

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

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

ELISHA ABBOTT - b. Bet. 1764-1765, Halifax Co, VA; d. Bet. 28 Jan-24 Apr 1837, Halifax Co, VA

Married 29 Oct 1793, Halifax Co, VA to Lydia Clay (d/o James Clay & Margaret Muse)

LYDIA CLAY - b. Abt. 1775, of Halifax Co, VA; d. 4 Oct 1857, Lincoln Co, MO

CHILDREN of ELISHA ABBOTT & LYDIA CLAY:

Elizabeth Abbott (m. William Hill), Nancy Abbott (m. Thomas Carr), Polly Abbott (m. William Martin), Martha Abbott (m1 John S. Cooley, m2 Hamilton Stewart), Sarah/Sally Richardson (m. William Richardson), Rebecca Abbott (m. Brooks Dawson), Annis Abbott (m1 Thomas F. Abbott, m2 Joel Martin), James Abbott (m. Susan J.), Alice/Ailcey Abbott (m1 Joseph Abbott, m2 Bird Farmer)

ELISHA ABBOTT was the first son of Benjamin Abbott and wife Ann (maiden name unproved, likely neither Brown nor Armistead as guessed online). Elisha's and his father's personal property tax lists show Elisha was born bet. spring 1764 and spring 1765. None of this Abbott family was born in "Maresville," as no town of that name ever existed in Halifax County, VA, where Benjamin and Ann married. Until Elisha was abt. 6 years old, his parents lived on Difficult Creek just east of today's Crystal Hill, VA near Benjamin's father and siblings. In 1771, Benjamin moved his family west to the Banister River. At least by 1773, they settled on land at the Banister and Bye Creek, a mile or two upriver from today's Meadville, VA. On 20 Feb 1783, when Elisha was abt. 18, his father, Benjamin Abbott, deeded him 170 acres of the Bye Creek land. [HDB12:286]

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20 Feb 1783 - BENJAMIN ABBOTT to ELISHA ABBOTT - For: £1 - 170 acres on Bye Creek, bounded by Sydnor & Tune's corner and by Fowlas - /s/ Benja. (B) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: None - No release of dower - Rec. 20 Feb 1783

[Source: HDB12:286. TLC Gen. p. 103]

20 Feb 1783 - Halifax Court

Deed from BENJAMIN ABBOTT to ELISHA ABBOTT acknowledged by Benjamin as his own act and deed and ordered recorded. [Source: Halifax Plea Book 10, p. 328. LVA Reel 58.

Abstract J. Horsley.]

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Five years later, in 1788, Elisha purchased 100 acres on the opposite side of the Banister from his Bye Creek land, although Elisha continued to live at Bye Creek for another 15 years. The additional land seems to be the extra 100 acres Elisha owned at his death in 1837 in addition to the 355 acres on Bradley Creek he purchased in 1803 (below), since his widow's dower (usually a 1/3 portion) was 150 acres. Thus, the reference in this deed to "waters of Runaw" could refer to Runaway Creek, as its mouth is just upriver from the mouth of Bradley Creek.

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Date: 3 Dec 1788

From: Jesse Pearman

To: ELISHA ABBOTT

For: £40

Description: 100 acres on the waters of Runaw, a branch of Banister River

Bounds: Daniel Easlie [Easley], Reed [Read]

Signed: Jesse Pearman

Witnesses: Dudley Glass, Randolph Pearman, Robert (R) Tucker (his mark)

Recorded: 28 Apr 1789

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 14, p. 409-410. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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On 29 Oct 1793, Elisha Abbott married Lydia Clay in Halifax County. The minister was Rev. Hawkins Landrum, a Methodist who performed a number of Abbott weddings. Elisha's marriage bond of the same date was secured by Lydia's brother James Clay. (Her father, also named James Clay, died in Halifax bet. 1789-1791. [HWB2:445]) Lydia's widowed mother, Margaret (Muse) Clay, gave the parental consent required for those marrying under age 21. By Lydia's age in the 1850 census, she was born abt. 1775, thus abt. 19 when she married. The witness was Lydia's uncle Hopkins Muse. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1 and Ministers Returns.]

Elisha and Lydia settled first on his Bye Creek land, next to where his father, Benjamin, and his siblings still lived. Benjamin Abbott died bet. 1796-1797, and Elisha's mother, Ann Abbott, apparently died within the previous ten years. In 1803, Elisha and Lydia purchased land several miles upriver on the north side of the Banister at Bradley Creek adjacent to the land Elisha bought in 1788. At the same time, they sold their Bye Creek land on the south side of the Banister. Elisha and Lydia raised their family on the Bradley Creek land for the next 34 years.

