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## Nanney Families

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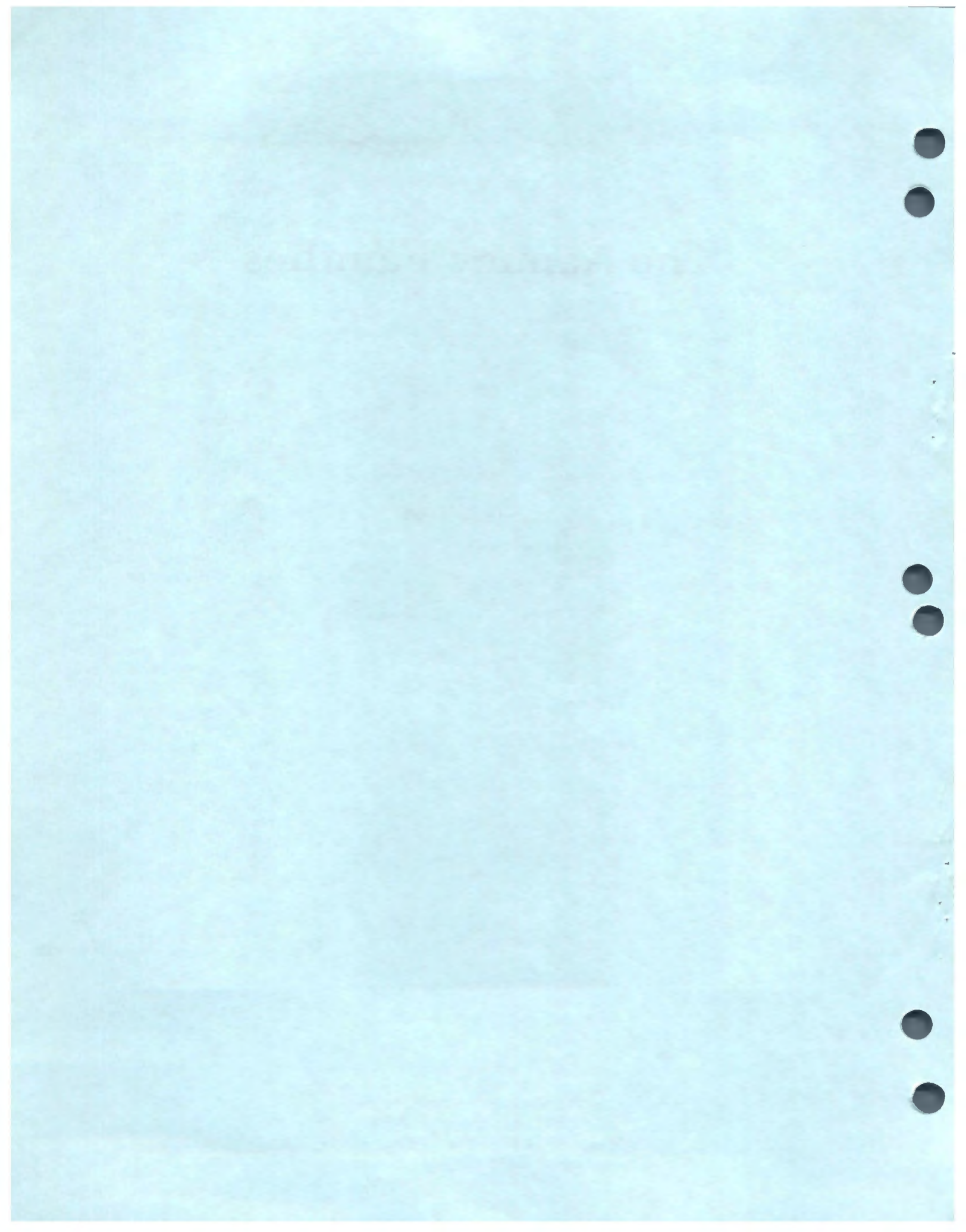
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# **The Nanney Families**

(Revised 1991)

Bobby Anderson  
7965 Ridgewood Road  
Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072



## THE NANNEY FAMILIES

By BOBBY ANDERSON

Such early settlers of the Mud River country of Muhlenberg County in the late 1700s as the Kimmels and the Penrods, were soon joined after 1800 by a large migration of other families to the area. Among these were the Hunts, the Davises, the Hunsakers and the Flemings. One other family came, and through a long geneology influences many families of Muhlenberg County, even today.

