

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

January, 1998 Volume II, Issue II

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

"The Willesley Muniment Room Papers"

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

Dear Cousins & Fellow Researchers,

I apologize for the delay in publishing the previous newsletter, as well as this one. As most of you know, I began a new business venture, *Abney & Abney Sign Specialists, Inc.*, with Cousin Wayne ABNEY, also of New Orleans, Louisiana. We began this new venture at the end of October, 1997, just around the time the November newsletter was to be published. Time constraints originally caused that newsletter to be delayed. Now, lack of funds is severely taxing my ability to continue this project. Additionally, I am sorry to report having to close the sign business, as my doctor has placed me on permanent disability.

I have decided to continue transmitting the newsletter to our Internet cousins (some 45 correspondents or so), and to those dear cousins who have made monetary contributions. This set-back is certainly going to hurt our progress as there are many contributors to the newsletter who are going to be left out by this move (There are an additional 75 researchers without e-mail on the mailing CAA list. Although I wish I could continue to provide everyone with the newsletter, I'm certain everyone will understand that it is now impossible for me to fund this project.

Those receiving this newsletter may feel free to copy and distribute it amongst our other cousins, as well as to libraries, archives, &c. Considering our progress, it is imperative we keep this project going.

Your cousin,

R.R. Abney Jr.

FORTITER ET HONESTE

Unresolved Problems presented in Previous Issues of *the Abney
Family Researcher*

1. 1790 SC Charles ABNEY - T*
3. Leonard ABNEY of TN - RR
4. Elizabeth "Charity" M. 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 - T*
13. Absalom Troup ABNEY - RR
14. Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary LEE - T*
15. John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah ADKINS - NR
16. Joshua ABNEY & Patsy PHELPS - T
17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - RR
18. Dorcas ABNEY - T
19. Pauline ABNEY - T
20. Nancy ABNEY - T
21. Duel of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY - T
22. Another "Patsy" PHELPS - Resolved
23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN
24. Nathaniel ABNEY m. Eleanor BOULWARE
25. Nathaniel ABNEY m. Mary BROOKS
26. Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY

27. Parentage of Pvt. William ABNEY

28. Parentage of Pvt. Paul ABNER

NR = No Response
RR = Responses Received
T = Theory Formulated

* See *A Compendium of the Inaugural Year*

The Willesley Muniment Room Papers - Part I

"If a lawyer had access to the Muniment Room Papers, Willesley would not have passed out of the ABNEY Family" - Samuel MAYS, 1929

It has been almost six decades since Cousin Samuel MAYS made that statement. Now, thanks to Cousin Joe BAKER of Houston, Texas, the ABNEY Family may be able to know if Cousin Samuel was correct.

The information Cousin Joe obtained from the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, had translated, and subsequently passed to the author, appears to be in two sets, which the author will take the liberty of naming:

- I. **The Antiquity of Willesley (from the late 13th or early 14th century to the early 16th century)**
- II. **Pre-Hastings Willesley (from the early 16th century to the late 17th century)**

Cousin Joe has obtained and procured translations on the first set of documents. The second set we have somewhat of an index with notations from the translator. However, we don't have verbatim translations, nor do we have copies of the documents.

Documents 1 - 5 of set I are undated. Due to the date of document I:6 (1318), and document I:7 (1330), the author expects documents I:1-5 are of the era just preceding 1318, hence late 13th century to early 14th century.

In this newsletter, we will deal with the Antiquity of Willesley. The author plans to continue this discussion in the next newsletter with Pre-Hastings Willesley. Now to the first set of Willesley Muniment Room Papers:

Doc. I:1 (undated): Geoffrey de WODECOTE & Lecia, his wife, to William de HYNGUERBY [d'INGWARDBY], land in "the village of Willes-ley". Wit: William son of [-----] of MEISHAM, Robert of CROMBWALLE of the same, John de

SNIPISTON of PAKINTON, William son of Adam, shepherd, of WILLESLEY
William HASARD of the same, [-----] then of MEYSHAM, and others.

[Note: William d'INGWARDBY was liv. in 1313.]

