

# William Hamilton Merritt

Praesto et Persto  
(I undertake and persevere)

Date	Event
3 July 1793	Born at Bedford, NY to Thomas and Mary (Hamilton)
1796	Family moves to Upper Canada
1803	Father appointed sheriff for district
1808	Goes to Halifax on Uncle's (Nehemiah Merritt) ship "Lord Sheffield"
1809	Worked in Saint John, traveled home via New York
1810	Partner with William Chisholm in general store
June 1812	Sees General Brock – guard duty at Chippawa
12 June 1812	Arrived day after Detroit falls
13 October 1812	Battle of Queenston Heights
February 1813	Captain Merritt raises troop of cavalry
27 May 1813	Battle of Fort George
5 June 1813	Battle of Stoney Creek
Summer 1813	Trip to Montreal via Kingston
20 September 1813	Returns home to St Catharines
10 December 1813	Niagara (Niagara-on-the-Lake) burned
5 July 1814	Battle of Chippawa – Merritt arrives after battle
25 July 1814	Battle of Lundy's Lane taken prisoner for eight months (Greenbush, MA)
13 March 1815	Marries Catharine Prendergast in Mayville, NY
	Trip to Montreal and New York
1816	Buys Thomas Adam's sawmill, builds grist mill
Autumn 1816	First child born dies in infancy
1 June 1820	Son Jedediah born
4 July 1817	First sod of Erie Canal turned
18 September 1818	Merritt, Keefer and DeCew seek new water supply for their mills
14 October 1818	Meeting at Niagara – join Chippawa to the Twelve
June 1823	General Manager "Welland Canal Company"
19 January 1824	Charter approved by Upper Canada Assembly
17 October 1824	Son Thomas Rodman born
30 November 1824	<b>First sod turned on Welland Canal</b>
Spring 1828	Trip to England to raise capital
30 November 1829	<b>Canals opens – "Annie and Jane"</b>
1832	Elected member for Haldimand County – Legislative Assembly Upper Canada
1840	Postmaster at St Catharines
1843	Re-alignment member for Lincoln County – Legislative Assembly Province of Canada
15 September 1848	President of Executive Council
1850	Commissioner for Public Works
11 February 1851	Resigns portfolio
May 1851	Declares himself an independent
March 1855	Roebing bridge across Niagara (Merritt shareholder)
1858	Home destroyed by fire
1860	Member Legislative Council

10 January 1862	Catharine dies
5 July 1862	Dies aboard the steamer "Champion" in Cornwall Canal