

Anne "Nancy" Harvey Blount (1780 Oct - 1832)
(Second child and oldest daughter of William and Mary "Molsey" Blount)

Compiled for Blount Mansion Association by Dean Novelli, 2020.

GENEALOGICAL DATA:

BORN: 1780 Oct "Piney Grove," (near Greenville), Pitt County, NC
DIED: 1832 Tarboro, Edgecombe County, North Carolina
AGE AT DEATH: 51/52 yrs.
BURIED: unknown

PARENTS: William Blount (1749 March 26 - 1800 March 21) age 50
MARRIED 1778 Feb 12
Mary "Molsey" Grainger (1760 -1802 Oct 7) age 42
William and "Molsey" Blount had nine (9) children; five
(5) boys and four (4) girls, seven (7) lived to adulthood

SIBLINGS: Second of nine children and oldest girl of William and "Molsey"
Blount; see list of siblings under parents' genealogical
entries

MARRIAGES: Ann "Nancy" Harvey Blount was married twice and widowed
once; she had at least five children

1st HUSBAND: Henry Irwin Toole (1779 - 1816) age 36/37
MARRIED: 1800 June 29
AGES: Ann 19, Henry 21/22

CHILDREN: Ann "Nancy" Blount and Henry Irwin Toole had two (2) known
children
Henry Irwin (1810 - 1850)
Mary Eliza (1814 May 16 - 1875 May 11)

2nd HUSBAND: Weeks Parker Hadley (1794 - about 1840)
MARRIED: 1818
AGES: Ann 37/38, Weeks 23/24; a fourteen (14) year difference

CHILDREN: Ann "Nancy" Blount and Weeks Parker Hadley had three (3)
known children
Barbara (dates unknown)
William Grainger Blount (dates unknown)
Thomas B[lount] (1822 Nov 28 - 1873 Oct 20)

EDUCATION:

Unknown. It is possible that Nancy's aunt Anne Harvey saw to her education. It is not known if she could read or write.

CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS of:

Anne "Nancy" Harvey Blount (1780 Oct - 1832)

- 1780 Oct BORN: Ann "Nancy" Harvey Blount at "Piney Grove," (near Greenville), Pitt County, NC, on her father William Blount's plantation; named for her father's widowed sister Anne "Nancy" Gray (Blount) Harvey
- 1783 Treaty of Paris formally ENDS the AMERICAN WAR of INDEPENDENCE with Great Britain
- 1787 Sept: Nancy's father SIGNED the US Constitution as representative from NC
- 1789 Aug 17 DIED: Jacob Blount, age 63; Nancy's grandfather
- 1790 Nancy's father William Blount APPOINTED territorial governor of Southwest Territory
- 1791 Fall: William Blount's family moves to Rocky Mount, near Johnson City, TN; Nancy and her sister Mary Louisa are sent to stay with their Aunt Anne Harvey in Tarboro. NC
- 1792 William Blount family moves to Knoxville, TN
- 1797 July: Nancy's father William Blount, a US Senator from TN is EXPELLED by the US Senate and IMPEACHED by the US House
- 1800 March <10 DIED: Mary Grainger, Nancy's maternal grandmother
March 21 DIED: William Blount, Nancy's father
May: Nancy with her Aunt Anne Harvey and her future husband Henry Irwin Toole travel to Knoxville
June 29 MARRIED: Anne "Nancy" Harvey Blount to Henry Irwin Toole, Knoxville, TN
September: Newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Toole and Mrs. Harvey return to Tarboro, NC
- 1802 DIED Oct: Mary "Molsey" (Grainger) Blount, Nancy's mother
- 1805 DIED March 21: Anne "Nancy" Gray (Blount) Harvey, Nancy's aunt who raised her from age 11
- 1810 BORN: Henry Irwin Toole, Jr. (1810 - 1850) son of Nancy and Henry Toole

- 1814 May 16 BORN: Mary Eliza Toole (1814 May 16 - 1875 May 11)
daughter of Nancy and Henry Toole
- 1816 DIED: Henry Irwin Toole, husband of Anne "Nancy" Harvey (Blount)
Toole
- 1818 MARRIED: Widow Nancy (Blount) Toole to Weeks Parker Hadley,
Edgecombe County, NC
- UNK BORN: William Grainger Blount Hadley (dates unknown) son of Nancy
and Weeks Hadley
- UNK BORN: Barbara Hadley (dates unknown) daughter of Nancy and
Weeks Hadley
- 1822 Nov 28 BORN: Thomas B[lount] Hadley (1822 - 1873) son of Nancy
and Weeks Hadley
- 1832 DIED: Anne "Nancy" Harvey (Blount) Toole Hadley, age 51/52;
Edgecombe Co. NC

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of:

Anne "Nancy" Harvey Blount (1780 Oct - 1832)

FAMILY BACKGROUND

See entry under parents William Blount (1749-1800) and Mary "Molsey" Grainger (1760 - 1802) for Family Background

LIFE SUMMARY

Anne "Nancy" Harvey Blount was born in October 1780 to William Blount and Mary Grainger at "Piney Grove," Pitt County, NC, her father's plantation near present day Greenville. William and "Molsey" Blount had nine (9) children; five (5) boys and four (4) girls, seven (7) lived to adulthood (four (4) girls, three (3) boys). Anne was the first daughter and second oldest child of the large Blount family. Since her older brother, Cornelius, died before she was born, she was also the oldest surviving child.