Doc. I:2 (undated): Henry PAKINTON to William de INGWERBY
[d'INGWARDBY] and Albreda, his wife. Wit: John LE SANNAG' de HOCTORP,
John de SNYPPESTON in PAKINTON, Richard AD GARDINUM of the same,
Geoffrey de WODECOTE in Willesley, William son of Adam of the same, and
many others.

[Note: William d'INGWARDBY m. Albreda de TATESHAL ca. 1266.]

Doc. I:3 (undated): Geoffrey de WODECOTE & Letitia, his wife, to Emma, wife of
the former Ralph HAMUND, a piece of land in the Village of Willesley...between
the place of William de HYNNGWERBY and...Henry de PAKINTON. Wit:
Nicholas de WILLESLEY, Henry de PAKINTON of the same, William son of
Adam of the same, William de NORTON in the same, Nicholas de OKETHORP,
and others.

[Note: Nicholas d'INGWARDBY de OCTORPE (father of William
d'INGWARDBY) was living in 1251 and almost certainly still alive after 1269.
Nicholas [d'INGWARDBY] de WILLESLEY, son of William d'INGWARDBY was
born ca. 1269 and still living in 1330.]

Doc. I:4 (undated): Letitia, formerly wife of Ralph LE MASONN de BREDON in
Willesley to William de HYNNGWERBY. Wit: William de MEYSAM, John LE
SANNAG' de HOCTORP, John de SNIPPESTON in PAKYNTON, Thomas
PRAT de PAKYNTON, William son of Adam of WILLESLEY, and many others.

Doc. I:5 (undated): Geoffrey de WODECOTE & Henry de PAKINTON & Lecia
(wife of Geoffrey) and Ysabelle (wife of Henry) to William, son of Roger LE
BLUND of Willesley, brother of our foresaid wives, a certain toft...in the village
of Willesley... Wit: lord William de MEYSAM, Nicholaus de YNGWERBY, lord of
Willesley, William son of William de MEYSAM, William son of Elye de
OCTORP, Robert LE SANNAGE of the same, lord Richard chaplain of
Willesley, [-----] LE BERCLER (?) of the same, Roger de GARDINUM de
PAKINTON, lord Robert GARLANND, vicar of the same, and many others.

[Note: Nicholas d'INGWARDBY, Lord of Willesley, son of William
d'INGWARDBY, Lord of Willesley was born ca. 1269 and still living in 1345.]

Doc. I:6 (ca. 1318): Osbert de STRETTON to William de INGWARDBY and to
Robert, his son...land...in Willesley. Wit: John GRYM de HECCOTO, John de
NURSYNGCOTO, William de MEYSHAM, Robert de CRUMBWELLE, Richard

son of Hugh de STRETTON, William (son of) Adam de WILLESLEY, and others. (11? Edward II)

[Note: Robert d'INGWARDBY was the younger brother of Nicholas d'INGWARDBY, the latter who became Lord of Willesley.]

Doc. I:7 (ca. 1330): William de INGWERBY to William Adam of WILLESLEY...land in Willesley in exchange for land in Willesley. Wit: William de MEYSHAM, John S_RYM (?), William LE SEL_Y (?), William de ASHWELL, Ralph del HAY de __BYNTON, and others. (4 Edward III)

Doc. I:8 (ca. 1333): William de INGWARDEBI to Richard de INGWARDEBI, my brother, and Isabelle, his wife, all right and claim which I had or in any way was able to have in the manor of Willesley... Wit: Lord William de STAUNTON, knight, William de BREDON, William de HYLAND, Robert de SCHEPEYE, William de MEISAM... (7 Edward III)

Doc. I:9 (ca. 1334): William, son of Adam of WILLESLEY to John, his son... Wit: Odo de APPELBY, knight, William de STAUNTON, knight, William of MEISHAM, William his son, William de IRLAND de HERESHORN, Henry LE WARDE de APPELBY, and others. (8 Edward III)

Doc. I:10 (ca. 1347): John HASARD of Willesley to William de INGWARDEBY...land in Willesley... Wit: William de MEYSAM, William le PARKERE of same, John of ASSHEBY, Richard MICHEL of Willesley, John Adam of same, and others. (21 Edward III)

