

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

# "The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

November, 1998 Volume II, Issue VII

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

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(Dedicated to the memory of Cousin Edward W. Reed)

Paul Abney's "Lost Son"

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

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**The Abney Family Researcher  
first published November, 1996 by R.R. Abney Jr.**

*Raymond "Robert" Abney Jr., editor*

*Tammy R. Abney, Corrector of the Press*

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**The Centralized Abney Archives Web Site  
created May, 1998 by Gina Lyn Abney**

*Gina Lyn Abney, Web Master*

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Coming Soon!

Volume I of...

The Abney Family History Series

by Raymond Robert "Bobby" Abney Jr. & Jennie H. Abney-Gant

*Delayed due to new discoveries! But...coming soon!*

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

Beginning next issue, I would like to add an addition column called "the Members Speak Out". Uncle Joe BAKER gave me the idea for this column. The views presented in these newsletters are largely views of the author through his work and the submissions of the members. However, in "the Members Speak Out", I will select views from our members on whatever topic ya'll wish to comment. Please send in your submissions, keeping them short and to the point. However, do include your evidence; and state theories as theories.

Beginning in January, 1999, we will set a "non-mandatory subscription fee" for the newsletter. Anyone desiring to subscribe may send their checks, payable to Tammy R. Abney at the CAA address at the end of each newsletter. Although these subscription fees are non-mandatory, they are needed and appreciated. All who subscribe will help in the continued advancement of our family history, and show support for the *Centralized Abney Archives*, the *Abney Family Researcher*, and your desire to correctly delineate and document our family history.

Thanks to all for your continued support!

Your cousin,

**R.R. Abney Jr.**

**FORTITER ET HONESTE**

**In Memory of Cousin Edward W. REED, late of Mesa, Arizona, died 09 Dec 1997 at age 84, a son of William Edgar REED & Ota ABNEY. A jovial fellow with whom I have had the pleasure of telephone conversations and correspondence, Cousin Edward descended from Pvt. Paul ABNER & Rhoda NORMAN through their son, William who married Amelia BATES. You will be missed! R.R. Abney Jr.**

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

3. Leonard ABNEY of TN - RR
9. James T. ABNEY - NR
10. Mary Agnes ABNEY - RR
15. John Jefferson ABNEY & Sarah ADKINS - NR
17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - RR/T\*\*
23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN - RR
26. Parentage of Rhoda Susan ABNEY - RR/T\*\*
32. Parentage of Clem ABNEY - R\*\*
34. Parentage of Butler ABNEY - NR
35. Polley ABNEY of the 1810 SC Census - RR/T\*\*
36. Parentage of William ABNEY b.ca.1829 - R\*
37. Issue of W<sup>m</sup> ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON - NR
38. Husband of Melicent WILLS (ABNEY) - NR
39. Parentage of Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY - NR
40. Parentage of John B. ABNEY - NR
42. Parentage of Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY - R/T

43. Parentage of Gentleman John ABNEY - R/T\*\*

44. Cemetery of Kentucky ABNEY's - NR

45. Bathshua (widow of ABNEY & LEE) - NR

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

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### "Paul Abney's 'Lost Son'"

Eleven percent of the two-hundred twenty-nine genealogists in the CAA database are believed to descend from the "lost son" of Paul ABNEY who was baptized in 1699. Sometime back, the author published his theory that this lost son had more children than heretofore believed, including Pvt. William ABNEY & John ABNEY, from whom these twenty-five genealogical cousins descend.

Here, now, the author will present, not only the evidence which has brought him to these conclusions, but will reveal the name of this "lost son".

In this article, the author will use the following abbreviations for the following Virginia Counties: Goo.=Goochland; Alb.=Albemarle, Amh.=Amherst; Aug.=Augusta. This article will be primarily about Paul ABNEY's family. When Abner ABNEY's family is the subject, the author will use a series of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) to show this separation.

There were two Albemarle County branches of the ABNEY Family (in addition to a female line through Mary ABNEY who m. John BERNARD), to wit:

Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699) & his brother, Abner ABNEY. These are two proved sons as, in addition to Paul's baptism which proves his father, both were named as "sons" in Dannett Sr.'s will: *...it is my Desire that if ye plantation whear i now live is not Sold before my Wyfes Deathe that Shee wold give ye plantati:son and land belonging to to it to my tow Sons paul Abney and Abner Abney... [sic].*

These are the only two male ABNEY branches in Albemarle County, which fact facilitates the delineation of the said branches. Therefore, we can safely conclude that all ABNEY's of this area belong to one of these two branches.

