

## Kentucky's Civil War: Lyon County's Andrew Jackson Smith



*Historical Marker #2107 commemorates a slave who fought in the Civil War and earned the Medal of Honor*

Born into slavery in Lyon County on Sept. 3, 1843, Andrew Jackson Smith escaped to Smithland at age 19, where he became a servant to an officer in the 41<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment. At the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, fought in April 1862, Smith was wounded while accompanying that officer.

When Smith was recovering from his injury, he learned that African Americans could join the Union army. Therefore, in May 1863, Smith enlisted in the 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Infantry.

On Nov.30, 1864, while fighting at the Battle of Honey Hill, S.C, Smith saved the regimental flag when the color-bearer was killed by an artillery shell. Smith carried the colors for the remainder of the engagement. The 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts suffered heavily in the battle, and, for his actions, Smith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001.

Smith died in 1932 and was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at Grand Rivers, Ky., in Livingston County.

Photo: Marker for Andrew Jackson Smith in Lyon County. Courtesy Adam Maroney