

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

January, 1999 Volume III, Issue I

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

(Dedicated to the memory of William Abney of England)

"Gentleman" John Abney"

Centralized Abney Archives

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

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A Message from R.R. Abney Jr., editor

Happy New Year!

I am delighted to enter the last year of the 1900's by publishing yet another ABNEY newsletter. This issue marks our third year of continuous ABNEY news. Can we duplicate our success of the previous two years? I am certain we can, especially with the multitude of new cousins and new discoveries!

As you may have noticed from the column on the left, with this we begin our subscription rates. Thanks to all who have already sent in your 1999 subscription

fees. For those who have not, please do so at this time so that we can continue to fund this project into the third millennium. All donations are greatly appreciated. Any cousins finding \$10 per 6 months difficult may feel free to break up the \$20 per year in comfortable payments.

This newsletter was never, nor shall ever be, meant as a money-maker. On the contrary, this newsletter gets quite expensive. Thanks to our volunteers, I have been able to continue, even through the hard times. Therefore, do not believe anyone is trying to make money from your desire to know your family history. We are not. As most of you know, subscription fees was not even my idea. However, I agree that there should be a nominal charge; and greatly appreciate each dollar sent. Let's make 1999 a memorable year for our ABNEY family history!

Thanks to all for your continued support!

Your cousin,

R.R. Abney Jr.

FORTITER ET HONESTE

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
- 15. John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah ADKINS - NR
- 17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - RR/T

Volume II

- 23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN - RR
- 26. Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY - RR/T*
- 32. Parentage of Clem ABNEY - R*
- 34. Parentage of Butler ABNEY - NR
- 35. Polley ABNEY of the 1810 SC Census - RR/T*
- 37. Issue of W^m ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON - NR
- 38. Husband of Melicent WILLS (ABNEY) - NR
- 39. Parentage of Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY - NR
- 40. Parentage of John B. ABNEY - NR
- 42. Parentage of Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY - R/T
- 43. Parentage of Gentleman John ABNEY - R/T*
- 44. Cemetery of Kentucky ABNEY's - NR
- 45. Bathshua (widow of ABNEY & LEE) - NR
- 46. John ABNEY Jr. of South Carolina (1776-1823) - RR
- 47. OBNEY of Ohio, Pennsylvania, W. Va., & Virginia - NR
- 48. William Omer ABNEY (b.1878 Georgia) - NR
- 49. Pvt. William ABNEY's wives - RR
- 50. Ward Wilson ABNEY of Vermigy, Minnesota - NR
- 51. Robert ABNEY who m. Mary RODMAN - NR
- 52. John Wesley ABNER who died in Georgia - NR
- 53. John Joseph ABNEY of Louisiana - NR

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

"Gentleman John ABNEY"

It has been written, spoken, read, copied, and re-written for so long, it is generally accepted without question, that the John ABNEY known as "Gentleman John" was a son of an alleged William ABNEY.

In the past couple of years, the author has questioned this alleged relationship; and recently has reported that Gentleman John was not a son of this alleged William ABNEY. Furthermore, the author has concluded that there was no William ABNEY in Generation One.

With that proved, Gentleman John's parentage has been re-opened for discussion.

The author's first thought was to search for Gentleman John's place as a son of Paul ABNEY or Dr. Abraham ABNEY, neither of whose wills have been located. However, as research continued, it became evident that Gentleman John did not belong in Generation Two at all.

From a forum comprised of the author and Cousin Linda McMILLEN, Gentleman John has been determined (through circumstantial evidence only) to possibly have been a member of Generation Three of the American ABNEY's.

Furthermore, it now appears that Gentleman John ABNEY was a brother, not the father, of Paul ABNEY who m. Eleanor HAMILTON.

Few records have survived regarding Gentleman John. We do know this:

He received a land grant in South Carolina on the exact same date (05 Feb 1798), and in the same area (Edgefield) as did Paul ABNEY. We also know that Gentleman John was a Judge and Deputy Surveyor.

Since he and Paul received this land in South Carolina on the same date, it was believed they were father & son. However, it would make more sense that they were brothers receiving land at the same time. Additional evidence points to this probability.

Furthermore, Paul married Eleanor HAMILTON, sister of Martha Harriet HAMILTON (wife of Samuel ABNEY Jr.). Due to the lack of modes of rapid transportation, these pioneers usually married neighbors. These marriages, as well as deeds, show Paul ABNEY and Samuel ABNEY Jr. to have been living near each other; and to have married sisters.

This author therefore presents this probability: Gentleman John, Paul ABNEY, and Samuel ABNEY Jr. were all brothers. Since we know that Samuel ABNEY Jr. was a son of Samuel ABNEY Sr. and Martha (COLLINS?), so then (apparently) was Gentleman John and Paul.

