

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

July, 1998 Volume II, Issue V

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

Virginian John Abney's in Kentucky

Centralized Abney Archives
established 1993

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

Summer's here and genealogical studies will, no doubt, slow down a bit.

It is with bitter-sweet emotions I report that I've decided to move my family to Purvis, Mississippi. We've been in the Houston, Texas area since 1995 and have grown to love Texas. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet some of our cousins out here, which will make leaving a lot more difficult.

Our CAA Web Site has been a tremendous hit. As I write this, we've already had several new cousins and one long-lost cousin find us...and I'm writing this in May, so the web site hasn't been active very long. Thanks, once again, to Cousin Gina ABNEY.

I wanted to publish this newsletter early because I don't know what the future holds in store for me. We're going to have to relocate our family and enter a new job market. My time will undoubtedly be limited, but I didn't want to fall behind on the AFR.

Although I will submit a change-of-address card to the Post Office, please record my new address so that any "snail-mail" sent to me will arrive as desired. I'd hate for any information to get lost in the mail.

My email address and now, of course, the CAA Web Site, are the two best points of contact. I'd like to wish everyone a great summer, and thank ya'll once again for your continued support. Next time you "hear" from me, I will be in Purvis, Mississippi!

Your cousin,

R.R. Abney Jr.

FORTITER ET HONESTE

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

3. Leonard ABNEY of TN - RR
4. Elizabeth "Charity" M. ABNEY - RR
8. Lizzie P. ABNEY - Resolved (see Vol.II, Issue VI)
9. James T. ABNEY - NR
10. Mary Agnes ABNEY - NR
13. Absalom Troup ABNEY - T
15. John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah ADKINS - NR
17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - RR
18. Dorcas ABNEY - T*
19. Pauline ABNEY - T*
23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN - NR
24. Nathaniel ABNEY who m. Eliz. BOULWARE - T
25. Nathaniel ABNEY who m. Mary BROOKS - T
26. Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY - NR
27. Parentage of Pvt. William ABNEY - RR
28. Parentage of Pvt. Paul ABNER - RR
29. Did Ursula ABNEY m. William WITT - T*
32. Parentage of Clem ABNEY - NR
33. William ABNEY "the Frontier Defender" - RR
34. Parentage of Butler ABNEY - NR
35. Polley ABNEY of the 1810 SC Census - NR
36. Parentage of William ABNEY b.ca.1829 - RR
37. Issue of W^m ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON - NR

38. Husband of Melicent WILLS (ABNEY) - NR

NR = No Response

RR = Responses Received

T* = Theory Formulated

(as presented in a previous issue of AFR)

T = Theory Formulated...**

** See A Compendium of the Inaugural Year*

"John or Jonathan? Identifying Two Different John ABNEY's in Kentucky"

It has been brought to the author's attention that there is still some confusion over the parentage of two "John" ABNEY's, both of whom were born in Virginia, and both of whom migrated to Kentucky by 1810.

The author has seen several times, confusion amongst these two John's. However, these two families are well documented and there are many records one can use to differentiate between the two John ABNEY's.

One is John Key ABNEY, son of John ABNEY "the Hatter" (son of Abner ABNEY & Anne n.n.) and Isabella VAN LEAR. John Key ABNEY has been called "John Jr.", although he was not a junior.

The other is Jonathan "John" ABNEY, son of the gentleman whose name might be William ABNEY (son of Paul ABNEY, bapt. 1699). Jonathan has been called "John Jr.", as above, son of John "the Hatter". He has also been called John I, son of ???

About a year or so ago, Cousin Kirk JENKINS of Pacifica, California & I did some extensive work on these John's, cousin Kirk descending from John Key.

