

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

November, 1997 Volume II, Issue I

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

"The ABNER Families"

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

Happy New Year (for the newsletter, that is)! Yes, my most treasured cousins, we have entered our second year. We have survived moving, income revisions, and the summer months (when interest in genealogy wanes a bit).

It excites me that with each issue our newsletter grows stronger. Last year many genealogists came together for the first time in history. We worked together, and some of us had the opportunity to meet some cousins face-to-face. I was able to spend time with Cousin John R. HENSELL, Cousin Joe H. BAKER Jr., Cousin F. Abney HINTGEN BREWER and Cousin Carrie SCALES EVANS. As one might expect, my knowledge increased immensely because of these genealogists, as it had previously from Cousin Jennie Helen ABNEY GANT, my mentor.

Last year we had the opportunity to recognize some great genealogists, like the ones mentioned above. We took the opportunity to recognize Cousin Richard C. HILL of Laurens, who brought an entire "new" line of HILL Cousins to the ABNEY Family; And Cousin Clo BROOKS for her discovery of Ursula ABNEY through baptismal records of Ursula, as well as those of Paul, & Dr. Abraham; And Cousin Jennie ABNEY GANT for her discovery of Paul Collins ABNEY. These were blessings to us all. We learned of another family that used the name Dannett (in addition to ABNEY, HILL, & MAYS); the WITT Family had Dannett Abney WITT (for which many thanks to Wayne WITT BATES). We solved some problems, which was the main reason for this newsletter! Cousin Sir James K. ABNEY, K.H.S. of Dallas & Cousin Don ABNEY of Kelowna had the will for Dannett ABNEY Jr., which changed (for many of us) centuries of misinformation. On that problem (#2), much information was also received from Cousin Louis O. ABNEY of Auburn and Cousin Richard L. ABNEY of Kokomo and others to whom I apologize for not remembering everyone. We are grateful. I'd also like to

extend a special note of thanks to Cousin Louis O. ABNEY for inspiring this newsletter.

I had the *Centralized ABNEY Archives* in operation since 1993, but the newsletter has allowed us to reach a greater number of people in a shorter period of time. Also, thanks to Cousin Abney BREWER, many of our readers now receive the newsletter via E-Mail. Cousin Abney makes a living in the computer field, yet donated her time to the CAA to help move these newsletters along more quickly (and save on printing and mailing costs).

For problem #6, I found a Bible Record which had been submitted to an FGS company by Cousin Phyllis W. EAST of Phenix City. I'd like to thank her for her generosity! Cousin Roy ADDICKS Sr. of Canton solved the Dora ABNEY problem (#7). Information was also submitted by Cousin Don ABNEY & Cousin John HENSELL (who were on the right trail by the way).

Cousin Joe W. HARDIMAN deserves a note appreciation for his work in publicizing the CAA & AFR via the Internet. He has sent many new cousins our way. Numbers of Gedcoms, ancestral charts and family group sheets, in addition to deeds, Bible records, and the like were submitted by almost every member of the CAA! That in addition to our massive census work, has created without a doubt, the largest database of the ABNEY Family & related families in the world, yea in history! How exciting!

Many thanks again to Cousin John HENSELL who in 1993 promoted the CAA when it was just a fledgling organization. I've been able to tell many new researchers their ABNEY ancestry because of the information contained in the database. In many cases, I've also been able to cite primary sources so they could obtain original copies of evidence to prove their lineage; and all of this due to our working together. So many cousins have been blessed by our efforts! Each of you deserve a standing ovation!

We're also making progress on some of the unresolved problems. We will solve many more problems; This is my pledge to you! Please remember that your input makes up a great part of this newsletter. Your response to anything & everything printed herein is important to me. We may not always agree, but we're always cousins! Also, I must not fail to mention our cousins who have generously supported our cause with donations of money, address labels and postage stamps. Each of you know that I don't actively seek these donations, however, I am always very thankful for them.

