



A Patriot Story

Ann “Nancy” Morgan Hart

Born: 1735 in either Pennsylvania or North Carolina

Died: 1830 in Kentucky

My Patriot’s story

She married Benjamin Hart in 1760 and had eight children. They moved to GA during the Revolutionary War. She had distinguishing features. She was six feet tall, had fiery red hair, was cross eyed and was scared from smallpox. Although she was illiterate, she had the skills needed for surviving on the frontier. When her husband was away fighting in the Georgia militia, her abilities as a sharpshooter, skilled hunter and an expert farm wife who could bake bread on the back of a hoe served her family well.

These few facts don’t tell us about her character. ‘Actions speak louder than words.’ She is one of the very few women who made a significant contribution toward our country’s fighting and winning the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). She was feared by the Cherokee Indians who called her “Wahatche” which meant “war woman.” This nickname would prove to be appropriate as the Revolution moved into Georgia, and Hart became a staunch defender of the Patriot cause. Wahatche Creek near her home may have been named after her.

There are many incredible stories about Nancy Hart. Here are a few examples:

She often disguised herself as a simpleminded man and wandered into Tory camps to gather information which she passed on to the patriots.

She built a bridge of logs tied together with grapevines to cross the Savanna River. On the other side she hid in the brush and shot soldiers as they crossed.

She was also an active participant in the conflict and, according to some accounts, was present at the Battle of Kettle Creek.

Many of her legendary acts of courage actually took place at the family cabin.

She once tossed a ladle of hot lye soap scalding a Tory soldier peeping through a hold in the wall of her family’s cabin.

The most famous story is when a group of British soldiers came to the family cabin. They shot her only turkey and demanded she feed them. They very much underestimated her abilities! She gave them food and drink and got them drunk. At the same time, she sent her daughter, Sukey to alert her husband and neighbors by blowing on a hidden conch shell. Discreetly she began to move the soldier's guns but her actions were spotted. Two soldiers charged at her. She killed one and wounded another. Help arrived. She thought shooting the others was too lenient, so they were hung from a nearby tree. In 1922 a construction crew found the bodies of six men buried near the Hart cabin.

She is remembered, acknowledged and celebrated in Georgia. Her legacy inspired the naming of Hart County, the town of Hartwell, Hartwell Lake, Hartwell Dam, Nancy Hart Highway and Hart state park. The DAR erected a replica of her log cabin, using stones from the original cabin. There is a DAR Nancy Hart chapter in Milledgeville, GA.

She is a true American patriot who acted fearlessly to protect her family and country.

Source(s):

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