Let's begin with some general observations:

1. John Key's name was John. Jonathan was called "John" for short, but his name was Jonathan. Henceforth, we will refer to these men as John Key & Jonathan.
2. John Key received an inheritance in his father's will. The name of Jonathan's father has never been proved.
3. John Key was born in Augusta Co., Va. where his family had been for about 11 years or so. Jonathan was born in Albemarle Co., Va. where his family had been for about 8 years or so.
4. John Key was born on 20 Mar 1780. Jonathan was born circa 1765, and was, therefore, much older than John Key. With these dates known, it is almost impossible to confuse their census records.
5. John Key migrated to Greene Co., Ky. and was there by the time the 1800 Census was taken. Jonathan migrated to Estill Co., Ky. and was there by the time the 1810 Census was taken; but was not there in 1800. On 22 Dec 1800, Jonathan was in Amherst Co., Va.

6. John Key is said to have had two wives, to wit: he m1. "Betsy" GILL on 01 May 1800; he m2. Tamar Ann ROBINSON on 04 Apr 1803. Jonathan married Martha "Patsy" PUCKETT on 24 Apr 1790, a full 10 years before John Key married his first wife.

John Key sired: Mary, Gertrude, Robert, John, Cynthia, Isabella, Letitia, & James.

Jonathan sired: Littleberry, Celia, Milly, Tucker, Jane, William, Jonathan Jr., Joshua, Mary, & Docia.

Can we positively identify the two John's of the 1810 Kentucky Census? Yes, without a doubt, to wit:

In the 1810 Census of Kentucky, John Key is enumerated (still in Greene Co.) as follows: 2m <10 (Robert-2 & John-newborn) 1m 26-45 (John Key-30), 2f <10 (Mary-abt.5 & Gertrude-abt.4), 1f 26-45 (Tamar-actually abt.25) and 1 slave.

In that same Census, Jonathan, as "John" (in Estill Co.) is enumerated as follows: 3m <10 (William-abt.8, Jonathan Jr.-abt.6, & Joshua-5), 1m 10<16 (Tucker-11), 1m 26-45 (Jonathan-abt.45), 2f <10 (Mary-abt.2, & Jane-abt.9, 2f 10<16 (Celia-abt.15, & Milly-abt.14), 1f 26-45 (Patsy-abt.45), no slaves.

Therefore, knowing the issue of these two John's, we can positively identify each in the 1810 Census even though the 1810 Census does not give names of anyone save the Head of Household.

It has been reported that John Key died about 1820 in Greene Co., Ky. (after the 1820 Census was taken). Jonathan died in 1838.

There is no evidence that Jonathan was ever in Greene Co., Ky. nor that John Key was ever in Estill Co., Ky. The two counties are quite a distance apart and were never "related". In other words, neither county was created from the other.

In the author's opinion, these two John's descended from Dannett ABNEY Sr. as follows:

1. Dannett ABNEY Sr.

2. Paul ABNEY Abner ABNEY

| |

3. William (?) ABNEY John ABNEY "the Hatter"

| |

4. Jonathan ABNEY John Key ABNEY

Therefore, they were second cousins. Abner ABNEY lived & died in Albemarle Co., Va. His son, John thrived in Augusta Co., Va. and John Key migrated to Green Co., Ky. Paul ABNEY lived in Albemarle Co., and later Amherst Co., Va. where he died. His son was probably born in Goochland Co., and died in Amherst Co. and Jonathan was born in Amherst Co., Va. and migrated to Estill Co., Ky. Therefore, it is likely that they hardly knew each other, if they knew each other at all. By 1810, their branches had been separated for many years.

This should clear up these two Virginians who thrived and died in Kentucky in the early 19th century. Questions, however, will be happily entertained.

Problem #13 Re-Visited

Absalom Troup ABNEY

Many questions have been asked about Absalom Troup ABNEY. Previously, he was given a wife and large family. However, we have proved that the wife and family belonged to Absalom P. ABNEY, not Absalom Troup ABNEY. On the 1840 Census of South Carolina, Absalom Troup ABNEY appears as A.T. ABNEY (age 40-50). With him are 3 males (all age 30-40). Since throughout the Census records, Absalom never appeared to have a wife or children, we must now assume that he died without issue. These 3 men on his 1840 census record must be kinsmen or, more likely farm hands, but could hardly have been children. We know that he was born in 1795, therefore, it is very unlikely that he had 3 boys by the time he was 15 years old.