In this issue we will briefly examine the ABNER Family, as promised. Further information on this subject will be greatly appreciated and passed onto our readers. In the next issue we will discuss the *Willesley Muniment Room Papers*. We have been eagerly awaiting this discussion. This will get us back to some of our

English roots, a subject we haven't covered much in the past issues of the *AFR*; we must however prove the lineage's of our cousins to England so they too can enjoy that discussion. Since the next issue of the *AFR* is scheduled for January, I would like to take this time to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

Your cousin,

R.R. Abney Jr.

FORTITER ET HONESTE

**Previously unresolved Problems presented in Previous Issues of the
*Abney Family Researcher***

- 1. 1790 SC Charles ABNEY (s/o Dr. Abra^m?) - RR**
- 3. Leonard ABNEY of TN - RR**
- 4. Elizabeth "Charity" Malonia ABNEY - RR**
- 5. John Andy ABNEY - RR**
- 8. Lizzie P. ABNEY - NR**
- 9. James T. ABNEY - NR**
- 10. Mary Agnes ABNEY - NR**
- 11. Soleane ABNEY - Resolved**
- 12. William Madison ABNEY - RR**
- 13. Absalom Troup ABNEY - RR**
- 14. Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary LEE - RR**
- 15. John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah ADKINS - NR**
- 16. Joshua ABNEY & Patsy PHELPS - RR**
- 17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - RR**
- 18. Dorcas ABNEY - RR**
- 19. Pauline ABNER - RR**
- 20. Nancy ABNEY - NR**
- 21. Duel of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY - NR**
- 22. Another "Patsy" PHELPS - Resolved**

NR = No Response

RR = Responses Received

ABNER Families

It is common knowledge that many ABNEY families began using the surname "ABNER". Why? We have some clues. An obvious conclusion is the fact that when spoken, they are very close. The author has been called ABNER many

times. Another reason could be the written *Abney* looks much like the written *Abner*...and if the surname ABNEY was unfamiliar to a census taker or transcriber, ABNER would have been an easy mistake to make. Another observation is this: Apparently all of the ABNER's descended from the two "Albemarle County Branches", Paul & Abner. Like so many others of their time, a majority of the descendants of Paul & Abner could neither read nor write. Therefore, they were forced to accept the record-taker's version of their surname. Abner's son, Elisha and all of his sons used the surname ABNER. Since his father was Abner ABNEY, this would be an understandable error. Because these ABNER's are direct descendants of the ABNEY family, we usually give them the double surname ABNEY/ABNER or ABNER/ABNEY. I like to write ABNEY/ABNER for the first generation that used the surname ABNER & ABNER/ABNEY for the next. For subsequent generations, I generally just use ABNER (unless I know both surnames were used for any particular individual).

We've already mentioned Elisha ABNER Sr. & his children, of which there were some fourteen. Elisha's brother, John "the Hatter" did not use the surname ABNER. This is a revelation, as he, a merchant, could read & write, hence he knew the spelling of his surname. Pvt. Paul ABNER who married Rhoda NORMAN also used ABNER. Rhoda, in the pension papers, was forced to prove that her Pvt. Paul ABNER was the same person as Pvt. Paul ABNEY who enlisted in the Cont. Army. Of his children, at least William, Elias Sr., & Matthew were known to be called ABNER. Pvt. William ABNEY's son, Elisha, is also known to have used the ABNER surname. The use of the surname ABNER seemed quite popular in Kentucky and later, Illinois. Since many Kentucky families migrated to Illinois, it is understandable how the ABNER surname became popular in Illinois.

The Winds of Change are Blowing

"If someone can prove you wrong, then be glad. This would mean absolute proof has been found and that is what you are after" ...Cousin Margaret HARLOW

I have been pondering the inconsistencies in the "accepted" history of the ABNEY Family for many years, and cousins of ours for many decades. After spending countless hours gathering and studying information, a clearer picture is beginning to emerge...clearer, but not yet clear. Nevertheless, it has been unsettling, not for me alone, but for you, my esteemed cousins. However, even as I had to prepare for the truth with my own ABNEY Branch, many of you should be preparing to learn the truth of your ABNEY Branch. I started the "Archives" and this newsletter for the reasons stated on the cover

page: Discovery, Correction, Archival, Communication. Now that some "new" truths are beginning to surface, it will be impossible to revert to older, incorrect information. We must move forward.

