

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

May, 1999 Volume III, Issue III

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

The Issue of Dr. Abraham 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,

I am still in Mississippi. My plans to return to college have been blocked at every pathway. I am now preparing to move to Biloxi, Mississippi. There I will deal Blackjack as previously planned.

As Cousin Gina Abney advised, my computer hard drive has crashed. My backup diskettes are not functioning for some reason; and the only computer which can read the tape drive is the one that crashed! So, until I can afford to get it looked at, I will not know the extent of my losses.

We now have the lines of 291 genealogists in the CAA database (I suspect we have many more by now; but I can't check)! I wish I would have kept track of this for the last three years. It is exciting to see the database growing so quickly.

As ya'll can see, the list of Census Volunteers is growing. This is very encouraging. Would anyone out there like to volunteer for Tennessee or Arkansas? We need these censuses to run down some "lost" lines.

Please pardon any errors in this newsletter that may have arisen from the use of my laptop and not having my main computer and reference materials available.

As always, we are still looking for volunteers in every area. If you should be so inclined, please drop me a line. 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**
- 17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - **RR/T***

Volume II

- 23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN - **RR**
- 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**
- 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 - **NR**
- 58. Parentage of Dr. James "Henry" ABNER - **NR**
- 59. Parentage of David ABNEY of SC - **NR**
- 60. Thomas ABNEY of Surrey, England - **NR**

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)**

"The Issue of Dr. Abraham ABNEY & Cassandra (MEREDITH?)"

One factor that must be considered when delineating the early ABNEY families is their closeness to each other. In the past few years, the author has shown that many times, the issue of these Generation One ABNEY's have been confused. Dr. Abraham ABNEY has been a focal point of much of this "kidnapping". Children, and sometimes grand-children of George, Dannett Jr., and Paul, have been, and often still are shown in Dr. Abraham ABNEY's family. The author has taken these ABNEY's, and placed them in their proper families, oftentimes to the dismay of many readers.

The author, being descended from Dr. Abraham ABNEY, understands that many consider it an honor to be so descended. However, every ABNEY descendant must be proud of his/her own ABNEY ancestor, no matter which one it is proved to be.

The fact remains that the only issue of Dr. Abraham ABNEY, proved beyond the shadow of a doubt, is Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY. However, in "tearing down" the fictitious family of Dr. Abraham ABNEY, the author also realizes that a man who lived to a ripe old age (about 84 years) in early Virginia & South Carolina, surely had more than just one child. The author believes he did, and is prepared, in this article, to once again shock the genealogical world of ABNEY researchers. This information will change decades of beliefs of "accepted but incorrect" ABNEY history. The reader should be prepared to look at his/her family history in a new light.

In future issues, we will refer to this problem as #61, "the issue of Dr. Abraham ABNEY".

The first clues to the discovery of Dr. Abraham ABNEY's children are found in the studying of the will of his brother, George, and in geographical evidence. George ABNEY's will mentions only four sons, to wit: Samuel, Michael, Dannett, & William. He mentions no daughters, yet, we insist on giving him a daughter, Rebecca ABNEY who m. Edward DEAN, simply because Edward calls Dannett ABNEY (s/o George) his brother-in-law. However, there are other ways to be a brother-in-law. Therefore, we cannot accept this conclusion as fact based on a tunnel-view translation of this phrase.

So is the author writing that George had no daughters? No, but it certainly is possible. Or, perhaps he had no "surviving" daughters. Either way, the author isn't easily convinced that persons not named in a will should be readily added to a family group.

Therefore, the possibility remains that Rebecca ABNEY who m. Edward DEAN was not a daughter of George ABNEY. So whose daughter could she have been? Dr. Abraham ABNEY's daughter, of course! How so? An excellent clue appears in a deed in Hanover Co., Va. of Dr. Abraham ABNEY to Isaac BREEDING dated 04 Oct 1745 and recorded 1st Mon. Nov 1745. as follows:

Abraham ABNEY of Hanover Co. to Isaac BREEDING of Blissland Par., New Kent Co., for £27/10, all that plantation which Edward DEAN now lives on, part of a greater tract formerly belonging to said ABNEY, 172 a. bounded by Gilleys Creek. /s/ Abra. ABNEY, Casaⁿ ABNEY. /w/ William BRUCE, Edward (his + mark) DEAN, William (his g mark) GADBRY. Casana, wife of Abraham, relinquished her dower right.

