

William Clow
Jefferson County Civil War Veteran

William Clow, son of Thomas Clow and Susannah¹, was born on 16 Jun 1819 in Buffalo Creek, Brooke, VA. Through the greater part of his life, William was employed as a riverboat pilot, and a number of his sons also made their living on the River.

William married Nancy Ann Williams² on 3 Jun 1841 in Jefferson, OH, daughter of Joseph Williams and Mary; Andrew Scott officiated. Nancy was born about 1824 in OH and died about 1855 about age 31. They had three children: James, Leander, and Joseph Albert "Bert".

William next married Sarah Jane "Jennie" Conant on 30 Jul 1857 in Brooke, WV, daughter of Lot Conant and Mary "Polly" McClellan. Sarah was born on 22 Jun 1834 in Wheeling, Ohio, VA. Jennie Conant was a direct descendant of Roger Conant, who arrived at Plymouth in July 1623 on the ship, Anne, and went on to found the Town of Salem in 1626³. William and Jennie had three children: William Jr., George Howard, and David Haines. By 1860 they were residing in Jeffersonville, Clark Co., Indiana with Leander and Joseph from William's first marriage, and their sons, George and William.

As the Civil War engulfed the country, riverboats became an integral part of the war effort transporting troops and materiel throughout the Mississippi River basin. Pay for a pilot was about \$150 to \$300 per month, but pilots were only paid for time actually on the river. The arrangement of the War Department owning and manning the river gunboat fleet with naval officers directing operations was unwieldy. The War Department arranged for the transfer of the ironclads, tinclads and auxiliary vessels [from the Army] to the Navy Department effective September 30, 1862 and the Western Flotilla was then designated the Mississippi Squadron. In addition... the Mississippi Marine Brigade was formed and attached to the Mississippi Squadron with nineteen year old Charles Rivers Ellet commissioned a full

Colonel at its head.⁴ In order to serve the Union, riverboat pilots were required to provide evidence of their loyalty; William did so in 1863 and the record is on file at the National Archives⁵. It reads as follows:

Mch. W. Hughes, a resident of Louisville, KY and Henry Conant of Wheeling Virginia, and both are true and Loyal men to United States government. They bothe say they are well acquainted with the applicant William Clow for License as Pilot and know him to be a truly Loyal citizen of United States and we have known for 10 years Mr. Clow and looked upon him a true and Loyal man to the Constitution and government of the United States.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 23 day March 1863

(s) NW Hughes

(s) H. Conant

A. A. [illegible]

Local Inspector

The Henry Conant who signed for William was a pilot himself as well as his brother-in-law. William's sons Leander and Joseph both also served in the Union Army; Leander became a 2nd Lt in Co. H, 38th Indiana Inf. And Joseph was a Sgt in the 12th Battery of the Indiana Light Artillery.

After the War William and his family, along with some of their Conant relatives, settled in Warrenton, Jefferson Co., Ohio. William died on 10 Mar 1899 in Warrenton, Jefferson, OH at age 79, and was buried on 12 Mar 1899 in Warrenton Cemetery, Jefferson, OH. Jennie died on 9 Nov 1908 in Rayland, Jefferson, OH at age 74, and was buried on 11 Nov 1908 in Warrenton Cemetery, Jefferson Co, OH.

Obituaries:

William Clow, Sr. of Warrenton, this county, departed this life on the 10th day of March 1899, and was interred in the cemetery at that place on the following

¹ William's parents are identified in his 1857 marriage record to Sarah Jane Conant, Brooke Co WV Marriage book #1, pg 3, line 2.

² Marriage records on file at the public library, Steubenville, OH.

³ A History and Genealogy of the Conant Family, Frederick Odell Conant, Portland ME, pg 433.

