

[Lea], Ann Unknown

♀ 1707 - 1777 (70 years)

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| Name | [Lea], Ann Unknown [1, 2, 3] | |
| Born | 1707 | Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂ |
| Gender | Female | |
| Reference Number | 1434 | |
| Died | 1777 | Caswell County, North Carolina ♂ |
| Person ID | I1434 | Caswell County |
| Last Modified | 5 Apr 2015 | |

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| Family | Lea, James (Country Line), b. 1707, Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂, d. 23 Mar 1792, Caswell County, North Carolina ♂ (Age 85 years) | |
| Married | 1731 | Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂ [3] |
| Reference Number | 12165 | |
| Notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: James Lea Gender: Male Birth Place: VA Birth Year: 1707 Spouse Name: Anne Herndon Spouse Birth Place: VA Spouse Birth Year: 1706 Marriage Year: 1731 Marriage State: VA <p>The above is not a primary source, but a collection of many secondary sources. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900: This unique collection of records was extracted from a variety of sources including family group sheets and electronic databases. Originally, the information was derived from an array of materials including pedigree charts, family history articles, queries.</p> | |
| Children | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lea, William (Country Line), b. Abt 1735, King and Queen County, Virginia ♂, d. 1794, Wilkes County, Georgia ♂ (Age ~ 59 years) 2. Lea, Nancy, b. 1737, d. Aft 09 Feb 1803 (Age > 66 years) 3. Lea, Isabella, b. 1738, King and Queen County, Virginia ♂, d. Aft 20 Apr 1796, Caswell County, North Carolina ♂ (Age > 58 years) 4. Lea, Adelphia, b. Abt 1738, Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂, d. 13 Jun 1813, Rayle, Wilkes County, Georgia ♂ (Age ~ 75 years) 5. Lea, Luke, b. Dec 1739, St. Georges Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂, d. 04 May 1813, St Tammany Parish, Louisiana ♂ (Age ~ 73 years) 6. Lea, Major, b. 1742, St. Georges Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂, d. 10 Nov 1843, Claiborne County, Tennessee ♂ (Age 101 years) 7. Lea, John (Country Line), b. Abt 1744, St. Georges Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂, d. 1803, Caswell County, North Carolina ♂ (Age ~ 59 years) 8. Lea, Lucinda, b. Abt 1746, St. Georges Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia ♂, d. Abt 1769 (Age ~ 23 years) | |
| Last Modified | 5 Apr 2015 | |

Family ID

F849

Group Sheet

Notes

- o The surname of Ann, wife of James (Country Line) Lea, has not been confirmed on the basis of any primary source. Some believe that her surname is Herndon and that her family descends from Governor Digges of Virginia. Another researcher gives her parents as Edward Herndon and Mary Waller Herndon.

See: <http://www.alleylaw.net/haley.html> (accessed 6 August 2010); and *The Spirit in the South: Stories of Our Grandmothers' Spirit*, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Vold Forde and Anne Curtis Terry, J.D. (2009) at 341-347.

The Bible of Solomon Graves does refer to a Herndon as the wife of James Lea (James (Country Line) Lea):

Mr. William T. Graves (R&C'17) came across a record from the Bible of Solomon Graves, son of Rev. Barzillai Graves (who died 14 July 1827 in Caswell Co., NC). The Bible belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Burke (nee Graves) of Yanceyville, NC, and was copied by the N.C. Archives in 1971. Although it is not certain, the record (at least in part) appears to be Solomon Graves's attempt to recall his ancestry as of 1817. Someone has added notes concerning family births and deaths occurring after 1817. Mr. William T. Graves prepared the following transcription of the Bible record (with a few minor punctuation changes). There are probably errors in this record. For example, the record states that Joseph and Thomas Graves came to Virginia from England around 1700; that is unlikely.

