

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

March, 1999 Volume III, Issue II

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

Another Abner Abney

Centralized Abney Archives

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

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

Greetings Cousins,

Once again I find myself in the position to thank Cousin Gina ABNEY. I have been quite busy of late, and Cousin Gina has taken another burden off of my back by e-mailing the *AFR* each issue. Thanks!

It appears the old ABNEY pioneering spirit has hit me again! I have decided to return to Houston, Texas for the excellent opportunities (financial and education) there for my family and me. I know it's hard to keep up with me. I'm glad I have this newsletter to let ya'll know where I am.

The CAA is flourishing! I have recorded the lines of 270 genealogists in my database! Many of these are novice genealogists! The future of ABNEY family research is in good hands. I am so excited to know these "new" cousins; and so happy that they've felt that same desire to research their family history as we experienced genealogists felt so long ago.

For those who sent their subscription fees in, thank ya'll very much. All are greatly appreciated. For those who sent your lineal descent and Gedcom's to me, thanks as well. This is the kind of consolidated research that is helping to correct erroneous information, and aid our cousins in finding their ABNEY history more rapidly and easily.

Volunteers are still needed in every area. If you have a special skill or idea that would help us, please feel free to call! You can make a real impact on our research! 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 - **RR/T***
- 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***
- 34. Parentage of Butler ABNEY - **NR**
- 37. Issue of W^m 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 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 Virmigy, Minnesota - **NR**
- 51. Robert ABNEY who m. Mary RODMAN - **NR**
- 52. John Wesley ABNER who died in Georgia - **RR***

53. John Joseph ABNEY of Louisiana - NR

Volume III

54. ABNEY of Chariton County, Missouri - RR/T*

55. Parentage of Mary L. ABNEY

56. Issue of Clem ABNEY

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

"Another Abner ABNEY"

For too long the author has ignored the fact that there is an unidentified Abner ABNEY. It is now time to learn if anyone can identify this early Abner ABNEY of Virginia.

Let us begin by identifying the known Abner ABNEY's:

I: Abner ABNEY of Virginia, son of Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary LEE - This Abner is the first of this given name. He was born in Virginia on a date unknown to researchers. However, it is estimated that he was born around 1706 or so. If this year is close, he would have been born in King William Co., Va. He m. Anne (KEY?), had issue, and d. ca. 1751 in Albemarle Co., Va. Abner lived in Virginia his entire life. This Abner ABNEY is of Generation One born in America.

II: Abner ABNEY of Tennessee, son of Pvt. Paul ABNEY/ABNER & Rhoda NORMAN - This Abner (a.k.a. "Ab") was b. 14 Nov 1795 Dickson Co., Tn. & d. 17 Oct 1881 Saline Co., Il., where he also thrived. He m1. Patience STRICKLIN & had issue; m2. Nancy PATTERSON & had issue. He is of Generation Three.

III: Abner ABNEY of Illinois, son of Pvt. William ABNEY & Amelia BATES - This Abner was b. ca. 1820 and thrived in Saline Co., Il. He m. Rachel HENDERSON & had issue. The author is unaware of his death date, but he was on the 1860 census in Saline Co., Il. He is of Generation Four.

IV: Abner ABNEY of Tennessee, son of Elias ABNEY/ABNER Sr. & Jemima THOMAS. Although census records claim this Abner was b. in Illinois, it appears he was b. in Tennessee and migrated to Illinois as a small boy with his parents. He was b. ca. 1823. Wife and issue unknown. He is also of Generation Four.

V: Abney/Abner ABNER of Kentucky, son of Hugh Gipson ABNEY & Virginia "Virgie" WALTERS - This Abner was a.k.a. Abney ABNER, the reverse of the norm. Little is know of him (by this author), but he was probably born in the 1870's. Wife & issue unknown. He is of Generation Six.

VI: Abner ABNEY of Illinois, son of John ABNEY & Anne n.n. - This Abner was b. ca. 1876. He was a grandson of Abner ABNEY (see III in column one). Wife and issue unknown. He was also of Generation Six.

VII: Abner ABNEY of Tennessee, son of Harmon ABNEY & Adeline Minerva WILLIAMS - This Abner was b. in the mid-1800's. Wife & issue unknown. He was of Generation Seven.

