

ARMISTEAD ABBOTT and FAMILY
 Son of Benjamin and Ann Abbott of Halifax County, Virginia

Research Report by Joan Horsley
 Based on research as of 2013
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 See notes at the end of the report

ARMISTEAD ABBOTT - b. Abt. 1771, Halifax Co., VA; d. 1840, Stokes Co., NC
 Married 23 May 1797, Halifax Co., VA to Frances Priddy (d/o George Priddy)
 FRANCES PRIDDY - b. Abt. 1780; d. Bet. Sep 1841 - Jun 1842, Stokes Co., NC

CHILDREN of ARMISTEAD ABBOTT and FRANCES PRIDDY:

Alice "Alcey" Abbott (m. John Reddick), Polly Abbott (m. James Bowman), Davis Abbott (m. Cinderella [maiden name unknown]), Jacob Abbott (m. Elizabeth Young), William Abbott (m. Milly Fulton), Frances Abbott (m. Joel Fulton), Elizabeth Abbott (m. Henry M. Burton), Jane Abbott (m. Fewell Fulton), John J. Abbott (m. Martha Shackelford)

ARMISTEAD ABBOTT was born to Benjamin and Ann Abbott in Halifax County, VA abt. 1771 (ie, bet. mid-1770 to mid-1771). His age is proved by his first appearing in the Halifax personal property tax lists by name at age 21 in June 1792. Prior to that, Armistead is enumerated in his father Benjamin's tax lists from May 1787 at age 16.

Armistead's parents first lived near Benjamin's father and siblings at Difficult Creek just east of today's Crystal Hill, VA, where Armistead's two older siblings and likely Armistead were born. In mid-to-late 1771, the family moved west to Banister River and settled by 1773 a short distance north of today's town of Meadville. Armistead's four younger siblings were born on this land on the south side of Banister River at Bye Creek, where Armistead grew up and later established his own family. (Contrary to ubiquitous online information with numerous proved errors, no Abbott was born in "Maresville," as no place of that name ever existed in Halifax County. Also, none of this Abbott family ever lived or married in Stafford County, VA, another repeated error in online files.)

Armistead Abbott married in Halifax County by bond dated 23 May 1797 to Frances Priddy. Frances' father, George Priddy, gave his consent, as she was not yet 21 years old. (Censuses and siblings' ages indicate Frances was born abt. 1780.) Armistead's bondsman was James Priddy, presumably Frances' brother of that name. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1] Five months earlier by bond of 26 Dec 1796, Armistead's brother Joseph Abbott married Frances' sister Elizabeth Priddy.

Shortly before Armistead's father Benjamin Abbott died, Benjamin sold Armistead 100 acres on the north side of Banister River not far from Benjamin's family land at Bye Creek on the south side of the Banister.

Date: 16 May 1796
 From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT
 To: ARMISTEAD ABBOT [sic]
 For: £100

Description: 100 acres on the south [sic; should be north] side of Banister River, being the same land the said Abbott bought of William Peiremon [spelled Pearman and specified as north side of the river in deed to Benjamin Abbott dated 9 Feb 1788 (HDB14:286)]

Bounds: Banister River, Fowles [also sp. Fowlas], Epperson, Reade [also sp. Reed], and Easley - "Beginning at Fowless corner on the Bank of s'd River thence up the river as it meanders to Eppersons corner on the bank of the River thence longest [along] Eppersons loin [line] Northward to corner in Reades loyn [line] thence along Reades loyn Eastwardly to corner in Easleys loyn from thence along Easleys loyn southeastward to corner in Fowless line thence along said loyn to the Beginning"

Signed: Benjamin (B) Abbot[sic] (his mark)

Witnesses: William Good [sic; William GOODWIN, husband of Nancy Abbott], ELISHA ABBOT, JACOB ABBOT

Recorded: 27 Jun 1796 - Proved in court by the oaths of the witnesses.

