
A Lineal Descent from Nancy Young: Five Generations Living in 1870 in Lowndes County, Georgia?

By Paul K. Graham, AG, CG, CGL

A casual comment in a newspaper indicates five generations of a family lived in a Georgia county at the same time—but offers no names. Genealogical evidence provides their identities, hidden since 1870.

The *Hawkinsville Dispatch* announces an 1870 family milestone. “Mr. Raiford, Supervisor of the M. and B. R. R. [Macon and Brunswick Railroad], informs us that there are now living in Lowndes county five generations of his wife’s family—great-grandmother, grandmother, mother, daughter and child.”¹ The newspaper gives no names. Is the information correct?

Evidence—direct and indirect—reveals relationships among Raiford’s in-laws, although the families lived in counties where important records have not survived. The newspaper notice offers evidence to strengthen the genealogical proof.

MR. RAIFORD

In 1860 thirty-two-year-old H. W. Raiford headed a household including twenty-three-year-old “Leanora” and four children.² In 1870 railroad section-master H. W. Raiford lived in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia, with his wife “Leanora” and six children.³ Hinchey Warren Raiford, born on 10 December 1825 in Emanuel

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1. “Longevity,” *Hawkinsville Dispatch* (Hawkinsville, Ga.), 1 December 1870, p. 2, col. 2. Also, “Longevity,” *Georgia Weekly Telegraph and Georgia Journal and Messenger* (Hawkinsville, Ga.), 6 December 1870, p. 6, col. 5.

2. 1860 U.S. census, Crawford Co., Ga., population schedule, Sowell District, p. 901, dwelling 266, family 258, H. W. Raiford household; microfilm publication M653, roll 118, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C.

3. 1870 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., Ga., pop. sch., East of the River, folio 442v, dwell./fam. 737, H. W. Raiford household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 170.

County, Georgia, married Leonora E. Hunter on 6 October 1853 in Baldwin County, Georgia, sixty miles north of Pulaski County.⁴

In 1870 the only girl in their home was nine-year-old Mary W.⁵ Her young age and the newspaper's reference to Mr. Raiford's "wife's family" suggests the five-generations likely involved one of Leonora's sisters and their mother.

Leonora was born on 6 January 1835, daughter of Hardy Hunter.⁶ In 1850 she lived in Houston County, Georgia, as fifteen-year-old "Ellenora," with her father Hardy, sixty-four, and apparent mother Dolly, fifty-nine.⁷

HARDY HUNTER

Hardy Hunter's 1859 will names his daughter, Leonora Raiford. It also mentions his wife, Dolly, and Leonora's siblings: John A. Hunter, of Macon County, Georgia; Jesse W. Hunter, of Marion County, Florida; Mary Ann West; Hardy H. Hunter, of Schley County, Georgia; Nancy Ivey; and William E. Hunter, deceased. Hardy—married about 1809—had "lived in the strictest quiet [with his wife Dolly] for fifty odd years." His will links geography to the newspaper notice: Hardy gave a "lot of land in Lownd[e]s County Ga" to his daughter Nancy.⁸

The Hawkinsville notice most likely refers to Leonora's mother and to one of her sisters. Dolly's long marriage to Hardy leaves little doubt she was the mother of all his children. Extending the lineage would require identifying Dolly's mother and Leonora's nieces.

DOLLY'S MOTHER

Dolly Hunter moved to Lowndes County after her husband's death, and she lived there in 1870 as seventy-eight-year-old "Doley" Hunter. Her household included ninety-eight-year-old Nancy Young, born in North Carolina, and twenty-year-old, Georgia-born Mary Hunter.⁹ The preceding household in the census includes fifty-

4. "Raiford," *Christian Index and Southern Baptist* (Atlanta, Ga.), 20 September 1888, p. 15, col. 2. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007579220>), digital film 007579220, image 54, Baldwin Co., Ga., Court of Ordinary, Marriage book C:21, Raiford-Hunter, license 1 October 1853, marriage 6 October 1853.

5. 1870 U.S. census, Pulaski Co., Ga., pop. sch., East of the River, fol. 442v, dwell./fam. 737, H. W. Raiford household.

6. "Raiford," *Christian Index and Southern Baptist*, 1 September 1887, p. 15, col. 3.

7. 1850 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., pop. sch., Dist. 9, fol. 324r, dwell./fam. 276, Hardy Hunter household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 74.

8. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/101911358>), digital film 101911358, images 334–38, Houston Co., Ga., Court of Ordinary, Probate records, Wills, surname H, 1827–1930, Hardy Hunter, 16 April 1859, proved 5 March 1866. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005764933>), digital film 005764933, image 269, Houston Co., Court of Ordinary, Letters Testamentary, Book B:71, letters testamentary, Hardy Hunter, 5 March 1866.

9. 1870 U.S. census, Lowndes Co., Ga., pop. sch., Valdosta, fol. 395v, dwell./fam. 1267, Doley Hunter household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 163.

eight-year-old Jessey Hunter, of the right age to be the son named in Hardy's will.¹⁰

The woman in Dolly's household twenty years her elder may have been the great-grandmother of the Hawkinsville notice. Nancy Young's earlier association with the Hunter family supports this theory. In 1850 Nancy, a seventy-five-year-old North Carolinian, lived in the household next to Hardy Hunter in Houston County.¹¹ In 1860 she lived two households from Hardy Hunter as an eighty-six-year-old Virginia native.¹²

Tax and estate records suggest a close relationship between Hardy Hunter and Nancy Young. In 1849 in Houston County Hardy Hunter, as agent for Mrs. Nancy Young, registered the tax liability on three slaves. The same arrangement repeated in various years until 1864.¹³ Nancy had loaned money to Hardy Hunter before his death, and his estate paid the notes in December 1867.¹⁴

YOUNG FAMILY

The Hunter family's connections to individuals with the Young surname point to Nancy's family. Associations span four Georgia counties: adjacent Houston and Twiggs counties in middle Georgia, Marion County to the west, and Screven County to the east.