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Date: 27 Jun 1803

From: James Mitchell, agent and attorney for William Kellett of Jackson County, GA by power of attorney dated 19 Dec 1801

To: ELISHA ABBOTT of Halifax

For: \$250

Description: 355 acres in Halifax, both sides of Bradley Creek, known as Dejarnettes land

Bounds: John Mills [Mills], Mark Milner dec'd, Benjamin High, Eden Neele[?], Walne, ELISHA ABBOTT, and Austin Martin

Signed: James Mitchell, attorney in fact for William Kellett

Witnesses: Epa's Sydnor, John Minor, Jesse Nichols, Charles Donaway, JAMES ABBOTT [Elisha's brother]

Recorded: 27 Jun 1803

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 19, p. 522. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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Date: 21 Oct 1803

From: ELISHA ABBOTT & LYDIA ABBOTT his wife

To: Epaphroditus Sydnor

For: £260

Description: 2 parcels of land: No. 1: 189 acres, on both sides of Bye Creek, being the land conveyed by deed to Elisha Abbott from Benjamin Abbott - No. 2: 50 acres by late survey adjoining tract No. 1, being the land deeded to Elisha Abbott from James McCaw [ie, "James McCaw Jr." rec. 1801]

Bounds: Parcel No. 1: William Sydnor, Travis Tunes - Parcel No. 2: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT [Elisha's brother], King

Signed: Elisha Abbott

Witnesses: William Sydnor, Tho's J Williams, Mary Williams

Release of Dower: None included

Recorded: 24 Oct 1803

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 17-18. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The adjacent land where Elisha's brother Armistead Abbott was living is the land their father originally sold to their brother Joseph in 1795. [HDB16:361] That deed names Elisha as an adjacent bound. Both parcels were part of the same tract purchased by their father in 1773. [HDB9:67] (The deed to Elisha from James McCraw is cut off from LVA's microfilm of the Grantee Index, but the court order index lists a deed to Elisha Abbott from James McCraw Jr. that was acknowledged in court and recorded in 1801.)

Even after their move, Elisha and his family still lived near his siblings, as the families had settled on both sides of the Banister in the same vicinity. However, the others soon began leaving Halifax. His brother Joseph Abbott was the first to leave, moving to Stokes County, NC in early 1804. By 1820, Elisha was the only one of Benjamin and Ann Abbott's seven children still living in Halifax.

It is difficult to tell how much contact Elisha had over the years with his father's 15 siblings and their families. All of those still alive by 1820 were half-siblings a generation younger than Benjamin, most even younger than Elisha, and Benjamin had been alienated from his father, Joseph Abbott, for some time when Joseph died abt. 1788. All but one of Benjamin's surviving siblings lived back at Difficult Creek, and none ever lived in his Banister River area.

Nevertheless, at some point Elisha's family did have close contact with at least some of the other Abbots. This is obvious because two of Elisha's daughters married sons of Benjamin's half-brother Leonard Abbott (b. c1771). Leonard, too, lived at Difficult Creek until his early death bet. 1814-1815, leaving his widow, Susanna Ferguson Abbott, with five minor sons. Susanna kept Leonard's land and may have continued to live there, but her parents lived on Terrible Creek that runs more or less between Elisha at Bradley Creek and the other Abbots at Difficult Creek. One way or another, the families became closely involved.

Elisha and Lydia's daughter Annis Abbott (b. c1809) married Leonard and Susanna's son Thomas F. Abbott 16 Jan 1827, and Annis' sister Alice Abbott (b. c1815, called "Ailcey") married Thomas' brother Joseph Abbott 6 Dec 1831. After Annis married, she and Thomas lived on the land he inherited through his grandfather Thomas Ferguson on Terrible Creek. As of 1830, Joseph and his other three yet-unmarried brothers were living on their deceased father's land at Difficult Creek, but after Joseph and Alice married, they lived on her parents' land that Alice eventually was devised by Elisha's will.

Elisha and Lydia's other daughters all married in Halifax by 1825 except for their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, for whom no Halifax marriage record exists. Her married name in Elisha's will is very difficult to decipher and most closely resembles "Hiel," but that name does not appear anywhere in the entire area. Finally locating her marriage record confirmed her married name as "Hill," which later records support. Elizabeth Abbott married her husband William Hill by bond dated 7 Nov 1810 in Stokes County, NC, where Elisha's brother (Elizabeth's uncle) Joseph Abbott was then living. Joseph was the only Abbott in the 1810 census in Stokes, and

he is proved not to be the father of this Elizabeth Abbott Hill. (See Notes for Elizabeth for more details.)

