Col Smith not being apprized of that determination rose and said "I wrote my uncle William Smith who is a member of Congress, but who I am certain has never shown my letters, but I will if you desire it, state what I thought and may have written - the Genl expressed his desire to hear the statements; the Colonel in the strongest terms, but in polite language, gave a full view of the errors which he considered had been committed, from that moment General Sullivan honorably and magnanimously winded the warmest attachment to Col Smith.

The American army had taken a very strong position at Chad's Ford; had thrown up some works and field lines - the enemy approached and marched up the Brandywine General Knyphausen had been detached and appeared, his force about 5000 men, on his appearance opposite Chads Ford Col Ramsay of the Maryland Line crossed the river skirmishing

with and drove the Jagers - Genl Washington had determined to cross the Brandywine and destroy that division of the enemy and every Regiment had been prepared to pass, when he received false information, changed his plan, and leaving a force to keep Knyphausen in check he advanced to meet the main army of the enemy under General Howe - the Battle of Brandywine was fought on the 11 September 1777 most gallantly on the right under the immediate commands of Genl Washington, Sullivans division on the extreme left was marched through a narrow lane, the first Brigade (column) marched through a gate way to the top of a hill under a galling fire from the enemy, thus bringing the rear to the front, pressed by the enemy, they had no time to form and gained way at all points - the seconds Brigade formed in a valley in its rear - it was said, that a retreat had been ordered, Col Smith who was on the left of the 4th Regiment knew not of any such order, and to his great astonishment found himself left with Lieutenant Cromwell and about thirty men, he saw no enemy he retired deliberately - Col Hazens regiment retreated in perfect order - in passing thro a field of high corn, Col Smith discovered a flanking party of the enemy, he checked them by two fires from his small number and received one from them, by which he lost one man by a shot in the heels, some of the men left him, and he retired almost alone to the top of a high hill on which he stopped and rallied nearly 1000 men formed them into companies ~~and regiments and~~ and remained until near sun set - the Tendered the command to General de Borre a french officer who had commanded the seconds Brigade, he declined the command and showed some scratches on his cheek which he said had been done

by the English firing fish hooks - more probably by the briars - Colo Smith applied to a quaker farmer to guide him to the road leading to Chester, which he refused, until a pistol was presented to his breast; he then complied, saying meekly "Thou art a violent man" on parting Colo Smith thanked him, he answered, "I want no thanks, thee forced me" - The Colo got into Chester at 8 O'Clock at night and the men joined their respective corps. - The army remained several days at Chester and then advanced to the Lancaster road a short distance from the Schuylkill Bridge - the enemy advanced and an action was expected, when a heavy rain began, and the army marched at sunset for a ford on the Schuylkill, Sullivans division arrived early next morning - the rain had fallen in torrents during the whole night which had caused the division to halt - the river had risen and the men inspected up to the arm pits - the short men were saved by the officers on horses who placed themselves below the columns passing. The day after passing the Schuylkill an officer from Head quarters called on Colo Smith and ordered him to be on the grand parade at 8 O'Clock that night, that he was to have an honorable command which might keep him from his Regiment some time, and therefore it would be proper to take his servant and baggage, on his arrival at the parade he found a detachment consisting of Major Ballard (of Pirg^a) Major Thayer of Rhode Island, Capt Treat of the artillery and his Lieutenant with 200 ~~men~~ infantry and suitable company officers - his guide was Aaron Levering a respectable ~~farmer~~ Farmer of Germantown — the detachment inspected the Delaware at Bristol and arrived at night & the next day at a point which he ~~w~~ supposed was that of Gloucester where it embarked on a raft made of pine logs with a small row boat a head - it dropped down with the ebb tide - in passing the Ame[illegible]