Houston County

Hardy Hunter lived in Houston County in 1840 and 1830.¹⁵ In 1839 Hardy Hunter witnessed William Young's sale of two female slaves—Elender, twenty-

10. *Ibid.*, dwell./fam. 1266, Jessey Hunter household.

11. 1850 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., pop. sch., Dist. 9, fol. 324r, dwell./fam. 277, Nancy Young household.

12. 1860 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., pop. sch., Dist. 9, p. 954, dwell. 44, Nancy Young household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 127.

13. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008153370>), digital film 008153370, image 131, Houston Co., Tax Digest, unpaginated, Hardy Hunter, agent for Mrs. Nancy Young (1849). A note above Nancy's three-slave entry indicates Hardy registered liability for one slave in the possession of "Wm H Ivey" and one in possession of "James West." *Ibid.*, digital film 102066689, image 54, Houston Co., Tax Digest, Hardy Hunter, agent for Nancy Young (1853). *Ibid.*, digital film 102066687, image 17, Hardy Hunter, agent for Nancy Young (1856); image 93, Hardy Hunter, agent for Nancy Young (1858); image 160, Hardy Hunter (1859); image 166, Nancy Young (1859); and image 242, Hardy Hunter, agent for Nancy Young (1860). *Ibid.*, digital film 102066688, image 69, Hardy Hunter, agent for N. Young (1864). The tax digests are undated within each bound volume. It is unclear which images contain 1851–52 and 1854–55. The digests for 1857 and 1861–63 were apparently missing in 2017 during digital capture of the records at the Houston County Probate Court in Perry, Georgia. Enslaved persons were Nancy's only taxable property. Beginning in 1865, she no longer had taxable property.

14. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005764955>), digital film 005764955, image 112, Houston Co., Court of Ordinary, Returns book R:159, receipts 21–22, Hardy Hunter, payments to Nancy Young, 15 December 1866.

15. 1840 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., p. 380 (stamped), Hardy Hunter household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 43. 1830 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., p. 270, Hardy Hunter household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 18.

four, and Harriet, three—to Hardy’s son Jesse W. Hunter.¹⁶ Six years earlier John Young, executor of John Young Sr., deceased, both of Twiggs County, had sold John Sr.’s property in Houston County to William B. Dupree in a public sale. Jesse W. Hunter witnessed the sale.¹⁷

Marion and Houston Counties

In 1851 Hardy and Dolly Hunter gave depositions in the Marion County, Georgia, Superior Court in the case of Richard R. Respass v. John Young, later appealed to the Georgia Supreme Court. While Hardy and Dolly Hunter apparently had no financial interest in the dispute, their statements placed them in the middle of a transaction between John Young [Jr.] and his daughter “Miss Young,” married to Eason Joiner in “1841 or 1842.”¹⁸ Dolly was Eason Joiner’s wife, who in 1850 lived in Marion County with Eason and four children.¹⁹ In 1848 John Young sold Eason Joiner 202½ acres in lot 133 in District 3 of “Originally Muscogee now Marion County.”²⁰ Joiner was likely Young’s son-in-law.

John Young [Jr.] loaned enslaved Ann to his daughter Dolly—not to be confused with the older Dolly (Young) Hunter. After leaving John’s home, Ann was taken to James West’s home.²¹ James West married Mary Ann Hunter in 1837, who was the daughter named in Hardy Hunter’s 1859 will.²²

Along the way Ann was transferred to Hardy Hunter’s house, where Dolly Joiner lived. The Hunters’ involvement in Ann’s transportation from the Young household to the West household reveals the close tie between the two families.

16. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007897152>), digital film 007897152, image 467, Houston Co., Superior Court, Deed book H:833, William Young to Jesse W. Hunter, 20 September 1839, recorded 12 May 1845.

17. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007897149>), digital film 007897149, image 390, Houston Co., Deed book E:682, John Young, executor of John Young, deceased, to William B. Dupree, 5 November 1833, rec. 3 June 1834.

18. Thomas R. R. Cobb, *Reports of Cases in Law and Equity, Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia, from Savannah Term, to Americus Term, 1852, Inclusive*, vol. 11 (Athens, Ga.: Christy and Kelsea, 1853), 114–19. The original case file is also available, but the surviving papers add little to the published decision. Georgia, Supreme Court, Case File A-869, Richard R. Respass v. John Young, tried 16 September 1851, adjudged 31 January 1852; Record Group 91-1-1, Georgia Archives, Morrow, Ga.

19. 1850 U.S. census, Marion Co., Ga., pop. sch., fol. 236v, dwell./fam. 156, Eason Joiner household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 77. Eason and Dolly Joiner were enumerated together with four children in 1850. The oldest child was Susana, age seven, suggesting Eason and Dolly had married before 1843.

20. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008152607>), digital film 008152607, image 125, Marion Co., Ga., Superior Court, Deed book C:212, John Young to Eason Joiner, 6 April 1848, rec. 19 March 1853.