This is the Nanney family.

Though the name remains only in the Central City and South Carrollton area of the county today, the Nanney names lives on in such influential families of the county as the Smiths, the Blaines and the Graysons, to name only a few. And most of the Nanney family, by one of its many spellings, can be traced to one of two or three early settlers.

Among the first of that name to come to Muhlenberg County shortly after 1800 was Spencer Nanney, who enlisted in Capt. Alney McLean's company at Greenville, and fought with such stalwarts as McLean, Ephraim Brank, George Penrod, William Alexander and others at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. History was not good to Spencer Nanney, for there is where it left him. No further details.

However two others, Edmond Nanney and Matthew Nanney were known to have been in the Mud River country, in the early 1800s. Both owned land near the Buchanan Ferry-Ennis-Mud River Union triangle, as did John Nanney.

John Nanney, for instance, married Elenor Williams in Muhlenberg County in October of 1814. Edmond Nanney married Nancy Fisher here on April 4, 1822, and Matthew Nanney married Nancy Williams, perhaps a sister to Elenor on Oct. 17, 1828. James Nanney was another to obtain an early marriage license in the county. He married Polly Williams in February of 1815. All of these Williamses are thought to be of the Daniel Williams family, who came to Muhlenberg County from Virginia. His family was also among the early settlers in the general Ennis-Forest Oak-Camfield branch area.

James did not stay long, since his traces soon disappear. But John, Matthew and Edmond left an impact through their descendants.

Edmond Nanney was 61 years old when the 1850 census was taken. His wife, Nancy was deceased, so Edmond lived with what appears to be a grandson, Stephen H. Nanney, 13. It is possible that Stephen is a son, but more than likely, a grandson, because of the age difference. Edmond was an affluent farmer, as will become more evident as we trace his line through Stephen. His worth was estimated at \$400 in 1850, a sum which indicated affluency in that day. However, in about 1858, Edmond died, leaving Stephen as his heir and administrator. The exact date of his death is not known, but since Stephen was named as administrator, it had to be after Stephen had reached his 21st birthday, which would have been at least eight years after the 1850 census. And since Edmond was not shown in 1860, it was prior to that.

In 1860, Stephen Nanney was shown to be 24 years of age, had taken a wife named Louisa (remember that name for later

references) and had three children, Doratha A., 3, (census spelling), John E., 2 and Franklin, six months old. Stephen's worth, by inheritance from Edmond and by his own efforts, now totaled \$2,200, making him a semi-wealthy man in his community in that period.

Meanwhile, in 1850, just a few farms away, John Nanney and his family, Susanna and children, James A., 6, and William, 4, were recorded. John was 34 and Susanna 32. (This is not the same John who married Elenor Williams in 1828 and his parents are not known.)

Next farm to John is Matthew Nanney, with whom we will spend considerable time in future paragraphs. Matthew had married Nancy Williams in 1828. He was born around 1807 and she in 1811, the daughter of Daniel Williams, who lived on property adjoining Matthew Nanney. Matthew may have been the brother of Edmond and/or Spencer, but if so, somewhat younger. Matthew and Nancy were the parents of Elizabeth J., who was born around 1829, and who married John A. Blaine of the Mud River Mine area; Frances, (1833), Mary E. (1835), William E. (1837), Nancy M. (1839), Susan S. (1841), John H. (1843), James T. (1845) and Lydia, in 1849. Incidentally, young Nancy would marry R. D. Bradley in 1867 and Susan became the wife of Jonathan Hunt in 1865.

From the Elizabeth Nanney-John Blaine marriage came such present day families as the Smiths and the Graysons. A daughter, Mary E. married Phillip Dawson Smith, and from that union came John Orville, late of Drakesboro, who was the father of Philip Dale Smith, a prominent Church of Christ minister, Mahlon Smith, who was the father of Dawson and Gordon Smith and others of near Ebenezer and Jane Smith, who married Grover Beadnell. Of the Grayson family who come from Hannah Blaine, are Luther, formerly of Beech Creek, Gordon, who died in 1988 in Lewisburg, Neil Gaston and Lealand Grayson of Russellville and their sister, Nina Shrull of Dunmor, all children of the late Raymond Grayson. Also included would be children of the late Floyd and Lillian Grayson Shelton, such as James Shelton of near Gus, Winona Shrull of Dunmor and Nell Harrison of Huntsville.