Anne "Nancy" Harvey Blount was likely named for her father William's widowed sister, Mrs. Anne Harvey (Anne "Nancy" Gray (Blount) Harvey, 1750-1805 q.v.). Like the aunt she was named for, Anne was commonly called "Nancy" by her family. (Nancy is a common nickname for Anne, which is itself a diminutive of Agnes.) From this name similarity between William's sister *Anne "Nancy" Gray (Blount) Harvey*, and his daughter *Anne "Nancy" Harvey (Blount) Toole Hadley*, stems much confusion for historians and interpreters of all periods. In order to avoid confusion in this sketch, the subject, William's daughter, will be referred to as Nancy or Nancy Blount. Her aunt will be listed as Mrs. Harvey or Anne.

William Blount, like his father Jacob, was a successful businessman involved in plantations, mills and distilleries, import and export, lending money for interest, and as a means to further his business ambitions politics — local, state and national. But above all else, William was a land speculator. Blount's success and his failure, as well as that of his siblings, notable Thomas and John Gray, casts a long shadow that his children will grow up under.

When Nancy was born at "Piney Grove," William, thirty-one years old, was already a recognized if not established figure in North Carolina business and political circles. His Revolutionary War service was earning Blount national recognition, though not always positive. When Nancy turned seven in 1787, her father had just signed the US Constitution, making him one of the thirty-nine men known as the "Framing Fathers" of the United States. In 1790, she was ten and her father was appointed both territorial governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for the newly created Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.

In 1791, William Blount moved his family from the settled secure life of North Carolina Eastern Shore gentry to the frontier "wilderness" of the Southwest

Territory, where the town of Knoxville had only just been laid out and consisted of nothing but log cabins, lean-tos and James White's Fort for protection. When her mother Molsey and her three younger brothers left to join William in the Southwest Territory, eleven year old Nancy Blount didn't go; neither did her sister Mary Louisa, age nine. Their father informed a family friend of the arrangement:

"— My sister [Anne Harvey] lives a widow and she and Tom [Blount] keep house together in Tarborough and with them live my two oldest daughters [Nancy and Mary Louisa] —" [William Blount to Thomas Hart, 1794, from Knoxville, TN]

Both girls were entrusted to the care of their aunt Mrs. Anne Harvey, William's sister who was also called Nancy. Mrs. Harvey, a widow with no children, lived with her younger brother Thomas Blount (nine years her junior), he was also a widower with no children. They shared a house in Tarboro, NC and it was here William Blount's oldest daughters would now live. It was Aunt Nancy and Uncle Thomas who would serve as surrogate parents for the girls, seeing that they were appropriately raised, educated and married as called for by the customs of the time. In Nancy Blount's case she continued to live with her aunt and uncle until 1800 when just shy of twenty years old, she married.

At some point Mary Louisa apparently left Tarboro and moved to Knoxville. She is mentioned but once in the family letters that frequently mention Mrs. Harvey and Nancy Blount together but don't include Mary Louisa. These comments mostly come at the end of otherwise business correspondence between Thomas Blount (TB) and his brother John Gray Blount (JGB), where a brief mention of family members' health and travel precedes the closing. Here are examples:

"Mary [Louisa Blount] is yet alive contrary to the expectation of us all & a change that has taken place this morning affords us all some hope that she will recover — Nancy [Blount] & Billy Orr are the only well persons in the family — My Sister [Anne Harvey] is fatigued almost to death & complains heavily but Keeps up — I dread the consequences to her." [TB to JGB, n.d. [1793?], from Tarboro, NC]

"— Please tell Mrs. Harvey nothing would give me more pleasure than to see her & Nancy at Washington [NC] when it is again healthy." [Mary Blount [Mrs. JG Blount] to Susannah Harvey, [1796]]

"My Sister & Nancy will come down as soon as the weather moderates & the roads get passable —" [TB to JGB, 1800 Feb 2, from Tarboro, NC]

"Your Letter of yesterday was rec. this Evening when our Sister & Nancy escorted by the Col. arrived in safety —" [TB to JGB, 1800 April 15, from Tarboro, NC]

Little more is known of Nancy Blount's life at Tarboro than these few references. It can be inferred that Nancy was a companion to her aunt Mrs. Harvey, as she was being schooled in life. Social visits, teas, and balls would all be part of this education. It would afford the young woman an opportunity to develop her social graces and meet prospective husbands.