21. Cobb, *Reports of Cases in Law and Equity*, 11:117.

22. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/101911356>), digital film 101911356, image 86, Houston Co., Court of Ordinary, Marriage book A:67, West-Hunter, license 7 June 1837, marriage 8 June 1837.

The Supreme Court acknowledged as much in its decision stating, “[Dolly Hunter] appears to have been the friend and agent of both the parties, in regard to the particular transaction.”²³

While Dolly (Young) Joiner moved to Marion County and lived in James West’s neighborhood in 1850, the Hunters lived in Houston County.²⁴ The West home was fifty miles west of the Hunter home.²⁵ The enslaved Ann, brought to the Hunter residence on her way to Marion County, must have lived somewhere east of the Hunters before the transaction—perhaps in Twiggs County.

Twiggs County

Hardy’s residence in Twiggs County further demonstrates connections with the Young family. He registered his tax liability in Captain Belcher’s District of Twiggs County in 1818.²⁶ The Twiggs 1820 census has not survived, explaining why Hardy’s household was not found.²⁷

As almost all nineteenth-century Twiggs County records were destroyed in a 1901 courthouse fire, other sources must be used to piece together families there.²⁸ The few surviving tax digests from 1818 to 1833, for example, show residence and land ownership information. Newspaper advertisements document estate details, like land ownership and the names of executors or administrators.

Hardy’s 1818 tax record in Belcher’s District shows he owned lot 146 in District 28 of Twiggs County and 850 acres in Screven County. In the same district were John Young and William Young, who each owned 405 acres in District 28.²⁹

John Young Sr. was born between 1761 and 1770.³⁰ He appears with George,

23. Cobb, *Reports of Cases in Law and Equity*, 11:117.

24. For James West, 1850 U.S. census, Marion Co., Ga., pop. sch., fol. 239r, dwell. 194, James West household. For Hardy and Dolly Hunter, 1850 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., pop. sch., Dist. 9, fol. 324r, dwell./fam. 276, Hardy Hunter household.

25. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008152607, images 60–61, Marion Co., Superior Court, Deed book C:83–84, James West to R. L. Worthey, 14 March 1851, rec. 1 March 1852. James West’s property, lying in lots 139, 140, 149, and 150 of district 3, is now located in Schley County near the intersection of Taylor County Road and Connors Mill Road. Hardy Hunter’s property, centered on land lot 214, district 9, is located near the Fort Valley city limits in Houston County. *Ibid.*, digital film 102066688, image 69, Houston Co., Tax Digest, District 9 or Fort Valley District, no. 528, Hardy Hunter, agent for N. Young (1864).

26. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007898925>), digital film 007898925, image 20, Twiggs Co., Ga., Tax Digest, Capt. W. Belcher’s District, Hardy Hunter (1818).

27. William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007), 82.

28. “Twiggs’ Courthouse was Burned to the Ground,” *Macon Telegraph* (Macon, Ga.), 8 February 1901, p. 3, col. 1. A description of the Twiggs County courthouse fire mentions record loss. All known prefire courthouse records have been microfilmed. For details, County Records, Microfilm Card File Index, Georgia Archives, Morrow.

29. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007898925, image 21, Twiggs Co., Tax Digest, Capt. W. Belcher’s District, “Jn^m” and “W^m” Young (1818).

30. 1830 U.S. census, Twiggs Co., Ga., p. 77, John Young Senr. household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 77.

John Jr., Michael, David, and James Young on the 1833 tax list, returned by local justices by 1 May.³¹ John Sr. must have died in Twiggs County during the spring or early summer of 1833. John Young Jr., executor of John Sr., advertised an executor's sale on 26 July for lot 196 in District 28 to be sold on the first Tuesday in December. John Sr.'s lot 196 was less than two miles south of Hardy Hunter's lot 146. The preceding advertisement published the same day shows John also owned lot 148 in District 6 of Houston County.³²

Censuses and tax digests associate John Young Sr. with his children. George Young is enumerated in 1830 on the line below John.³³ John Young Jr., William Young, and George Young are all listed on the 1826 Twiggs County digest in the same district as John Sr.³⁴ John Sr., George, John Jr., and Michael Young registered their tax liabilities in the same district in 1830.³⁵ See table 1. John Jr. later moved to Marion County, where he was involved in the lawsuit against Respass.³⁶ William moved to Crawford County by 1830 and was the man who sold slaves to Jesse W. Hunter in 1839.³⁷

1818	1826	1830	1833
Jn ^o Young	John Young Senr.	John Young Sr.	John Young Senr.
W ^m Young	William Young		
	George Young	George Young	George Young
	John Young Jr.	John Young Jr.	John Young Junr.
		Michael Young	Michael Young
			David Young
			James Young

Sources: See text.

31. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007898925, image 228, Twiggs Co., Tax Digest, Capt. Streetman's Dist., John Young Senior, George Young, John Young Jr., Michael Young, David Young, and James Young (1833). *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, Passed at Milledgeville in November and December, 1832* (Milledgeville, Ga.: Prince and Ragland, 1838), 182–83.

32. "Executor's Sale," *Federal Union* (Milledgeville, Ga.), 1 August 1833, p. 4, col. 4.

33. 1830 U.S. census, Twiggs Co., Ga., p. 77, John Young Senr. household.

34. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007898925, image 66, Twiggs Co., Tax Digest, Captain Pearson's District, William Young, George Young, and John Young Junior (1826).

35. *Ibid.*, image 174, Twiggs Co., Tax Digest, Captain Streetman's Dist., John Young Senior, George Young, and John Young Junior (1830).

