

CENSUS · 1870

An Item from the Census:
 The Washington Ferguson¹ Family

[Malden, W.Va., 1870]

1	2	3	Description			7
			4	5	6	
Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation	Families, numbered in the order of visitation	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family	Age at last birth-day. If under 1 year, give months in fractions, thus, 3/12.	Sex — Males (M) Females (F)	Color — White (W), Black (B), Mulatto (M), Chinese (C), Indian (I)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female
212	212 ²	Ferguson, Watt [Wall?]	50	M	B	Packs Salt
		Nancy ³	59	F	B	Keeping house
		John ⁴	17	M	B	Day labor
		Booker	14	M	M	Domestic Servant
		Amand ⁵	12	F	M	At home
		James ⁶	8	F ⁷	M	

Census of 1870, Malden Township, Kanawha County, W.Va., p. 199, RG29 M-593 DNA. Columns left blank by the census taker were: parentage (father of foreign birth; mother of foreign birth); if born within the year; if married within the year; attended school within the year; whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic; male citizens of U.S. of twenty-one years of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.

¹ Washington Ferguson, whose name is misspelled in the document, was a slave of Josiah Ferguson of Hale's Ford, Franklin County, Va. He married Jane, the mother of BTW, about 1859 and was the father of Amanda. He gave trouble to his owner, who hired him out at the salt furnaces of Kanawha Salines, on the construction crew of a railroad, and to a tobacco factory in Lynchburg after the Civil War began. He seldom visited his family except at Christmas. Sometime during the Civil War, Wash Ferguson escaped into freedom, probably in June 1864, when the Union general David Hunter raided into Virginia as far as Lynchburg and then was forced to retreat. According to John H. Washington's recollection, Wash Ferguson was among the many slaves who escaped and followed Hunter. (John H. Washington to Asa L. Duncan, Aug. 20, 1913, Con. 934, BTW