

GEORGE H. BROOKS FAMILY HISTORY

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PREFACE

A table of vital statistics for the George H. Brooks family is provided at the end of this story. As subsequent census reports, marriage records, obituaries, draft registration cards, etc., provided different data, the table was revised. This is a work in progress and new information would be most welcome.

In 1880 a George Brooks, age 43, a farmer, was living in Hancock, Md.¹ Living with him were: Ada, age 24, wife; George H., age 1, son; and others helping on the 183 acre farm. He is not the subject of this family history.

We hope the readers will find the story interesting and contact me with additional information or corrections. Karen Gray, Ph.D., did contact me regarding this story and revisions have been made as a result of her input. Pam Curtis also contacted me regarding cousins John H. Eddy and Joseph R. Colbert; who were not the subject to this report, thus they were deleted.

Thank you.

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¹ 1880 Census, Maryland, Washington County, 5th Election District, enumerated 6/9/1880, p. 15.

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George H. Brooks was born in May, 1843, in New York to Captain Herrickson Brooks and Herrick.

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861.

The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865.

The 1870 census listed Ann Eddy, age 64, widow, as head of household in dwelling #17, family #21, living at Millstone Point, Washington County, Md.² Living with her was John H. Eddy, age 28, son, a Boatman. Living in the same dwelling, but family #22 was George Brooks, age 26, a Boatman with a personal estate valued at \$600. Living with him were: Ellen, age 26, wife working as a cook on a canal boat; and Mary, age 2, daughter, living on a boat. It appears that Ann Eddy maintained the family home while her son, John H. Eddy, and her son-in-law, George H. Brooks, were off boating with her daughter, Ellen Eddy Brooks, as the cook and her granddaughter, Mary Brooks, being on the boat. Ellen Brooks was pregnant with Edward Brooks, who was subsequently born later that year, exact date to be determined.

On Nov. 9, 1870, Ellen E. Brooks died. Because Edward was born after the census was taken, her death may have been related to his birth. Her obituary remains to be found.

In July 1871, the “Boatman’s Benevolent Society” was organized in Cumberland for the purpose of mutual aid in case of misfortune or sickness, with George H. Brooks as one of the directors.³ Also in July 1871, a “strike of the boatmen” occurred based on uneven application of trippage fees to boats operating outside the company lines, i.e. “outside boats.” The problem was resolved by the end of July.

George H. Brooks married Catherine Frey on May 28, 1872, in Washington County, Md.

On March 1, 1873, George H. Brooks registered the canal boat *Kate Brooks*, hailing out of Hancock, Md. as Class C, length 89’-9”, beam 14’-5½”, draft empty 11” and draft when loaded 54”.⁴ Interestingly enough George H. Brooks did not take out a mortgage on the *Kate Brooks* until Sept. 10, 1873, in consideration of \$1,480.35 as the balance of purchase money.⁵ That suggests that he made a down payment, started operating the canal boat, and then signed a mortgage for the balance due on the agreed purchase money. “Kate” was a nickname for “Catherine,” suggesting that the canal boat was named after George’s wife.

On March 24, 1873 a newspaper reported: “A meeting comprised of boat and stock owners exclusively was held on Saturday evening in Boatmen’s Hall, No. 5, Baltimore street. The meeting was designed mainly as a secret session, but we learned yesterday that among the business of a public nature, resolutions were adopted and the old committee, George H. Brooks, of the Consolidation line; Joseph Kirkly, of the Maryland; John Hellgate, of the American;

² 1870 Census, Maryland, Washington County, 15th District, enumerated 6/24/1870, p. 3.

³ *Canal Trade – 1871*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html, p. 13,14.

⁴ *REGISTERS ISSUED TO BOATS TO NAVIGATE THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL, 1873, 1874 & 1875*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html.

⁵ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book McKK 6, p 111, 9/18/1873.

Michael Quigley, of the George's Creek; John Wright, of the Hampshire and Baltimore; and Abraham Kroon, of the Borden, [were] instructed to request an answer from the coal companies as to whether the rates of 1871, would be paid on or before Tuesday next, and to notify them that in the event of the terms of the boatmen not being accepted before that date, the boatmen living along the line of the canal will on Tuesday next depart for their homes.”⁶ The freight rate was settled as confirmed by the departure of the canal boat *Kate Brooks* on April 7, freighting for Consolidation Coal Co.