36. Cobb, *Reports of Cases in Law and Equity*, 11:117.

37. 1840 U.S. census, Crawford Co., Ga., fol. 370 (stamped), "Wm" Young household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 39.

Estate advertisements in Twiggs County show Nancy Young lived there. In December 1845 the property of James A. Young, deceased, was sold at public auction “at the residence of Mrs. Nancy Young, in Twiggs County.”³⁸ In 1840 James A. Young, age twenty to twenty-nine, lived in Militia District 323 of Twiggs County.³⁹ A woman sixty to sixty-nine also lived in the household—probably Nancy Young, George Young, forty to forty-nine, and David Young, twenty to twenty-nine, appear on the two lines above James.

The intertwined histories of the Young and Hunter families reinforce the hypothesis that Dolly, wife of Hardy Hunter, was the daughter of John Sr. and Nancy Young.

Screven County

Hardy Hunter’s 1818 tax digest in Belcher’s District shows he owned 850 acres in Screven County. He had obtained that land through two grants—one for 500 acres and another for 350 acres.⁴⁰ No county deed indexes show Hardy’s sale of his property.⁴¹ Abraham Hunter of Screven County purchased a lot in Houston County in 1833 for fifty dollars and then sold it to Hardy Hunter for the same amount in November 1833.⁴²

The 1807 land lottery links John Young Sr. to Screven County. He won lot 196 in District 28 of Wilkinson County, Georgia, and obtained a grant in January 1808.⁴³ That land, made part of Twiggs County in 1809, was the property sold from John’s estate in 1833.⁴⁴ John and Nancy, as Screven residents, sold 150 acres

38. “Administrator’s Sale,” *Georgia Telegraph* (Macon, Ga.), 25 November 1845, p. 4, col. 2.

39. 1840 U.S. census, Twiggs Co., Ga., Dist. 323, p. 394, James A. Young household; NARA microfilm M704, roll 51.

40. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008656449>), digital film 008656449, image 410, Georgia, Surveyor General, Headright Land Grants, vol. IIIII:176–77, 500- and 350-acre land grants, Hardy Hunter, 22 January 1813.

41. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007896488>), digital film 007896488, images 84–93, Screven Co. Ga., Superior Court, General Index to Deeds and Mortgages, 1794–1875, Letter H (direct/reverse).

42. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007897149, image 305, Houston Co., Superior Court, Deed book E:502, William T. Fay to Abraham Hunter, 9 September 1833, rec. 3 December 1833. *Ibid.*, Deed book E: 503, Abraham Hunter to Hardy Hunter, 26 November 1833, rec. 3 December 1833. Abraham’s relationship to Hardy is beyond the scope of this article, but these transactions reinforce Hardy’s continued connection to Screven County, even after he moved west.

43. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008188169>), digital film 008188169, image 558, Wilkinson Co., Ga., Surveyor General, District 28, Grant book, p. 39, John Young of Scriven [*sic*] County, 25 January 1808.

44. “Georgia,” Newberry Library, *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* (https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/GA_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#TWIGGS). Twiggs was created from Wilkinson County 14 December 1809.

there in February 1810. Jesse Hunter—a name Hardy Hunter later gave one of his sons—witnessed the deed.⁴⁵

The statement in Hardy Hunter's 1859 will stating he had "lived in the strictest quiet [with his wife] for fifty odd years" suggests he married Dolly about 1809. Surviving marriage records in Screven County extend no earlier than 1817, explaining the lack of a documented marriage for Hardy and Dolly Hunter.⁴⁶

LEONORA'S NIECES

Hardy's will names Leonora's sisters Mary Ann West and Nancy Ivey. To complete the five-generation lineage, one of them must have been the "mother" mentioned in the Hawkinsville newspaper. At least one of their daughters was probably born early enough to have had a child by 1870.

Mary Ann (Hunter) West

Mary [Ann] Hunter married James West on 8 June 1837 in Houston County.⁴⁷ In 1906 biographical accounts of West and four of his sons and family were published. James's account gives details about his children, with birth, marriage, and death dates.⁴⁸ When the accounts were published James had been deceased for years.⁴⁹ Probably one or more of the sons provided the dates, or they came from family records.

Three of Mary Ann and James's daughters married before 1870. Sarah E. West married Dr. James P. Y. Higdon in 1858; she died in 1895. Mary J. West married A. H. Lane in 1866 and lived in Valdosta, Lowndes County, in 1906. Laura F.

45. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008188166>), digital film 008188166, image 52, Screven Co., Superior Court, Deed book I:58–59, John Yong and his wife Nancy Yong to Jesse Slater, 3 February 1810, rec. 17 January 1811.

46. Georgia required inferior courts to record marriages from December 1805, but Screven County's first known marriage book (A) starts in 1838. A small collection of marriages from 1817 to 1837 were rerecorded in annual returns books A and D. "An act . . . directing the manner of granting . . . marriage licenses. . . ." *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, Passed at Louisville, in December, 1805* (Augusta, Ga.: George F. Randolph, 1805), 26–29. For the earliest marriage book, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007578494>), digital film 007578494, Screven Co., Court of Ordinary, Marriages A (1838–1856). For rerecorded marriages, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007578493>), digital film 007578493, images 94, 114, 148, and 168, Screven Co., Court of Ordinary, Record book A, Returns on estates, 1821–1833, pp. 105, 144–45, 210–11, 250–51. *Ibid.*, images 234–35 and 294, Screven Co., Record book D, Returns on estates, 1833–1851, pp. 3–6, 121.