Doc. I:11 (between 1339-1413): Robert BLOUNDE of Willesley to Simon de BLAKFORDEBY...and claim which or what I have...all those lands...in the villages and in the fields of Willesley and Meysham. Wit: John Adam of WILLESLEY, John BAKLEY of Meysham, Thomas MASON of same, and others. (Henry IV)

Doc. I:12 (ca. 1491): Richard INGGELEY esquire and John CHARNELLS to John ABNEY and Margaret his wife land in Willesley. Wit: William INGGELE junior, Thomas INGGELEY de HAN_YS____, Richard A____ART_, John STRETEHU, and others. (6 Henry VII)

[Note: John ABNEY d. 01 Dec 1505. He was b. est. 1470 or earlier. Margaret, his wife (in Latin, Maria) is sometimes translated "Mary"]

Doc. I:13 (ca. 1536): John WOLSELEY esquire, William BETHIK, George APPULBY, George ABNEY, Richard ASSHE, and John _URFREY, plaintiffs and Richard TEMPLE senior & Elizabeth his wife and Richard TEMPLE junior, defendants concerning land in Willesley. (27 Henry VIII)

[Note: George ABNEY, son of the John ABNEY mentioned in Doc. I:12, d. 01 Mar 1578. He married Ellen WOLSELEY, daughter of the John WOLSELEY esq. mentioned in this agreement. John WOLSELEY was b. ca. 1475 and d. 1553.]

Making sense of the Willesley Muniment Room Papers:

There is little in these few documents to help complete the history of the Manor of Willesley. Knowing, as we do, information from a variety of other sources, however, we can piece together an incomplete history thereof. We know that William d'INGWARDBY became the first d'INGWARDBY Lord of Willesley. (Note: Although there was no correct nor incorrect way to spell this surname, this author prefers to use what in the old Norman French writing would have been more correct. If a place name beginning with a vowel [such as INGWARDBY] was preceded by "de" (meaning "of"), the "e" was dropped and an apostrophe inserted before the place name [thus "de Ingwardby" would become d'Ingwardby; "de Abney" would become d'Abney]. It should be remembered, however, that by the 13th century, this practice in England was probably dropped, hence de INGWARDBY.) In these first deeds, we notice William purchasing large amounts of land in the Village of Willesley. It was not through purchasing of land that William d'INGWARDBY became Lord of Willesley, however; But through marriage.

William d'AUBIGNEY, 3rd Earl of Arundel, was also Lord of Willesley Manor. Upon his death, Willesley passed to his son, William d'AUBIGNEY, 4th Earl of Arundel. William IV, dying without issue, passed Arundel (and Willesley) to his brother, Hugh d'AUBIGNEY. Hugh, dying without issue, passed Willesley to his sister, Mabel d'AUBIGNEY. Mabel married Sir Robert de TATESHAL, who became Lord of Willesley in right of his wife. Their son, Michael de TATESHAL became Lord of Willesley, next, and upon dying, passed Willesley to his daughter, Albreda de TATESHAL. Albreda is mentioned in document I:2 as wife of "William de INGWERBY". This William d'INGWARDBY became Lord of Willesley in right of his wife.

In document I:5, Nicholas, son of the aforementioned William d'INGWARDBY, is styled "Lord of Willesley".

Document I:8 is especially confusing. William passes Willesley Manor to his brother Richard d'INGWARDBY. Which William is this? This author had no knowledge of this transaction. According to CAA records, Lord William's son, Nicholas d'INGWARDBY married Isabella de STAUNTON. This Nicholas became Lord of Willesley (as stated in Doc. I:5). Did Richard die without issue? Did Nicholas marry his widow? Did Willesley Manor pass to Nicholas after Richard's death? These are the questions that come to mind reading this document. If anyone out there has a theory (or fact) that would clear this up, please write.

The next document that has a direct bearing on the ABNEY Family is that of I:12. This John ABNEY was Lord of Willesley. But before discussing this document, how did John ABNEY become Lord of Willesley?

