

WILLIAM H. ROLLISON FAMILY HISTORY

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PREFACE

This family history was started because I noticed on a Map of Montgomery County, Md., dated 1865, that the lock keeper at Edward's Ferry was a W. Rollison, who I had never heard of. With additional research, "*The Forgotten Story of William Henry Rollison, Civil War Veteran and Ferryman,*" by Jon Wolz, printed in the *Monocacy Monocle*, January 22, 2021, p. 8, was found and became the basis of this report.

Text within (parenthesis) was found in the original document. Text within [brackets] is something I added for clarity or because it was missing from the original, e.g., census report.

I have added some additional family information to help other researchers. My interest stops with their departure from the canal.

New information on the family would be welcome.

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William H. Rollison Family History

This family history starts with the marriage of William Rollison, age 22, to Henrietta D. Solomon, age 29, on Aug. 31, 1834 at a house on Broad Run, Loudoun County, Virginia. The Rollison family lived on a farm in an area known as “Stumptown,” near Lucketts, Va., on present-day U.S. 15, between Brunswick, Md. and Leesburg, Va.

The 1850 census listed William Rollison, age 33, with real estate valued at \$300, a carpenter working construction jobs, living in Loudoun County, Va.¹ Living with him were: Henrietta, age 45, wife; William, age 14, son; Frances, age 12, daughter; and John, age 9, son.

Apparently, Henrietta died after the census was taken. One record indicates 1855, in Loudoun County, Virginia. An obituary has not been found.

The C. & O. Canal opened to Cumberland on Oct. 10, 1850. However, the lower portions of the canal had been open for freighting agricultural produce for years.

The canal boat *Henrietta* was registered on 4/10/1851, hailing out of Leesburg, Class B, 84’ in length, 14’ in beam, 14” draft light, 48” draft loaded, and owned by John P. Smart & E. L. Bentley of Loudoun County, Va. The canal boat *John P. Smart* was also registered on 4/10/1851, hailing out of Springland, Class B, 81’-9” in length, 13’-11” in beam, 15” draft light, 46” draft loaded and owned by J. P. Smart & E. L. Bentley.

John P. Smart owned a 40-acre tract containing a flour mill, the tract lying just south of the mouth of Big Spring Branch, which emptied into the Potomac River, in Loudoun County, Va. John P. Smart and Edgar Bentley also owned a 500+ acre tract north of the mouth of Goose Creek. They needed canal boats to haul their mill products through the river lock (mile post 30.64) at Edward’s Ferry and on to Georgetown, D. C. The canal boat *Henrietta*, was probably named after his then 17 year old daughter, Henrietta Smart (b. 1834). It is not likely that the canal boat was named after Henrietta Rollison, there being no known connection.

However, to illustrate one commercial enterprise using the river lock at Edward’s Ferry, the following tabulation is of the arrivals of canal boat *Henrietta* at Georgetown in 1851.

Arrival Date	Departure Point	Cargo
1/15	31 miles	flour, bbls.
3/10	Edward’s Ferry	flour, bbls.
3/17	31 miles	700 bbls. flour
3/27	Leesburg	flour
4/2	Edward’s Ferry	700 bbls flour
4/7	31 miles	flour and wheat
4/21	31 miles	700 bbls. flour
4/28	Edward’s Ferry	flour
5/13	31 miles	578 bbls flour
5/21	31 miles	610 bbls flour
5/31	31 miles	flour
6/12	31 miles	flour

¹ 1850 Census, Virginia, Loudoun County, enumerated 9/9/1850, p. 320.

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The canal boat *John P. Smart* had a similar season. There was a granary located on the berm side of the canal (mile post 30.78) where farmers brought their wheat, corn, oats, etc. Just upstream from lock 25, on the berm side, was a basin where farmers and/or merchants could load barrels of flour or tobacco directly onto canal boats. Then canal boats *John Glenn, Neptune, Tip & Tyler, Wells A. Harper, Ohio, Victory, Experiment, George Washington* and several gondolas carried the merchandise to Georgetown. In 1850, George W. Bozzell earned \$250/year as lock keeper at Lock No. 25 (mile post 30.84), whereas other lock keepers earned only \$150/year.

The starting date for William Rollison being lock keeper at Lock 25, Edward's Ferry has not been found. However, the steady pay and extra pay for attending to the river lock in addition to the lift lock, must have been attractive.

The 1860 census reported William Rollison, age 48, with a personal estate valued at \$60, working as a lock keeper, living in dwelling number 274.² Poolesville was his Post Office. Living with him were: William, age 24, son, working as a boatman; Frances, age 20, daughter; John C., age 16, son; and John H. France, age 20, relation not given, working as a laborer.

