

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT NANCY

Identifying the Family of Nancy (Donnally) Bane,
Inmate at the Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum and the Athens Insane Asylum

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I was not looking for Nancy (Donnally) Bane. She was looking for me. I happened upon Nancy as I was searching the 1880 Schedule of Defective, Delinquent, and Dependent Classes [1880 DDD] for Ohio.¹ The enumeration revealed that Nancy Bane, age 62, resident of Gallia County, had been a patient at the Central Ohio Institution and had had twenty-four attacks of mania, beginning at age 47. She had been kept at the institution and was discharged in 1868.² Even though she had been released from the asylum more than twelve years before and was living at home in 1880, she evidently still suffered from her illness and was therefore recorded on the 1880 DDD.

There was something about Nancy that captured my attention. Having an interest in women's medical issues of past centuries, I wondered if Nancy had been one of the many women of the nineteenth century committed to insane asylums for ailments that today would be labeled postpartum depression and menopause.³ Or did she have a mental illness, such as manic depression (bipolar disease), schizophrenia, mania, dementia, or some other disorder? Who were her parents, siblings, and children? Did any of them suffer from mental illness? I was off on a research tangent, seeking a woman who was not one of my ancestors or relatives and for whom no client was subsidizing my research.

In 1880, in Gallia County, Ohio, where Nancy resided, there were fifteen males and thirteen females considered to be insane.⁴ The population of Ohio in 1880 was slightly under 3,200,000 people, of which nearly 7,300 were labeled "insane." Most resided in asylums, but almost 2,800 lived at home, as did Nancy

¹ For more information and availability of these schedules, see Kathleen W. Hinckley's *Your Guide to the Federal Census*. Also see William B. Saxbe Jr., CG, FASG, "Non-Population Schedules, 1850–1880," *The [Ohio Genealogical Society] Report* 24(Spring 1984):1–2.

² 1880 Defective, Delinquent, and Dependent Classes, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 1, line 23 [FHL film #1,602,423].

³ For more information on this topic, see Jeffrey Geller and Maxine Harris, *Women of the Asylum: Voices from Behind the Walls, 1840–1945* (New York, 1994).

⁴ Frederick Howard Wines, *Report on the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes of the Population of the United States as Returned at the Tenth Census (June 1, 1880)* (Washington, D.C., 1888), 28.

in that year. In Ohio, women suffered more than men from two of the most-common forms of mental illnesses:⁵

	Mania	Melancholia	Dementia
Women	895	676	440
Men	738	499	442

WHO WAS NANCY BANE?

After discovering Nancy in the 1880 DDD, the next logical place to look for her was the 1880 population census for Gallia County, which shows her and her family as follows:⁶

Bane, Henry D., white, male, age 61, married, farmer, born in Virginia, parents born in Virginia
 Bane, Nancy, white, female, age 62, wife, married, keeps house, mark under column indicating insanity, born in Ohio, parents born in Virginia
 Bane, William H., white, male, age 29, son, single, teacher, born in Ohio, father born in Virginia, mother born in Ohio

Following Nancy in the censuses, working backward and forward in time, the rest of her immediate family emerged. She had at least seven children, although by 1900 only six were still living. Also by 1900, Nancy and her husband, Henry, both in their eighties, lived separately. He was in the household of their son William, while Nancy resided with their daughter and son-in-law, Mary and John H. Price. Both Nancy and Henry's marital status was recorded as "married," and it is unlikely they divorced. They were buried side by side in the same cemetery. While there are no notations in the 1850 or 1860 censuses regarding Nancy's mental health, she was first labeled insane in 1870 and was subsequently recorded as such in 1880. No such category existed for 1900, and Nancy was dead before 1910.⁷

Since all of their children were born in Ohio, and the family was consistently enumerated in Gallia County, a marriage record for Henry and Nancy in that

⁵ Wines, *Report on the Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes* xii, 39, 69. Mania, as we know it today, would be characterized by excessive excitability, exalted feelings, and delusions of grandeur. Melancholia is various forms of depression, and dementia is an irrecoverable deteriorative mental state. Other forms of mental illness noted in this report are monomania (probably what we would call an obsessive-compulsive disorder or psychosis), paresis (dementia from syphilis), dipsomania (alcoholism), and epilepsy (now known to be a physical, rather than a mental illness).

⁶ 1880 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 29, p. 1, #5/6.

⁷ 1850 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 49, #1944/1954; 1860 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 386, #513/513; 1870 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 1, #1/1; 1880 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 29, p. 1, #5/6; 1900 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 34, sheet 3, #45/45 (Nancy is enumerated in the household of her daughter and son-in-law Mary and John H. Price); 1900 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 31, sheet 3, #49/50 (Henry is enumerated with his son William H.).

county was likely. Indeed, on 26 September 1842, Henry D. Bane married Nancy Donnally.⁸

On the assumption that Donnally was Nancy's maiden name, I searched for a Donnally who died in Gallia County leaving a will that named a daughter Nancy Bane. But of the Donnally wills recorded there, none referenced a daughter Nancy Bane. In the 1855 will of Andrew Donnally, a daughter Nancy Donnally was named; but the Nancy who had captured my attention had been married thirteen years by the time this will was signed. It is unlikely that a father would still refer to his daughter by her maiden name. Another daughter and a son named in Andrew's will, Katherine and Peter Donnally, also left wills, in 1866 and 1860, respectively, naming their sister Nancy Donnally, further evidence that this Nancy was almost certainly unmarried.⁹ Additionally, this Donnally family was enumerated in the 1850 census for Gallia County, with Nancy Donnally, age forty, living at home with her father Andrew and siblings Peter and Katherine.¹⁰ In 1850, Nancy (Donnally) Bane was enumerated with her husband, Henry, and family.¹¹