⁴ "Capt William Rion Hoel, The Life of a 19th Century Riverman," by J. W. Rutter in S&D Reflector, June 1996-Mar 1997

⁵ Log of affirmations of allegiance to the Union for River Pilots, page 127 dated March 22, 1863

Sabbath. The immediate cause of his death was pneumonia, but he had been afflicted for some months with a partial paralysis of the stomach and bowels. Mr. Clow was born on Buffalo Creek, Brooke County, W. Va. on the 10th day of June, 1819, and was well past the allotted life of man. His boyhood days were spent on a farm. At the age of eighteen he began flatboating on the Ohio river in the capacity of pilot. He followed this until the flatboat gave way to the steamer, and engaged in piloting the latter until 1878 when he retired from river service. During the Civil War he was engaged as pilot in the Government Marine Service on the Mississippi and its tributaries and was at the wheel of one of the boats that made the memorable run of the blockade at Vicksburg in 1863. He was captain and pilot of the Ben Franklin⁶ at the time Gen Grant used that boat for his headquarters, and was a close personal acquaintance of the General. Later and until the close of the war he was Master of the dispatch boat Sallie List⁷. The latter years of his

life were spent at Warrenton. Mr. Clow was a man of solid character and enjoyed the respect and esteem of the entire community. He had a keen perception of the duty of the citizen toward the community and State, being a firm advocate of good Government, and holding his vote sacred to that end. He was an exhaustive reader and until his last illness, kept himself in close touch with the doings of the day. Mr. Clow is survived by his wife and four children. He was twice married. His first wife was Nancy A Williams of Brooke County, W. Va; the only surviving child of which union is Capt J A Clow, of Shousetown, Pa. His second wife was Sarah Jane Conant, of Wheeling, W Va. The children of the latter marriage are William and George Clow, of Warrenton, and David H. Clow, of Pittsburg, Pa. The funeral services of Wm Clow were conducted by Rev Harris in the ME church on Sunday. Dave Clow and Mrs Bert Clow of Pittsburg, the Misses Bedillion, of Wheeling, and Mrs Lucas and sons, near Wellsburg, all near relatives were in attendance. [Newspaper is unknown]

⁶ BEN FRANKLIN

Built at Parkersburg, [W]VA in 1861
 178 6in L
 28 3in W
 5 5in Draft
 260Certificate #86 issued at Wheeling, VA on
 15 May 1861 (James P. Jack)
 24 May 1862 Wm Morrison
 26 Feb 1863 G. Campbell Sweeney
 10 Jul 1863 Archibald Campbell
 8 Jun 1865 (New Orleans) T. M. Ure
 14 Oct 1865 K. J. Cole
 Broken up in Pittsburg in 1866
 Listed at 450 Tons
 3 Mar - 17 Sept 1863 Chartered
 The Army's Navy Series: Dictionary of Transports and
 Combatant Vessels Employed by the Union Army
 1861-68, Charles Dana Gibson and E. Kay Gibson

⁷ SALLIE LIST

National Archives Records
 Built at Elizabeth, PA in 1860
 Length 155.7 ft
 Width 30.5 ft
 Draft 5.7 ft
 Tonnage 342
 Initial enrollment at Pittsburg on 26 Mar 1861

Location	Master	Date
Wheeling VA	J Thorton Russell	22 Mar 1860
Wheeling VA	James C. Selby	10 Dec 1861
Louisville, KY	James G. Gudgeon	11 Nov 1865

Mrs. Jennie Clow, one of the best known and most highly respected women of Rayland, died at her late residence Monday night, after a several weeks' illness with stomach trouble. Mrs. Clow was one of the older residents of Rayland, being seventy-four years of age and is survived by three sons. The funeral will occur from the family home this afternoon and the interment will be made in Warrenton cemetery. [Stuebenville Herald-Star, Wednesday, 11 November 1908].

Mobile, AL	J. B. Bonham	12 Feb 1866
Lost in March 1869		
Army Records		
Listed variously as 220, 229, and 400 Tons		
Apr 1862	Expedition to Pittsburg Landing and Shiloh	
12 Jan - 7 Dec 1863	Chartered	
10 Feb - 4 Mar 1864	Chartered	
5 May - 19 Jul 1864	Chartered	
24 - 29 Oct 1864	Hired	
7 -15 Nov 1864	Employed	
3 -31 Jan 1865	Utilized	
18 -23 Apr 1865	Utilized	
10 Jun - 16 Aug 1865	Chartered	
7-14 Oct 1865	Pressed	
<i>Ibid</i>		