

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

# "The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

December, 2001 Volume V, Issue II

*Dedicated to discovery, correction, and communication of ABNEY & related family information since November, 1996*

---

***"Dedicated to the memory of 'Uncle' Joe Herbert Baker 1924-2001"***

---

*Centralized Abney Archives*  
founded in 1993 by *Raymond "Robert" Abney Jr.*

*Raymond "Robert" Abney Jr., Curator*

*Gina L. Abney, Chief of Informational Services*

*Abney H. Brewer, Technical Support*

*Joe H. Baker Jr., Advisor (English Lines)*

*Jennie H. Abney Gant, Advisor (American Lines)*

*Margaret Griffey Harlow, General Advisor*

---

*The Abney Family Researcher*  
first published November, 1996 by *R.R. Abney Jr.*

*Raymond "Robert" Abney Jr., editor*

*Tammy R. Abney, Corrector of the Press*

*The Centralized Abney Archives Web Site*

created May, 1998 by Gina Lyn Abney

*Gina Lyn Abney, Web Master*

---

***Generation One***  
***(the first ABNEY's born in America)***

Dannett ABNEY Sr. m. Mary (LEE?) and had issue:

1. **Ursula ABNEY (1693 - ????)**  
baptized 1693. whereabouts unknown
2. **Dannett ABNEY Jr. (est. 1695 - ca. 1757)**  
married Mary (MEREDITH?)
3. **George ABNEY (est. 1697 - 01 Oct 1766)**  
married Unity (n.n.)
4. **Paul ABNEY (1699 - aft. 30 Sep 1786)**  
married (n.n.)
5. **Dr. Abraham ABNEY (1702 - aft. 04 Jun 1783)**  
married Cassandra (MEREDITH?)
6. **Martha ABNEY (est. 1705 - aft. 15 Mar 1759)**  
married William SPRAGGINS
7. **Bathshua ABNEY (est. 1708 - aft. 25 Oct 1773)**  
married Thomas HILL
8. **Abner ABNEY (est. 1711 - ca. 1752)**  
married Anne (KEY?)
9. **Mary ABNEY (est. 1714 - aft. Jan 1761)**  
married John BERNARD

---

*A Message from R. Robert Abney Jr.*

Dearest cousins,

As many of you are aware, my last child, a son, was born to Tammy & I on 13 Feb 2001. He was given the name of "Jesse James ABNEY". Jesse James was named for my second great grandfather, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jesse Mercier ABNEY, CSA; and my great-grandfather, Cpl. James Clinton RAGAN, CSA. Cpl. Ragan is my father's maternal grandfather.

The family is quite pleased with this rather large bundle of joy. I would also like to thank the many cousins who sent their congratulations.

It is with deep sorrow that I report the passing of Cousin Joe H. Baker. He passed away on Friday, April 20, 2001 at the age of 77. I first met 'Uncle' Joe in person in 1995. He and I became very close. I began calling him "Uncle Joe".

Uncle Joe enjoyed working on the distaff lines. This is what led him to the Abney ancestry and many years of joy hunting down his "grandmothers". He tracked down the Willesley Muniment Room Papers like a bull dog. Moreover, he financed their translation into modern English (see the AFR newsletters Vol.II, Iss.II & III).

Uncle Joe was infirm for many years, but refused to let it stop him from enjoying the research of his family. At last, however, the effects of his infirmity took their toll. He will be dearly remembered by members of the Abney family for years to come.

My condolences to his family and friends.

Affectionately,

*R. R. Abney Jr.*

*Fortiter et Honeste*

---

## ~ Joe H. Baker Jr., a Memorial ~

Houston Chronicle, Thursday, April 26, 2001

MR. JOE H. BAKER, JR., 77, of Houston, passed away Friday, April 20, 2001 in Brayton Inn Health Center in College Station. He was born March 1, 1924, in Somerville, the son of the late Joe H. and Violet Galyen Baker. He was raised by his "Aunt Birdie" Clara Bryant and lived most of his life in England and Spain after graduating from Somerville High School and attending S.M.U. He was a rancher and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Americans of Royal Descent, Plantage-net Society as well as being a Magna Charta Baron. He is preceded in death by his parents, his Aunt Birdie and three brothers. He is

survived by his aunt Tee Jay Ward of Houston; one nephew, Hub, Jr. and wife Martha Baker of Fort Worth, lifelong friend Augustine Airola; sister-in-law, Oralene Baker of Snook and niece Camilla Baker Godfrey of Snook. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, May 13, 2001 in Oaklawn Cemetery located on Highway 36 North in Somerville with a reception following interment at the family's country home near Snook. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that memorials be made to Hospice of Brazos Valley, the Somerville Historical society or the charity of one's choice.