Frigate he was hailed and a boat sent for Colo Smith by his old acquaintance Capt Robinson, who sent him in his best barge to Mud Island, on his arrival there he found a Captain, a Lieut and forty Philadelphia militia ~~all a-board~~, his men arrived safe the raft was secured and was afterwards of great service - the next day the Colonel received a visit from Commodore Hazlewood, who commanded the State flotilla of row gallies mounting heavy guns, and gun boats with four pounders on their bows, the Commodore and Colonel visited Province Island together, Colo Smith, ~~pointed to a high spot near the dyke~~, as that which the enemy would probably occupy. The Commodore replied a Mosquito could not live there under the fire of my guns. — Colo Smith found himself at the age of 25 years unskilled in every thing relative to the defence of fortifications, having to rely entirely on his own energies for the defence of a fort, walled with raw stone opposite to the Jersey shore and the approach by the river, stockaded with pine logs fifteen inches thick opposite Province Island and the approach from above flanked by three wooden block houses mounting eight pounds French guns in their upper story - an open platform on which were mounted eighteen pounders pointing down the river, and one 32 pounder, the only gun that pointed on Province Island, where he expected the enemy to establish himself, his detachment had no artillerists except the two Officers - Thus situated he selected sixty of his stoutest men, who were soon drilled to the guns by those Officers - there was a deficiency of every materials, powder, balls &c from which the Colonel concluded, that it had not been expected that he could hold the post long; he immediately wrote to Genl Washington, that he could hold the place and requested a supply of what he deemed necessary and particularly of two artillery

Sergeants, his request was complied with - the two sergeants arrived; one of them, Porter was a most efficient man, brave and indefatigable, his conduct was such that on the recommendation of Col Smith he was promoted, continued to rise and held the commission of Brigadier General during the late war - the enemy established himself at the Hospital on Province Island, where was his main force, and by a detachment supplied daily ~~[illegible]~~ H. Mill-y on the spot that Col S had expected about 600 yards from the stockade, in which he placed one howitzer and a few 18 pounders - the first shell from the howitzer appeared to alarm the Militia, the Colonel thought they would be of little service and dismissed them - a few days after Col Smith had received the command, he was visited by Mr Paine (the author of common sense) who observed, that the enemy would erect a battery at the brick house on the hill above the meadow, and with ~~[illegible]~~ Rifle shot dismount the guns on the battery the distance was too great to cause any apprehension, but the idea immediately occurred to Col Smith that his battery might be enfiladed from Province Island and his guns dismounted and he immediately erected traverses between the guns with the pine logs of the roofs and filled them with earth well rammed which was found to be efficient and actually saved his guns from injury, which otherwise would have been dismounted as many shot actually lodged in the first traverse. Col Smith saw that in case of an attack from the Ships, there was no place of safety for his men, he therefore raised a work of the pine logs six feet high secured at each end with similar logs, the whole filled in with earth well rammed; it was afterwards found a perfect security when attacked by the Ships, not a man was hurt, altho many shot reached that work and were buried in

fowling piece, you appear to look at that piece affectionately; yes, it was given to me by my father, where I parted with him and a slight tears on mentioning his father appeared - the fowling piece is yours again, you may find use for it against our guns - the Col gave him a certificate to protect the gun, but he told him at York (Penna) where he afterwards saw him that his certificate was no protection against a Jersey militia man, who took it from him soon after he landed on the Jersey shore. It occurred to Col Smith, that two guns above the enclosure might play on the enemy's battery with great effect and two 18 pounders from the battery were removed with great labour, the fire was opened and dismounted one of the enemy's guns, almost the first shot from him broke off the muzzle of one of our guns, and the second or third silenced the other by carrying away a trunnion and thus was our labour lost; fortunately the 32 pounder never received the slightest injury - the north west Block house was blown up twice by shells and some men who had been there in violation of positive orders were killed or dreadfully wounded - the barracks were fired by carcasses falling on the shingles, which were extinguished by wet hides. In the third week of the siege (it lasted seven weeks) Major afterwards Colonel Fleury, a French officer of great merit joined Col Smith, he was amiable and the bravest of the brave, he was an officer in the French army and possessed general knowledge which he communicated freely and was eminently serviceable, there was a perfect good understanding and sincere friendship between him and Col Smith, no jealousy, no underhand practices all was