Now, chronologically...

On 02 Mar 1742, Paul ABNEY purchased 100 acres of land in Goo. from Anthony POUNAY.

In 1744, Alb. was created, in part, from Goo. - Paul's Goochland land was now in Albemarle County, Va.

On 02 Mar 1750, Paul ABNEY, living in Albemarle County, Virginia sold land to John GRAVES.

*Paul ABNEY of Alb., Planter to John GRAVES, Planter £300 100 a. bounded beg. at a white oak in Chas. LYNCHes line running thence on same W to pointers, thence on W<sup>m</sup> RANDOLPHs line SW to pointers, thence SW to pointers on the Cr. side, thence down sd Cr. to a white Oak, thence E to a white Oak in the bank line, thence on the same N to the beg. /s/ Paul ABNEY /w/ Davis STOCKTON, Adam GOUDYLOCK, Rob<sup>t</sup> BRENTON, W<sup>m</sup> WHITESIDE.*

Paul was still living in Alb. on 14 Aug 1751 when he ack. his deed of 02 Mar 1750 to John GRAVES.

\*\*\*\*\* Abner's family \*\*\*\*\*

On 25 Sep 1751, Abner ABNEY wrote his will in Alb. naming a son, John ABNEY amongst others.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 10 Oct 1751, John GRAVES sold land in Alb. adj. Paul ABNEY's land:

*John GRAVES & wife Lucy to William GOUGE of Hanover Co. for £40, 350 a. of land in 2 parcels...in Alb...at a Steep Rock by side of the N Br. of James R., thence E on the Rock Ridge to Jn Morris Corner White Oak, thence NE to a white Oak Corner to Paul ABNEYS, thence West on ABNEYS line to a White Oak in W<sup>m</sup> RANDOLPHs line on Mt. Falls Cr...lease of 100 a. of the tract adj. . Chas LYNCH, W<sup>m</sup> RANDOLPH. /w/ Jno MORRIS, Francis GRAVES, Mary MORRISS, W<sup>m</sup> GOOCH, Jr.*

\*\*\*\*\* Abner's family \*\*\*\*\*

On 10 Jul 1759, John ABNEY "the Hatter" (son of Abner) applied for his marriage license in Aug. - this is important. It shows John (Abner's son) had left Alb. by 10 Jul 1759 and settled in Augusta Co.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 13 Nov 1760, W<sup>m</sup> GOUGE sold the land he purchased of John GRAVES to Benjamin SNEED. The land was still adj. Paul ABNEY's land in Alb.

*Alb. - W<sup>m</sup> GOUGE to Ben<sup>i</sup> SNEED for £ 25, 350 a. - 2 tracts near Rooks Ford; 250 a. adj. J<sup>n</sup> MORRIS, Paul ABNEY, W<sup>m</sup> RANDOLPH, Mt. Falls Creek. 100 a. adj. Chas LYNN, W<sup>m</sup> RANDOLPH. /s/ W<sup>m</sup> (his X mark) GOUGE; /w/ J<sup>n</sup> LOBBAN, W<sup>m</sup> CARRALL, Sam<sup>l</sup> HENDERSON.*

In 1761, Amherst was created from Albemarle. Paul's land, which had originally been in Gooch-land, then Albemarle, was now in Amherst County.

On 23 Jul 1762, we find the following court record - *I David LEWIS of the Par. of St. Anns in Albemarle Co. have appointed Alexander BAINE of Henrico Co. my true & lawfull Attorney.. to ask, demand, sue for, recover, & receive from the several persons whose names are mentioned in the Schedule hereunto annexed the several sums of money or Tobo...John ABNER, Albemarle 13s.9p...*

Point I: As much as this author has seen, John ABNEY (Abner's son), presently of Aug. never used (nor was he referred to by) the surname ABNER.

Point II: John ABNEY (Abner's son) went to Aug. at least 3 years before this record.

Point III: Pvt. Paul ABNEY/ABNER (according to this author), a son of Paul ABNEY [bapt. 1699], hence a brother of this John "ABNER", also used (and was referred to by) the surname ABNER! The author will show that the John ABNER of this record is "the lost son" of Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699).

Continuing the Chronology...

In 1761, the lands owned by Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699) now fell in Amherst County. Here we find:

On 21 Jan 1764, in Amh., a deed of Adam GOUDYLOCK to Thos. STOCKTON for £35.19s.3p, 400 a. on both sides of Rockfish Cr. bound: Henry TERRELL, Moses AGER, Martha STOCKTON, David STOCKTON. /s/ Adam GOUDYLOCK, /w/ Samuel STOCKTON, Thomas STOCKTON, John (his + mark) ABNER, Richard (his R mark) STOCKTON.

POINT I: The one referred to as John ABNER (in Alb. because the debt was created prior to the county change) is now witnessing a deed as John ABNER!

POINT II: John was illiterate. He signed with "his + mark"! John ABNEY (son of Abner) was a non-illiterate, business-owner (he owned a habadashery!) Therefore, these are distinctly two different John's. Also, the author reiterates: Abner's son, John ABNEY has been in Aug. since no later than 1759!

POINT III: Re-read the deed of 20 Mar 1750. When Paul sold the land to GRAVES, witnesses were Davis STOCKTON & Adam GOUDYLOCK! In the deed of 21 Jan 1764, when Adam GOUDYLOCK sold this land to Thomas STOCKTON, it was witnessed by Samuel STOCKTON, Thomas STOCKTON, Richard STOCKTON, and John ABNER! Coincidence? No way! These GRAVES', STOCKTON's, and GOUDYLOCK's were neighbors for many years. John ABNEY/ABNER "grew up" around these friends of his father, Paul.

Continuing the Chronology...

On 08 Oct 1765, in an indenture of Alb. (just across the Amh./ Alb. county line), we find: *W<sup>m</sup> FIELDER & Elisabeth, his wife to Allexander M<sup>c</sup>KINSY of Alb. & Frederovill Par. for £33.6s.8p...50 a. in Alb. & St. Anns Par. bound: by Henry TERRELL, James WARRIN /s/W<sup>m</sup> FIELDER; /w/W<sup>m</sup> GARLAND, John ABNEY, Henry HAYS, Joel TERRELL. proved by the oath of W<sup>m</sup> GARLAND, John ABNEY & Henry HAYS - rec: 10 Oct 1765*

On 24 Apr 1767, Paul ABNEY had a land survey for 76 acres of land in Amherst County.

On 15 Jan 1773, we find: *Robert ADAMS to John HARVIE - land in Alb. adj. the Jn CARR, W<sup>m</sup> JOHNSON, Eliz. THOMPSON, John ABNER, Nicholas LEWIS, & the Rivanna River. /w/ Tucker WOODSON Jr., Peter MARKS, Jn<sup>o</sup> MARKS, Sam<sup>l</sup> WOODS.*

There he is! John ABNER...and again in Alb.! Again surnamed ABNER! Apparently, he did secure land in Alb. & returned there. Still, he was very close to his father (again, just across the county line).

A record of 01 Apr 1779 in Amh. shows Paul ABNER! No doubt, this is John's brother...and the Pvt. Paul ABNEY of the Am. Rev., and the Paul ABNER who m. Rhoda NORMAN! This author is certain that John ABNEY/ABNER & Paul ABNEY/ ABNER were brothers & sons of Paul ABNEY (Sr.).

19 Dec 1785 - [Pvt.] W<sup>m</sup> ABNEY m. M. GRAVES.

The final record in the author's possession for Paul ABNEY is of the marriage for Tandy HOLMAN to Elizabeth ABNEY dated 30 Sep 1786:

*HOLEMAN, Tandy, bachelor, & Elizabeth ABNEY, spinster...W<sup>m</sup> ABNEY, surety.  
Consent of her grandfather, Paul ABNEY. Consent of Elizabeth.*

The author has found no other record of John ABNEY/ABNER after the 1773 record...and the 1786 record explains John's disappearance...Paul Sr.'s son and daughter-in-law died while his granddaughter, Elizabeth ABNEY was still a minor. Paul Sr. (bapt. 1699) gave his consent for her to marry. The surety in this marriage record was none other than Pvt. William ABNEY who married into the GRAVES family which had befriended the ABNEY's decades before.

By the time this marriage occurred, Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699) was about 87 years old. It is not known how much longer Paul Abney lived.