Bible of Solomon Graves (1784-1861):

Ancestry, family, particulars -- according to the best information that can be at present collected --- Anno D. 1817:

It seems that about the year 1700, Joseph and Thomas Graves emigrated to America from England. Being brothers, they both settled in the State of Virginia in the County of Spotsylvania. Each of them married in that State and from them a numerous connection has descended. Thomas intermarried with one Mary Perkins and had by this marriage only three children, two daughters and a son, and his wife died. He then married a second time and by this marriage he had many sons. John Graves, his son by the first marriage, removed into the State of North Carolina about the year A.D. 1755. He married a daughter of James Lea, formerly of Virginia, whose name was Isabell Lea. James Lea, her father, married a Herndon. From the marriage of John Graves and his wife has sprung an extensive family connection in the State of North Carolina. Barzillai Graves, their fifth son, intermarried with one Ursula Wright, the daughter of one William Wright the son of John Wright who intermarried one Miss Parsons and who emigrated to the United States about beginning of the Seventeenth Century. William Wright intermarried with one Margaret Johnston, the daughter of a Mr. Johnston who also emigrated to this Country from England. From the marriage of B. Graves and his wife there has descended three sons and four daughters, Solomon Graves, Jeremiah Graves, and Barzillai Graves, Jun., who died without issue. The daughters were named Isabella Graves, Elizabeth Graves, Margaret Graves and Mary Graves. Isabell, the eldest daughter, intermarried with one Hosea McNeill. Elizabeth, the second daughter, intermarried with one James Lea. Mary, the fourth daughter, intermarried with one Thomas W. Graves. Solomon Graves, the eldest son, intermarried with one Mary C. Franklin who was the daughter of Jesse Franklin, late a Governor of the State of North Carolina. Jeremiah Graves intermarried with one Delilah Lea, a daughter of John Lea, called Cainbrake (sic, Canebrake) John Lea. [NOTE: The handwriting for the following is different from the handwriting for the preceding. The archivist at the N.C. Archives believes that the following text was written at a later date by someone other than the author of the preceding notes.] Margaret Graves married William Lipscomb. Her descendants are all dead. James Lea removed to West Tennessee where their descendants now reside (in 1864).

Louise Graves also uses the Herndon name. See: [Louise Graves Letter \(February 9, 1979\)](#)

According to others, her surname may have been Tolbert. See the Caswell County Historical Association Newsletter, September 2006.

The CCHA warns all researching this family to proceed with the utmost care. Much has been published and repeated that has no basis in fact. Perpetuating the Herndon or Tolbert surname

without documentation is discouraged.

The report will attempt to identify Mary Waller, who married Edward Herndon. Mary is believed to have come from England with her brother, Col. John Waller. Much has been written about this family, some of which is speculative and lacking documentation. The counties in which the Waller and Herndon families lived were "burned" counties, having lost their records to disasters of men and nature. These include New Kent, Caroline, and King William Counties, Virginia. This lack of records hampers the study of relationships.

In order to become oriented to the place and time frame relevant to these ancestors, internet searches were made. In Ancestry.com's World Tree project, no less than 437 postings surfaced for Edward Herndon and Mary Waller. A sampling of these have been included here, showing that Edward lived from about 1678 to 1758 in Virginia. His presumed wife, Mary Waller, is believed to have been born 23 May 1674 in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, England. Eight children are listed for the couple. The IGI shows a birth date of Mary Waller, matching that of the World Tree Project. Mary's parents are believed to be John Waller and Mary Pomfrett.

The original parish registers of Newport Pagnell do indeed show that Mary Waller was baptized on that date, probably born a few days or weeks earlier. The priest's notation tells that she was the "daughter of John," but does not include her mother's name. The IGI contains a posting concerning the marriage of John Waller to Mary Pomfrett, revealing that the marriage took place 13 January 1669 in Walton Parish. These records do show indeed that John Waller and Mrs. Mary Pomfrett married in Walton Parish.

It appears that John married a young widow. Since John and Mary were married in 1669, they were likely born sometime in the 1740's. The immigration record showing a Mary Waller coming to America would have occurred when Mary was quite elderly, perhaps 80 years old. The sources for the immigration records, in which Mary Waller's name appears, tell that these 1723 immigrants were felons, being banished from England. It does not seem likely that this Mary Waller could have been the widow of Dr. John Waller of Newport Pagnell. She could not be traveling with a group of felons, nor at such an advanced age.

Another point against this Mary being the widow of Dr. John Waller of Newport Pagnell is that Mary's name appears in the records several years before 1723. In 1720, she received four hundred acres on the south side of the Mattaponi Creek, adjacent John Waller and Phillip Todd. The actual patent bears the date of February 21, 1720, and patents were often issued a few years after the initial survey and occupation of the land. Dr. John Waller of Newport Pagnell did not die until 1723, so it defies logic that his wife would leave him in his old age to go to America.

