

**DEEDS RELATING to JOSEPH ABBOTT and FAMILY
of HALIFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Compiled, abstracted, and annotated by Joan Horsley

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Contact: JHGenResearch-Abbott@yahoo.com

Introduction

Joseph Abbott and most of his family moved abt. 1762 from King and Queen County, VA to Halifax County, where Joseph's eldest son, Benjamin Abbott, had lived by 1750, two years before Halifax was formed from Lunenburg County. The Abbott land was at an upper part of Difficult Creek in north-central Halifax County. They lived just east of today's town of Crystal Hill, VA located seven miles north of today's courthouse town of Halifax, but during most of Joseph's life in Halifax, the court met just south of Crystal Hill not far from his home.

Joseph Abbott's original 500 acres ran southward from Bonds Ferry Road (later called Clarks Ferry Road), roughly today's Newbill School Road (SR 621). This was the primary road east across the county to the Lower Roanoke or Staunton River that connected to roads northeast to the Colonial capital at Williamsburg and the present-day capital of Richmond. Along the west side of Joseph's land was "the Old Courthouse Road" (later called Coles Ferry Road), roughly today's Anderson Road (SR 626), running between Crystal Hill and Halifax Town to the Banister River, which joins the Dan River to flow east into the lower Staunton River. Thus, the Abbotts were centrally located at a prime crossroads of their day for travel, commerce, communication, and transportation.

Joseph's 1787 will devised his land to four sons, William, Richard, Leonard, and Moody, who for a time expanded his original 500 acres to over 1200 acres in the same location. Today there is still an Abbott Hill Road that joins with Clays Mill Road and basically encircles the eastern and southern sides of old Abbott land, curving southwest from Bonds Ferry Road/Newbill School Road on the north to the Old Courthouse Road/Anderson Road on the west.

The following are deeds involving the Abbotts and their neighbors and relatives in Halifax County from its formation in 1752 through 1850. Most are my abstracts from the originals at the Halifax Courthouse and the Library of Virginia (LVA) and are cited accordingly, including microfilm reel numbers where applicable. Land patent abstracts are mine from digital images of the original Virginia Land Office Patent Books available online from the Library of Virginia website (cited in format VPB26:647). Other deed abstracts through 1796 are my summaries of the abstracts published by Marian Dodson Chiarito (for Deed Books 1-8) and by T.L.C Genealogy (for Deed Books 9-16), but are not verbatim unless in quotations. These are cited with the deed book and page number in the format HDB9:144 (meaning Halifax Deed Book 9, page 144) and with the page number in the relevant abstract book. The original spelling in most deeds has been retained (except the name Abbott is usually standardized to the normal spelling). Names in caps and comments in brackets are mine. Unless otherwise stated, the grantors and grantees were residents of Halifax County.

- Joan Horsley

1748

20 Aug 1748 - Richard Brown was granted a land patent for 274 acres on the south side of the north fork of Difficult Creek in Lunenburg Co. [later Halifax Co.] adj. to Russell's upper line (metes included)

[Source: VPB26:647. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is the first of a number of patents to Richard Brown, most on Difficult Creek, but this is the tract where he lived from his arrival in the area. Benjamin Abbott lived with or near Richard Brown by 1750, and Benjamin's father Joseph Abbott lived next to Richard Brown when he arrived in Halifax with the rest of his family in 1762. On 20 Nov 1744, Richard Brown purchased land where he "now dwells" in Goochland County. [GDB4:456] (He witnessed a deed in Dec 1745 for land then in Brunswick County, but he seems still to be living in Goochland. [BDB3:162] A different Richard Brown, proved not to be this one's father, was in Brunswick at least by 1727 and remained there to his death in the 1770s.) He first appears in records in Lunenburg County (established from Brunswick in 1746) in July 1747 [LOB1:234], and lived in the part that became Halifax County in 1752.

Richard Brown and his wife Rachel are significant people in the early Abbott family story. The records show that Joseph Abbott is equally or even more involved with Richard after Joseph moves to Halifax as Benjamin was involved with Richard from his own arrival over twelve years before his father. This makes a Brown-Abbott family relationship highly possible. Also, in 1765, Joseph Abbott helped appraise and inventory the estate of Martin Brown, who may be Richard's brother. Martin lived a few miles west of Joseph, not an adjacent or close neighbor as appraisers generally were, which also may indicate some connection between the families.

A biography of Tod Carter, a Civil War-era descendant of Richard and Rachel Brown written by Dr. Rosalie Carter and published in 1978 states that Richard Brown's wife was Rachel Abbott, although Dr. Carter gives no documentation or proof for her statement. If correct, Rachel could well be a sister of Joseph Abbott, which would explain both Joseph and Benjamin Abbott's close association with Richard and from such an early date. Richard Brown was born abt. 1712, close to Joseph Abbott's age, and Richard married Rachel abt. 1738, as their eldest son was born abt. 1740 (per Richard Jr.'s land records). Richard Brown's birth place is not known, but some records indicate he had ties with people in the area of King and Queen County, VA where Joseph Abbott and family lived prior to moving to Halifax. Some people have surmised that Benjamin Abbott's wife Ann, whom he married abt. 1763, was Richard Brown's daughter (although I have found strong evidence against that claim). However, that still would not explain Benjamin's close connection with Richard Brown over thirteen years before Benjamin married Ann, nor would it explain the kind of relationship the records show Richard had with Joseph. For now, the exact nature of the relationship is still speculation, but some early family relationship seems apparent. In any case, Richard Brown is a significant part of the Abbott family story in Halifax County (particularly as revealed in the court records compiled separately), and he is included in these records for that reason.

1750Lunenburg County - 1750 Tithables List - Taken by Cornelius Cargill

Excerpt in sequential order:

Richard BROWN - 1 tithe

John Legrand - 1 tithe

BENJAMIN ABBOT - 1 tithe [son of Joseph Abbott]

John Smallman - 1 tithe

[Source: Landon C. Bell. *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes Lunenburg County, Virginia 1748-1783* (Originally pub. 1931). Transcribed by Thomas Walter Duda. Contributed to Lunenburg Co.

VAGenWeb Archives]

Note:

This is the earliest mention of Benjamin Abbott in Lunenburg/Halifax records, but a Halifax court order of 20 Mar 1753 references a debt Benjamin owes from 1 Jul 1749, when the area was still in Lunenburg. [HPB1:71]

In the formal deed in 1770 from Richard Brown to Benjamin Abbott for Richard's land where Benjamin had long lived, one of the bounds (ie, adjacent landowners) is John Smallman (listed next to Benjamin above). [HDB8:42] John Legrand had land a tract or two away. Also on this same 1750 Lunenburg tithables list is Andrew Wade Senr. with sons John, Henry, Benjamin, and Andrew Wade Jr. then over age 16, and with whose family Benjamin Abbott was closely involved for over 20 more years.

1751

14 Feb 1750/51 - Richard BROWN and BENJAMIN ABBOTT - Joint Survey

704 acres on branches of Hunting Creek [then in Lunenburg Co.; in Halifax as of 1752]

[Source: Halifax Survey Book p. 27 (left side). Roger C. Dodson. *Footprints from the Old Survey Books of Halifax & Pittsylvania Counties in Virginia*. p. 8]

Note:

Hunting Creek is just northeast of upper Difficult Creek and flows east to the Staunton River and now in Halifax. No patent was obtained at the time of the survey. Eleven years later, on 27 May 1762, Benjamin Abbott transferred his interest in this joint survey to Richard Brown. (This is one of the proofs that the early Benjamin Abbott in 1750 was the same one living in Halifax in 1762 and proved to be Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin.) Richard Brown finally obtained the patent for this 704 acres on 30 Aug 1763. [VPB35:452] The patent lists an adjacent bound as John Legrand, one of those listed with Richard Brown and Benjamin Abbott in the 1750 Lunenburg tithables. (John Legrand's 1759 grant on Huntington Creek also lists Wooton as a bound, as does Richard Brown's in 1763.)

27 May 1762 - Benjamin Abbott transferred to Richard Brown his interest in the joint survey made 14 Feb 1750/51 for 704 ac. Hunting Creek, Lunenburg/Halifax Co.

[Source: Halifax Survey Book p. 27 (left side). Roger C. Dodson. *Footprints from the Old Survey Books of Halifax & Pittsylvania Counties in Virginia*. p. 15]

30 Aug 1763 - Richard Brown - Halifax County - Patent for 704 acres on the branches of Hunting Creek, adjoining John Legrand, Wooton

[Source: VPB35:452. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

1755

Date: 18 Sep 1755

From: John Wade of Halifax Co., Antrim Parish

To: Andrew Wade [Sr.] of same

For: £60 current money of Virginia

Description: 437 acres formerly in Lunenburg, now in Halifax, being the same land which the said Andrew Wade made over to me by a deed bearing date 7 Apr 1752 [LDB2:414]

Bounds: Byrd's corner on Dan River and along meanders of the river (metes and bounds included)

Signed: John Wade

Witnesses: Henry Wade, John Burse, BENJAMIN ABBIT [usual mark omitted]

Memorandum of Livery and Seisen: Peaceable and quiet transfer of possession to Andrew Wade by John Wade - /s/ John Wade

Wit: Henry Wade, John Burse, BENJAMIN ABBIT [usual mark omitted] - 18 Sep 1755

Recorded: 16 Oct 1755

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 1, p. 144. LVA Reel 1. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

According to all Halifax County Abbott records and researching all compiled names, dates, and places, there is only one Benjamin Abbott in early Halifax, who is the same as Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin named in Joseph's 1787 will. Deeds from Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin Abbott to his children in 1794 and 1795 prove that the same Benjamin Abbott is entered in deed books signing both with the notation of his mark "B" and without such notation, as in the deed above. (All Halifax Abbotts who signed by signature spelled their name Abbott, although clerks often wrote it phonetically as Abbot, Abbit, Abbet, Abott, etc.)

The Abbott, Brown, and Wade connection goes back at least several years (in fact, Richard Brown witnessed the 1752 deed referenced in the deed above [LDB2:414]), and the families' connections continue in records through at least 1771. In the 1748 tithables in Lunenburg Co. (prior to the formation of Halifax in 1752), Richard Brown is listed next to the family of Andrew Wade that included his sons John, Benjamin, and Henry by name. (In 1750, Andrew Wade was granted over 1300 acres on Difficult Creek and another 900 acres by 1756. His son John Wade patented a total of 725 acres on Difficult Creek bet. 1756-1760.)

In the Halifax Court of 18 Sep 1753, Benjamin Wade and Nathaniel Hunt provided surety on the bond required from BENJAMIN ABBOTT for one year's good behavior. [HPB1:182] In Lunenburg Court of Sep 1755 (the same month of the above deed), Richard Brown and his wife Rachel Brown, along with Benjamin Wade, Andrew Wade Jr. and a number of others then living in Halifax were paid as witnesses, plus travel, in the suit of Nathaniel Hunt and wife Elizabeth [Wade] against Andrew Wade (Sr.). [LOB3:422]

In the Halifax Court of Aug 1763, BENJAMIN ABBOTT deposed that he was with Nathaniel Hunt and Andrew Wade when they were trying to find a compromise for the 1755 Lunenburg suit. [HPB4:199] In June 1769, John Wade paid both JOSEPH ABBOTT and BENJAMIN ABBOTT as witnesses for him in his case against the executor of Andrew Wade's estate. Thus, the recorded Wade-Abbott associations also show the same Benjamin Abbott both

before and after Joseph Abbott arrives in Halifax, and the only Benjamin Abbott in early Halifax was the same one as Joseph Abbott's son named in his 1787 will.

1756

16 Aug 1756 - Land patent to John Wade Jr. - Lunenburg County [later Halifax] 275 acres on the head of the Double Branch of Difficult Creek, adjoining Richard BROWN, [William] Irby
 [Source: VPB33:31. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1762

Abt. **1762** JOSEPH ABBOTT moved his family from King and Queen County, VA to Halifax, according to his son William Abbott's Revolutionary War pension application in 1832. [NARA File No. W5616] They lived on Difficult Creek on land belonging to Richard Brown adjacent to Richard's own land, although a formal deed was not written for five more years.

27 May 1762 - BENJAMIN ABBOTT transferred to Richard BROWN his interest in the joint survey they made 14 Feb 1750/51 for 704 acres on Hunting Creek, then in Lunenburg but in Halifax as of 1752.

[Source: Halifax Survey Book p. 27 (left side). Roger C. Dodson. *Footprints from the Old Survey Books of Halifax & Pittsylvania Counties in Virginia*. p. 15]

1763

23 May 1763 - Richard BROWN - Land patent in Lunenburg Co. [in Halifax as of 1752] 400 acres on both sides the South Branch of the North fork of Difficult Creek adjoining Buckner Stith, Russell, Lucas

[Source: VPB35:166. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Richard Brown had this land surveyed 9 Feb 1750/51 [HSB:67R] when the land was still in Lunenburg prior to the formation of Halifax Co. in 1752. Patent deeds often followed the wording in the original survey, thus this 1763 patent deed still says Lunenburg.

Jul 1763 - Halifax Court - Road Orders

BENJAMIN ABBOT^[sic] is appointed Surveyor of the road from Difficult Creek to Chandlers bridge exclusively, Benjamin and the male laboring tithables above said bridge to clear and keep in repair.

[Source: HPB4:119, TLC Gen., p. 49]

Date: **21 Jul 1763**

From: Richard BROWN and RACHEL his wife of Halifax Co.

To: Thomas Tunstall of King William Co.

For: £250

Description: 274 acres "where the said Richard Brown now lives," granted to Richard Brown by patent dated 20 Aug 1748

Bounds: Russell, meanders of [Difficult] creek (others are trees, etc. with metes included, copied from patent)

Signed: Richard Brown, Rachel Brown

Witnesses: Ben WADE, John Hunt, GEORGE (A) ABBOT (his mark), BENJ (B) ABBOTT [his mark]

Added sideways along right margin: "Rec'd on the day of the date of the within written Indenture of the within named Tho's Tunstall the sum of two hundred fifty pounds curr't money being the within consideration within mentioned to be paid to me. £250"

/s/ Richard Brown - Witness Ben WADE, John Hunt, GEORGE (A) ABBOTT (his mark), BENJ (B) ABBOTT [his mark]

Recorded: 21 Jul 1763 [Deed is copied into the deed book for 1767-1770]

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 520-521. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This deed apparently was written before it is dated, as the Thomas Tunstall who resided on this land no longer lived in King William County in Jul 1763. Thomas Tunstall was appointed Deputy Clerk of Halifax County and presented his commission to the Halifax Court of May 1763. [HPB4:1] In the Halifax Court of Oct 1765, he was granted license to keep an ordinary (tavern) at his house for one year. [HPB5-1:242] From 1763 on, Thomas Tunstall appears on Halifax records with his near neighbors Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott, and Richard Brown appointed Thomas Tunstall as a co-executor with son Richard Jr. in his 1772 will. (Only Tunstall served.) [HWB1:1] By 19 Aug 1785, Thomas Tunstall was living in Pittsylvania County. [HPB11:204] When Richard Brown sold this land next to where Joseph Abbott was then living, Richard and his family may have moved to his land grant on Hunting Creek several miles northeast, based on the appraisers of his estate in 1773.

Deeds from Benjamin Abbott to his children in the mid-1790s prove he signed by mark "B," even though he occasionally is entered into the deed book with no mark. He is proved to be the same Benjamin Abbott named as a son in Joseph Abbott's 1787 will. In a Halifax Court case of 18 Sep 1753, Benjamin Abbott was required to give bond for 1 year good behavior, and his securities were Benjamin Wade (the above co-witness) and Nathaniel Hunt (related to co-witness John Hunt). [HPB1:182]

The witness George Abbott may be a son of Joseph Abbott who predeceased Joseph, as he is not named in Joseph's will. "George Abbit" was ordered to be added to the Halifax tithables list by the Court in Nov 1760, thus he was born at least by 1739. In Aug 1763, the month after this deed, George Abbott was paid by Richard Brown as a witnesses for Brown. [HPB4:200] There is no further mention of this George Abbott, who apparently died or left for parts unknown.

The witness does not appear to be the same George Abbott, son of William Abbott, who is consistently listed through this time period as a resident of adjacent Lunenburg/Mecklenburg County and who signed his deeds by signature. Furthermore, nothing in other records indicates that William and son George Abbott in Lunenburg were related, certainly not closely, to Joseph or Benjamin Abbott, so it would be very odd for that George to appear on this deed. (However, it does seem to be the Lunenburg/Mecklenburg George Abbott who in Aug 1770 was paid to travel "coming and going 28 miles" to the Halifax Court to witness for Patterson Pulliam in a case against Stephen Wade, who was from a different branch of the Wade family than the above Ben Wade and the Wades closely associated with Benjamin Abbott. See Court Orders for more details.)

30 Jul 1763 - Richard BROWN - Land patent - Halifax County

2900 acres on west side of Difficult Creek and on both sides of the Double Branches - adjoining Harris, Maccrery [McCrary], Seymore, [William] Irby, [Ephraim] Hill, [William] Chandler

[Source: VPB35:356. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

A 1773 deed from Richard Stanley to John Stanley selling land that Richard Stanley purchased from Richard Brown in 1771 states Richard Stanley drew this land in "Brown's lottery" [HDB9:144], apparently the easiest and most advantageous way for Richard Brown to sell off this large tract of land. (Richard Stanley's 274 acres were bounded by Richard BROWN and JOSEPH ABBOTT. See deed below.)

30 Aug 1763 - Richard BROWN - Land patent - Halifax County

704 acres on the branches of Hunting Creek - adjoining John Legrand, Wooton

[VPB35:452. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

This is the land Benjamin Abbott jointly surveyed with Richard Brown in Feb 1750/51, and Benjamin transferred his share to Richard Brown 27 May 1762.

Hunting Creek flows into the lower Roanoke/Staunton River between Halifax and Charlotte (formerly Lunenburg) County, and runs a few miles northeast of the upper part of Difficult Creek where the Abbotts and Richard Brown lived. Richard Brown may have moved there when he sold the land "where he now lives" on Difficult Creek the month before on 21 Jul 1763. When Richard's estate was ordered appraised and inventoried in Jan 1773, the appraisers were Matthew Durham, William Wright, Joseph Morehead (who owned land on Hunting Creek), and John Wooton, perhaps the "Wooton" named as a bound on Brown's 1763 Hunting Creek patent. On 18 Mar 1762, John Wooton purchased 200 acres on Hunting Creek from James Hunt (then of Lunenburg Co.) that was part of a patent to James Hunt granted 16 Aug 1756 and located one tract removed from a "Wooton." [VPB33:65, patent to John Nicholas]

Thus it could be that while the Abbotts and Richard Brown remained closely involved with each other throughout the following eight years of Richard's life (as court records clearly reveal), he may no longer be Joseph's and Benjamin Abbott's immediate neighbor. That they continue in such close contact supports the other evidence that Richard Brown and Joseph Abbott were somehow related.

1764

14 Nov 1764 - John Legrand to John Smallman - 200 ac on a branch of the north fork of Difficult Creek; adj. Benjamin Childrey, [Marston] Green, [BENJAMIN] ABBOT.

/s/ John Legrand - Wit: Thos. Tunstall, John Cox - Betty [née Chandler], wife of John Legrand, relinquished dower. Rec. 16 May 1765

[HDB5:375. Extracted from Chiarito, p. 134. Comments in brackets added by J. Horsley.]

Note:

In the 1750 tithables for Lunenburg County (from which Halifax was formed in 1752), Richard Brown, John Legrand, Benjamin Abbott, and John Smallman are listed consecutively. Benjamin Abbott's formal deed of purchase from Richard Brown dated 19 Jul 1770 lists John Smallman and Marston Green as bounds. [HDB8:42] John Legrand and John

Smallman were sons-in-law of William Chandler Sr. (who lived one tract removed from Joseph Abbott). Another daughter of William Chandler Sr., Susannah Chandler, married William Lax. Their great-granddaughter Paulina S. Lax/Lacks married in 1841 to Joseph Abbott's grandson John J. Abbott (son of Richard Abbott & Catharine Fulkerson).

1765

17 Jul 1765 - Poll List for Burgess Election - Halifax County
 JOSEPH ABBOTT, BENJAMIN ABBOTT (also Richard BROWN Sr. & Jr.)

[Source: Mary B. Warren. *Halifax County, Virginia Colonial Poll And Tithables Lists* (Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1991)]

 Date: **13 Aug 1765**

From: Richard Keesee and Ann his wife of Halifax Co.