For Nancy Blount, the "prospective husband" in question is Henry Irwin Toole, the grandson of Henry Irwin a Revolutionary War leader. The particulars of where and when Nancy and Henry met are not known (Henry was from a local Tarboro family). But they did meet, sometime before 1800, and were possibly already engaged when double tragedy struck the Blount family. Nancy's grandmother Mary Grainger, died March 11 followed ten days later by her father William Blount on the twenty-first. Both deaths occurred at Blount Mansion, Knoxville. Even though she had lived apart from her family for many years, it was likely a hard loss for the nineteen year old Nancy to bear.

Mrs. Harvey made preparations for the long journey up to Virginia then down the Holston River valley to Knoxville with her niece. She was concerned both about Nancy Blount's well being, and their appearance. Suitable mourning dresses needed to be procured or made before they could leave. Anne wrote to her sister-in-law, Mrs. J. G. Blount, for assistance. In the same letter, she laments:

"Nancy Blount... is not as well as when she came home I fear she will not stand traveling well." [Anne Harvey to Mrs. JGB, [1800] May 11, from Tarboro, NC]

During this sad journey to Knoxville, Mrs. Harvey and Nancy Blount were possibly accompanied by Henry Irwin Toole, (or he followed soon after). Barely a month after she arrived in Knoxville to mourn the loss of her father and grandmother, Nancy Blount married Henry Toole on June 29. Rev. Mr. Samuel Carrick officiated. It isn't known who gave away the bride. After spending the summer in Tennessee, Mrs. Harvey and the newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Toole returned to Tarboro in September 1800. John Gray Blount was kept apprised of their schedule:

"...the reste of the Fameley is well, Mr. Tool and Mrs. ... [Anne] Harvey &c sets oute from heare for Tarborough nexte Wednesday. " [John Salter to JGB, [1800] Sept 2, from Knoxville, TN]

The Tooles likely made their home in Tarboro. The couple had two children that are known to have survived. A boy born in 1810 and named for his father, and his father's father, the third generation of Toole men named for Henry Irwin. A girl,

Mary Eliza, was born in 1814. Since Nancy and Henry were married in 1800 it is possible there were more children that didn't survive or for which there is no surviving record.

Nancy's first husband Henry Irwin Toole was a self-described idler. Henry, at age thirty-two, revealed as much in a remarkable letter to John Gray Blount written on the brink of the War of 1812. It is worth excerpting at length:

I am not acquainted with any Gentleman willing to accept a captaincy for whose conduct I would be responsible; not do I know of any one who would discharge faithfully and satisfactorily the appointment either of first or second Lieutenant...."

"I feel highly complimented by the opinion you are pleased to express of me in your favor by Nancy, and if a longer continuance in public life were at all reconcileable either to my feelings or my interest your wish that I should do so, would certainly afford a sufficient inducement; but I have long since formed the determination to abandon public employment in which I engaged without inclination and almost without motive, and for which my love of ease, and my pursuits generally but illy fitted me.

...

"I am, like all other lazy people, in general haste, but

very respectfully
& sincerely your friend
& Serv
Henry I Toole"

[Henry I. Toole to JGB, 1812 April 6, from Tarboro, NC]

An idler maybe, but Henry Irwin Toole — name sake of a Revolutionary War hero — was also a brave man to so directly, albeit politely, turn down a request to serve either politically or militarily at a time of national crisis from such a powerful in-law as John Gray Blount.

In 1816, Henry Irwin Toole, age thirty-seven died leaving Nancy a widow with at least two children. They were married sixteen years. No details are known of what happened to Henry or what estate he may have left his family. (It is possible there was both land and slaves, as well as debt.) Regardless of the estate Toole left behind, it was customary for a widow such as Nancy to remarry, whether it was financial necessary (which it often was) or not. Two years later, after an appropriate mourning period, Nancy did just that, marrying her second husband Weeks Parker Hadley in 1818.

Weeks Hadley, like Nancy's first husband, was from Edgecombe County. Orphaned at an early age, Hadley came into his inheritance in August 1818, a tract of land in Cumberland County, NC. At twenty-four, Nancy's new husband was fourteen years younger than she, and brought his own assets — land and youth — into the marriage. Together Nancy and Weeks had three known children, all named for members of Nancy's family; William Grainger Blount (brother Billy), Barbara (her sister) and Thomas B[lount] (uncle that raised her). Little is known about the Hadley children except that Thomas was born in 1822. That would make Nancy a mother at the age of at least forty-one. She and Weeks would have fourteen years together before Nancy passed away in 1832; she was at least fifty-one. He followed her in death about 1840. Nothing else is known of their life or children