STRICKLAND FUNERAL HOME  
P.O. Box 426 Somerville,Tx.  
(979) 596-2133.

Uncle Joe H. Baker's

*descent from*

Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary LEE

1. Dannett ABNEY Sr. m. Mary (LEE?)
2. Dr. Abraham ABNEY m. Cassandra (MEREDITH?)
3. Rebecca ABNEY m. Edward DEAN
4. William DEAN, RS m. Ruth n.n.
5. William DEAN m. Elizabeth HENDERSON
6. Drucilla Elizabeth DEAN m. Peter M. DEBROWSKI
7. Julia Ann DEBROWSI m. Henry Washington BAKER
8. Joe Herbert BAKER Sr. m. Violet GAYLEN
9. **"Uncle" Joe Herbert BAKER Jr., genealogist**

I'll never forget the words of Cousin F. Abney BREWER when she told me, "Even to his death, he never believed he was going to die".

Prior to his death, Uncle Joe BAKER made his own funeral arrangements in every detail, even to the verbage of his tombstone. His epitaph reads:

**JOE H. BAKER, JR.**

**MAR. 1, 1924**

**"MEMBER OF"**

**PLANTAGENET SOCIETY**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**AMERICANS OF ROYAL DESCENT**

**MAGNA CHARTA BARON**

I personally never had an interest in joining the various genealogical societies before meeting Uncle Joe. However, his belief was that, as a genealogist, each society was like a "trophy on ones shelf". Uncle Joe loved his "trophies".

It might be incorrect to write that Uncle Joe's "favorite" line was the ABNEY line, since he was filled with love for his entire family. However, the ABNEY line was certainly his favorite line to research. The above-mentioned societies were joined through his ABNEY ancestry. He always told me how much he loved researching "the female lines".

Uncle Joe had a "guest book" sitting on the coffee table in his living room. He asked that all visitors sign his book. I believe he read and re-read that book, enjoying the memories of each of his visitors.

By the time I moved to Houston in February 1995, Uncle Joe's illness had limited much of his daily activities. I was impressed by the fact that he placed books every few steps on his staircase leading up to his library on the second floor. On my first visit there, I soon learned the reason for this: He would tire on his ascent to the second floor. Wherever he'd stop to rest, he'd grab a book and continue reading where he'd left off previously. He was well-read and well-travelled, hence an intelligent man.

I remember Uncle Joe's exhilaration when I realized that his Rebecca ABNEY (m. Edward DEAN) was a daughter of Dr. Abraham ABNEY, instead of George

ABNEY. Since I descend from Dr. Abraham ABNEY, this “brought” our lines closer together. We were 6th cousins, once removed.

He was also happy when I began calling him “Uncle” Joe instead of “Cousin” Joe. He told me he was my “Dutch Uncle”. His dad was affectionately known as “Uncle Joe”. It was a title of honor. I would have felt just as comfortable calling him “Sir” Joe.

It was at this time I left off my ABNEY studies to work on the DEAN family. There are many noble DEAN/DEANE lineages of England. My hopes were to connect Edward DEAN, hence Uncle Joe, to one of those noble families. Unfortunately, I failed in my efforts. Still, Uncle Joe appreciated the effort, and was happy to have his ABNEY connection proved to his factual ancestor, Dr. Abraham ABNEY.

To put toil for so many decades of work, a genealogist must be happy to have one’s own lineage correct. We should learn the lessons of these earlier genealogists: Accept proof when proof is presented, and be willing to let go of incorrect theories of the past and present. The internet has made it impossible to halt the passage of massive misinformation. But together, we can publish massive amounts of correct information.

I can’t remember ever seeing Uncle Joe without a smile on his face. Through his pain, he was always able to maintain a happy visage.

He loved his bird. He enjoyed dining out, and he maintained a close personal relationship with God. Amongst his treasures were many religious pictures and artifacts.