To: Fulker FULKERSON of same

For: £130

Description: 320 acres granted to Keesee by patent dated 5 Jun 1765

Bounds: BROWN, Irby, John Wade (metes included)

Signed: Richard Keesee, Ann Keesee

Witnesses: Hugh Jones, Rich'd BROWN, Arch'd Gordon

Release of Dower by Ann, wife of Richard Keesee

Recorded: 15 Aug 1765

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 5, p. 457, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Fulker Fulkerson was the grandfather of Catharine Fulkerson who married Joseph Abbott's son Richard Abbott in 1818. Fulker and son John Fulkerson lived one tract removed from the Abbotts and were closely involved with them from the mid-1760s. The patent deed to Richard Keesee is described as 320 acres "on the branches of Difficult Creek" adjoining John Wade and Irby. [VPB36:755]

1766

Date: **27 Sep 1766** - Deed of Trust

From: Andrew Wade [Jr.] of Halifax

To: Richard BROWN of same

For: Richard Brown being security for Andrew Wade [Jr.] to William Robinson [Andrew's brother-in-law and executor of Andrew Wade Sr.'s estate] for his part in his father's [Andrew Wade Sr.'s] estate

Description: 2 slaves, 7 cattle, 2 mares, and all kitchen and household furniture

Condition: If Andrew Wade shall "save harmless" Richard Brown on account of his being Wade's security, then indenture to become void. The parties agree that until default be made on the condition aforesaid, the said Andrew Wade shall hold and enjoy all the aforementioned properties

Signed: Andrew Wade

Witnesses: Tho's Tunstall, JOSEPH ABBOTT

Recorded: 16 Jul 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 6, p. 428-429. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

In August Court 1766, Benjamin Abbott and Richard Brown were the securities on the bond of William Robinson (also recorded as William Robertson) who was executor of Andrew Wade Sr. deceased. [HPB5-2:273] The same Court, Richard Brown and "William Robertson" offered themselves as co-defendants with Benjamin Abbott in a case of debt brought against Benjamin. [HPB5-2:271] In June Court 1769, Andrew Wade Sr.'s son John Wade paid Joseph Abbott, Benjamin Abbott, and Richard Brown Sr. and Jr. as his witnesses in a suit John Wade brought against William Robinson, executor of Andrew Wade Sr. dec'd. [HPB6:378, 379]

1767Date: **17 Mar 1767**

From: Daniel Jones

To: Richard BROWN

For: £50

Description: All personal estate

Signed: Daniel Jones

Witnesses: Tho's Tunstall, BENJ'N ABBOTT [usual mark omitted]

Recorded: 16 Jul 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 6, p. 443. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Daniel Jones first appears in court records with Benjamin Abbott when Jones (and Richard Brown) witnessed for Benjamin in 1755. [HPB2-1:53] A deed of 23 Aug 1767 mentions a bound of "Richard Brown's land where Daniel Jones now lives." [HDB7:18] Although the above deed says Daniel Jones sells all his present personal property to Richard Brown, a Daniel Jones (who seems to be the same man as in 1755) continues to appear consistently in court and deed records with Richard Brown, Benjamin Abbott, and Joseph Abbott at least through May 1772. [HPB7-2:344]

Date: **1 Jul 1767**

From: Richard BROWN of Halifax

To: **JOSEPH ABBOTT** of same [name spelled both "Abbott" and "Abbot" in this deed]

For: £40 current money of Virginia

Description: 300 acres "whereon the said Joseph Abbott now lives"

Bounds: Ephraim Hill, Thomas Tunstall, "other land belonging to the s'd Richard Brown commonly called Wades" (no metes given)

Signed: Rich'd Brown

Witnesses: Tho's Tunstall, John Orril Tunstall, Thomas Farguson, John Cox

Received of the within named Joseph Abbot[sic] on the same day as indenture the consideration of £40.

/s/ Richard Brown - Wit: Tho's Tunstall, John Orril Tunstall, Thomas Farguson, John Cox

Recorded: 17 Sep 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 3-4. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Release of Dower - Halifax Court of June 1769

RACHEL, wife of Richard BROWN, relinquished her dower to this and six other tracts deeded by her husband during this time period. [HPB6:339. TLC Gen., p. 220.]

Note:

Joseph Abbott had been living on this land since his arrival in Halifax c1762, when Richard Brown was still living on the land he sold in July 1763 to Thomas Tunstall, the bound in this deed. Witness Thomas Farguson was the father of Susanna Ferguson who married Joseph Abbott's son Leonard in 1802.

Date: 23 Aug 1767

From: Richard BROWN

To: Robert Farguson

For: £75

Description: 200 acres on branches of Difficult Creek

Bounds: John Hunt on the Double Branch, Capt. John Coleman, Richard Brown's land where Daniel Jones now lives, back line of Richard Brown's order of Counsel, Capt. Marston Green

Signed: Rich'd Brown

Witnesses: Tho's Tunstall, John Orril Tunstall, Thomas Farguson

Notation: Rec'd the day and year within mentioned from Robert Farguson the within mentioned £75 - /s/ Rich'd Brown

Recorded: 17 Sep 1787

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 18-20. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Robert Farguson was related to deed witness Thomas Farguson who witnessed Joseph Abbott's deed from Richard Brown the previous month and whose daughter Susanna married Joseph's son Leonard Abbott in 1802. Adjacent landowner John Hunt was a co-witness with Benjamin Abbott, George Abbott, and Benjamin Wade when Richard Brown sold his land to Thomas Tunstall in Jul 1763, and Marston Green owned land adjacent to Benjamin Abbott. Joseph's sons William Abbott and Richard Abbott each inherited parts of Joseph's land and later purchased adjacent land that formerly belonged to the bound John Coleman above.

Date: 13 Sep 1767

From: Richard BROWN of Halifax

To: John Orril Tunstall of same

For: £50

Description: 202 acres on branches of Difficult Creek

Bounds: Marston Green, BENJAMIN ABBOT, Thomas Tunstall, Anthony Irby

Signed: Rich'd Brown

Witnesses: None

Notation: Rec'd from John Orrill Tunstall £50 - /s/ Rich'd Brown

Recorded. 17 Sep 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 16. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

According to Wirt Carrington's History of Halifax County, John Orrill Tunstall was a Halifax Court Justice by 8 May 1767. John witnessed Richard Brown's deed to Joseph Abbott and is said to have come to Halifax from King and Queen County, VA, where Joseph Abbott and his family previously lived. Part of King and Queen became King William County, where Thomas Tunstall was from, but his relationship to John Orrill Tunstall apparently is not known. (Strangely, the abstracts of this deed by Chiarito and TLC Genealogy both mistakenly say the land was on Terrible Creek when the original deed clearly says Difficult Creek instead.)

Dec 1767 - William Hoskins was appointed to be Sheriff, Tax Collector, and Collector of Quitrents and posted bond for each position. JOSEPH ABBOTT and Richard BROWN were among Hoskins' securities for each bond:

17 Dec 1767 - JOSEPH ABBOTT and Richard BROWN are among the securities on William Hoskins's bond of £1000 required by Hoskin's appointment as Sheriff of Halifax County "during pleasure" by commission of his Honour the Governor 20th Oct last to "well and truly collect the Officers Fees and dues put into his hands to Collect and truly account for and pay the same to the officers to whom such fees are due...and in all other things shall truly & faithfully perform the said office of Sherif..."

Signed: Wm Hoskins, JOSEPH ABBITT [*sic*], Rich'd BROWN, John Apperson, Joshua Powell, Minor Wynn, Jn'o Phelps, R [Robert] Farguson

Recorded: 17 Dec 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 41-42. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

17 Dec 1767 - JOSEPH ABBOTT and Richard BROWN are among the securities on William Hoskins's bond of £1000 required by Hoskin's appointment to "well and truly Collect and Receive of and for Each Tithable Person and also from every owner and proprietor of Lands" in Halifax County such monies and tobacco as assessed upon them by Acts of the Virginia Assembly

Signed: Wm Hoskins, JOS ABBOTT, Rich'd BROWN, John Apperson, Joshua Powell, Minor Wynn, Jn'o Phelps, R'o Farguson [Epa White's name is interlined in the list of securities named in the bond but is not included among those who signed.]

Recorded: 17 Dec 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 43-44. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

17 Dec 1767 - JOSEPH ABBOTT and Richard BROWN are among the securities on William Hoskins's bond of £500 required by Hoskins' appointment as Sheriff of Halifax County "during pleasure" by commission of the Governor of Virginia 20th Oct last to "well and truly collect all Quitrents, fines, Forfeitures, Amersciaments [amercements] accruing [accruing] or becoming due to his Masjesty" and to "duly account for and pay the same to the officers of his Majesty's Revenues for the time being on or before the second Tuesday in June annually and shall in all things truly and faithfully Execute the said office of sherif..."

Signed: Wm Hoskins, JOS ABBOTT, Rich'd BROWN, John Apperson, Joshua Powell, Minor Wynn, Jn'o Phelps, R'o Farguson

Recorded: 17 Dec 1767

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 44-45. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

1768

Date: **10 Mar 1768**

From: William Jones of the Province of North Carolina

To: Ephraim Hill of the Colony of Virginia

For: £22

Description: 300 acres on waters of Terrible Creek, including the 100 acres formerly conveyed by Jones to Thomas Hilton and by him sold to Ephraim Hill. Part of a greater tract of 1300 acres

Bounds: To be laid off between Dudgeon's 400 acre tract, his other line, Charles Jones, and Hunt's Waggon Road to run as far along the Waggon Road as on Dudgeon's lower line.

Signed: William Jones

Witnesses: Thom's Tunstall, William Hall j'r, William Todd j'r, BENJAMIN (B) ABBOTT (his mark)

Recorded: 17 Mar 1768

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 97. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Date: 6 May 1768

From: Fulker FULKERSON of Halifax Co., Planter

To: John Phelps of same, Planter

For: £30

Description: 100 acres, being part of a patent of 320 acres granted to Richard Kesse dated 5 Jun 1765, and conveyed by Kesse to Fulkerson by indenture dated 13 Aug 1765

Bounds: near the "old mill path" (metes included, no landowners)

Signed: Fulker Fulkerson

Witnesses: Richard Stanle [Stanley], Ambrose Estis [Estes], Wm Wright.

Recorded: 19 May 1768 - Catharine, wife of Fulker Fulkerson relinquished her dower

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 7, p. 114. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

When yearly land tax lists began in 1782, Fulker Fulkerson still held the remaining 220 acres of this land at Difficult Creek. He shared the land with his only son, John Fulkerson, who began to expand his land holdings in 1785. When Joseph Abbott died in 1788, Fulker was one of the appraisers of the estate, and John was a security on the executors' bond.

2 Dec 1768 - Poll List for Burgess Election - Halifax County

JOSEPH ABBOTT, BENJAMIN ABBOTT (also Richard BROWN Sr. & Jr.)

[Source: Mary B. Warren. *Halifax County, Virginia Colonial Poll And Tithables Lists* (Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1991)]

1769

22 Nov 1769 - Poll List for Burgess Election - Halifax County

JOSEPH ABBOTT, BENJAMIN ABBOTT

(Brown not searched this year)

[Source: Mary B. Warren. "Halifax County, Virginia Colonial Poll And Tithables Lists" (Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1991)]

1770

Date: 19 Jul 1770

From: Richard Brown of Halifax

To: BENJAMIN ABBOTT of same [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: £50 current money of Virginia

Description: 200 acres on branches of Difficult Creek

Bounds: John Orrill Tunstall, Marston Green, John Smallman, Jeremiah Keen, Thomas Tunstall, Anthony Irby (no metes)

Signed: Rich'd Brown

Witnesses: Tho's Cobbs, William Robertson, W. Wright

"Received the day and year within mentioned of the within mentioned Benjamin Abbott the sum of £50 it being the consideration within mentioned I say received by me. /s/ Rich'd Brown - Teste: Tho's Cobbs, W'm Robertson, W Wright

Recorded: 19 Jul 1770

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 8, p. 42-44. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Release of Dower - Halifax Court of June 1769

RACHEL, wife of Richard BROWN, relinquished her dower to 200 ac. conveyed to Benjamin Abbott as well as to six other tracts deeded by her husband during this time period (including Benjamin's father, Joseph Abbott). [HPB6:339. TLC, p. 220.]

Note:

Combined records show Joseph Abbot's son Benjamin Abbott was living in this location with Richard and Rachel Brown by 1750. Since they were closely involved and seem probably related, they apparently never bothered with a formal deed. In fact, several deeds and the voting lists in the 1760s indicate the land was presumed to belong to Benjamin Abbott all along. However, at this time Benjamin was preparing to move west in the county. The formal recorded deed was needed before Benjamin could sell the land, which he did by deed of 19 Apr 1771, less than a year after this deed was written.

Oddly, Richard's wife Rachel Brown released her dower to Benjamin's land (and to one other of seven) a year before the deed says it was written. The usual procedure was for a wife to relinquish her dower when the deed of sale was written or shortly thereafter. At the same court, Rachel released her dower to five other deeds dated 1763 through 1767, including his 1767 deed to Joseph Abbott, but the deeds to Benjamin and to John Wood were not dated until 17 Jul 1770. Perhaps Richard was sparing Rachel multiple court trips and had her release land where Benjamin was already living, but that is merely a guess.

Something else is odd about this and several other of Richard Brown's deeds at this time. That is, the additional statement signed by Richard and witnessed by the same deed witnesses to say he had received payment, which simply reiterates the standard wording of these and all deeds. At least in one such deed from Richard Brown, the extra statement was squeezed in sideways along the edge of the deed already entered yet gives the same date as the deed itself. [HDB7:520] In that case, the memo and the deed were dated and recorded in 1763 (although again the man was already living on the land) but copied into the deed book for the years 1767-1770.

1771

Date: **19 Apr 1771**

From: BENJAMIN ABBOT^[sic] of Halifax [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: William Clark of Charlotte Co.

For: For: £120

Description: 200 acres whereon the said Benjamin Abbot now lives

Bounds: "bounded according to the known antient [ancient] and reputed bounds."

Signed: Benj^a (B) Abbot (his mark)

Witnesses: P. Carrington, Isaac Read, Haynes Morgan, R. Williams [Robert Williams]

Recorded: 20 Jun 1771 - Proved by the oaths of three witnesses

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 8, p. 232-233. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Release of Dower - Halifax Court April 1772

ANN, the wife of BENJAMIN ABBOTT, being first privately examined, came into court and relinquished her right of dower in and to 200 acres of land conveyed by her said husband to William Clarke

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 7, Pt. 2, p. 312. LVA Reel 57. Abstract by J. Horsley]

Note:

The release of dower for this land is the first of only three records found during her lifetime with the name of Benjamin Abbott's wife, each time named "Ann" or "Anne." (The other two are court orders.) Various online files (all undocumented) give her maiden name as Armistead or Brown, but these are merely guesses. No proof or evidence of her maiden name has been found in extensive research, and there is strong evidence that her maiden name was neither Armistead or Brown. (See report on Benjamin Abbott for details.)

Regarding the deed witnesses Morgan and Williams, in 1782, Benjamin Abbott and Haynes Morgan posted security on the executor's bond of Robert Williams for the estate of George Watkins. [HWB1:424]

Benjamin Abbott moved at this time abt. 10 miles west to Banister River, where he is on a road order in Jan 1772. (No deed was found to Benjamin for that land, and no Halifax will was found whereby Benjamin could have inherited the land through his wife Ann, but it appears to be the 200 acres Benjamin deeds to his son Jacob Abbott in 1795. [HDB16:360]) In 1773, Benjamin bought his permanent land across the Banister at Bye Creek. [HDB9:67] As for this land he is selling, by a deed a year later dated 1 Aug 1772 (rec. 15 Oct 1772), "William Clarke of Charlotte Co, physician" sells this land to David Gwin, planter, of same, stating it was the same 200 acres the said Clarke purchased of Benjamin Abbott with no further description. The witnesses were Thomas Tunstall, Henry Tunstall, and John Johnston. [HDB8:471] By a subsequent deed less than three weeks later dated 19 Aug 1772 (rec. 15 Dec 1772) and with the same witnesses, David Gwin deeded the same land back to Clark with the condition that Clark sell the land by public auction to recover Gwin's debt for the land. Again, there was no further description of the land. [HDB8:521]

- - - - -

Date: **18 Jul 1771**

From: Richard BROWN Sen'r and RACHEAL^[sic] his wife

To: Richard Stanley

For: £100

Description: 274 acres in Halifax

Bounds: the said Richard Brown, William Chandler jun'r, JOSEPH ABBOT, James Drummond, and William Nunn

Signed: Rich'd Brown

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 18 Jul 1771

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 8, p. 237-239. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Date: **3 Aug 1771**

From: Charles Harris of the Province of North Carolina, County of Granville

To: Wright Bond of Charlotte Co, VA

For: £80

Description: 700 acres on Crooked Creek

Bounds: Cock, John Nichols, Robert Hudson, Robert Hutcherson, John Williams

Signed: Charles Harris

Witnesses: Philip Henson, BENJAMIN ABBOTT [*usual mark omitted*], Peter Hudson

Recorded: 15 Aug 1771

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 8, p. 251-252. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Date: **26 Dec 1771**

From: Richard BROWN of Halifax Co.

To: William Baker of Amelia Co.

For: £60

Description: 200 acres on the main road leading from Bonds Ferry to Peytonsbury Town where Joseph Moody lately lived

Bounds: Ephraim Hill, John Coleman, Robert Farguson, JOSEPH ABBOTT, Richard Stanley

Signed: Rich'd Brown

Witnesses: Daniel Jones, Richard Brown jr., Jere Keen

Notation: "Received of William Baker the same day and year within mentioned the sum of sixty pounds being the consideration of this Deed to be paid to me." /s/ Rich'd Brown - Wit:

Daniel Jones, Rich'd Brown jr, Jere Keen

Recorded: 16 Jan 1772

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 8, p. 305-306. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

This is the same land that Joseph Abbott purchases in 1778 from Isaac Linch [*HDB11:186*], who purchased it from William Baker in 1777. [*HDB11:168*] Joseph's 1787 will devised 150 acres of this tract to his son William Abbott, being where William was then living. William Abbott and his brother Richard Abbott, who was devised adjacent tract, later acquired part of the land of John Coleman, listed here as a bound.

Bonds Ferry Road is roughly today's Newbill School Road/SR 621. It went from the north side of today's Crystal Hill east to Bonds Ferry at the Staunton River, which divides Halifax and Charlotte County. From there it joined the sequence of roads that ran northeast across Charlotte County to Petersburg, then on to both Williamsburg (the Colonial capital) and Richmond (today's state capital). Revolutionary War pension applications in the 1830s mention this road whereby Halifax units went into the areas of deployment around Williamsburg and Richmond. When this land was sold by Baker to Linch in 1777, the road is described as "leading from Bonds ferry to Petters burg Town" (ie, Petersburg). [*HDB11:168*]

However, this deed references the road going in the opposite direction west to Peytonsbury, the original courthouse for Halifax County. When Pittsylvania County was formed from Halifax in 1767, Peytonsbury was in the new county, and Halifax Court then met just south of Crystal Hill. The 1859 Bucholtz map of Halifax County indicates that Bonds Ferry Road could also have led westward towards Peytonsbury, although today the distance appears to be covered by a series of connecting local roads.

1771-1772

Richard Brown wrote his will 11 Jan 1772, and it was proved in Halifax Court 21 Jan 1773. However, Richard died between 11 Jan 1772 and 22 May 1772, when two court cases he had brought against Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott were abated (ie, voided) because Richard Brown was then deceased. [HPB7-2:349] His wife was included in his will but not named; however, Rachel Brown is proved still his wife by a court record of 16 Jul 1772, when she appeared in court to release her dower to land Richard sold "in his lifetime." [HPB7-2:417] Richard's will names his son Richard Brown Jr. as an executor and instructs his wife to educate son Daniel Brown (still a minor, b. c1756), but he does not name the other three of his five surviving children. However, he further instructs that his wife "maintain the rest of my children," indicating they were not married at the time. (See compiled court records and reports on Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott for more details.)

1773

Date: **22 Jan 1773**

From: Richard Stanley and wife Martha

To: John Stanley of Amelia Co.

For: £40

Description: 274 acres that the said Richard Stanley drew in Richard Brown's Lottery [see deed of 18 Jul 1771 above]

Bounds: Richard Brown, William Chandler Jun'r, JOSEPH ABBOTT, James Drummond, and William Nunn

Signed: Rich'd Stanle, Martha (x) Standley (her mark)

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 21 Oct 1773

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 9, p. 144-145. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1 Mar 1773 - Land Patent to Abraham Shelton - Halifax County

249 acres on the branches of Difficult Creek

Bounded by pine near Bonds Ferry road in JOSEPH ABBOTT's line, Ephraim Hill, Middle Fork of Difficult Creek, James Breedlove, William McCray, Russell

[Source: VPB41:133. Online image LVA. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Date: **20 May 1773**

Whereas Clement Read by his last Will and Testament did devise to the s'd Thomas Read his lands to make conveyances of such part as he Clement Read had disposed of during his lifetime, and the said Clement Read having sold unto Mary Read of Charlotte County this tract of land in Halifax, thus in pursuance of the Will...