In the 1835–1852 chancery court records for Gallia County, there was one case that involved Henry D. Bane and a John A. Donnally. It was a land foreclosure dated 18 October 1851, which also named Henry's wife, Nancy.¹²

Another chancery court case of particular note involved John Newton *vs.* John A. Donnally on 14 May 1840. In this case, a William Donnally was accused of conveying land to his children to defraud Newton. The children of William Donnally were named in the document: John A. and *Nancy*, who were of full age, and William Jr., Eleanor, Sarah, Mary Ann, Philip J., Martha, Reuben G., and Marinda, all minors.¹³

There were two other significant cases. One involved John A. Donnally, again, and a Sarah Donnally. In this case Sarah was identified as the widow of William Donnally, who had died on 1 January 1847.¹⁴ The other case concerned John Newton, administrator for William Grayum, *vs.* James Grayum, Reuben Grayum, John Grayum, *Sarah and William Donnally*, Martha and Randall Russell, Mary

⁸ Gallia Co., Ohio, Probate Court, Marriage Records 1:399 [FHL film #317,652].

⁹ Gallia Co., Ohio, Probate Records, 1:113 (will of Andrew Donnally), 1:369 (will of Katherine Donnally), 1:239 (will of Peter Donnally) [FHL film #317,669].

¹⁰ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 42, #1859/1869.

¹¹ 1850 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 49, #1944/1954.

¹² Gallia Co., Ohio, Chancery Court 3:504–9 [FHL film #1,303,073]; also see Gallia Co., Ohio, Civil Court Journal 5:208, 228–29, 326 [FHL film #1,303,071]; and Henrietta C. Evans and Mary P. Wood, *Abstracts of Gallia County Chancery Records*, 35–52 (privately published, 1984), 64 (hereafter cited as Evans and Wood, *Gallia Co. Chancery Records*).

¹³ Gallia Co., Ohio, Chancery Court 1:444–47 [FHL film #1,303,072]; also see Evans and Wood, *Gallia Co. Chancery Records*, 16.

¹⁴ Gallia Co., Ohio, Chancery Court 3:582–85 [FHL film #1,303,073]; also see Gallia Co., Ohio, Civil Court Journal 5:269, 355 [FHL film #1,303,071]; and Evans and Wood, *Gallia Co. Chancery Records*, 67.

Ann and Noah Wood, and Rachel and John Swindler. This 1839 case revolved around William Grayum, who died intestate, and the need to sell his property to pay his debts. The people named were his brothers and sisters and his widow, Rachel, who had married John Swindler.¹⁵

The 1850 census shows a further connection between the Donnallys and Banes. Living in the same household as John A. Donnally and his family was twenty-five-year-old Elizabeth Bane, born in Virginia.¹⁶ Henry D. Bane, who was 31 in 1850, was also born in Virginia.¹⁷ The Donnallys lived in Green Township, which borders Perry Township where the Banes resided.¹⁸ The presumed mother of John A. Donnally and Nancy (Donnally) Bane, Sarah Donnally, age 51, lived with 15-year-old Martha Donnally in the household next to John A. Donnally.¹⁹

A death certificate for Nancy would likely name her parents. According to a book of cemetery transcriptions for Gallia County, Nancy Bane, wife of Henry D., was born on 6 September 1818 and died on 31 January 1903.²⁰ A death notice for Nancy appeared in the *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*, but it did not name her parents.²¹ Statewide registration of deaths in Ohio did not begin until 1908, but Ohio law did require the registration of deaths in 1868, but this was done at the county level until 1908. Only Henry's death was entered in these records. He died a widower at the age of 85 on 23 February 1905.²²

Only one local record identified Nancy's parents: a funeral home register recording her interment.²³ The information was supplied by Samuel Bane. The named parents were William and Sarah (Graham) Donley [*sic*].

In Gallia County deeds, there was only one land transaction between Henry D. Bane and the Donnallys—the one referred to in the foreclosure.²⁴ Deeds were also recorded that showed transactions among the Donnallys, James Newton, and the Grahams [Grayum]. None of them involved the Banes. Sarah Donnally, how-

¹⁵ Gallia Co., Ohio, Chancery Court 1:208–13 [FHL film #1,303,072]; also see Evans and Wood, *Gallia Co. Chancery Records*, 11. Emphasis added.

¹⁶ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 39, #1811/1821. An Elizabeth J. Bane m. Gallia Co., Ohio, 6 Oct. 1851, Simon Gardner (Gallia Co., Ohio, Marriage Records, 2:193 [FHL film #317,652]). Another marriage entry was found for an Elizabeth Bane marrying Evan Jones, 18 March 1859 (Gallia Co., Ohio, Marriage Records 2:384 [FHL film #317,652]). Further research is needed to determine if these are the same women and what their relationship is, if any, to Henry D. Bane. For the marriage of John A. Donnally and Martha A. Alexander, 3 July 1845, see Gallia Co., Ohio, Marriage Records, 2:20 [FHL film #317,652].

¹⁷ 1850 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 49, #1944/1954.

¹⁸ *History of Gallia County* (Chicago, 1882), map.

¹⁹ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 39, #1812/1822.

²⁰ *Cemeteries of Harrison Township, Gallia County, Ohio* (Gallia Co. Hist. Soc., 1980), 15.

²¹ *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*, 31 Jan. 1903, p. 3, col. 2.

