

ANN ABBOTT
Daughter of Joseph Abbott of Halifax County, Virginia

Research Report by Joan Horsley
Based on Research as of December 2013
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ANN ABBOTT

Daughter of Joseph Abbott and first wife (name unknown)
Born: Bet. 1730-1750, in or near King and Queen County, VA
Died: Aft. 30 Mar 1787, Halifax County, VA
No recorded or apparent marriage

Ann Abbott is named in her father Joseph Abbott's will among "my three oldest daughters namely Anney, Sarah and Rachel," indicating Ann was the first daughter of his 16 children still alive when Joseph wrote his will 30 Mar 1787. [HWB2:298] Ann's exact birth date is not known, and we can only estimate a range. The first named of Joseph's "youngest boys" in his will is William, born 1756, and the first named of his "youngest daughters" is Mary, born abt. 1767. Joseph's son Joseph Jr., born abt. 1750, is included among the oldest children, and Joseph's first child, Benjamin, was born abt. 1728. After adding in Joseph's other children (most of whose ages are proved within a year or two), the groupings indicate children by three wives, with Benjamin, Joseph Jr., and the "three oldest daughters" being born of Joseph's first wife. Thus, we can estimate that Ann, Sarah, and Rachel were born roughly between 1730-1750.

Joseph's will names all his daughters by first name only, with no indication whether any were married at the time. However, married daughters normally were named in their parent's will by their legally proper married surname, and we have proof that none of the "four youngest daughters" married until after Joseph wrote his will. Thus, until there is proof otherwise, we must assume that none of these three daughters were married by 1787. No later marriage record exists for them in Halifax, where their family had lived for twenty-five years and where post-Revolution marriage records are generally complete.

Contrary to many undocumented online files, Joseph Abbott's daughter Ann is proved not to be the Ann Abbott who married Ephraim Knight 12 Feb 1758 in Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, VA. [Boogher, *Overwharton Parish Register*, p. 7] Marriages took place in the bride's county of residence, and Stafford was 80 miles northwest of where Joseph Abbott's family lived at the time. Joseph's son William Abbott's Revolutionary War pension application proves that their father Joseph Abbott and family never lived in or near Stafford County but moved abt. 1762 directly from King and Queen County, VA, where they lived at least by 1756, to Halifax County. [NARA File W5616]

Other online files, likewise undocumented, list Joseph's daughter Ann as marrying Ephraim Knight 12 Feb 1788 in Halifax County, VA. Obviously, this is merely a distortion of the Overwharton Parish record that gives the same names, day, and month, but the online files change the year and place. No such record exists in Halifax, and no Knight family is associated or connected with Joseph Abbott's family in Halifax. The family of Ephraim and

Ann Abbott Knight was still living in Stafford County in 1789, as was Ann's sister Rachel Abbott Knight's family and their close relatives Elijah, George, James, and John Abbott Sr., who are proved not to be descendants of Joseph Abbott of Halifax. [*Stafford Personal Property Tax Lists*] (See Report on Joseph Abbott for more details.)

Furthermore, some online files say that Joseph's daughter Ann Abbott married second to John Keeling on 5 Nov 1804 in Halifax. This, too, is an error. There is a Halifax marriage record of that date for John Keeling, but he is proved to marry Joseph Abbott Jr.'s daughter Sarah Abbott, not a daughter of Joseph Abbott Sr. and not an Ann. However, at least one undocumented submission to the LDS FamilySearch organization (with numerous proved errors) collapsed Joseph's daughters Ann and Sarah into the same person ("Annay Sarah"), not realizing that Joseph's will clearly shows Ann (Anney) and Sarah are two separate daughters. Apparently the submitter also did not realize that any second marriage for a bride recorded her by her first married name, not by her maiden name.

No Halifax marriage record exists for Joseph's daughter Ann Abbott. If, as it seems, she was born before 1750 and was still unmarried in 1787, by which time Halifax marriage records are generally complete, then Ann Abbott likely never married and died in Halifax sometime after her father wrote his will. (Unless a woman was a widowed head-of-house or an unmarried woman with taxable property, females generally were absent in the records of the day.) No Halifax probate records for Ann Abbott exist.

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