

# World War I Snapshot: Calvin Peel Willetts of Winnabow, 1895-1967

BY NORMA AND AMY ECKARD  
FRIENDS OF FORT CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

Calvin Peel Willetts was born in Winnabow on Aug. 1, 1896, according to his World War I draft registration.

Soon after he registered for the draft, he married. Sadly, he lost his wife and child.

Willetts was ordered to report for duty on July 6, 1918, then was sent to Camp Greenleaf in Georgia as shown on the county draft board list. In only 18 months of operation, Camp Greenleaf trained 6,640 officers and 31,138 enlisted men. (Source: WWI Centennial Commission).

Two of the three men ordered to report for duty with Calvin from the board list were also trained for medical duties.

Claude Lafayette Stanley served overseas in the Sanitary Detachment for the 13th Field Artillery. (Source: Findagrave)

John Duren Reynolds also served overseas in the Medical Department. Some interesting details were found regarding his service and are shared in his WWI Snapshot.

Samuel William Lehw does not appear to have served. Perhaps his employment as printer at the Southport News, reported on his WWI draft registration, was more valuable to the country than military service. No confirmation was found.

Pvt. Willetts was promoted to private first class in December 1918, then corporal in March 1919. His service card does not include details beyond MD (Medical Department) and no overseas travel. (This is confirmed by the lack of his name on any U.S. Army transport passenger lists.) His VA Index was used to discover that he served in the B&S Det D G at the end of his service.

### What is B&S Det D G?

The National Archives VA Master Index Key to Codes and Prefixes is not for deciphering service information. The NC Archives List of Authorized Abbreviations for WWI Service Discharge Records, another very useful document, did not include anything other than the standard Det for Detachment. Some research and luck uncovered the answer.

A simple Internet search

found many occurrences of the abbreviated phrase. Systematically using each veteran's name who also served in that unit finally led to an application for headstone or marker, which included the details. The application is for Cpl. Alexander Sprunt Wortham at the VA Center in Mountain Home, Tenn.

Cpl. Willetts was honorably discharged on July 9, 1919. The 1920 U.S. Census shows he returned home, helping on the farm. He later remarried and raised a son.

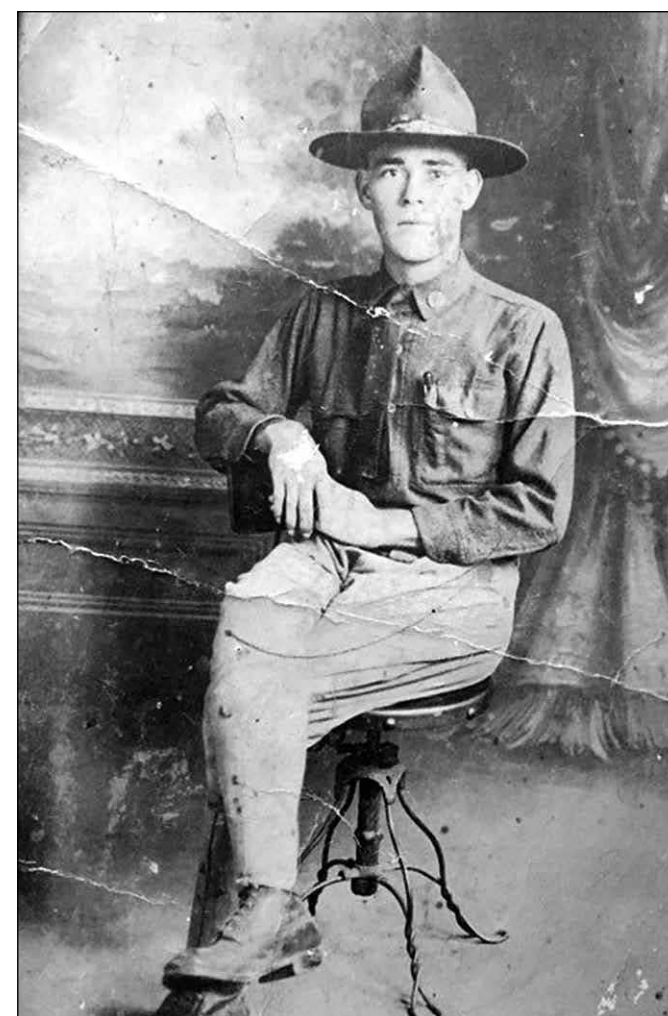
Calvin Peel Willetts passed away on Jan. 22, 1967, and was laid to rest in Willetts Cemetery in Mill Creek. No military honors are shown.

If you would like to help us honor Calvin Peel Willetts or

another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range at [fcaswellriflerange@gmail.com](mailto:fcaswellriflerange@gmail.com).

Anyone wishing to purchase the book, "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served," may call Norma Eckard at (910) 278-7584.

The book is 584 pages and covers the history and preservation of the rifle range, and includes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served in WWI. They have been featured on the website and in the Beacon for nearly three years.



Photos contributed (Source: Findagrave)

Calvin Peel Willetts photo, date unknown

Willetts, Calvin P.	2,586,972	* White * Color: I
(Last, first)	(Army serial number)	
Winnabow	Brunswick	NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(State)
Inducted at	Southport NC	July 6/18
Place of birth:	Brunswick Co NC	Age or date of birth: 22 11/18 yrs
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:		
to to		
Grades, with date of appointment:		
Pvt 1st 12/1/18; Corp 1/1/19		
Engagements:		
Wounds or other injuries received in action: None		
Served overseas from 1-12-18 to 1-1-19		
Honorable discharged on demobilization July 9/19		
In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.		
Remarks:		

North Carolina World War I service card for Calvin Willetts

ORIGINAL		Local Board of the County of Brunswick State of North Carolina Southport, N. C.		Date: July 6, 1918						
The selected men herein described, having been inducted into military service on July 6, 1918										
have this date been entrained for Camp Greenleaf, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.										
This statement consists of 016 sheets.										
Order No.	Serial No.	NAME	Call No.	Primary Industry	Classification					Failed to report to Military Authorities
					I	II	III	IV	V	
814	716	Calvin Peel Willetts	782	Farmer	X					
816	887	Claudius L. Stanley	"	Fireman	A					
870	389	John Reynolds	"	Fireman	A					
964	412	SAMUEL W LEHW	"	Printer	A					

Calvin Peel Willetts' order to report for duty



Camp Greenleaf, 1918