47. *FamilySearch*, digital film 101911356, image 86, Houston Co., Court of Ordinary, Marriage book A:67, West-Hunter, license 7 June 1837, marriage 8 June 1837.

48. Allen D. Candler and Clement A. Evans, eds., *Georgia: Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons Arranged in Cyclopedic Form*, vol. 3 (Atlanta, Ga.: State Historical Association, 1906), 546–53.

49. *Ibid.*, 3:547. James died 2 September 1880 in Madison Co., Fla.

West married J. T. Peacock in 1862 and also lived in Valdosta.⁵⁰ Two of the three daughters are candidates for the “daughter” in the newspaper notice.

- Sarah (West) Higdon died without issue. She and her husband appear together with no children in 1870 and 1880.⁵¹ When her husband died on 1 October 1895, his sole heir was “Sarah E. Higdon, wife of the deceased, having no living children.”⁵²
- Mary James (West) Lane had one child born by 1870—Arthur Higdon Lane. In 1870 he lived with his parents as three-year-old Higdon Lane.⁵³ In 1880 Arthur Lane was the thirteen-year-old son of Abram H. Lane.⁵⁴ In 1885 A. H. Lane was the eighteen-year-old son of A. H. Lane.⁵⁵ Arthur died 18 August 1931 in Polk County, Florida. His death certificate does not name parents.⁵⁶ Arthur perhaps represents the fifth generation in the Hawkinsville notice.
- Laura Frances (West) Peacock also had a child born before 1870—Arneita Mounger Peacock. “Neita” is listed with her parents in 1870.⁵⁷ Nita Mounger Peacock is listed with her parents in the 1880 census, immediately after the Abram H. Lane family.⁵⁸ Arneita died on 10 October 1925 in Valdosta. Her death certificate names her parents as J. T. Peacock and Laura Frances West.⁵⁹ Arneita may also represent the fifth generation.

Ann W. (Hunter) Ivey a.k.a. Nancy (Hunter) Ivey

Daughter Nancy Ivey in Hardy Hunter’s 1859 will was Ann W. Hunter, likely married to William H. Ivey. A woman named Ann W. Ivey received twenty dollars

50. Candler and Evans, *Georgia: Comprising Sketches*, 3:547–48.

51. 1870 U.S. census, Echols Co., Ga., pop. sch., fol. 91v, dwell./fam. 22, J. P. Y. Higdon household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 148. 1880 U.S. census, Echols Co., Ga., pop. sch., 1211 Georgia Militia District, enumeration district (ED) 45, p. 306A, dwell./fam. 114, James P. Y. Higdon household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 145.

52. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005888908>), digital film 005888908, image 53, Madison Co., Fla., Probate Court, Estate administration record, 1892–1914, p. 55, application for letters of administration, J. P. Y. Higdon, 28 October 1895.

53. 1870 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Madison, fol. 26v, dwell./fam. 6, Abraham H. Lane household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 132.

54. 1880 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Precinct 8, ED 103, fol. 635v, fam. 306, Abram H. Lane household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 130.

55. 1885 Florida state census, Madison Co., Withlacoochee Dist., p. 7, A. H. Lane household; NARA microfilm M845.

56. Florida State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 11868 (penned), Arthur Higdon Lane (1931), Bureau of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville.

57. 1870 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Madison, fol. 21v, dwell./fam. 3, John T. Peacock household.

58. 1880 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Precinct 8, ED 103, fol. 635v, fam. 307, John Peacock household.

59. Georgia State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 27922, registered no. 218, Arneita Mounger Wilson (1925), Bureau of Vital Statistics, Atlanta.

from Hardy Hunter's estate.⁶⁰ In 1850 Ann lived with her alleged husband William H. Ivey and children in Houston County. Before the 1860 census they moved to Suwannee County, Florida.⁶¹ Ann W. Ivey was administratrix and distributee of William H. Ivey's intestate estate, beginning in September 1863.⁶² Ann Ivey married Calvin Peacock on 17 December 1868.⁶³ Death certificates for Ann's children identify her as a Hunter born in Georgia, reinforcing the relationship to Hardy Hunter.

- Ella Pauline (Ivey) McIntosh died on 12 October 1935 in Suwannee County. Her death certificate names mother Annie Hunter, born in Georgia.⁶⁴
- Robert A. Ivey died on 21 November 1925 in Suwannee County. His death certificate names mother Ann Weldon Ivey who was born in "Port Valley" [Fort Valley], Georgia.⁶⁵
- Furney Camillus Ivey died 8 April 1939 in Thomas County, Georgia. Her death certificate names mother Ann Hunter whose birthplace is unknown.⁶⁶

Ann and William had three daughters old enough to be the "daughter" in the Hawkinsville newspaper. Mary and Martha had reached the age of majority by their father's death.⁶⁷ Lenora was a minor heir.⁶⁸

60. *FamilySearch*, digital film 005764955, image 111, Houston Co., Court of Ordinary, Returns book R:157, receipt no. 7, Hardy Hunter, 3 October 1866.

61. 1850 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., pop. sch., Upper Town Dist., fol. 385v, dwell./fam. 1119, William H. Ivey household. 1860 U.S. census, Suwannee Co., Fla., pop. sch., fol. 785v, dwell./fam. 195, W. H. Ivey household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 109.

62. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005888781>), digital film 005888781 image 86, Suwannee Co., Fla., Probate Court, Order book A:158–59, administrator's bond for Ann W. Ivey, estate of William H. Ivey, 15 September 1863. *Ibid.*, image 271, Order book B:29, petition of Ann W. Ivey, estate of William H. Ivey, 10 September 1868.

63. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007245543>), digital film 007245543, image 81, Suwannee Co., County Court, Marriage book 1:92, Peacock-Ivey, 17 December 1868.

64. Florida State Board of Health, death certificate, file no. 16049 (stamped), Ella Pauline McIntosh (1935).

65. *Ibid.*, file no. 16228, Robert A. Ivey (1925).

66. Georgia Department of Public Health, death certificate, file no. 9614, reg. no. 15, Furney Camellus Ivey (1939), Bureau of Vital Statistics.

67. *FamilySearch*, digital film 005888781, image 271, Suwannee Co., Probate, Order book B:28, petition of Ann W. Ivey, estate of William H. Ivey, 10 September 1868.

68. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005888780>), digital film 005888780, image 169, Suwannee Co., Probate Court, Estate settlement book A:234, account of Ann W. Ivey, guardian, minor heirs of William H. Ivey, 17 August 1870.

- Mary Elizabeth Ivey married Washington L. Irvine on 1 March 1857.⁶⁹ Mary and William's only known son, Edgar W. Irvine, was born on 28 July 1864 and died on 24 December 1884.⁷⁰ Edgar lived with his father in 1880.⁷¹ Mary had died on 13 February 1870—before the newspaper notice.⁷²
- Martha W. Ivey married Oscar B. Lane on 21 December 1865 in Suwannee County.⁷³ The couple was apparently childless in 1870.⁷⁴ A daughter Mary Lane was born on 7 May 1871.⁷⁵ Martha died two months later, on 12 July 1871, and her daughter survived only two years, dying on 1 April 1873.⁷⁶
- Lenora V. Ivey married Washington L. Irvine on 17 November 1870, ten months after the death of her sister Mary and three weeks before publication of the newspaper item.⁷⁷ Lenora and Washington had two known daughters—Mollie M. Irvine, born on 5 December 1871 and died on 5 January 1872, and Lura V. Irvine, born on 10 October 1873, and died on 26 December 1888. Lenora (Ivey) Irvine died on 4 July 1877.⁷⁸

FAMILY IN TWO STATES?

Only one of Ann W. (Hunter) Ivey's daughters had a known child by 1870, but that daughter died 13 February 1870, ten months before the Hawkinsville notice. The roles of “mother” and “daughter,” therefore, fall to Mary Ann (Hunter) West

69. *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>), memorial 58054522, digital image, 8 July 2016, by Richard Bragg, gravestone for Mary E. Irvine (Ivey Cemetery, Suwannee Co., Fla.).

70. *Ibid.*, memorial 56815878, digital image, 8 August 2010, by Keith V. Birkemeyer, gravestone for Edgar W. Irvine (Ivey Cem.).

71. 1880 U.S. census, Suwannee Co., Fla., pop. sch., Districts 2, 3, and 4, ED 146, fol. 313v, fam. 272, Washington L. Irvine household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 132.

72. *Find A Grave*, memorial 58054522, digital image, 8 July 2016, by Richard Bragg, gravestone for Mary E. Irvine.

73. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007245543, image 45, Suwannee Co., County Court, Marriage book 1:20, Lane-Ivey, license 20 December 1865, marriage 21 December 1865.

74. 1870 U.S. census, Brooks Co., Ga., pop. sch., Nankin Dist., fol. 4v, dwell./fam. 58, Oscar Lane household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 137.

75. *Find A Grave*, memorial 58054532, digital image, 21 April 2013, by Debbie Baker, gravestone for Mary Lane (Ivey Cem.).

76. *Ibid.*, memorial 58054516, digital image, 21 April 2013, by Debbie Baker, gravestone for Martha W. Ivey Lane (Ivey Cem.). *Ibid.*, memorial 58054532, digital image, 21 April 2013, by Debbie Baker, gravestone for Mary Lane.

77. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007245543, image 99, Suwannee Co., County Court, Marriage records, p. 129, Irvine-Ivey, license 17 November 1870, marriage 20 November 1870. Lenora is mistakenly called “Laura” in the certificate.

78. *Find A Grave*, memorial 58054514, digital image, 8 July 2016, by Richard Bragg, gravestone for Mollie M. Irvine (Ivey Cem.). *Ibid.*, memorial 56815784, digital image, 8 August 2010, by Keith V. Birkemeyer, gravestone for Lura V. Irvine (Ivey Cem.). For a 1975 transcription providing a death date and mother's initials, “McIntosh Cemetery: Luraville, Suwannee County, Florida,” *Huxford Genealogical Society Quarterly* 2 (March 1975): 61. *Find A Grave*, memorial 58054531, digital image, 20 December 2016, Richard Bragg, gravestone for Lenora Victoria Ivey Irvine (Ivey Cem.). Inscription is illegible in photograph. For a 1975 transcription, “McIntosh Cemetery: Luraville, Suwannee County, Florida,” *Huxford Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 61.

and one of two daughters: Mary James (West) Lane or Laura F. (West) Peacock. Did one or both of her daughters live in Lowndes County, Georgia, in 1870? Although the newspaper item answers in the affirmative, more reliable sources point to residences in adjacent Madison County, Florida.

Mary Ann and her two daughters lived in Madison County in 1870.⁷⁹ Grandmother Dolly and great-grandmother Nancy lived in Lowndes County in 1870.⁸⁰

Mary James (West) Lane lived on her father's property in Madison County, implied by her family's enumeration as the next household on the 1870 census. The Lanes did not own property at the time.⁸¹ James West's 1556-acre farm was in northeast Madison County, along the Withlacoochee River, only three miles from Lowndes County.⁸² Dolly Hunter lived just outside of Naylor in eastern Lowndes County, about forty miles northeast of West's property.⁸³

In 1870 the Peacocks owned \$2,500 worth of real property, but no known deeds or land patents show the location.⁸⁴ Their land-owning neighbor, Joel Gramling, owned property six miles west of the West farm.⁸⁵ The Peacock family lived in close proximity to the Wests.