²² Gallia Co. Probate Court, Record of Deaths, p. 46, #221 [FHL film #317,663].

²³ Wetherholt Funeral Home Register, p. 134, for the year 1903, Gallia County Historical Society, Gallipolis, Ohio.

²⁴ Gallia Co., Ohio, Deeds 27:52 [FHL film #317,687].

ever, was awarded bounty land based on her husband's War of 1812 service. As every genealogist hopes, within the application papers for bounty land was a transcription of the family Bible, which named Nancy as the daughter of William and Sarah (Graham) Donnally.²⁵

NANCY'S COMMITMENT AND MORE LEADS TO HER FAMILY

Nancy was listed in the 1880 DDD as suffering from mania. According to medical texts of today, symptoms of mania include elation, irritability, or hostility. Associated symptoms are delusions of grandeur, inflated self-esteem, and "racing" thoughts.²⁶ Fortunately, a record of Nancy's commitment was filed in the probate court of Gallia County.

The first inquest to determine Nancy's lunacy was held on 28 March 1867. The inquest was at the request of Dr. G. W. Livesay and Henry Bane, who sought Nancy's admission into the Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum. The court found Nancy insane and that "her being at large is dangerous to the community."²⁷ The 1880 DDD puts Nancy's discharge from this institution in 1868, so she apparently stayed between nine and twenty-one months.

The Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum was likely the Columbus State Hospital. Nancy's subsequent records state that she had been a patient in an asylum in Columbus. Organized in 1835, it was also known as the "Lunatic Asylum of Ohio." The institution could accommodate 120 patients and was "the first institution for the treatment of the insane west of the Alleghenies." In November 1868, the asylum caught fire and was nearly destroyed. Of the 314 patients, six died from smoke inhalation. The survivors were moved to other asylums in the state.²⁸ We do not know if Nancy had already been discharged or was taken home after the fire.

The 1880 DDD also reported that Nancy had been institutionalized at the Central Ohio Institution. Neither the Gallia County Historical Society nor the Ohio Historical Society were aware of an institution known by this name. During the time of Nancy's commitment, there were two institutions in the central part of the state: the Columbus State Hospital and the Columbus Institute for the Feeble-Minded Youth. Admission books for the time period when Nancy would have

²⁵ United States to Sarah Donnally, widow of William Donnally, Gallia Co. Deeds 25:416 [FHL film #317,686]; War of 1812 bounty land warrant #44004, Sarah Donnally, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (hereafter cited as Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant). William Donnally Jr. certified that the family record was "taken from their Bible, and was the original and genuine record."

²⁶ *The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy*, 16th ed. (Rahway, N.J., 1992), 1598; *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*, 12th ed. (Philadelphia, 1970), M-11.

²⁷ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Civil Journal, 2:143.

²⁸ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181; Elliot Howard Gilkey, *The Ohio Hundred Year Book: A Hand-Book of the Public Men and Public Institutions of Ohio* (Columbus, 1901), 675-76.

been committed are available on microfilm for both facilities; however, Ohio law restricts searches of these records to the closest living relative, which I am not.²⁹

On 5 October 1891, Henry Bane signed another affidavit, stating that he believed Nancy was insane. Another inquest was held on that date, with Dr. E. W. Parker and John H. Price testifying. (John H. Price was Nancy's son-in-law, married to her daughter Mary.) Nancy was sent to the Athens Insane Asylum.³⁰

With this 1891 commitment, a medical certificate was also filed and gives more details on Nancy's symptoms: "talks incoherently going from one subject to another[;] no connection in her talk." Nancy was 73 at the time. She had "finished her education" and was Protestant. Her general health before her two mania attacks was good, and the recovery from her former attacks was "incomplete." According to this document, the onset of her first attack occurred at age 59; whereas, the 1880 DDD had reported the onset began at age 47. The duration of the existing attack was four years, and no known cause was identified. Nancy had previously been treated at Columbus and Newburg. Along with acute mania, her form of disease at the present time was delusional insanity, believing that her "children have been murdered." She was also violent, noisy, and suicidal, but "tidy."³¹

Probate Judge H. P. Hanna sent a Western Union telegram on the day of the inquest in October 1891 to the Athens Asylum:³²

Nancy Bane insane; treated at Columbus and Newburg twenty years ago; discharged as incurable; but was much improved; now worse. Can you admit her?

Nancy was allowed to leave the asylum on 4 July 1893 for a visit. The record does not indicate whom she was going to visit, but no doubt it was her husband and children. The following October, Nancy was discharged from the institution as "improved." By 23 March 1897, however, Henry Bane had signed another affidavit attesting to her insanity. Dr. E. E. Ellensworth signed an Affidavit of Recurrence of Disease, stating that Nancy, who was now a resident of Green Township, needed to undergo treatment at the asylum again.

One has to wonder what the treatment was in the nineteenth century. If a person were not insane when entering a lunatic asylum, she or he might become so after "treatment." Between the 1860s and the early 1900s, when Nancy was institutionalized, treatments were nothing short of experimental approaches. "Women . . . were subject to a range of specialized treatments that specifically focused on

²⁹ Letter dated 25 August 1998 from Lisa F. Leibfacher, reference archivist, Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Ave., Columbus, OH 43211-2497; letter [no date, received 15 June 1998] from Henrietta C. Evans, corresponding secretary, Gallia County Historical Society, P.O. Box 295, Gallipolis, OH 45631.

³⁰ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181.

³¹ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181. There is a Newburgh Heights outside of Cleveland, but no present town of Newburg in Ohio.

³² Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181.

their reproductive organs or that were designed to modify certain undesirable behaviors.” Excitable patients like Nancy probably was at some points were supposedly calmed by cold baths; however, in cases of mania, warm baths were prescribed. Massage therapy was used to induce relaxation; conversely, electrical shock treatments were thought (and still are used) to reverse acute dementia.³³

Nancy’s condition did not require mechanical restraints such as straps, strait-jackets, or mechanical devises. But she did require being kept in a cell or under lock and key.³⁴ “Chemical restraints in the form of sedatives became the prevailing method for subduing patients.” In particular, opiates were used to calm irritable patients, to relieve pain, and to help them sleep.³⁵ Many patients left the asylum as drug addicts.³⁶

During the late nineteenth century, treatments geared specifically for females increased. Hysteria was considered a female malady, and practically anything that might make a woman nervous or anxious—from exhaustion to dissatisfaction with her marital sex life—was capable of bringing on an attack of hysteria. Physicians’ unfounded assumptions were that psychiatric illness had its origins in gynecological problems, and thus directed their treatments at women’s reproductive organs. Women might be subjected to electrical charges applied to their uterus, for example, which lasted as long as ten minutes at a time.³⁷

Because access to Nancy’s asylum records is not possible, we do not know her specific treatments and whether she endured such horrifying “treatments.” Nancy was finally discharged from the Athens Asylum on 13 November 1900, however, as recovered.³⁸ She died two years and two months later.³⁹

Though not named, two of Nancy’s siblings were also reported insane in Nancy’s 1891 medical certificate. A sister was at the Columbus Asylum for six months and had recovered; a brother recovered at home.⁴⁰ But which sister and which brother? Since Nancy’s male sibling was never treated outside the home, identifying him and documenting his “insanity” is more difficult. No other Donnallys, male or female, were reported on the 1880 DDD for Gallia County. It was likely, then, that the sister had been married when she was committed. Thus, it was necessary to determine whom all the Donnally sisters married.

³³ Geller and Harris, *Women of the Asylum*, 100.

³⁴ 1880 Defective, Delinquent, and Dependent Classes, Ohio, Gallia Co., Harrison Twp., p. 1, line 23, FHL 1602423.

³⁵ Geller and Harris, *Women of the Asylum*, 25, quote from p. 100.

³⁶ John S. Haller Jr. and Robin M. Haller, *The Physician and Sexuality in Victorian America* (Carbondale, Ill., 1974), 274–92 (hereafter cited as Haller & Haller, *Physician and Sexuality*).

³⁷ Geller and Harris, *Women of the Asylum*, 99–101; Haller & Haller, *Physician and Sexuality*, 24–25, 102; Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English, *Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness* (Old Westbury, N.Y., 1973), 34–35.

³⁸ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181

³⁹ *Cemeteries of Harrison Township, Gallia County, Ohio*, 15

⁴⁰ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181.

FAMILY SUMMARY

1 WILLIAM² DONNALLY (*Andrew*¹) was born on 3 November 1793,⁴¹ probably in Virginia,⁴² and died on 29 January 1847, in Arkansas, aged 53.⁴³ He married on 10 September 1815 SARAH GRAHAM.⁴⁴ She was born in Virginia on 4 October 1797,⁴⁵ the daughter of Philip and Eleanor (—) Graham, and was living in 1850 in Green Township, Gallia County, Ohio.⁴⁶

William was a house framer by trade and served as a private in the War of 1812 in Capt. Womeldorff's Ohio Militia.⁴⁷ He is presumed to be the William named in the will of Andrew Donnally, dated 22 September 1855 and proved 15 December 1855: "It is my will that my son William Donnally's heirs shall have one dollar in money. . . ."⁴⁸ It is further presumed that William was the son of Andrew by their proximity in Green Township, Gallia County, and the names used in the families of Andrew, William, and William's children.⁴⁹ Andrew Donnally was born in Ireland about 1758 and immigrated to Greenbrier County, Virginia, sometime between 1758 and 1760.⁵⁰ He supposedly married Ann Robinson.⁵¹

Children of William² and Sarah (Graham) Donnally:⁵²

- i JOHN A.³ DONNALLY, b. Ohio, 21 June 1816,⁵³ m. Gallia Co., Ohio, 3 July 1845, MARTHA A. ALEXANDER.⁵⁴ John was involved in numerous land transactions in Gallia County during the 1840s and 1850s.⁵⁵ He and his family moved to the Par-

⁴¹ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁴² His birthplace is consistent on his children's census enumerations (cited below).

⁴³ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁴⁴ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁴⁵ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁴⁶ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 39, #1811/1821; will of Philip Graham, dated 17 Nov. 1835, recorded 4 May 1841, in which he named wife Eleanor and children William, James, Martha Russell, Mary Ann Wood, Reuben, John, and Sarah Donnally (Gallia Co., Ohio, Wills D:464 [FHL film #317,667]); also see Henrietta C. Evans and Mary P. Wood, eds., *Revolutionary War Soldiers Who Lived in Gallia County, Ohio* (Gallia Co. Gen. Soc., 1985), 19. No pension file has been found for Philip or his widow.

⁴⁷ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁴⁸ Gallia Co. Wills 1:113–14 [FHL film #317,669].

⁴⁹ Dennis R. Jones, *Gallia County, Ohio, Residents, 1800-1825, Taken from Chattel Tax Lists, Land Tax Lists, Wolf Scalp Lists, 1800 and 1820 Census* (Baltimore, Md., 1977); Gallia Co. Wills 1:113–14 [FHL film #317,669].

