

Kemp Washington  
Enslaved by Hampton Lea  
Served George S. Lea  
7th MS Infantry

- 1824 (abt) Kemp Washington was born in Mississippi.
- 1850 December 12: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Amite County, MS showed Hampton Lea owned fifteen slaves. A male, age 20 was enumerated. It is highly likely this was Kemp.
- 1861 April 29: Kemp's owner, Hampton Lea, sent him to war to serve his son George, who had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

September 30: Hampton Lea wrote to his son *"I'm glad to hear that Kemp is well. I miss him much.."*<sup>1</sup>

- 1862 February 2: George Lea in a letter home to his father *"I want you to write some how you have arranged things for this year. I can't see how you are to get along with so many hands less than last year. Myself and kemp away and hired none."*<sup>2</sup>

Between February and July, Kemp must have been sent home for a time.

July 5: A letter from Hampton to his son George *"I send you all the clothing you wished. I do not know when Zach will be able to go back, when he does go, I will send Kemp he is not well at this time."*

August 24: George Lea in a letter home to his father *"Kemp is all right."*<sup>3</sup>

October 29: George wrote his father asking for some supplies *"Tell mother to send me two suits, 2 pr drawers, 3 prs socks, 1 pr gloves knit them whole fingers but not longer than my fingers but have them roomy, 1 comfort to be round my neck have it about four feet long. Send the over coat. You may send two pr pants for kemp, 1 vest. I forgot to mention above, 1 for Kemp also. I want my undershirts and drawers of something that is not too heavy but the over shirts of heavy gray flannel."*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lea, Hampton M. to George S. Lea, 30 Sep 1861, from Walls Store

<sup>2</sup> George Lea to Hampton Lee, 20 Feb 1862, from Camp Lovell, Bay St Louis, MS

<sup>3</sup> George Lea to Hampton Lee, 24 Aug 1862, from location?

<sup>4</sup> George S. Lea to Hampton Lea, 29 Oct 1862, from camp near Knoxville, TN

November 15: In a letter home answering questions his father had about Kemp “*You wish me to say something about Kemp. He is in good health and fat. You wished him sent home if there was any danger of the Yanks getting him there is no danger of that. I don’t think for their is a great many others in the army. He has faired much better than I have for the last three months and I am glad of it he is of great use to me now and gets plenty to eat and I don’t reckon he would do much at home if he was there. We are living out of doors by log heat fires has snowed twice in the month but being here at the beginning of winter will make it better for us.*”<sup>5</sup>

December: George Lea was wounded in battle and was sent to Lumpkin Hospital in Rome Georgia. Kemp was at the hospital with him.

1863 January 27: Another letter penned from hospital “Gen’l Bragg has put a stop to all furloughs...I have Kemp here with me.”<sup>6</sup>

October 10: George Lea in a letter home to his father “*Kemp is well and doing well much better than I am.*”<sup>7</sup>

1864 August 12: George’s last letter was written from Atlanta, in line of battle. He lamented about wanting to be home, he mentioned Kemp. “*...Kemp is alright Maj Carruth has him for the present*”<sup>8</sup>

November 30: George Lea was killed in battle at Franklin, TN. His body was buried by his slave Kemp and a friend. Kemp returned home to Mississippi and a year and a half later, he accompanied Hampton Kemp back to Franklin to show him where George was buried and to help bring him back to Mississippi.

1870 July 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Amite County, MS showed Kemp, a farm laborer, living with his wife Caroline and three children: Sarah, age 4, Philis, 3 and John, 9 months. Neither Kemp nor his wife Caroline could read and write.

1880 June 18: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Amite County, MS showed

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<sup>5</sup> George S. Lea to Hampton Lea, 15 Nov 1862, from Camp Moore, Near Tullahoma, TN

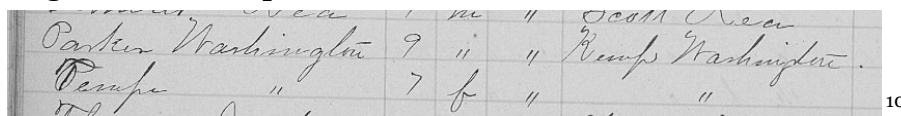
<sup>6</sup> George S. Lea to Hampton Lea, 27 Jan 1863, Lumpkin Hospital Ward #2, Rome, GA

<sup>7</sup> George Lea to Hampton Lee, 10 Oct 1863, from Camp near Chattanooga, TN

<sup>8</sup> George S. Lea to Hampton Lea, 12 Aug 1864, from In line of battle west side of Atlanta

Kemp, a laborer, and Caroline living with their eight children Sady<sup>9</sup>, 15, Phillis, 12, John, 11, Ody, 8, Delia,<sup>10</sup> Parker, 5 and Tempy, 4. The five oldest children were attending school.

1885 Kemp Washington was listed as having two children of school age. Throughout the years, there are a few of these exact documents with all of his children having attending school at one point or another.



1900 June 2: The U.S. Census enumerated in Amite County, MS showed a widowed Kemp living with his daughter Phillis Lowery and her children. Phillis was also widowed. Phillis was listed as a farmer, and Kemp no longer had an occupation. Although, Phillis did attend school as a child, the census indicated that she could not read or write.

This last census was the last document with any information on Kemp. He must have died before the 1910 census was enumerated.

Click here to read the story of George S. Lea.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/575ad69260b5e91314f0c856/t/63efd05acb32357908dcb66b/1676660830079/Lea%2C+George+S.+%281%29.pdf>

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<sup>9</sup> Sady, common nickname for Sarah.

<sup>10</sup> Mississippi Enumeration of Educable Children, 1850-1892; 1908-1957,(accessed familysearch.org)