Teste: G. Carrington CHC [Clerk of Halifax Court]

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 606-607. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

The year before in 1795, Benjamin Abbott sold Armistead's brother Joseph Abbott land on the south side of the Banister that was part of Benjamin's family residence (another part of which Benjamin deeded to their eldest brother, Elisha Abbott, in 1783, and the remaining part Benjamin sold to their brother James, also on 16 May 1796). As we shall see, this land to Joseph is where Armistead and Frances actually settled and raised their family:

Date: 23 Apr 1795

From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

To: JOSEPH ABBOTT Jr [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: For: £50

Description: 115 acres on the South side of Banister River

Bounds: Banister River, James McCraw Jr., ELISHA ABBOTT

Signed: Ben'ja Abbott [usual mark is omitted]

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 27 Apr 1795 - Acknowledged in court by Benjamin Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 361. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The "Jr." added to Benjamin's son Joseph Abbott's name means "the younger" to distinguish him from Benjamin's brother Joseph Abbott (b. c1750) who was the older or "Sr." Joseph Abbott in the county at that time. (Benjamin's father, the "actual" Joseph Abbott Sr., was then deceased.)

Benjamin Abbott died bet. May 1796 - May 1797. Later deeds and personal property tax districts show that bet. 1797-1798, Armistead and his brother Joseph swapped the lands they had purchased from Benjamin. Each of them was living on the other's land by spring 1798, but their respective formal deeds for the exchange were not written until December 1800.

Date: 2 Dec 1800

From: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT and FRANCES ABBOTT his wife

To: Joseph Abbott

For: £100

Description: 100 acres, "it being the same land deeded from Benjamin Abbott to Armistead Abbott as will more fully appear by deed recorded in Halifax Court" [dated 16 May 1796, HDB16:606]

Bounds: Banister River, Fowles, Austin Martin, Richard Walne, and Epperson.

Signed: Armistead (x) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: Epas Sydnor, Hawkins Landrum, Anthony Sydnor

Release of dower: None

Recorded: 22 Dec 1800

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 18, p. 480-481. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 4 Dec 1800

From: Joseph Abbott and Elizabeth Abbott his wife

To: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT

For: £140

Description: 115 acres, "it being the same land deeded by Benjamin Abbott to said Joseph Abbott as will more fully appear by deed recorded in Halifax Court" [dated 23 Apr 1795, HDB16:361]

Bounds: None

Signed: Joseph Abbott

Witnesses: Epa's Sydnor, George Priddy Jun'r [Frances and Elizabeth's brother], Elizabeth (x) Abbott (her mark) [Joseph and Armistead's sister]

Release of dower: None

Recorded: 27 Feb 1804

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 97-98. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Armistead Abbott prospered in Halifax. By 1810, he was taxed for 2 slaves over age 12 and 2 horses, and by 1819, he was taxed for 2 slaves over age 16 and 5 horses. The next year, the 1820 census, which enumerated slaves of all ages, lists Armistead with 8 slaves in all. Also, Armistead had no deeds of trust, meaning he was not having to contract against debts owed.

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Even so, Armistead and Frances Priddy Abbott left Halifax County in early 1819. By the following deed, Armistead and Frances sold their Halifax land 31 Dec 1818:

Date: 31 Dec 1818

From: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT and wife FRANCES

To: Stephen Light

For: \$2,310.00 and also for the sum of \$1.00

Description: 154 acres "by actual survey" on Banister River

Bounds: no adjacent landowners named, only the survey description with metes and natural markers

Signed: Armistead (his mark) Abbott, Frances Abbott

Witnesses: Charles B. Williams (as to A. Abbott), Joel Chappell, Wm. Penick, Epa Milner

Release of Dower: 26 Feb 1819

Recorded: 22 Mar 1819

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 27, p. 449-450. LVA Reel 12. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The original deed for this land in 1795 from Benjamin Abbott to Armistead's brother Joseph Abbott and the 1800 deed from Joseph to Armistead describe it as 115 acres. The adjacent parcel that Benjamin sold to Armistead's brother James Abbott was described in 1796 as 119 acres. James' land was surveyed shortly before he sold it in 1812 (probably when Armistead's land above also was surveyed) at 155 acres. James also sold his land to Stephen Light; however, in 1818, Armistead was paid about five times more per acre than James was paid in 1812.

Armistead Abbott last appears on the Halifax personal property tax lists on 23 Feb 1819, three days before Frances' release of dower for the above land. They left Halifax County and Virginia shortly thereafter.

Armistead and Frances moved their family to Stokes County, NC, where their respective siblings Joseph Abbott and wife Elizabeth Priddy moved in early 1804. Joseph Abbott died in Stokes in 1818 and Elizabeth died about the same time. [Source: Estate File of Joseph Abbott, NC State Archives] Almost all of Joseph and Elizabeth's children were still minors. Perhaps Armistead and Frances moved where and when they did in order to be close to their suddenly-orphaned nieces and nephews. Frances and Elizabeth Priddy's parents and siblings were already living in Stokes and formal guardianships had already been assigned, but Armistead and Frances' presence likely would be welcomed assistance and support.