⁵⁰ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 42, #1859/1869; also see Donnally W. Palmer and Alice E. Palmer, *The Palmer Family of Gallia County, Ohio* (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1990), not paginated.

⁵¹ Palmer and Palmer, *The Palmer Family of Gallia County*, n.p.

⁵² Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁵³ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant; 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 39, #1811/1821.

⁵⁴ Gallia Co., Ohio, Marriage Records, 2:20 [FHL film #317,652].

⁵⁵ See, for example, the following Gallia Co., Ohio, deeds: agreement between James S. Alexander and John A. and William Donnally, 23:12–13 [FHL film #317,684]; John A. Donnally

ish of East Feliciana in Louisiana sometime by 1854.⁵⁶ There are no indications in any records thus far collected to suggest John was the male sibling of Nancy Bane who suffered from mental illness.

Children of John A.³ and Martha A. (Alexander) Donnally, all b. Ohio:⁵⁷ 1. *John B. Donnally*, b. ca. 1846. 2. *Rosatha Donnally*, b. ca. 1848. 3. *James Donnally*, b. ca. 1849.

- 2 ii NANCY DONNALLY, b. 6 Sept. 1818; m. HENRY D. BANE.
 iii WILLIAM DONNALLY, b. Ohio, 30 Sept. 1820.⁵⁸ He may be the William Donnally who d. of consumption, Guyan Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, 8 March 1891, aged 70 years, 6 days, a widowed farmer.⁵⁹ He m. (1) 26 Aug. 1846, ABIGAIL GOOLDSBY,⁶⁰ and (2) 22 Nov. 1854, REBECCA R. COCHRAN.⁶¹ Only one land transaction was found for a William Donnally.⁶² There was no indication on any of the censuses that he suffered from mental illness.

Children of William and his 1st wife, Abigail (Gooldsby) Donnally, all b. Ohio:⁶³ 1. *Lewis Donnally*, b. ca. 1848. 2. *Arnetta Donnally*, b. Sept. 1849.

Children of William and his 2nd wife, Rebecca R. (Chochran) Donnally, all b. Ohio:⁶⁴ 3. *Mary F. Donnally*, b. ca. 1858. 4. *Albert Donnally*, b. ca. 1860. 5. *Ada V. Donnally*, b. ca. 1862. 6. *Charles Donnally*, b. ca. 1864. 7. *Edmond Donnally*, b. ca. 1868. 8. *Sara E. Donnally*, b. Guyan Twp., 19 Aug. 1870.⁶⁵ 9. *Harry A. Donnally*, b. Guyan Twp., 3 April 1872.⁶⁶ 10. *Manfred C. Donnally*, b. Guyan Twp., Jan. 1874, d. from meningitis, Guyan Twp., 24 July 1899, aged 25 years, 5 months, 21 days.⁶⁷ 11. *Harriet E. J. Donnally*, b. Guyan Twp., 28 Jan. 1876.⁶⁸ 12. *Pearl Eugene Donnally*, b. Guyan Twp., 12 Feb. 1880.⁶⁹

- iv ELEANOR DONNALLY, b. Ohio, 31 Dec. 1822;⁷⁰ m. Gallia Co., Ohio, 24 Feb. 1842, JOSEPH SHENK.⁷¹ In 1850, Mary Ann Donnally, age 17, Eleanor's sister, lived in

from Isiah Dougherty, Nancy Dougherty, and William L. Dougherty, 23:218–20 [FHL film #317,684]; J. A. Donnally from John Graham, 26:157 [FHL film #317,687]; John A. and Martha A. Donnally to James Campbell, 26:158 [FHL film #317,687]; John A. Donnally from John Newton, 26:495–96 [FHL film #317,687].

⁵⁶ J. A. Donnally from John Graham, Gallia Co. Deeds 26:157 [FHL film #317,687]; John A. and Martha A. Donnally to James Campbell, 26:158 [FHL film #317,687]; John A. Donnally from John Newton, 26:495–96 [FHL film #317,687].

⁵⁷ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 39, #1811/1821.

⁵⁸ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant; 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp, Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 42, #1854/1864; 1870 Federal Census, Guyan Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 23, #138/138; 1880 Federal Census, Guyan Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 28, p. 27, #330/330.

⁵⁹ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Deaths 4:262 [FHL film #317,663].

⁶⁰ Gallia Co., Ohio, Marriages 2:44 [FHL film #317,652].

⁶¹ Gallia Co. Marriages 2:277 [FHL film #317,652].

⁶² Gallia Co. Deeds 24:401 [FHL film #317,685].

⁶³ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 42, #1854/1864.

⁶⁴ 1870 Federal Census, Guyan Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 23, #138/138; 1880 Federal Census, Guyan Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 28, p. 27, #330/330.

⁶⁵ Gallia Co., Ohio, Births 1:76 [FHL film #317,661]. The child is listed as “Sabra E.”

⁶⁶ Gallia Co. Births 1:78 [FHL film #317,661].

⁶⁷ Gallia Co. Births 1:82 [FHL film #317,661]; Gallia Co. Probate Court, Deaths 2:5 [FHL film #317,663].

⁶⁸ Gallia Co. Births 1:84 [FHL film #317,661].

⁶⁹ Gallia Co. Births 1:90 [FHL film #317,661].