Nonetheless, This John ABNEY/ABNER is "the lost son" of Paul ABNEY. This John ABNEY/ABNER is the gentleman previously believed to be the alleged William ABNEY (Sr.). Therefore, there was no William ABNEY Sr. here. John ABNEY/ABNER was the son who predeceased his father, Paul Sr.

13 Mar 1787 - Judith ABNEY m. Luke BULLEN

18 Jul 1789 - Mary ABNEY m. John BROWN. J<sup>n</sup> & Alex. McALEXANDER testified that Mary's parents were dead, and that she was 21 years old. (note: John ABNEY (Jr.) purchased land adj. McALEXANDER)

24 Apr 1790 - John ABNEY m. Patsy PUCKETT.

22 Dec 1800 - Lucey ABNER m. Jesse KING... Major KING, surety... Consent of John Abney [Jr.] & Patman Abner [his wife].

Since in Colonial Virginia Law, a female must have obtained the age of 18 to marry without parental or guardian consent, Lucy was born after 1782. Therefore, her mother died circa 1783-1786; and her father, John ABNER died circa 1782-1786.

The author has therefore drawn the following conclusions regarding Paul ABNEY's family:

Paul ABNEY (bapt. 1699) m. n.n. & had:

1. Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY (probable)
2. John ABNEY/ABNER Sr. (definite)
3. Paul ABNEY/ABNER Jr. (definite)

John ABNEY/ABNER m. n.n. & had:

1. Pvt. William ABNEY Sr. (b.1757)
2. John ABNEY/ABNER Jr. (b.ca.1759)
3. Judith ABNEY (b.ca.1766)
4. Mary ABNEY (b.ca.1768)
5. Elizabeth ABNEY (b.ca.1769)
6. Lucy ABNEY/ABNER (b.ca.1782)

Due to the gaps, there certainly seems to have been other issue. After the death of John and his wife, the children were apparently reared by their grandfather, Paul ABNEY (or at least the younger children).

With this discovery, we will close the problems numbered 27 & 28 (parentage of Pvt. Paul & Pvt. William), considering them firmly resolved.

Still we are left with a mystery...

Who was the Rhoda Susan (allegedly an ABNEY) who m. William RUSSELL?  
Can anyone provide any information at all on this Rhoda Susan?

Any additional information would be welcome. The author is interested in all viewpoints, pro & con.

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## The Information Age

With all the new discoveries and connections we're making in the ABNEY family, some may be thinking, "why wasn't this realized 150 years ago?" The author believes there is a simple answer to this question: "the Information Age". We are able to send a virtually unlimited amount of messages each day, get responses, and further respond to those messages, all while the problems are still fresh in our minds. The author has created several private forums with different groups of ABNEY researchers in order to "brainstorm" particular problems; and it's working! Each day we're discovering new facts, getting closer to the truth, and resolving problems. Why "resolving" instead of "solving"? Because at one point in history, these problems were already solved! This information was known. It was simply lost in time. Our job is to find it, and "re-solve" these problems. Corrections are being made daily! New lines are being added; old lines are being corrected. The author has so many new discoveries to publish that a weekly newsletter wouldn't even be enough. Therefore, with the publishing of the first volume of the Abney Family History Series, the author will launch a world of information on the ABNEY family which has never before been published. Each subsequent volume will contain more information, more

genealogy, more discoveries, more corrections, and more additions! The Information Age has been good to the ABNEY family genealogists! Our history, buried for centuries, is now coming to life. At last count, we had over 180 ABNEY genealogists involved in our project. This has become much more than the author dreamed of back in 1993 when the CAA was formed. Tell all your cousins about the CAA. Don't let them get left behind. We're making progress at a rate in which the newsletter is unable to keep up with. How exciting! Thank you, one and all, for your continued support, for your monetary donations, and for the material you send in to keep this project growing. The walls of the CAA office are busting out all over with mounds of information! If you've not yet sent your lineal descent from the ABNEY family to us, please take a moment to do so! We may be able to correct mistakes that you didn't know you had. We may be able to add to your family genealogy; and we can get you in touch with some of your "nearer" kin.

Get on board and take the ride with the ABNEY family genealogists in the Information Age. You'll be glad you did!

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## Problem #36 Resolved

William ABNEY who m. Elizabeth GIBSON

*(A special thanks to Cousins Sherry COMBS,*

*Sue HAWKINS, and Joyce JONES)*

From a forum comprised of these researchers & the author, we were able to resolve not only problem #36, but other problems heretofore unpublished.