Therefore, Samuel ABNEY Sr. m. Martha (COLLINS?) and had:

1. Dorcas ABNEY m1. M. MAYES; m2. W. HILL
2. Gentleman John ABNEY m. Isabella n.n.
3. Paul ABNEY m. E. HAMILTON
4. Samuel ABNEY Jr. m. M. HAMILTON
5. Zachaus (Zachariah?) m. n.n.

At this time, no issue is known for Gentleman John.

As usual, the author is quite interested in learning the opinions of our members. All are invited to reply to this article (please include any evidence in hand).

Volume I of...

The Abney Family History Series

by Raymond Robert "Bobby" Abney Jr. & Jennie H. Abney-Gant

Author ABNEY has been accused (admittedly so) of being a perfectionist. This has many times caused postponement of the publishing of an ABNEY book.

The newsletter, while supplementing that desire, does not fulfill the author's dreams of getting the ABNEY family history published.

With the idea of breaking the ABNEY history up into several volumes, publishing it will keep it in better order and improve on accuracy.

Again, however, there are delays. In part due to the author's busy schedule; in part due to new discoveries. This series promises to be a work of art!

However, Volume I will be ready sometime in 1999. Author GANT will simply not allow author ABNEY to put it off any longer. (a jestful remark)

The next the author writes about this volume will be to take orders thereof. Please be patient.

Problem #12 re-visited

Parentage of William Madison ABNEY

Cousin Ruth DUNHAM, a member of our forum on the ABNEY's of Chariton County, Missouri, has brought it to the author's attention that problem #12 is, no doubt, connected to the problems we're discussing in the forum.

In the author's "early days" of research, information on William Madison ABNEY was copied. This information was placed in the first issue of *the Abney Family Researcher* (Vol.I, Iss.I). Like so many new genealogists, the author failed to copy the source information. However, the information does agree, in the biggest part, with that information we have been gathering.

It has been determined that William Madison ABNEY (who m. Amanda Samantha HALL) was a son of John ABNEY/ABNER & Rebecca n.n., hence a brother of Emeline ABNER who m1. JACKSON, m2. CHENEY, m3. RICHARDSON.

Still, who are the parents of this John ABNEY/ ABNER born ca. 1810 who m. Rebecca n.n.?

William "Bill" ABNEY

The Last English-born ABNEY

(obituaries supplied by Cousin Don Abney of Canada)

In 1997, Gentleman William ABNEY, who referred to himself as "the last ABNEY in England", died at the age of 76 years. "Bill" was descended from Robert ABNEY of Newton-Burgoland (brother of the American ABNEY ancestor, Edmund ABNEY, Lord Mayor of Leicester). Bill was an actor who regularly appeared on stage and television. The reader can also look for him in such 1960's films as "Exodus" and "Cleopatra". His obituary in *the Daily Telegraph* reads, in part: "William Edward Charles Wootton ABNEY was born on Jan 7 1921, into a family which had established itself in the 18th century at Measham near Derby, and is now well represented in the southern states of America." Of course, we know that the ABNEY's (ABNER's, ABNA's) are well-represented in all American states. Bill was in the Royal Air Force during WWII, and earned the sobriquet "Ace ABNEY". The final note in the obituary is very sad indeed: "Bill ABNEY was unmarried, and with his death the male line of the ABNEY's of Measham has now died out in Britain."

Problem #54

ABNEY of Chariton County, Missouri

A forum comprised of the author and cousins Ruth DUNHAM, Jay GENTRY, Martie MILLER, and Terry DURHAM has been working on the ABNEY's of Chariton Co. (and nearby counties), Missouri. It is believed that these Chariton Co. families are closely related. One researcher believes that John ABNEY/ABNER (son of John ABNEY/ABNER & Patsy PUCKETT) m. Matilda M^cCARTY on 13 Aug 1822 in Estill Co., Ky. & had:

1. James M. m1. Rebecca RICHARDSON; m2. Lucinda BEARDON
2. Sarah "Sally" m. Claiborne CUPP
3. Lavina Jane m. Samuel "Sam" JACKSON

These ABNEY/ABNER's migrated to Chariton Co., Mo. where they had issue. John ABNEY/ABNER was acquainted with James M^cCARTY (father of Matilda M^cCARTY).

The author believes that Docia ABNER (who m. Lafayette GENTRY) may have been another daughter of John ABNEY/ABNER m. Matilda M^cCARTY. After all, John had a sister named Docia (who m. William WISEMAN).