it – The enemy commenced firing during the first week from the battery and became troublesome, Col Smith formed a plan of attack which proved successful; a squadron of gun boats with the boats of the frigate under the immediate command of Capt Robinson, (he had with him two volunteers, Jas Smith a cousin of the Colonels and William Barney who wanderd against service) he attacked the battery on the right, the 32 pounders and 8 pounders from the block house played on its centre and Major Ballard [the father of Commodore Ballard] had crossed over to Province Island with one hundred men attacked on its left – it surrendered in half an hour; the British captain had his arm broken and was paroled, two young Lieutenants and a few men were made prisoners; a party of the enemy came down from the heights as Col Smith, supposed to retake the battery, and he fired on and stopped them – the officer on shore sent a boat over to request that the firing should cease, for that the party were coming down to surrender, the Colonel complied with the request, which he has since he thinks not to have done as he at the time thought their coming down to surrender improbable, the error was soon made manifest, the battery was evacuated and repossessed by the enemy, the two young Lieutenants amused the Colonel, they were kindly treated ~~and~~ totally forgot that they were prisoners and at dinner entered into a warm dispute as if they had been in their own quarters, on the question "of whether the marching regiments or the light infantry had done the most service during the campaign" one of them looked earnestly at a double barrelled

~~thinks I am afraid? I know you dare, but if you do and a man be wounded in the N.W. Block house you will find and then, it is your duty to be where danger is and more to be only when I can be of use as a surgeon,~~ There is a hewitzer in which are holes in the Bim in which hand grenades are inserted, the shell takes its circular course, but the hand grenades rise to a certain hight and the impetus and fall down perpendicularly an order was therefore given that no one was to go in the platform except the Artillery men, actually engaged, however very few were afterwards thrown, and they had in truth hurt no one, yet they were dangerous, for there would be no security against them, except the Doctors side of the whole barrow. Col Smith thinks that it was in the third week of the siege. Col O'Neill, appeared as commanding officers of the fort, of which Col Smith had not been previously apprized, he was a Prussian, a very military looking man, six feet high, and elegantly formed, indeed his whole appearance was that which would recommend him to a command, where personal bravery was required. Colonel Smith in company with Mayor Henry showed him the fort and its defences, on their arrival at the N.W. Blockhouse he looked up and in French (for he spoke little english) he asked what has happened here? it has been blown up twice and the enemys fire is frequently directed at it, he immediately sprang into one window, out at the other and got clear of the block house, Col Smith looked at Mayor Henry a look which he understood and was answered, "Je ne dis rien" yes, since Col Smith

frankness and all endeavoring to the public service.

Col Smith generally was awake all nights and he slept in the day, he walked on the dyke, put his ear close to the waters and on a calm night could hear the dip from the muffled oars, carrying up provisions (as he supposed) to the army, of which he informed Commodore Hartlewood praying him to send some of his Gallys and four pounds Boats and thus intercept them, his answer was, a shell with sinkers any of my gallies, ~~you said Col Smith and falling on your knees or cause with tears, but for what? and we friends or employers~~ Etc. - the gallies were not sent and Col S. had the mortification to know that the enemies boats passed nightly unmolested. - The Southern Officers knew the eccentric character of Doctor Skinner the surgeon of the fort and intimate friends of Col Harry Lee and Col Smith, the Col had one morning slept late, on coming to the platform he found the doctor sitting behind one of the traverses with the sides of a wheelbarrow stuck in one of the interstices over his head his arms closed to his sides, at which Col Smith laughed, - what do you laugh at? ~~damn me~~ you have been asleep, and do not know what the ~~damned~~ rascals are doing, I know not how they do it, but I know that hand grenades fall on the platform; if one takes my barrow side, why its wounds and I am safe, at that moment two or three fell near us, there said he you might have been killed, ~~as the army lines~~ your courage, it is your duty to brave danger, mine is to take care of myself, suppose you had been struck just now who was to mend you if I were gone - ~~you laugh again do you~~, do you

and we must frighten him away from the fort or he will do more injury than good; ~~however~~ he had some knowledge. Col Smith told him that he feared only a night attack that the enemy might land on the wharf opposite to the Hospital on one the dykes and little obstruction with the small force in the fort could be made, between the dykes (raised to keep out the tide) the ground was a perfect level of about 400 yards by 150 or 200 yards, he caused the whole to be perforated with Louis de Loup's wolf traps, that is holes dug the shape of a sugar loaf the small end down close to each other in which sharp stakes were driven, so that the enemy could have approached only by the dykes which were not wide enough for more than two men abreast and which would have been swept by the guns of two block houses and the musquetry through the loop holes of the stockade, thus far was well, indeed excellent, but for further security he ordered the dykes to be cut to cause to assailants a halt about which Col Smith differed in opinion. if you do cut the dykes said Col S a September gale will overflow the Islands and we shall be up to the middle in waters he however persisted, the dykes were cut and the consequence was, that which Col S predicted as will hereafter be shown. The fort at Red Bank opposite to Mud Island had been occupied by the brave Col Green and his Rhode Island men, his Engineer the gallant Maudaite ~~du Plessis~~ found it too large for the force of Col Green, and had cut off a considerable part leaving the works standing which deceived the Hessians, on gaining that part they