VIII: "another" Abner ABNEY, of unknown parentage. This is our mystery Abner ABNEY. Our best clues are these are from his marriage record. This Abner was m. 1803 in Carter Co., Tn. to Alyda RUSSELL!

The security for this marriage was Benjamin RUSSELL. Now, Benjamin RUSSELL was a son of William RUSSELL who married Rhoda Susan (allegedly an ABNEY)! William RUSSELL's family was certainly in Tennessee.

Unfortunately, Alyda RUSSELL's parentage has not been discovered. Nonetheless, she is definitely near kin to William RUSSELL as his son was surety for her marriage to this "other" Abner ABNEY. She could have been William's daughter; and Benjamin could have been her brother.

But who was this Abner? Marrying a kinswoman of Rhoda Susan definitely leads one to believe that he was closely related to her. After all, they were also both in Tennessee. So, does this give any credence to the belief that Rhoda Susan was in fact an ABNEY? Could Abner have been her brother? Could he have married his niece? Perhaps this marriage was in his "golden years", for if he was Rhoda Susan's brother, he would have to have been born around the 1740's and would therefore have been near his late 50's or early 60's when this marriage took place.

Could this Abner ABNEY have been another "lost son" of Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699)? Could Rhoda have been a "lost daughter" of this same Paul ABNEY?

The author had tried to identify this Abner with the son of Pvt. Paul ABNEY/ABNER & Rhoda NORMAN. However, that Abner (see II on page 2) ABNEY was b. 1795 and would only have been about 8 years old in 1803 when this marriage took place.

However, there have been two other ABNEY's associated with Pvt. Paul ABNEY/ABNER's family, to wit: George & Joshua ABNEY. Could Abner ABNEY have been a son of one of those mystery ABNEY's? Perhaps his wife was a first cousin.

Anyone with any additional information on this Abner ABNEY, please contact the author at Abney-CAA@c-gate.net; or mail to the CAA address at the end of this newsletter.

For reference, we will refer to this problem as Problem #57. All input, as usual, is greatly appreciated.

Problem #26 re-visited

Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY

Do to the apparent kinship with Abner ABNEY as outlined in the article beginning on page 2, the author believes there is a strong indication that Rhoda Susan is closely associated with the ever-mysterious family of Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699). This, however, remains purely speculation. Anyone having information or ideas, please contact the CAA.

Problem #37 re-visited

Issue of W^m ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON

(thanks to Cousin Lisa SONS)

Since publishing the problem of the issue of William ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON, the author has received a number of letters and messages of interest. However, only one, from Cousin Lisa SONS, gave any issue (or apparent issue) of this couple. According to Cousin Lisa, William & Delilah had issue:

1. John ABNEY (m. Milly HENDRICKS on 21 May 1834 in Estill Co., Ky.)
2. Melinda ABNEY (m. Cleveland POWELL on 17 May 1832 in Estill Co., Ky.)

The author has confirmed these marriages with *Marriages in Estill County, Kentucky* from the Internet.

This is the only issue the author is aware of at this time. However, there must be more.

This problem remains open and the author would appreciate any additional information on the issue of this couple.

Problem #58

Parentage of Dr. James "Henry" ABNER

(submitted by Cousin Jeri COFFMAN EDWARDS)

Seeking proof that Dr. James "Henry" ABNER was a s/o Matthew ABNEY/ABNER (s/o Pvt. Paul ABNEY/ABNER & Rhoda NORMAN) by his second wife, Leticia BURKE of North Carolina.

Dr. ABNER was born 03 Aug 1838 in Franklin Co., Il. He m. Mary "Elizabeth" WHITLOW on 03 Jul 1858 in Franklin Co., Il.; and died 22 May 1909 in Boone Co., Ar. Dr. ABNER & Elizabeth had issue: Leticia E., Benjamin R., & Temperance.

Problem #52 re-visited

John Wesley ABNER who died in Georgia

(census work by R.R. ABNEY Jr.)

The John Wesley ABNER b. 21 Aug 1836; d. 21 Apr 1920 "seems" to be the John, son of David ABNEY & Martha n.n. However, one problem continues to nag the author. The birth year of this John, according to Cousin Carrie ABNER, is known to be 1836. However, according to at least three census records of David's son, John, he was born circa 1841. Could his "known" birth date have been in error? The census records all seem to agree.