Elisha and Lydia's only son, James Abbott, apparently was born bet. 1804-1808. Elisha's personal property taxes indicate James was born after Feb 1804, and in 1830, James purchased Halifax land for \$100 from a non-family member, thus he almost certainly was over the legal age of 21 by that time. [HDB38:204] (His sister Annis is listed in the 1850 census as born abt. 1809.) James married his wife "Susan J." between abt. 1834, when his deed of sale was recorded with no wife included [HDB41:485, per Grantor Index], and 1838, when James and wife Susan jointly sold some of the land James inherited from his father. [HDB45:401] No Halifax marriage record exists for them, and none has been found elsewhere in online resources.

Elisha Abbott was abt. 72 years old when he wrote his will on 28 Jan 1837. He died before 24 Apr 1837, when the will was presented in Halifax Court. [HWB18:295] He appointed his "friend" James Adkinson to be executor. James Adkinson (also spelled Adkisson) may have died about the same time as Elisha, as he did not apply for an executor's bond and is missing in the 1840 census and later. As usual when no one applies to administer an estate, the court appointed the county sheriff, Peter Reves, as administrator.

Will of Elisha Abbott - Written 28 Jan 1837, proved 24 Apr 1837, Halifax County Court  
Abstract:

"I Elisha Abbott of Halifax County Virginia being of sound mind and disposing memory do make this my last will and testament..."

To wife Lydia Abbott - loan of 150 acres of land "to be taken in such a manner as to include the mansion house and any part of the plantation" and 9 slaves (Thomas, Robin, George, Sarah, Charely [sic; Charity], Mary & her 3 children Milly, Ben & James) for her lifetime use

To daughter Elizabeth Hill - 2 slaves (Esther & Dicy), a horse, saddle and bridle, previously given

To daughter Nancy Carr - 2 slaves (Abruse [Abrum?] & Nell)

To daughter Polly Martin - 2 slaves (Coly [Caty?] & Bob), a horse, saddle and bridle, previously given

To daughter Martha Cooley - 2 slaves (Hannah & Davy), a horse, saddle and bridle, previously given

To daughter Sally Richardson - 2 slaves (Sarah & June), a horse, saddle and bridle, previously given

To daughter Rebecca Dawson - 2 slaves (Tesby[?] & Judy), a horse, saddle and bridle, previously given

To daughter Annis Abbott [widow of Thomas F. Abbott] - 2 slaves (Delily & Nancy), a horse, saddle and bridle, previously given

To daughter Alice Abbott [wife of Joseph Abbott] - 150 acres of land bounded by Charles S. Davenport and William Walne, 4 slaves (Chany & her children Rhoda, Aggy, Peter), a horse, saddle and bridle

To son James Abbott - balance of my land and his mother's dower at her death, 2 slaves (George & Joe), a horse, saddle and bridle

At death of my wife, I give Negro man George loaned her to daughter Alice Abbott; Negro woman Mary and her three children Milly, Ben and James, and Mary's future increase to son James Abbott; balance of slaves loaned to my wife and their increase to daughters Nancy Carr, Polly Martin, Sally Richardson, Rebecca Dawson, and Annis Abbott

Executor appointed: "friend" James Adkesson [James Adkinson/Adkisson]

Signed: Elisha (x) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: Giles H. Vaden, Zebedee Petty

Recorded: 24 Apr 1837

At the Halifax Court of 23 Oct 1837, Halifax County Sheriff Peter Reves was appointed to administer the estate of Elisha Abbott, dec'd, "no person having applied for administration" of the estate.

[Source: Halifax Will Book 18, p. 295-297. LVA Reel 43. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added by abstractor. Names and comments in parentheses are included in the will.]

By the time Elisha wrote his will, his daughter Martha Cooley in Tennessee apparently had been married to her second husband for a number of years. An 1843 Chancery Court record shows that Martha Abbott's husband John Cooley, whom she married in Halifax in 1821, died in Roane County, TN in 1825 and that Martha subsequently married Hamilton Stewart. [Monroe Co. TN Chancery Court Records 1832-1887. TNGenNet.org] No marriage date is given in the court abstract and no marriage record was found in online resources, but the 1830 and 1840 censuses for McMinn County, TN indicate they could have married abt. 1826. (See more details in notes for Martha Abbott.)