The "Founders" of the Abney Family History: Cousins John Abney CHAPMAN, Agatha ABNEY WOODSON, Pym YEATMAN, John HENSELL, Ted BERNARD, Charlotte ABNEY METZGER, and the like, have laid a foundation for us to "begin again" our study of the ABNEY Family History. We must not discard their work & information to begin anew! We must build on it. Like a house, if parts of the foundation need repair, we don't destroy the entire house...we repair that part of the foundation. Technology has allowed us to repair the foundation of a house...even as technology has allowed us to repair the foundation of our family history. The tools available to us now were unheard of decades ago! Cousin Jennie ABNEY GANT used to tell me the stories of how they searched census records, one horribly-written name at a time...there were no indexes! There were no computers! There were few books and county histories! They didn't know which county was created from which county or district or parish! We have those tools available to us. We must now use them. We don't need to "prove the lineage wrong" which our founders have put together; We just need to "prove the lineage, period".

The quote atop this article is one which will ever follow me in my genealogical endeavours. If one can prove me wrong, then shall I know my true grandparent! It matters not if I believe I'm wrong or right! It matters only that I know the facts! My own line has changed numerous times. We once believed we were descended from Joseph Griffith ABNEY & Elizabeth RELEFORD (whose fictitious names I shall not index). In the last issue, I briefly explained how Cousin Jennie discovered that my 4th great grandfather Paul Collins ABNEY was the gentleman who fit into that position...not Joseph Griffith ABNEY! Some years

later, through the work of my wife and I, Dorothy "Dolly" RUTHERFORD was discovered to be my 4th great grandmother. Yes, it was I who discovered grandmother Dolly. (I'll allow myself a quick but firm pat on the back.) As a "new" genealogist, it almost took "an act of Congress" to convince the more well-known genealogists that no such person as Elizabeth RELEFORD ever existed, at least not in my ancestry. But after the initial blow is softened, all who descend from grandmother Dolly were happy. It is more important to know from whom you are descended!

We tend to grow very attached to our ancestors, as well as certain uncles, aunts, and cousins whom we research. It is no small task to "let go" of these attachments when we learn that they are not who we think they are.

We all make mistakes! I once believed that "Long Sam" ABNEY who married Martha COLLINS was my ancestor. Why? Because my 4th great grandfather was named Paul Collins ABNEY. I worked long and hard on my theory that Martha COLLINS was Paul's grandmother! A deed of 03 Feb 1764 proved me wrong. It proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that Paul's father, Dr. Nathaniel, was Dr. Abraham's son. I still cannot ascertain why Paul's middle name was Collins, however, I have just gotten an "opening" to learn why. See, I now know that Dr. Nathaniel's wife, Lucy was not a daughter of James NORRELL Jr. & Mary SPRAGGINS. Through this discovery, I've lost my beloved NORRELL's, SPRAGGINS', and my second connection to the ABNEY Family (Martha ABNEY who married William SPRAGGINS. (Another strong gust of the winds of change). But, it has opened any opportunity for me. Lucy, or her mother could have accounted for the Collins name. Nevertheless, I can prove my ancestry all the way back to Dannett ABNEY Sr. and beyond...without question (the male lineage, of course). Much of the proof for this line was not discovered by me...it was discovered by our founders and genealogists like Cousin Jennie ABNEY GANT. They are those whose work and guidance have created an inquisitive genealogist, wanting to know my true roots! I still use Cousin John's work, and Cousin Charlotte's work, and Cousin Pym's work, and Cousin John CHAPMAN's work...and will continue to do so. But the *Centralized Abney Archives* was created to house facts, not just theories. My dream is that one day, someone will write to my grandchildren and ask, "who was my ABNEY Grandfather", and my grandchild will be able not only to tell them, but to give them documented proof.