None of the three households—Lane, Peacock, and West—appear on the 1870 or 1871 Lowndes County tax digests. Both were certified in July.⁸⁶ Sisters Mary and

79. 1870 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Madison, fol. 26v, dwell./fam. 5, James West household. *Ibid.*, dwell./fam. 6, Abraham H. Lane household. *Ibid.*, fol. 21v, dwell./fam. 3, John T. Peacock household.

80. *Ibid.*, Lowndes Co., Ga., pop. sch., Valdosta, fol. 395v, dwell./fam. 1267, Doley Hunter household.

81. *Ibid.*, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Madison, fol. 26v, dwell./fam. 5, James West household.

82. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008583487>), digital film 008583487, image 420, Madison Co., Circuit Court, Deed book G:774–75, William P. and Elizabeth Halley to James West, 20 July 1863, rec. 20 July 1863.

83. Lowndes Co., Superior Court, Deed book B:756, James W. Dickson to Dolly Hunter, 25 December 1866, rec. 31 October 1868; Courthouse, Valdosta.

84. 1870 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Madison, fol. 21v, dwell./fam. 1, Joel Gramling household. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008190535>), digital film 008190535, Madison Co., Clerk of Circuit Court, General Index to Deeds, A–K, Grantor, 1831–1915. Also, *ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008190650>), digital film 008190650, Madison Co., Clerk of the Circuit Court, General Index to Deeds, A–K, Grantee, 1831–1915.

85. 1870 U.S. census, Madison Co., Fla., pop. sch., Madison, fol. 21v, dwell./fam. 1, Joel Gramling household. “Land Patent Search,” database, *General Land Office Records* (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>), U.S. General Land Office, land patent, certificate 12215, Joel F. Gramling, 1 July 1857.

86. “Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793–1892,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) > Lowndes > 1870 > image 67, Lowndes Co., Tax Digest, 1870, “Recapitulation of White Property.” *Ibid.* > 1871–1877 > image 67, Lowndes Co., Tax Digest, 1871, “Recapitulation.” The Lane, Peacock, and West households were searched in 1870 and 1871, without success.

Laura purchased land in Lowndes County in the 1890s and lived their later years in Valdosta.⁸⁷

While the newspaper notice claims that all five generations lived in Lowndes County in 1870, documentary records suggest otherwise. The two oldest generations in the lineage lived in Lowndes, but the youngest three generations resided across the border in Florida. While everyone in the family did not live in Lowndes County, they nevertheless lived in relative proximity.

DEATHS OF NANCY YOUNG AND DOLLY HUNTER

Nancy and Dolly were alive in 1870. No known facts suggest Nancy's death date. On 18 March 1867 she purchased one acre adjoining Dolly's property near Naylor, but neither she nor a known relative appear in deed indexes selling the property.⁸⁸ She does not appear in Lowndes County tax digests for the period 1870–1877.⁸⁹ No obituary has been found.⁹⁰ The *South Georgia Times*—Valdosta's newspaper from the era—survives only from April 1868 to September 1869; the subsequent iteration of the paper—the *Valdosta Times*—survives from May 1875 forward, leaving a gap during the period Nancy likely died.⁹¹

Dolly died after the 1871 tax registration was certified in July 1871 and before the 1872 tax registration, likely certified in July.⁹² Her grandson, Ellis H. Hunter,

87. Lowndes Co., Superior Court, Deed book R:286, H. L. Boone to Mary J. Lane, 28 December 1896, rec. 23 October 1897. Lowndes Co., Superior Court, Deed book S:103, William S. West to Laura F. Peacock, 4 April 1898, rec. 20 May 1898. 1900 U.S. census, Lowndes Co., Ga., pop. sch., Valdosta, ED 68, p. 1, dwell./fam. 7, Abram H. Lane household; NARA microfilm T623. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005782623>), digital film 005782623, image 89, Lowndes Co., Ga., Court of Ordinary, Will book B:23–24, will of Mary J. Lane, 15 December 1911, not probated. 1910 U.S. census, Lowndes Co., Ga., pop. sch., Valdosta, ED 126, p. 2v, dwell./fam. 28 John T. Peacock household; NARA microfilm T624, roll 202. Georgia Department of Public Health, death certificate, file no. 26571 (stamped), reg. no. 303, Laura West Peacock (1933).

88. Lowndes Co., Superior Court, Deed book B:755–56, Edward G. Kirkland Sr. to Nancy Young, 18 March 1867, rec. 31 October 1868. For deed indexes, see Lowndes Co., Superior Court, Grantor General Index 1859 Thru 1986: vol. 41 & 42, HU – HZ & H Firms; vol. 48 & 49, LA – LE; vol. 64 & 65, PA – PE & Firms; vol. 84 X Y Z & Firms.

89. “Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793–1892,” *Ancestry*. Searched “Nancy” or “N” given name and “Young” surname in Lowndes County.