In 1873 the *Kate Brooks* departed Cumberland ten times; the first trip on April 7, was for Consolidation Coal Co. bound for Georgetown [after the above meeting]; the second trip on May 15, was for George's Creek Coal Co. bound for Alexandria; the remaining eight trips were for Maryland Coal Co. bound for Georgetown.⁷ The mortgage does not restrict George H. Brooks from freighting with coal from any company; if Consolidation Coal Co. did not have coal ready when he arrived in Cumberland, he could freight for whoever had coal. The mortgage requires George H. Brooks to run the boat night and day, without intermission or lying about. . . thus he would freight for whoever had coal when he was ready to load, he had \$35 trippage to pay.

1874 was another busy time for the *Kate Brooks*. We don't know where she wintered over, probably Hancock; however, she did arrive in Alexandria on 4/20/1874 to Wm. A. Smoot (a sand and gravel company) and departed on 4/22/1874 for Cumberland.⁸ For the balance of the year *Kate Brooks* freighted to Georgetown for Maryland Coal Co. The dates departing Cumberland were 5/28, 6/5, 7/25, 8/4, 10/7, 10/22, 11/5 and 11/21/1874. A total of 9 round trips.

During August 1874, the boatmen went on strike. In Sept. 1874, the boatmen organized a “Boatmen's Union” with George H. Brooks as President, although the Union may have been organized before the newspaper recognized it. The Union wanted an advance of 10¢ per ton on coal freighted to the District of Columbia. The coal companies acceded to the demand and the strike ended on Sept. 3, 1874.⁹

1875 was a busy year on the canal, however, we can confirm only that *Kate Brooks* departed Cumberland on 11/13/1875 to Georgetown for Individual and on 11/24/1875 to Georgetown for Maryland Coal Co.¹⁰ An 11-day round trip supports the notion that the canal boat was still running day and night, as required by the mortgage.

Early in 1876 a newspaper reported: “**More Adjustable Propellers.** - The plan of having an adjustable propeller on canal boats, to raise and lower as the boat is loaded or unloaded, has a good many considerations in its favor to commend it, and accordingly has stimulated the inventive genius of many theoretical and practical mechanics here and elsewhere. We have already noticed what has been accomplished in this direction in the Ludlow Patton, which ran on the canal last season. We also gave an account of an excellent contrivance looking in the same direction by Mr. Merwin McKaig and others, also of an invention by Mitchell & Son, of

⁶ *Daily Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Monday, 3/24/1873, p. 4.

⁷ *Canal Trade – 1873*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html.

⁸ *Canal Trade – 1874*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html

⁹ *Canal Trade – 1874*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html, p. 87.

¹⁰ *Canal Trade – 1875*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html

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Hancock. Mr. George H. Brooks, of Hancock, was in this city yesterday with an invention, (for which he has obtained letters patent,) by which the propeller is raised and lowered on a plan entirely different from any other now in operation.”¹¹ We have found no record that this George H. Brooks was interested in steam canal boats and the other Hancock, George H. Brooks was a farmer. Perhaps a relative will have an answer?

Their daughter, Kate Brooks, was born in 1876.

George H. Brooks must have sold his canal boat by 1876, because we note that the *Kate Brooks* was run by Captain McCormick to Georgetown for Maryland Coal Co. on 5/26, 6/15, 7/12, 7/29, 9/6 and 11/13/1876.¹² And the Canal Boat Registry for 1878 listed the *Kate Brooks* as having Capt. Donnelly and owned by Edward V. Gannon being built in 1871 by Doerner & Bender.¹³ The records at Washington and Allegany County Courthouses were searched for a record of the canal boat sale, to no avail. If the canal boat had been sold for cash, there would have been no record.

On June 17, 1878 George H. Brooks, in consideration of \$750, purchased Lot No. 25 in Hancock.¹⁴ Did he use the proceeds from the sale of his canal boat for this purchase?

The George H. Brooks family subsequently moved to West Virginia where daughter Naomi Brooks was born on Feb. 4, 1879. The family again moved, to Ellis, Kansas, and son Lewis Jay Brooks was born on Jan. 10, 1880 in Kansas.