William S. ABNEY Sr. (son of John ABNEY/ ABNER & Martha "Patsy" PUCKETT) was b.1801 in Kentucky. He m. 17 Feb 1819 in Estill Co., Ky. to Elizabeth GRAHAM. They had at least three children b. in Ky. (maybe one or two more) and migrated to Boone Co., In. where they had 5 more children, to wit. William Sr. & Elizabeth had:

1. Perlina W. ABNEY m. Peter O. DINSMORE
2. H.G. ABNEY
3. William S. ABNEY Jr. m1. Mary H.; m2. Elizabeth GIBSON; m3. Samantha n.n.
4. Manson C. ABNEY m. Mary Jane TYLER
5. Sidney ABNEY
6. Fielding ABNEY
7. Eliza Jane ABNEY m. Paris (Harris) HEDGE
8. Ryland T. ABNEY m. Mahala J. n.n.

Anyone interested in the continuation of this family may contact the author. We have discovered many descendants of these ABNEY's in Indiana.

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## Problem #46

### John ABNEY Jr. of South Carolina (1776-1823)

Who was this John? The Bible reads, *This Book Was Purchafed Anno Domini 1803 By John Abney Junior*. The "cover sheet" (submitted with the Bible record to GRAB) reads *John ABNEY Jr. born Feb 7, 1761 Died Oct 2, 1823 and his wife Martha Abney WILLS Born --- Died Oct. 20, 1817, Married Mar. 6, 1800*. However, this cover sheet appears to be incorrect. The John Abney who married Martha Abney WILLS was born 28 Mar 1776. He died in 1823 "in the 48<sup>th</sup> year of his age". Therefore, we must ignore the cover sheet and look at the original entries contained on the original Bible pages:

*John Abney and his wife Martha was married the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord 1800*

*Departed this life on the 20<sup>th</sup> of october 1817 Martha Abney Wife of John Abney in the 33<sup>d</sup> year of her age*

*John Abney and his wife Agatha was married January 21<sup>st</sup> Anno. 1819*

*Departed this life on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1819 Elenor Abney Wife of Paul Abney in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of her age.*

*On the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1820, Departed this life Mr. Paul Abney in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of his age.*

*Departed this life on the 2<sup>d</sup>. of October A.D. 1823 John Abney Jr. in the 48<sup>th</sup> year of his age*

These entries seem to indicate that "John ABNEY Jr." was a son of Paul ABNEY & Elenor (sic) HAMILTON". Why then the suffix "Junior"? Was he so named to distinguish him from another John? Perhaps an older John (although not his father)?

We know that Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY's son, John was born 07 Feb 1761 (the date which the cover sheet claims the subject of this problem was born). Since the subject of our problem married Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY's granddaughter, Martha WILLS, was John called "Junior" to differentiate him from Capt. Nathaniel's son, an elder John?

By the way, the author wishes to confirm that John ABNEY's original Bible did not contain information on Capt. Nathaniel's family. A separate page was placed into John ABNEY's Bible with the information on Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY. The author does not know who put that page in there. However, the author believes that due to John's marriage into the Capt. Nathaniel family, that information was important to John's descendants, hence, it was included in his Bible record. Again, the Original Bible pages did not contain the Capt. Nathaniel ABNEY information.

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### Problem #47

#### OBNEY of Ohio, Pennsylvania, W. Va., & Virginia

*(submitted by [Cousin?] Gina SHUTT)*

Can anyone prove or disprove if this OBNEY family is descended from the ABNEY's?

William OBNEY b.ca.1800 PA m1. Elizabeth McMILLAN & had: William (of whom later), Thompson, & John.

William OBNEY, b.Oct 1824, m. Rhoda GODFREY & had: John L., Birdgess (Burgess), Howard, Ellen, Annie (Anna) R., Martha, Robert F., and Early.

If anyone can show that this family definitely is, or isn't, an ABNEY family, please write to the author.

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### Problem #48

#### William Omer ABNEY (b.1878 Georgia.)

*(submitted by Cousin Brenda ABNEY PHILLIPS)*

Looking for information on William Omer ABNEY who was born 1878, "somewhere in Georgia". He had a brother named Odis ABNEY. William's son, Robert Medlin ABNEY was b.03 Nov 1919 in Carrier Mills, Il. & married Arbutis Marie COOMER (b. 07 Apr 1923 in Oakdale, Ky.).

