

During the Civil War, John Green Lea was a corporal in the Third North Carolina Cavalry Company C (also known as the 41st North Carolina State Troops).

Lea, John G., Corporal. Enlisted in Caswell County May 6, 1862 for the war. Appointed Corporal prior to May 1864. Present or accounted for through October 1864. Source: [Caswell Rangers](#).

See his [confession](#) with respect to the murder of [Senator John Walter Stephens](#) in the Caswell County Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina. Note that in that confession John G. Lea refers to Capt. William Graves as his brother in-law. This is believed to be Captain William Griffin Graves who married Ann Lea, the only daughter among the eight children of Thomas L. Lea and Ann Blount Wright.

John Green Lea was living with his sister, Ann Lea Graves (in the household of her husband William Griffin Graves) at the time of the 1870 US Census. Note the value of his real estate in 1870 was \$8,000. In 1930 John G. Lea was living on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Danville, Virginia, age 85 and a Civil War veteran shown with the occupation warehouse tobacconist. He was living with his second wife in a rented premises and paying \$55 per month.

There are two people, at least, in this database named John G. Lea. One was the son of John (Canebrake) Lea and Hannah Slade and died in 1862. The other, this entry, was a Ku Klux Klan leader and died in 1935. Source: *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina*, Jeannine D. Whitlow, Editor (1985) at 354 (Article #441 "Thomas L. Lea" by Katharine Kerr Kendall).

Thomas Coleman Walters was killed in the Civil War at Sussex Courthouse, Virginia, 10 December 1864. When Thomas Coleman Walters was killed John Green Lea made sure that the body was transported back to Caswell County for burial at "North Bend." Lea also gave Thomas's sword to his mother, Katherine Coleman Walters. The Walters family is in possession of a letter written for John Green Lea by his second wife Mildred in which he describes how Thomas Coleman Walters was killed. Apparently, Thomas Coleman Walters was on a horse just in front of Lea at the time. The letter was written to Charles Stephen Walters, brother of Thomas Coleman Walters. John Green Lea was an honorary pall bearer at the funeral of John Ferdinand Walters, as was Sandy Banks Moore.

The following is from *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*. Richmond, Virginia: 1915:

For the early history of the Lea family the searcher must seek in the records of Caswell county, North Carolina, where his task will be an easy one, since for generations that district has contained those bearing the name, their connection with public affairs and enterprises appearing in each generation and filling the annals of the county with their works and deeds. There resided John Calvin [Canebrake] Lea, grandfather of George Addison Lea, a native of the county, who married Hannah Slade, of Caswell county, brother of Nat Slade, a soldier in a North Carolina company in the Colonial army during the revolution. The story is told of Nat Slade that, when the Colonial force had encamped prior to the battle

of Guilford Court House, he discovered a Tory spy in the camp, and was so enraged at his presence that he picked him up bodily and flung him into a large log fire about which the soldiers were grouped. Although a member of a family so indissolubly associated with the history of North Carolina, the life activity of George Addison Lea has been in Virginia scenes, and since his fifteenth year he has been a resident of Danville, linked with the business interests of that city at the present time as head of the firm of George A. Lea & Company and as director in several other important enterprises.

George Addison Lea was born in Caswell county, North Carolina, April 17, 1857, and in his youth attended the local schools, leaving home at the age of fifteen years to earn an independent livelihood. Coming to Danville at that time he entered the tobacco business, and for two years was employed as floor manager of the Grange Warehouse, after which he established in warehouse business for the sale of leaf tobacco, in partnership with his brother, John G., and J. B. Anderson, under the firm name of Lea, Anderson & Lea. This relation continued for two years and was then succeeded by John G. and J. B. Anderson. Mr. Lea then engaged in the leaf tobacco business and established the firm of George A. Lea & Company, at the present time holding the leading position in the direction of its business, which is extensive and profitable, measuring well with the other institutions of a similar nature in the city of Danville. He is a director of the Danville Knitting Mills, a director of the Danville Fair, and owns considerable land in Caswell county, North Carolina, including the old homestead of his birth. He holds membership in the House Rock Wheel Club, and belongs to the First Baptist Church. He was a prime mover in the organization of the Roanoke Female Institute and active in securing funds for the erection of the buildings housing that institution. Mr. Lea's political activity has always been in behalf of the Democratic party, in whose principles he is a sincere believer.

He married Emma M. Betts, born in Halifax county, Virginia, daughter of Captain William S. Betts. Her father, whose wife's maiden name was Faulkner, was a captain in the Confederate army, serving throughout the four years of the war between the states. Of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Lea, five are living at this time: George A., Jr., engaged in the real estate business in Columbia, South Carolina; Emma T., married A. A. Booth, of Richmond, Virginia, cashier of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad; Robert Emmett, a tobacco dealer of Danville; Gladys W., unmarried, lives at home; Daisy W. Through the military services of his ancestors Mr. Lea is a member of the Sons of the Revolution, while Mrs. Lea is a Colonial Dame.