thought they had succeeded and were shot down - immediately before the attack of Counte Dunmore a Virginia Regiment reduced to 150 men under Col Sims on its march to Mud Islands arrived in time to take part in the action and enabled Col Green to man the lines completely - Dunbar was mortally wounded, his party defeated - Col Green fearing a return of the enemy sent for cartridges which Counte Donnell at first refused, but on the remonstrance of Col Smith and the other officers at last granted them. Col S proposed that he should cross the river and pursue the enemy, this was peremptorily refused by the Counte. The plans of the enemy was well conceived had the fort at Red Bank fallen, Mud Islands must have been evacuated, for officers and men had for days only salt herrings dried in the sun and ship biscuit to eat, there was flour but no safe place for baking it, their spirits never flagged for a moment - the enemy having failed in his attempt on Red Bank determined on his grand attack, and great efforts which was to cause some of the Chevaux de Frize which had been sunk to obstruct the channel about a mile and a half from the fort perhaps more - a ship of the line the Augusta anchored near the obstruction a frigate also came up and grounded - the Augusta commenced firing which was returned by two squadrons of the flotilla one commanded he thinks by Capt Dickinson within less than a mile of the ship, another some distance in the rear and the third commodore Hazlewood a little in advance of the fort at Red Bank - the guns of the fort keeping up nearly a constant fire, in the mean time

a constant discharge on the fort was kept up the whole day from the Hospital and battery of shot, shells and carcasses, these are made about two feet square filled with combustibles with sharp hooks which keep them fast to the shingles, they were extinguished by raw hides which had been soaked in water for the purpose; they gave much trouble and no little fatigue - the Augusta took fire from some accident, the men were saved in the boats except one negro who dropped from the bowsprit into one of our boats which had been sent to their assistance when the Augusta blew up, a piece from her fell on the negro and killed him, no other person was hurt, so strange fatality - before the firing began Colonel Donnell spoke to Col Smith, in a most confused manner, "he did not understand English, did not know the officers or the men, you do", and he continued some minutes in that kind of under talk, ~~which~~ ~~Colonel Smith was well pleased to understand~~, ~~and~~ said Col. Smith "If I understand you, you mean that I should assume the command for the day, yes sir, was the answer, - the frigate being aground was fired on from a few guns on the Jersey shore, she was set fire to and abandoned by the crew; after she was blown up all firing ceased on both sides, and then Col S. visited his men who had been secured under the Parapet work he had thrown up for their protection, all unhurt, except Col D'Arnall he had been with the men under cover, he limped and said that a ball had struck a piece of stone from the wall which had hit him in the groin and that he suffered great pain. Doctor Skinner was called, he perfectly understood a ~~wink given him by Colonel Smith~~, he bled the Counte and said

Sir, there are no accomodations for ~~your~~ wounded men, you had better go on shore where you can be attended to, he agreed, and was sent to a small village, where he confined himself to his room for a week and was seen no more – Col Smith states a curious fact, that he was so duply engaged, being compelled to be in all places, that he actually did not hear the explosion of the Augusta, that of the Frigate he describes as being sublime, beautiful beyond description, the column of smoke rising beyond human ision. A few days after Col Smith received a reinforcement of about 100 men (Virginians) under Lieutenant Col Green a brave and gallant Officer, he had been wounded at Throggs Neck the preceding campaign, some difficulty arose, for Greens commission was the elder, he was infirm, and was prevailed on by his own Officers to retire – Col Smith had distinctly said, the defence of this post has been committed to me, and I cannot relinquish the command without a positive order from the Commander in Chief, Col Green answered, that he coincided in the opinions, was certain that his coming was with no intention to supersede me and magnanimously retired, for he could not serve under an officer of inferior rank; indeed Col S would not have felt at ease commanding his superiour in rank. – A gale of wind, heavy rain and consequent high tide, the result was that the Island was overflowed no dry place except the Barracks and Platform two feet of water over every other spot, the enemys battery being similarly situated all firing had ceased on both sides, Col Smith saw the favorable opportunity and wrote a note to Commodore Hazlewood describing the situation of the