Why was Edward DEAN living on Dr. Abraham ABNEY's land? If he was a son-in-law of George ABNEY, why wasn't he living on George's land?

It is well known that George owned land in Hanover Co., Va. However, in 1745, George lived in Henrico Co., Va., having had removed from Hanover by 1735.

So here we have Edward DEAN living on Dr. Abraham ABNEY's land, and witnessing the deed to sell that land, as well. So where would Edward DEAN live after this land was sold? Simple answer: Lunenburg Co., Va. That's right! At this time, he migrated with Dr. Abraham ABNEY to Lunenburg Co., Va. Also going to Lunenburg around this time was George ABNEY and shortly thereafter, William SPRAGGINS, brother-in-law of Dr. Abraham & George.

So, although these ABNEY's migrated to the same area around the same time, Edward DEAN, who was living on Dr. Abraham's land, seems to have migrated "with" Dr. Abraham (as we can assume that since Edward DEAN's home was being sold, he must also need a new place to live). These ABNEY's & Edward DEAN are proved to have migrated to Lunenburg Co.

Okay, suppose we think there could be some credence given to this theory. If Edward DEAN was son-in-law to Dr. Abraham ABNEY, then Rebecca ABNEY was Dannett ABNEY's first cousin. How then did Edward DEAN refer to him as "brother-in-law". There is circumstantial evidence pointing toward a simple answer to this question.

Dannett ABNEY (s/o George) m. Cassandra. Her surname is not known. However, is it purely coincidental that Dr. Abraham's wife was also named Cassandra? Suppose Dr. Abraham and his wife, Cassandra named a daughter Cassandra. Further suppose that she married her cousin, Dannett ABNEY. Since this Cassandra ABNEY would be a daughter of Dr. Abraham ABNEY, she would also be a sister of Rebecca ABNEY, hence a sister-in-law to Edward DEAN. Therefore, her husband (Dannett ABNEY, s/o George) would also be a brother-

in-law to Rebecca ABNEY and to Rebecca's husband, Edward DEAN! Here, we have the pieces to the puzzle fitting perfectly into place!

If we use the great weight or preponderance of the evidence, we have to go with this theory, as opposed to the theory that Rebecca was a daughter of George. Why? Here's the greater weight of the evidence:

Edward DEAN as a son-in-law of:

Dr. Abraham George

1. living on his land
2. wife not in George's will
3. called Dannett bro-in-lawditto
4. migrated with him

The only evidence we have that Rebecca was a daughter of George was that Edward DEAN called Dannett ABNEY his brother-in-law! However, that statement still holds true in the author's theory!

Is there additional evidence? Perhaps. In his book "ABNEY Supplement" by Cousin John R. HENSELL *1988, Cousin John writes (on page 109) "Edward DEAN...In a deed he mentions Nathaniel ABNEY as his brother-in-law". Does such a deed really exist or is this a typographical error? Perhaps Cousin John can shed some light on this subject.

Nevertheless, without this deed, the greater weight or preponderance of the evidence is very much in favor of accepting this theory above the older theory.

The author believes, therefore, that our research should be geared toward proving the children of Dr. Abraham ABNEY, of whom it now appears that Rebecca and Cassandra are in that category!

We can further prove a closeness between Dr. Abraham ABNEY & Dannett ABNEY, George's son. They were neighbors (their land adjoined) in Lunenburg and Halifax Counties, Virginia together. After George's death, Dr. Abraham ABNEY & George's sons migrated to South Carolina, albeit different areas.

However, Cassandra ABNEY (widow of Dr. Abraham) was granted land in Orangeburg Dist., S.C. on 01 Jan 1787. Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY had removed to Orangeburg District shortly before, where he lived in Old Winton County (now Barnwell County). Dr. Nathaniel was a Magistrate in Winton County. However, a certain entry in the Winton County Minutes declares, "appraisement of Dannett ABNEY, Esq. was returned by order to be recorded". This proves that Dannett

ABNEY owned land in Winton County. He may not have lived on this land, but he certainly owned it. Why?

Cousin Margaret HARLOW presents a possibility: Suppose Cassandra (widow of Dr. Abraham) died and left a portion of her land to Cassandra (wife of Dannett ABNEY). In this wise, Cassandra (wife of Dannett ABNEY) as an heiress of Cassandra (widow of Dr. Abraham) would show her to have been the elder Cassandra's daughter, hence this theory would become fact. Since Dannett ABNEY was Cassandra's husband, her land is his land. Finding a deed of this land could prove this theory.