The 1880 census reported George Brooks, age 37, working as a carpenter, living in Ellis, Kansas.¹⁵ Living with him were: Catherine, age 32, wife; Mary, age 12, daughter, at school; Edward, age 9, son; George, age 6, son; Kate, age 4, daughter; Naomi, age 2, daughter; and Baby [Lewis Jay], age 5/12, son.

In November, 1880, in consideration of \$200, George H. and Catherine Brooks sold their Lot No. 25 in Hancock to William Slazman of Ellis County, Kansas.¹⁶ We can only speculate why anyone in Kansas would buy a house and lot in Hancock, Md.

The 1900 census reported George Brooks, age 57, married 29 years, a farmer, living in Jackson Township, Missouri.¹⁷ Living with him were: Catherine, age 52, married 29 years, she had 5 children all of whom were then still living; George H., age 26, son, working on a railroad; Naomi R., age 22, daughter; Lewis J., age 20, son, working as a blacksmith; and John M., age 16, son, farming.

¹¹ *The Cumberland Alleganian and Cumberland Daily Times*, Cumberland, Md., newspaper, Tuesday, 3/21/76, p. 4.

¹² *Canal Trade – 1876*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html

¹³ *Boat Registry - 1878*, available at www.candocanal.org/histdocs/index.html

¹⁴ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 77, p 234, 10/15/1878.

¹⁵ 1880 Census, Kansas, Ellis County, Ellis, enumerated 6/15/1880, p. 10.

¹⁶ Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 81, p 481, 11/14/1881.

¹⁷ 1900 Census, Missouri, Ozark County, Jackson Township, enumerated 6/2/1900, p. 2.

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The 1910 census reported George H. Brooks, Sr., age 66, married 37 years, a general farmer, was living in Robberson, Missouri.¹⁸ Living with him were: Catherine, age 62, married 37 years, she had 5 children all of whom were still living; George H., Jr., age 36, son, married 2 years, farm partner on the home farm; R. Adaline, age 37, married 2 years, she had 1 child who was then still living; and Howard, age 1-½, grandson. We surmise the family had moved from Jackson Township, Missouri to Greene Township, Missouri during the previous decade and took up farming. Son George H. Brooks married R. Adaline in 1908 and they had a son a year later. They lived with his parents on the home farm where George, Jr., was a partner.

The 1910 census also reported Lewis J. Brooks, age 28, married 9 years, living in Ozark County, Missouri.¹⁹ Living with him were: Rosa, age 29, married 9 years, she had 4 children 3 of whom were then still living; Florence, age 7, daughter; Lloyd, age 5, son; and Merrill, age 5/12, son. We surmise the family had been living in Missouri until son Lloyd was born in 1905, then subsequently moved to Kansas before their son Merrill was born in January, 1910.

World War I came along and men had to register for the draft, including:

Lewis Jay Brooks, born Jan. 10, 1880, living at 1224 E. Pacific, Springfield, Greene Co., Mo. and employed as a machinist for Frisco Railroad.²⁰ Rose Brooks, R.F.D. #2, Lebanon, Laclede, Mo. was his nearest relative. He was 38 years old, height 6', weight 180, brown eyes and black hair.

¹⁸ 1910 Census, Missouri, Greene County, Robberson Township, enumerated 4/25/1910, p. 10.

¹⁹ 1910 Census, Missouri, Ozark County, Jackson Township, enumerated 5/5&5/1910, p. 11.

²⁰ Draft Registration Card Serial No. 1971, Local Board Springfield, Mo, dated Sept. 12, 1918.