It is very confusing, and this author has seen a variety of theories. However, these facts we know:

Nicholas d'INGWARDBY (son of William and brother of another William as well as a John) was Lord of Willesley. He passed the Manor to his daughter, Alice. Alice passed the manor to her cousin, another Alice, daughter of the aforementioned John. This second Alice married William Sheyle (Seile?) of Octorpe, who became Lord of Willesley in right of his wife. William had a son, John SHEYLE of Octorpe who became Lord of Willesley after his father. According to YEATMAN, John SHEYLE had a son named John., YEATMAN wonders if this latter John was John ABNEY. However, this author disagrees. In 1398, John SHEYLE (son of William) gave "all he held in Octorpe to William de INGWARDBY". This William d'INGWARDBY was 1st cousin, once removed of John SHEYLE. Did this gift also include Willesley Manor?

It is theorized that this William d'INGWARDBY ended up with Willesley Manor. Upon his death, leaving no male issue, Willesley devolved upon his daughters, one of whom married John d'ABNEY, the other Thomas STOKE. John d'ABNEY & Thomas STOKE, therefore, would have been Lords ex parte of Willesley Manor in right of their wives.

John d'ABNEY's son, William ABNEY was also styled Lord ex parte of Willesley. This William's son, John ABNEY, however, seems to have somehow acquired the whole of Willesley Manor, hence, John was styled Lord of Willesley.

This brings us to document I:12 wherein John ABNEY is mentioned as receiving land in Willesley, together with his wife, Margaret.

In document I:13, John WOLSELEY and his son-in-law, George ABNEY and others, are receiving land in an agreement of 27 Henry VIII (1536) for £40 Sterling.

This George ABNEY married Ellen WOLSLEY. They were the parents of Edmund ABNEY who, being the youngest son, received £50 inheritance. Edmund migrated from Willesley, Derbyshire to Leicestershire where he became Lord Mayor of Leicester. He married Katherine LUDLAM, daughter of William LUDLAM, Lord Mayor of Leicester. Edmund ABNEY & Katherine LUDLAM are ancestors of the ABNEY Family in America.

We will continue the discussion of the Willesley Muniment Room Papers in the next newsletter.

"ABNEY" Authors

There have been many books and manuscripts published, as most of us are aware, containing information about the ABNEY Family & related families. Some that I have read are chronologically arranged in the following list. I have no information as to which of the following are still in print. If anyone is aware of a book which has been published, primarily on the ABNEY Family, please let me know so we can attempt to obtain a copy thereof. I withhold personal critique on any of the following works, however, with any genealogy, including my own, let the reader beware. Genealogy is not an exact science. The reader is urged to study the books/manuscripts below and compare them against each other, and especially compare them with information gathered through primary sources, thereby permitting the reader to make a personal judgement. Remember, all published genealogies contain errors and omissions! My desire is only to report those works which are known to contain abundant ABNEY information.

1. *The History of Edgefield County From the Earliest Settlements to 1897* by Cousin John Abney CHAPMAN, A.M. (published by Elbert H. Abel, Newberry, S.C. *1897) [History book with an extensive section on the ABNEY Family, as well as many related families. Genealogy can be gleaned from the history]
2. *The Albinis of Derbyshire* by Cousin Pym YEATMAN (published by Moody Bros., Birmingham, England *1907) [contains information from ALBINI's of England to ABNEY's of America]
3. *ABNEY* by Cousin John HENSELL (privately published, Houston, Tx. *1972) [the first work, that I know of, to extensively cover the ABNEY Family of America, including an abundance of Noble Ancestry]
4. *ABNEY* by Cousin John HENSELL (privately published, Houston, Tx. *1974) [a major revision of his first *ABNEY*; The same subject matter as the first with many additions & corrections]
5. *Bernard Grandparents* by Cousin Ted B. BERNARD, Ph.D. (privately published *1976) [much information about ABNEY, as well as BERNARD, including ABNEY Ancestors for many centuries. credits given to Cousin John R. HENSELL & Cousin E.E. MACY as major contributors to his work; Also mentions Cousin Agatha ABNEY WOODSON & Cousin Pym YEATMAN]

