

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Annie Hill Sutton (Part 2)

With her husband Hardy Sutton (1803-1861), Annie Hill Sutton (1807-1881) lived all of her married life in Bucklesberry. Fourteen proven children were born to Annie and Hardy: Nancy Sutton Wooten (1825-1896); Thomas Sutton (1826-1894); Elizabeth Sutton Wood (1827-1894); Martha [Patsy] Sutton Parks Elmore (1829-1922); William Harmon Sutton (1832-1903); Richard Sutton (1833-1856); Lemuel Hardy Sutton (1835-1923); Benjamin Franklin Sutton (1838-1897); John A[ldridge] Sutton (1840-1915); Sally Hardy Sutton Fields (1841-1922); Louisa Sutton (1845-1961); twins, Julius Eri Sutton (1846-1925) and Junius Eli Sutton (1846-1931); and Christiana (Sutton) Sutton (1850-1929).

Many of the couple's descendants still reside in Bucklesberry today. Although the Sutton lineage has been well documented, considerably less is known about other surnamed families with whom they intermarried. For example, the parents of Annie Hill Sutton are unknown for certain. Some have speculated she was the daughter of Harmon and Nancy Hill of Greene County, NC, but no credible proof has been put forth to date.

Identifying Annie's parents rests squarely on the 1820 Census when she was a 13-year-old adolescent, still likely living with her parents. Her father or widowed mother would have been a Hill head of household named in the Census that year. Since Annie and Hardy probably lived within the same geographic locale when they married, Hill families listed in the Censuses from three nearby counties of Lenoir, Greene and Wayne could have been her parents.

A search of the 1820 Censuses from these three counties revealed fourteen Hill heads of household: Greene County—Ann Hill, Hardy Hill, Harmon Hill; Lenoir County—Lucreary Hill, Martin Hill, Mary Hill, Mathew Hill, Richard Hill, Richard(2) Hill, Robert Hill; and Wayne County—Isaac Hill, John Hill, Mary Hill, and Webb Hill. Absent other supportive evidence, any one of these Hill heads of household could have been Annie's father.

The death certificate of Annie's and Hardy's youngest child Christiana identifies Annie Hill as her mother and Greene County as her mother's birthplace. Therefore, the Hill heads of household named in the Lenoir and Wayne Counties can be eliminated as Annie's father, leaving one of three Hills named in the 1820 Greene County Census as her probable father.

Children's first and middle names often come from maternal and paternal lines, which can provide clues for the names of unknown ancestors. The unique middle name of their son William

Harmon Sutton strongly suggests that Annie's father may have been Harmon Hill listed in the Greene County Census of 1820.

Among Harmon's household count in that Census were one male (under age 10), another male (age 26 to 44), one female (under age 10), a second female (age 10 to 15), and a third female (age 26 to 44). Harmon was the third older male (age 26 to 44). If Harmon was indeed Annie's father, then she would have been the female (age 10 to 15) in this household, which aligns with her chronological age of 13 in 1820 when the Census was taken.

The next 1830 Census for Greene County, however, does not name Harmon Hill as a head of household. Nor is he listed in the surrounding Lenoir and Wayne County Censuses, suggesting he was deceased by that year and may have been survived by his widow.

Of the seven heads of household with the Hill surname in the 1830 Greene County Census, only one female named Nancy Hill was listed who could have been Harmon's widow. No males are found in her household, and only two females are listed: one younger (age 10 to 14), probably a daughter; and an older (age 40 to 49), Nancy herself. The daughter, however, was not Annie, who was 23 years of age in 1830.

More on the search to identify the parents of Annie Hill Sutton and a closer inspection of the 1830 Census will be shared in the next Bucklesberry article.