Joining Stephen Nanney in the 1860 census were John Nanney and William E. Nanney, as heads of households. John was the same as in the 1850 census and he, his wife Susanna, now 44 and 41 respectively, had thier boys, James A., now 15 and William M., now 14, and a daughter, Cyntha, born in 1851.

Perhaps both Mathew and Nancy Nanney were deceased by 1860. Matthew's will was probated at about the time the census was taken, with Martin Blaine, the father of his son-in-law as his administrator.

William E. Nanney was the son of Matthew, and now 22, was attempting to keep the remnants of his family together. With him was his sister, Mary, now 20, and a bother, John H., now 15. They were in the home of George A. Buchanan near Buchanan Ferry. George had on Sept. 18, 1850 married Sarah A. Nanney, who quite possibly could have been Matthew and Nancy's second child, behind Elizabeth.

William E. Nanney, on Feb. 5, 1865, would marry Mary Jane Brooks, the 21 year old daughter of Zachariah and Mary E. F. Brooks, also farmers in the Mud River country.

The 1870 census revealed that William E. Nanney, now 32, was the only male Nanney by name who was head of a household in Muhlenberg County. Still living in Mud River country, he and Mary

Jane had begun to create their own family. Louisa J., (spelled Larras in the census transcript) was four and French E. was two. Living in the Nanney household was a person identified as Craig, 9, who was listed as a Nanney, but as to whose child this is, the enumerator did not tell us. Also there was Lydia Nanney, 21, who was the infant child of Matthew in 1850. Incidentally, William and Mary Jane still resided next door to her parents, the Zach Brooks family.

In the general Central City area, the first Nanneys appear in 1870. Whether Ann M. Nanney is a widow of one of the others mentioned earlier, or just what her origin is, is not known at this time. She apparently kept a boarding house, for she had two prominent residents as boarders. Ann was listed as 33 years of age, with children, James M., 15, and Susan C., 12. Boarding in the home were Dr. D. D. Robinson, 34, a Central City physician and R. D. Somers, 24, a dry goods clerk.

We also know that between 1860 and 1870, Stephen Nanney died, though we cannot account for him in an 1860 census. His will was probated in that period, with J. J. Wood as his administrator, and I. F. D. Maddox appointed guardian of his children. Setting the date of his death is not easy, but we must assume it was prior to 1864, for on Oct. 4, 1864, his widow, Louisa J. was re-married to I. F. D. Maddox, and that is possibly the reason for him being named guardian of her children by her marriage to Stephen. We learn only that the new Maddox family moved to Tennessee, Mr. Maddox was not recorded again in Muhlenberg County. However, a later census shows Louisa returned, a widow, bringing the remnants of her Nanney family, and the children by her marriage to Maddox, all born in Tennessee.

In 1880, Louisa returned to the Mud River country and established a home near the greater Ennis area. She was now 45 years of age, and for the second time a widow. Living with her were her son, John E. Nanney, now 22 (about five when his father died), and three children from the Maddox marriage. They were Pallis L., 11, Osker W., 8 and Leoma, 5. They were living next door to a Cain or Cane family, and it might be well to note that in 1833, a Sarah Nanney had married Matthias Cain. Perhaps, these were cousins Louisa now lived near.

After the marriage of I. F. D. Maddox and Louisa Nanney, Maddox filed guardianship papers for three of the children, Dorothy A. (Doratha), Thomas F. and John E., these being noted in county record book 4, in the Muhlenberg County courthouse. There is no certainty that it is the same one, though very possible, but a Thomas F. Nanney was named postmaster at Bevier on July 9, 1892, the third to hold the position in that newly founded coal mining community. However it is possible that Thomas F. Nanney and Frank Nanney, who was in the census of the W. T. Bell home in 1880 as a 20 year old farm hand, were the same person. Records show that in the mid-1870s, W. T. Bell was appointed guardian of both John and Thomas F. Nanney after the death of Maddox. Bell, incidentally, owned vast land holdings between present day Belton and Ennis, and operated a sawmill which shipped much timber by rail. When the railroad came into the area, and made one of its stops on the Bell property, the stop was known as Bell Town, and later Belton, a town which still bears the name in honor of W. T. (Tom) Bell.

