

# John Burrell Gunn

1829 - 1893



JOHN B. GUNN, was the child of Freeman James and Maria Bridgeforth Gunn. He was born in 1829 (estimated from census records) in Brunswick County, Virginia and died in 1893 in Nottoway County. His middle name was learned from his death certificate from information supplied by his daughter Susan Roberta Gunn (Elmore)

On January 12, 1853 in Lunenburg County, Virginia John Burrell Gunn married Lucy Jane Elmore. Lucy was the daughter of James W. Elmore, Jr. and his wife Mary Elizabeth Pritchett. Lucy was born in 1830 and died in 1901, leaving a will. John and Lucy were the parents of ten known children, six survived to adulthood.

In the early years of their marriage John farmed. According to the 1860 slave schedule, John and Lucy Jane were slave owners. They lived in the St. Andrews Parish in Brunswick County with three of their children, John E. age 6, William T. age 4, and George G. age 1.

John enlisted in the Confederate States Army on March 15, 1862 . He was a member of the 41st Virginia Infantry, Company B. which conscripted from the Virginia State militia from Dinwiddie County, Virginia. On June 30th 1862, just under three months after enlistment, John was wounded at Glendale, Virginia. He served on special detail as Provost Guard in Anderson's Division from January 1863 until April 1863. On June 1, 1863 he was taken prisoner of war at the Battle of Cold Harbor located a little north and east of Richmond. He was taken to Point Lookout Prison Maryland. He reached Point Lookout Prison on June 3rd, 2 days after his capture. He was released by the Union on March 11, 1865 during an exchange for prisoners held by the Confederate Army. John was recorded as suffering from scurvy, which was a common ailment of men held at Point Lookout, where food, especially citrus fruit, and deplorable prison conditions equaled that of the ill-famed Confederate Prison of Andersonville. He was taken to Chimborazo Military Hospital in Richmond, Virginia where he was hospitalized on March 17, 1865. He was given a 30 days sick furlough on March 23, 1865 and was not present at the surrender in April 1865 in Appomattox, Virginia.

After the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, Virginia on April 9, 1865, John Burrell Gunn was likely already in Brunswick County, on sick leave. The family recorded in the Red Oak District in the 1870 census as follows: Herbert Gunn age 18, Sarah age 15, Rosa age 11, James age 7 and Lucy age 4.

The children of John Burrell and Lucy Ann Elmore Gunn were:

1. John Edward Gunn born March 1854. He married his first cousin, Sarah W. Gunn on September 11, 1873 in Brunswick County, Virginia. Sarah was the daughter of Richard James Gunn and Mary Augusta Elmore. We know from his mother's will, that John E Gunn suffered from a mental illness. What isn't known from the will, is if his mental problems were a result of the close biological relationship of his parents, but this should be assumed to be the case.
2. Sarah Gunn born 1855 and died before the 1860 census was taken.
3. William Thomas Gunn born January 10, 1856 and died Jan 30, 1925. William married Mary Elizabeth Ferris in 1872. William and Mary had 12 children.
4. George Gregory Gunn born October 1857 who died in his youth on 12-8-1862.
5. Rosa A. Gunn born 1858 died in her youth.
6. Mary Virginia Gunn born June 25, 1860 and died Feb 6, 1925. Mary Virginia married Madison L. Laffoon on Dec 14, 1881. This couple had nine children. Mary is buried in New Hope Christian Church Cemetery in Brunswick County, Virginia
7. Herbert Lee Gunn born April 28, 1862 and died Oct 28, 1944. Herbert married Mary Etta Daniels on Oct 6, 1886. The couple had 7 children, six survived to adulthood. Herbert is buried in Macedonia Methodist Church Cemetery
8. James Gunn born 1863 died in his youth.
9. Lucy Victoria Gunn born 4-12-1867 died 1-1-1937. Lucy Victoria married Curtis Cornelius Benjamin Waller on Jan 10, 1883. The couple had nine children, only two died in infancy, the other 7 lived to adulthood. She is buried in New Hope Christian Church Cemetery in Brunswick County, Virginia.
10. Susan Roberta Gunn born May 1868 died in 1945. Susan married Emmett Edward Elmore on Jan 22, 1896. The couple had 10 children. All but one Emmett Edward Elmore, Jr., survived infancy. Susan Roberta Gunn Elmore is buried in the New Hope Christian church cemetery where her sister, Lucy Victoria is buried.

John Burrell Gunn died in 1893 and is buried in the Elmore/Gunn Family Cemetery on Danielstown Road, in Brunswick County, as is his wife Lucy Jane Elmore Gunn. Lucy Jane left a Will filed in Brunswick County, Virginia dividing her estate equally between her children Mary Virginia, Lucy Victoria, Susan Roberta, Willie T. Gunn, Herbert, and Algie Gunn. John Edward Gunn was in an asylum. John Edward Gunn's portion of the estate went to Algie Gunn, the son of John E. Gunn. Lucy Jane Elmore Gunn's son, Herbert Gunn, was appointed executor. The Will was probated in 1901.