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VITAL STATISTICS OF GEORGE H. BROOKS FAMILY

Name	Rel.	Birth	Married	Died	Born in
Herrickson Brooks	hus.	1820			New York
Herrick	wife	1820			New York
<i>George H. Brooks</i>	son	5/1843	5/9/1868	3/22/1916	New York
End of 1st Generation					
George Herrick Brooks	hus	5/1843	5/9/1868	3/22/1916	New York
Ellen Eddy (1 st)	wife	4/1843		11/9/1870	Maryland
<i>Mary May Brooks</i>	dau.	12/23/1868		1951	Maryland
<i>Edward Brooks</i>	son	1870	1/16/1895	1900	Maryland
George Herrick Brooks	hus	5/1843	5/28/1872	3/22/1917	New York
Catherine Frey (2 nd)	wife	1849		3/22/1916	Maryland
<i>George H. Brooks, jr.</i>	son	5/1872	1908	7/1941	Maryland
<i>Kate Brooks</i>	dau.	1876			Maryland
<i>Naomi Ruth Brooks</i>	dau.	2/4/1879	6/8/1904	12/13/1940	West Virginia
<i>Lewis Jay Brooks</i>	son	1/10/1880	4/28/1901	1958	Kansas
<i>John Murphy Brooks</i>	son	12/6/1883		7/31/1950	Kansas
End of 2nd Generation					
Edward Brooks	hus	1870	1/16/1895	1900	Maryland
Elisabeth Agnes Schocke	wife	7/15/1874		2/13/1940	Texas
<i>Walter Christian Brooks</i>	son	11/20/1897		5/14/1915	Texas
George Herrick Brooks, jr.	hus	5/1872	1908	7/1941	Maryland
Rozena Adaline	wife	1873		1958	Missouri
<i>Howard Brooks</i>	son	1909			Missouri
William Robert Solomon	hus	1879	6/8/1904	1959	
Naomi Ruth Brooks	wife	2/4/1879		12/13/1940	West Virginia
Lewis Jay Brooks	hus	1/10/1880	4/28/1901	1958	Kansas
Rose Lee	wife	1879		1962	Missouri
<i>Florence Brooks</i>	dau.	1903			Missouri
<i>Lloyd J. Brooks</i>	son	1905		1963	Missouri
<i>Merrill Brooks</i>	son	1/1910			Kansas
John Murphy Brooks	hus	12/6/1883	2/6/1902	7/31/1950	Kansas
Effie	wife	4/21/1877		7/4/1955	Missouri

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Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book McKK 6, p 111, 9/18/1873.

At the instance of Doerner & Bender, the following mortgage is recorded September 18th, 1873.

This Mortgage made this 10th day of September in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-three by George H. Brooks of Washington County, Maryland. Witnesseth, the said George H. Brooks is now indebted unto Weyand Doerner and Richard Bender (parties trading under the firm name and style of Doerner & Bender) of Allegany County, Maryland in the sum of fourteen hundred and eighty dollars and thirty five cents balance of the purchase money for the Canal Boat hereinafter mentioned, which sum the said George H. Brooks is to pay to the said Weyand Doerner & Richard Bender partners trading as aforesaid in instalments of thirty five dollars each for every trip that may be made by the Canal Boat called "Kate Brooks" from Cumberland to Georgetown, Washington City or Alexandria until the whole of said balance of purchase money, with interest, is paid. And whereas with a view to secure the payment of the said installments regularly according to the covenants hereinafter inserted the said George H. Brooks doth execute these presents. Now, therefore, in consideration of the premises the said George H. Brooks doth hereby bargain and sell unto the said Weyand Doerner & Richard Bender partners trading as aforesaid the Canal Boat called "Kate Brooks." Provided that if the said George H. Brooks shall pay to the said Weyand Doerner & Richard Bender parties trading as aforesaid the said installments of thirty-five dollars, each as aforesaid, with interest from the date of these presents, until the whole of said balance of purchase money shall be paid according to the covenants of the said George H. Brooks hereinafter set forth then this mortgage shall be void. And the said George H. Brooks covenants to and with the said Weyand Doerner & Richard Bender partners trading as aforesaid, that the said George H. Brooks will regularly run the said boat night and day on trips from Cumberland to Georgetown, Washington City or Alexandria, without intermission or lying by except when prevented from getting loading at Cumberland by strikes of the miners of coal or from unavoidable obstructions upon the Canal and the said George H. Brooks further covenants to and with the said Weyand Doerner & Richard Bender partners trading as aforesaid to freight or carry coal at current rates and usages and that he will pay the aforesaid instalments of thirty-five dollars each, with interest from the date of these presents, until the whole of said balance of purchase money shall be paid for each and every trip so made and for each trip he covenants shall be made. Provided that if default shall be made by the said George H. Brooks in the payment of the money aforesaid or the interest thereon at the times or in the manner aforesaid or breach of any covenant herein contained, then it shall be lawful for the said Weyand Doerner and Richard Bender partners trading as aforesaid to sell the said Canal Boat in the City of Cumberland at public auction for cash or upon credit after giving ten days public notice by hand bills set up at the most public places in said City at least ten days prior to the day of sale giving notice of the time, place, manner & terms thereof and apply the proceeds of such sale to the payment in the first place of the expenses that may be incurred in making such sale and then to the payment of the mortgage debt and the surplus, if any, to pay to the said George H. Brooks, his executors, administrators or assigns.