In 1880, a new Nanney named surfaced. Scott Nanney, perhaps one of the original Nanney family, but using a different given name, had located in the upper Mud River area of Muhlenberg County and

had married the daughter of a prominent farmers John Hackett and Polly Hope Fleming. Scott and Missouri F. lived next door, but the only trace of that marriage to be found is the grave of an infant in Hope cemetery, that of Ora Lee Nanney, June 9, 1888 to April 17, 1889, daughter of S and F Nanney.

Frank Nanney, the Franklin who was son of Stephen and Louisa was, as stated, living in the W. T. Bell home. He was a 20 year old hired hand.

Mary J. (Brooks), the widow of William E. Nanney, deceased, was now 36, and had her children, Louiz J. (Louisa), 13, French E., 12, William B., 8 and Cipis E., 4, in her home. Cipis' birth in 1866 indicates his father, William E. died after 1875. In the home also was John E., 19, listed as a cousin. That may have been Stephen and Louisa's son, John E., who was two in 1860.

Another William Nanney was censused in 1880. This perhaps is the son of John and Susanna of the 1850 census. William, six then, is 32 as the 1880 census was tabulated, an understandable difference in age as many were not fully aware of their own age in that era. John was married to Malinda and they lived near to Skilesville, at the juncture of Green and Mud Rivers. They had two children, Cordelia, two and William, six months old.

The difficulty in tracing generations from census to census is complicated by the absence of an 1890 census, which for the most part was destroyed by fire. In the 20 year span from 1880 to 1900, many deaths, marriages and migrations occur. In 1900's census, the only familiar Nanney name was that of William, who was listed as "Nanny" in 1900. He and Malinda lived then in the Central City magisterial district, possibly in the Nelson Creek area. William, born in January, 1842, now showed his age as 58, and Malinda, born in January, 1857, was 43. They had been married 24 years, records show, and had children, Cordilla (Cordelia) now 21. (born September, 1878), William, born January, 1880, now 20; Rufus, born May 1883, now 17; Jesse, born April 1886, now 14; Vessie, born April, 1892, eight years old and Lydia M., born June, 1895, now five years old.

Vicie Nanney, a widow, 39, lived near Mud River Mine and had with her, two children, Walter Smith, 20, and Harrison Smith, 11, from a previous marriage.

Harrel Nanney, a child born in 1899 lived in the Calvin Brooks home, and was listed as a third cousin. Listed in the home as second cousins were Ila, 20, and Crittenden Buchanan, 18, second cousins of the Brooks family. (Was this the same Crit Buchanan who later was a mine foreman at Beech Creek?). Recall now if you will, the Mary Jane Brooks who married William E. Nanney earlier. Perhaps, this child, Harrel, is a product of the Brooks-Nanney marriage.

A fourth Nanney family in 1900 lived in the Paradise magisterial district, near Skilesville also. The father was John T. C. Nanney, born September, 1861, and his wife, Laura B., born April, 1864. They had four children, George A., born September, 1886; Loudemie, born January 1889; Lidy M., born May, 1891 and Elcy, born October, 1898. This John is probably the cousin who was living in the Mary Jane Brooks Nanney home follow the death of her husband, William E. Nanney.

Perhaps out of these families, many present-day descendants may filter out a forefather or two.

Cemetery records show little in that area of the county for the Nanney family. Besides the infant at Hope cemetery, one at Union

Chapel, near Skilesville, show W. E. Nany buried there. There are no dates, but the William E. Nanney who died in 1875-76, was born in 1838, and could be the one buried here. He is listed as being a sergeant with Co. F of the 11th Kentucky Infantry (Civil War).

Early marriage records are a little more complete. At least three Nanneys intermarried with the Williams family. These include:

James to Polly Williams in 1835;  
John to Elenor Williams in 1814;  
Matthew to Nancy Williams in 1828.

Others are:

Edmond to Nancy Fisher, 1822; Frances to James Buchanan, 1833; Sarah to Matthias Cain, 1833; James A. to Sally LaMasters in 1866 and to Sallie Tanner in 1868; William E. to Mary Jane Brooks in 1865; William M. to Sarah Ellen Gates in 1860; Louisa J. to I. F. D. Maddox in 1864; Nancy to R. D. Bradley in 1867; Elizabeth J. to John A. Blaine in 1851; Sarah Ann to George Buchanan in 1850 and Susan C. to Jonathan Hunt in 1865.

