Nancy Hart was a true heroine of the American Revolutionary War who personally killed one and captured five Tories. She held them captive until her husband, Benjamin Hart, returned home. Because of the bragging they had done to Nancy about the murder of her neighbor, Colonel John Dooley, she insisted that the five left after their surrender the hanged. She sung “Yankee Doodle” as she them die. Many years later a common grave was located while digging a railroad bed that contained the six skeletons of the unlucky Tories who thought they could terrorize a lone woman and her daughter. She was not easily terrorized.

The Tories also found some homemade corn whiskey and were drinking it while bragging about killing Nancy’s neighbor, Colonel John Dooley, until they noticed she was slipping their guns from the stack where they had placed them and passing them out through a hole where the chinking had fallen out of the cabin wall. Nancy removed all but three guns before they noticed the trick. They singing “Little Brown Jug” and Nancy said “I’ll shoot the first one that moves”. But the Tories not believing the threat, one Tory lunged toward her only to be shot down to the floor wounded. Nancy’s daughter immediately gave her a second musket. Another Tory said “let’s all get her” and rush for his weapon. Nancy’s shot him in the temple, killing him immediately. Her daughter gave her another musket and took the rest from the cabin. The Tories were afraid to more and they agreed to be capture by her.

She and her daughter held the surviving captives until her husband arrived with others of the militia. Nancy’s said “No, a thousand times, no!” Then Nancy angry yelled “They are my prisoners and I say they shall be hanged! Shooting is too good for them!” Where upon the wounded Tory and his four other surviving captives were dragged from the cabin to the gate to the spring and there hanged while Nancy sang Yankee Doodle.

She was born Ann Morgan, the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Alexander Morgan in 1735. She married Benjamin Hart, the son of Thomas J. Hart who was born in England in 1679 and died in Hanover County, Virginia in 1755. She and her wife moved from South Carolina to the Broad River section of Georgia known as the “ceded lands” from the June 1, 1773 Cherokee and Creek Indian Treaty and Augusta , Georgia. They arrived in the area before the treaty, moving there in 1771.

She was the first cousin of Daniel Boone and her uncle was General Daniel Morgan. She was known for her tendency toward initiative in all situations requiring actions, her willingness to risk her life in support of the revolutionary cause by spying on the enemy, her fierce independence and very aggressive nature.

On one occasion when Benjamin Hart was away from home fighting with the militia and other women and children were hidden to protect them from Tories and hostile Indians raging in the are, Nancy refuse to leave her home and declared she would fight to protect her land. A few days later, she learned that the Patriots needed some very important information about what was transpiring in Augusta. Nancy immediately volunteered to go there and spy out what was happening. Arguments against such a risky adventure failed to convince her to avoid the danger. She determined to help the cause by spying. Nancy built a raft by tying logs together with grapevine and forded the Savannah River. At the British camp that twilight a seemingly half-wit man arrived and wandered through the camp…..it was Nancy dressed as a man! She gathered much needed information and when Augusta was retaken in 1781, Nancy Hart was there to see it again in the Patriot’s hands.

On February 13, 1781, British Commander Boyd halted his army on the north side of Kettle Creek. Nancy reported the presence of the British army to the Patriots and they overran the camp while the horses were grazing and the men were slaughtering cattle. More than 100 of the enemy were killed, including Boyd, and the rest routed. This was the state’s first success against British an the battle quickly became a symbol o Georgia’s continued opposition to British rule. Nancy Hart is credited with inspiring the Patriots of the area where she lived in Georgia. Many knew of exploits but not much was captured in the early histories of the Elbert and Wilkes or Oglethorpe region. The first written account seems to have been published in 1825 in the Milledgeville Recorder and about the same time in the Yorkville Pioneer. The interest is that the year 1825 is when, the invitation of the United States of the Government, General Lafayette, who had than so much for American Independence in the Revolution, visited the United States and particularly visited the very area where Nancy’s Hart had exhibited her heroism. This fact helped draw out the information of Nancy’s exploits supporting the Whigs and attacking the Tories during the American Revolution.

After that revolution Nancy and her wife Benjamin Hart moved to South Carolina where her husband died and she eventually moved to Henderson County Kentucky where she died in 1830 and is buried.