Also compare the known children of John (by family tradition) with the children given on the 1880 census:

census tradition

1. Mattie (ae.11)Mattie (b.1869)
2. Jimmie (ae.8)Jas. David (b.1871)
3. Willie (ae.6)William (b.1873)
4. Fannie (ae.4)
5. Jonnie (ae.2)
6. Marion Asbury (b.1881)
7. Joe

It seems hard to dispute this as the same family. Moreover, David's wife, and a daughter, too, were named Martha. John Wesley ABNER named his first daughter Mattie (a nickname for Martha) and his first son James David. David also had a son named Joseph. John Wesley also called a son Joe.

John Wesley ABNER's wife's name was Mandy C. (surname still unknown).

For David ABNEY's parentage, see Problem #59.

Problem #59

Parentage of David ABNEY

David ABNEY was born in South Carolina ca.1804. He appeared on the census records of Jackson Co., Ga. in 1840 & 1850. The author believes that he is a son of Hezekiah ABNEY (son of Elisha ABNEY/ ABNER; son of Abner ABNEY; son of Dannett ABNEY Sr.). Hezekiah ABNEY was on the Georgia census of 1830, also in Jackson County. Also appearing in Jackson County in 1830 and/or 1840 were John ABNEY & Benjamin Hezekiah ABNEY, other sons of Hezekiah. Can anyone provide proof that this David ABNEY was or was not a son of Hezekiah ABNEY?

Problem #60

Thomas ABNEY of Surry, England

(submitted by Cousin C. Phyllis WEAVER EAST)

From: "*Passengers to America*" TIPPER - 3

Va. 1763-Hanover Co.

Thomas ABNEY, age 48, Occupation, Leather Dresser, from Surry [England]. On the ship *Elizabeth*. to Maryland, as a indented Servant.

[No other ABNEY's mentioned.]

Can anyone identify this Thomas ABNEY with his English family? Does anyone know if this Thomas ABNEY m. and had issue? Having come to America in 1763 at the age of 48, it is possible he did not leave issue here.

Abney's Law of Genealogy

"The Disappearing Photograph Predicament"

"Nobody in your family knows where
grandmother's old photographs are."

Personalized Family Forums

They work!

Are you having a problem delineating a certain ABNEY branch; or proving your ABNEY ancestry? Welcome to the ABNEY family! Many times it is very difficult to find that proof we so desperately long for. However, we have a system that has worked already, and may work for you.

Twice we have formed e-mail forums with genealogists from particular branches of the ABNEY family, all having difficulties proving an ancestor or family group. The first forum was a complete success. The second forum has been very successful, and we've just made a major breakthrough and are very close to proving our newly conceived theory!

If you have a problem with a particular branch of your family, please contact the author. He will be happy to search for other researchers in your line, to moderate the forum; and to interject what information and thoughts he has on your branch.