The other name in this puzzle is Emeline ABNER who m1. Thomas JACKSON; m2. James Arthur CHENEY; m3. Robert J. RICHARDSON. Due to the fact that Emeline's husbands bore the surnames of other spouses in this family, and she, too, was in Chariton Co., Mo., it seems likely that she was closely related to this family. Moreover, Emeline's father was John ABNEY/ABNER. But, this John was b.1810 and m. Rebecca. Since this John was b.1810, it seems very unlikely that he could have been the John who m. Matilda in 1822, as he would only have been 12 years old! Still, he appears closely related.

If anyone can shed any light on this problem, please contact the [CAA](#).

Problem #3 re-visited

Mary LEE (wife of Dannett ABNEY Sr.)

Back in Vol.I, Iss.III, we discussed Mary LEE, wife of Dannett ABNEY Sr. There have been set forth several interesting ideas. Firstly, it was claimed by earlier researchers that she was a daughter of Rev. Joseph LEE by his first wife (whose name was Anne, not Mary as was reported). However, two other theories surfaced, both with excellent points. Professional British Genealogist, Mr. Michael YELLAND seemed to believe that Mary LEE was a daughter of Joseph LEE (III), son of the Rev. Joseph LEE. Cousin John HENSELL theorized that she may have been a daughter of John LEE, another son of Rev. Joseph. This John LEE came to Virginia, and brought Dannett ABNEY (Sr.) with him.

This last theory intrigued the author, as it did have a lot of merit. The author has done some research on this John LEE and learned that he married and had issue: Richard, Joshua, John, Godfrey, & Mary. So, he indeed had a Mary LEE (He may also have sired a William and a James). However, it was further learned that this Mary LEE m. Thomas THORNE.

It is not known whether this couple stayed together, had issue, or perhaps Thomas died and Mary re-married. However, at this time, Mr. YELLAND's belief that Mary was a daughter of Joseph LEE (III) is probably the most accurate. Still, there is a chance that Thomas THORNE died early in their marriage, and Mary then re-married to Dannett ABNEY (Sr.).

The author finds it even more intriguing that the LEE researchers are still unsure of the ancestry of John LEE (grantee of the Nansemond Co. land). They have not connected the ABNEY's & LEE's of Virginia with the ABNEY's & LEE's of Leicestershire. Even after notifying them of the work of the ABNEY researchers, they still don't seem interested in the Leicestershire LEE's.

The mystery continues...

Problem #26 re-visited

Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY

According to the RUSSELL researchers, Rhoda Susan who married William RUSSELL has never been proved to have been an ABNEY. Furthermore, the RUSSELL researchers have informed the author that it isn't known if this William RUSSELL was born, or ever lived in Virginia. At this time, Rhoda Susan and her descendants will be removed from the ABNEY genealogy. Many thanks to all the RUSSELL researchers who took their time to reply to the author's query on the RUSSELL GenForum.

Problem #32 re-visited

Parentage of Clem ABNEY

The author received information that Clem ABNER who m. Rebecca Jane ABNEY (d/o William Madison ABNEY & Narcissa E. COOPER) was a son of Daniel ABNER & Elizabeth McINTOSH. The author cannot seem to locate the source of that information, for which the author apologizes to that kind cousin. Furthermore, the author has learned that Rebecca Jane ABNEY was Clem's second wife. His first wife was Mary L. ABNEY (m. 28 Jan 1879 in Estill Co., Ky.). See Problems #55 & 56.

Problem #55

Parentage of Mary L. ABNEY

Does anyone know the parentage of Mary L. ABNEY who m. Clem ABNEY on 28 Jan 1879.

Problem #56

Issue of Clem ABNEY

Does anyone know the issue of Clem ABNER (b.ca.1659 KY) by his 1st wife, Mary L. ABNEY and/or by his 2nd wife, Rebecca Jane ABNEY.

Problem #35 re-visited

Polley ABNEY of the 1810 SC Census

It appears, although not proved, that this "Polley" ABNEY may have been the widow of Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY (s/o Michael ABNEY & Ann TURNER).

The Members Speak Out

"Uncle" Joe Baker writes:

Joshua, s/o Edward DEAN & Rebecca ABNEY of Halifax, Va. married Tabitha MAYS (d/o Dorcas ABNEY MAYS) on 28 Dec 1785 at the residence of David RICHARDSON in Edgefield Co., S.C. Joshua, like his brother William, fought in the Revolutionary war. I have two queries, to wit: 1) Was Joshua buried on the MAYS plantation in Edgefield? 2) Joshua & Tabitha had 6 children. Two, Smallwood & Sarah WAITTS <sp> were liv. 853. Are there any known descendants of Joshua and Tabitha? ...Joe H. Baker

Abney's Law of Genealogy

"The Holiday Perplexity"

One night, you finally get a great lead on that elusive ancestor...but tomorrow is a holiday and the libraries are closed!"