The executor and the second witness named in Elisha Abbott's will are of particular interest. Elisha and Lydia's daughter Nancy Abbott married Thomas Carr 24 May 1815 in Halifax. Thomas was the son of William Carr, an adjacent neighbor of Elisha's family on Bradley Creek. (Wm. Carr's estate is named as a bound on the land Elisha devised to his daughter Alice when Alice and husband Joseph Abbott sold the land in 1842. [HDB48:461]) Thomas Carr died before 1 Aug 1833, when his father William Carr's will named him as "deceased" and generously provided for Thomas' widow, Nancy, and their four children and devised his land to three of them. Like Elisha, William Carr also appointed James Adkinson as an executor, but James and the other man named "failed to qualify." Administration was granted first to the Sheriff, Peter Reves, but in 1838, administration was transferred to Zebedee Petty, who also was a witness to Elisha Abbott's 1837 will and an adjacent landowner. Zebedee Petty married in 1819 to Margaret Walne, related to Richard Walne named in 1800 as a bound on the land Benjamin Abbott previously sold in 1796 to his son Armistead on the north side of the Banister [HDB18:480] and also related to William Walne, who, like William Carr, was named in 1842 as a bound on Elisha's land devised to daughter Alice. Through these kinds of connections we begin to see the community of friends and neighbors among whom Elisha Abbott and his family lived.

Elisha's widow, Lydia Clay Abbott, continued to live on the dower land Elisha loaned her for life. Living on the adjacent land devised by Elisha's will were her daughter Alice with husband Joseph Abbott. In May 1838, Elisha and Lydia's son, James Abbott, and his wife Susan sold the land that Elisha's will devised outright to James. [HDB45:401] (It includes another 50 acres owned by Elisha that are unaccounted for in the LVA microfilm of the Grantee Index.) After this sale, James and Susan could have lived with Lydia, then abt. age 63, on her dower land, which was to come to James at Lydia's death, or lived at his place of employment, as James did not release his claim to the dower land for another four years.

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Date: 12 May 1838

From: JAMES ABBOTT and his wife SUSAN of Halifax

To: James M. Jones of same

For: \$1,400

Description: 205 acres

Bounds: Wm Waln, Richard Waln, Zebedee Petty, Leonard Milner, William Milner, "and others"

Signed: James Abbott, Susan J. ( I ) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Susan Abbott, wife of James Abbott, on 13 May 1838

Recorded: 6 Apr 1839

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 45, p. 401-402. LVA Reel 21. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

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In Jan 1842, Lydia Abbott sold her rights to her dower land, apparently in preparation for her upcoming move, although she continued to live there to Dec 1844. On 12 Nov 1842, James Abbott and his wife sold their rights to Lydia's dower land that was to come to James at Lydia's death. On the same day, Elisha and Lydia's daughter Alice Abbott and her husband Joseph Abbott sold their inherited land, although they, too, remained in Halifax two more years and left when Lydia did. The following series of deeds further shows the family's surrounding community:

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Date: 4 Jan 1842

From: LYDIA ABBOTT

To: John Milner

For: \$200

Description: All right title and interest in 150 acres on Bradley Creek willed to her by her husband Elisha Abbott on which she now resides

Bounds: William Milner, James M. Jones, Epa H. Clark, and Giles Martin

Signed: Lydia (+) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: James M. Jones, Thomas Smith, Joel Martin

Recorded: 23 Oct 1843 (partly proved 25 Sep 1843)

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 144. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The witness Joel Martin was Lydia's son-in-law, second husband of her daughter Annis Abbott and likely related to the adjacent landowner Giles Martin. Annis' first husband, Thomas F. Abbott, died in 1834, and Annis married Joel Martin 31 Dec 1838. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register] Their bondsman was Wesley Sale, who in 1823 married Sally Martin, presumably also related to Joel. Given the location of their lands and their recorded interconnections, these Martins likely were related to Austin Martin, a former bound on Elisha's land. Austin's son William Martin married Elisha and Lydia's daughter Polly Abbott in Halifax in 1820, and both Martin families moved shortly to Tennessee.

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Date: 12 Nov 1842

From: JAMES ABBOTT and wife SUSAN of Halifax Co.