Descendants of Dannett ABNEY & Cassandra, as well as those of Dr. Abraham ABNEY & Cassandra, should search the records of Orangeburg District, and Winton & Barnwell County, S.C. to find a will of Cassandra, or deed of Cassandra and/or Dannett. The proof must lie in Orangeburg District, S.C.

Proving this theory may also provide us with clues to another mystery of both the ABNEY & the DEAN family. That mystery is: the parentage of Elizabeth Malonia "Charity" ABNEY who m. Absalom DEAN.

Simeon Cobb DEAN was a son of Absalom and Charity. When in his 90's, he wrote that his mother was a daughter of a British doctor. The author and other researchers of this line, have deemed it impossible for such a relationship to exist. However, as with most family tradition, there is a degree of truth which has to be extrapolated from the tradition. So what is the truth of Simeon's statement?

He obviously must have known that his mother was an ABNEY. Might he also have known, from family tradition, that his British doctor ancestor was an ABNEY? Therefore, isn't it fairly easy to realize that he could have put two-and-two together and assumed that his mother was descended from the British doctor, when in reality, his father was the one descended from the British doctor? Of course, that would be an easy mistake to make. However, if the theory presented above is true, than Absalom DEAN might descend from Edward DEAN and Rebecca ABNEY; therefore Absalom DEAN would be descended from the British doctor, Dr. Abraham ABNEY who was a doctor in the British Colony of Virginia as early as 1742!

The ancestry of Absalom DEAN is still a mystery. However, the theory as presented above would give some credence to Simeon DEAN's statement; as well as to virtually the same statement made by his nephew, Emory Franklin DEAN.

This theory is based purely on circumstantial evidence! However, as previously stated, the evidence is much more in favor of this theory, than of the older theory.

In order to discover the ABNEY history, and put that history into a logical order, we must be willing to change those beliefs that we've had for many decades. We must be willing to be flexible, to try new theories, especially if the new theories make more sense; and logically delineate a particular family line without discrepancy.

Please feel free to make any comments about this theory, and provide any supporting documentation available. Furthermore, in your South Carolina searches, please look for a will of Dr. Abraham ABNEY. This will should have been filed in that part of Camden District (around 1784-1787) which later became Chester County.

Problem #17 re-visited

Charles ABNEY (grandson of Dannett ABNEY)

These early Charles ABNEY's have been discussed a number of times before, yet remain mysterious.

Only one has been identified, to wit: the grandson of Dannett ABNEY (son of George). But who was his father?

The author has realized three early Charles ABNEY's, to wit: The 1790 Charles ABNEY in Cheraw District, SC; the 1810 Charles ABNEY in Edgefield Co., SC; and the grandson of Dannett.

Charles ABNEY of the 1790 census shows: 2 males 16 & over, 1 male under 16, and one female. These males could have been Charles and sons William and Paul. No Charles ABNEY appears in the 1800 census of SC. The nearest ABNEY of Generation One was Dr. Abraham ABNEY, who lived in Cheraw District. Therefore, at this time, it is believed that this Charles ABNEY "may have been" Dr. Abraham's son.

Charles ABNEY of the 1810 census (Edgefield Co.) shows: 1 male age 26-45, 1 female 26-45, and 3 females under 10. In 1820 he appears as 1 male 26-45, 2 females 16-26, and 1 female 45+. In 1830 he appears as 1 male 50-60, 1 male 5-10, 1 male under 5, 1 female 40-50, and 2 females 15-20.

Another Charles ABNEY was called a grandson by Dannett ABNEY (s/o George).

There is a logical placement of these three Charles ABNEY's in our family history. However, as with many of the conclusions of the Colonial families, this placement is based on circumstantial evidence.

The first Charles ABNEY, for no reason other than geographical location, and the fact that it is illogical to believe that Dr. Abraham didn't have more than 3 children, can be placed in the good doctor's family.

Now if the theories about the 1790 Charles, and that presented in the main article of this newsletter are correct, then Cassandra ABNEY, Dannett ABNEY's wife, had a brother named Charles.

It would stand to reason (or at least be a logical conclusion) that Cassandra might want to name a son Charles after her brother. This would account for the Charles ABNEY who first appeared as an adult in the 1810 census. This Charles, therefore, would be a son of Dannett ABNEY & Cassandra ABNEY. Logically,

therefore, this Charles could name a son after himself, and we'd account for the grandson of Dannett named Charles ABNEY.