enemy and that a squadron could row to the Battery and take it with little danger, a squadron came drew up in line with the 32 pounder and began to fire, Col Smith went immediately from the Barracks up to his middle in water, hailed and told the ~~Commodore~~ Commander that he could do no good there, and told him to row up immediately to the battery which had only the howitzer above water and which could fire only once before the heads of the gallies would be close to and destroy them, the answer was, we will go no nearer, (a shell came and struck near where Col Smith was standing then you see since he you have drawn the fire on us, and we have no place of safety – will you go on to the attack, answer, no, I will not, then go away or by God I will sink you. (Note, this is the simple fact, but if shell might draw on Smith a torrent of abuse and perhaps condemnation) – The precise time of the incidents that happened are not recollected, yet they are nearly in order – one morning Col Smith and Capt Frost of the artillery were conversing near the 32 pounder, a ball from the enemy came, it lodged in the traverse, Capt Frost fell and was upheld by the Colonel a slight squeeze of the hand and he expired, no wounds apparent, was it the sensation from the ball that caused the death, Col Smith knew no other cause, and believes that learned Doctors deny that such can cause death, but facts speak stronger than theory. – The enemy had erected a battery of one howitzer below the fort, one morning Capt Hazard of the Delaware was looking out of the window of the Block House dis-

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to the 32 pounder, Col Smith requested him to come down, that he was exposing himself to unnecessary danger, ~~to~~ his answer was there is no risk, the words were scarcely out of his mouth, when a shell struck in the wood a foot above his head, it exploded, his head dropped and he was believed to be killed, he was brought down and bled, he recovered but had completely lost his hearing he was a brave and honorable man, he resigned, because he said, that no man ought to hold a commission who could not perform its duties, he long afterwards applied to Congress for a pension, he did not send his petition to his own senators but to General Smith under whom he had served and who was then a Senator from Maryland. The fire of both parties was slackened and only shot occasionally, the enemy was probably preparing their navies, that is a large ship cut down to her lower deck so as to draw little water, that plan was suggested by the Captain of a four pounds boat, who had deserted, it proved ultimately successful, Brigadier General Parsons had arrived near Red Bank with two Connecticut Regiments with orders to sustain the two forts; a very cold morning he sent his Brigade Mayor with a note asking information, Col Smith went to the barracks to answer it, after writing and in the act of handing the note with his right hand, his left behind his back ~~back to the~~ against the chimney, a ball came through the stockade, the barracks, two stacks of chimneys, nearly spent, it struck him on the left hip, dislocated his wrist, he fell covered with bricks, by which he was severely bruised, every joint in his body appeared to him to be loosened, the Officers present were covered with dirt and mortars, were astounded and gave no assistance, the

colonel lost not his presence of mind, he thought Jesse was unhurt, he could not rise, but rolled over and over until he got to the front door, the Officers then came to him Doctor Skinner came immediately drew the wrist into its place, and bled him, it was many months before he could use his wrist, the bruises were numerous and some on the bones gave great pain he was carried to the boat for he could not walk and sent to the Jersey Shore, this incident happened one week before the evacuation of the fort; a day or two after a deputation came to General Parsons from Mud Island, they represented that their numbers were greatly reduced, that Officers and men were worn down with fatigue and requested that they might be relieved; the field Officers were assembled and no one seemed inclined to take the command, on which Col Smith said, give the men, and my excellent companion in arms Major Shayer with I am sure take the command for a few days until I can return, Major Shayer was of Rhode Island, Col S has often said that he was the bravest man he had ever known, he accepted the command saying there was nothing he would not do to oblige Col Smith. ~~It was said that the field Officers declined the command on the ground, that Col Smith had gained the honor and as the place must fall, some discredit might attach to whoever commanded.~~ (Note, this may be left out being only hearsay and it might be contradicted) the day after Col Smith and other Officers called on Col Green at Red Bank to advise the means of supplying the Island with ready cooked provisions, Commodore Hazlewood was sent for and told, that Col Green would have the provision