To: John Milner of same

For: [obliterated on microfilm]

Description: All their right title and interest in 150 acres on Bradley Creek now in possession of Lydia Abbott and held as her dower by the Will of her husband Elisha Abbott the father of James Abbott

Bounds: William Milner, James M. Jones, Epa H. Clark, and Giles Martin

Signed: James Abbott, Susan (her mark) Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of dower: 12 Nov 1842

Recorded: 24 Jan 1843 (ack. by James Abbott & wife Susan 12 Nov 1842)

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 48, p. 350. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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Date: 12 Nov 1842

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT and wife AILCEY

To: Epa H. Clark

For: \$450

Description: 150 acres on waters of Bradley Creek

Bounds: William Walne, James M. Jones, the estate of Elisha Abbott dec'd, Giles Martin, the estate of Wm Carr dec'd, "and others"

Signed: Joseph Abbott, Ailcey Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of dower: 12 Nov 1842

Recorded: 6 Apr 1843

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 48, p. 461. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

As mentioned above, the adjacent landowner Giles Martin appears to be related both to Polly Abbott's husband William Martin and to Annis Abbott's second husband Joel Martin. The adjacent landowner William Carr (deceased) was Nancy Abbott's father-in-law, father of Thomas Carr, also then deceased. William Carr's 1833 will devised his land to three of Nancy's children. (See Notes for the three sisters, Polly, Annis, and Nancy, for more information.)

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James Abbott and Alice's husband Joseph Abbott left the Halifax personal property tax lists after 1842, but by then only those who owned slaves age 12+ or horses were included, and even those sometimes were missed. (Also, taxes on slaves who were leased out often were paid by the person who hired them.) Lydia Abbott continued to be listed as a Halifax resident, charged for only one slave, through the Mar 1844 lists. James and Susan Abbott are not definitively identified after their Nov 1842 deed and an 1843 court judgment in a suit where James was a plaintiff. James does not appear in later Halifax records and apparently was deceased by the 1850 census. If one or both died soon after their 1842 sale, that could be one reason the others delayed leaving for two more years, but that is only speculation. (See individual notes for this James Abbott for more details.)

Elisha's widow Lydia Abbott was around 70 years old when she moved with Joseph and Alice Abbott and family in December 1844 to Lincoln County, MO. The first half of the 1800s saw a large exodus out of Halifax due to increasingly difficult economic conditions there. People usually migrated long distances with other relatives or friends and/or moved where relatives were already living. So far, no such close associations have been found to help explain these Abbotts' choice of destination. With other of Lydia's children living near her in Halifax or even in closer states, Lydia seems an adventurous and courageous elder-woman to make the journey of around 800 miles.

In 1850, "Lidie Abbott" is listed as age 75 in the household with her daughter Alice and son-in-law Joseph Abbott's family in Lincoln County, MO. (See census household in notes for Joseph Abbott.) However, Lydia left the slaves she held on loan in Halifax to be leased out as income for her. She appointed John Milner, a long-time neighbor and friend, as her agent. His yearly reports on expenses to support, clothe, and in two cases to bury the slaves plus the income generated by hiring them out begin 20 Dec 1844. His deposits to Lydia were made to the Bank of Missouri in St. Louis. [HWB26:175]

Elisha's will directed that after Lydia's death certain of those slaves were to go jointly to five daughters: Nancy Carr, Sally Richardson, Polly Martin, Rebecca Dawson, and Annis Abbott. On 6 Nov 1850, Elisha and Lydia's widowed daughter Nancy Carr in Halifax deeded to her son Thomas A. Carr "all her interest in the slaves held by her mother, Lydia, for lifetime use..." [HDB54:23] On 16 Nov 1850, Sarah "Sally" Abbott Richardson's husband William Richardson "of Hart County, KY" granted power of attorney to Richard Thornton Jr. of Halifax County, VA "to do whatever is needed for me to receive all of my interest in a legacy due to my wife Sarah from

the Estate of her father Elisha Abbott..." [HDB54:41] According to Elisha's will, Sally Richardson's individual bequest was "previously given" (probably when she married). Thus, this Power of Attorney apparently referred to the slaves Sally was to inherit jointly after her mother's death. There is no record of any deed whereby Lydia released any of her slaves to the legatees prior to her death, so the timing of these two deeds in Nov 1850 regarding Lydia's slaves is curious. Other information indicates Lydia did not die for another seven years.

