From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

March, 1997 Volume I, Issue III

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

Greetings dear cousins and fellow researchers. This newsletter comes to you with hopes that ya'll received not only the last newsletter, but my change-of-address card as well.

In this newsletter, we will address a few problems which have plagued our family genealogists for many years.

As always, your input is greatly appreciated. Thanks to the many cousins who have sent their Gedcoms to the *CAA*. These are great additions to the CAA and always welcome. Descendant Charts & Family Groups are excellent as well as they facilitate computer input. For those wanting to send me Gedcoms, please ensure such Gedcoms contain sources for the information contained therein. It's better to write, "according to the will", than "Cousin Robert said". Also note that a several of our cousins have successfully sent Gedcoms to the *CAA* attached to their E-Mail. These Gedcoms came through fine and seem to work perfectly. This is an inexpensive way to ensure your family is archived.

Happy belated St. Patrick's Day to those ABNEY's whose blood runs green with an abundance of Irish Roots (like myself-RAGAN, STRAIN, NORRELL, DENES, O'NEILL, to name a few)...and remember, all ABNEY's have Irish in them. One of many Irish Lines from which the ABNEY Family descends comes through the Noble BROOKSBY Family.

Problems presented in previous issues of the *AFR*:

1. **1790 SC Charles ABNEY - RR**
2. **The Dannett Abney Dilemma - Resolved**
3. **Leonard Abney of Tennessee - RR**
4. **Eliz. "Charity" Malina Abney - RR**
5. **Parentage of John Andy Abney - NR**
6. **Parentage of Absalom Abney - Resolved**
7. **Parentage of Dora Abney - Re-opened**
8. **Parentage of Lizzie P. Abney - NR**
9. **Parentage of James T. Abney - NR**
10. **Parentage of Mary Agnes Abney - NR**
11. **Parentage of Soleane Abney - RR**
12. **Parentage of William Madison Abney - RR**
13. **The Family of Absalom Troup Abney - NR**

NR = No Response
RR = Responses Received

Now for some information of the first generation of ABNEY's born in America:

I. The American ABNEY Family

Discovery #1

"Was Thomas HILL's wife an ABNEY"?

(printed by permission of Cousin Richard C. HILL)

Last year the author learned of ABNEY Researcher Cousin Janice BATTE CRAVEN of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Cousin Jan descends from Thomas HILL who married one Barshewy . She believed this "Barshewy" to have been an ABNEY. Cousin Jan gave me names of several other HILL/ABNEY researchers including Mary Jo POWELL of Corpus Christi, TX & Cousin Richard C. HILL of Laurens, SC. It was this Cousin Richard who originally formulated the theory

(which for the sake of reference in future issues of the *Abney Family Researcher*, we will call "Discovery #1") that:

"Barshewy" HILL was born Bathshua ABNEY, daughter of Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary LEE.

Now for those of you who don't believe Dannett's wife was a LEE, suffice it to read that Bathshua was a daughter of Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary.

I have been researching the ABNEY family for many years (and some of my nearer cousins even longer) and none of us had ever heard this theory, I figured many of the other ABNEY researchers hadn't heard of it either.

Most of us know that the ABNEY Family & the HILL Family were very close in Virginia. This relationship continued as the family began migrating to South Carolina.

It is common knowledge that grandfather Dannett ABNEY & Thomas HILL patented land together in Spotsylvannia County, Virginia on 28 Sep 1728. Could they have gotten the land together because Thomas HILL was Dannett ABNEY's son-in-law?

Next, we look at Thomas' wife's name, written in his will as "Barshewy". That is phonetically very close to Bathshua. Knowing that Dannett's mother was Bathshua (I prefer to use the correct Biblical spelling in lieu of Bathsua or Bathusa) certainly helps to solidify this theory. Since Bathshua was and is hardly a popular name.