Together, several researchers can work through a multitude of even some of the hardest problems. The forum consists of several genealogists, all sharing information with each other; and all joining in with ideas and theories. Eventually, someone has a break-through theory; or finds a particular piece of evidence to cement the whole thing together. The best way to conduct these forums is, of course, via email. In this manner, our mode of correspondence is rapid, and thoughts are still fresh in one's mind when the response is received. If you don't have an email address...get one! You'll love it; and will realize the potential of the Internet as a genealogical research tool. Personalized Family Forums...they work! Contact the author today!

~~~~~ Cousin John's Corner ~~~~~

For many decades now, Cousin John R. HENSELL has been researching the ABNEY family; and has published several works on the subject. He has volunteered to write articles for the newsletter concerning the Medieval families. The author wishes to welcome Cousin John to our staff. Herewith please find Cousin John's first article:

### *"Heraldry"*

...by John R. HENSELL

Throughout the ages, men have sought means to identify themselves. Ancient Egyptians had standards with animals on them, which were carried into battle. Each Hebrew tribe had a particular emblem (eg. the standard of Judah with a lion upon it). Each division in the army has a distinctive emblem. Cattle & stock brands were Heraldry of the range and in the days of the open range at roundup, each owner recognized his cattle by his brand. Emblems also represent various products.

Coat armor for individuals was not very common in Europe until after the Crusades, when it became necessary for the nobles and rulers to distinguish themselves. They needed something for their men to rally around, when it became a science bound by regulations which were supervised by a College of Heralds, which are still in existence in England, Ireland, & Scotland.

To further differentiate, each son had a badge of cadetsy added to his family Arms, a custom which was done away with at the close of the Middle Ages, when standing armies came into existence. We will discuss what pertains only to our ABNEY Coat of Arms.

The Arms (shield) is divided into the chief (upper third), fess (middle third), and base. The metals are or (gold) and argent (silver). The color which applies to the ALBINI & ABNEY Arms is gules (red). The ALBINI Arms are described as: Gules (red), a lion rampant, or (gold). The Crest (above the Arms) is described as: demi-lion (half-lion) rampant, or (gold), holding a pellet, gules (red), between the paws. The Mantle [which is not officially a part of the Coat or Arms] is a covering of the neck extending from the base of the helmet, and contains the colors [and metals] in the Arms. You will notice that the d'INGWARDBY Coat of Arms (used by our ABNEY family) has the identical Crest and Mantling as those of ALBINI. In modern-day Heraldry, the helmet is represented by a torso or wreath. The Arms of d'INGWARDBY are: On a chief, gules (red), a lion passant (walking), argent (silver). See his book, *ABNEY* fore these and other family Coats of Arms.

## William Madison ABNEY, John Jefferson ABNEY, & the Missouri ABNEY's

(Conclusions of the Forum comprised of genealogists: R.R. Abney Jr., Alfred C. BIGUM, Ruth A. DUNHAM, Terry L. DURHAM, James E. GENTRY, Marthellen MILLER & Donna J. PORTER)

Without going into too much detail, this is one of our Forum success stories. Although these problems are not brought to full closure, the members of this forum feel that these conclusions are based on sound evidence, and if they change, it will be ever so slightly. We are still seeking proof to these kinships.

Problem #12 was published by the author in the premier issue of the AFR, back in Nov 1996. Problem #15 was submitted by Cousin Donna PORTER, and was published in Vol.I, Iss.3 (Mar 1997). Several other cousins wrote in last year with their problems. At that point, I suggested a forum to pool our research and our thoughts, due to the fact that the forum created for a Boone Co., Indiana family had been so successful. Around Aug 1998, the