6. *In Search of Kate* by Cousin Charlotte Ann ABNEY METZGER (published by Genealogical R. & P., St. Louis, Mo. *1978) [much ABNEY information primarily on Cousin Charlotte's line extending into England]
7. *ABNEY Supplement* by Cousin John HENSELL (privately published, Houston, Tx. *1988) [Much corrected American ABNEY information to his second ABNEY]
8. *The Historian* magazine by Raymond Robert ABNEY Jr. (16 issues continuously published on a monthly basis by the Society of United Genealogists, later the Society of United Genealogists, International, spanning a period from May, 1991 to October, 1992) [Many surname queries including ABNEY; Also articles, comic strip, humor, suggestions, lessons, &c. - out of print]
9. *The Art of Ancestral Chart Drawing (the ABNEY Method)* by Raymond Robert ABNEY Jr. (published by the Society of United Genealogists, International, Chalmette, La. *1992) [written primarily as a "how-to" book; Uses examples of ABNEY & related families to teach the self-created method of becoming a "Chartist" (Chart Artist)]
10. *History of the Noble de Saint-Germain Family* by Raymond Robert ABNEY Jr. (privately published, Chalmette, La. *1993) [mostly information on the title family. Of little use to ABNEY Researchers, however, contains some information on the author's ABNEY family as a related family]
11. *ABNEY* by Cousin Don ABNEY (privately published, Kelowna, B.C., Can. *1993) [primarily his family line]
12. *ABNEY* by Cousin Don ABNEY (privately published, Kelowna, B.C., Can. circa *1994) [Origin & English Lines with excellent photographs of places in England of interest to ABNEY's]
13. *The Abney Family Researcher* newsletter by Raymond Robert ABNEY Jr. (ongoing project; Continuously published about every two months by the *Centralized Abney Archives*, now in League City, Texas since Nov 1996)
14. *ABNEY* by Cousin Don ABNEY (privately published, Kelowna, B.C., Can. *1996) [mostly information on an Illinois ABNEY Branch traced back to (and containing information on) our English Origin]
15. *About the Time When*, book II, by Elise BRIDGES (privately published, S.C. *1996)
16. *Power in the Blood LAND, MEMORY, and a SOUTHERN FAMILY*, by Cousin John Bentley Mays (published by HarperCollins Publishers, New

York, N.Y. ["...neither history nor genealogy, though the text is grounded, necessarily, in historical and genealogical fact." Cousin John is a direct descendant in the male line of Mattox MAYS & his wife, Dorcas ABNEY, through their son, Abney MAYS.]

17. Historical & Genealogical Encyclopædia of the Noble Abney Family by Raymond Robert ABNEY Jr. (10 years in the making. Expected to publish the first volume before the turn of the century) [not yet ready for publication.] Will be the definitive work on the ABNEY Family, tracing the ABNEY's, in several volumes, from their Mythological Roots, through the Vikings, Normans, French Noblemen, English Kings and Peers, thence into many Royal Lineage's of many nationalities, through Great Britain and finally to the British Colonies in America, the United States of America & the Confederate States of America. These volumes will trace every known line in America and England with numerous related families and will include the lines of many genealogists who have worked and continue to work on the ABNEY Family.

Problem #30 & #31

Parentage of James R. "Neighbor" ABNEY (#30) & Drucilla Lane ABNEY (#31)

According to popular belief, James R. "Neighbor" ABNEY was a son of Paul ABNEY & n.n. LANE. This Paul ABNEY was a son of Capt. William ABNEY by his second wife, Elizabeth BURNHAM. Thanks to a query from Cousin Lucinda KINSALL, I have formulated a new theory:

James "Neighbor" ABNEY seems to have been a son of another Paul ABNEY, this one Paul Collins ABNEY who married Dorothy RUTHERFORD.

There is circumstantial evidence to support this theory as follows:

James "Neighbor" ABNEY migrated from Tennessee to Illinois. Paul Collins ABNEY had also lived in Tennessee and migrated to Illinois. However the latter migrated to Mississippi circa 1819 while James remained in Illinois.