Why have I written this? Because there are discoveries being made that will undoubtedly cause those among us to disbelieve in these conclusions. Some will want to cling to the past, although their "accepted" lineage be proven wrong. Some will want to disregard the evidence, because they've joined an organization on an accepted, but "incorrect line"; and may no longer be eligible for that organization.

Some may not be able to join an organization which they've strove many years to do. Whatever the reason, there will be those who repudiate the truth. That will not deter me...neither should it deter you. Is not the ABNEY Motto "Fortiter et Honeste" (Strength & Honesty)? You must take comfort (and pride) in one simple fact: You are an ABNEY. You descend from the same ABNEY Family, no matter who is proved to be your ABNEY Ancestor. The Noble ABNEY Blood shall continue to pump through your veins, no matter which ABNEY Ancestor is proved to be yours. You still descend from hundreds of Kings, Monarchs, and Cæsers, as well as Queens, Princes and Princesses, Dukes and Duchesses, Counts and Countesses, Viscounts and Viscountesses, Knights, Magna Charta Barons, and on and on and on. But would it make one bit of difference if they were all serfs? I dare write it doesn't matter who my grandparent was or what his title, as long as I know him or her.

Please prepare for the Winds of Change...they are beginning to blow.

R. Robert Abney Jr.

FORTITER ET HONESTE

The American Families

Problem #7 Firmly Resolved!

The Parentage of Dora BOND

(Thanks to Cousin Roy ADDICKS Sr.)

I previously received a letter declaring that "Willis ABNEY...married Sallie ALLEN and they had: ...Dora ABNEY who married John BOND". I apologize for printing this (back in issue #2) without proof. But now we've arrived at the facts.

"Dora" ABNEY (who married John W. BOND) was born Eldora ABNEY, daughter of Albert "Andrew" ABNEY & Amanda REYNOLDS. Andrew was a son of Willis ABNEY & Sarah "Sallie" ALLEN. Willis ABNEY was a son of Abner ABNEY & Patience STRICKLIN. Abner ABNEY was a son of Paul ABNER & Rhoda NORMAN. John W. BOND was a son of Jeremiah L. "Jerry" BOND & Rachel Ann SMITH. Jerry BOND was a son of George "Tucker" BOND & Melinda ABNEY. Melinda was a daughter of John ABNEY (who died in the Battle of New Orleans), son of the aforementioned Paul ABNER & Rhoda NORMAN. Dora ABNEY & her husband, John W. BOND were 3rd cousins.

Problem #23

Was Thomas Hamilton ABNEY's wife Mary Ann GAUSDEN or HOLMES?

Popular belief is that Thomas Hamilton ABNEY married Mary Ann GAUSDEN. However, certain facts have arisen that challenge that earlier belief. Family tradition has it that Mary Ann's mother (also named Mary Ann) was a daughter of Lord CECIL. While in school in Edinburgh, she eloped with an English sea captain named HOLMES and came to America. Capt. (Thomas?) HOLMES was lost at sea. His widow, Mary Ann CECIL later married James GAUSDEN. Young Mary Ann (HOLMES?) was either adopted by James, or just given his surname, GAUSDEN in order to identify her with her mother. Recently, Cousin Carrie SCALES EVANS, a descendant of Thomas Hamilton ABNEY, discovered a baptismal record (Old Swedes Church, *Early Church Records of New Castle County, Delaware*, Vol.2) of Mary Ann HOLMES, daughter of Benjamin and Ann HOLMES. Mary Ann HOLMES was born 30 Mar 1793 and baptized 06 Dec 1798. Mary Ann HOLMES also had a brother named Benjamin John HOLMES (born 25 Sep 1795 & baptized the same date as his sister). Interestingly enough, Thomas Hamilton ABNEY & Mary Ann (HOLMES?) named their first child Mary Cecil ABNEY. Although the Thomas Hamilton ABNEY Bible names his wife as Mary Ann GOSDEN, it seems probable that she was in fact the Mary Ann HOLMES of the baptismal record. The descendants of Thomas Hamilton ABNEY & Mary Ann (HOLMES?) GAUSDEN would appreciate any information.