⁷⁰ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁷¹ Gallia Co. Marriages 1:379 [FHL film #317,652].

the Shenk household.⁷² As “Ellen” Shenk, she was named as boarding and taking care of Sarah [Donnally] Green, adjudged insane in 1865.⁷³

Children of Joseph and Eleanor (Donnally) Shenk, all b. Ohio:⁷⁴ 1. *John W. Shenk*, b. ca. 1844. 2. *Reuben G. Shenk*, b. ca. 1845. 3. *George W. Shenk*, b. ca. 1848. 4. *Martha Shenk*, b. May 1850.

- v MARINDA DONNALLY, b. 10 March 1825.⁷⁵ No further record.
- vi SARAH DONNALLY, b. Ohio, 27 May 1827.⁷⁶ There were three Sarah Donnallys who married in Gallia Co., but she is the one who m. 23 Oct. 1850, LEMUEL GREEN.⁷⁷ This is supported by this couple’s proximity in the 1850 census to the household of Nancy and Henry Bane; the Greens lived next door, and the enumeration confirms they were married within the census year.⁷⁸ Additionally, “Ellen” [Donnally] Shenk was listed as boarding and taking care of a Sarah Green, who had been adjudged insane on 22 Sept. 1865 in Gallia Co.⁷⁹ The Greens were not found in the 1860 census index, but they were found living in Perry Twp., Gallia Co., in 1870.⁸⁰ Though there was no indication in the 1850 or 1870 censuses that Sarah suffered from mental illness, one of her sons, Philip, born about 1853, was labeled “insane” in 1870. The Greens evidently moved from Ohio by 1880, since they were not found in the published, every-name census index for that year,⁸¹ nor were they found in a page-by-page search of the townships of Perry, Harrison, and Green in Gallia Co.⁸² Children of Lemuel and Sarah (Donnally) Green, all b. Ohio:⁸³ 1. *William Green*, b. ca. 1852. 2. *Philip Green*, b. ca. 1853. 3. *John Green*, b. ca. 1857. 4. *Mary Green*, b. ca. 1859.
- vii PHILIP GRAHAM DONNALLY, b. 18 Jan. 1830.⁸⁴ Little is known about Philip. He was not located on any censuses, nor was he found in marriage or land records for Gallia Co. Philip witnessed a land transaction between his brothers John A. Donnally and William Donnally in Sept. 1848.⁸⁵ In Feb. 1851, Philip, then a resident of Gallia Co., deposed that he was with his father, William Donnally, when William died in Arkansas.⁸⁶
- viii MARY ANN DONNALLY, b. Ohio, 7 Oct. 1832.⁸⁷ In 1850, she was living with her sister Eleanor Shenk.⁸⁸ She may be the Mary A. Donnally who m. in Gallia Co., 31 Aug. 1856, JOHN GILLESPIE.⁸⁹ No further record.

⁷² 1850 Federal Census, Upper Twp., Lawrence Co., Ohio, p. 456B, #114/117.

⁷³ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Civil Journal 2:212.

⁷⁴ 1850 Federal Census, Upper Twp., Lawrence Co., Ohio, p. 456B, #114/117.

⁷⁵ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁷⁶ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁷⁷ Gallia Co. Marriages 2:166 [FHL film #317,652].

⁷⁸ Gallia Co. Marriages 2:166 [FHL film #317,652]; 1850 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 49, #1945/1955.

⁷⁹ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Civil Journal 2:212.

⁸⁰ 1870 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 16, #123/123.

⁸¹ Ohio Genealogical Society, *1880 Federal Census Index*, 3 vols. (Bountiful, Utah, 1991).

⁸² 1880 Federal Census, Gallia Co., Ohio.

⁸³ 1870 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 16, #123/123.

⁸⁴ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁸⁵ Gallia Co. Deeds 23:12–13 [FHL film #317,684].

⁸⁶ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁸⁷ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁸⁸ 1850 Federal Census, Upper Twp., Lawrence Co., Ohio, p. 456B, #114/117.

⁸⁹ Gallia Co. Marriages 2:234.

- ix MARTHA DONNALLY, b. 9 Feb. 1835.⁹⁰ She has only been found on one census, living with her mother, Sarah, in 1850, next door to her brother John A. Donnally.⁹¹ No Martha Donnally was found in the marriage records for Gallia Co.
- x REUBEN GRAHAM DONNALLY, b. 17 March 1837, d. 31 Aug. 1840,⁹² and bur. in Centenary Cemetery, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio.⁹³ This was shortly after the 14 May 1840 court case in which he was named.

2 NANCY³ DONNALLY (*William*², *Andrew*¹) was born in Ohio on 6 September 1818.⁹⁴ She died on 31 January 1903, presumably in Gallia County, Ohio.⁹⁵ She married in Gallia County on 26 September 1842 HENRY D. BANE.⁹⁶ A farmer, Henry was born in Blacksburg, Virginia, on 13 September 1819, and died of pneumonia on 23 February 1905 in Hilton, Harrison Township, Gallia County. He was the son of Thomas Bane.⁹⁷ Henry made his will on 10 January 1905; it was entered into probate on 27 February 1905. The following children were named: John Bane, Robert R. Bane, Mrs. Lucetta J. Thorn, Mrs. Mary A. Price, and Samuel A. Bane.⁹⁸ Henry and Nancy were living separately by 1900.⁹⁹

Their son, Robert R. Bane, wrote about his parents in 1917 in his autobiography. He wrote:

My dear old father, Henry D. Bane, was a most remarkable man. He was born in 1819 near Blacksburg, Va.¹⁰⁰ His parents were poorest of poor. He went to school only forty-five day[s] and wore a tow shirt and took a chunk of corn bread and a jug of buttermilk for his noonday lunch. Still he realized the importance of a good education and spared no pains, making many sacrifices to educate his children. . . . He was one of the most uncomplaining men I ever knew. . . .