The next piece of evidence is just as powerful. They named a son, "Dannett" HILL! Now Dannett was an ABNEY Family name. The name Dannett had been in the ABNEY Family for five generations. Back in England in 1587, Catherine LUDLAM married Lord Mayor Edmund ABNEY. They named their second son Dannett after Catherine's grandmother, Isabella DANNET. That Dannett ABNEY was our "uncle". Therefore, the given name Dannett, in America, is purely of ABNEY origin. Furthermore, Thomas HILL & Bathshua named a daughter Mary HILL.

This author wonders what the chances are of two gentlemen patenting land together, whereby one's mother bears the same "family" name as the other's wife, the latter's son bears the same "family" name as the first, the former's wife bears the same given name as the latter's daughter...and there is no relationship???

I fully agree with Cousin Richard's conclusions. Thomas HILL's wife surely <u>must</u> have been an ABNEY. Furthermore, she would have to have been a daughter of Dannett ABNEY (Sr.) & Mary!

Therefore, if I may be so bold, I welcome our HILL cousins into the ABNEY family, and thank Cousin Richard C. HILL for his discovery and he and the rest of the HILL Researchers for sharing this discovery with the ABNEY Family.

At this time, I believe the first generation of ABNEY's born in America to be the following:

1. **Ursula - bapt. 11 Jun 1693 of whom no further**
2. **George who married Unity**
3. **Dannett Jr. who married Mary MEREDITH**
4. **Paul - bapt. 24 Dec 1699**
5. **Bathshua who married Thomas HILL**
6. **Dr. Abraham - bapt. 27 Dec 1702 who married Cassandra MEREDITH**
7. **Martha who married Thomas SPRAGGINS**
8. **Abner who married Ann**
9. **Mary who married John BERNARD**
10. **William "the Indian Fighter"**

Of course there are those who disagree with me... and that after all is the reason for this newsletter, that we can voice our opinions. I hope to receive a lot of input on this subject (from those who believe and disbelieve this theory...and especially from anyone with more proof!")

This next subject has been in need of open discussion for many years. It pertains to the English Family as well as the American Family.

Problem #14

"To LEE or not to LEE"

Was Dannett ABNEY Sr. married to Mary LEE?

Here is a question that has plagued our family for well over a century; And lacking that one piece of proof, a marriage record, we'll have to be content with circumstantial evidence.

I would first like to offer my discontent with the theory that Mary was an EMERSON. In that document of 20 Apr 1694 wherein John LEE received 960 acres for the Importation of 20 persons, Dennit ABNEY & Mary EMERSON are

mentioned. If anyone has a copy of the actual document (not the transcript), please send it to me.

Anyway, I note that the transport was for 20 persons (not settlers). Quite possibly some, like Dannett had already settled in Virginia. I also wonder if the land was granted shortly after the voyage. If so, we must consider this:

Dannett & Mary ABNEY baptized their daughter, Ursula ABNEY on 11 Jun 1693, some 10 months prior to the above record of John LEE. Therefore, if we assume that Ursula was baptized on or near her day of birth, it is safe to write that Dannett & Mary were married in or prior to October of 1692. That being understood, wouldn't Mary EMERSON have been called Mary ABNEY in that record? Of course. Therefore, I contend that Mary EMERSON was <u>not</u> the wife of Dannett ABNEY.

Proof of our Mary ABNEY's surname may prove impossible to find. However, we do know there was a close association between the families of ABNEY & LEE. I do not think it a coincidence that grandfather Dannett was on John LEE's ship. I believe John LEE to have been Dannett's brother-in-law prior to the voyage; and it is a fact that Dannett was in Virginia prior to 1694, and probably prior to 1692 (the earliest record heretofore discovered about him).

There is also the fact that George ABNEY's wife, Bathshua married Rev. Joseph LEE as his second wife after George's death. This showing another association with the LEE Family.

Furthermore, I believe that the LEE Family had a close relationship with the ABNEY Family in that first generation born in Virginia. I would like to know what became of John LEE, but haven't had the time to research him. If anyone has any information on John LEE, please let me know.