From: Thomas Read, one of the Executors of Clement Read Jun'r dec'd of Charlotte County [VA]

To: BENJAMIN ABBOTT of Halifax

For: £92 paid to the said Mary Read

Description: 404 acres in Halifax County, South side of Banister River granted to Peter Fontaine by patent 15 May 1755 and conveyed unto Clement Read the Elder

Signed: Tho's Read Ex'r [Executor]

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 20 May 1773

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 9, p. 67-68. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

This is the patent referred to in the deed:

15 May 1755 - Land Patent to Peter Fontaine Jr. - 404 acres in Halifax Co. on both sides of Bye Creek bounded by the south side of Banister River and the mouth of Bye Creek.

[Source: VPB32:551. Online image LVA. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The mouth of Bye Creek at the Banister River is a mile or two upriver from today's Meadville, VA. This is abt. 5 miles east of border with Pittsylvania County and abt. 10-12 miles west of where Benjamin formerly lived on Difficult Creek and where his father and his siblings remained. Benjamin and his family lived on this land until his death, and three of his five sons and an unmarried daughter continued to live there.

15 Jun 1773 - Land Patent to James Drummond - Halifax County
172 acres on a branch of the south fork of Difficult Creek, bounded by Nunn, Brown, JOSEPH ABBOTT, Tunstall, Bonds Ferry Road, Russell, Apperson

[Source: VPB 41:332. LVA online image. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

1774

Date: **19 Apr 1774** - Deed of Trust

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT of Halifax Co, VA.

To: Messrs. Buchanans Hastie & Company in Glassgow [Glasgow, Scotland]

For: 5 shillings

Description: one Negro Man Slave called and known by the name of London - to the only proper use and behoof of the said Company

Purpose: To secure debt of £41 14s 4p "which the said Joseph Abbott is justly indebted to the said Buchanans Hastie and Company and honestly desire[s] to secure and pay to them"

Conditions: On or after 1 Dec 1774, either Joseph shall pay the debt he owes plus interest from 1 Oct 1773 or the said slave shall be sold at public auction for the "best price that can be gotten," and the proceeds will be applied to pay the debt and interest as well as the expenses of drawing up and recording the indenture of sale and any contingent charges of the sale and other necessary expenses involved in securing and obtaining the above-mentioned money. Any "overplus" that might remain the Company shall pay to Joseph Abbott.

Signed: Joseph Abbott

Witnesses: H. Goare, M. Carrington, Thomas Hope

Recorded: 16 Jun 1774

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 9, p. 306-307. Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Joseph apparently did pay this debt on time, as he retained his slave London, who was named as a tithable slave in Joseph's personal property taxes in 1783 and 1784, the only two years that included slaves' names. In Joseph's will written in March 1787, he states that

after the decease of himself and wife Frances, the "negro fellow" named London shall be sold and the proceeds divided among four of his oldest children.

1775

Date: [day & month blank] **1775**

From: William Drake and Mess'rs Buchanans Hastie & Co., Merchants in Glasgow

To: Jesse Nichols

For: £38 and one penny

Description: 100 acres, bounded as recorded in deed from John Nichols to William Drake

Purpose: William Drake used this land to secure a debt to Mess'rs Buchanans, Hastie & Co., Merchants in Glasgow by Deed of Trust dated 14 Nov 1773. Drake did not meet the payment deadline, and his land was sold at public auction for the above amount to Jesse Nichols. This deed formally conveys the said land and appurtenances to Nichols.

Signed: William Drake, Jn'o Fisher for Buchanans Hastie & Co.

Witnesses: R. Mann, Peterson Harrison, John Easley, BENJAMIN ABBOTT JUN'R, Peter Hudson, Ambrose (x) Nichols (his mark)

Recorded: 19 Oct 1775

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 24-26. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley]

Note:

This "Benjamin Abbott Jun'r" could well be a son of Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott by a first marriage about the time Benjamin moved to Lunenburg/Halifax. The above deed co-witness Robert Mann was listed in the 1772 road order with the elder Benjamin Abbott, meaning they were neighbors on the same road segment. Co-witness Peter Hudson witnessed a deed 3 Aug 1771 with the elder Benjamin Abbott [*HDB8:251*], and the land being sold there was adjacent to John Nichols, who sold this land to Drake and likely was related to the purchaser here, Jesse Nichols. The only other mention of a Benjamin Abbott Junior was a Jun 1772 court order when he brought suit against Elijah Merry Bailey, related to James Bailey also listed in the Jan 1772 road order with the elder Benjamin. In Sep 1770, Elijah Merry Bailey sold land in the immediate area of the elder Benjamin Abbott's new residence to Benjamin Hubbard, whose 1772 estate accounts include the elder Benjamin Abbott and whose widow, Hannah Hubbard, is on the same Jan 1772 road order with the elder Benjamin. (In 1796, Benjamin's son Jacob Abbott bought land adjacent to where he then lived from Benjamin Hubbard Jr. that the latter inherited from his father, to whom Elijah Merry Bailey sold land in 1770. [*HDB16:692*])

These are the only two records for a Benjamin Abbott Junior found in Halifax records. However, a Revolutionary War pension application by John Estes in 1834 mentions a Benjamin Abbott who would be this younger one (and proved not to be the elder Benjamin Abbott). [*NARA File S3338*] Like Estes, he enlisted in the war from Halifax in Feb 1776 as a private for two years service and was soon promoted to corporal. Either he died during the war or left immediately after serving for parts unknown. Given his connection with associates and neighbors of the elder Benjamin Abbott and none of the other Abbott family, he could to be a son of the elder Benjamin born abt. 1750 or 1751 by a first marriage around the time the elder Benjamin moved to Lunenburg/Halifax in mid-1749. In theory, this younger one could be a distant relation or even a stranger passing through from elsewhere and temporarily living with or near the elder Benjamin, but that seems unlikely. (See report on Benjamin Abbott, son of Joseph Abbott, for more details.)

1776

Date: 19 Sep 1776

From: John Standley^[sic]

To: Nathaniel Pass

For: £100

Description: 272 acres that Richard Standley drew in Richard Brown's Lottery [see deed of 18 Jul 1771 above (*HDB8:237*)]

Bounds: Richard Brown, William Chandler Jun'r, JOSEPH ABBOTT, James Drummond, and William Nunn [same bounds as in 1771 deed to Richard Stanley]

Signed: John Stanley

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Priscilla, wife of John Stanley

Recorded: 19 Sep 1776

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 114. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

 Date: 19 Sep 1776

From: Nathaniel Pass

To: John Standley

For: £100

Description: 131 acres, being part of a greater tract of 231 acres patented 25 Jul 1749 to William McGinniss and is the part his son William [McGinnis] sold to the said Nathaniel Pass according to a dividing line made by the last mentioned Wm McGinnis and Nath'l Pass and according to the known and ancient reputed bounds of the said land. [No other bounds included.]

Signed: Nathaniel (N) Pass (his mark)

Release of Dowers by Allice, wife of Nathaniel Pass, and Elizabeth McGinnis

Recorded: 19 Sep 1776

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 115. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

25 Jul 1749 - Land grant to William McGinnis - Lunenburg County [later Halifax]

231 acres on both sides of the lower fork of Difficult Creek. (No adjacent landowners,)

[Source: VPB27:290. Online image LVA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1777

Date: 30 Sep 1777 ["thirtieth day"]

From: William Baker of Charlotte Co.

To: Isaac Linch of Amelia Co.

For: £80

Description: 200 acres whereon the said William Baker lately lived, on the main road leading from Bonds ferry to Petters burg Town [Petersburg Town]

Bounds: Ephraim Hill, John Coleman, Ambrose Easbrige^[sic]; Ambrose Estes], JOSEPH ABBOTT, Nath'l Pass

Signed: William Baker

Witnesses: W'm Shaw jr., Tho's Brown, John Shaw

Release of dower by Amey, wife of William Baker

Rec. 19 Nov 1778

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 168-169. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The 1771 deed from Richard Brown to William Baker describes the road as leading from Bonds Ferry to Peytonsburg Town, the original courthouse for Halifax County until the creation of Pittsylvania County in 1767. This deed references the road as leading in the opposite direction northeast across Halifax to the Staunton River, then on to Petersburg Town. Petersburg was a significant town at the time, just south of Richmond. For example, the Revolutionary War Pension Application of William Spencer [NARA File R9988] states Bonds Ferry was on the Staunton River (the eastern bound of Halifax with Charlotte Co., formed from Lunenburg effective 1765). Spenser's unit rendezvoused at Bonds Ferry then marched on to Williamsburg (likely passing through Petersburg on the way). From Crystal Hill to Petersburg is about 100 miles, and another 50 miles or so to Williamsburg. Bonds Ferry Road later became Clarks Ferry Road and is roughly today's Newbill School Road/SR621.

1778

Date: **19 Mar 1778**

From: Charles Wall

To: Joseph Newman Haynes

For: £250 "good and lawfull money of the State of Virginia"

Description: 400 acres on the ridge between Difficult Creek and Stewarts Creek patented [16 Aug 1756] to John Wall dec'd who devised the land by his last Will and Testament to the grantor Charles Wall

Bounds: deed follows the patent survey, only natural landmarks

Signed: Charles Wall

Witnesses: Micajah Watkins, Jas Turner Jr., BENJ'N (B) ABBOTT (his mark)

Memorandum: That on the above date peaceable and quiet possession of the land was delivered to Haynes.

/s/ Charles Wall - Wit: Micajah Watkins, Jas Turner, BENJ'N (B) ABBOTT (his mark)

Recorded: 19 Mar 1778

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 10, p. 414-415. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

16 Aug 1756 - Land grant to John Wall - Lunenburg County [later Halifax]

400 acres on the ridge between Difficult and Stewarts Creeks. [No legible adjacent landowners]

[Source: VPB33:36. Online image LVA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **16 Dec 1778**

From: Solomon Hancock

To: Isaac Linch [also sp. here Lynch]

For: £600

Description: 400 acres "on both [sides] the south fork of Catawba Creek" patented to Dennet Abney 12 May 1756 [sic, 12 May 1759 (VPB34:250)]

Bounds: Thomas Pruit [sp. Pruet in original patent; other bounds are trees]

Signed: Solomon Hancock

Witnesses: WILLIAM ABBOTT, Benjamin Raglen [Ragland], JOSEPH ABBOTT

Recorded: 21 Oct 1779

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 373-374. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Witness William Abbott was a son of Joseph Abbott born in 1756, thus now 22 years old.

Date: **17 Dec 1778**

From: Isaac Linch of Antrim Parish, Halifax Co.

To: JOSEPH ABBOTT [Abbott] of same

For: £200 current money of Virginia

Description: 200 acres in Halifax Co. on branches of Difficul [Difficult] Creek, being the plantation where Linch now lives

Bounds: the said Abott [JOSEPH ABBOTT], Col'o Coleman [John Coleman], Ambrose Estes

Signed: Isaac (I L) Linch [his mark]

Witnesses: Ephraim Hill jr, WILLIAM ABBOTT, John Yeates [Yates]

Release of dower by Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Linch

Recorded: 17 Dec 1778

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 186. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

Note:

This land previously was owned by Richard Brown, who sold it to William Baker in 1771. That deed describes the land as being adjacent to Bonds Ferry Road, JOSEPH ABBOTT, Ephraim Hill, John Coleman, Robert Farguson, and Richard Stanley. [HDB8:305] When Baker sold the land to Linch in 1777, the bounds were Bonds Ferry Road, Ephraim Hill, John Coleman, Ambrose Estes, JOSEPH ABBOTT, and Nathaniel Pass. [HDB11:168] The witness William Abbott is Joseph's son to whom Joseph devised 150 acres of this tract by his 1787 will. [HWB2:298]

1779

Date: **16 Sep 1779**

From: Abraham Shelton of Pittsylvania Co.

To: Peter Crowder

For: £125

Description: 249 acres on branches of Difficult Creek

Bounds: pine near Bonds Ferry road in JOSEPH ABBOTT's line, Ephraim Hill, James Breedlove, William McCrary, Russell, along the meanders of said road to the beginning

Signed: Abraham Shelton

Witnesses: None

Received this day the within mentioned sum in full satisfaction. /s/ Abraham Shelton

Recorded: 16 Sep 1779

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 333-334. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

See 1 Mar 1773 patent to Abraham Shelton above.

Date: **28 Sep 1779**

From: John Milner and Obadiah Echoles

To: James McCraw

For: £1,250

Description: 400 acres on branches of Bradleys Creek

Bounds: "Thomas Finneyes old line nowe William Gates thence...to a corner formerly a red oak since cute downen [cut down] in said Milners field thence...to a pointer neare [near] the millstone road [Millstone Road]"...

Signed: John Millner^[sic], Obediah Echoles

Witnesses: Benjamin Hunt, BENJAMIN (+) ABBOTT (his mark), Bartlett (+) Gwinn (his mark)

Recorded: 21 Apr 1780

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 436-437. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The clerk used a plus sign (+) for all names signed by mark in the deeds recorded around this one, thus substituting "+" for Benjamin's usual mark "B." (A generic "x" or "+" was often substituted for a mark that was difficult to reproduce, although Benjamin's mark seems to be only a simple B.)

Millstone Road ran N-S with Bradley Creek to the west and Terrible Creek to the east, per a 1782 deed. ^[HDB12:277] The Millstone Road was roughly today's US-501, a part of which connects today's town of Millstone and today's town of Halifax to the S/SE.

Date: **18 Nov 1779**

From: Nathaniel Pass of the state of North Carolina

To: Billey Wright of Halifax

For: £100

Description: 274 acres, being the same land that Richard Brown, deceased, in his lifetime conveyed to Richard Stanley who conveyed it to John Stanley who conveyed it to the said Nathaniel Pass as shown by the several conveyances of Record in the Clerk's Office of Halifax County

Bounds: "bounded as in and by the said several conveyances"

[Bounds in John Stanley's deed to Nathaniel Pass 19 Sep 1776 were: Richard Brown, William Chandler Jun'r, JOSEPH ABBOTT, James Drummond and William Nunn]

Signed: Nath'l (x) Pass (his mark)

Witnesses: W'm Wright, Elisha Lacey, Evan Ragland.

Recorded: 18 Nov 1779 - Acknowledged in Halifax Court by the said Nathaniel

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 396-397. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

In 1785, Billey Wright sold half this land to John Yates and half to John Fulkerson. (See deeds below.)

1780

Date: 18 Jan 1780

From: Peter Crowder

To: Bibby Bowmar [elsewhere sp. Bomar]

For: £240

Description: 149 acres on waters of Difficult [Creek]

Bounds: Ephraim Hill, JOSEPH ABBOTT, thence on his line to Bonds ferry road, thence along road to John Bowmar, thence to William Murphy...thence with new line to beginning

Signed: Peter Crowder

Witnesses: Thomas (x) Hodges (his mark), John (his mark) Bowmar Jun'r, James Stevens
Release of Dower by Jane, wife of the said Peter [Crowder]

Recorded: 17 Feb 1780

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 402-403. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The original tract from Shelton to Crowder in 1779 was 249 acres. [HDB11:333]

1782

Yearly personal property and land tax lists began in each Virginia county in 1782, even though the Treaty of Paris that formally ended the Revolutionary War was not signed until 3 Sep 1783. Also, as part of the process to determine what percentage each state would pay for the war and for the ongoing maintenance of the federal government, two special enumerations were taken in Halifax in 1782 and 1785 (although some lists have not survived, and the numbers do not always coincide with the known family members).

1782 - Halifax Personal Property Tax Lists

JOSEPH ABBOTT - 2 free whites [age 21+], 3 slaves, 5 horses, 12 cattle

BENJAMIN ABBOTT - 1 free white [age 21+], 2 slaves, 4 horses, 19 cattle

[Source: Halifax Personal Property Taxes 1782-1800. LVA Reel 147. Extract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The second white male over 21 in Joseph Abbott's list was his son William Abbott, then age 26 and not yet married. Joseph's son Joseph Abbott Jr., who married abt. 1778, was not found on this list, although he is listed in the Halifax 1782 Head-of-Household Enumeration the same year (see below).

1782 - Halifax Land Tax Lists

JOSEPH ABBOTT - 500 acres (North District)

BENJAMIN ABBOTT - 600 acres (200 in North District, 400 in South District)

[Source: Halifax Land Taxes 1782-1800A. LVA Reel 128. Extract by J. Horsley.]

1782 - Halifax Heads of Household Enumeration

Columns: Name of head-of-household, No. of Whites, No. of Blacks [slaves]

JOSEPH ABBOTT - 14 whites - 3 blacks

JOSEPH ABBOTT JR. - 3 whites - 0 blacks

Note:

Benjamin Abbott missing in these extant lists

[Source: List of Inhabitants 1782-1785. LVA Miscellaneous Reel 1263. Extract by J. Horsley.]

1783

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) - Wit: None - No release of dower - Rec. 20 Feb 1783
 [HDB12:286. TLC Gen. p. 103]

Note:

Elisha Abbott was the eldest son of Benjamin Abbott and wife Ann. According to tax lists, Elisha was not age 21 until later 1785 or early 1786, thus only about 18 at this deed. However, since the deed was father to son, the only problem would arise if Elisha wanted to sell it before he reached legal age (21). Although there is no dower release, Benjamin's wife, Ann, is proved still alive as of July 1785. [HPB11:189]

1785**1785** - Halifax Heads of Household Enumeration

Name of Head-of-House, No. of Whites, Dwelling Houses, Out Houses [ie, other buildings]

JOSEPH ABBOTT - 12 whites, 1 dwelling house, 2 other buildings
 WILLIAM ABBOTT - 2 white, 0 dwelling house, 0 other buildings [listed next to Joseph]
 BENJAMIN ABBOTT - 7 whites, 1 dwelling house, 0 other buildings

[Source: List of Inhabitants 1782-1785. LVA Miscellaneous Reel 1263. Extract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Joseph Abbott Jr. is missing in extant lists.

Neither Benjamin's nor Joseph's number of whites matches the number of whites they had living with them then.

This was a special enumeration taken to help determine improvements on the land. (Land ownership was taken from the land tax records.) Like the special enumeration in 1782, it was part of a process nation-wide to determine how much each state would pay for the costs of the Revolution and for its share of the new federal budget. Also as in 1782, most Virginia county lists have not survived, and many in surviving district lists are missing.

- - - - -

17 Dec 1785 - Billey Wright to John Yates - For: £62 10s
 137 acres that Wright purchased from Nath'l Pass that lies on the North side of the Courthouse road, bounded by Ambrus Eastis [Ambrose Estes], JOSEPH ABBOTT, James Drummond, John Yates, Robert Chandler [s/o William Chandler Sr.]
 /s/ Billey Wright - Wit: None - Fanny, wife of Billey Wright, relinquished her dower
 Rec. 19 Jan 1786

[Source: HDB13:357. TLC Gen. p. 40]

Note:

A 1792 deed from John Yates to William Abbott calls the road the Old Court House Road. [HDB15:346] According to a 1791 deed to Joseph Abbott Jr. [HDB15:156], the road called the Old Courthouse Road, later called Coles Ferry Road, is roughly today's Anderson Road/Route 626 that runs north and south between the town of Halifax (the courthouse by some nebulous time after 1776) and Crystal Hill (approx. the previous courthouse) and crosses the E-W Bonds Ferry/Newbill School Rd. just above Crystal Hill. [HDB15:156] If these deeds are referencing the same Courthouse Road, then the above land on the "north side" of the road would actually be on the east side of the N-S road, a common description used for both roads and rivers running generally N-S.

Date: **17 Dec 1785**

From: Billey Wright

To: John FULKERSON

For: £62 10 shillings

Description: 137 acres - all that land "that the said Billey Wright formerly purchased of Nath'l Pass that lies the South side of the Court house road"

Bounds: Wm. Chandler [Jr.], Ambrus Eastes [Ambrose Estes], Fulker FULKERSON [father of John], and Robert Chandler [brother of Wm. Jr.]

Signed: Billey Wright

Witnesses: None

Dower release by Fanny, wife of said Billey [Wright]

Recorded: 19 Jan 1786

[Source: Halifax County, Virginia Deed Book 13, p. 359-360. Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA.

Abstract by Joan Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

John and his father Fulker Fulkerson shared a home on Fulker's 220 acres of land at Difficult Creek. In 1793, John Fulkerson continued expanding their land to include 180 acres inherited by William H. Chandler from his father Robert Chandler, named as a bound in the land purchased above. [HDB15:627]

The Fulkersons, Chandlers, and Abbotts became related by Joseph's son Richard Abbott's marriage to John and Sally Roberts Fulkerson's daughter Catharine "Caty" Fulkerson as well as by Richard and Caty's son John J. Abbott's marriage to Paulina/Perlina Lacks/Lax. Three of John Fulkerson's children married Chandlers.

1786

19 Jan 1786 - Bibby Bowmar to William Bowmar - 149 acres bounded by John Bowman [sic, Bowmar], Bonds road to [JOSEPH] ABBOTT's line, Will's line, Cannady, Bowmar /s/ Bibby (his mark) Bowmar - Wit: None - Rec. 15 Jun 1786
[HDB13:434. TLC, p. 50.]