Those tracing their families through the women of the Nanney families may find some information here:

Elizabeth J. who married John A. Blaine, the son of Martin Blaine, bore the following children: Vernon, Mary Ellen (married Philip Dawson Smith), Mart, Matthew (Matt), Hannah (married George R. Grayson, father of Raymond Grayson, Lillian (Shelton) and Maud (Wester)), Flora, Anna, and John.

Frances married James Buchanan and had Harvey, Nancy and Riley. Frances died in 1860, or thereabouts, and James remarried Jude Johnson.

Sarah married Matthias Cain, and though some Cain widows existed in the later years, no trace of Matthias was found.

Louisa J., as touched on earlier re-married I. F. D. Maddox and moved to Tennessee, before returning to Kentucky following his death prior to 1880.

Sarah Ann married George Buchanan, and had children Alfred, George, Nancy, Ann, William, Theodosia and Mary J.

Susan C. married Jonathan Hunt, his second marriage, and it is unsure if they had children of their own.

Many records of the Nanney family, one of the first in the Mud River area are incomplete, but also, those records which are complete show that few families in the entire Mud River area are untouched by some relationship to that family.



Part 2

NANNEY FAMILY ADDITIONS

By Bobby Anderson

Two readers offered additional information on the Nanney family, following the appearance of a two-part series on the family (Feb. 15, 22, 1989) in the Leader-News.

They were Dean Nannie Gray of Stringtown Road in Central City, a descendant of Craig Nannie (Nanney) and Herald Grayson of near Huntsville in Butler County, who is in possession of the old Naney (Nanney) family Bible.

As you note above, in the same family, the family spelling of its name varies from Nanney, to Nannie, to Naney, to Nany--and possibly others.

\* \* \*

Dean's family uses the "Nannie" spelling.

Her father, Claude Nannie, who has a brother, Perry, is the son of Craig Nanney, reported in the February articles to be living in the William Nanney home, but unidentified as to whose child he was.

More careful research, using census records and marriage records, show that Craig Nanney is in reality John T. C. Nanney, the son of William E. and Mary Jane Brooks Nanney. William, research also tells us, was the son of Matthew and Nancy Williams Nanney. Other children in William's family include Louisa, French, William B. and Cipis. John T. C. Nanney apparently used the name "Craig" as better identification from the other John Nanneys in the area.

Craig was born in September, 1861, and on June 30, 1885, when he was 23, married 16-year-old Larue B. Annes, daughter of J. W. Annes of near Ennis. (Muhl. Book 16, Page 406). The marriage was at the home of J. W. Annes. Larue was born in Ohio County, her father in Fayette County and her mother in Butler County. P. W. Knight was the minister.

To this marriage came at least three sons and three daughters. The 1900 census of the family shows a son, George, born in September, 1886; a daughter, Loudemie, in January, 1889; another daughter, Lidy M. (named for another Lydia Nanney, to be shown later), in May, 1891 and Elcy, in October, 1898. On Feb. 1, 1901, Claude Nanney (Nannie) was born, and later, according to Dean Gray, Perry was born.

Claude married Josephine Adcock. She is still living near Central City, as is her brother, Bill Adcock. Claude died in 1988 and is buried at Rose Hill. Josephine and Bill were the children of Robert Adcock and Florence Hudnall, the latter from Lewisburg, according to Mrs. Gray. Robert Adcock's mother was a Rose, related to the well-known Greenberry Rose, for whom the Greenberry Rose cemetery between Cleaton and Nelson was named. Greenberry Rose married Martha E. Noffsinger in 1871.

There is no documentation as to when Larue Annes Nannie died, but after her death, Craig Nannie married Mrs. Mollie

Johnson (nee Brown) in Muhlenberg County on Nov. 14, 1912. According to Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Johnson had several children, one of them, later, a preacher.

Claude and Josephine Nannie had eight children. The only daughter, Dean, is presently married to Robert Gray and lives on Central City, Route 2 (Box 597). She has a daughter, Stephanie Barnett, who works for WNES Radio in the Leader-News building. Sons of Claude and Josephine are Robert, Kenneth, Bobby, William, Glennis and Glendall.