Problem #39

Parentage of Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY

This problem stemmed from Problem #6. Previously, Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY, b.ca.1822 in South Carolina, was given as a son of Absalom ABNEY, s/o "Uncle Bill" ABNEY. However, after proving that the son of "Uncle Bill" was Absalom P. ABNEY, and that his issue was that previously given as issue of Absalom Troup ABNEY, it was realized that Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY could not have been Absalom P. ABNEY's son. Now, I've formulated a theory. There was a James ABNEY in Union Co., S.C. on the 1830 Census. Amongst the members of his household was one male (age 5-10). "Ben" would fit into this category. James is believed to have been a son of Nathaniel ABNEY Jr. (s/o Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY, s/o Michael ABNEY, s/o George Abney & Unity). However, this is also still a theory. Nevertheless, it does help to support this latest theory, since Pvt. Nathaniel's descendants seem to have migrated to Georgia & Alabama. "Ben" ABNEY can be found on the 1850 Georgia Census & the 1860 Alabama Census. Does anyone have any information to help prove out this theory?

Problem #40

Parentage of John B. ABNEY

This problem, like Problem #40, also stemmed from Problem #6. John B. ABNEY (b.ca.1832 in South Carolina) was also given as a son of Absalom ABNEY (s/o "Uncle Bill" ABNEY). However, he was not. Could John B. ABNEY be a son of Martin ABNEY and his wife, Harriet? Martin ABNEY can be found as Head of Household on the 1840 & 1850 Censuses in Meriwether Co. & Heard Co., Ga., respectively. John B. ABNEY is said to have died in Lanette, Georgia. However, could this be Lanett, Alabama (which is in Chambers County)? If so, that is also where some of his kinsmen settled. Also, Lanett, Al. is on the Alabama/Georgia (very near Meriwether Co., Ga.). Additional evidence is this. John B. ABNEY married (as her second husband) Tabitha ABNEY (d/o George H. ABNEY & Rosannah O'LEARY). Tabitha's family also lived in Meriwether Co., Ga. She, if these theories are correct, would have been his 2nd cousin, once removed. To be sure, there is much more evidence needed to prove out this theory. Anyone with more information about these families is urged to contact the CAA.

Problem #25 & #26 Re-Visited

Other Nathaniel ABNEY('s)

The Nathaniel ABNEY's of these problems seem to be one-in-the-same. It appears that Nathaniel ABNEY married Eleanor BOULWARE and had issue. Eleanor died in 1836. Nathaniel re-married, this time to Mary BROOKS (in 1845), still in Sumter Co., Alabama, where he died in 1851. That theory is sound. However, the biggest problem is who is this Nathaniel? It was written that he'd been born 1786 in North Carolina. However, could this be South Carolina? If so, Nathaniel ABNEY could be Nathaniel ABNEY III, son of Nathaniel ABNEY Jr. (s/o of Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY Sr.). Nathaniel Jr. was born around 1768 and would have been about 18 years old when the Nathaniel of our problem was born. According to Census records, however, the Nathaniel of our problem could not have had the same mother as other issue of Nathaniel Jr. The eldest female of Nathaniel Jr.'s census enumeration's 1810-1840 was born between 1780-1784. Since this Nathaniel was born in 1786, he would have to have had a different mother. Did Nathaniel ABNEY Jr. marry twice? Did he leave issue from each wife? Descendants of these Nathaniel's would appreciate any additional information.

Corrected Problem Log

Due to enumeration errors, herewith please find a correct log of all problems which have appeared in *the Abney Family Researcher* from 1996-present. Note that in column 1 below, the code V:I:# stands for Volume Number:Issue Number:Problem Number.