Note:

The 1818 deed below refers to the same tract of land and names the bound as "Estate of Joseph Abbott." Joseph's widow, Frances Abbott, had lifetime use of most of Joseph's land. Only when she died in late 1822 or early 1823 did Joseph's three sons officially receive their inherited tracts of his land, by which time one of the devisees, Leonard Abbott, was also deceased.

16 Oct 1818 - Minor Shaw and his wife; Williamson Shaw & Sally; Elijah Hodges & Macha (Meeky); Bush Hodges & Susanna; John Sparrow & Mary; Thomas Cardwell & Coley [all daughters of William Bomar]; sell to Fielding Bomar...175 acres on Difficult Creek bound by James Drummond's estate, JOSEPH ABBOTT's Estate, Nathaniel Barksdale & John Bowmar...and is the same tract conveyed to the said William Bomar by Bibby Bomar bearing date 19 Jan 1786.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 27, p. 396, posted to RootsWeb Bowling Mail List by Ernie Perry 31 Aug 2008]

1787

Date: **18 Oct 1787**

From: Robert Tucker

To: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

For: £100

Description: one negro fellow Tom, one negro woman Sarah, 5 head cattle, 2 feather beds, 1 bay horse

Signed: Robert (R) Tucker (his mark)

Witnesses: James Stevens, Benjamin Hall, Nimrod Farguson

18 Oct 1787 - "Memorandum that the within named Robert Tucker has passed his bond payable for a negro fellow named Mulberry [listed as a tithable slave of Benjamin Abbott in the 1783 and 1784 personal property tax lists] on receiving payment this [deed] is of no force"

Signed: BENJAMIN (B) ABBOTT (his mark)

Recorded: 23 Jun 1788 - Halifax Court - This Bill of Sale was acknowledged by the said Robert Tucker and an endorsement thereon was acknowledged by the said Benjamin Abbott all which is ordered to be recorded.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 14, p. 263. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1787-1788

JOSEPH ABBOTT wrote his will 30 Mar 1787, witnessed by his neighbors Ambrose Estes and John Stanley. [HWB2:298] Joseph Abbott died between a court case on 27 Mar 1788 [HPB12:355] and 8 May 1788, when only his estate with no white adult males is listed in the Halifax personal property tax lists. His will was proved in Halifax Court 27 Oct 1788. The executors were his wife Frances Abbott, son William Abbott, and Nathaniel Manning, a neighbor who held his service in reserve in case of need. (See complete will in compiled Abbott Wills and Probate and in report on Joseph Abbott.)

1788

Date: **9 Feb 1788**

From: William Pearman of Pittsylvania Co.

To: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

For: £100

Description: tract of land on the north side of Banister River [number of acres left blank but listed as 100 acres in Benjamin Abbott's 1789 land taxes and in his later deed of sale]

Bounds: Banister River, Fowlas, Reed [also sp. Read], Epperson

Signed: William (x) Pearman (his mark)

Witnesses: Wm GOODWIN, ELISHA ABBOTT, NANCEY ABBOTT

Recorded: 28 Jul 1788 - Proved in Halifax Court by the oaths of three subscribing witnesses

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 14, p. 286. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Deed witness Elisha Abbott in the deed above is Benjamin's eldest son, and witness Nancy Abbott is his eldest daughter. Nancy was born no later than 1767 and married the third witness, William Goodwin, by bond 7 Jan 1789, signing her own consent. The minister's

return, the marriage bond (dated 7 Jan 1789), and her own consent all name her as Nancy Abbott. "Nancy" was the standard nickname for "Ann," and sometimes the names were used interchangeably; however, Benjamin Abbott's wife is named in the Halifax records during her lifetime only as Ann or Anne, and his daughter is recorded only as Nancy. In any case, the witness could not be Benjamin's wife Ann, since by dower law and coverture a wife held an interest in her husband's land and was not a valid witness to her husband's deeds.

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.]

Note:

In the 1789 land taxes, this land to Elisha is recorded in the North District; that is, north side of Banister River. This land is 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 1/3 dower was for 150 acres. The reference in this deed to "Runaw" (rather than "Runan" as in the TLC abstract) may mean today's Runaway Creek, just upriver from the lower part of Bradley Creek.

1790

Date: 24 May 1790

From: James MCraw [James McCraw Jr] of Halifax and Samuel MCraw [McCraw] of the City of Richmond

To: Hawkins Landrum [a Methodist minister]

For: £51

Description: 206 acres on Yellow Bank Creek

Bounds: Thos Priddey [Thomas Priddy] line corner on the line of the Store lot, Humphrey, Milstone [Millstone] Road, the old Court house road, meanders of Yellow Bank Creek

Signed: James MCraw J'r, Saml MCraw

Witnesses: John Phelps, WILLIAM ABBOTT, Daniel Eazly [Easley], Richard Waln

24 May [1790] received from Hawkins Landrum the within mentioned sum of £51.

/s/ J. MCraw Jr., S. MCraw

Witnesses: WILLIAM ABBOTT, Daniel Easley

Recorded: 27 Sep 1790 - Proven by the oaths of subscribing witnesses to be the act and deed of James & Samuel McCraw

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 14, p. 719-720. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is the same tract that Benjamin Abbott's son Jacob Abbott purchased from Daniel Easley recorded in 1809 [HBD22:137] and sold to Thomas Wilkerson in 1811. [HBD23:160] The 1811 deed still names the same bounds as in this 1790 deed above. Adjacent landowner

Thomas Priddy was related to the Priddy wives of Jacob's brothers Armistead Abbott and Joseph Abbott.

Millstone Road is roughly today's US-501. This "old Court house road" does not appear to be the same as the one later called Coles Ferry Road discussed above, but instead a road leading east from the Banister River to the old Courthouse location just south of Crystal Hill. A deed of 24 Dec 1787 that includes this tract describes the second road above as "the road now leading from Banister upper bridge to the old Court House." [HDB14:300]

1791

Date: **25 Jul 1791**

From: Thomas Lacy and wife Catharine of Halifax Co.

To: JOSEPH ABBOTT [Jr.] of same

For: £60 current money of Virginia

Description: 100 acres

Bounds: Beginning near the Old Court House road on Nathaniel Mannins [Manning's] line, eastwardly down Manning's line to Wynns Creek, thence down the meanders of the creek to William Robertses [William Roberts'] line, then with his line on a westwardly course to the aforesaid old Court House Road, then northwardly as it traverses to the Beginning. [no metes included]

Signed: Thomas Lacy [Catharine did not sign]

Memorandum: On the within written date, Livery of Seisin [delivery of possession] of the within granted land was by Thomas Lacy and Catharine his wife made done and executed to Joseph Abbott according to the tenor and effect of the within written deed. /s/ Thomas Lacy

Recorded: 25 Jul 1791 - Acknowledged in Halifax Court by Thomas Lacy

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 15, p. 156. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

Note:

Joseph Abbott Jr. married Thomas Lacy's daughter Magdaline Lacy abt. 1778 and may have been living on this land for some time. This property was a few miles south of today's Crystal Hill, VA, and close to where Joseph Sr.'s widow, Frances, and most of Joseph Jr.'s siblings still lived. Joseph Jr.'s 1808 deed of trust for this same land names the "Old Court House Road" as "Coles Ferry Road." [HDB21:680] (In fact, using the bound line directions in this deed, it can be no other road.) This was roughly today's Anderson Road/Route 626 that connects today's courthouse town of Halifax, VA and Crystal Hill, VA abt. 7 miles north. Prior to abt. 1777 (officially, but perhaps later in practice), the "old" Halifax Court was held just below Crystal Hill. The upper part of Winns Creek flows generally parallel along the east side of the road, and the headwaters of Winns Creek are just below the branches of Difficult Creek where Joseph Abbott Sr.'s land was located. In 1792, Joseph Jr.'s brother William Abbott extended his inherited land at Difficult Creek by a 30-acre parcel that also bounded the Old Courthouse Road (see deed below). [HDB15:346] Joseph Sr.'s lands stretched N-S just east of today's Crystal Hill, and earlier deeds for land adjacent to Joseph Sr. during his lifetime describe them as being near the Court House road. Nathaniel Manning, an adjacent landowner ("bound") in this deed to Joseph Jr., also had land adjacent to Joseph Sr. and was named as one of Joseph Sr.'s executors in his 1787 will.

1792

Date: [day & month blank] **1792**

From: John Yates

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: £12

Description: 30 acres

Bounds: Beginning on the old Court House Road, then up the road to an old field known by the name of Fulkers [ie, Fulker Fulkerson], thence running with the said Yateses line to Abbotts old path, thence along the path to the said Abbotts line, thence along the said Abbotts line to the Beginning [at the old Court House Road]

Signed: John Yeates [Yates]

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 25 Jun 1792

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 15, p. 346. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

William's father Joseph Abbott's will devised to William the land where William was then living, that is, 150 acres of the 200 acres Joseph purchased of Isaac Linch by deed dated 17 Dec 1778 that was adjacent to Joseph's own land. (William Abbott and John Yates were witnesses to that deed.) This land from Yates seems to extend William's property west to the Old Court House Road. This may be the segment of road that Joseph Abbott and three other were ordered to view in Jan 1769 for the most convenient way "from this Courthouse into the Road leading to Bonds Ferry," which was the northern bound of Joseph's land from Linch. [HPB6:269]

- - - - -

Date: **14 Dec 1792**

From: Ambrose Eastes [Ambrose Estes]

To: John Standley [John Stanley]

For: £20

Description: 100 acres, whereon the said John Stanley now lives

Bounds: on the low side by John Wood and William Williams, on the upper side by James Drouman [Drummond] thence "runing" on the said Ambrous Eastases line [Ambrose Estes]

Signed: Ambrose Eastes, Miley (x) Eastes (her mark)

Witnesses: WILLIAM ABBOTT, Richard (x) Standley (his mark), Ambrase Standley [Ambrose Stanley]

Recorded: 28 Jan 1793

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 15, p. 496-497. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1793

Date: **19 Jan 1793**

From: John Dyer of Pittsylvania County

To: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

For: £100

Description: 242 acres

Bounds: Coles Road [sic; John Coleman, per 1794 deed of sale], Millstone Road, Courthouse Road, Fontain [Fontaine]

Signed: John Dyer

Witnesses: ELISHA ABBOTT, ARMISTEAD ABBOTT, JAMES ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT
[all sons of Benjamin Abbott]

Recorded: 22 Jul 1793 - Proved in Halifax Court by the oaths of three witnesses

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 15, p. 603-604. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

All witnesses were sons of Benjamin Abbott. James (b. c1775) and Joseph (b. c1774) were not quite 21 years old, but witnesses were not required to be of full legal age. This land was about 5 miles on the other side of the Banister from where Benjamin Abbott lived, and the next year in Aug 1794, Benjamin sold this tract to his son-in-law William Goodwin (deed below).

When Benjamin Abbott sells this land in 1794 to William Goodwin, the deed plat straightens the northern boundary here (a difference of only 3 acres) and corrects the name of the line, mistakenly written here as "Coles Road" but actually "Col. John Coleman's line." The land was along the east side of Millstone Road, roughly today's US-501 running NW-SE, with Banister River to the west and Terrible Creek to the east. Again, this "Courthouse Road" is one that went from Banister River eastward to the Courthouse, not the N-S road later known as Coles Ferry Road.

Date: **22 Jul 1793**

From: William H. Chandler

To: John FAULKERSON [sic, John Fulkerson]

For: £110

Description: 180 acres on waters of Difficult Creek, being part of a tract bequeathed to William H. Chandler by his father Robert Chandler

Bounds: "the road" [unnamed; metes & bounds included but no adjacent landowners]

Signed: William H. Chandler

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Polley [Polly], wife of the said William

Recorded: 22 Jul 1793

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 15, p. 627-628. Halifax Courthouse. Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

19 Nov 1793 - Thomas Roberts to Thomas Thweatt - For: £76[?] 13s 4p

115 acres on Difficult Creek - Bounds: Difficult Creek near the old road leading to hopes [Hope's] old store, Joseph Ligon on aforesaid old road, Michael Roberts on the Lick Branch - /s/ Tho Roberts - Witnesses: James Eastham, LEONARD ABBOTT, Henry Portwood

Rec. 23 Dec 1793

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 60-61. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Leonard Abbott, b. c1771, was a son of Joseph Abbott who inherited 100 acres Joseph's land on Difficult Creek, "lying on the timber branch." [HWB2:298]

19 Nov 1793 - Thomas Roberts to James Eastham - For: £25
 34 acres on both sides of Russells Creek, a branch of Difficult Creek - Bounds: Eastham, Puckett, Roberts - /s/ Tho Roberts
 Witnesses: Thomas Thweatt, Henry Portwood, LEONARD ABBOTT - Rec. 24 Feb 1794
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 96-97. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

1794

Date: **25 Aug 1794**

From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT of Antrim Parish, Halifax County

To: William GOODWIN of same [husband of Benjamin's daughter Nancy Abbott]

For: £100

Description: 165[sic] acres, "all that...parcel of land that the s'd Benjamin Abbott bought of John Diah [John Dyer] Situate lying & being in the County and Parish afores'd & on the South Side of Tureble Creek [Terrible Creek]..."

Bounds: Col'o John Coleman, Milstone Road [Millstone Road], Courthouse Road, Fountain [Fontaine]

Signed: Benjamin (B) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: ELISHA ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT, JACOB ABBOTT [all sons of Benjamin Abbott] - Release of dower: None

Partly proved 22 Sep 1794 by the oaths of two of the three subscribing witnesses.

Recorded: 26 Jan 1795, after being fully proved by the oath of the third witness.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 300-301. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

William Goodwin was Benjamin's son-in-law who married Benjamin and Ann's daughter Nancy Abbott 12 Jan 1789 (bond dated 7 Jan 1789.) Witnesses to the above deed were all sons of Benjamin Abbott and brothers of William Goodwin's wife Nancy Abbott. This is the first in a series of deeds over the next two years whereby Benjamin Abbott sells off his land holdings to his children as their inheritance.

Benjamin Abbott purchased this land the year before (also paying £100). [*HDB15:603*] His 1793 deed estimates the size as 242 acres, whereas this deed is only for an estimated 165 acres. However, comparing the actual plats of the land from the 1793 and 1794 deeds proves by bounds, shape, and calculated acreage that this deed to Goodwin is for the full tract with the northwestern boundary straightened (the "new line" reduces the parcel by only 3 acres) and correctly identified here as a line of John Coleman, not "Coles Road" as the 1793 deed mistakenly said. Interestingly, after Benjamin's sale to Goodwin, land taxes for Benjamin carry the erroneous 77-acre remainder each year through Benjamin's death, then it simply disappears. There is no sale for such a parcel and none was inherited by Benjamin's heirs, thus supporting that the 77-acre remainder was in error, as the plats themselves prove.

Terrible Creek flows basically northwest to southeast parallel and east of the old Millstone Road, roughly today's US-501. This land to William Goodwin touches on its southwest along a small segment of the old Millstone Road, but in neither deed is Terrible Creek (or any creek) included as a bound itself. The "courthouse road" in this deed along the southern bound was one of possibly two such roads leading eastward from the Banister River (west of Millstone Road) to the courthouse.

1795

Date: **23 Apr 1795**

From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

To: JACOB ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: £50

Description: 200 acres on the North side of Banister River

Bounds: Banister River, Nathaniel Royster, the Estate of Epaphroditus Sydnor, Anderson

Signed: Benj'a Abbott [*usual mark omitted*]

Witnesses: None - Release of dower: None

Rec. 27 Apr 1795 - Acknowledged in court by Benj'a Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 360-361. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

In three of the deeds in this sequence of deeds from Benjamin Abbott to his sons, his usual mark "B" is omitted, as it was in three earlier deeds he witnessed. These seem to be only clerical errors when the deeds were copied into the deed books, which was not uncommon. There is no question that in each case, the person signing was Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin Abbott.

There is no deed recorded for Benjamin's original purchase of this land he sells to Jacob, but the number of acres is included in Benjamin's land taxes from their beginning in 1782. Judging from various records regarding this land, this is where Benjamin and his family lived from mid-1771 to mid-1773, when they moved to the south side of the Banister at Bye Creek

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: Benj'a Abbott [*usual mark is omitted*]

Witnesses: None - Release of dower: 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 here to Benjamin's son Joseph Abbott's name means "the younger" to distinguish him as the younger Joseph Abbott then in the county. The older (that is, the "Sr.") was Joseph Abbott, son of then-deceased Joseph Abbott (thus the one we would normally call Joseph Abbott Jr.). Between 1798-1803, both Benjamin's son Joseph Abbott and Joseph's son Joseph Abbott lived in the same personal property tax district, and their yearly tax lists likewise list them as "Jr." and "Sr." meaning "younger" and "older." To make matters even more confusing, due to the different way yearly land taxes were compiled, the older Joseph (son of Joseph Abbott) is listed on land taxes as Joseph Abbott Jr., while Benjamin's son Joseph is listed only as Joseph Abbott, with no Jr. or Sr. added to his name.

This is part of Benjamin's original 404 acres at Banister River and Bye Creek, part of which he deeded in 1783 to his son Elisha, named as a bound on this parcel to his son Joseph Abbott. The balance went to his son James in May 1796 (deed below). Between 1797-1798, the year or so after Benjamin died, son Joseph and son Armistead swapped their lands from their father, and Joseph went to live on the north side of the Banister, while Armistead lived on the south side on this Bye Creek land.

1796

Date: 1 Feb 1796

From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

To: JAMES ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: Deed of gift - "in consideration of the parental love, good will and affection which I have and do bare [bear] unto my Son James Abbott [and] also to do him equal right and justice with the rest of my children..."

Description: one slave, "negro boy now called and known by the name of Dick"

Signed: Benjamin (B) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: James MCraw [McCraw], JOSEPH ABBOTT [Benjamin's son]

Recorded: 22 Feb 1796 - Acknowledged in court by Benjamin Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 532. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 1 Feb 1796

From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

To: ELIZABETH ABBOTT

For: Deed of gift - "in consideration of the Parental love, good will and affection which I have and do bare [bear] unto my Daughter Elizabeth Abbott [and] also to do her equal right and Justice with the rest of my children..."

Description: one slave, "negro girl now called and known by the name of Winney"

Signed: Benjamin (B) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: James MCraw [McCraw], JOSEPH ABBOTT [Benjamin's son]

Recorded: 22 Feb 1796 - Acknowledged in court by Benjamin Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 533. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 1 Feb 1796

From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT

To: JACOB ABBOTT

For: Deed of gift - "in consideration of the Parental love, good will and affection which I have and do bear unto my Son Jacob Abbott [and] also to do him equal right and Justice with the rest of my children..."

Description: one slave, "negro boy now called and known by the name of Martin"

Signed: Benjamin (B) Abbott (his mark)

Witnesses: James MCraw [McCraw], JOSEPH ABBOTT [Benjamin's son]

Recorded: 22 Feb 1796 - Acknowledged in court by Benjamin Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 534. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

12 Feb 1796 - Moses Overton of the Terytorie [Territory] of North Carolina & of Green County [now TN] to Thomas Puckett of Halifax - For: £60
 Desc: 303 acres in Halifax - Bounds: Jacob Garrotte, Charles Mann, Jacob Martin, John Bawstick [Bostick], Henry Perkins, Hickeys Road, William Smith, Joseph Echols /s/ Moses Overton - Wit: Niven McKenney, John Watlington [bracketed together, then to the right of the bracket is] WILLIAM ABBOTT
 22 Feb 1796 - First presented and proved "by one witness"
 Rec 25 Jul 1796 - After being proved "by the two other witnesses"
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 681-682. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

 Date: **16 May 1796**
 From: BENJAMIN ABBOTT
 To: JAMES ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]
 For: £200
 Description: 119 acres, South side of Banister River
 Bound: ELISHA ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT, Banister River
 Signed: Benjamin Abbott [usual mark omitted]
 Witnesses: William GOODWIN [Benjamin's son-in-law], Daniel Easley, David Farmer, JACOB ABBOTT, ELISHA ABBOTT [sons of Benjamin Abbott] - Release of dower: None
 Recorded: 27 Jun 1796 - Proved in court by the oaths of the witnesses
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 605. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:
 This is the final parcel of Benjamin's original 404 acres on Banister River at Bye Creek. Benjamin deeded part to his son Elisha Abbott in 1783 and another part of his son Joseph Abbott in 1795, both of whom are listed as bounds on this land to their brother James.

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 in deed to Benjamin Abbott dated 9 Feb 1788 (HDB14:286)]
 Bounds: Banister River, Fowles [also sp. Fowlas], Epperson, Reade [also sp. Reed], 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 loyn [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], ELISHA ABBOT, JACOB ABBOT
 Release of dower: None
 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.]

