

## **Private John Wesley Casey Co. K – Richmond Howitzers**

John was born in August, 1842 to John and Elizabeth Casey.

He enlisted in the Lee Artillery on May 20, 1861 in Williamsburg. This company of artillery was initially attached to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry.

The Lee Artillery became part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Artillery and saw action from the battle of Williamsburg till the battle of Sharpsburg. They were disbanded in October, 1862.

On October 6, 1862 John transferred to Co. K – Richmond Howitzers.

He saw service with the Howitzers in the campaigns of 1863 and 1864 including Gettysburg and Petersburg.

John was on detached duty as a teamster for part of 1864.

Following the surrender at Appomattox John returned to Williamsburg to the family farm.

In 1868 her married Lucy Allen Davis and they had 10 children. Eight of their children survived to adulthood.

John farmed and operated the J. W. Casey General Store which sold “Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Groceries and Hardware of all kinds.” John advertised in the *Virginia Gazette* that he sold all of his goods “at rock bottom prices.”

John passed away on July 17, 1917 at almost 75 years of age. He is buried, along with Lucy, in the family plot at the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg.

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It should be noted that his brother Robert, who was too young for Confederate service, also ran a general store that was located on the corner of Henry & Duke of Gloucester Street. This is the Casey Dry Goods and Clothing Store that is now the location of the College Bookstore and Barnes & Noble.

(‘Confederate Cemeteries’ by Fred Boelt, *James City Cavalry Picket Lines*, August – 2011, page 4.)