Attest J. M. Strong

Witness my hand and seal: G. H. Brooks {Seal}

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that on the 12th day of September in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-three before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for said County, personally appeared George H. Brooks and

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acknowledged the foregoing mortgage to be his act. And at the same time before me personally appeared Weyand Doerner, one of the firm name and style of Doerner & Bender, and mad oath in due form of law that the consideration in said mortgage is true and bona fide as therein set forth.

J. M. Strong, J.P.

State of Maryland, Allegany County, to wit: I hereby certify that Joseph M. Strong, Esq., before whom the above acknowledgment and affidavit was made and whose genuine signature thereto appears was at the date thereof a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in aforesaid County duly commissioned and sworn and authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgements. In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of the Circuit Court for Allegany County this 12th day of September 1873.

Horace Resley, Clerk of the Circuit Court
for Allegany Co., Md.

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Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 77, p 234, 10/15/1878.

At the request of Geo. H. Brooks, the following deed was recorded October 15th, 1878.

This Deed, made this seventeenth day of June, A.D., 1878, by S. H. Davis and Williamina Davis of Hancock, Washington County, State of Maryland. Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars in hand paid by George H. Brooks of Hancock in the said County and State, we the said S. H. Davis and Williamina [Davis] do hereby grant unto the said George H. Brooks, his heirs and assigns, all that certain parcel of ground lying in Rowlands Addition to Hancock and known as Lot No. 25, improved by a two story frame house, being the same property that was conveyed to Agnus Wyatt by John A. Ellenberger by deed bearing date 22nd July 1862, and recorded in Liber I. N. No. 16, folio 387, one of the Land Records of Washington County, Md. Witness our hands and seals.

Test: Samuel P. Davis

Samuel H. Davis {Seal}

Williamina Davis {Seal}

State of Maryland, Washington Co., to wit: I hereby certify that on this seventeenth day of Sept. A.D., 1878, before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Washington County, personally appeared Samuel H. Davis and Williamina Davis, his wife, and did each acknowledge the foregoing deed too be their respective acts.

September 17, 1878

Joseph Harrison, J.P.

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Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD, Deed Book 81, p 481, 11/14/1881.

At the request of Wm. Slazman, the following Deed was recorded November 14th, 1881.

This Deed, made and executed this 29th day of November, A.D. 1880, by & between George H. Brooks & Catherine Brooks, his wife, of Ellis County in the State of Kansas, party of the first part, and William Slazman of said Ellis County, party of the second part. Witnesseth, that the party of the first part in consideration of two hundred dollars to them in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents grant, bargain and sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part the following described Estate, to wit: Lot Number (25) twenty-five in Rowland's Addition to the town of Hancock, Washington County in the State of Maryland. To have and to hold with all and singular the rights, immunities, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining unto the said party of the second part and his legal representatives forever. The said George Brooks hereby covenanting that he & his legal representative shall & will warrant & forever defend the title to the said premises unto the said party of the second part & his legal representatives forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever. Witness whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands & seals the day and year first above written.

Geo. H. Brooks {Seal}

Catherine Brooks {Seal}

State of Kansas, Saline County, S.S.: Be it remembered that on this 29th day of November, A.D., 1880 personally appeared before the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for County & State aforesaid, who are each personally known to me to be the persons who executed the foregoing deed and acknowledged that they executed the same for the use & purpose therein specified. In testimony, whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at my office in Saline County, the day & year last aforesaid.

J. B. Paul, J.P.