Armistead's household is included in Stokes County in the 1820 census:

1820 - Stokes Co, NC

Armstead[sic] Abbott

Males: 2(10-15), 1(16-17) [1(16-25)], 1(45+); Females: 3(under 10), 1(16-25), 1(26-44) - 8 slaves

On 2 Feb 1824, Armistead Abbott of Stokes County, NC placed an advertisement for a runaway slave in the "Raleigh Register and North Carolina Weekly Advertiser." He offered a \$20 reward with "all reasonable charges paid" for the man's return to him "on the Dan River in Stokes County."

[Source: North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements Digital Collection. Published by The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Image online at:

<<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/RAS/id/968/rec/1>>]

Bet. 1829-1830, Frances Priddy Abbott's father, George Priddy, died in Stokes County, NC. His will was written 1 May 1829 and proved in the Stokes County Court of September 1830. [SWB3:218] George Priddy bequeathed to "my daughter Frances Abbett" nine slaves already in her possession on loan (although his will names only eight), and one slave woman whom Frances then held was to go back to George's estate for the benefit of certain sons.

1830 - Stokes Co, NC

Armstead[sic] Abbott

Males: 1(5-9), 1(20-29), 1(60-69); Fem: 1(10-14) 2(15-19) 1(20-29), 1(40-49) - 13 slaves

Note:

The households of Armistead and Frances' sons Jacob Abbott and Davis Abbott are also listed this census, each with a male and female child under age 5.

1840 - Stokes Co, NC

Armsted[sic] Abbott - Males: 1(15-19), 1(20-29), 1(70-79); Females: 1(20-29), 1(60-69) - 18 slaves

Note:

Caution: As of June 2013, the census images on Ancestry.com for the Stokes County census district for Armistead's family (as well as his sons Jacob and William and other relations) are still being labeled incorrectly as Tyrrell County, NC, which is in far northeast coastal NC almost 300 miles east of Stokes. (This obviously is only a program coding error, and the roll and page numbers are correct.) That the Abbotts were still in Stokes County in 1840 is proved by the name of the district commissioner written on their census pages, Robert W. Hill, and by the correctly labeled census images on HeritageQuest Online. [Source: NARA Series M704, Roll 372, Page 199 (No Township Named)]

Armistead Abbott died in Stokes during the "summer of the year 1840," shortly after this census was taken. The official enumeration day for this census was 1 Jun 1840 (their census commissioner signed his completed report 17 Nov 1840), and the Administrative Bond for Armistead's estate was signed 14 Sep 1840 (see below). His wife, Frances Priddy Abbott, survived him, but she apparently died between court entries for Sep 1841 and Jun 1842 (below).

The following are excerpts of the documents pertaining to the Stokes County, NC Estate of Armistead Abbott, Dec'd. The documents are unpagged loose papers from Armistead's estate file at the North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

14 Sep 1840 – Administrative Bond for the Estate of Armistead Abbott, dec'd. Administration granted to Jacob Abbott and Joel Fulton [husband of Frances Abbott]. Bond of \$14,000.00 secured by Samuel Fulton, William Poindexter, William P. Covington, Joshua S. Young.

16 Sep 1840 – Frances Abbott, widow of Armistead Abbott, petitioned the Court to divide the land of approximately 500 acres that Armistead Abbott owned at his death to grant her 1/3 dower as her right by law. The petition includes the statement that Armistead died "some few months since..."

17 Sep 1840 – Petition for the Division of the Slaves of Armistead Abbott, Dec'd, was presented by his widow and heirs to the Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions September Term. (This petition says Armistead owned "about" 19 slaves, and a subsequent record names the 19 slaves.) Armistead's heirs are named here as:

FRANCES ABBOTT [the widow], JOHN REDDICK & his wife ALICE, JAMES BOWMAN & his wife POLLY, DAVIS ABBOTT, JACOB ABBOTT, WILLIAM ABBOTT, JOEL FULTON & his wife FRANCES, HENRY BURTON & his wife ELIZABETH, FEWELL FULTON & his wife JANE, and JOHN J. ABBOTT (who is a minor under age 21 and represented by his guardian Samuel Fulton).