The 1860 census also reported Samuel C. Young, age 51, with real estate valued at \$16,000 and a personal estate valued at \$18,200, working as a farmer, living in dwelling number 275.³ Living with him were: Eugenia, age 30, daughter; William Thomas, age 25, son; Benjamin, age 20, son; Mary, age 20, daughter; and M. Eliza, age 7, daughter. The census taker walked up the towpath from Lock 25 and the Rollison family to collect the information from the Young family, as shown on the 1865 Map of Montgomery County, Md.

The Civil War started on April 12, 1861.

On Aug. 1, 1862, at Edward's Ferry, Va., William H. Rollison [Jr.], age 26, mustered in to Company E, 1st Potomac Home Brigade (13th Regiment, Maryland Infantry) as a private, for service for three years. Company E, F and H were recruited in Washington County, presumably William knew many of the enlistees. During the winter of 1861-62, the Brigade served with Gen. Banks and in the following spring marched with that commander up the Shenandoah Valley as far as Winchester, when it was assigned the duty of guarding the B. & O. Railroad line. General Banks was driven out of the Shenandoah Valley and repaired to Harper's Ferry where he remained. While the second battle of Manassas was ongoing, Bank's forces guarded the several fords and ferries near the Monocacy Aqueduct, then returned to Harper's Ferry. Unfortunately, the entire garrison at Harper's Ferry surrendered on Sept. 15, 1862; the men were paroled and prisoners exchanged. Bank's men were returned to duty along the Potomac, until the Gettysburg campaign heated up. They were heavily involved in the second day of the battle at Gettysburg and pursued Lee's Army as far as the Potomac River, afterwards. More guarding of the Potomac River until July 1864, when General Early invaded Maryland. The 13th Regiment fought under Gen. Wallace in the battle at Monocacy. Then it was assigned again to guard the B. & O. Railroad, between Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry. William H. Rollison [Jr.] mustered out as a Fourth Sergeant on May 29, 1865, at Baltimore, Md.

² 1860 Census, Maryland, Montgomery County, Medley District, enumerated 7/3/1860, p. 38.

³ *Ibid.*

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William H. Rollison [Sr., age 53] married Sarah Rebecca Criswell [age 34] on Jan. 2, 1865.

The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865. The 1865 Map of Montgomery County, Md. shows W. Rollison [Sr.] as the Lock keeper at Lock 25, Edward's Ferry. Thus, we perceive that he served throughout the war. Before the 1870 census, he moved the family back to Loudoun County, Va.

The 1870 census listed William Rollison, age 58, a laborer, with a personal estate valued at \$100 and real estate valued at \$600, living in Loudoun County, Va.⁴ Living with him were: Rebecca, age 38, wife; William, age 28, son, a laborer; Frances, age 25, daughter; John C. Rollison, age 23, a boatman [all from his first marriage]; George, age 5, son; Grant, age 3, son; and Howard, age 1, son.

In 1871, Elijah V. White bought Conrad's Ferry and hired William [Jr.] as a ferryman, who remained on the job until his death in 1900.

On Oct. 3, 1872, William Henry Rollison [Jr.] married Harriet Clarkson in Loudoun County, Va. That union resulted in five sons. Their first son, Charles Edward Rollison, also worked on White's Ferry from 1890 until sometime in the early 1900's. Charles Edward Rollison lived in Ashburn, Va., which is on present-day VA-7, east of Leesburg. He worked in a stone quarry as a laborer and died on June 26, 1936, from a fractured skull due to a fall while at work in the quarry.⁵ He was subsequently buried in Beallsville, Md. on June 29, 1936. But we are getting ahead of the story.

In June of 1890, William Rollison [Jr.] was living in Poolesville, Md. with his Post Office at White's Ferry.⁶ He had a slight wound in the cheek from his service in the Civil War.

William Henry Rollison [Sr.] died on Nov. 1, 1893 and was subsequently buried in the Lovettsville Union Cemetery, Loudoun County, Virginia.

SGT William Henry Rollison [Jr.], died on Dec. 23, 1900 (aged 64). His obituary: "Rockville, Md., Dec. 28, [1900] – Mr. William Rollison, ferryman at White's Ferry, Montgomery County, died on Sunday last as the result of injuries received the preceding day. While ferrying a wagon loaded with coal across the river, one of the horses attached to the wagon became fractious. Mr. Rollison went to the assistance of the teamster and was knocked down by the frightened animal, and one of the wheels of the heavy wagon passed over his body. A second later the horses began backing and the wheel passed over him a second time. He was injured internally. A widow and several children survive him. he was 45 [*sic.* 64] years of age.