cordage, and he was requested to furnish a galley for its transport, this he refused to do, Col Smith then said, Col Green has seamen in his regiments, lend him a galley and he will furnish officers and men, unless this be done, the men must either starve or evacuate the Island, ~~the Commodore then upon which words very heavy language passed between him and Col Smith, and~~ A galley was ultimately supplied, whether manned as usual or by Col Green, Col Smith cannot now recollect. The Razee (already described) came up and opened its incessant fire which was answered by two guns, there were no more that would bear upon her, many of her men ran below, the masters of the gun boat kept his post, the crew rallied and after a most gallant resistance our men were compelled to abandon their guns, all the works being levelled and some of the guns dismounted, the garrison evacuated the Island in the night bringing with them every thing portable, Col Smith believes it was the night of the 16 November. The next day he bought a horse and repaired to Head quarters at White Marsh, dinner had just been removed he was received by all the General Officers then present in the most flattering manner, by General Washington ~~in his usual cold manner at first, and afterwards~~ with kindness and sympathy when he observed his arm in a sling, the next year he offered him a place in his family as Aide du Camp which was declined because he preferred his Regiments where there was a better chance for service in which honor might be gained, the place was filled by Col Fitzgerald of Alexandria.

Col Smith had his quarters at the house

an old friend of his father Mr William West of Phila a strong party of the enemy came out from Philadelphia with which a smart skirmish took place in a wood Colonel Smith joined his Regiment although not very fit for service it however was not engaged, the enemy retired and the army went into winters quarters at Valley Forge about the 11 December 1777, the day it marched it was met by a violent snow storm and the army bivouacked as best it could, the 4th Regiment secured itself from the storm long before night and the Officers slept soundly on their blankets with a large fire at their feet, the cover was made by two forked saplings placed in the ground and one from the one to the other against which fence rails with a slope on which leaves and snow were thrown and thus made comfortable. The next day Col Smith was ordered to go to Baltimore and superintend the recruiting service, he recruited nearly 400 men and joined the army early the next spring, the evacuation of Philadelphia was expected and the American army crossed the Delaware, the enemy evacuated Philadelphia on the 18 June, a brigade of light infantry under the command of General Scott, was drafted from the whole army consisting of three full regiments, commanded by Colonels Cilley Butler and Richards Parker to the latter Colonel Smith was attached; the brigade marched and for three or four days was near the enemy, frequently in sight, pulling out their fires in the morning, blackguarded by their women who had received to collect as plunder any thing

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that the Officers might have left, no attempts at their rear guard was made, early in the morning of the 28 June when the battle of Monmouth was fought Col Mercer aid de camp of General Charles Lee came to General Scott with orders; he detached Col Butler to the right, placing it on the left of the British rear guard then retreating, Morgan with his riflemen was further on, the other two regiments of Scotts were conducted to a wood on the right of the enemy, the plan of battle of General Lee appeared to Col Smith excellent, it was thus, the main body at the Court house; when the attack on it should commence Butler to fall on his left flank; Morgan on his rear, and Scotts two regiments on his right flank a better disposition (Col Smith has frequently said) could not have been made, it was however disconcerted, he has stated the cause thus. Lieutenant Hoops of his regiment joined him on horseback from Lancaster, and asked leave to serve with him, on that day, leave being granted, Mr. Hoops said, I see a number of General Officers assembled, I will go near to them and try to bring you information, on his return he reported, that being near General Lee, when the enemy made a sudden halt, he exclaimed, damn them what do they halt for, and then looking to the left he saw your brigade in the open field - damn them said he can they have got there already? whose troops are those? mine answered General Scott, your who ordered them to leave the woods? I did, was the answer - then by God you have ruined me. Genl Lee took no steps to correct the derangement made in his plan, but governed by

suspicion, as Col Smith supposed ordered a retreat, Scotts two regiments retired to an excellent position whether by order or not I do not know, the enemy did not see them but pressed forward on the centre where there was no opposition, in a short time a firing was heard behind the brigade, in consequence the field Officers assembled General Scott not present - there was a deep morass on the left apparently impenetrable for men, the question was what should be done? several opinions were given, Col Smith said "surely with such men we can cut our way through any impediment" the corps then marched to the rear having the morass on its right and a sand hill on the left the road very narrow, not wider than for a platoon to march abreast, Col Smith was in the rear, a private came down and told him, that the British light horse were cutting down the flanking party on which Col Smith ordered Capt Alexander Smith to mount the sand hill and drive them off, which he did by one well directed fire, the brigade arrived safe where Genl Washington was, and were soon ordered into action, Col Cilleys Regt attacked and drove a British Regiment on our left, Parkers Regiment flanked the main body of the enemy and they retired to the Court House, leaving the burying of the dead to the Americans which gave them the honour of the day, the enemy had been overpowered by the heat they were laying down to rest. Col Smith sent Captain Trueman (who was afterwards killed by the Indians) to rouse them with the discharge &c which they returned, but he had go-