A Compendium of the Inaugural Year

The Abney Family Researcher

Hot off the press!

I have just completed *A Compendium of the Inaugural Year (the Abney Family Researcher)*.

Each book is bound by *Uni-Bind* and contains the following:

1. Six revised issues of *the Abney Family Researcher* (the entire collection of year one). Each issue has been revised. Issues I, 2, & 6 have undergone major revision. Charts have also been added to issues I & 2 (which original issues contained no charts).
2. A complete Summary in the book which:
 - o Re-visits each problem presented in our newsletter. The submitter as well as the "problem-solvers" are given credit. Resolutions to the problems are explained. Updates are given on "unresolved" problems. Formulated Theories are presented for problems which have not been resolved...but we're close! Persons formulating the theories are given credit.

Presents an updated proposed list of the grandchildren of Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary.

- o Discusses each newsletter and article, including some of the author's thoughts at the time, as well as a retrospect.

Includes a complete current list of our members

Includes a financial disclosure.

Includes comments from our members.

3. An Exhaustive Concordance in which is indexed the entire Compendium, including the newsletters, the charts, the Summary, &c.

First Copy Price: \$20.00

Additional copy(ies) \$15.00

Cost includes postage

Proceeds from *A Compendium of the Inaugural Year* will be used toward the continuation of our publication, *the Abney Family Researcher*.

So much has been accomplished in the past year, we certainly want to keep this project going. This book is not a duplicate of the free newsletters you've already received. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to get the latest information on the problems presented...and help me continue to offer *the Abney Family Researcher* for free.

Problems #24

Nathaniel ABNEY who married

Eleanor BOULWARE

Nathaniel ABNEY (b.25 Jan 1786 North Carolina; d.15 Apr 1851 Sumter Co., Alabama) m. Elenor BOLER (b.27 Sep 1787 & d.13 Jul 1836) on 14 Sep 1806 and had at least one daughter, "Mahaley" A. ABNEY (b.30 Aug 1807 & d.13 Mar. 1849) who m. David JARRELL. [Note "Elenor BOLER" was probably "Eleanor Boulware". "Boulware" was pronounced "Bowler" by the English (information provided by Cousin Richard HILL)]. Other probable issue of this marriage: William (b. 29 Jun 1809) Mary & Rachel (twins - b. 07 Jul 1811), John (b. 25 Jan 1814), Elizabeth (b. 25 Dec 1815), Clarissa (b. 23 Feb 1817), Agatha (b. 12 Aug 1820), Nathan (b. 08 Sep 1822), Jorgie A. (b. 05 Feb 1825), & Virginia Caroline (b. 10 Aug 1828). These records appear to be from an old Bible Record. Along with these ABNEY's are members of the MOORE Family, the patriarch being Readrick MOORE, b. 30 Jul 1765. This Nathaniel ABNEY was living near Hardy ABNEY (s/o Azariah & Mary Ann POPE) on the 1840 Census in Sumter Co., Al.

Problems #25

Nathaniel ABNEY who married

Mary BROOKS

(Another?) Nathaniel ABNEY (b. ca. 1786 in North Carolina) married Mary BROOKS (b. ca. 1796 in Maryland) on 14 Feb 1845 in Sumter Co., Alabama (Marr. Bk. 1) by W^m ANDERSON, J.P. Is this the same Nathaniel ABNEY as in Problem #25? Was Mary BROOKS a second wife? If anyone has the answers, or clues which may lead to the solving of these "other" Nathaniel ABNEY problems, please write so that we can add these lines to our family.

Problems #26, #27, & #28

Parentage of Pvt. William ABNEY

Parentage of Pvt. Paul ABNER

Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY

For explanation purposes, I have lumped these three problems together. However, I have enumerated them differently so that if they are solved at different times, we can still print whichever problems remain without confusing the three.