Uncle Joe had a houseful of treasures from his travels and research trips, predominately to England. He had wooden family crests of the ABNEY lines and related families. He had a rubbing of the headstone of Thomas ABNEY, Lord of Willesley (1725-1791, the last male heir to Willesley Manor). He had copies of the original Muniment Room Papers (see the Abney Family Researcher, Vol.II, Iss. II & III). These were amongst items too numerous to mention here. It is most unfortunate that these items had to be auctioned off to support his health care. Still, the happiness their collecting brought to Uncle Joe is without measure. Moreover, I was delighted to accept the gifts of books from Uncle Joe, as well as copies of most of his work.

After moving to Mississippi, Uncle Joe sent me a box with several other of his treasured souvenirs of his travels and research. I shall hold these items most dear, passing them onto my own descendants in his loving memory and honor.

Through his close personal association with prominent genealogists in England, Uncle Joe was able to trace and verify many ABNEY marriages; and is heretofore an unsung hero of the ABNEY family genealogy. In truth, much of the noble genealogy in Cousin John R. HENSELL's manu-script "ABNEY" was from Uncle Joe's work.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Uncle Joe. Many genealogists who have joined the various genealogical societies have done so due in part to Uncle Joe's work. Many noble ABNEY lineages in books and on the internet, although not properly credited to him, are Uncle Joe BAKER's works. This is why I called him an unsung hero. He never aspired to write an ABNEY genealogy, nor to have his name attached to any particular work; but he certainly deserved it. I am quite certain his ancestors are honored to have him as a descendant.

Uncle Joe H. BAKER deserves to be honored here, much better than a mere mortal is able to honor him. But no, I was the one honored to have known him personally, and to have worked with him, dined with him, chatted with him; and even more, to be able to call him my blood kinsman.

Let us never forget this loving, kind, and in every sense of the word, "gentleman".

**In honor of**

***Joe Herbert Baker Jr., Esq.***

**born: 01 Mar 1924**

**Somerville, Texas**

**departed this life: 20 Apr 2001**

**College Station, Texas**

**"May you rest in the peace and  
love of your many ancestors"**

---

## Problem #63

### *John Webster ABNEY of MS & LA*

Here is a problem I have been promising to publish for over a year. I apologize for the delay. Does anyone know the parents of John Webster ABNEY?

John Webster ABNEY was born Mar 1852 in MS (per census). He migrated from MS to LA at age 16, ca.1868). In Louisiana, John settled in Dry Creek, LA. He later homesteaded 120 ac. in that area. He migrated to DeRidder, LA ca. early 1900's. John was killed in 1913 age about 61, kicked by one of his horses.

John's mother may have m2. n.n. CAMPBELL. Mr. CAMPBELL (or an uncle of John) was supposed to be a jailer or sheriff in MS. John Webster ABNEY m. Harriet Lucretia THOMPSON. Issue:

1. Burl Sampson (b.15 Aug 1878; d.in infancy)
2. Elier (Ella) (b.10 Jul 1880 La; d. dt. unknown) m. Odibert "Hop" Simmons - had issue.
3. Miles Anderson (b.17 Jun 1882; d. ca.1889)
4. Ancey Bell (b.05 Jun 1884; d.dt. unk. as a child)
5. E. "Lurinda" (b. 28 Jun 1886; d.04 Jul 1920) m. (25 Feb 1904) Amos Lane Green (d.14 Apr 1921) - had issue.
6. Marthis (Martha) Euler Elerlean (b.01 Sep 1888; d. ca. 1968) m. Bill Williams - had issue
7. Marion Willis (a.k.a. William Marion) (b.29 Oct 1890; d. 21 Aug 1972) m. Edythe Marie Miller Oct. 29, 1919 - had issue **[father of Ted E. ABNEY, genealogist] [grandfather of Becky BOGGS VINCENT, genealogist]**
8. Wiley B. (b.29 Oct 1892; d. Sep 1964) m. Clayton Ware ca. 1920 - had issue **[father of John Kyle ABNEY, genealogist]**
9. William Allen (b.22 Oct 1894; d. Sep 1964) m. (18 Dec 1912) Gladys John William Wallis - had issue
10. Pearl (b.26 Nov 1896; d.ca.1980) m. Bill Cattermole - had issue

11. Claude (b. 19 Nov 1898; d. Sep 1964) m. n.n. - no issue
12. Maggie (b.03 Jan 1901; d. dt. unknown) m. (dt. unknown) James Stewart - had issue
13. Herman (b.09 May 1903; d. in infancy)

There was a J.W. ABNEY in Itawamba Co., MS who settled in an area two miles south of Dorsey, and established a community that was later named Abney, Mississippi. The town was found on an old 1911 map. J.W. ABNEY was the first and only postmaster. The town is now extinct. No details were found on his family. (This from Cousin Robert H. ABNEY of Stone Mountain, Georgia). Perhaps this J.W. ABNEY was father (or other near kinsman of John Webster ABNEY. Any help on this line would be greatly appreciated.