Note:

Besides this clerk's typically confusing spelling, the deed has a major error. Benjamin's purchase deed for this land in 1788 describes it as being on the north side of the Banister rather than the south side as this deed says, and north side is proved correct by later deeds for this land. Furthermore, Armistead deeded this land to his brother Joseph [HDB18: 480], who in return deeded his land from Benjamin to Armistead. [HDB20:97] When Joseph went to live on this land of Armistead bet. 1797-1798, Joseph's tax district changed from South to North District, while Armistead remained in South District, where Benjamin's land to Joseph was located.

May 1796 - May 1797

BENJAMIN ABBOTT, eldest son of JOSEPH ABBOTT, died between the two preceding deeds of 16 May 1796 and May 1797 when he is missing from the 1797 personal property tax lists and missing each year thereafter. (Even though Benjamin had given his children all his taxable personal property as of Mar 1796, when he is listed for the first time with none, he still would be listed in the yearly personal property tax lists as a free male resident over age 21 were he alive.) Benjamin's last court record is in May 1795, and he last appeared in court in Feb 1796 to acknowledge three deeds to his children written earlier that month. Benjamin sold his last land in May 1796 (acknowledged in court only by the witnesses), and his land was removed from the land tax records bet. 1798-1799. Since land tax lists were automatically generated each year (as opposed to the personal property tax lists that were personally turned in yearly), land taxes frequently lag behind, especially when no will was recorded. There is no will or any probate records for Benjamin Abbott. Since there is no mention of a dower release in any of his deeds to his children (even when they begin selling the land outside of the family in 1803) and no provision was made for his wife during widowhood (having deeded away all his land and slaves), presumably his wife, Ann Abbott, predeceased him. (See report on Benjamin Abbott for more details.)

Date: 14 Jul 1796

From: HATCHER OWEN [husband of Mary Abbott, d/o Joseph Abbott & wife Frances]

To: Richard Martin

For: £60

Description: 40 acres on the lower side of Terrible Creek

Bounds: George Anderton near the old meeting house, Robertson, Spring Branch, Terrible Creek, Hunt, Alman Guinn [also sp. Almon Gwin]

Signed: Hatcher Owen

Witnesses: Thomas Owen, John Light, LEONARD ABBOTT, Rezin Porter Jr.

Release of Dower: None

Recorded: 25 Jul 1796 - Acknowledged by Hatcher Owen

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 675-676. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Hatcher Owen married Joseph Abbott's daughter Mary Abbott 16 Oct 1787. Deed witness Leonard Abbott is Mary's brother, and witness Thomas Owen is Hatcher's brother. Censuses and marriages indicate Mary's last child was born abt. 1804, so she was still living at the time of this deed even though no release of her dower is recorded.

Date: **23 Jul 1796**

From: Allen Whitehead

To: JAMES ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: £11 4s

Description: 22 acres [south side of Banister River, per land taxes]

Bounds: Banister River, Anderson, Cox[?]

Signed: Allen Whitehead

Witnesses: ELISHA ABBOTT, ARMISTEAD ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT [sons of Benjamin Abbott]

Recorded: 25 Jul 1796

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 642. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **30 Aug 1796**

From: Benjamin Hubbard [Jr.] of Wilkes County, NC

To: JACOB ABBOTT of Halifax [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: £50

Description: 200 acres in Halifax County on the North side of Banister River,

Bounds: Banister River, Nathaniel Royster, Estate of Epaphroditus Sydnor, Anderson

Signed: Ben'ja Hubbard

Witnesses: ELISHA ABBOTT [Jacob's brother], John Montgomery, William Montgomery

Recorded: 26 Sep 1796 - Proved in Halifax Court by oaths of the witnesses

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 16, p. 692-693. LVA Reel 7. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The bounds on this deed are the same as the bounds on the 1795 deed for 200 acres to Jacob Abbott from his father Benjamin Abbott (although deed bounds are not necessarily the most recent or current landowners but copied from deeds written earlier in time). This land is adjacent to Jacob's land from Benjamin, as Jacob sold parts of both by a deed of for 252 acres recorded in 1805 (see below). *[HDB20:154]*

Online information posted by Diane Wilkinson says the land Benjamin Hubbard is selling was devised to him by the will of his father Benjamin Hubbard Sr. *[GenForum Hubbard Family 18 Jan 2000]* In Dec 1772, Jacob's father, Benjamin Abbott, is mentioned in the estate accounts of Benjamin Hubbard Sr. dec'd (will proved 21 Mar 1771 *[HWB0:300]*), and Benjamin Abbott also was on the same Jan 1772 road order with Hubbard's widow Hannah Hubbard.

Date: **14 Nov 1796**

From: James Drummond

To: John FULKERSON

For: £50

Description: 100 acres

Bounds: old mill path [no adjacent landowners named]

Signed: James Drummond

Witnesses: John Roberts, Peggy (x) Drummond (her mark), Druceller [Drusilla] (x)

Drummond (her mark), William (x) Drummond (his mark). Tho's Dobson and John Wood witnessed the marks of the three Drummond witnesses

Recorded: 26 Dec 1796

[Source: Halifax County Deed Book 17, p. 33-34, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

"Oak near old mill path" is mentioned as a bound in land owned by John's father Fulker Fulkerson when Fulker sold a portion to John Phelps in 1768. [HDB7:114]

1798

Date: **6 Oct 1798**

From: Henry E. Coleman

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: £213

Description: 328 acres by late survey, south side of the upper Difficult Creek

Bounds: Difficult Creek, Ephraim Hill, ABBOTT, James Brown [partial metes included]

Signed: Henry E. Coleman

Witnesses: William Keene, James Thompson, LEONARD ABBOTT, RICHARD ABBOTT
[sons of Joseph Abbott]

Recorded: 25 Feb 1799

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 18, p. 107-108. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Joseph Abbott's son William Abbott, the purchaser here, inherited 150 acres of Joseph's 500 acres. Ephraim Hill was also an adjacent landowner on Joseph's original land in the 1760s. [HDB7:3] John Coleman (father of the seller Henry E. Coleman) owned land one tract removed [HDB7:18], then was adjacent after Joseph purchased Isaac Linch's land [HDB11:186], part of which Joseph devised to William. In Nov 1798, the month after William's purchase, William Abbott sold almost half of this tract to his brother Richard Abbott, who was still single and living with his mother and other unmarried siblings on Joseph's remaining 350 acres loaned to Frances for lifetime use.

Date: **27 Nov 1798**

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: £90

Description: 150 acres by the late surveys, south side of the upper Difficult Creek

Bounds: Difficult Creek, Ephraim Hill, said ABBOTT

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: JOHN ABBOTT, MOSES ABBOTT, LEONARD ABBOTT [all sons of Joseph Abbott]

Recorded: 22 Apr 1799

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 18, p. 128-129. Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Seller, purchaser, and witnesses were brothers, all sons of Joseph Abbott Sr. All but William, the eldest, were sons of Joseph's last wife Frances.

This tract is almost half of the tract William Abbott purchased from Henry E. Coleman 6 Oct 1798. His brother Richard Abbott, the purchaser, inherited their father's original land near

the south side of the "Middle" or "Double" branch of Difficult Creek bounded by Ephraim Hill and also adjacent to the land William inherited, which the Coleman tract adjoins. Earlier deeds and patents refer to Coleman's land as being on the south side of Double Branch. (The southern-most branch, now called Mill Branch, may have been the Timber Branch, where part of Joseph Abbott's land also was located.)

1799

Date: **6 Dec 1799**

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: Mathew Seemore [also sp. Seamore, Seymour, Seymore]

For: £27

Description: 27 acres, part of the tract that William Abbott bought of Capt. H. Coleman

[HDB18:107]

Bounds: James Brown corner, "red oak where a path comes in the old court house road near the mouth of Standley's [Stanley's] lane, Standley's line, James Brown's line

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: William Standley [Stanley], James Brown, Nancey Semore

Recorded: 27 Jan 1800 - Acknowledged in court by William Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 18, p. 290. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1800

Date: **2 Dec 1800**

From: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT and Frances Abbott his wife [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: JOSEPH ABBOTT [son of Benjamin 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

Recorded: 22 Dec 1800

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

Note:

In 1796 and 1795 (resp.), Armistead Abbott and his brother Joseph Abbott each purchased land from their father, Benjamin Abbott (deeds above). Benjamin died bet. 1796-1797, and Halifax personal property tax lists show that bet. 1797-1798, Armistead and Joseph swapped their respective lands from Benjamin. Joseph moved to the north side of Banister River, where Armistead's land was located, while Armistead remained on Joseph's land on the south side. By this Dec 1800 deed and a deed from Joseph the same month (below), Armistead and Joseph formalized their exchange of lands.

Armistead and Joseph were married to sisters. Armistead Abbott married Frances Priddy, and Joseph Abbott married Elizabeth Priddy, both daughters of George Priddy Sr.

Date: **4 Dec 1800**

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT and Elizabeth Abbott his wife [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT [son of Benjamin 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 [Joseph & Armistead's brother-in-law],

Elizabeth (x) Abbott (her mark) [Joseph & Armistead's sister]

Recorded: 27 Feb 1804

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

Note:

The witness Elizabeth Abbott is Joseph's sister Elizabeth, not his wife. His sister Elizabeth did not marry until 1807 and first appears on Halifax personal property tax lists in 1800, thus at least age 21 by this year. The witness could not be Joseph's wife, Elizabeth (Priddy) Abbott, because by dower right a wife held an interest in any land her husband purchased and as such was a party to the transaction. The witness George Priddy Jr. was Elizabeth Priddy Abbott's brother.

As mentioned above, in 1795 and 1796 (resp.), Joseph Abbott and his brother Armistead Abbott each purchased land from their father, Benjamin Abbott (deeds above). Benjamin died bet. 1796-1797, and Halifax personal property tax lists show that bet. 1797-1798, Joseph and Armistead swapped their respective lands from Benjamin. Joseph moved to the north side of Banister River, where Armistead's land was located, while Armistead remained on Joseph's land on the south side. By this Dec 1800 deed and the above deed the same month, Joseph and Armistead formalized their exchange of lands.

1801

Date: **23 Feb 1801** - For land purchased 25 Jul 1798 at public auction

From: Trustees of the Town of Meadville, Halifax County [Est. 10 Jan 1798]

The Trustees were "appointed by and[sic] act of the General Assembly passed the 10th day of January 1798 for vesting in said Trustees twenty-one acres of land the property of Meads Anderson at the Great Falls of Banister River in the County of Halifax to be by them or a majority of them lade [laid] off into lots of half and[sic] acre each with convenient Streets and Establish a Town by name of Meadville..."

To: JAMES ABBOTT of Halifax [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: £26

Description: 1/2 acre lot in the town of Meadville, Lot No. 24.

Conditions: That the said James Abbott shall build on the said lot a dwelling house at least 16 feet square with a brick or stone chimney to be "completed, finished, and fit for habitation" within seven years from the date of sale, as required by the recited Act. If this condition is not met in the required manner and within the allotted time, then the lot will be forfeited and the Trustees or their successors shall and may sell the same for the benefit of the Town according to the recited Act. But if the said James Abbott his heirs or assigns well and truly build upon and improve the lot in the manner and time stated, then "he may enjoy

the same with all the privileges and immunities of the said Town or any other Town not incorporated have hold or enjoy."

Signed: John B. Scott, Joseph Petty, Robert D. Milner, Epa's [Epaphroditus] Sydnor, W'm. Hudson, W'm McDaniel [Trustees of the Town of Meadsville]

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 29 Sep 1801

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 19, p. 102-103. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The town of Meadsville (later called Meadeville, now Meadville) was established in 1798 on the south side of Banister River about a mile or two down-river from the mouth of Bye Creek, where Benjamin Abbott moved his family in 1773. [HDB9:67] Benjamin acquired 700 acres in this area on both sides of the Banister and another 242 acres further east, which he sold to his sons and son-in-law prior to his death in late 1796 or early 1797. Benjamin's son Elisha Abbott continued to live in Halifax to his death in 1837, but Benjamin's other six children either left Halifax or died by 1820. This was the only branch of Joseph Abbott Sr.'s family to live in the Meadville area. (Joseph's own land was about 10-12 miles southeast near Crystal Hill, VA, where most of his other children and their families remained.) James Abbott sold this town lot 2 Aug 1811. [HDB23:153]

According to county histories, Meadsville flourished during the first half of the 1800s. Its location, about 10 miles upriver from the courthouse town of Halifax (once called Banister), was convenient for both travel and commerce. In 1855, the "Statistical Gazetteer of the State of Virginia" by Richard Edwards noted that Banister River was navigable for batteaus from "Meadeville" to its mouth below Halifax/Banister at the Dan River in southeastern Halifax. However, Meadsville, like a number of Halifax towns, declined under the economic distress caused by the Civil War, and the rise of Danville in adjacent Pittsylvania County as the manufacturing and business center for the area. Many maps printed after the early 1900s no longer showed a town of Meadville, although a Meadville community still exists.

1803

Date: **27 Jun 1803**

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

To: ELISHA ABBOTT of Halifax [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: \$250

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

Bounds: John Mills, Mark Milner dec'd, Benjamin High, Eden Neele, Walne, ELISHA ABBOTT, 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.]

Note:

Bradley Creek flows into the north side of Banister River a mile or so upriver from the mouth of Bye Creek on the south side of the Banister. Bye Creek was where Elijah's original 1783

land from his father, Benjamin Abbott, was located and where Benjamin and the rest of his family lived from 1773. Elisha and wife Lydia lived on the Bye Creek land until 1803, when they sold it by deed of 21 Oct 1803 (next below). [HDB20:17] Beginning in 1804, following the purchase of this Bradley Creek land, Elijah is always listed in the North District in personal property taxes (rather than South Dist., where he previously was listed), showing this became his permanent residence. Elisha's widow and several other family members continued to live on this land another four years or so after his death in 1837.

Date: 21 Oct 1803

From: ELISHA ABBOTT & Lydia Abbott his wife [son of Benjamin Abbott]

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 [recorded 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

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 bound of Elisha's brother Armistead Abbott is the land adjacent to Elisha that their father Benjamin Abbott sold in 1795 to their brother Joseph Abbott, who later swapped lands with Armistead. That parcel was also adjacent to James McCraw (Jr.), from whom the above deed says Elisha Abbott subsequently purchased 50 acres. (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.)

Date: 22 Nov 1803

From: JACOB ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: Elizabeth Wilson

For: £17 4s 3p

Description: 12-3/4 acres on the waters of Banister River

Bounds: Anderson, Lacey

Signed: Jacob Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower: None included

Recorded: 27 Feb 1804

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 99-100. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Although Jacob's wife Polly Dickson did not sign this deed or have a recorded dower release, Polly was still alive as of 28 Aug 1811, when she and Jacob jointly sold Halifax land. [HDB23:160]

Date: **13 Dec 1803**

From: John Dixon Sen'r

To: JACOB ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

For: \$500

Description: 125 acres, north side of Banister River, "it being the land deeded said John Dixon by Benjamin Dixon" [Sr.]

Bounds: along meanders of Banister River; other bounds are trees

Signed: John Dixon

Witnesses: William Phelps, Tho's Priddy, Epa's Sydnor, John (x) Carter (his mark), John Winn

Recorded: 26 Dec 1803

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 61. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

Note:

As referenced in this deed, John Dixon purchased this land by deed dated 25 Sep 1797 to John Dickson from Benjamin Dickson Senior with dower release by Benjamin's wife Elizabeth. The bounds named in that deed are Woodings Road and Landrum. *[HDB17:269; copy to me from Joel H. Hutto]* Jacob Abbott and wife Polly (Dickson) sold this land by deed recorded 27 Mar 1809 to Benjamin Landrum. *[HDB22:64, per Grantor Index]*

Date: **26 Dec 1803**

From: JACOB ABBOTT and wife Polley [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: Stephen Light

For: £113 4s

Description: 232 acres by survey, north side of Banister River, whereon the said Jacob and wife Polley now reside

Bounds: Banister River, Royster, Lacey

Signed: Jacob Abbott, Polley Abbott

Witnesses: Thomas Davenport jr, Epa's Sydnor, JAMES ABBOTT [Jacob's brother], Spencer Bomar

Release of Dower by Polly, wife of Jacob Abbott [*née* Polly Dickson]

Recorded: 25 Jun 1804

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 154-155. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

Date: **27 Dec 1803**

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT and Elizabeth Abbott his wife [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: Richard Epperson

For: £60

Description: 100 acres on [north side of] Banister River, whereon the s'd Abbott now lives

Bounds: Banister River, Fowlas, Martin, Waln, s'd Epperson

Signed: Josph_[sic] Abbott, Elizabeth (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: Dudley Glass, Richard M___, Thomas Ragland, Phil Hawkins

Release of Dower: Since Elizabeth Abbott, wife of Joseph Abbott, "could not conveniently travel to our Court," Justices Dudley Glass and William Jennings were commissioned 28 Dec 1803 to examine her "separate and apart" from her husband as required by law to obtain her formal release of dower, which they obtained 30 Dec 1803. *[HDB20:150-151]*

Halifax Court - 25 Jun 1804 - This deed was proved by two [of the required three] witnesses and ordered to be certified and the release of dower was ordered recorded.

Recorded: 28 Oct 1805 - The deed was fully proved in Halifax Court by oath of the third witness and "O'R" [ordered recorded].

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 151-152. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Joseph and Elizabeth Priddy Abbott moved their family in early 1804 to Stokes County, NC, along with Elizabeth's parents and some of her siblings. Joseph was the first of Benjamin Abbott's children to leave Halifax.

Unsources online files say Joseph and Elizabeth's daughter Mary Jane was born 3 Dec 1803, which could be one reason that Elizabeth "could not conveniently travel" to the Court session. (If this birth date is correct, obviously Mary Jane Abbott was born in Halifax, not in Stokes Co., NC as these files also say.)

1805

Date: **28 Jan 1805** - Deed of Trust

From: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: Beverly Sydnor, Trustee, to secure debt to James Bruce

For: \$1.00

Description: 150 acres on Difficult Creek that Richard Abbott purchased from WILLIAM ABBOTT, to the only proper use and behoof of the said Beverly Sydnor, his heirs and assigns

Bounds: Difficult Creek [other bounds were William Abbott & Ephraim Hill, per purchase deed 27 Nov 1798 (*HDB18:128*)]

Purpose: To secure debt of £65 8s 11d that Richard Abbott owes to James Bruce by Delivery Bond, with [Richard's brothers] MOODY ABBOTT, JOHN ABBOTT, and LEONARD ABBOTT his securities, bearing interest from 4 Jan 1805.

Conditions: Debt to be paid in full plus interest and expenses of this indenture by "first day of May next ensuing" [1 May 1805] or land is subject to sale at public auction.

Signed: Rich'd Abbott, Beverly Sydnor

Witnesses: Charles Bruce, John Chappell jr, Berryman Green jr

Recorded: 24 Jun 1805

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 20, p. 458-459. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This debt to James Bruce undoubtedly was store/merchant debt. The Bruce, Sydnor, and Chappell families were among a relatively small group of merchants who were purchasing, gaining control over, and/or were connected with most of the mercantile stores and other sources of vital resources in the county, such as mills and granaries. (Some call these the first chain stores; others call them a monopoly.) In 1805, Richard, age abt. 35, was still acting head-of-house as the oldest male in the household with his widowed mother Frances Abbott, his younger brothers John and Moody, and his unmarried sisters Elizabeth and Martha. They were living on the land and in the family home that Richard inherited from his father but which still technically belonged to his mother, as did the tract Joseph devised to Leonard. (Leonard married in 1802 and either was sharing the family land or working his own tract until abt. 1810.) Richard's brother William Abbott was living on adjacent land, also inherited from their father, Joseph Abbott.

Richard Abbott did pay this debt in full with interest and costs, and a deed formally releasing the land back to Richard was made 10 Apr 1817 (below). [HDB28:435] No deeds of trust were recorded in the interim. However, in the following 25 years or so, as the economic situation in Halifax continued to deteriorate, Richard and a significant number of relatives and other Halifax residents had to secure increasing debts to these same or interconnected merchants.

1807

Date: **8 Apr 1807**

From: William GOODWIN and NANCY GOODWIN his wife [*née* Nancy Abbott, d/o Benjamin Abbott]

To: John Hannon

For: £176

Description: 176 acres on waters of Terrible Creek

Bounds: Millstone Road, Bruces Road, Hannon, Dickson, Col'o Coleman. Carter's and P[___?] line, old field on Easlys line [Easley]

Signed: William Goodwin, Nancy (M)[?] Goodwin [her mark]

Witnesses: Tho's Clark, John Landrum, William Haynes, Elizabeth (+) Haynes [her mark]

Release of dower by Nancy, wife of William Goodwin

Recorded. 22 Jun 1807

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 21, p. 414-415. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is the only deed of sale indexed for William Goodwin. Presumably the land being sold is all the land at Terrible Creek and Millstone Road that William purchased from his father-in-law Benjamin Abbott in 1794. [HDB16:300] (Most of the bounds had been updated, and half of the metes are blacked out on the microfilm copy, so the plat could not be confirmed.)

