

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Annie Hill Sutton (Part 3)

Annie Hill Sutton's (1807-1881) parents 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 emerged to date.

Based on information in the 1820 and 1830 Censuses for Greene County, a case can be made that Nancy Hill was the widow of Harmon Hill. If Harmon Hill listed in the 1820 Census was the deceased husband of Nancy Hill named in the 1830 Census, then she would have been the older female in Harmon's household in 1820. Ten years later in the 1830 Census, widow Nancy was the older (age 40 to 49) of the two females in her household. Her age in 1830 is mathematically consistent with a younger age of 30 to 39 in 1820 for the female (age 26 to 44) in Harmon's household.

The other male (under age 10) in Harmon's 1820 household, probably his son, cannot be accounted for in Nancy's household in 1830. If he was an infant or toddler in 1820, his absence in Nancy's household in 1830 may be explained by premature death. If he was an older child (age 6 to 10) in 1820, then he would have been age 16 to 20 by the 1830 Census and old enough to have been living on his own outside of Nancy's household.

The other female (age 10 to 14) living in Nancy's household in the 1830 Census was no more than four years of age a decade earlier. She could have been the youngest (under age 10) of the two minor females living Harmon's household in the 1820 Census. At age 13 in 1820, Annie Hill is believed to have been the other minor female (age 10 to 15). Thus, the younger female and Annie may have been sisters.

A recent discovery in the 1973 *Bucklesberry Suttons* book co-authored by Estelle Sutton Creech (1922-2017), Violet Grace (Sutton) Sutton (1918-2006), and Linda Ivey Cauley (1948-1988) all but confirms the parents of Annie Hill Sutton. Using family Bibles as one of their primary sources, a lone entry in the book is particularly pertinent and significant:

"Nancy[2] Hill, wife of Josiah Sutton, Sr., was born March 7, 1818 and died February 21, 1905. She was the daughter of Nancy[1] Hill and Harmon Hill..." (p. 3)

The confirmed birth date of Josiah Sutton Sr.'s (1810-1898) wife Nancy2 Hill and documentation of her parents support the likelihood that Nancy1 Hill referenced in the 1830 Census was the

widowed wife of Harmon Hill cited in the 1820 Census. From revelations in this book entry, members in the two Census households can be confidently identified.

Nancy² Hill, namesake of her mother, was two years old in 1820 when the Census was taken and the youngest (age under 10 years) of the two minor females in Harmon Hill's household. Annie was the oldest minor female (age 10-15). A decade later in the 1830 Census, Nancy² was the only other female (age 10-14) and dependent daughter in widow Nancy¹'s household. Annie was married to Hardy Sutton (1803-1861) by 1830 and counted in his household for the Census rather than Nancy¹'s household.

When viewed in light of the 1820 and 1830 Censuses, the obscure entry in the Creech et al. book provides convincing evidence that Nancy² and Annie were sisters. Most importantly, it confirms Harmon and Nancy¹ Hill of Greene County were Nancy² Hill Sutton's parents and, by extension, the parents of Annie Hill Sutton.

One other association of sisters Annie Hill and Nancy² Hill is noteworthy. Their Sutton husbands were predictably related. Nancy²'s husband Josiah Sutton Sr. was the son of John Sutton (ca. 1779-1848), who was the brother of Annie's husband Hardy Sutton. Josiah Sr., then, was Hardy's nephew.

The two couples also lived near each other. Nancy²'s and Josiah Sr.'s homeplace formerly stood along Kennedy Home Road in Bucklesberry on the farm of current second great-grandson Robert Hardy (Sonny) Sutton, Jr. Annie's and Hardy's homeplace was located less than a half-mile down the road by the farm of current third great-grandson Dr. Joe Perry Sutton.