



# KNOW YOUR ROOTS

*Mary Durland, Author/Researcher*

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## THE ELSON FAMILY

### OUR CONNECTION

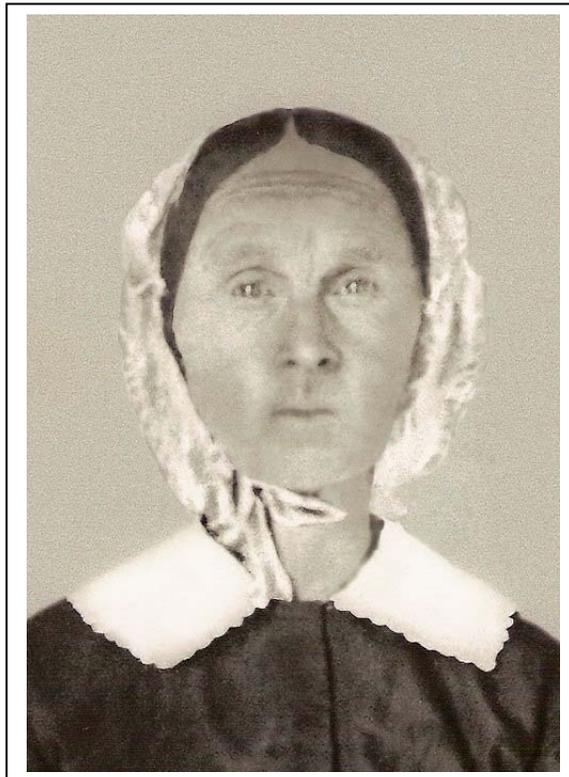
#### MARY ELIZABETH ELSON

Our link to the  
ELSON FAMILY

Mother of Rebecca Free

Maternal grandmother of  
Harry Elson Durland

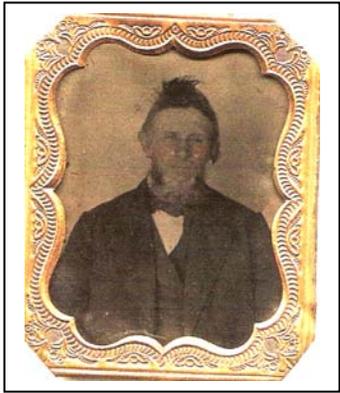
Daughter of  
William and  
Hannah Elson



Mary Elizabeth was the eldest child of William and Hannah's eleven children. I told you a little about her before now, but this story is about William, her father, his past and his family. He was the youngest child of our Revolutionary soldier Richard Elson. Richard's family goes back originally to Maryland where he was born in 1738. He married Mary Turner in Maryland but William, the youngest of their six children, was born in Virginia after the war, in 1784. The previous story of the Magnolia Inn revolves around an older brother of William whose name is John Harris Elson. I also have a CD of a diary of Emma Elson from that same family. The Richard Elson family and descendents moved to Ohio and became quite prominent in Stark County and Carroll County, Ohio, and have their own page on the web. It was in Carroll County, now Columbiana, Ohio where our Mary Elizabeth met and married William Free on 25 April 1822 when she was but a teenager.

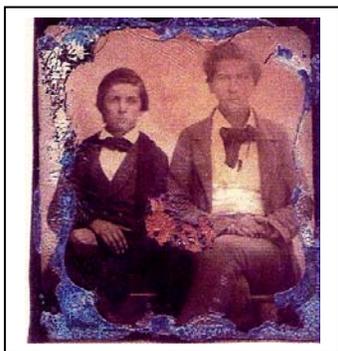
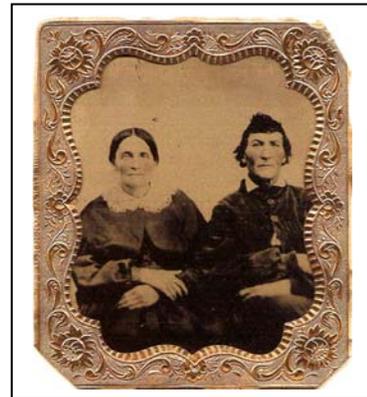
I am going to digress from William Elson for just a moment. In Rebecca Free Durland's possession was a group of very old ambrotypes and tintypes. When I began researching the family they were given to me. I think I have identified all of them so I present them to you with a caveat. If any of my readers on the web have other information about them, please advise me.

Back to William Elson. William Elson and Hannah Stewart were married circa 1803/1804 in Virginia. Their first child, our Mary Elizabeth, was born in Virginia. The picture on page 1 is a retouched photo of the ambrotype which Rebecca had identified as her mother. The next child, Henson, also identified by Rebecca is a tintype and I'm adding a photo that could be



Henson's wife Elizabeth Cahill. Henson was the second child and born in Virginia also in December 1806. Two more boys followed, Charles and Richard, but I don't have any pictures of those boys. However, the next girl Isabel has been well documented and so I add her and a picture that I

have with her husband. She was a very well known lady because she was very active with the poor and the sick. She was the second wife of James Webster and lived to be 86. The tintype could be their wedding picture. The family of William and Hannah continued to grow. Following Isabel were John, William, and Stewart. In the meantime, while Hannah was having her family, William moved them from Virginia to Ohio so some of the children now were born in Ohio and William acquired quite a bit of land; a portion of it he sold to his church for a new



building. Probably the reason I don't have any pictures of the brothers was because Mary Elizabeth didn't keep in touch with them. However I have an image of two more that were in the group of photos. I believe these young men are Thomas and Turner and their photo is very unusual and, as you can see, it is almost gone. It is done on leather and I am so glad I took a copy before it started to disintegrate. I don't know which brother is which but one is the father in the newsletter "THE ILLUSTRIOUS COUSIN," the story of the famous Elson of the Dick and Jane books.

The only child left to be mentioned is Hannah who married a Catlin. There is much more to the Elson story but I'm thankful I have these photos, which are a part of our family history. Presently they are over one hundred years old and are treasures that cannot be replaced.

(Webmaster & Technical Advisor: Jerry Larkin)