I (and others of my branch) have long pondered the inconsistencies of Pvt. William & Pvt. Paul being sons of Dr. Abraham ABNEY & Cassandra MEREDITH. Now, too much evidence has arisen to ignore this problem. One may be able to create excuses as why these men did certain things, but the truth needs no excuses...and that is what we're after here. I know that many descend from the above-mentioned Pvt. William & Pvt. Paul. Believe me, it is you that I have in mind in presenting these problems. While finding it very difficult to change decades of accepted genealogies, I believe we should continue to strive for truth in our family history. Let us first begin with Pvt. Paul ABNER and examine why he was reported to be a son of Dr. Abraham.

The Myths:

1. Pvt. Paul ABNER migrated to Edgefield County with his father Dr. Abraham.
2. Pvt. Paul ABNER assisted Lucy, Dr. Nathaniel's widow in selling land in 1793 to Absalom POSEY.

3. Dr. Nathaniel named a son (Paul Collins ABNEY) for his brother, Pvt. Paul ABNER.
4. Pvt. Paul ABNER raised Nathaniel ABNEY Jr., the Posthumous son of Dr. Nathaniel.
5. Dr. Nathaniel's sons, Paul & Nathaniel Jr. went to Tennessee with Pvt. Paul ABNER

The Facts:

1. Dr. Abraham ABNEY never lived in Edgefield County! He lived in that part of 96 District which became Union County, many miles from Edgefield. He later migrated to Camden District and lived in that part which later became Chester County. He has never been known to hold land in Edgefield County.
2. The Paul in that 1793 deed did not "assist" Lucy in selling the land...he was a part owner of it. The deed clearly states that Lucy & Paul sold the land. Besides that, the Paul that sold that land with Lucy could read & write and signed his name to the deed. Pvt. Paul ABNER could neither read nor write and had his wife, Rhoda NORMAN keep his books for him. It was believed that Paul Collins ABNEY (Dr. Nathaniel's son) was only 15 years old in 1793. However, in the 1830 Mississippi Census, he was in the category of 60 and upwards. Therefore, he was born no later than 1770, and at least 23 years old in 1793...and he was the Paul who sold the land with his mother Lucy.
3. Dr. Abraham ABNEY has been proven to have had a brother named Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699). Therefore, Dr. Nathaniel could name a son after his uncle Paul instead of a brother.
4. About a year after Dr. Nathaniel's untimely demise, his widow moved her family to Edgefield County, supposedly to be nearer her family for help with the children. She seems to have died there about 4 years later. Joseph ABNEY, a son, migrated to Liberty County, Georgia. Paul Collins ABNEY, the eldest son, took his little brother, Nathaniel ABNEY, with him to Spartanburg County, South Carolina. When Pvt. Paul ABNER migrated to Tennessee, Paul Collins ABNEY & Nathaniel ABNEY were still in Spartanburg County. In 1808, Paul ABNEY & Nathaniel ABNEY "of Spartanburg" hired Joseph VOFFARD to handle the estate of their deceased brother, Joseph ABNEY, as Paul and Nathaniel were Joseph's heirs. It is unrealistic to believe that Nathaniel had migrated to Tennessee with Pvt. Paul, and came all the way back to South Carolina to hire someone when he could easily have dispatched a letter to his brother

granting his permission. Secondly, the record clearly states that Paul & Nathaniel (Joseph's brothers) were "of Spartanburg", meaning they were both living there in 1808. Therefore, it was Paul Collins ABNEY who raised his little brother, Nathaniel, not Pvt. Paul ABNER.