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## Problem #49

### Pvt. William ABNEY's wives

There are equal amounts of researchers who believe that Pvt. William did and didn't marry sisters. We absolutely know that his first wife was "Milly" GRAVES. However, was his second wife, Judith (a.k.a. Juda, Judah) also a GRAVES? It appears that when she married Pvt. William, she was a widow of Joseph CLARK, and mother of the Wallace (Wallis) CLARK who m. Mary "Polly" ABNEY (d/o Pvt. William ABNEY & Milly GRAVES). But was Judith born in Georgia as the 1850 Census reads? Other than that census records, indications are that Milly and Judith were sisters. Anyone having more information, please contact the author.

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## Problem #50

### Ward Wilson ABNEY of Virmigy, Minnesota

(Submitted by Cousin Timothy Burke)

Looking for information on Ward Wilson ABNEY who was born 1904 at Virmigy, Mn. and had 6 siblings. Their father was "Sel" ABNEY. Ward left Virmigy and stayed in Cedar Rapids, Ia. He also stayed in Moline, Independence, & Stockton, finally settling in California.

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## Problem #51

*Robert ABNEY who m. Mary RODMAN*

*(submitted by Cousin William Douglas "Bo" ABNEY)*

Can anyone connect this line? Robert ABNEY (maybe from Evansville, IN) m. Mary RODMAN & had: Sylvester, John, Blanche, & Hazel.

Sylvester (b. Evansville, IN area) m. Glenna DUNLAP & had: Eugene V., Ray, Lloyd, & Betty.

Eugene Vance (b. 14 Feb 1914 Evansville, IN) m. Lillian KEAN & had: David Eugene & William Ray.

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## Problem #52

**John Wesley ABNER who died in Georgia**

*(submitted by Cousin Carrie ABNER FORD)*

John Wesley ABNER b. 21 Aug 1836; d. 21 Apr 1920; bur. Bethabra Cem., Winder, Ga. John sired:

1. Joe
2. Mattie b. 07 May 1869
3. James David b. 04 Oct 1871 Dacula, Ga.
4. Willie b. 17 Mar 1873
5. Marion Asbury b. 31 Jan 1881

Does anyone know the names of John Wesley's father and/or wife?

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## Problem #53

### John Joseph ABNEY of Louisiana

*(submitted by Cousin Fred ABNEY)*

Seeking the parents of John Joseph ABNEY Sr., b. ca. 1896; lived in (and possibly born in or near) Hammond, Louisiana. He m1. n.n. & had: Wilber and John Jr. He moved to Mississippi and m2. Loraine Elisabeth MILLER (b.ca.1906 in Moss Point, Ms. He & Loraine had: Fred ABNEY (b.16 Sep 1928). John Joseph ABNEY Sr.'s occupation was "Mechanic". All clues are greatly appreciated.

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## The STANLEY Family of England

Much thanks to "Uncle Joe" BAKER of Houston, Texas for a charming photograph of himself next to the sarcophagi of ABNEY ancestors, George STANLEY, Lord of Hammerwich in Co. Stafford, England, and a Member of the British Parliament; and his wife, Hon. Eleanor SUTTON (alias DUDLEY) of Wednesday Hall. They are buried in the Lichfield Cathedral, Co. Stafford, England. This photograph was to appear in this newsletter, however, due to printing poorly and increasing the size of the newsletter file to over 2 meg, the editor has decided to place the [photograph](#) on the web site only. You will want to enjoy this historic photograph on the CAA Web Site in the "Family Photographs" area.

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## Abney's Law of Genealogy

### "The Reliable Source Conjecture"

*You've searched for years to find documentation to prove out an ancestor, and now you've found two sources...but the contradict each other."*

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## Corrigendum

The author has been, for many years now, calling the husband of Patsy PUCKETT, "Jonathan 'John' ABNEY". However, one cousin in requesting information as to what document(s) his name appears as "Jonathan", has alerted the author to the fact that no original document has been discovered so naming him. John ABNEY Jr. who married Patsy (Patman, Patty) PUCKETT will therefore be referred to by this author as John ABNEY/ABNER [Jr.].