Nevertheless, it is very interesting to look at the names that Dannett's children used for their issue. Although the names of Rev. LEE's children are not uncommon, the mere repetition of their usage in the ABNEY Family may account for a relationship. The names of Rev. Joseph LEE & his first wife, Mary's children are reported to be:

1. **Joseph LEE**
2. **Nathaniel LEE**
3. **Samuel LEE**
4. **John LEE**
5. **Ann LEE**

6. **Mary LEE**

This last Mary, if this theory is correct, was Dannett ABNEY's wife.

Bathshua (wife of Thomas HILL) named children Joseph HILL, John HILL, Anne HILL, & Mary HILL. Did Bathshua have uncles & an aunt named Joseph LEE, John LEE, and Ann LEE? Of course her mother was a Mary, whether a LEE or not.

Dr. Abraham ABNEY named a son Nathaniel ABNEY (Dr.). Was Abraham's uncle Nath[l] LEE?

George named a son Samuel ABNEY. Was George's uncle Samuel LEE?

William named sons Nathaniel ABNEY (Capt.) & John ABNEY. Did William have uncles named Nathaniel LEE & John LEE?

Martha named a son Nathaniel SPRAGGINS and daughters Anna "Ann" SPRAGGINS & Mary SPRAGGINS. Did Martha have an uncle named Nathaniel LEE and an aunt named Ann LEE? Again, she could have named Mary for her mother, whether LEE or not.

Abner & Mary each named a son John (ABNEY & BERNARD, respectively). Of course, Mary's husband was also John BERNARD.

Even if you take out the two Mary's and the John (BERNARD), you are still left with ten instances where six children (seven if you count John BERNARD) of Dannett ABNEY & Mary used names of the remaining five children (the five known siblings of Mary LEE) of Rev. Joseph LEE & Mary.

Granted this is all circumstantial, but the argument for Mary being a LEE seems much stronger than for her being an EMERSON.

I'd certainly like to hear from ya'll on this theory.

I've also heard a theory that Mary was a LEIGH instead of a LEE. This theory I've only seen a couple of times and then with only sketchy information.

Anyone having any information on the theory that Mary was a LEIGH, please send it to me for my perusal as well as for the CAA Records.

Right or wrong, it helps me to have information on these interesting theories.

Problem #15

The Parentage of John Jefferson ABNEY who m. Sarah Ann "Sally" ADKINS.

John Jefferson ABNEY was born on 24 Jun 1851 in Illinois. He was married on 01 Dec 1871 in Henry Co., Missouri to Sarah Ann "Sally" ADKINS of Missouri. Sally was a daughter of John Warden ADKINS & Herodias PHILPOT. John died on 14 Oct 1886 in Clinton, Henry Co., MO. Sally remarried to one DeWitt C. WHITE. She died on 12 Dec 1923 in Deepwater, Henry Co., MO.

It has been speculated that John's father was also named John, but we have no proof of that. His mother may have been Jane BELL who later married a Mr. BIGUM and had a son named William Henry BIGUM on 15 Jun 1861 in Warsaw, Benton Co., MO.

John is also known to have had sisters, Esther ABNEY (born 12 Apr 1855) who married Lewis STRICKLIN, and Belle ABNEY born 1859.

This family sounds very much like it may be a branch or near relation of the Andrew Jackson ABNEY Family (who incidentally had a son named John ABNEY born circa 1851 (according to the Illinois Census). I only have transcripts of the Illinois Census records and the transcripts read that Andrew Jackson ABNEY's son was John "R." ABNEY, not John "J." ABNEY.

John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah Ann ADKINS had the following issue born in Missouri:

1. **Allen Lee ABNEY b.14 Oct 1872**
2. **Herodias "Rhoda" ABNEY b. 01 Feb 1874**
3. **William Neely ABNEY b. 09 Mar 1876**
4. **Pearl ABNEY b. 26 Jan 1878**
5. **Franklin Ward ABNEY (Sr.) b. 18 Apr 1881**
6. **Estella Elizabeth ABNEY b. 31 May 1883**

Esther ABNEY (John Jefferson ABNEY's sister) & Lewis STRICKLIN had the following issue:

1. Laura STRICKLIN, 2. Daisy STRICKLIN, 3. Nellie S. STRICKLIN, 4. Herman L. STRICKLIN, 5. Walter S. STRICKLIN, 6. Jemina "Mina" STRICKLIN, and 7. Noble B. STRICKLIN

Any information on this line would be greatly appreciated by the CAA, as well as the descendants of John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah Ann "Sallie" ADKINS, and of his sister, Esther.