James & his wife, Susannah WALDEN named a son Paul Collins ABNEY. They also named a daughter Dolly Emily ABNEY. This is pretty strong evidence, for it is likely that James R. ABNEY named a son & daughter for his parents.

James' middle initial is also in question. In different sources his middle initial appears as "R" or "K". According to one source, Paul Collins ABNEY & Dorothy RUTHERFORD's son was James Paul ABNEY. However, it seems likely his middle initial was "R". If his middle initial was "R", could his name have been James "Rutherford" ABNEY? Paul & Dorothy's youngest son was Robert Releford (Rutherford?) ABNEY.

James "Neighbor" ABNEY certainly fits conveniently into the family of Paul Collins ABNEY...by date, place, and names.

Drucilla Lane ABNEY, reported to have been a sister of James "Neighbor" ABNEY, was also called a child of Paul ABNEY & n.n. LANE. I believe she was a sister of "Neighbor" ABNEY, but certainly not a daughter of Paul ABNEY & his (probably) fictitious wife, n.n. LANE. She, too, must be a daughter of Paul Collins ABNEY & "Dolly" RUTHERFORD. Dolly's mother was named Drucilla! Both Drucilla ABNEY & "Betsy" ABNEY (her sister in my theory) married ALBIN's. Drucilla named a son Joseph Duncan ALBIN (as did Betsy), after their brother, Joseph Duncan ABNEY. Drucilla migrated to Mississippi, as did the rest of her family, save "Neighbor" ABNEY and possibly Thomas Nathaniel (of whom nothing further). Also, both Drucilla & "Neighbor" named daughters, Eliza Jane!

This is strong circumstantial evidence, lacking positive proof.
Any additional information would be greatly appreciated.

Problem #30 & #31

Probable ancestry of James "Neighbor" ABNEY & Drucilla Lane ABNEY (chart 1)

William BROOKS

Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY Maj. James RUTHERFORD = Drucilla BROOKS Dorothy
Ann BROOKS

= Lucy (COLLINS?)

Jean Jos. Nath^l Paul Collins ABNEY = Dorothy "Dolly" RUTHERFORD Mary
Eliz. Jos. Jas. Robt.

- 1) Dorcas "Amanda" ABNEY = John G. UNDERWOOD
- 2) Thomas Nathaniel ABNEY
- 3) Drucilla Lane ABNEY = Joshua Carmen ALBIN (see chart 31-2
below)
- 4) James R. "Neighbor" ABNEY = Susannah "Susan" WALDEN (see
chart 30-2 below)
- 5) Joseph Duncan ABNEY =1 Sarah SEARCY; =2 Jeanette S.
TALBERT; =3 Keziah n.n.
- 6) Mary ABNEY = n.n. McNEMAN
- 7) Elizabeth "Betsy" ABNEY =1 Elisha D. JACKSON; =2 James B.
ALBIN
- 8) Robert Releford (Rutherford?) ABNEY = Mary Ann ROBERTS

Problem #31 - the family of Drucilla Lane ABNEY (ALBIN)

(chart 31-2)

Drucilla Lane ABNEY = Joshua Carmen ALBIN

1) Harrison Wiley ALBIN =1 Eliza WILLIAMS; =2
Margaret OSBORNE

2) Narcissa ALBIN

3) Isaac "Ike" ALBIN =1 Bedy STRICKLAND; =2 Ann
SHARKEY; =3 Fredonia DURBIN

4) Joseph Duncan ALBIN = Mary J. JOHNSTON

5) Eliza Jane ALBIN = Lionel L. WAINWRIGHT

6) Benjamin Franklin ALBIN = Barbara STARKEY

7) Martha Melissa ALBIN =1 George Albert TAYLOR;
=2 Louis SCHENK

Problem #30 - the family of James R. "Neighbor" ABNEY

(chart 30-2)

James R. "Neighbor" ABNEY = Susannah "Susan" WALDEN

- 1) Dr. Paul Collins ABNEY = Elizabeth BLAZIER
- 2) Dolly Emily ABNEY = Benton R. HARRELL
- 3) Henry ABNEY
- 4) Eliza "Jane" ABNEY = William Montgomery KINSALL

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