Charles Rollison took over his father's job and was the ferryman until 1918.

⁴ 1870 census, Virginia, Loudoun County, Northern Division, enumerated 7/7/1870, p. 77.

⁵ Certificate of Death, Commonwealth of Virginia, 16156, Registered No. 48.

⁶ Special Schedules of Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

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VITAL STATISTICS OF WILLIAM H. ROLLISON FAMILY

Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died
John H. Rollison	hus	1791	1/15/1810	
Elizabeth Cullison	wife	1794		1850
<i>William Henry Rollison</i>	son	5/13/1812	twice	11/1/1893
<i>Julia Ann Rollison</i> (Havener)	dau	1815	1831	1871
<i>Francis Rollison</i> (Hummer)	dau	6/1/1818	6/30/1842	10/30/1889
William Solomon	hus	1787	8/19/1809	1850
Henrietta D. Cullison	wife	1793		1850
<i>Henrietta D. Solomon</i>	dau	1812	8/31/1834	1855
<i>Mary Ann Solomon</i>	dau	1812		
<i>Elizabeth "Betsey" Solomon</i>	dau	1818		
<i>James W. Solomon</i>	son	1821		
<i>Fanny Solomon</i>	dau	1824		
<i>Susan Solomon</i>	dau	1826		
<i>George W. Solomon</i>	son	1831		
<i>Nancy Solomon</i>	dau	1834		
<i>Winiford F. Solomon</i>	dau	1836		1897
James William Criswell	hus	1784		1837
Elizabeth Temperance	wife	1785		1/15/1871
<i>George William Criswell</i>	son	1817		4/21/1869
<i>Elizabeth Ann Criswell</i>	dau	1819		1891
<i>Charles Criswell</i>	son	1824		
<i>James Criswell</i>	son	1828		5/1/1881
<i>Sarah Rebecca Criswell</i>	dau	2/12/1831	1/2/1865	3/16/1912
<i>Basil Edward Criswell</i>	son	1834		1911
<i>Mary Jane Criswell</i>	dau	1838		1900
End of 1st Generation				
William Henry Rollison [Sr.]	hus	5/13/1812	8/31/1834	11/1/1893
Henrietta D. Solomon (1 st)	wife	1805		1855
<i>William Henry Rollison</i> [Jr.]	son	6/6/1836	10/3/1872	12/23/1900
<i>Frances M. Rollison</i>	dau	1838		
<i>John Carter Rollison</i>	son	1844		7/15/1876
William Henry Rollison	hus	5/13/1812	1/2/1865	11/1/1893
Sarah Rebecca Criswell (2 nd)	wife	2/12/1831		3/16/1912
<i>George Lee Rollison</i>	son	11/15/1865		9/20/1902
<i>Philip Grant Rollison</i>	son	7/1867		
<i>Howard Thomas Rollison</i>	son	1/30/1869		
<i>Clarence L. Rollison</i>	son	3/4/1872		
<i>Edgar Lawson Rollison</i>	son	4/7/1873		

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Name	Rel.	Born	Married	Died
Silas Havener	hus	1815	1831	1875
Julia Ann Rollison	wife	1815		1871
<i>Mary Wade Havener</i>	dau	1833		
<i>Ann Elizabeth Havener</i>	dau	1834		
<i>Eanley Havener</i>	son	1837		
<i>Joseph Havener</i>	son	1840		
<i>John Havener</i>	son	1843		
<i>Emily Havener</i>	dau	1845		1870
James W. Hummer	hus	1817	6/30/1842	1902
Francis Rollison	wife	6/1/1818		10/30/1889
<i>Martha Barclay Hummer</i>	dau	7/28/1845		1908
<i>Ann Hummer</i>	dau	1847		
<i>William Hummer</i>	son	1848		
<i>Julia Hummer</i>	dau	1849		
End of 2nd Generation				
William Henry Rollison [Jr.]	hus	6/6/1836	10/3/1872	12/23/1900
Harriet E. Clarkson	wife			1911
<i>Charles Edward Rollison</i>	son	12/1873		6/26/1936
<i>John Carter Rollison</i>	son	3/27/1878	twice	3/25/1930
<i>William Henry Rollison</i>	son	1879		1939
<i>Thomas Henry Rollison</i>	son	1884		1961
<i>George Cleveland Rollison</i>	son	1887		1941
End of 3rd Generation				
Charles Edward Rollison	son	12/1873		6/26/1936
Laura	wife	1882		
John Carter Rollison	hus	3/27/1878	1/18/1922	3/25/1930
Edna Louise Shoemaker (2nd)	wife			
<i>Edna Louise Rollison</i>	dau		12/17/1963	