Problem #7 re-opened

"Parentage of Dora ABNEY"

In the *AFR* No.2, we printed the parents of Dora ABNEY (who m. John BOND) as Willis ABNEY & Sarah "Sallie" ALLEN. One cousin wrote that Willis & Sallie may have been her grandparents, not her parents. Studying the birth dates of Willis & Sallie's children, the "grandparent" theory seems more correct. We will re-open this problem for further information. Any information is appreciated.

INDEX

n.n., Ann	2
n.n., Bathshua (STRATTON?)	3, 6
n.n., Mary	3, 6
n.n., Unity	2
Abney, Abner	2, 3, 6
Abney, Abraham (Dr.)	2, 3, 6
Abney, Absalom	1
Abney, Absalom Troup	1
Abney, Allen Lee	4, 6
Abney, Andrew Jackson	4

Abney, Andrew Jackson Family	4
Abney, Bathshua (Barshewy)	1, 2, 3, 6
(Abney), Bathsua, Bathusa, &c.	2
Abney, Belle	4, 6
Abney, Charles	1
Abney, Dannett	1, 2
Abney, Dannett Jr.	2, 6
Abney, Dannett Sr.	2, 3, 6
Abney, Dennit	2
Abney, Dora	1, 4
Abney, Edmund (Lord Mayor)	2
Abney, Eliz. "Charity" Malina	1
Abney, Estella Elizabeth	4, 6
Abney, Esther	4, 6
Abney (Family)	1, 2, 3
Abney, Franklin Ward (Sr.)	4, 6

Abney, George 2, 3, 6

Abney, Herodias "Rhoda" 4, 6

Abney, James T. 1

Abney, John 3, 4, 6

Abney, John Andy 1

Abney, John J. 4

Abney, John Jefferson 4, 6

Abney, John R. 4

Abney, Leonard 1

Abney, Lizzie P. 1

Abney, Martha 2, 3, 6

Abney, Mary 2, 3, 6

Abney, Mary Agnes 1

Abney, Nathaniel (Dr.) 3, 6

Abney, Nathaniel (Capt.) 3, 6

Abney, Paul 2, 6

Abney, Pearl	4, 6
Abney, Samuel	3, 6
Abney, Soleane	1
Abney, Ursula	2, 3, 6
AbneyViking@compuserve.com	1
Abney, William (Indian Fighter)	2, 3, 6
Abney, William Madison	1
Abney, William Neely	4, 6
Abney, Willis	4
Adkins, John Warden	4
Adkins, Sarah Ann "Sally"	4, 6
Allen, Sarah "Sallie"	4
Batte-Craven, Janice "Jan"	1
Bell, Jane	4
Bernard, John	2, 3, 6
Bigum, Mr.	4