*In closing...*

I had originally planned to publish this issue in April 2001. However, since its actual publishing is in December 2001, I have decided to call this the December issue of 2001.

I began this newsletter just before Uncle Joe BAKER's death. After his passing, I completely changed the content. However, I found myself unable to finish it. A half-year later, I find myself remiss in my duties as a journalist, but have forgiven myself as a member of the ABNEY family.

It seems I can still hear Uncle Joe fussing at me for "burning the midnight oil". He'd check the time on the email message I sent to him to learn how late I was up working on the family history. He was truly concerned for my health and well-being, as well as for those close to him.

I sorely miss Uncle Joe, and hope he is visiting with all his ancestral "grandmothers" he so desired to discover.

I am currently living in Hendersonville, Tennessee (just north of Nashville). Anyone living in the area or visiting, please look me up so we can get together for some "ABNEY talk".

My new address and telephone number appear below in the "Published by" box on the next page.

I apologize for gaps in publishing the newsletter, but I must tend to the living first. With 5 minor children, this isn't always an easy task.

My plan is to continue publishing the newsletter whenever possible (hopefully at least twice a year, but I'll make no promises).

Wishing all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year!

Your loving cousin,

*R. R. Abney Jr.*

---

**Unresolved Problems presented in Previous Issues of**  
*the Abney Family Researcher*

*Volume I*

- 3. Leonard ABNEY of TN - **RR**
- 9. James T. ABNEY - **NR**
- 10. Mary Agnes ABNEY - **RR**
- 17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - **RR/T**

*Volume II*

- 23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN - **RR**
- 34. Parentage of Butler ABNEY - **NR**
- 37. Iss. of W<sup>m</sup> ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON - **RR**
- 38. Husband of Melicent WILLS (ABNEY) - **NR**
- 39. Parentage of Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY - **NR**
- 40. Parentage of John B. ABNEY - **NR**
- 44. Cemetery of Kentucky ABNEY's - **NR**
- 45. Bathshua (widow of ABNEY & LEE) - **NR**

- 46. John ABNEY Jr. of SC (1776-1823) - **RR**
- 47. OBNEY of OH, PA, WV, & VA - **NR**
- 48. William Omer ABNEY (b.1878 Georgia) - **NR**
- 49. Pvt. William ABNEY's wives - **RR**
- 50. Ward Wilson ABNEY of Vermigy, MN - **NR**
- 51. Robert ABNEY who m. Mary RODMAN - **NR**
- 53. John Joseph ABNEY of Louisiana - **NR**

*Volume III*

- 55. Parentage of Mary L. ABNEY -**NR**
- 56. Issue of Clem ABNEY - **NR**
- 57. Another Abner ABNEY - **RR**
- 58. Parentage of Dr. James "Henry" ABNER - **NR**
- 59. Parentage of David ABNEY of SC - **NR**
- 60. Thomas ABNEY of Surrey, England - **NR**
- 61. Issue of Dr. Abraham ABNEY

*Volume V*

- 62. Cassandra, wife of Dr. Abraham ABNEY
- 63. Parentage of John Webster of MS & LA

**CODES**

**NR = No Response**  
**R\* = Resolved (see this issue)**  
**R\*\* = Resolved (see next issue)**  
**RR = Responses Received**

**T = Theory Formulated**  
**T\* = Theory Formulated (see this issue)**  
**T\*\* = Theory Formulated (see next issue)**

---

*the Abney Family Researcher* is published by the:

*Centralized Abney Archives*

96 East Claiborne Square,

Chalmette, LA 70043

Telephone: 504-276-1563

email: [Abney-CAA@email.msn.com](mailto:Abney-CAA@email.msn.com)

Web Site: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Park/2300>

© MM, R.R. Abney Jr.

(all rights reserved)

---

Created & Distributed by the *Abney and Related Families Genealogical Archives*: