

**NEE, Henrietta (Terry).** December 30, 1904–June 5, 1981.

SHURTLEFF COLLEGE (BS 1926), UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (MA 1929, PhD 1934).

Henrietta Pearl Terry was born in Virden, Illinois, the seventh of eight surviving children of nine born to Mary Etta (Kirwin) (b. 1867) and Herman R. Terry (b. 1863), both natives of Illinois. According to the census reports of both 1900 and 1910, Herman Terry was a farmer living in central Illinois. By 1920 the family had moved to the Alton area, near the Mississippi River, and no occupation was listed for Herman. Henrietta Terry's siblings were Vincent Kirwin (1890–1970), Carl (b. 1892), Albert (b. 1894), Mabel (b. 1896), Clyde Norton (b. 1897), Russell (b. ca. 1903), and Charles Everly (1908–1992).

Henrietta Terry graduated from Alton Community High School in Alton, Illinois, in 1922 and attended the local Shurtleff College, a Baptist college that closed and was later absorbed by Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. After she received her bachelor's degree in 1926 with a major in mathematics, she taught for two years in the high school in Patterson, Illinois. She then did a year of graduate work at the University of Illinois, received her master's degree in 1929, and taught at Muscatine Junior College (now Muscatine Community College) in Iowa for the first two years after the college was established.

In 1931 Terry returned to the University of Illinois for further graduate study. Her dissertation in the theory of finite groups was directed by H. R. Brahana, who had come to the department at Illinois immediately after receiving his PhD from Princeton in 1920. Although the abstract of her dissertation was accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Mathematics*, it was transferred to the *Duke Journal of Mathematics* and appeared in the first issue of that journal. After Terry received her doctorate in 1934 with a minor in chemistry, she taught for one year at the American College for Girls in Turkey. Upon her return she was an instructor in mathematics at the University of Illinois High School, Urbana. She was elected to membership in the AMS her first year on the faculty there. She remained at the university high school until she took a leave for war service in 1942. She enlisted in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the Women's Reserve of the US Naval Reserve, did her basic training at Smith College, trained in weather forecasting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and served at the Norfolk Naval Air Station in Virginia, where she was an aerologist stationed in the weather bureau there. She accompanied flight crews and was also trained to fly. She became a lieutenant (jg) and later a full lieutenant before her discharge on December 1, 1945.

On December 22, 1945, Henrietta Terry married Raymond Moore Nee, an engineer. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, in 1903, Raymond Nee received a bachelor's degree from Lynchburg College, a master's degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and a certificate in electrical engineering from Lowell Institute. He held various positions with American Cyanamid Company in Wayne, New Jersey, and worked as a private consultant after his retirement.

The Nees had a daughter, Rayetta Terry, born in 1948. Late in 1951 they had a house built in Upper Nyack, a village on the Hudson River in southern New York State. Except for the year 1955–56, when they lived in Argentina, they lived in that house until after Henrietta Nee's death. Henrietta Nee, who used the name Terry

Nee, was described by her daughter as athletic; she was interested in horseback riding as a girl and played tennis during her high school years. Later she was active in a number of local community groups. They included AAUW (for which she was president), the League of Women Voters, PTA, the Nyack Garden Club, and the Nyack Morning Music Club. She was also a board trustee of the Nyack Library and was involved with the Nyack Hospital thrift shop. She played piano and enjoyed going to concerts and plays.

Their daughter, Rayetta Nee, graduated as a mathematics major from Bryn Mawr College in 1969, studied mathematics for a year at Oxford University, and was a tax attorney in New York City after studying at the Harvard Law School and receiving an LLM in 1974 from the NYU School of Law.

H. Terry Nee died at age seventy-six in the Nyack Hospital in 1981 after a lengthy illness. She was survived by her husband, her daughter, four brothers, and several nieces and nephews, and was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, contributions were asked for the Nyack Library, Nyack Hospital, or other charity. The H. Terry Nee Book Fund at Bryn Mawr College was established as a memorial fund by her husband and her daughter. Her husband died in 1990 and her daughter at age fifty-one in 1999.

**Organizational affiliations:** AMS, AAUW.

**Dissertation:**

**1934** [Terry, H. P.] Abelian subgroups of order  $p^m$  of the I-groups of the Abelian groups of order  $p^n$  type  $1, 1, 1, \dots$ . PhD dissertation, University of Illinois, directed by Henry Roy Brahana. Typescript. Abstract of dissertation, 1935, reprinted from *Duke Math. J.* 1:27–34.

**Publication:**

[1935 [Terry, H. P.] Abelian subgroups of order  $p^m$  of the I-groups of the abelian groups of order  $p^n$  and type  $1, 1, 1, \dots$ . *Duke Math. J.* 1:27–34. Abstract of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 61.0098.04 (K. Molsen); *Zbl* 011.24903 (W. Magnus). Presented by title as “Abelian subgroups of the I-group of the abelian group of order  $p^n$  and type  $1, 1, \dots$ ” to the AMS, Williamstown, MA, 7 Sep 1934; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 40 (9 pt. 1): 662 #290.

**References to:** AmMSc 7.

“H. Terry Nee, of Upper Nyack.” (Obituary) *Rockland County (NY) Journal-News*, 6 June 1981.

**Related manuscript materials:**

Henrietta Pearl Terry Papers (MSS-173), University Archives & Manuscripts, Jackson Library, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Henrietta Pearl Terry Collection (WV-0197), Women Veterans Historical Collection, Jackson Library, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Other sources:** PhD dissertation vita 1935; Owens questionnaires 1937, 1940; telephone conversations with Rayetta Nee, 12 Jul 1998, and with friend, Cleo S. Seelinger, 26 Jul 1998; communications with University of Illinois Alumni Association, with Lynchburg College Archives, and with University of North Carolina at Greensboro Archives; WhoE 11 (Nee, Raymond Moore); Nee, Rayetta, (death notice) *New York Times*, 26 Oct 1999; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920 IL.