Note:

Since Armistead died "intestate" leaving no will, his personal and real property was divided equally among his heirs. A widow was entitled to a 1/3 share of her husband's estate during

her lifetime. If a child were deceased leaving children, the child's share was divided equally among his/her children. A wife could not own or inherit property separately from her husband nor could she represent herself in court. Therefore, all the married Abbott daughters are listed with their husbands, who were the legal owners of the inheritance "by right of" their wives and who were their wives' representatives in court.

24 Oct 1840 – Commissioners' report on the crop, stock, and provisions for one year's maintenance allotted to Frances Abbott, widow of Armistead Abbott dec'd, from his estate.

29 Oct 1840 - Appraisal of the Estate of Armistead Abbott, dec'd, presented by Jacob Abbott and Joel Fulton, Administrators of Armistead Abbott's estate.

Dec 1840 Term - Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

The process for dividing Armistead Abbott's slaves continued with a petition brought by the widow and heirs who were still living in Stokes County (called for this purpose the Plaintiffs) and specifying the non-resident heirs (called here the Defendants). The heirs living out-of-state were.

DAVIS ABBOTT and JAMES BOWMAN and wife POLLY

Note:

The 1840 census shows Davis Abbott in Bradley County, TN and James Bowman in adjacent Polk County, TN, at the southeastern corner of TN at the GA border.

March 1841 Term - Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

The Court being satisfied that due legal process was followed to attempt to notify the non-resident heirs of the impending division of the slaves, it appointed the commission to proceed with the division.

9 Sep 1841 – Frances Abbott, widow of Armistead Abbott, dec'd, was allotted dower land of 164 acres to include the "mansion or dwelling house" and appertaining buildings where Armistead lived at his death. Her legal dower was 1/3 of Armistead's 500 acres "more or less" located on the Dan River, adjacent to Francis Fulton, Charles McAnalley "& others."

Frances Abbott apparently died between the above allotment and the following Court entry:

June 1842 Term – Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

Petition to Partition the Land of Armistead Abbott, dec'd, as follows:

Plaintiffs [ie, heirs living in Stokes Co.] – JACOB ABBOTT; WILLIAM ABBOTT; JOHN REDDICK and his wife ALCY, formerly Alcy Abbott [Alice Abbott]; JOEL FULTON and his wife FRANCES, formerly Frances Abbott; FUEL FULTON [Fewel(l) Fulton] and his wife JENSY, formerly Jency Abbott [Jane Abbott]; HENRY M. BURTON and his wife BETSY, formerly Betsy Abbott [Elizabeth Abbott]; JOHN J. ABBOTT, being under age 21 and represented by his "next friend and guardian" Samuel Fulton.

Defendants [ie, heirs living out-of-state] – JAMES BOWMAN and his wife POLLY, formerly Polly Abbott; and "children and heirs at law of DAVIS ABBOTT, deceased," all still minors, namely WILLIAM ABBOTT, FRANCES ABBOTT, ARMISTEAD ABBOTT, TERESA ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT, and ELIZABETH ABBOTT, noting that only Elizabeth is living in Stokes County, NC and that she has Green Hall as her guardian.

Land to be divided: one tract of abt. 492 acres on waters of Dan River adjoining James M. Covington, Thomas Brown "& others," and another tract of abt. 100 acres on Mill Creek adjoining Christopher Zeigler, Halett Blackburn, "& others"

Document includes the statement that Armistead Abbott "departed this life intestate in the summer of the year 1840..."

Ordered that the customary notice of the Petition to Partition be published for the regulation six weeks in the Greensborough[sic] "Patriot" newspaper [published in Greensboro, NC] in order to notify the heirs living out-of-state of the impending division of land and give them the opportunity to respond.

A transcription of the notice in the "Patriot" that appeared 2 Jul 1842 was contributed to the online USGenWeb Archives Stokes County, NC by Carolyn Shank. The newspaper is called there the "Carolina Patriot." In the notice, the only Plaintiff named is Jacob Abbott (who is named first in the petition itself), and only the out-of-state heirs (Defendants) are named, so Davis Abbott's daughter Elizabeth is not mentioned among his "orphans." (Minors whose father was deceased were called orphans even when their mother was still living.)