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## The First-Ever Abney Family Gathering

We are planning a gathering of Abney Genealogists and their families. As of this date, nothing has been set (date, place, &c.) however, we are shooting for Spring, 1999. Many cousins have confirmed their interest in this gathering, we are therefore going forth with the plans. Our Web Master, Cousin Gina ABNEY is going to head the committee to seek out a location most centralized. At this time, we are thinking of Tennessee or Kentucky. Since we have ABNEY cousins spread from coast-to-coast, Alaska (there are also ABNEY's in Hawaii, but we've not corresponded with any regarding family research), and some in Foreign countries, (Canada, France, England, and Spain at this time) it would be difficult to find a place convenient to all ABNEY researchers. However, we hope to find the location which will be convenient to most of the ABNEY researchers. We will be announcing date and location as soon as we can confirm them. In the meantime, we're still accepting recommendations.

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## The Abney Family Cookbook

In order to fund the Abney Family Gathering, Cousin Kathi ABNER put "a bug in our ear" to assemble and sell a cook book with ABNEY recipes. Forms for submitting recipes and ordering cookbooks are on the CAA Web Site. Anyone not having access to our web site can request a form directly from the author at the CAA address. Please submit some recipes so that we can make this fund-raising project a success; and ultimately, make the family gathering a fun, exciting, and informative occasion. We would like all to participate. If you can't make the gathering, you can still own a piece of this history-in-the-making; and enjoy some good ole' ABNEY cookin'!

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## In Closing...

There are so many wonderful things happening in our family, we scarcely have the room to print it in the space allotted in the newsletters.

The photograph in this newsletter is also on the website. So, anyone wanting a good copy thereof may download it from the website.

The Abney Family Gathering will happen! You will want to make every effort to attend this historic occasion. The Abney Family Cookbook will be published! You will want to get your recipes into it! Too many recipes are lost and never again recovered. Ensure your family recipes will endure forever! Share your cuisine with your cousins! And help us fund the Abney Family Gathering!

With so many cousins getting involved in our CAA project, our history is being discovered; Our heritage is being preserved...and we've only just begun!

Several cousins have asked me, "how can I help?" There are many ways! However, I alone cannot think of them. Cousin Abney BREWER educated me on how to send the newsletter electronically (via email). Several cousins suggested snail-mail volunteers and many cousins volunteered to assist. We list the names of these unselfish cousins in each newsletter. Cousin Gina ABNEY created the Web Site. Cousin Chris A. ABNEY came up with the idea for the ABNEY Family Gathering, Cousin Kathi ABNER came up with the idea for the ABNEY Family Cookbook. Cousins Joe BAKER, Abney BREWER, and Carrie EVANS held the subscription fee fund drive. These ideas were not mine; and they were all excellent! I am always open to new ideas and new areas that we may expand our project into. With the CAA Web Site, our expansion is virtually unlimited!

Again, I cannot stress enough, the importance of getting online! A person's age and fear of computers are no longer barriers! Many of our senior genealogists have purchased computers and are now online. Computers are now more affordable than ever; and with the advent of Windows, they are easier than ever to operate! If you can point and click a button, you can send and receive email; and open your research to areas you never dreamed were available! We have some cousins who have never seen the inside of a courthouse, archives, library; and have never gone grave-hunting! They've been able to locate enough information online to complete a sizable genealogy!

I do not believe that the Internet is a replacement for these genealogical outings. In fact, being a digger, I wouldn't stop visiting cemeteries, libraries, &c., even if

everything was available on the Internet. However, you'll be surprised to learn that some things located on the Internet cannot be found in your local library or archives!

The bottom line, however, is this:

I would like everyone to get involved! We have over 180 members, now. All of these dear cousins are welcome to submit ideas to me; and become more involved in this fledgling organization.

We're only five years old! Our first three years were without the aid of the Internet. The following year we were still snail-mailing all of the newsletters. Therefore, only in this past year have we jumped into the electronic age! So, we're a "new" CAA!

We can still use some more volunteers for snail-mail! If you wouldn't mind snail-mailing as few as one newsletter each two months, please let me know! This would be a great help. We've gotten quite a few new cousins who don't have email. Snail-mailing even one newsletter would be a great help!

Also, everyone out there must have "some" census records on the ABNEY's. Many of you have sent some in. However, for collecting all ABNEY's in all census records, we are still only about 20% completed. Anyone having census records, or anyone who would like to volunteer to copy census records, please let me know! All help is greatly appreciated!

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

**Your cousin,**

**R.R. Abney Jr.**

**Fortiter et Honeste**

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