author began working with Cousins Ruth DUNHAM and Jay GENTRY. Later, Cousin Martie MILLER was added, and Cousin Terry DURHAM shortly thereafter.

We worked these problems for many months until recently our Shirt-tail Cousin, Al BIGUM made the author realize that not only were his BIGUM's associated with these Missouri lines, so was John Jefferson ABNEY of Cousin Donna PORTER's ancestry. Cousins Al & Donna joined our group and, with the advent of new documentation, combined with our growing collection of older work, we were able to put together a logical descendant chart of these Missouri families.

This chart is incomplete and not 100% proved. Therefore, do not accept it as gospel. However, we present this chart here in hopes that someone out there might have that one document we're looking for to close this case. Our greatest need is a document or information concerning the correct age of John ABNEY/ABNER (son of John ABNEY/ ABNER & Martha "Patsy" PUCKETT) who m1. Matilda McCARTY in Estill Co., Kentucky in 1822.

### Descendants of John ABNEY/ABNER

John ABNEY/ABNER of VA (est.1803-bef.1858)

+1 Matilda McCARTY (m.13 Aug 1822 Estill Co.)

: James M. ABNEY of KY (1824-1915)

: +1 Rebecca RICHARDSON (?-1862)

:. Mary F. ABNEY of TX (1847-?)  
:. + W.I. SMITH of England  
:. Josephine ABNEY of TX (1849-1919)  
:. + Carol BRADLEY  
:. + Hugh MILLER  
:. + Tandy JOHNSON  
:. James E. ABNEY of MO (1855-?)  
:. + Mary "Francis" KELLY (1862-?)  
:. Columbus ABNEY of MO (1856-?)  
:. July Ann ABNEY of MO (1861-?)  
:. +2 Lucinda BEARDON (widow KELLY)  
:. n.n. ABNEY of MO (died in infancy)  
:. Newton B. ABNEY of MO (1870-?)  
:. + Mary TENNISON (widow GIDEON)  
:. Amanda Jane ABNEY of MO (1874-?)  
:. + Rodney DAVIS  
:. Susan Ann ABNEY of MO (1880-1935)  
: Matilda ABNER of KY (est.1825-?)  
: + Pharen McGOWEN  
: Docia ABNER of KY (est.1827-1862)  
: + Lafayette GENTRY of MO (1826-?)  
:. Nancy Jane GENTRY of MO (1847-?)  
:. + W.S. WOOLDRIDGE  
:. John M. GENTRY of MO (1851-?)  
:. Mary GENTRY of MO (1853-?)  
:. + Elihu LEULLAN

: . Thos. Lafayette GENTRY of MO (1861-?)  
: . + Sarah Elizabeth SPANGLER  
: Charlotte ABNER of MO (est.1829-?)  
: + Gabriel MAUPIN  
  
: Sarah "Sally" ABNEY of KY (1830-?)  
: + Claiborne CUPP  
: . Stacy CUPP of MO (1849-?)  
: . + James LINEBAUGH  
: . Delicy CUPP of MO (1850-?)  
: Lavina Jane ABNEY of KY (1833-1921)  
: + Samuel "Sam" JACKSON of TN (1828-?)  
: . James JACKSON of MO (1849-?)  
: . Nancy JACKSON of MO  
: . Mary JACKSON of MO  
: . + James LINEBAUGH (widower of CUPP)  
: . William JACKSON of MO (John's twin)  
: . + Dora Ann ABNER of MO (1879-?)  
: . Jn. H. JACKSON of MO (William's twin)  
: . Isaac JACKSON of MO (Thomas' twin)  
: . Thomas JACKSON of MO (Isaac's twin)  
: Emeline ABNER of KY (1834-1923)  
: +1 Thomas JACKSON  
: +2 James Arthur CHENEY of MO (1825-1861)  
: . Susangeline CHENEY of MO (1856-1942)  
: . + Geo. Washington PIPPIN (1849-1923)

: . John William CHENEY of MO (1860-?)  
: . Mary Jane CHENEY of MO (1861-1934)  
: . + Henry Axel ACKERMAN of Sweden  
: +3 Robert J. RICHARDSON of MO (1835-1888)  
: . Henry L. RICHARDSON of MO (1862-?)  
: . + Della Ann BUNGARDNER  
: . George A. RICHARDSON of MO (1868-?)  
: . H.F. Louisa RICHARDSON of MO (1870-?)  
: . + Andrew FRIEND  
: . Jos. Walter RICHARDSON of MO (1872-?)  
: . Dora Jane McCLINTOCK  
: . Edward L.D. RICHARDSON of MO (1874-?)  
: . + Eliza Ann HALL  
: . Rufus O. RICHARDSON of MO (1878-1953)  
: . + Tressie Augustia FESLER  
: Josiah ABNER of IL (ca.1838-?)  
: Harriett Francis ABNER of IL (1839-?)  
: + James Alfred (Alfred Jas.?) RICHARDSON  
: . Silas RICHARDSON of MO  
: . Edward RICHARDSON of MO  
: . Melvin RICHARDSON of MO  
: . Henry C. RICHARDSON of MO (1861-1913)  
: . + Mary Eliz. ABNEY of MO (1870-1912)  
: . James RICHARDSON of MO  
: . Margaret RICHARDSON of MO  
: William ABNER of MO (ca.1844-?)

+2 Rebecca "Jane" BELL (see her chart pg.7)  
: William "Madison" ABNER of MO (1849-1933)  
: + Amanda Samantha HALL of IL  
: . Jonathan M. ABNER of MO (1867-?)  
: . James ABNER of MO (1870-?)  
: . Mary J. ABNER of MO (1872-?)  
: . Margaret Emeline ABNER of MO (1873-?)  
: . Dora Ann ABNER of MO (1879-?)  
: . + William JACKSON (above)  
: . Oliver ABNER of MO  