Corrigenda (to Vol. II, Issue VII)

Our Web Master, Cousin Gina ABNEY's email address was printed incorrectly in the previous issue.

William S. ABNEY Jr. was erroneously reported as having three wives. However, the forum assembled to research that line had determined that he had only two wives. Samantha JOHNSON, (reported as his third wife) actually married a nephew and namesake of William S. ABNEY Jr.

The header on the odd pages read: Volume II, Issue IV instead of Volume II, Issue VII.

These errors have been corrected on the newsletters which are available on the *Centralized Abney Archives* Web Site.

The First-Ever Abney Family Gathering

Cousin Gina L. ABNEY is still working on this major event which, hopefully, we can put together for the springtime this year. We are still thinking about Tennessee or Kentucky as the best possible location, but are open to other ideas. This is a major undertaking and, whether we make it to the gathering or not, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Cousin Gina for her tireless work and involvement with the CAA.

The Abney Family Cookbook

Recipes are trickling in for this project. The holidays, no doubt, played a huge role in the delay of writing and submitting the recipes to Cousin Gina L. ABNEY. The author must even admit procrastinating. However, Cousin Gina's a patient lady and is still gathering recipes. For those who have asked, "How many recipes can I submit": "The more, the merrier." We can't publish a book until we fill it up!

Thanks to all who have already sent in their recipes.

Charles Abney...

We were going to re-visit problem #17, Charles ABNEY in this issue. However, it is a very complicated subject; and demands more attention than we had room to afford in this issue. Moreover, the identification of Charles ABNEY, Dannett's grandson, hinges on other discoveries which have not yet been published. Therefore, we will save this article for another issue.

Since there are no known descendants of this Charles ABNEY at this time, the author feels this topic can take a "back burner" to other articles featured in this issue. However, the discoveries working up to the identification of this Charles ABNEY will be of great interest to two ABNEY lines, to wit: Dr. Abraham ABNEY & George ABNEY. We will, therefore, cover these topics very extensively in upcoming issues. Thank you for your patience.

In Closing...

Last year we began a "Reach Out" program. Our goal was to reach out to as many ABNEY researchers as possible. My thanks to the many cousins who placed copies of the newsletters in local and university libraries, and state archives; to those cousins who have gotten our name out on the Internet via genealogy forums and search engines; and, of course, to those who have notified other researchers. This is what has caused our membership to grow so rapidly. Just as importantly, this has caused the records at *the Centralized Abney Archives* to multiply greatly in quantity and quality.

Dear cousins, please keep up the excellent work for the new year. Please continue to advertise the CAA any way you can. The above-mentioned ways of advertising are very successful. Anyone who thinks of another free advertisement vehicle, please let me know so I can advise our readers. You are our only links to other ABNEY researchers.

By the same token, please continue to send in copies of any documents you discover...and yes, we're still accepting donations of census records. Our ultimate goal, to have the census records of every ABNEY/ ABNER/ ABNA in every census. It may sound like an unattainable goal, but together, it is not that difficult. Anyone who would like to volunteer to copy census records, please let me know. My special thanks to Cousins Marie McLEAN & Stacey LONG who have volunteered to copy and donate ever ABNEY/ ABNER (and other variations) in every Kentucky census. Anyone who has researched the ABNEY family comprehensively knows that Kentucky is absolutely the largest ABNEY state. Thanks for this huge and unselfish undertaking! Thanks also to Cousin Tammy RUMORE ABNEY (my wife) who is working on completing Mississippi

& Louisiana. Another thanks to those other cousins who have sent one or two pages of ABNEY's. Every one brings us closer to completion!

Many thanks to our new mail volunteer, Cousin Frances DUZAN HERNDON.

Also, thanks to Cousin John R. HENSELL who has volunteered to be Advisor for Medieval and European ABNEY lines. Cousin John will also be writing an article on the ABNEY Coats of Arms which we hope to feature in the next newsletter.

One final note of thanks to Cousin John, as he has resumed sending copies of his records on the ABNEY & related families to the *Centralized Abney Archives*. Cousin John has amassed some precious and rare records. These will certainly benefit all ABNEY researchers.

This is the kind of involvement we're looking for. Since our organization has grown to such proportions, it has become difficult to keep up with everything. It is so helpful that these cousins have volunteered their time, efforts, and records. Therefore, I'll mention this again: If anyone comes up with an idea that could benefit the CAA and our cousins, or would like to create and/or volunteer for an office or new position in our organization, please write to me. Much of my time is spent on organization and research. I must therefore count on you, my dear cousins, for any support you can give.

Please don't forget to drop a few dollars to your mail volunteer for copies, postage, and envelopes!

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