William's wife, Nancy Abbott Goodwin, signed by a mark resembling an "M" that is unlabeled as such, just as the "+" of Elizabeth Haynes is not labeled "her mark" as it commonly would be. The bound of "Dickson" is a relation of Polly Dickson, wife of Nancy's brother Jacob Abbott.

William and Nancy Abbott Goodwin left Halifax within a few years after this deed of sale. He may be the William Goodwin in the 1809 tax lists for the South District, where he was living when he married Nancy and where the other Goodwin families lived. (The above land was in the North District.) However, William Goodwin is gone from Halifax records thereafter. Presumably they moved away--at least, Nancy never appears in the tax lists as a widow--but their destination is not yet known. Nancy's sister Elizabeth Abbott married Jasper Wyatt by bond dated 20 Jul 1807 and also left the county that year to an unknown destination.

1808

Date: **21 Jan 1808** - Deed of Trust

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: John Light and Thomas Davenport Jr., Trustees, to secure debts to James Bruce and Beverly Sydnor

For: \$1.00

Description: 100 acres, being the land where Joseph Abbott now resides, plus all his cattle, being 6 in number, all his 33 hogs, and all their future increase - with all the rights thereto belonging to the only proper use and behoof of the said Trustees

Bounds: William Roberts, Coles Ferry Road [called Old Court House Road in 1791],

"Mannens orphans" [heirs of Nathaniel Manning, dec'd], Winns Creek

Purpose: To secure debt of £66 16s 15d Joseph Abbott owes to James Bruce by note with interest this date and a debt of £47 14s Joseph Abbott owes to Beverly Sydnor by note with interest this date

Conditions: If Joseph Abbott fails to pay full debts or any part of said debts by 1 Feb 1809, then properties subject to public auction. Balance, if any, remaining from the proceeds after all debts, interest, costs, and expenses are paid to go to Joseph Abbott.

Signed: Joseph Abbott, John Light [a place for signature of Thomas Davenport Jr. but either missing or faded away]

Witnesses: John Chappell Jr., Adam Toot, S. C. McMahon

Recorded: 25 Jul 1808

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 21, p. 680-681. LVA Reel 9. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is the land Joseph Jr. purchased from the parents of his wife, Magdaline Lacy, in 1791. [HDB15:156] The road on the west side of the land was called the "Old Court House Road" in 1791 and by this date was known as Coles Ferry Road (roughly today's Anderson Road running the 7 miles between Crystal Hill to the north and the town of Halifax to the south). The land is a few miles south of Joseph Sr.'s land, where his widow and a number of children are still living, and just to the east of Hatcher Owen, whose wife Mary Abbott was Joseph Jr.'s sister. (Mary and Hatcher's last child was born abt. 1804, and Mary could be deceased by this time, but her exact date of death is not known.)

1809

Date: **2 Dec 1809**

From: Samuel Estes

To: JOSEPH ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$400

Description: 100 acres South side of Dan River

Bounds: Being the same tract of land the said Samuel Estes purchased of Robert Glidewell by deed recorded 25 Jul 1803 and "bounded as therein expressed"

Signed: Sam'l Estes

Witnesses: John K. Linn, S. C. McMahon, John E. Hart

Recorded: 25 Dec 1809

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 22, p. 265. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Later deeds show this land was located "just below Grassy Creek" where it flows into the south side of Dan River near today's town of Omega, VA. This is the land that Joseph Abbott Jr. owned when he died in 1811. Since he left no will, his surviving heirs inherited equal parts of the tract. When the heirs begin selling their shares in 1828, the tract was described as 140 acres. No deed was found whereby Joseph acquired the other 40 acres, so the larger acreage could be by a new survey. By 1840, the total tract was acquired by Thomas Torian, an appraiser of Joseph Abbott Jr.'s estate in 1811 and an adjacent

landowner. Torian owned a ferry across the Dan River and at some point built a mill at Grassy Creek and the Dan.

Date: **25 Dec 1809**

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT & wife Magdaline [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: Thomas Owen of same

For: \$500 current money of Virginia

Description: 100 acres in Halifax Co., the same tract of land purchased by the said Joseph Abbott from Thomas Lacy and recorded 25 Jul 1791

Bounds: near the old Courthouse road [called Coles Ferry Road in 1808 deed of trust], down meanders of Wynns [Winns] Creek, adjacent to Nathaniel Manning and William Roberts

Signed: Joseph Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower: None recorded with deed. Separately, "Magdaline Abbott, wife of Joseph Abbott," relinquished her dower right to this land 5 Oct 1810. Recorded 26 Aug 1811

[HDB23:162]

Deed recorded: 25 Dec 1809 - Acknowledged in Halifax Court by Joseph Abbott

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 22, p. 266. Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Joseph's wife was Magdaline Lacy, daughter of Thomas Lacy. The purchaser in this deed, Thomas Owen, was a brother of Hatcher Owen, husband of Joseph Abbott Jr.'s sister Mary Abbott.

Release of Dower: No dower release was obtained before this deed was recorded.

Therefore, on 29 Dec 1809, the Court commissioned Halifax Justices James Bruce and John K. Linn to go to Magdaline Abbott, wife of Joseph Abbott, for her release, as she "cannot conveniently travel to our court." The commissioners reported on 5 Oct 1810 that, as directed, they "privately and apart from her husband examined Magdaline Abbott, wife of Joseph Abbott," and they certified that she "justly and voluntarily relinquished her dower" and is "willing that such relinquishment should be recorded." The dower release was recorded 26 Aug 1811.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 23, p. 162. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Date: **25 Dec 1809** - Deed of Trust

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: John Light of same, to secure debts owed to James Bruce and Beverly Sydnor

For: \$1.00

Description: 100 acres, being the tract lately purchased by the said Joseph Abbott from Samuel Estes who previously purchased the same from Robert Glidewell - with all the rights thereunto belonging to the said John Light, his heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debt of £66 16s 15d Joseph Abbott justly owes to James Bruce by note dated 21 Jan 1808, and also to secure the debt of £79 2s 9d which Joseph Abbott justly owes to Beverly Sydnor & Co. by note of this date

Conditions: If Joseph Abbott shall fail to pay the full amounts owed by 1 Jan next, then when required by Abbott, Sydnor or Bruce, trustee John Light is to sell the land by public auction according to law. From the proceeds. Light shall pay Bruce and Sydnor the sums owed and recover his costs. Any remaining shall go to Joseph Abbott, his heirs or assigns.

Signed: Joseph Abbott, John Light

Witnesses: John K. Linn, W'm Fourquerian, Stephen Light

Recorded: Partially proved by oaths of two (unnamed) witnesses and certified 25 Jun 1810.

Fully proved by the oath of the third witness and ordered recorded 23 Dec 1811.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 23, p. 292-294. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

This deed of trust was not fully proved and recorded until after Joseph Abbott Jr. died less than two years later. (The inventory of his estate was taken 20 Dec 1811. [HWB9:134])

Although there is no notation with this deed that the debt had been paid and the deed voided, Joseph's widow and children did pay off the debt and retained the land, proved by Joseph's heirs deeds of sale bet. 1828-1839 (deeds below).

William Fourqurian (a variant spelling), who witnessed this deed, was a security on Hatcher and Thomas Owen's executors bond for the estate of their father, William Owen, who named his "neighbor" John Abbott (Joseph Jr.'s brother) an executor.

1811

Date: **24 Jun 1811**

From: Henry E. Coleman

To: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$178

Description: 178 acres by late survey, south side of Difficult Creek

Bounds: Barksdale & Moore line, Mrs. Mores field [widow Cloe (Irby) Moore], Difficult Creek (incomplete metes included)

Signed: Henry E. Coleman

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 24 Jun 1811

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 23, p. 92. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **22 Jul 1811**

From: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: David Allen

For: £16 17[?] shillings

Description: 56 acres

Bounds: Difficult Creek, Cloe Moore, Chandler, said [Richard] Abbott

Signed: Richard Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 22 Jul 1811

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 23, p. 130-131. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **2 Aug 1811**

From: JAMES ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: Samuel Varner

For: \$50

Description: one-half acre, Lot 24, Town of Meadsville

Signed: James Abbott

Witnesses: JACOB ABBOTT [James' brother], Edmund Henderson

Recorded: 26 Aug 1811

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 23, p. 153-154. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **28 Aug 1811**

From: JACOB ABBOTT & wife Polly [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: Thomas Wilkerson

For: £200

Description: 206 acres lying on Yellow Bank Creek

Bounds: Beginning where Thomas Priddy's line corners on the line of the store lot, Humphrey, Mill Stone Road, old c'tHouse Road [old Courthouse Road], Yellow Bank Creek

Signed: Jacob Abbott, Polley Abbott

Witnesses: H[?] Turner, Fleming Maynard, Alex. Boyd

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 23, p. 160-161. LVA Reel 10. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Jacob Abbott purchased this land from Daniel Easley, recorded 24 Jul 1809. [*HBD22:137, per Grantee Index*] This same tract naming the same bounds had been passed around at least since 24 May 1790, when it was purchased by the Methodist minister Hawkins Landrum, whose deed was witnessed by Benjamin Abbott's brother William Abbott. [*HDB14:719*] Millstone Road is roughly today's US-501, and this deed's road leading to the "old" Courthouse just south of today's Crystal Hill ran eastward from Banister River to the old Courthouse just below Crystal Hill. Being at an important crossroads and a creek, the land may have been profitable for commercial leasing.

1812

Date: 7 [9?] Jan 1812

From: JAMES ABBOTT [son of Benjamin Abbott]

To: Stephen Light

For: \$465

Description: 155 acres "by this survey" on Banister River - "being the same tract deeded by his father"

Bounds: No adjacent landowners named; metes and markers only

Signed: James Abbott

Witnesses: Thomas Davenport, Gerard Banks Junr., Elisha Barksdale, Wm. R. Hagood

Recorded: 25 Jan 1813

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 24, p. 165-166. LVA Reel 11. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The deed for this land from Benjamin Abbott to James Abbott was written 16 May 1796 for 119 acres on the south side of Banister River, then adjacent to James' brothers Elisha Abbott and Joseph Abbott. [*HDB16:605*] Elisha sold his adjacent land in 1803 to move to Bradley Creek, upriver on the north side. Joseph swapped his land with his brother Armistead Abbott, who was still living there at this time. When Armistead left Halifax in early 1819, he also sold his land to Stephen Light, who then paid \$2310 for the same number of acres as Stephen Light bought from James at one-fifth the price. [*HDB27p449*] The only remaining recorded land James possibly still held in Halifax was the 22 acres from Whitehead in 1796 that is not accounted for in deeds of sale. James remained in the yearly personal property tax lists as a county resident through March 1814 and died by 1815, when

{Jacob Faulkner was appointed administrator of James Abbott's estate. [HPB32:131, per Court Order General Index] No probate was recorded. *Joan had marked this text for either further review/rewrite or to enter in her FTM file.*}

1815

Date: 12 Aug 1815

From: Wade Mosby and wife Susannah of Powhatan County, VA.

To: Carter B. Page, Jesse Higginbotham, Rosco Cole [also sp. Rascow Cole], Fleming James, MOSES ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott], Hall Neilson, Cary Selden, William Anderson, James Brown Jr., Robert Poore, Thomas Richardson, Edmond Webster, and Micajah Clark [all] of the City of Richmond

For: \$28,550.00

Description: 12 lots, No. 5-16, in the City of Richmond, known as Byrds Warehouse lot

Signed: Wade Mosby, Susannah Mosby

Witnesses: George W. Trueheart, Th's Miller, John H. Steger

Release of Dower by Susanna, wife of Wade Mosby before Thomas Miller and John H. Steger, Justices of Powhatan Co.

Recorded: 2 Apr 1816, Henrico County Court Office

In margin: Original Del'd Wm Dabney Jr [day cut off] Nov 1817

[Source: Henrico Deed Book 12, p. 430-432. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley.

Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 29 Nov 1815

From: Cary Selden and wife Frances of the City of Richmond

To: Daniel Trueheart, Wade Mosby Junr, James Winston, Roscow Cole and Fleming James, MOSES ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott], William Anderson, James Brown Jr, Thomas Richardson, Robert Poore, & Micajah Clarke

For: \$1.00

Description: Whereas Wade Mosby and Susanna his wife by Indenture bearing date 12 Aug 1815 sold unto Carter B. Page "and others" [including Cary Selden] 12 lots in the City of Richmond Nos. 5-16, being parts of the Lot commonly known by the name of Byrds warehouse lot, and whereas the said Cary Selden having paid no part of the purchase money for the said lots is willing to convey all right title and interest of one undivided twelfth part of the said lots unto [those named above] who are desirous of holding and possessing the same...

Signed: Cary Selden, Frances Selden

Witnesses: W'm Dabney Jr., Jas. C. Anthony, L. W. Wilson

Release of Dower 5 Feb 1816 by Frances, wife of Cary Selden

Recorded: 31 Jul 1816

[Source: Henrico Deed Book 13, p. 199-201. LVA Reel 17. Abstract by J. Horsley.

Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Joseph and Frances Abbott's son Moses Abbott left Halifax abt. 1804 and apparently moved at that time to Richmond, VA. These two deeds relate to investment property Moses purchased with 11 others for land near the James River. In Dec 1815, Moses, who never married, apparently was on his way from Richmond to spend Christmas with his family in Halifax when he became ill in adjacent Charlotte County. He wrote his will on Christmas Eve 24 Dec 1815 and died shortly after in the town of Charlotte Courthouse. His will was proved

later on 1 Apr 1816 in Henrico County Court (where Richmond was located) [*Henrico WB5:71*]
 Moses appointed his brother John Abbott his executor, and left his estate, including the
 above property, in specific ways to "my dear mother," to his surviving full brothers Richard,
 Moody, and John, and to his unmarried sisters Elizabeth and Martha/Patsy. (See report on
 Moses Abbott for details.)

1816

Date: **28 Oct 1816**

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$18

Description: 6 acres

Bounds: Richard Abbott on the NE, William Abbott on the SW, "and touching on no other
 men's lines"

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower: None

Recorded: 28 Oct 1816

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 26, p. 235. LVA Reel 12. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in
 brackets added.]

Note:

William and Richard each inherited adjacent parcels of their deceased father Joseph
 Abbott's land, then each of the brothers purchased additional land around them. This deed
 is merely shifting part of their boundary line adding 6 acres to Richard's land. (The Grantee
 Index mistakenly lists this land to Richard as 60 acres, although the Grantor Index correctly
 lists William selling only 6 acres.)

1817

Date: **10 Apr 1817** - Deed of Release

From: Beverly Sydnor, Trustee, and James Bruce

To: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: Payment of full debt to James Bruce

Description: all right and title to 150 acres that Richard Abbott used to secure debt to James
 Bruce by deed of trust dated 28 Jan 1805 with Beverly Sydnor, Trustee. Whereas Abbott
 has fully paid the debt owed to Bruce, James Bruce acknowledges this by becoming a party
 to this deed of release.

Signed: Beverly Sydnor, James Bruce

Witnesses: William Lugh[?], William B. Banks. Thomas Davenport, Ch B. Williams - all "as to
 B. Sydnor"

Recorded: 22 May 1820

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 28, p. 435-436. LVA Reel 13. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments
 in brackets added.]

1818

Date: **31 Dec 1818**

From: ARMISTEAD ABBOTT and wife Frances [son of Benjamin Abbott]

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:

Armistead and Frances are selling the last part of his father Benjamin Abbott's original 404 acres on the south side of the Banister at Bye Creek where Armistead grew up and then raised his family with Frances Priddy, his wife and co-seller. The original deed for this land in 1795 from his father to his brother Joseph and the 1800 deed from Joseph to Armistead describe this parcel as 115 acres, but by this time it was surveyed as 154 acres. His brother James Abbott owned another part of this original tract, described in 1796 as 119 acres. It was surveyed at 155 acres when he sold it in 1812 for \$465, 1/5 of Armistead's selling price to the same Stephen Light here in 1818. Armistead Abbott last appears on the Halifax personal property tax lists dated 23 Feb 1819, three days before Frances' release of dower for the above land. They left immediately for Stokes County, NC, where his brother Joseph Abbott and Frances' sister Elizabeth Priddy, Joseph's wife, had just died, leaving several minor children. Armistead died in Stokes County, NC in "summer" 1840, and Frances died there bet. Sep 1841 - Jun 1842. *[Estate records. NC State Archives.]*

1819

Date: **21 Apr 1819** - Deed of Trust
 From: JOHN ROBERTSON [son of Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott) & John Robertson]
 To: John Haymes, Trustee, to secure debt to Henry Edmunds
 For: \$1.00
 Description: 7 acres of land on the Danville Road bounded all around by the lands of the Estate of Matthew Cabeness [Cabaniss], also negro man named Mengo and negro woman named Jenny - to have and to hold to the only proper use and behoof of the Trustee John Haymes
 Purpose: To secure debt of £136 8/ plus legal interest that John Robertson owes to Henry Edmunds by bond of this date and also to secure John Robertson's future dealings with Henry Edmunds
 Conditions: If John Robertson shall fail to pay on or before 25 Dec 1819 his debt plus legal interest and his further dealings with Henry Edmonds, then at Edmunds' request, the trustee John Haymes shall sell at public auction the above properties, or as much as would satisfy the full debt and interest and cost of carrying this Indenture into full effect.
 Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark), John Haymes, Henry Edmunds
 Witnesses: [illegible on microfilm]
 Recorded: 26 Jul 1819 - Proved by two witnesses and acknowledged by John Haymes and Henry Edmunds and ordered recorded
 In margin: Proved by third witness 25 Oct 1819
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 27, p. 571-572. LVA Reel 12. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This land is John's wife Nancy Cabaniss Robertson's share of land left by her deceased father, Matthew Cabaniss. He died intestate, so his property was divided equally among his children, whose shares of land surrounded this one of hers. The Danville Road seems to be today's "River Road" (Route 659), a primary road for travel and transport at the time. It was also where Carter's Tavern was located owned by Nancy Cabaniss' uncle Samuel Carter, an appraiser with Matthew Cabaniss of John Robertson's father's estate in 1814. The slaves deeded as part of the debt security likewise came from Nancy's inheritance from her highly prosperous father.

Henry Edmunds was a merchant who "made part of his fortune" at his store on the River Road near today's Elmo, VA. "In that he enjoyed no competition in the area for many years [beginning abt. 1808], his profits were great." *[Kenneth Cook, writing for The Record-Advertiser, South Boston News, Sept. 20-25, 1973. River Road Driving Tour online at www.oldhalifax.com]* John Robertson also made a deed of trust using the same two slaves six months later with Beverly Barksdale as Trustee to secure a debt to merchants Bruce & Hagood (below). *[HDB28:433]*

John Robertson soon lost this land to pay his debts to Henry Edmunds, who sold it to Richard W. Haymes (as explained in an 1827 deed below *[HDB34:400]*) John and Nancy's deed of conveyance to Richard Haymes was written 23 Sep 1824 (below). *[HDB33:126]* Between 1820-1826, John Robertson also lost to debts all five of his slaves (presumably also from his wife Nancy's inheritance), as shown by later deeds of trust and by censuses and the yearly Halifax personal property tax lists.

Date: **2 Nov 1819**

From: John K. Linn

To: MOODY ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$3,891.00

Description: 654 acres on Difficult Creek, being the same tract purchased by John K. Linn from William Williams

Bounds: None

Signed: John K. Linn

Witnesses: Samuel Williams [Clerk of Court]

Recorded: 2 Nov 1819

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 28, p. 174. LVA Reel 13. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **8 Nov 1819** - Deed of Trust

From: JOHN ROBERTSON [son of Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott) & John Robertson]

To: Beverly Barksdale, Trustee - to secure debt owed to Bruce & Hagood

For: \$1.00

Description: man slave named Mingo, woman slave named Jenney, one mare and colt, and two cattle

Purpose: To secure debt Robertson owes to Bruce & Hagood of £94 50s 2d by bond of this date with interest from 1 Oct 1819.

Conditions: If John Robertson shall fail to pay on or before 23 Dec 1820 his debt plus legal interest, then the s'd Beverly Barksdale when requested shall sell at public auction the above properties, and the proceeds to go to Bruce & Hagood for the debt and interest and to

pay, costs and charges attending. Residue, if any, to go to Robertson or his legal representatives.

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark), Alex'r Carter, Bruce & Hagood

Witnesses: Jas A. Luck, Wm. C. Ferrell, Jn'o Cabaniss

Recorded: 22 May 1820 - Acknowledged by John Robertson, Alex'r Carter, and Bruce & Hagood parties thereto

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 28, p. 433-434. LVA Reel 13. Abstract by J. Horsley]

Note:

This deed is confusing. The trustee Beverly Barksdale should be the third signer as party to the deed, but instead the signature is recorded as Alexander Carter (a brother of Nancy Cabaniss Robertson's mother, Susannah Carter Cabaniss). Is Carter acting as Barksdale's representative in this deed? John Robertson lost all five of his slaves by 1826, according to the yearly personal property tax lists.