Granted, these conclusions are based on very weak evidence. However, we must formulate theories if we're going to get these early generations in order.

Moreover, there are known descendants from Dannett ABNEY & Cassandra, his wife. Therefore, this research is very important to many of the present-day ABNEY family. Work should, therefore, continue on this line.

All information is gratefully accepted.

Abney's Law of Genealogy

"The Neglected Worker Syndrome"

"No matter what time you get off from work, the 'local history' section of your favorite library closes half an hour earlier"

Problems #12, #15, & #54

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

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

A special thanks to

Cousin Jennie ABNEY-GANT

from the Missouri forum!

Thanks to information provided by Cousin Jennie ABNEY-GANT, it has been determined by our growing forum, that we are researching two different ABNEY's who married two different Rebecca's.

The first, John ABNEY m1. Matilda M^cCARTY 13 Aug 1822 in Estill Co., Ky. & had issue. He seems to have m2. Rebecca n.n. who was living with John on the 1850 census in Chariton Co., Mo. (Although his age in that census seems to be off by at least 7 years). This Rebecca was still living in 1870 (when the second Rebecca had already been deceased). This, therefore, is our proof that these are two different Rebecca's; the one living in 1870, the other deceased by 1870.

The second ABNEY might not have been a John, however, it is believed he was. He m. Rebecca "Jane" BELL and had issue. After his death, she m2. Andrew J. BIGHAM & had issue. She later m3. William JONES & had issue. This Rebecca appears on the 1870 Mortality Schedule of Illinois. John Jefferson ABNEY (believed to be her eldest son) was head of the household in the 1870 census. His sibling, Esther, & his half-siblings were all listed as being ABNEY's.

Children of Rebecca "Jane" BELL (ABNEY BIGHAM JONES) and their spouses:

0 1 2 3

Rebecca "Jane" BELL of TN (1819-?)

+1 (John?) ABNEY

: John Jefferson ABNEY

: + Sarah Ann "Sally" ADKINS

: Esther ABNEY

: +1 Thomas W. INLOW

: +2 Lewis STRICKLIN
+2 Andrew J. BIGHAM
: Belle BIGUM of IL (1859-?)
: + n.n. SHERBURN
: William Henry BIGUM of IL (1860-1914)
: + Lillie Lee CHILES (1864-1958)
: Ann BIGUM of IL (1863-?)
: + n.n. TANTON
+3 William JONES
: George JONES of IL (1867-?)

Corrigenda

In the previous issue, a certain Abner ABNEY was listed as a son of Harmon ABNEY. This erroneous information was gleaned from a previously published work. According to the administration of Harmon ABNEY's estate, there was no Abner. Thanks to Cousin Margaret HARLOW for this correction.

In the previous issue, John Jefferson ABNEY was listed as ABNER. Although some records may have erroneously reported his name as ABNER, his descendants have assured me that they have always used the surname ABNEY.

A Great Land Grant Web Site!!

For those of you who are Internet Genealogists, several cousins have advised me of a great web site for researching land records. *The Bureau of Land Management - Eastern States - General Land Office* can be found at URL:

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/asp/choosea.asp>

The following states are available on-line at this time: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, & Wisconsin.

Visitors to the site are able to look up land grants, and download copies of the grants. Certified copies of the grants can be ordered at \$1.50 each if so desired. This is an excellent site; and highly recommended by the author. Many thanks to the several cousins who have informed me about this site.

In Closing...

The CAA Electronic Membership Form

Have you completed the on-line membership form for the Centralized Abney Archives on the CAA Web Site?

Cousin Gina ABNEY has placed on-line an excellent membership form for the CAA. If you've not yet completed this membership form, please take a few moments to do so.

Some of our members who have been associated with me for sometime now may not be aware of this membership form. Please go to the web site and complete this form. This will help me to keep better track of our members.

This is where we'll end this newsletter at this time. Much other information was planned; but due to the hard drive crash, that information is unattainable at this time. Hopefully we'll be back to normal by the July issue.

Although it's never pleasant when these major disasters occur, it is nice to know that we have a backup system; and I am still able to publish the newsletter!

Next issue will be written (with any luck) from the beautiful Gulf Coast beaches in Biloxi, Mississippi. Anyone planning a vacation to the casino's of South Mississippi, please don't forget to stop in and say hello!

Once again, thanks for everything!

Your cousin,

R.R. Abney Jr.

Fortiter et Honeste

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