Dec 1842 Term - Stokes County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

Report by the appointed commissioners for the partition of the land of Armistead Abbott, dec'd was presented, approved, and ordered recorded. The parcel allotted to each heir is described with metes and bounds. In the margin is a note that the petition report was registered in the Register's Office in Book No. 14, page 318.

12 Aug 1845 – Final Settlement of Account of Samuel Fulton, Guardian of John J. Abbott

In the 1850 census, the only Abbott families still in Stokes County were Armistead and Frances' sons William Abbott and John J. Abbott. Their brother Jacob Abbott moved his family abt. 1844 to Cherokee County, GA. Jane Fulton and Frances Fulton and their families are listed next to each other in Stokes. "Alsey Reddick" (Alice Abbott) is widowed in Stokes. Neither Henry nor Elizabeth Abbott Burton was found. Polly Bowman was not found in 1850 either, and her husband James could not be identified. As discussed below, Davis Abbott's widow and most of his children were still in Tennessee.

Marriages for Children of Armistead Abbott and Frances Priddy

Stokes County marriage records include the following children of Armistead and Frances Abbott:

[Source: Frances T. Ingmire. Stokes County, North Carolina Marriage Records 1783-1868. (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press, 2003)]

Jacob Abbott married 24 Nov 1825 to Elizabeth Young

Frances Abbott married 1 Jan 1831 to Joel Fulton (sp. there Joel Fultin)

William Abbott married 2 Jan 1831 to Milly Fulton

Alice Abbott (named as Alcy Abbott) married 19 Jul 1834 to John Reddick

Jane Abbott married 7 Aug 1834 to Fewell Fulton [sp. there Fuel Fultin]

Elizabeth Abbott married 28 Sep 1837 to Henry M. Burton [her surname sp. Abot]

John Jenkins Abbott married 30 Aug 1841 to Martha Shackelford

Some online files say Armistead and Frances Abbott's son Davis Abbott married a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Abbott supposed to be named Elizabeth Cinderella Abbott. However, later censuses show Davis Abbott's apparent widow Cinderella was born in South Carolina with parents born in South Carolina and Pennsylvania who obviously cannot be Joseph and Elizabeth Abbott, who were born in Virginia and never lived in South Carolina.

Davis Abbott does not have a marriage record in Stokes County, but the 1830 census in Stokes shows he was married with a boy and a girl both under age 5. (He married abt. 1825, as his oldest daughter was born abt. 1826.) By 1840 he was living in Bradley County, TN, where he died abt. 1841 leaving minor children named Elizabeth Abbott, William Abbott; Frances Abbott, Armistead Abbott; Theresa Abbott, and Joseph Abbott, as named in the 1842 Stokes County Court Petition to Partition discussed above. (Elizabeth was the only one living in Stokes in 1842, and in 1850, she is listed as age 24 still living in Stokes with her former guardian Greene Hall and family.)

The 1850 census for Polk County, TN (adjacent to Bradley) shows the last three of these children--Armistead, Theresa, and Joseph Abbott, plus a younger one name Emily Abbott (b. c1842)--living with "Cinda R. Hamilton," then wife of Wyatt Hamilton and apparently the widow of Davis Abbott and mother of these children. In 1860, "Cindarella Hamilton" and husband Wyatt are living in Cape Girardeau County, MO and still have Armistead Abbott and Emily Abbott in their household (mistakenly listed with surname Hamilton). Theresa Abbott is living next to them listed as a widowed head-of-house named "Therese King" with children Martha and Wyatt King. Cinderella was not found in the 1870 census, but in 1880, she is listed in Iron County, MO as "L.[sic] Hamilton," the "grandmother" of head-of-house Wyatt King with his widowed "mother" (Cinderella's daughter) "Thursday King" also living with them. (In 1850, Theresa Abbott was listed as "Tharsy Abbott.")

In every census Cinderella is listed as born in South Carolina, and in 1880 her father is listed as born in South Carolina and mother born in Pennsylvania. Census data can have errors, but given the consistency of her listed birth place, it seems clear that Cinderella could not be an Elizabeth Cinderella Abbott actually born in North Carolina with parents Joseph and Elizabeth Priddy Abbott, both born in Virginia.

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This is a fairly complete report that Joan Horsley was working on when she died. There were no notes included in the text that indicated any facts or other lines of inquiry she wanted to pursue. Any correspondence that would have been directed to my late wife should be sent to JHGenResearch-Abbott@yahoo.com

If you use any information from this report, please include the documentation as given here and cite this paper as:

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