and received no injury - a curious fact related by Capt Nowell who commanded the covering party, that the American dead were fair as usual whilst the faces and certain parts of the British were quite black; the reason assigned was the quantity of liquor they had drank. The Americans had none to drink, he said, that he buried 20 or 30 of both, without a wound on them, having died with the extreme heat. Col Smith relates that he saw a Highlander kick and jump just like a game cock struck in the brains, he sent a Serjeant to him, he was dead without a wound on him, the heat had killed him. - ~~Col Smith has frequently said~~ It is believed that if Scotts brigade had mounted the sand hills and attacked the right flank of the enemy, ~~that~~ it might have turned the fortune of the day much earlier, but it had no one whose duty it was ~~to command~~ to command the whole and neither of the Colonels chose to assume the ~~command~~ responsibility.

Colonel Smith was called as a witness on the Court Martial held for the trial of General Lee but as the principal testimony he had to give was hearsay, he was stopped and Mr Hoops was not summoned, nor would it have saved General Lee for no sufficient apology could be offered for his not fighting - for his answer to Genl Washington after his retiring from the field of battle - they were unpardonable -

The army marched a day after the battle, Scotts Brigade was disposed and the officers and men joined their respective Regiments - the stench from the woods was intolerable; men and horses had died there from the heat of the preceding day - the army crossed the Hudson about the

first day of July and remained without much activity, except the parties on the lines with which Col Smith had no part. General La Fayette was ordered to Rhode Island he invited Col Smith with whom a friendship had been formed to go in his family, the invitation was declined unless a command equal to his rank was given him, the reason assigned was the same given when invited by Genl Washington to join his family, all the commands had been filled and of course he did not go. The Maryland Division was during that campaign (and until he was killed at Camden) under the command of Major Genl the Baron de Kalb a brave and most amiable man. This gave great offence to Genl Smallwood, who thought he ought to have been made a Major General and to have had the command of the Division. - The Division was encamped at Poughkeepsie a most delightful country, the rule adopted for furnishing the General's guard was that the two brigades should supply it alternately each a week, the second brigade was under the command of Col. Smith (which Col Smith happened by accident) ~~supplied the guards for the week~~, General Smallwood expressed to relieve, one which Col Smith invited on Genl De Kalb who claimed the rule as a right. Genl Smallwood was sent for some words passed between them not necessary to relate, Col Smith said the second brigade will consider it an honor to supply the guards constantly after the week, but the order must be obeyed or discipline ceases - after some disagreeable altercation the guard was relieved by Smallwood sending another. The Campaign having terminated Col Smith was sent home

to superintend the recruiting service; he had been for two years engaged to be married and on the last day of the year 1778 he was married to Margaret Spear the eldest daughter of William Spear Esquire, his pecuniary situation was embarrassing, when he entered the service he was worth $9000 of his own and his ~~father~~ brother the richest Merchants in Baltimore, his property entirely and that of his father in part were debts due them from the country merchants, they had paid their debts in Continental money, which had become worthless in the hands of his father who had taken no measures for reimbursements; his father in law similarly situated - he found himself entirely destitute of means to support an establishment for a family - thus situated and no provision having been then made for the Officers after the war should cease, he found himself compelled to resign which he did in the latter end of May 1779 - he sent his resignation to General Washington who returned it with a compliment on the back of the commission written and signed by himself, which is carefully kept as an heir loom for his family - the necessity he was under of resigning his commission was, he said, like tearing his heart out, but he was compelled by his circumstances, he had no means for the support of a family, when he resigned he had not one hundred dollars left, neither his father nor his wife's father could assist him his pay was then about equal to four dollars pr month in specie the paper money being then 20 to 1. Congress had unanimously voted to Col Smith its thanks and a sword for his ~~gallant~~ service in the defence of Fort [illegible] commonly called