V:I:#	Problem
I:I:1	<i>1790 South Carolina Charles ABNEY</i>
I:I:2	<i>The Dannett ABNEY Dilemma</i>
I:I:3	<i>Leonard ABNEY of Tennessee & Gincy</i>
I:I:4	<i>Elizabeth "Charity" Malina ABNEY</i>
I:I:5	<i>John Andy ABNEY, s/o "Bish"</i>
I:I:6	<i>Parentage of Absalom ABNEY</i>
I:I:7	<i>Parentage of Dora ABNEY</i>
I:I:8	<i>Parentage of Lizzie P. ABNEY</i>
I:I:9	<i>Parentage of James T. ABNEY</i>
I:I:10	<i>Parentage of Mary Agnes ABNEY</i>
I:I:11	<i>Parentage of Soleane ABNEY</i>
I:I:12	<i>Parentage of William Madison ABNEY</i>
I:2:13	<i>The Family of Absalom Troup ABNEY</i>

I:3:14	<i>Dannett ABNEY Sr. & Mary LEE</i>
I:3:15	<i>John Jefferson ABNEY m. Sarah ADKINS</i>
I:4:16	<i>Joshua ABNEY who m. Patsy PHELPS</i>
I:4:17	<i>Charles ABNEY (g/son of Dan^t, s/o Geo.)</i>
I:5:18	<i>Dorcas ABNEY m1. MAYS & m2. HILL</i>
I:5:19	<i>Pauline ABNEY who was b. 1841 Ky.</i>
I:5:20	<i>Nancy ABNEY m. Jasper PATRICK</i>
I:6:21	<i>Alleged Duel of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY</i>
I:6:22	<i>Another Patsy PHELPS</i>
II:1:23	<i>Thos. ABNEY's wife, Anne HOLMES?</i>
II:1:24	<i>Nathaniel ABNEY m. Eliz. BOULWARE</i>
II:1:25	<i>Nathaniel ABNEY m. Mary BROOKS</i>
II:1:26	<i>Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY</i>
II:1:27	<i>Parentage of Pot. William ABNEY</i>
II:1:28	<i>Parentage of Pot. Paul ABNER</i>
II:1:29	<i>Did Ursula ABNEY m. William WITT?</i>

II:2:30	<i>Parentage of James "Neighbor" ABNEY</i>
II:2:31	<i>Parentage of Drucilla Lane ABNEY</i>
II:3:32	<i>Clem ABNEY m. R.J. ABNER of Ky.</i>
II:4:33	<i>W^m ABNEY "the Frontier Defender"</i>
II:4:34	<i>Parentage of Butler ABNEY of S.C.</i>
II:4:35	<i>Polley ABNEY of the 1810 SC Census</i>
II:4:36	<i>William ABNEY m. Elizabeth GIBSON</i>
II:4:37	<i>Issue of W^m ABNEY & D. RICHARDSON</i>
II:4:38	<i>Melicent WILLS, d/o William WILLS</i>
II:5:39	<i>Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY m. Rebecca n.n.</i>
II:5:40	<i>John B. ABNEY m. Tabitha ABNEY</i>
II:5:41	<i>3 Nath^l ABNEY's of the 1810 SC Census</i>
II:5:42	<i>Parentage of Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY</i>
II:5:43	<i>Parentage of "Gentleman" John ABNEY</i>