: . George ABNER of MO  
: . Leona ABNER of MO (1885-?)  
: John Jefferson ABNEY of IL (1851-1886)  
: + Sarah Ann "Sally" ADKINS of MO  
: . Allen Lee ABNEY of MO (1872-1927)  
: . + Minnie WEST  
: . Herodias ABNEY of MO (1874-1954)  
: . +1 n.n.  
: . +2 William H. SELBY (1867-1905)  
: . William Neely ABNEY of MO (1876-1947)  
: . + Cleo MARAH  
: . Pearl ABNEY of MO (1878-?)  
: . + Johanna EVERDINA of Holland  
: . Franklin Ward ABNEY of MO (1881-1953)  
: . + Hettie NIDA  
: . Estella Eliz. ABNEY of MO (1883-?)

: Esther ABNER of IL (1855-1942)  
: +1 Thomas INLOW  
: +2 Lewis STRICKLIN of WV (1850-1952)  
: . Laura STRICKLIN of MO (1875-?)  
: . + n.n. MYERS  
: . Lula B. "Daisy" STRICKLIN of MO  
: . + n.n. SMITH (note: Daisy 1878-?)  
: . Nellie S. STRICKLIN of MO (?-1835)  
: . + n.n. MUNDELL  
: . Herman L. STRICKLIN of MO (?-1918)  
: . + Ora SQUIRES  
: . Walter S. STRICKLIN of MO  
: . Jemina "Mina" STRICKLIN of MO  
: . + n.n. AUSTIN  
: . Noble Bryan STRICKLIN of MO (1897-?)  
: . + n.n.

### Descendants of Rebecca "Jane" BELL

Rebecca "Jane" BELL of TN (1819-?)  
+1 John ABNEY/ABNER (see first chart)  
+2 Andrew J. BIGHAM  
: Belle BIGUM of IL (1859-?)  
: + n.n. SHERBURN  
: William Henry BIGUM of IL (1860-1914)  
: + Lillie Lee CHILES (1864-1958)  
: . Alfred William BIGUM (1891-1880)  
: . + Margery Jane WHITTSET (1898-1936)

: . . Alfred Clark BIGUM (b.1920)

: Ann BIGUM of IL (1863-?)

: + n.n. TANTON

: George BIGUM of IL (1867-?)

Rebecca "Jane" BELL has been a key figure in our research. According to the death certificate of her daughter, Esther ABNER: Esther's parents were John ABNER & Jane BELL.

John ABNER m. Rebecca n.n. (per 1850 census).

Andrew J. BIGHAM m. Rebecca Jane ABNER in 1858. Thus, the three ladies in these records, to wit: Jane BELL, Rebecca n.n., and Rebecca Jane ABNER, are one! The references to Rebecca "Jane" BELL are the glue that holds this theory together.

The fact that Docia ABNER m. Lafayette GENTRY bears the same name (Docia) as a sister of John ABNEY/ABNER (m. Matilda McCARTY); and that John ABNEY/ABNER of the Missouri records was from Kentucky (John m. Matilda in Estill Co., Ky.); and the fact that both John's used the surname ABNER as well as ABNEY; leads us to believe that the John ABNEY/ABNER of the Missouri records is the same John ABNEY/ABNER who m. Matilda McCARTY.

From all indications, John ABNEY/ABNER was b. estimated 1803, probably in Amherst Co., Va. (to John ABNEY/ABNER & Martha "Patsy" PUCKETT). With his parents, he migrated Kentucky as a small boy (or infant), hence the statement, "he was 'from' Kentucky. In the 1900 Census of his son, James, claims he was born in Virginia. These ABNEY/ABNER's seem to have settled in Clark Co. for a brief period before moving to Estill Co. John m. Matilda McCARTY on 13 Aug 1822 in Estill Co. Apparently, they had issue, 7 children, born (1824-1834) in Kentucky, before migrating to Illinois. Two children were born (1838-1839) to them in Illinois before they migrated to Missouri, where Matilda seems to have borne her last child ca.1844 in Chariton Co. Here, it appears, that Matilda McCARTY died. John re-married to Rebecca "Jane" BELL of Tennessee sometime around 1847-8 or so. They were probably married in Chariton Co., Mo., although no marriage record has been found. It should be noted that the courthouse at Chariton burned in 1864 and some records were lost. Together, John & Rebecca had one son, "Madison" who appears to be the William Madison ABNER who m. Amanda Samantha HALL (although the forum is unsure as to "which" William m. A.S. HALL). John & Rebecca appear on the 1850 census in Chariton Co., Mo. with issue: Emeline, Josiah, Harriet, William, & Madison. An earlier discovered

record claims that William Madison ABNER was b. 14 Jul 1845, which would indicate that he was the William born to John & Matilda. However, Rebecca went to live with William and his family, hence it is believed that the William whom Rebecca lived with was her son, William, called "Madison" on the 1850 census.