My mother . . . was most untiring in the multiplicity of household duties falling to her care in those pioneer days. She added largely to the family income by the sale of butter, eggs, poultry and

⁹⁰ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁹¹ 1850 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 39, #1811/1821.

⁹² Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant.

⁹³ *Cemeteries of Green Township, Gallia County, Ohio* (Gallia Co. Hist. Soc., 1980), 8.

⁹⁴ Sarah Donnally bounty land warrant; *Cemeteries of Harrison Township, Gallia County, Ohio*, 15; 1850 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 49, #1944/1954; 1860 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 386, #513/513; 1870 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 1, #1/1; 1880 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 29, p. 1, #5/6; 1900 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 34, sheet 3, #45/45.

⁹⁵ *Cemeteries of Harrison Township, Gallia County, Ohio*, 15.

⁹⁶ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Marriage Records 1:399 [FHL film #317,652].

⁹⁷ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Record of Deaths, p. 46, #221 [FHL film #317,663]; *Cemeteries of Harrison Township, Gallia County, Ohio*, 15; Wetherholt Funeral Home Register, p. 142, for the year 1905, Gallia County Historical Society, Gallipolis, Ohio; death notice, *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*, 25 Feb. 1905, p. 1, col. 6. A photocopy of these pages was sent to the author from Henrietta C. Evans, corresponding secretary, Gallia County Historical Society.

⁹⁸ Gallia Co. Probate Court, Will Book 6:98–100.

⁹⁹ 1900 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 34, sheet 3, #45/45 (Nancy is living with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and John H. Price); 1900 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 31, sheet 3, #49/50 (Henry is living with his son, William H.).

¹⁰⁰ There are three towns in Virginia named Blacksburg: one in Rockbridge Co., one in Washington Co.; and one in Montgomery Co.

soap, and other products so much in demand in those early days of the Civil War. She was a great sufferer for the last forty years of her life.¹⁰¹

Children of Henry D. and Nancy³ (Donnally) Bane, all b. Ohio:¹⁰²

- i LUCETTA JANE⁴ BANE, b. Gallia Co., 29 July 1843;¹⁰³ m. Gallia Co., 2 Oct. 1864, JOSHUA L. THORN.¹⁰⁴ A farmer, Joshua was b. abt. 1837, in Vincennes, Ind., and d. Mason Co., W. Va., 17 Oct. 1911.¹⁰⁵ He applied for a pension based on his Civil War service in Co. G, 80th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry; Lucetta later applied for a widow's pension in 1911, when she was living in Mason Co., W. Va.¹⁰⁶ The couple lived in Gallia Co., Ohio, after their marriage, then moved to Indiana in Feb. 1867 until 1870 when they returned to Gallia Co. They moved to Mason Co., W. Va., ca. 1880.¹⁰⁷

Children of Joshua L. and Lucetta Jane (Bane) Thorn:¹⁰⁸ 1. *Mary Maud Thorn*, b. 13 March 1867. 2. *Clarence Livingston Thorn*, twin, b. Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., 8 Sept. 1870.¹⁰⁹ 3. *Clara May Thorn*, twin, b. Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., 8 Sept. 1870.¹¹⁰

- ii SAMUEL A. BANE, b. Gallia Co., 25 Dec. 1844;¹¹¹ m. Gallia Co., 9 Sept. 1869, MARY E. GILLINGHAM,¹¹² who d. Columbus, Ohio, 16 Jan. 1913.¹¹³ Samuel served in Co. G, 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery. He applied for a pension, 15 June 1889.¹¹⁴

Children of Samuel A. and Mary E. (Gillingham) Bane:¹¹⁵ 1. *Herman Herbert Bane*, b. 28 Nov. 1870. 2. *Wilber Wilson Bane*, b. Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., 28

¹⁰¹ Robert R. Bane, *Autobiography and Poems* (n.p. [but evidently self-published], n.d. [but in text refers to the year he is writing as 1917]), 13. A photocopy of these pages was sent to the author from Henrietta C. Evans, corresponding secretary, Gallia County Historical Society.

¹⁰² Bane, *Autobiography and Poems*, p. 13 (Bane does not mention the probable daughter Rebecca.); 1850 Federal Census, Perry Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 49, #1944/1954; 1860 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 386, #513/513; 1870 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, p. 1, #1/1; 1880 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 29, p. 1, #5/6; 1900 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 34, sheet 3, #45/45 (Nancy is enumerated in the household of her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and John H. Price, where she is reported as being the mother of seven children with only six living; Gallia Co. Probate Court, Case #1181, reports she had seven children).

¹⁰³ Civil War Widow's Pension, Lucetta J. Thorn, application #973960, certificate #732421, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (hereafter cited as Lucetta J. Thorn pension).

¹⁰⁴ Gallia Co. Marriage Records 3:83 [FHL film #317,653].

¹⁰⁵ Lucetta J. Thorn pension. His year of birth is calculated from his pension application of 1865, giving his age as 28.

¹⁰⁶ Lucetta J. Thorn pension.

¹⁰⁷ Lucetta J. Thorn pension.

¹⁰⁸ Lucetta J. Thorn pension.

¹⁰⁹ Gallia Co. Births 1:324 [FHL film #317,661].

¹¹⁰ Gallia Co. Births 1:324 [FHL film #317,661].

¹¹¹ Civil War Pension file of Samuel A. Bane, application #710059, certificate #511445, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (hereafter cited as Samuel A. Bane pension).

¹¹² Gallia Co. Marriages 3:282 [FHL film #317,653].