5. Pvt. Paul ABNER is said to have been in Tennessee circa 1795, although he may have migrated there shortly after 1801. Still, this was many years before Paul Collins ABNEY & Nathaniel ABNEY Jr. migrated there. In Tennessee, Pvt. Paul ABNER lived in Dickson County and possibly Jackson County. Paul Collins ABNEY & Nathaniel ABNEY Jr. lived in nearby Montgomery County, but never in Dickson County. Paul Collins & Nathaniel may have lived first in Maury County where one of Paul Collins' sons was born in 1810. Around 1818 Paul Collins ABNEY let his land in Montgomery County sell for taxes, and migrated to Warren County, Mississippi. The point is, they migrated to Tennessee years after Pvt. Paul ABNER, neither did they live in the same county as Pvt. Paul ABNER.

Other important clues to prove that Pvt. Paul was not a son of Dr. Abraham:

1. Pvt. Paul could neither read nor write...difficult to believe of the son of a doctor.
2. Pvt. Paul habitually used the surname ABNER. Dr. Abraham's known descendants never used the surname ABNER.
3. Pvt. Paul enlisted in the Continental Army from Virginia. If he was living in South Carolina at the time, why would he travel two states away to join the war in Albemarle County? There was plenty of American Revolution in South Carolina! Would he leave his family behind in the midst of a war to fight the same enemy from another state? NO! Furthermore, he was furloughed at home, in Virginia, not in South Carolina!
4. Both Pvt. William & Pvt. Paul enlisted in the Continental Line from Virginia. For the same reason as #3 above, it is unreasonable to believe that Pvt. William would enlist in Virginia if he were living in South Carolina.
5. However, if Privates Paul & William were brothers, why would they leave their family in South Carolina, travel two states away, and join different units?

I have identified Pvt. William as a grandson of Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699). This Paul's son has been called William, but this is in dispute. This "William" married and had issue. Of his issue, one son, William "Jr." is known to have married had issue. The reason that wife & issue of this William Jr. hasn't been located, in my

opinion, is because they were with Pvt. William in Tennessee! That William "Jr." must be one and the same as Pvt. William who married the GRAVES sisters. Why should I make this bold statement...because it was Paul's family that was in that part of Goochland County which became Albemarle County, which became Amherst County. Paul's was the only ABNEY Family known to have stayed there in Amherst. Pvt. William ABNEY & Milly GRAVES were married on 19 Dec 1795 in Amherst County! More evidence...Paul's descendants migrated to Estill County, Kentucky! Pvt. William died in Rockcastle County, Kentucky, very near Estill County, Kentucky.

Pvt. Paul ABNER is a larger problem. He enlisted in the Continental Line from Albemarle County, Virginia. Amherst County was created in 1761, therefore he did not enlist in that part of Albemarle County which had become Amherst County. Which ABNEY family was in that part of Albemarle County which remained Albemarle County? Which other family began using the surname ABNER? Abner ABNEY's family, of course. Also interesting to note is that Pvt. Paul ABNER named a son Abner. So, on the face, it would seem that Pvt. Paul ABNER was a son of Abner ABNEY, and brother of Elisha ABNER, who also migrated to Tennessee before moving on to Kentucky. Pvt. Paul also named a son John (Abner had a son, John), and a son Elias. Abner used the Biblical name Elisha for a son. Elias was used only in the New Testament and was the same as the Old Testament Elijah. Elisha in the O.T. was attendant, disciple and successor of that same Elijah. So what is the problem with the theory that Pvt. Paul ABNER was Abner ABNEY's son? Abner ABNEY left a will in Albemarle County and mentioned only 3 children, John, Milley, & Elish. A reading of the will leads me to believe that Abner had no children, save those mentioned in the will. Since Abner & his brother, Paul (bapt. 1699) were so close, it is reasonable to believe that Pvt. Paul ABNER, as a son of Paul (bapt. 1699) were close as well. Therefore, pending further investigation, I believe that Pvt. Paul ABNER was a son of Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699).

As concerns Rhoda Susan ABNEY who m. William RUSSELL of Virginia. Since she & Pvt. Paul ABNER both migrated to Tennessee, and later further northward & westward, it seems they were siblings (or at least near kin). However, I have very little information on Rhoda Susan ABNEY & William RUSSELL, save that which was printed in Cousin John HENSELL's manuscripts. Therefore any scenario's given here would not be based on primary research. Yet, it is almost certain that Rhoda Susan ABNEY was not a daughter of Dr. Abraham.