1820

Date: **24 Jul 1820** - Deed of Trust

From: MOODY ABBOTT

To: John C. Chappell and Adam Toot, Trustees, to secure debt owed to James Bruce

For: \$2.00

Description: 654 acres on waters of Difficult Creek - use of said land to the trustees, the survivor of them, and his heirs

Bounds: John Hunt, Willis Chandler, John Fulkerson's Estate, and Daniel Roberts' Estate

Purpose: Moody Abbott is justly indebted to James Bruce for \$2476.37 by bond of this date bearing interest from 8 May last [8 May 1820] until paid. This indenture is to secure payment thereof.

Conditions: If Moody Abbott fails to pay the full debt with interest and expenses within 12 months of this date, land subject to public sale by the trustees at the request of James Bruce, advertising such sale for at least four weeks in one or more Richmond newspapers. If any surplus remains from the proceeds after payment of debt, interest, and all costs and expenses, remainder to go to Moody Abbott, his heirs, etc.

Signed: Moody Abbott, Jn'o Chappell

Witnesses: Rich'd Camp, Jas A. Luck, D. E. Parker, Micajah Boyd, Joshua (+) Coats (his mark), JOHN ABBOTT [Moody's brother], James P. Roberts

Recorded: 22 Dec 1823 - Proved in Halifax Court by the oaths of three witnesses to be the act and deed of Moody Abbott and ordered recorded, "and afterwards" in the County Clerk's Office on 25 Dec 1823, John Chappell acknowledged the above to be his act and deed and was admitted to record

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 32, p. 33-35. Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

On 5 Dec 1823, less than three weeks before the above deed of trust was recorded, Moody Abbott sold to John M. Bartee half of the land held in trust with the "consent and approbation" of James Bruce, to whom Moody owed the money from the sale (see below)

[HDB32:35]

1821

Date: **2 Mar 1821**

From: Mark S. Elam and wife Elizabeth

To: SAMUEL ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott (Jr.) & Magdaline Lacy]

For: \$500

Description: 100 acres "more or less" on the south bank of Hyco River

Bounds: James Davenport, Hyco River

Signed: Mark S. Elam, Elizabeth Elam

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower: 2 Mar 1821

Recorded: 24 Feb 1823

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 31, p. 243-245. LVA Reel 14. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Mark S. Elam was a brother of Samuel's wife, Prudence Elam. Personal property tax lists show Mark S. Elam was a resident of Halifax beginning in 1817 through at least 1821 (last year checked). The only deed for the sale of this land was recorded 1 Dec 1832 whereby Samuel Abbott and wife Prudence sold 98 acres to Daniel Watts. *[HDB40:361, per Grantor Index]* The difference of two acres most likely came from a recent survey, although Samuel and Prudence did not leave Halifax until 1838, when they moved to Gibson County, TN.

1822

Date: 4 Mar 1822 - Power of Attorney

From: JOHN ROBERTSON [son of Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott) & John Robertson]

To: Jeremiah Moore of same

Purpose: To grant Power of Attorney to Jeremiah Moore to act in my name in order to obtain from "the administrator or Executor of John Cabiness all the money due me from s'd Estate my being a legatee of Matthew Cabiness Estate..."

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark)

Witnesses: Wm. R. Hagood, Jas. A. Luck, Richard Smith

Recorded: 6 Mar 1822

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 30, p. 189-190. LVA Reel 14. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

John and Frances Abbott Robertson's son John Robertson (Jr.) married in 1816 to Nancy Cabaniss. Nancy's deceased father was Matthew Cabaniss, whose name last appears on Halifax personal property tax lists dated 5 Apr 1816. Matthew's father, Charles Cabaniss, died in 1815 in adjacent Lunenburg County, VA.

The Power of Attorney John Robertson granted in 1823 (below) specifies that the deceased John Cabiness was "late of Jasper County, Georgia." According to the research of Allen Cabaniss, Matthew Cabaniss inherited both from his father Charles' brother John Cabiness (d. 1820, Jones County, GA, adjacent to Jasper) and from his father Charles' estate holdings in Jones County, GA, the administrator of which was Matthew's brother John Cabiness, who died in Georgia bet. 1817-1828. [For details and documentation see: Allen Cabaniss. "Cabaniss Through Four Generations" (1970) Reproduced online with permission of the

author by Billy Joe Cabaniss, Jr. at: <<http://www.world-net.net/home/sakirk/documents/Cabiness/Cabaniss%20Family%204%20Generations.pdf>>]

Since Matthew Cabaniss died intestate, any monies due to him or his estate would be divided equally among his children or their heirs, including Matthew's daughter Nancy Cabaniss, wife of John Robertson. A married woman had no legal standing apart from her husband who had control of any assets she might have. Thus, John Robertson became Matthew Cabaniss' legatee by right of his wife, Nancy Cabaniss.

Date: **23 Dec 1822** - Power of Attorney

From: Cornelius Beasley of Halifax [husband of Rebecca M. Abbott, d/o William & Mary Parker Abbott]

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

Purpose: To grant Power of Attorney to William Abbott - "December Court 1822, Halifax County (to wit) whereas Cornelius Beasley of said County is moved to the Western Country and cannot attend to his affairs in this County he has thought it proper to appoint William Abbott his Lawful attorney to act for him in all Matters of his Business and also makes him a party in his Lawsuits now Depending and undetermined between him the said Beasley and Granvel [Granville] Craddock to receive in and pay out as far as the assets left in his hands may hold out and all other Matters whatsoever..."

Signed: Cornelius Beasley

Witnesses: Stephen Kent, W'm Baseley[?]

Recorded: 23 Dec 1822 - Acknowledged in Halifax Court by Cornelius Beasley

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 31, p. 137. LVA Reel 14. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Although the wording is ambiguous, Cornelius Beasley and his wife Rebecca M. Abbott apparently did not leave Halifax until after Cornelius signed this power of attorney to his father-in-law William Abbott. (Migrations usually took place in the winter months, leaving after the fall harvest and arriving in time to obtain and clear the new land for spring planting.) The Beasleys' destination is also unclear from this deed. "The Western County" could refer to present-day West Virginia or to Kentucky, formerly the western part of Virginia, or merely anywhere to the west or southwest. This Cornelius Beasley (surprisingly there were several) could not be identified definitively in later censuses. "Rebeckah Abbott" married "Cornelius Beasley" 24 Apr 1814 and had no children as of the 1820 census. Rebecca died before her father wrote his will 15 Mar 1847, which likewise included no children for her. [HWB22:24]

1823

Date: **31 Jan 1823** - Power of Attorney

From: JOHN ROBERTSON [son of Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott) & John Robertson]

To; William C. Ferrell

Purpose: To grant Power of Attorney to William C. Ferrell "to recover and receive of & from the administrator or Executor of John Cabaniss late of Jasper County, Georgia all my interest and part of s'd Estate due me as a legatee of the late Mathew Cabaniss Estate..."

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark)

Witnesses: William Boxley, Jas A. Luck, Alex Boyd

Recorded: 24 Feb 1823

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 31, p. 240-241. LVA Reel 14. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

William C. Ferrell, son of James Ferrell Jr., was a cousin of Bird L. Ferrell and Burgess M. Ferrell, sons of William Ferrell, who were two of the appraisers of the estate of John Robertson's mother Frances (Abbott) Robertson in 1834. (See Note for above deed of 4 Mar 1822 regarding this legacy from Matthew Cabaniss' estate.)

Date: **5 Dec 1823***

From: MOODY ABBOTT, with the consent and approbation of James Bruce and trustees John Chappell & Adam Toot

To: John M. Bartee

For: \$2335.31 "paid or Secured to Be paid" by Bartee to Abbott

Description: 352-1/2 acres "by recent survey" on Difficult Creek, part of a tract of 654 acres from Doctor John K. Linn to Moody Abbott by deed dated 2 Nov 1819, and subsequently the whole tract was conveyed by Moody Abbott to John Chappell and Adam Toot in trust to secure James Bruce the payment of \$2476.37 "with interest from the date the said deed having been dated about the 24th Febr'y 1820 [sic; deed of 24 Jul 1820 states the interest is from 8 May 1820]

Bounds: beginning at the mouth of the Double Branch where it empties into the main Difficult Creek, "up the same" as it meanders to the mouth of a branch, then up that branch to Fulkerson [John Fulkerson dec'd], thence [southeast] to Chandler [Willis Chandler], then [basically south] to Roberts mill pond [Daniel Roberts dec'd], thence along the north margin of the pond and mill creek to the beginning. [most metes missing]

Signed: Moody Abbott, James Bruce

Witnesses: James P. Roberts, William D. Roberts [both sons of Daniel Roberts dec'd], James Fulkerson, John Fulkerson [both sons of John Fulkerson dec'd], WILLIAM ABBOTT [brother of Moody Abbott]

Recorded: 22 Dec 1823

*The date of this sale is written at the end of the document as "this 5th day of Decem'r Eighteen hundred and Twenty four," with "four" underlined by the examiner as an error, as proved by the record date and entered into the deed book under "December Court 1823." [Source: Halifax Deed Book 32, p. 35-36. Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This property was located in the area between Double Branch and today's Mill Creek just north of today's community of Clays Mill and a mile or two southeast of today's Crystal Hill. This is the same immediate area where Moody's 1788 inheritance from his father, Joseph Abbott, was located. Daniel Roberts acquired the mill property by the mid-1790s. His sister Sally Roberts was the wife of John Fulkerson (d. 1803), whose daughter Catharine married Moody's brother Richard Abbott, to whom Moody sold land in 1827 that was adjacent to Richard. Later records for witness William Abbott's family include sons of witness William D. Roberts, and his brother James P. Roberts is on a number of Abbott records.

1824

Date: **24 Jan 1824** - Deed of Trust

From: JOHN ROBERTSON [son of Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott) & John Robertson]

To: Bird L. Ferrell, Trustee, to secure obligation to William Ferrell Senr.

For: \$1.00

Description: Personal property, including one sorrel horse, 2 feather beds with bedsteads & furniture, two saddles, and 2 chests - Bird L. Ferrell to have and to hold the above-mentioned property in trust

Purpose: To secure obligation to William Ferrell Senr. who became security for Robertson's debt of \$20 to John H. Claiborne.

Conditions: Deed to be void if Robertson shall pay the debt to Claiborne within the allotted time. Otherwise above property subject to sale at public auction. Money remaining, if any, after debt and costs are paid shall return to Robertson.

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark), Bird L. Ferrell, William Ferrell

Witnesses: John Ferrell, Wm. R. Hagood, Jeremiah ____ [surname and a fourth witness unreadable in microfilm]

Recorded: 26 Jan 1824

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 32, p. 117. LVA Reel 15. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **23 Sep 1824**

From: JOHN ROBERTSON & Nancy C. his wife [son of Frances Abbott & John Robertson]

To: Richard W. Haymes

For: \$300

Description: 7.5 acres on the Danville Road

Bounds: on the north side by the Danville Road; on the west, south, and east by the land belonging to the orphans of Matthew Cabaniss

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark), Nancy C. Robertson

Witnesses: [faded and unreadable in microfilm]

Release of Dower included

Recorded: 27 Dec 1824

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 33, p. 126-127. LVA Reel 15. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This deed is for the land John Robertson's wife Nancy Cabaniss inherited from her father Matthew Cabaniss and that John was forced by debts owed to the merchant Henry Edmunds to place in trust in 1819 (above). [HDB27:571] A deed in Jan 1827 explains that after Henry Edmunds acquired this land to satisfy John's debts, Edmunds sold it to Richard W. Haymes. [HDB34:400] The above deed is John and Nancy's conveyance of that land to Haymes.

This deed is one of only two records that give a middle initial for John's wife, Nancy Cabaniss Robertson. In her marriage bond, censuses, and two deeds she signed in 1827, including a deed for her from her brother and brother-in-law, no initial is included. She may be like others of her generation who added a middle initial to their names after middle names became more the norm, as such were not when they were born, then used them only sporadically. Many have assumed Nancy's middle name was Carter, her mother Susannah Carter's maiden name, but I have found no proof for that, and it could just as easily stand for Cabaniss or a name we could not guess. Both of her sisters and a brother are said also to have middle initials of "C.," but surely not all standing for Carter.

Date: "this day" **1824** [no day/month given]

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT and wife Polly [son of Joseph Abbott; wife Mary Parker]

To: David Allen

For: \$91.50

Description: 6-1/10 acres on Difficult Creek

Bounds: said Abbott & Allen, Difficult Creek, the old creek [metes included but no other landowners in legible part of microfilm]

Signed: William Abbott, Poly[sic] Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 28 Feb 1825

Release of Dower: 28 Jan 1828 - recorded on p. 622, as noted in margin of deed

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 33, p. 168. LVA Reel 15. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1827

Date: 31 Jan 1827

From: Henry Edmunds & wife Martha W. (parties of the first part)

To: Philip Howerton & William Cabaniss (parties of the second part)

Purpose: In Trust for the lifetime use and benefit of NANCY ROBERTSON, wife of JOHN ROBERTSON (parties of the third part) under the conditions below and at her death to be conveyed by deed to her children

For: \$5.00 paid to Henry Edmunds and wife Martha by Philip Howerton & William Cabaniss and "also for the further consideration of a tract of land formerly belonging to the said Nancy Robertson and since conveyed by her & her husband the above named John Robertson to Richard W. Haymes, who contracted with & purchased the said tract of land last mentioned from the said Henry Edmunds"

Description: 100 acres in Halifax County

Bounds: Isaac Medley on the north, Frederick Ferrell on the west, Jonas Anderson on the south, and the Estate of John Henry, dec'd on the east

Conditions: Said tract of 100 acres is sold by warranted deed from Henry Edmunds and wife to Philip Howerton and William Cabaniss for & during their joint lives and at the death of either of them, then to the survivor, his heirs & assigns forever & to their only proper use and behoof forever... "Nevertheless upon the uses & trusts following to wit: That the said Philip Howerton & William Cabaniss & the survivor of them & the heirs of the survivor do & will suffer & permit the said NANCY ROBERTSON to avail herself of the rents, profits & use of the said land either by remaining & dwelling on the said tract or by renting it out as to her may seem best, and to have & exercise every power & authority during her life over the said tract of land that would be vested in her were the said Nancy Robertson tenant for life & an unmarried Woman; but nevertheless so that the said Nancy Robertson be not permitted to alien or dispose of the interest above limited to her, or in any manner to subject the same to the debts, contracts, or obligations of the said JOHN ROBERTSON her husband. And upon this further trust & confidence, that after the death of the said Nancy Robertson, the said Philip Howerton & William Cabaniss & the survivor of them & heirs of the said survivor will convey by proper & legal deed or deeds for that purpose a complete legal title in and to the said tract of land to the children of the said Nancy Robertson & their heirs & assigns forever or in case any of the children of s'd Nancy Robertson born or to be born should die before their mother leaving no descendants or issue of their body, then to the survivors and their heirs to be divided as above directed. But should any of the children of the said Nancy Robertson marry & die previous to the decease of the said Nancy Robertson leaving issue or descendants, then upon trust that the said Philip Howerton & W'm Cabaniss & the

survivor and heirs of the survivor will & shall convey to the said issue of her said children so deceased such portion of the said tract of land as would under the above clauses have been conveyed to their deceased ancestor had such ancestor survived the said Nancy Robertson to such issue & their heirs forever."

Signed: Henry Edmunds, Martha W. Edmunds, W'm M. Cabaniss, John (x) Robertson ("his cross"), Nancy Robertson

Witnesses: Frederick Ferrell, James B. Strickland, Thomas Lovelace

Recorded: 26 Mar 1827 - Acknowledged by Henry Edmunds and William Cabaniss to be their act & deed

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 34, p. 400-403. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

William M. Cabaniss, as the deed is signed, was Nancy (Cabaniss) Robertson's brother. (According to a transcription of an entry from William and Nancy's brother Charles H. Cabaniss' Bible first published in 1959, William M. Cabaniss was born 9 Apr 1810, making him only 16 at the time of this deed. [Allen Cabaniss (1971), p. 19] Even though his age seems unlikely, the purchaser is proved not to be Nancy's uncle William Cabaniss, who had moved to Georgia and was still living there in 1822. [LDB27:114, cited by Allen Cabaniss.] Philip Howerton (b. 1793) was Nancy Robertson's brother-in-law, married to Nancy's sister Elizabeth C. Cabaniss, and appointed guardian of three of Nancy's siblings, including the above William M. Cabaniss.

By this deed, Philip Howerton and William Cabaniss are providing Nancy with a lifetime place to live, or, if she chooses, to rent out for the income, and are protecting the land from loss due to her husband John Robertson's debts. At the time, a wife could not own property separately from her husband, and he had control of any assets she inherited or was given. (This is exemplified by John's earlier deeds of trust where John used Nancy's inheritances from her father and from all four of her grandparents as collateral against his debts and thereby subject to their forfeiture and loss.) Thus, this deed of Philip Howerton and William Cabaniss specifically grants Nancy full authority over the land they are purchasing as if she were "an unmarried Woman" (on the condition that she could not transfer her rights to John to use to cover his debts), but they could not give Nancy outright ownership without the land becoming John's property instead. The deed further states that when Nancy died, the land was to be conveyed by full title of ownership among her surviving children, and if any deceased child of Nancy left children, they would get their parent's share. The deed adds a final protection in case Philip and William died before Nancy, in that it binds the heirs of the last surviving co-purchaser to the same obligations to Nancy and her children as they are assuming themselves. (Nancy and her family moved to Kentucky bet. 1845-1846, and William M. Cabaniss, the surviving purchaser and trustee, sold this Halifax land in 1852. See deed below. [HDB54:399])

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Date: **10 Apr 1827** - Deed of Trust

From: JOHN ROBERTSON and Nancy his wife [son of Frances Abbott & John Robertson]

To: Bird L. Ferrell, Trustee, to secure debt owed to Bruce & Hagood

For: \$1.00

Description: "...all the interest and claim which they now have or may hereafter have in the estate of the late Theodorick Carter and Judith Carter who were the Grand-Parents of the

said Nancy Robertson also their interest & claim in the estates of the late Charles Cabaniss & his wife late of Lunenburg County Va who were also the Grand-Parents of the sd Nancy Robertson..." to include both real and personal estates.

Purpose: To secure debt owed to Bruce & Hagood of £76 16s 4d per bond of this date, owing interest till paid.

Conditions: If debt with interest not paid in full to Bruce & Hagood by 1 May next, then at any time thereafter at the request of either of the parties the trustee Bird L. Terrell is required to sell the above properties to the highest bidder at public auction. Any monies remaining after paying debt, interest, and attendant charges to be returned to the said Robertson.

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark), Nancy Robertson, Bird L. Ferrell, Bruce & Hagood

Witnesses: None

10 Apr 1827 - Deed acknowledged by John Robertson before Charles T. Harris and C. J. Evans, Justices of the Peace for Halifax County, who certify his acknowledgement to the Clerks of Halifax and Lunenburg County Courts so that the deed can be recorded..

Recorded: 24 Apr 1828, Halifax Clerk's Office

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 471-472. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is the last of the deeds of trust made by John Robertson Jr. He and wife Nancy Cabaniss lived another 18 or 19 years on the land her brother and brother-in-law had purchased and held in trust for her before joining two of his brothers in southwestern Kentucky.

Date: **1 May 1827**

From: Samuel Price and wife Sarah H.

To: FRANCES ROBERTSON [*née* Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott), widow of John Robertson Sr.]

For: \$525

Description: 120 acres on Birch Creek

Bounds: Samuel Price, Mary Durham [*née* Mary Dodson], Ephraim Ferrell, Thomas Dodson, Caleb Dodson's canal, Dodson Puckett, John Hodge [no metes included; Birch Creek not mentioned in the bounds]

Signed: Sam'l Price, Sally H. Price

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower: 1 May 1827

Recorded: 24 Jul 1827

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 34, p. 657-658. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Frances Abbott's husband John Robertson died bet. Mar 1813-Mar 1814 and owned no land at his death. Frances raised their seven children, who then were all minors. The land she purchased above was near where they were living when John died. The appraisers of his estate and other records indicate they then lived at Tobys Creek south of today's town of Elmo. Birch Creek, where the above land was located, runs on the north side of Elmo generally parallel to Toby Creek, and Birch Creek flows into the Dan River about two miles downstream from where Toby Creek waters meet the Dan. According to the next deed below of this same date, Frances was then living on this land, and she could have been renting there for some time. The Ferrells and Dodsons in this deed were intermarried. At

least the Dodsons had been in this area since the mid-1700s, and some branches of their family also lived at Toby/Tobys Creek.

On the same day as this purchase deed, Frances signed a deed of trust using the land to secure debt. Many in Halifax of all financial classes were having to do the same in the county's deteriorating economic conditions that caused a great exodus from Halifax in the first half of the 1800s.