The account for "Mrs. Lydia Abbott in account with John Milner her agent" includes transactions through 4 Oct 1857, with the hires for the year 1857 prorated for "9 months, 4 days." Beginning on 5 Oct 1857, the transactions for expenses and hires of the slaves on lifetime loan to Lydia are recorded in an account for "The Estate of Elisha Abbott In account with John Milner agent for the Heirs." In this account, all 1857 debits and credits are prorated from 5 Oct 1857 through the end of the year, and this notation follows the entries: "The above hires accrued after the death of Mrs. Lydia Abbott who held the above [slaves] as her Dower in the Estate of Elisha Abbott dec'd." Thus, the evidence seems clear that Lydia Clay Abbott died in Lincoln County, MO on 4 Oct 1857. [HWB26:175, 273]

An Abbott Family GenForum Message Board post by Pat Farmer on 1 Aug 2001 (#3307) mentions "a Lincoln Co. MO 1857 will for Lydia Abbott which lists" the following children. [My comments are in brackets and discussed below.]

Polly Martin, Tennessee[sic] [died abt. 1846, Henry Co, TN]  
 Sarah Richardson, Ky [1860 census: Hart Co, KY; died there aft. 1880]  
 Rebecca Dawson, Virginia [died bet. 1841-1850, Pittsylvania Co, VA]  
 Nancy Carr, Virginia [1860 census: Halifax Co, VA; died there 1870-1880]  
 Annace Martin, Ky [Annis is recorded thru 1860 in Halifax Co, VA - all children born VA]  
 Alice Farmer, Missouri[sic] [1850 & 1860 census: Lincoln Co, MO - marr. Bird Farmer 1854]  
 Elizabeth Hill, N. Carolina [1850 census: Stokes Co, NC - died bef. 1860]  
 Martha Cooley, Tennessee[sic] [1843: McMinn Co, TN, then wife of Hamilton Stewart;  
 not found in 1850 census or later]

"These are all the heirs so far as he can ascertain the subscribed and sworn before me.  
 Nov. 20, 1857 F. C. Cake, Clerk; Wm. Young, Pub. Administrator"

I have not been able to confirm or obtain a will for Lydia Abbott. However, rather than an actual will, it seems more likely the above list came from probate records of her estate instead. In this time period, when a person died without a will, his/her assets would be divided equally among all the children, and if any children were deceased, their shares went to their children.

The signature above by a "public administrator" indicates there was no executor or personal administrator for Lydia's estate. In fact, since her slaves were only on loan and she was living with her daughter's family, she likely did not own property to bequeath. Her only asset may have been the balance in her Missouri bank account from the leasing of the slaves in Halifax. However, this is only my assumption, and the original record from which the above excerpt is taken needs to be located and a copy obtained in order to understand its full meaning and confirm the transcription.

One particularly curious thing about this list is the absence of Lydia's son James Abbott, her only child missing. James was certainly deceased by this time, but if he had left children, his name or theirs should be included among the heirs. The list is of Lydia's "heirs," not "legatees," thus not limited to children to whom she could have made bequests. Lydia's daughter Alice (who married her second husband, Bird Farmer, in 1854) had lived with and then next to her

brother James Abbott in Halifax at least through 1842, and Alice was still living in Lincoln County, MO in 1857 to provide the officials any family information she had regarding her siblings, who were Lydia's heirs. If Alice knew James had died with no children, his name rightly would not be included. Thus, James' absence in this transcription adds yet another large question mark to the identity of the James Abbott who died in 1845 in Hart County, KY with four children born by 1840, who some think was Elisha and Lydia's son James. (See notes for James for details.)

Also, Elisha and Lydia's daughter Annis Abbott is recorded in Halifax County through 1860, so the above "Ky" notation for "Annace" in this transcription seems odd. Annis married her second husband, Joel Martin, in Halifax in 1838. Her first child by her first husband, Thomas F. Abbott, married at age 18 in 1846 in Halifax, and Joel Martin had guardianship of Annis' two younger children by Thomas, both of whom are still in Halifax in 1850. The 1850 census lists Annis and Joel in Halifax with all their children listed as born bet. 1839-1850 in VA, and their one later child, born c1855, is listed in 1860 as also born in VA. Joel Martin died bet. 1855 and the 1860 census, when Annis is still in Halifax as a widowed head-of-house. Thus, the "Ky" notation for "Annace" is confusing. It may be that Annis and Joel were planning to move to Kentucky when her sister Alice left Halifax in 1844, then changed their minds and never left. Again, the original record above needs to be obtained, as this could be a transcription error. Otherwise, it seems simply a misunderstanding.

For more details about Elisha and Lydia's children, see Individual Notes for them.  
For more details about Elisha and his siblings, see the report on his father, Benjamin Abbott, and Individual Notes for each of Benjamin's children.

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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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