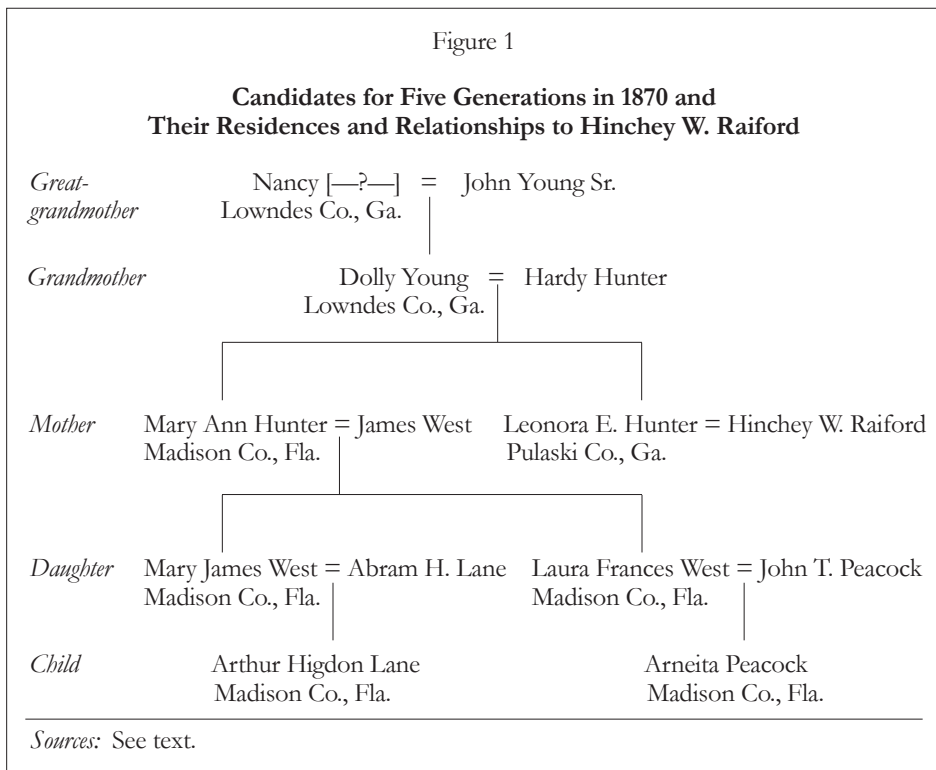
90. *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com>). “South Georgia,” *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<http://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>). “Christian Index,” *ProQuest* (<http://search.proquest.com>).

91. Wayne and Judy Dasher, *Wiregrass Obituaries and Death Notices: Berrien and Lowndes Counties, Georgia, Newspapers*, vols. 1–2 (Nashville, Ga.: W. Dasher, 1998).

92. “Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793–1892,” *Ancestry* > Lowndes > 1871–1877 > image 67, Lowndes Co., Tax Digest 1871, “Recapitulation.” Ibid. > image 137, Lowndes Co., Tax Digest, 1872, “Recapitulation.” The 1872 tax list certification did not include an exact date.

paid taxes as agent for “Mrs D Hunter” in 1871 and the “Est[ate of] Mrs D Hunter” in 1872.⁹³ Dolly had sold her interest to Ellis five years earlier and the family did not pursue probate of her estate.⁹⁴ No obituary has been found, primarily because newspapers of the time period are missing.⁹⁵

Figure 1 summarizes the candidates for the five generations H. W. Raiford mentioned in his 1870 Hawkinsville notice. Two generations lived in Lowndes County, Georgia; three lived in Madison County, Florida. Mary Ann Hunter would have been Raiford’s wife’s sister. Their mother was Dolly (Young) Hunter. Mary James West and Laura Frances West were nieces.



93. “Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793–1892,” *Ancestry* > Lowndes > 1871–1877 > image 5, Lowndes Co., Tax Digest, 1871, Dist. 661, entry for E. M. [sic] Hunter, agent for Mrs. D. Hunter. *Ibid.* > image 90, Lowndes Co., Tax Digest, 1872, Dist. 661, E. H. Hunter, agent for estate of Mrs. D. Hunter.

94. “Georgia, Wills and Probate Records, 1742–1992,” *Ancestry*, Lowndes Co., Court of Ordinary, Record of Wills A (1871–1915), Administrators and Guardians Bonds A (1870–1904), Inventories and Appraisements A (1870–1893), and Bills of Sale A (1871–1895).

95. *GenealogyBank*. “South Georgia,” *Georgia Historic Newspapers*. “Christian Index,” *ProQuest*.

CONCLUSIONS

A brief newspaper notice provides clues for documenting four generations of Nancy Young's lineal descendants. Indirect evidence identifies them:

1. Great-grandmother Nancy married John Young Sr.
2. Grandmother Dolly Young married Hardy Hunter.
3. Mother Mary Ann Hunter married James West.
4. Daughter Mary James West married Abram H. Lane and other daughter, Laura Frances West married John T. Peacock.
5. Children were Arthur Higdon Lane, Mary James West's son, and Arneita Peacock, Laura Frances West's daughter.

Which of the two daughters and children the Hawkinsville notice referenced cannot be determined.

Mr. Raiford claimed five generations lived at the same time in Lowndes County, Georgia. The great-grandmother and grandmother were in Lowndes, but the mother, daughters, and their children were in adjacent Madison County, Florida. Available records indicate that they lived in the northeast corner of Madison County, close to Lowndes County. The records do not indicate whether they lived there for only a short time.

Raiford may have misunderstood or perhaps he misspoke. Or, his communication with the newspaper editors may have been confused or edited. Another possible explanation is that the newspaper misreported the details, basing the location solely on the residence of the older women in Lowndes County. Regardless, the newspaper report was accurate in reporting five generations were alive at the same time.