A detailed study of the Waller family entitled, "The Wallers of Endfield, King William County, Virginia," by Andrew Lewis Riffe, gives documented information on the family. Dr. John Waller's will was written 21 August 1716, and has been abstracted into the report. He named his sons, Benjamin, William, Thomas, John and Edmund, and his daughter, Jemima. No Mary was included in the will, either as his wife or his daughter. This strongly suggests that his wife had predeceased him. It also strikes a blow at the theory that Edward Herndon's wife was Mary Waller, daughter of John Waller. John would have been about seventy years old in 1716. He died in August of 1723.

Riffe's excellent treatise is careful not to jump to conclusions or to accept any undocumented information as fact. He points out that John Waller, Jr. the son of John Waller and Mary Pomfrett, had arrived in America by 1696. In May of that year, he had surveyed the 1029 acres in King and Queen County that would become Endfield, his home place. Sixty-five years later, John Waller, Jr.'s son, John, brought suit concerning the division of Endfield among John, Jr.'s heirs. A plat map was produced, showing lines dividing the land between John Waller, Thomas Waller, Mary Waller and Benjamin Waller. Mr. Riffe states, "It was Thomas Waller and Mary Waller's portions of this land that John Waller (their father, the original owner) sold to Benjamin Waller."

This implies that Mary Waller, found mentioned frequently in the land records, was the daughter or married daughter-in-law of John Waller (Col.). Mr. Riffe makes no attempt to identify her further. He does make reference to two articles in Virginia Historical magazines, which supposedly give a strong case for Mary Waller being the wife of Edward Herndon. The first comes from the William and Mary College Quarterly. The author of this article, whose name is not shown, asserts that the will of Dr. John Waller of Newport Pagnell contains a phrase which refers to the eldest daughter, Mary, living in Virginia. This is incorrect, as Riffe's transcription of the will contained no mention of Mary. In fact, the only daughter married in the will was Jemima. The author of this article goes on to

show that Mrs. Mary Waller lived near Edward Herndon, providing strong circumstantial evidence that Edward had married her daughter, Mary Waller. These arguments are weak, based on the reasons already given.

Riffe's treatise also makes reference to *The Herndon Family of Virginia*, by John Goodwin Herndon. This book, part of a multi-volumed set, was located in the Family History Library's collection. The author cites the source of the Herndon-Waller marriage to Mr. Moncure D. Conway. The same assumption underlies this theory, that Mrs. Mary Waller, still alive in 1729, was the mother of Mary Waller, born in 1674, and therefore, the wife of Edward Herndon, because he lived nearby. The supporting evidence for Mr. Herndon's assertion is a letter written in 1787 to Joseph Herndon, a grandson of Edward. In the letter, he referred to his cousin, Jack Waller. It seems that by 1787, after two more generations since Edward had come along, there would have been plenty of opportunities for the Herndon and Waller families to intermarry. This bit of evidence seems insufficient to conclude that Edward Herndon had married Mary Waller. Although such may indeed be the case, it seems that hasty judgment may have come into play early on. Once such conclusions get into print, they are circulated and eventually carved into stone. Edward may have married a Waller relative, but nothing has been found to indicate that his wife was named Mary.

In summary, these are the points against the supposition that Edward Herndon's wife was Mary Waller, daughter of John Waller and Mary Pomfret.

• Dr. John Waller of England died in 1723. His will did not mention a daughter, Mary, suggesting she could have predeceased him. His will also made no mention of his wife, which would be very peculiar had she still been alive.

• Dr. John's wife would not leave him before his death, at the age of nearly eighty, and go to America.

• It is highly unlikely she would still be alive in 1739 at nearly one hundred years of age.

• No document exists that even gives Edward Herndon's wife's first name as Mary.

• There were several Wallers in the area, and by 1720, a new generation had come to maturity in America. One of these younger Wallers could have left a widow named Mary.

It is very unlikely that any new evidence will be located concerning these families, especially considering that most of the records have been destroyed in the counties where they lived. Research at this point focuses on the careful interpretation of the existing records, with a skeptical eye toward published genealogies.

Raquel Lindaas, AG
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Research Courtesy Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde-Beatty.

Sources

1. Details: **The Spirit in the South (Rev. Dr. Cynthia Forde).**
2. Details: Bible of Solomon Graves (1784-1861) (1817 Entries).
3. Details: *The Spirit in the South: Stories of Our Grandmothers' Spirit*, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Vold Forde and Anne Curtis Terry, J.D. (2009) at 341.