Problem #41

3 Nathaniel ABNEY's of the 1810 SC Census

Until recently, the author has believed that the only ABNEY family to have settled in Union Co., S.C. was Dr. Nathaniel's. However, a look at the 1810 Census shows two Nathaniel ABNEY's in Union County. Who are they? Dr. Nathaniel died in 1787. Pvt. Nathaniel died seems to have died prior to the taking of the 1810 Census. Dr. Nathaniel's son, Nathaniel supposedly moved on to Tennessee by 1810...but did he? Did this latter Nathaniel actually leave Spartanburg County and return to his father's land in Union County? In 1793, Dr. Nathaniel's son, Paul, & widow, Lucy, sold his Union County land to Absalom POSEY (who appears to have married Dr. Nathaniel's daughter, Jean ABNEY). However, Absalom died in 1804. Did the Union County property find it's way back into the ABNEY Family? According to the Census, one Union County family matches perfectly with Nathaniel Jr.'s family of that period, to wit: male 16-26 (Nathaniel Jr. was about 22), female 26-45 (his wife, Sarah was about 26), male under 10 (Joseph was age 3), female under 10 (Lucinda was a newborn in 1810). Therefore, this record appears to be that of Nathaniel ABNEY Jr., the alleged posthumous son of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY. Apparently, he migrated to Tennessee after the taking of the 1810 Census.

But what of the other Nathaniel ABNEY in Union County in 1810? It would have to be Nathaniel Jr., son of Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY. The eldest male is given as age 26-45 (Nathaniel Jr. was about 42). Much of the rest of his family is unknown. If Martin ABNEY (of the 1840 Georgia Census) was a son of Nathaniel Jr., he would have been accounted for in 1810 as a male age under 10 (Martin was about 5 years old in 1810). Also, the author theorized that Nathaniel ABNEY who m1. Eleanor BOULWARE was a son of this Nathaniel ABNEY Jr. If so, where was he? One other Nathaniel ABNEY appeared in the 1810 Census of South Carolina, this one in Edgefield Co., S.C. Could this other Nathaniel have been Nathaniel ABNEY III? Once again, the family matches perfectly to Nathaniel ABNEY & Eleanor BOULWARE, to wit: male 16-26 (Nathaniel was 24), female 16-26 (Eleanor was 23), female under 10 (Mahaley was 3), male under 10 (William was 1).

This seems to solve a problem with the 1810 Nathaniel ABNEY's of South Carolina. The Union County Nathaniel's appear to have been a son of Dr. Nathaniel and a son of Pvt. Nathaniel. The Edgefield Nathaniel appears to have been a son Nathaniel Jr. (and grandson of Pvt. Nathaniel). Alternate theories will be gladly entertained.

The Noble Abney's

The Wife of John ABNEY, Lord of Willesley

As many of you are aware, we, the American ABNEY's, descend from John ABNEY, Lord of Willesley (son of Lord William ABNEY). Lord John ABNEY was father of Lord George ABNEY who sired our Edmund ABNEY, Lord Mayor of Leicester. We know little of Lord John ABNEY. We know that he thrived in the 15th century. We know that he died on 01 Dec 1505. We know that he was buried in Willesley Chapel, Derbyshire, England. We also know that his wife's name (in Latin) is Maria. Therefore, in English, she was either Margaret or Mary. Although we know little of our Noble Ancestor, we know even less about his wife, our Noble Ancestress. We know she was living in 1491. We know she married Lord John ABNEY, and was buried with him in Willesley Chapel, Derbyshire, England. Aside from that, we are in the dark. We know that there are some of you who are diligently working on our Noble lineage. The author has collected some 5,200 ABNEY Ancestors. Therefore, the information contained in the CAA database is not minute by any stretch. However, the information contained on Lord John ABNEY's wife is herein written. Has anyone out there discovered her surname and/or her ancestry? Does anyone know if church records for that period, specifically for Willesley Chapel, are extant? Have any visitations been discovered which might reveal her surname? Perhaps we can locate some "new" information, and learn a bit more about our Noble Ancestress.

While we're on the subject of the early ABNEY's of England, can anyone tell me if Othorpe was a city or a county?

Abney's Law of Genealogy

"The Census Cryptogram"

"Your Ancestor is never on the census he's supposed to be on."