Sometime shortly hereafter, John & Rebecca migrated to Illinois, where they appear to have settled in Winchester, Scott Co. Here Rebecca bore John two more children, John Jefferson & Esther (1851-1855). The latter was born in Winchester, hence our belief that John settled in Scott Co., Il. Here, John appears to have died sometime before 1858. If we could find his death or burial record, giving a good age for John, we could solidify our theory. The 1850 census claims John m. Rebecca was ae.40. However, this age seems to be off by about 7 years or so.

Rebecca appears to have moved the family to Greene Co., Il. where on 09 Aug 1858, she married Andrew J. BIGHAM. Andrew & Rebecca had issue: Belle, William Henry, Ann, & George (1859-1867). Hereafter, Andrew disappears from the records and is believed to have died in Greene Co., Il. This family has yet to be located in the 1860 census. Locating them in the 1860 would greatly assist us in proving or disproving parts of this theory.

By 1870, the family had returned to Missouri. Here, Rebecca was living with the family of her son William in Macon Co., Mo. In that census, Rebecca is given the surname ABNER instead of BIGHAM.

However, Rebecca's children from both John ABNER and Andrew BIGHAM were not living with her. Her eldest son, John Jefferson ABNEY had become the man in their family. On the 1870 census, he appears in Benton Co., Mo., a 19-year old farmer, as head of household. In his household is his sister, Esther, ae.16 (keeping house), and half-siblings, Belle, William, Ann, & George. Interestingly enough (and to further add to our confusion), all members of this household were reported as being surnamed ABNER - even the BIGHAM children.

An obituary of Esther ABNER STRICKLIN (also written STRICKLEN) confirms that she was survived by half-sisters Ann TANTON & Bell SHERBURN. These are the BIGHAM sisters listed as ABNER's in the 1870 census!

Since the BIGHAM children were very young when their father died, they were not aware of the correct spelling of their surname. In fact, they may not even have known that they were only siblings of the half-blood with John and Esther until they got older. Nonetheless, these BIGHAM children spelled their surname phonetically, BIGUM, which surname has survived in this branch to this day.

Work on this family is far from complete. The descendant chart given above may be very close to perfect. However, there are still a few details we'd like to get worked out in order to feel more comfortable with it.

We would be very grateful if anyone out there can offer any evidence. Our major concern at this time is when & where John ABNER m. Rebecca Jane BELL was born, and when & where he died. He is the key to our mystery, and could be the proof to our theory!

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### In Closing...

A special thanks to Cousin C. Phyllis WEAVER EAST for her census and other work in Alabama and for donating same to the CAA. Also, a special thanks to Cousin Sue MILLER HAWKINS for the census work in Indiana. Both of these cousins have joined the ranks with Cousins Marie McLEAN & Stacey LONG in assisting the CAA in collecting every ABNEY/ABNER/ABNA/&c. in every census available.

Our Missouri forum has sent in some Missouri ABNEY's, however, Cousin Ruth A. DUNHAM has now collected every ABNEY/&c. in every Missouri census and is donating same to the CAA. Once again I'd like to thank "Big Al" BIGUM, & cousins Terry DURHAM, Jay GENTRY, Martie MILLER, & Donna PORTER. I appreciate all the documents (and photographs) received, and those documents which we will still be collecting, working toward more de-finitive closure to these Missouri ABNEY problems.

A special thanks to "Cousin-in-law" Thomas Edgerton VAN NESS for sending us numerous new cousins. His unselfishness is truly admirable.

Thanks to Cousin John R. HENSELL for his splendid article on "Heraldry". We continue to enjoy his work.

As a final note, my move to Houston, Texas is planned for late April to mid-May. It may be a little later than that; but that's the plan as of this moment. I will continue this publication from Houston, Texas; and plan no interruption of issuance. Therefore, for those genealogists who eagerly await each new issue, set your mind at ease. The *AFR* lives on!

Once again, thanks for everything!

Your cousin,

**R.R. Abney Jr.**

**Fortiter et Honestè**