Bigum, William Henry 4

Bond, John 4

Brooksby (Family) 1

Dannett, Isabella 2

Denes (Family) 1

Emerson, Mary 2, 3

Hill, Anne 3, 6

Hill, Barshewy 2

Hill Cousins 2

Hill, Dannett 2, 6

Hill Family 2

Hill, James (Sr.) 6

Hill, John 3, 6

Hill, Joseph 3, 6

Hill, Mary 2, 3, 6

Hill Researchers 2

Hill, Richard C. 1, 2

Hill, Sarah 6

Hill, Thomas 1, 2, 3, 6

Hill, William 6

Historian, the 4

Lee, Ann 3, 6

Lee (Family) 3

Lee, John 2, 3, 6

Lee, Joseph (Rev.) 3, 6

Lee, Joseph (Jr.) 3, 6

Lee, Mary 2, 3, 6

Lee, Nathaniel 3, 6

Lee, Samuel 3, 6

Leigh, (Mary) 3

Ludlam, Catherine 2

Meredith, Cassandra 2

Meredith, Mary 2

Norrell (Family) 1

O'Neill (Family) 1

Philpot, Herodias 4

Powell, Mary Jo 1

Ragan (Family) 1

Soc. of United Genealogists, Int. 4

Spraggins, Anna "Ann" 3, 6

Spraggins, Mary 3, 6

Spraggins, Nathaniel 3, 6

Spraggins, Thomas 2

Strain (Family) 1

Stricklin, Daisy 4, 6

Stricklin, Herman L. 4, 6

Stricklin, Jemina "Mina" 4, 6

Stricklin, Laura 4, 6

Stricklin, Lewis 4, 6

Stricklin, Nellie S. 4, 6

Stricklin, Noble B. 4, 6

Stricklin, Walter S. 4, 6

White, DeWitt C. 4

Disclosure Information

Earlier in this decade the author created a society called the *Society of United Genealogists, International* and published a monthly magazine called *the Historian*. As editor of this magazine, I was informed that for one reason or another, some folks don't like seeing their name in print. For this reason, I'd like to ask all our correspondents to let me know if it's okay to publish your name(s) whenever the situation presents itself.

In Closing...

It seems that the excitement level in the ABNEY Family is on the rise. "New researchers" are joining us in our effort to correct the history of our most noble family; And I am finally in contact with some of the more venerable researchers that I've been wanting to correspond with for many years. Problems are being resolved! Some problems which haven't yet been resolved, have at least been made public so that everyone may know where some of the "brick walls" stand in our cousins' lineages. A great number of problems will continue to be resolved thanks to the "ABNEY" Cousins who have donated their hard work to the *CAA*.

The first printing of the *AFR* #1 was 30 copies. This printing will be 75 copies! The *CAA* is growing!

Anyone who wants to have a problem published in the *AFR*, please do not hesitate to call, write, E-Mail, or fax! If we don't know about it, we can't help you! And remember, someone may already have solved your problem! To all our researchers: Thank you so much for your support. Your continued assistance is greatly appreciated! And remember to send some proof when responding. This way, we don't print erroneous information.

One final note: Thanks again to those of you who have sent donations for postage, copies, &c. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

Discovery #1 Chart

Bathshua ABNEY HILL

George ABNEY = Bathshua (STRATTON?)

Dannett ABNEY Sr. = Mary LEE *ABNEY*

Ursula George Dan^{t} Jr. Paul Bathshua = Thomas HILL Abraham Martha Abner Mary Wm *HILL*

William James (Sr.) John Dannett Sarah Joseph Anne Mary Thomas

Problem #14 Chart

Mary LEE ABNEY

George ABNEY = Bathshua (STRATTON?) = Rev. Joseph LEE = Mary n.n. *ABNEY LEE*

Dannett ABNEY Sr. = Mary Joseph Nathaniel Samuel John Ann *ABNEY*

George Bathshua Abraham Martha Mary Abner William

Samuel, Joseph, John, Anne, Mary, Nathaniel, Nathaniel, Anna, Mary, John, John, Nathaniel, John

ABNEY HILL ABNEY SPRAGGINS BERNARD ABNEY ABNEY

Problem #15 Chart

John Jefferson ABNEY

?????

John Jefferson ABNEY = Sarah Ann "Sally" ADKINS Esther ABNEY = Lewis STRICKLIN Belle ABNEY

1. **Allen Lee ABNEY**
2. **Herodias "Rhoda" ABNEY**
3. **William Neely ABNEY**
4. **Pearl ABNEY**
5. **Franklin Ward ABNEY**
6. **Estella Elizabeth ABNEY**

1. **Laura STRICKLIN**
2. **Daisy STRICKLIN**
3. **Nellie S. STRICKLIN**
4. **Herman L. STRICKLIN**
5. **Walter S. STRICKLIN**
6. **Jemina "Mina" STRICKLIN**
7. **Noble B. STRICKLIN**