¹¹³ Samuel A. Bane pension.

¹¹⁴ Samuel A. Bane pension.

¹¹⁵ Samuel A. Bane pension.; 1880 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 29, p. 1, #19/20; 1900 Federal Census, Clay Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, ED 26, p. 12, #251/257. Samuel A. Bane is listed in the *1890 Veteran's Census for Gallia Co., Ohio*, Michael L. Trowbridge, comp. (Gallipolis, Ohio, 1990).

- Nov. 1872.¹¹⁶ 3. *Emma Belle Bane*, b. Harrison Twp., 17 July 1874.¹¹⁷ 4. *John Wilham Bane*, b. Harrison Twp., 4 July 1879.¹¹⁸
- iii JOHN P. BANE, b. ca. 1847. Last known whereabouts, Detroit, Mich., in 1903.¹¹⁹
- iv WILLIAM H. BANE, b. 11 Oct. 1850, d. 3 Aug. 1903 and bur. Macedonia Cemetery, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio; m. Gallia Co., Ohio, 27 Aug. 1883, EMMA C. KERR.¹²⁰
- v MARY A. BANE, b. 1853, d. 1936, probably in Gallia Co., Ohio, and bur. Macedonia Cemetery, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio; m. Gallia Co., 5 March 1874, JOHN H. PRICE.
Children of John H. and Mary A. (Bane) Price, all b. Ohio:¹²¹ 1. *Corlie M. Price*, b. ca. 1876. 2. *Charles E. Price*, b. ca. 1878. 3. *Lillie Price*, b. Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., 23 June 1879.¹²² 4. *Pearl Price*, b. Aug. 1880. 5. *Robert J. Price*, b. Sept. 1883. 6. *Clara M. Price*, b. Harrison Twp., 24 July 1886.¹²³
- vi ROBERT R. BANE, b. 5 Sept. 1855;¹²⁴ m. (1) Gallia Co., Ohio, 20 Aug. 1879, IDA E. EWING, b. 1859, d. 1889, dau. of Dr. G. A. Ewing;¹²⁵ m. (2) probably in Ohio, 1893, MYRTLE SHUMATE, b. 1870, d. 1916, dau. of John H. Shumate.¹²⁶
Child of Robert R. and his 1st wife Ida E. (Ewing) Bane:¹²⁷ 1. *Jessie E. Bane*.
Children of Robert R. and his 2nd wife Myrtle (Shumate) Bane:¹²⁸ 2. *Robert G. Bane*, b. Ohio, Aug. 1893. 3. *Ray C. Bane*, b. Mich., May 1899.
- vii (probably) REBECCA BANE, b. after 1 June 1860, d. of apoplexy, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, 1 Dec. 1869, age 9.¹²⁹

CONCLUSION

Based on Nancy's commitment papers, it is clear that she was afflicted with a mental disorder. She also had an unidentified brother and a sister, Sarah (Donnelly) Green, who suffered from mental illness, indicating possible genetic origins, although we do not know what diagnosis was given to her siblings. Nancy

¹¹⁶ Gallia Co. Births 1:28 [FHL film #317,661].

¹¹⁷ Gallia Co. Births 1:32 [FHL film #317,661].

¹¹⁸ Gallia Co. Births 1:12 [FHL film #317,661].

¹¹⁹ Death notice of Mrs. Henry Bane, *Gallipolis Daily Tribune*, 31 Jan. 1903, p. 3, col. 2.

¹²⁰ *Cemeteries of Harrison Township, Gallia County, Ohio*, 15; Gallia Co. Marriages 5:507 [FHL film #317,655]; 1900 Federal Census, Green Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, ED 31, p. 3, #49/50.

¹²¹ 1880 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 29, p. 1, #4/5; 1900 Federal Census, Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 34, sheet 3, #45/45.

¹²² Gallia Co. Births 1:250 [FHL film #317,661].

¹²³ Gallia Co. Births 2:146 [FHL film #317,661].

¹²⁴ Robert R. Bane, *Autobiography and Poems*, 9.

¹²⁵ Gallia Co. Marriages, 5:85 [FHL film #317,655]; Bane, *Autobiography and Poems*, dedication page and p. 12; 1880 Federal Census, Huntington Twp., Gallia Co., Ohio, E.D. 30, p. 1, #3/3.

¹²⁶ Bane, *Autobiography and Poems*, dedication page.

¹²⁷ Bane, *Autobiography and Poems*, p. 13; 1900 Federal Census, 4th precinct, Detroit, Wayne Co., Mich., E.D. 4, sheet 21, #347/365.

¹²⁸ Bane, *Autobiography and Poems*, p. 13; 1900 Federal Census, 4th precinct, Detroit, Wayne Co., Mich., E.D. 4, sheet 21, #347/365.

¹²⁹ This child would have to have been born and died between the 1860 and 1870 Federal Censuses. A death was recorded in Harrison Twp., Gallia Co., for a Rebecca Bane, age 9, no parents listed, who fits the known information (Gallia Co. Probate Court, Deaths 1:4 [FHL film #317,663]). The Banes lived in Harrison Twp. in 1860 and 1870 where this child died.

also had a nephew, Philip Green, son of Sarah, who suffered from undisclosed mental health problems.

Although much of my curiosity was satisfied from researching Nancy and her family, I still wonder about how her family and descendants might view her. Would her illness be looked upon with sympathy or shame? Would she be considered a skeleton in the family closet? To me, as with all of our ancestors, her life deserves to be remembered and written about. Nancy caught my attention, perhaps so her story could be told.

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