



**LT. JOHN SOMMERVILLE**  
**First Lieutenant, Company "K" 3<sup>rd</sup> West Virginia Infantry,**  
**Subsequently the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mounted Infantry, then the 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Cavalry**  
**Promoted postwar to Captain, 1 Nov 1865**

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John Sommerville, the son of Robert and Mary Sommerville, was born on October 19, 1832 and lived most of his life in the area that is now Auburn, Ritchie County, West Virginia.

The family is found in the Federal Census records as follows:

**1850** Census, Western District, Ritchie County, (W) Virginia  
#393

Robert Sommerville, 50, Farmer, \$3000. b Va.

Mary, 47, b Va.

Franklin, 19, Farmer, b Va.

Jno., 18, Farmer, b Va.

Sarah E., 11, b Va.

Geo., 8, b Va.

Margaret, 6, b Va.

Drusilla, 4, b Va.

**1860** Census, Ritchie County, (W) Virginia  
#987/946

Rob't Summerville, Farmer, \$14,850, \$1,285

Mary Summerville, 54, Va.

John Summerville, 27, Farm Hand, b Va.

Geo. Summerville, 20, Farm Hand, b Va.

Margaret N. Summerville, 17, House hand, b Va.

Druzilla Summerville, 15, House hand, b Va.

Nancy Summerville, 8, b Va.

**1870** Census, Union District, Ritchie County, West Virginia  
#74/75

Sommerville, John, 37, Farmer, \$3000, \$800, b WV

Elizabeth J., 21, Keeping House, b WV

Lulia May. 2 months, b March, b WV

**1880** Census, Auburn, Ritchie County, West Virginia  
#10/10

Sommerville, John, 47, Farmer, b WV MD WV

Elizabeth J., 33, Keeping House, b WV WV WV

L. May, 10, b WV WV WV

Harvey W., 8, Son, b WV WV WV

Lelia G., 7, b WV WV WV

Della, 4, b WV WV WV

Walter, 2, Son, b WV WVWV

Ralph, 8 months, b Sept, b WV WV WV

**1900** Census, Union District, Ritchie County, West Virginia  
#97/97

Somerville, John, 67, b Oct 1832, Married 30 yrs, Farmer, b WV WV WV

Elizabeth J., Wife, 51, b Jul 1849, 8 children/8 living, b WV VA VA

Della, Daughter, 24, b Aug 1875, Telephone Operator, b WV WV WV

Walter, Son, 22, b Aug 1877, Farm Laborer, b WV WVWV

Ralph, 20, b Sept 1879, Farm Laborer, b WV WV WV

Bernie, Son,

John Sommerville was promoted to Second Lieutenant of the 3rd West Virginia Infantry in May 1862; commissioned 30 Jun 1862. He was commissioned First Lieutenant 8 Nov 1862. In June 1863, the 3rd Infantry was changed to the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry. On January 26, 1864, the 3rd Mounted Infantry was designated the 6th West Virginia Cavalry. Postwar, Sommerville was commissioned Captain on 1 Nov 1865.

### **HISTORY OF RITCHIE COUNTY**

By Minnie Kendall Lowther, 1911

JOHN SOMMERVILLE is at this time one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of the town. Perhaps, no other name has a longer association with its public affairs than that of Mr. Sommerville. He was born in Harrison county, on October 19, 1832, and came to this vicinity with his parents when he was but a small child, and here his entire life has been spent, on the old farm that his father entered in the wilderness days. He served as a soldier in the Union army, having entered as a private in the Infantry, rose to the rank of Captain of the Sixth Virginia Cavalry. He has been a life-long communicant of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is prominently connected with some of the business interests of the town.

He married Miss Elizabeth [J.] Brannon [b 26 Jul 1848; d 6 May 1929], daughter of Thomas Brannon [and Jane Brown] of Gilmer county, and they are the parents of three daughters, and five sons; viz.:

Mae, the eldest daughter, was the late Mrs. Miles Heckart, of Auburn; Lelia is Mrs. J. N. Brown, of Colorado; and Harvey and Eldred are also of Colorado; and Miss Dell B., Walter, Ralph, and Berne Summerville, are all of Auburn.

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John Sommerville died 16 Dec 1916 and is buried at the Auburn Community Cemetery, Ritchie County.