

## John Allen Lowry

By Rick Norris Sr. (Great Grand Nephew of John)

John Allen Lowry was born in what is now Gap Mills, Monroe County WV on 5 Nov. 1845. He is the first of four children born to Thomas Lowry Jr. and his second wife Rachel Dolin Lynch. By his enlistment age of 18 years the family had moved to an 80 acre farm on Rock Creek, near Walton in Roane County WV.

Somehow John Allen made the journey from Walton to Wheeling WV where on March 11, 1864 he enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup>. Regiment, WV Cav. as a private. He was assigned to Company C.

As my Grandfather Edward L. Lowery, who grew up on that same farm, which was known to him as "Uncle John's Farm" wrote in our family history:

Young John Allen was probably tired of the hard work living and working on a subsistence level farm so; the excitement of the military plus the better pay of \$13 per month must have looked good to his young eyes. Also the enlistment bonus called a bounty of \$60 probably looked like a small fortune to him. In today's money (2014) that would be \$918!

John served out his enlistment to the end of hostilities. He was in over thirty battles, many skirmishes and had a horse shot out from under him at the battle of Winchester. He mustered out of the Union Army on July 8, 1865. He returned to the family farm on Rock Creek and married Virginia Hively on 28 Feb. 1868. It is interesting to note Virginia was 12 years older than John. This union produced four children, the second and third of which were twins who died in infancy. It is interesting to note here that they were boys named Grant and Custer which showed John's allegiance to the Union Army. Although there are no markers in the Lowry family cemetery I am sure they are both buried there.

Virginia died on Dec. 28, 1913 at the age of 80 years and John lived on until his death at age 85 on Jan, 1930. Both John and Virginia are buried in the Lowry family cemetery on Rock Creek, Roane Co. WV.