Problem #33 Re-Visited

William ABNEY "the Frontier Defender"

Did anyone make a connection between two articles in the last issue of the AFR? The article about William ABNEY "the Frontier Defender" mentioned that this William was paid in Amelia Co., Va. In a "seemingly" unrelated article, Dannett ABNEY, son of George ABNEY & Unity was discovered to have gotten married in Amelia Co., Va.! So what's the big connection? For years, "the Frontier Defender" has been called a son of Dannett ABNEY Sr. Now, we see two ABNEY's, one Dannett and one William, both in Amelia County! Coincidentally, George ABNEY & Unity had sons by both names. Was George & Unity's son, William the real "Frontier Defender"? By 14 Sep 1758, when "the Frontier Defender" was being paid in Amelia County, George's son, William was already 22 years old. We know that Dannett & his brother, William were very close. Both were born in Virginia, the last children of George & Unity. Both received land grants in 96 District, S.C. and both migrated there and died there. These subtle clues, to this author, provide more circumstantial evidence that George's son was "the Frontier Defender", especially since both he and his brother, Dannett ABNEY were in Amelia County, Virginia at one time or another. If, as this author alleges, George's son, William was "the Frontier Defender", this leaves us only two reasons to believe that Dannett ABNEY Sr. sired a William ABNEY...which brings us to our next article.

Problems #42 & #43

Parentage of Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY and Gentleman John ABNEY

A topic of much discussion in the last two issues has been William "the Frontier Defender". He has been accepted, by some, as a son of Dannett ABNEY Sr. for many decades. However, with the evidence presented in these most recent issues of the AFR, the author is willing to admit that this alleged son of Dannett ABNEY Sr. may not have existed at all. The record of payment for defense of the frontier is easily accounted for by George's son. However, if George's son wasn't the subject of that payment, there are still other William ABNEY's of that time period to whom the record could refer. Therefore, we are left with only two reasons to continue "holding on" to William ABNEY as a son of Dannett ABNEY Sr., to wit: 1) Didn't a William ABNEY marry Sarah SPRAGGINS? 2) Didn't William ABNEY sire Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY & "Gentleman John" ABNEY.

For the first question, the author once again states, we have not one piece of primary evidence to support this statement. If anyone has evidence that a Sarah SPRAGGINS married a William ABNEY, please send it to the CAA. However, even if such a marriage record exists, we must confirm that the William ABNEY therein was of this first generation of ABNEY's born in Virginia.

As for the second question, nobody to date has ever proved the parentage of "Gentleman John", nor that of Capt. Nathaniel. In the last issue, the author alleged that the only two ABNEY's of the first generation who could have sired these gentlemen were Paul ABNEY and William ABNEY. Of these two, Paul ABNEY is the only person whom we can prove actually existed. Therefore, moving on with the author's theory that Dannett ABNEY Sr. did not sire a William, we must ask, "Could Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699) have sired "Gentleman John" & Capt. Nathaniel?" The answer is yes. We know that Capt. Nathaniel was born 04 Apr 1734. Since Paul ABNEY was baptized on 24 Dec 1699, he would have been about 35 years old when Capt. Nathaniel was born. In fact, considering the estimated birth years of Paul's "other" children, either Capt. Nathaniel or "Gentleman" John may have been his eldest. Moreover, they would fit into Paul ABNEY's family without having to "force" them.

Of course there will be skeptics asking an abundance of questions...which is exactly what we want. How can we get our history right if we don't question what we have? Perhaps we should entertain a couple of questions now, questions which the author has asked.

Q: Why didn't Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY name a son Paul?

A: I don't know. Why didn't he name one Nathaniel? But...Gentleman John did name a son Paul!

Q: Why did John & Nathaniel go to South Carolina when the rest of their siblings didn't?

A: First of all, we must remember that the author alleges that Pvt. Paul ABNER who m. Rhoda NORMAN was a son of Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699). He, therefore, would be a brother of Nathaniel & John; And Pvt. Paul did go to South Carolina.

The author will happily to entertain alternate views.

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