Perry Nannie, according to Mrs. Gray, married Juanita Neal and has sons, Jimmie and Perry, Jr.

The most of these descendants of Craig Nanney (Nannie) live near Central City.

\* \* \*

Herald Grayson, son of the late Raymond Grayson, has only a slight connection to the family. His aunt Edie Grayson, known to most of the old timers in the Gus and Huntsville areas as Aunt Sis, married Johnnie Fleming, following the death of Johnnie's first wife, Lydia Nanney. Through this series of marriages, the Grayson family fell heir to the Nanney family Bible, which Lydia possessed.

Herald's information solved the mystery of Harrel Naney (or Nanny), who was found in the 1900 census living in the Calvin Brooks home near to Knightsburg and Skilesville. How Harrel Naney is connected to the Brooks family, or who his parents were, was not certain. However, the census did favor us with information that Harrel (or Harold) Naney was a third cousin of Calvin Brooks. Recall now that William E. Nanney, who was Craig's father, had married Mary Jane Brooks, daughter of Zack Brooks in 1865 and that a G. A. Brooks had married a D. A. Nanney in 1875. Either of these marriages, could have dictated that Harrel Naney be a cousin to the Brookses, and could be the reason he was found in the Brooks home.

In 1900, Harrel Naney was one-year-old.

This is where Herald Grayson picks up the story.

Johnnie Fleming, son of John Hackett and Polly Hope Fleming married Lydia Nanney on Jan. 22, 1874. Records do not show any children for this couple. In 1880, they lived at Gus, had been married nearly six years and showed no children in the household. Lydia, born on March 20, 1849, died Dec. 21, 1886 and is buried in Hope cemetery near Dunmor. According to Herald Grayson, she was a sister of Elizabeth J. Nanney, who married John Blaine and whose daughter Hannah, then married George Grayson, and became the grandmother of most Graysons now in the area.

After Lydia's death, Johnnie Fleming married Edie (Aunt Sis) Grayson on Sept. 11, 1887. Apparently Harrel Naney had lived with Johnnie and Lydia, and continued to live with Johnnie and his new wife, Edie (Sis). According to Herald Grayson a firm bond was formed between Aunt Sis and her young ward, Harrel Naney.

When Johnnie Fleming died on Oct. 29, 1909, he was buried in the Hope cemetery with his ancestors, and beside Lydia Nanney Fleming, his first wife.

Aunt Sis then requested that she be buried beside Harrel

Naney. He died on April 2, 1916, and was buried at Hazel Creek Baptist Church cemetery. The reason for the selection of this cemetery was not made known, but it is well away from his traditional home area.

Then true to her request, when Edie (Aunt Sis) Fleming died on Dec. 17, 1939, she was buried beside young Harrel Naney at Hazel Creek.

An error in transcribing the names from the tombstones at Hazel Creek has left the impression that Harrel (or Harold) Naney is NANCY HAROLD, and that the person buried there is a female, surnamed Harold. In reality, it is Harrel Naney.

Other items in the Bible in Herald Grayson's possession, reveal is that Willie Nanny, born April 30, 1873 and died Sept. 19, 1906, may have been the son of Scott and Missouri Nanney of the Hope School area. Missouri was a sister of Johnnie Fleming. Willie's wife, Tillie, born March 27, 1877, died Nov. 17, 1899, and this may have been the reason young Craig was in a foster home in 1900. Beneath Willie and Tillie's entry, the birth record of "Harold Nanny, March 4, 1899", is written.

As further proof, the 1880 census shows that Scott and Missouri Nanney had a son, William, six-years-old at the time. This more than likely is the same as the Willie Nanny above, believed to be Harrel's father.

\* \* \*

Other odds and ends of Nanney information:

\*John Edmond Nanny, son of Stephen H. and Louise England Nanny, married Mary Elizabeth (Molly) Penrod, daughter of Thomas, and granddaughter of George Penrod, in Muhlenberg County, Oct. 18, 1883. Stephen H. Nanny is listed as the son of Edmond and Nancy Fisher Nanny.

Among the descendants of John Edmond and Molly was Lulu Beatrice Nanny, who moved to Oklahoma, married Ross Franklin Preuit, then moved on to Texas, where she died in 1969. A daughter, Lois Preuit Turner lives in Kleberg County, Texas.