I am certain that the descendants of these three ABNEY/ABNER's, as well as the CAA would like everyone to pool their thoughts on this one and see if we can't come up with some hard evidence that would prove these theories right or wrong.

Problem #7

Pvt. Paul ABNER = Rhoda NORMAN

Patience STRICKLIN = Abner n.n. = John George BOND = Jane n.n.

Sarah "Sallie" ALLEN = Willis Melinda ===== George Tucker

Amanda REYNOLDS = Albert Andrew Jeremiah L. "Jerry" = Rachel Ann SMITH

Eldora "Dora" ===== John W.

Problem #23

Lord CECIL

Capt. (Benjamin?) HOLMES (1?) = Mary Ann =? James GAUSDEN (GOSDEN)

Thomas Hamilton ABNEY = Mary Ann Benjamin John

Mary Cecil

Problem #24 & #25

Mary BROOKS (2?) = Nathaniel ABNEY = (1?) Eleanor BOULWARE

Mahaley A. W^m Mary Rachel Jⁿ Eliz. Clarissa Agatha Nathan Jorgie A. Va.
Caroline

= David JARRELL

Problem #26, #27, & #28

Dannett ABNEY Sr. = Mary LEE

n.n. = Paul [bapt. 1699]

n.n. (William?) Pvt. Paul (ABNER) Judith Rhoda Susan (?)

= n.n. (WITT?) = Rhoda NORMAN = Luke BULLEN = W^m RUSSELL

Pvt. William Jonathan Elizabeth Mary Lucinda "Lucy"

=1 Mildred "Milly" GRAVES = "Patsy" PUCKETT = Tandy HOLMAN = Jn
BROWN = Jesse KING

Problem #29

Did Ursula ABNEY m. William WITT?

Here is a late entry I've just come up with and couldn't bear to print the newsletter without it. The ABNEY-WITT connection is obvious considering the "ABNEY" given names in the WITT Family. However, the dates are a problem. It is difficult to believe that the daughter of Paul (bapt. 1699) could have been a grandmother of the David WITT who married a daughter of Dannett ABNEY Jr. David WITT was born around the same time as Paul's children. This problem is what led me to place Sarah ABNEY as a daughter of George's son, Dannett instead of Dannett Jr. However, the problem was not with the father of Sarah ABNEY, it is grandmother of David WITT. Therefore, the suggested relationship between William WITT and a daughter of Paul ABNEY is chronologically impossible. Ursula ABNEY (bapt. 1693), on the other hand, was of a perfect age to marry William WITT and be the grandmother of David WITT! If this relationship can be proved, it would explain Ursula's early disappearance from the Virginia records as an "ABNEY". I have contacted the WITT researchers and we are presently working on this possible relationship. We will keep you advised. In the meantime, anyone having information which might lead to proving William WITT's wife, or Ursula ABNEY's life after her baptism in 1693, is urged to contact me as soon as possible. I feel we're finally going learn what happened to "Aunt" Ursula ABNEY. At least this is the best theory I've been able to formulate thus far.

John WITT = Ann DAUX Dannett ABNEY Sr. = Mary LEE

William [d.1754] =? Ursula [bapt.1693] Dannett Jr. = Mary MEREDITH

Lucy n.n. = Jonathan [d.1782]

David [b.est. 1742; d.1818] ===== Sarah "Sally" [b.ca.1745]

Dannett Abney WITT

Corrigendum

In Issue #6, page 4, column 2, paragraph 4, the statement was made, "Wayne Witt BATES, editor of the *Bates Booster Newsletter*, wrote me that according to WITT Family tradition, the above-mentioned David WITT married Sally ABNEY, daughter of Dannett ABNEY (son of George ABNEY & Unity)". This statement is

incorrect inasmuch as WITT Family tradition dictates that "David WITT married Sally ABNEY, daughter of Dannett ABNEY Jr. and his wife Mary".

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