Date: **1 May 1827** - Deed of Trust

From: FRANCES ROBERTSON [*née* Frances Abbott, d/o Joseph Abbott, w/o John Robertson Sr.]

To: Bird L. Ferrell, Trustee, to secure debt owed to Hagood & Luck

For: \$1.00

Description: 120 acres adjoining the lands of Thomas Dodson Senr, Ephraim Ferrell & others, it being the same land where Frances Robertson now resides, also 1 gray mare, 5 head cattle, 3 feather beds & furniture, 7 [or 9] head hogs, 1 cupboard, 1 table, 5 chairs, together with the bal'ce [balance] of her household & kitchen furniture & plantation tools &c - Bird L. Ferrell to have and to hold the said land and personal property in trust

Purpose: To secure debt owed to Hagood & Luck for \$98.70 per bond of this date due 1 Jan 1828

Conditions. If at any time after 1 Jan 1828 the debt with interest is not paid, then at the request of either of the parties, trustee Bird L. Ferrell is required to sell all the above-listed items to the highest bidder at public auction. Any monies remaining after the sale plus interests and costs of proceedings to be returned to Frances Robertson.

Signed: Frances (x) Robertson (her mark), Bird L. Ferrell, Hagood & Luck

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 30 Jun 1827 - Acknowledged by Frances Robertson

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 34, p. 619-621. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Frances Abbott Robertson had one later deed of trust dated 20 Jul 1833. [*HDB41:189*] The trustee again was Bird L. Ferrell, but the debt was owed to another merchant, Boling Eldridge, and Frances secured it using only her land without needing to include any personal property.

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Date: **27 Aug 1827** - Deed of Trust

From: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: James Adkisson and Samuel Williams, Trustees, to secure debt to James Bruce, surviving partner of the late mercantile concern of John Chappell and Company and James Bruce & James S. Easley, partners trading under the firm James S. Easley & Co.

For: \$1.00

Description: 604 acres bounded by WILLIAM ABBOTT [Richard's brother], Nathaniel Barksdale, Cloe Moore [Chloe Irby, widow of Reuben Moore], and David Allen, and slaves James (abt. age 26) and Lidy (abt. age 18) and her future increase [children] - all rights, title, and interest to James Adkisson and Samuel Williams in trust

Purpose: Richard Abbott is justly indebted to James Bruce for \$1147.21 by bond dated 6 Aug 1827 and on demand with legal interest from that date, and to James Easley & Co. for \$170.98 by bond dated with this indenture and on demand with legal interest; this indenture is to secure the punctual payment thereof.

Conditions: If Richard Abbott fails to pay the full debt with interest plus costs on or before 1 Jan 1828, trustees on the request of James Bruce or James S. Easley & Co., shall sell the above named properties to the highest bidder at public auction and the proceeds shall go to pay debts, costs, expenses, etc. Remaining balance, if any, to go to Richard Abbott.

Signed: Richard Abbott, Samuel Williams

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 27 Aug 1827

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 34, p. 687-688. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The 604 acres in this deed are a miscalculation. Deeds prove that Richard's total land purchases plus his inheritance amount to 428 acres by the time of this deed and were never higher than 481.25 after Richard's purchase the next month in Sep 1827. This deed of trust was renewed and the debt increased in 1833, but all those debts were paid off and the properties released in 1836. (See deeds below.)

Date: **8 Sep 1827**

From: John M. Bartie [also spelled Barteer]

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$100

Description: the whole of said Bartie's crop of Tobacco consisting of one prized hogshead marked W. J.[or W. I.] & a parcel not yet prized [ie, compressed]

Signed: John M. Bartie

Teste: J. Royster

Recorded: 10 Sep 1827

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 8-9. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

I understand from several Virginia historians that "prizing" was a process of pressing that squeezed moisture from the tobacco leaves and compressed its bulk for storing and shipping in the large barrel-shaped containers called hogsheads (generally 48" tall and 30" diameter at its widest part). A hogshead of tobacco weighed variously over time, but with improved packing techniques, by the time of the Revolution, a standard hogshead of tobacco weighed about 1300 lbs. Laborers rolled the hogsheads to move them. For transporting them long distances overland, the hogsheads were mounted on axles and pulled by horses or oxen. Roads for their transport needed to be wider, straighter, and freer of obstacles such as boulders and stumps than most regular roads were then. Such transport roads were called "rolling roads." (A May 1838 deed of William Abbott below mentions a rolling road along his land.)

Date: **15 Sep 1827**

From: MOODY ABBOTT and wife Martha [son of Joseph Abbott, wife née Martha Lindsey]

To: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$53.81

Description: 53-1/4 acres "by survey" on waters of Difficult Creek

Bounds: Nathaniel Barksdale, RICHARD ABBOTT

Signed: Moody Abbott, Martha Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Martha Abbott, wife of Moody Abbott certified 31 Oct 1827 by James Bruce & John K. Linn, Justices of the Peace for Halifax County. Witnessed by Benjn [Benjamin] Anderton & Wm. H. Anderton

Recorded: 31 Oct 1827

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 77-79. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **15 Nov 1827** - Deed of Trust

From: Parin A. GILES [husband of Delphia Abbott, d/o of William & Mary Abbott]

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT, Trustee, to secure debt to WILLIAM ABBOTT

For: \$1.00

Description: 15 barrels corn, 2500 lbs. tobacco now in the barn, 6 [illegible], 1 bay horse, all the hogs and cattle of every description, all my household and kitchen furniture, all my plantation utensils of every description, all my crop for the present year

Purpose: To secure debt of \$400 plus legal interest that Parin A. Giles owes to William Abbott

Conditions: Parin A. Giles is permitted by Wesley M. Abbott to remain in possession of the above property and take the profits thereof until fault [default] be made in the payment of the \$400 owed either in the whole or in part. If such default of payment happens, then Wesley M. Abbott, when he thinks proper, or upon the request of William Abbott, shall and will sell the above property, or as much as is sufficient for the purpose and he thinks proper to sell, at public auction for cash after 10 days notice and proper advertisement of time and place. Any money remaining from such sales after payment of the debt and of all charges and expenses involved to go to Parin A. Giles. If the debt and legal interest is paid in full without default to the satisfaction of William Abbott by 25 Dec 1828, then this indenture to be void.

Signed: Parin A. Giles, William Abbott

Recorded: 15 Nov 1827 - Acknowledged by Parin A. Giles and William Abbott at the Office of the Halifax Clerk of Court

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 97-99. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Parin's name is also recorded as Perrin Giles and is the way his signature is transcribed in a letter he wrote from Gibson County, TN dated 23 Aug 185_. [Website of Stan Giles] In 1818, Parin Giles married Delphy Abbott (as spelled in the marriage bond). Delphia/Delphy was a daughter of William & Mary Parker Abbott and a sister of Wesley M. Abbott, trustee in this deed. Unlike deeds of trust to secure debts to merchants, this deed of trust among family specifically allows Parin to retain the use and the profits of his property, thus be better able to repay the debt.

His wife Delphy died bet. 1830-1831, and Perrin then married Delphy's sister Mary B. Abbott ("Polly"). They then moved, along with several Abbott relatives, to Carroll County and adjacent Gibson County, TN.

Date: **4 Dec 1827**

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT and wife Polly [son of Joseph Abbott, wife *née* Mary Parker]

To: David Allen Sen. [Sr.]

For: \$160

Description: 35 acres adjoining the lands of William Abbott and David Allen Sen.

Bounds: mouth of Poplar Spring Branch, up meanders of the branch...to...a path leading into Clarks Ferry Road [formerly Bonds Ferry Road], along path to the said road and then bounded by said Allen's land

Signed: William Abbott, Polly Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Polly wife of William Abbott certified 4 Dec 1827

Recorded: 7 Jan 1828

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 259-260. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

1828

Date: **8 Aug 1828**

From: THOMAS ABBOTT [s/o Joseph Abbott Jr. and Magdaline Lacy]

To: Drury OWEN [s/o Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen]

For: \$70

Description: All my interests in 140 acres of land lying on the south side of Dan River in Halifax County

Bounds: William Chandler, John Edmundson, Sollomon Sisemore [Solomon Sizemore]

Signed: Tho's Abbott

Witnesses: William Chandler, Moses Chandler, S. M. ABBOTT [Samuel, brother of Thomas]

Recorded: 25 Aug 1828

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 36, p. 423. LVA Reel 17. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The purchaser Drury Owen was a son of Hatcher Owen and Mary Abbott, daughter of Joseph Abbott Sr. This deed is for Thomas Abbott's share of the land he inherited by intestate law from his deceased father, Joseph Abbott Jr. Adjacent landowner John Edmundson was a brother of Nancy Edmondson, whom Thomas Abbott married in 1830. The deed witness "S. M. Abbott" was Thomas' brother Samuel M. Abbott. By a deed dated 18 Jan 1833, Samuel M. Abbott and his unmarried sister Catharine Abbott sold their inherited shares of this property along with Drury Owen, who was selling the share Thomas sold to him by this deed. (See deed with notes below.)

1829

Date: **13 Feb 1829**

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT of Halifax Co. [son of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson]

To: William Vaughan of same

For: \$147

Description: 57 acres in Halifax Co.

Bounds: new corner, new line crossing a branch, Wm. Vaughan's line, Hunt's road, Mrs. Bryan's corner (metes, bounds included)

/s/ Joseph Abbott

Witnesses: Jas. Adkinsson, John Reyster [Royster], Daniel W. Whitman, D. Glass

Recorded: 23 Feb 1829

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 36, p. 653-654. LVA Reel 17. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The seller Joseph Abbott (b. c1805) was a son of Leonard Abbott (son of Joseph Abbott Sr.) and wife Susanna Ferguson. The deed is for land Joseph inherited through the will of his grandfather Thomas Ferguson as an heir of Susanna Ferguson Abbott, who died abt. 1826. [HWB14:251] Thomas Ferguson's will devised his land in three equal parts, one part to the children of each of his three daughters: Susanna Ferguson Abbott (wife of Leonard Abbott), Elizabeth Ferguson Vaughan (wife of William Vaughan), and Kitty Ferguson Bryan (wife of John Bryan). [HWB13:152] The seller Joseph Abbott is selling his share of Thomas Ferguson's land inherited in equal parts with his four brothers. The bounds in this deed of William Vaughan (who was also the purchaser) and Mrs. (Kitty) Bryan (then widowed) as well as references in Joseph's brothers' deeds of sale show the land was inherited through Joseph's grandfather Thomas Ferguson.

By a bond dated 6 Dec 1831, Leonard and Susanna's son Joseph Abbott married Alice Abbott ("Ailcey"), a daughter of Elisha and Lydia Clay Abbott. Alice's sister Annis Abbott married Joseph's brother Thomas F. Abbott by bond of 16 Jan 1827.

1830

Date: 6 Oct 1830

From: Anthony Younger and wife Nancy of Franklin County [VA]

To: JAMES ABBOTT of Halifax County [son of Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay]

For: \$100.00

Description: 80 acres in Halifax Co.

Bounds: John H. Wimbish, William Crews, Travis Tune

Signed: Anthony Younger, Nancy Younger

Witnesses: Thomas (x) Milner (his mark), Joseph Abbott [s/o Leonard Abbott], Eley Abbott [?Elcy for Ailcey/Alice, sister of James Abbott?], Elisha Abbott [father of James Abbott]

Recorded: 8 Dec 1830

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 38, p. 204-205. LVA Reel 18. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

According to the list of 19th century nicknames compiled by the archives staff at the Connecticut State Library, the witness recorded as "Eley" (for "Elly") was a nickname for Ellen, Helen, and Eleanor, but there are no Abbotts of that name in Halifax (unless Elisha Abbott had a daughter who did not survive to 1837, when he wrote his will). However, this could be a clerk's entry error for "Elcy," a nickname for Alice, and James Abbott's sister Alice is also recorded as "Ailcey." (Although Alice was probably abt. age 16 at this time, witnesses were not required to be of legal age and could be as young as 14.) In December 1831, Alice Abbott married the deed witness Joseph Abbott, a son of Leonard Abbott and Susanna Ferguson. (Alice's sister Annis Abbott married Joseph's brother Thomas Abbott in 1827.)

This deed is important to help establish the approximate birth year of Elisha and Lydia's only son James Abbott, the purchaser. After 1820, Halifax personal property tax lists for Elisha's district no longer included "white tithes" in order to know when a son turned 21; however, we can tell from the tax lists that James was born after Feb 1804. In order to purchase property, especially from an out-of-county non-family member and at the significant price of \$100, James certainly would seem to be at least the age of legal majority at 21 years old. In that case, based on his sisters' ages, James Abbott would be born bet. 1804-1808. (His sister Annis is listed in the 1850 census as born abt. 1809.) James' age by this deed is another of

several indications that, contrary to online files, he may not be the James Abbott whose grave marker in Hart County, KY says he was born 3 Feb 1812, making him only 18 at the time of this deed, which is highly unlikely. By a deed recorded 2 Jun 1834, James Abbott sold these 80 acres to William King. [HDB41:485, per grantor index] (For details and further explanation, see the individual Notes for Elisha's son James Abbott.)

1832

Date: **23 Jan 1832**

From: Samuel Williams [Trustee]

To: David Allen - by sale at public auction

For: \$665.50

Description: 332-3/4 acres, Halifax County, as described in the Deed of Trust

Purpose: Whereas JAMES FULKERSON and JOHN FULKERSON by Deed of Trust dated 8 Mar 1828 and recorded same date did transfer and convey unto Samuel Williams 332-3/4 acres [to be held in trust to secure debts]. By the power and authority vested in Samuel Williams [as Trustee], he sold the land at public auction on the [blank] day of Nov 1831 to David Allen, the highest bidder at \$2/acre. This indenture confirms the sale.

Signed: Sam'l Williams

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 23 Jan 1832 - Teste: Sam'l Williams, CHC [Clerk of Halifax Court]

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 39, p. 374-375. LVA Reel 18. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

James Fulkerson and John Fulkerson were the only sons of John Fulkerson and Sally Roberts and also the brothers of Catharine Fulkerson Abbott, wife of Richard Abbott. By their father John Fulkerson's 1803 will, James and John jointly inherited all John Sr.'s land, at that time abt. 617 acres near the Abbots at Difficult Creek. Like many Halifax families, the Fulkersons had been plagued by mounting merchants' debts, and they gradually had to sell various parcels to pay the debts. This tract of 332.75 acres was their last remaining land. (Their mother, Sally Roberts Fulkerson, was to have lifetime use of all John Fulkerson Sr.'s estate, and she is party to several previous deeds of trust but for some reason is not named in this one.)

Date: **23 Oct 1832***

From: THOMAS F. ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT, JOHN ABBOTT, LEONARD ABBOTT, and FLEMING ABBOTT [sons of Leonard Abbott (Sr.) & Susanna Ferguson]

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott Sr. and brother of Leonard Abbott Sr.]

For: \$180

Description: tract of land in Halifax Co. [no acres or metes included, but it was 100 acres on Timber Branch a branch of Difficult Creek, per Joseph Abbott Sr.'s 1787 will]

Bounds: Daniel Palmer, Nathaniel Barksdale, and the said WILLIAM ABBOTT

Signed: Joseph Abbott, John (x) Abbott (his mark), Leonard (x) Abbott (his mark)

Witness: John A. McCraw as to Jos. Abbott

Recorded: 23 Oct 1832 - Acknowledged by Joseph (28 Sep), Leonard (17 Oct), and John Abbott (23 Oct)

*Note: Deed is dated 23 Oct, only after the last signer acknowledged the deed that was written at least by 28 Sep.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 40, p. 257-258, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The five sellers are the surviving children of Leonard Abbott and Susanna Ferguson as proved by deeds whereby they sell land inherited through the will of Susanna's father Thomas Ferguson. The land they are selling jointly by this deed was the 100 acres devised to their father Leonard Abbott by the 1787 will of his father Joseph Abbott and released to the deceased Leonard's heirs after the death of Joseph Abbott's widow Frances Abbott in 1823. The purchaser, William Abbott, was Leonard's brother who also was devised land by their father Joseph Abbott's will and whose own land was adjacent to the one being sold. The adjacent landowner Nathaniel Barksdale is recorded in 1818 with land adjacent to the Estate of Joseph Abbott, part of which Leonard Abbott inherited. [HDB27:396] In 1823, Nathaniel Barksdale and Daniel Palmer, the other bound/adjacent landowner in this deed, were two of the neighbors who appraised the estate of Joseph Abbott's widow, Frances, who was living on Joseph's land [HWP13:114], and Nathaniel's wife, "Patsey M. Barksdale," witnessed Frances Abbott's will in 1820. [HWP13:30]

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Date: **31 Oct 1832***

From: JOHN ABBOTT and wife Polly [OWEN] [s/o Leonard Abbott & d/o Mary Abbott Owen]

To: William Vaughan

For: \$189

Description: 63 acres in Halifax, being Lot No. 4 in the distribution of a portion of the lands of Thos Ferguson, dec'd, between the heirs of Susanna Abbott, dec'd

Bounds: Mrs. Wimbish and Lots 1, 2, and 3 [of 5 Lots]

/s/ Jno Abbott, Polly (x) Abbott (her mark)

Dower released by Polly, wife of John Abbott - 31 Oct 1832

Recorded: 6 Nov 1832

*Note: The deed was presented in Court and acknowledged by John Abbott 22 Oct 1832 but dated 9 days later when Polly released her dower

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 40, p. 258-260. LVA Reel 19. Abstract by J Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This John Abbott (b. c1806) is a son of Leonard Abbott & wife Susanna Ferguson. John married by bond of 16 May 1832 to Mary/Polly Owen (b. c1804), a daughter of Mary Abbott & Hatcher Owen. Leonard Abbott and Mary Abbott are siblings, children of Joseph Abbott Sr. & wife Frances. Here John and Polly Owen Abbott sell his land inherited from his maternal grandfather, Thomas Farguson, to William Vaughan, whose wife was a daughter of Thomas Farguson and also legatees of Thomas Farguson's will.

1833

Date: **12 Jan 1833**

From: JOHN ABBOTT, RICHARD ABBOTT, MOODY ABBOTT, ELIZABETH ABBOTT, and PATSY ABBOTT of Halifax County [all legatees of MOSES ABBOTT, dec'd]

To: Mel Spragins of Halifax

For: \$250

Description: "All the right title and interest both real and personal of every description which we have in and to all the estate of Moses Abbott, dec'd (late of the City of Richmond) which we are interested in as legatees agreeably to his last will and testament bearing date 24 Dec

1815 and especially to all the debts of every description which are now due to the said John Abbott, Exor. of the aforesaid Moses Abbott dec'd as aforesaid or due to the estate of the said dec'd or due to us as legatees of him the said Moses Abbott dec'd as aforesaid by virtue of the will of him the said Moses Abbott dec'd which said will was admitted to probat[e] by the County Court of Henrico on the first day of April 1816"

Signed: John Abbott, Richard Abbott, Moody Abbott, Patsy Abbott, Elizabeth Abbott

Witnesses: John Owen, Wesley M. Abbott, James P. Roberts

Recorded: 28 Jan 1833

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 40, p. 493. LVA Reel 19. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Moses Abbott's will written 24 Dec 1815 left his estate to his brothers Richard, Moody, and John Abbott (his only full brothers then surviving) and his unmarried sisters Elizabeth and Patsy/Martha Abbott, as well as a lifetime bequest to his mother, Frances Abbott. [Henrico WB5:71] On paper, the legacies Moses Abbott left in 1816 were substantial, amounting to over \$3000. However, there were outstanding debts due to Moses' estate, reducing the inheritances and costing even more to try to collect. Almost 10 years after their mother, Frances Abbott, died, and 17 years after Moses died, the legatee siblings sold their interest in Moses' estate to a local lawyer, Mel Spragins for \$250 by the above deed. The executor of Moses' estate, his brother John Abbott, gave power of attorney to Mel Spragins the same date.

Date: **12 Jan 1833** - Power of Attorney

From: JOHN ABBOTT, executor of the estate of MOSES ABBOTT, late of the City of Richmond [VA] as appointed by the will of Moses Abbott dated 24 Dec 1815 and proved 1 Apr 1816 in Henrico County Court

To: Mel Spragins of Halifax

Description: John Abbott grants to Mel Spragins his Power of Attorney ("Irrevocable") to recover all debts owed to John Abbott, executor, or to the estate of Moses Abbott and to discharge same and any other lawful and needful acts as Spragins deems proper to recover the debts

Signed: John Abbott, exor. of Moses Abbott, dec'd

Witnesses: John Owen, Wesley M. Abbott, James P. Roberts

Recorded: 28 Jan 1833

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 40, p. 495. LVA Reel 19. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **18 Jan 1833**

From: CATHARINE ABBOTT, SAMUEL M. ABBOTT, PRUDENCE ABBOTT, Drury OWEN, and Nancy OWEN, all of Halifax Co.

To: Thomas Torian of same

For: \$243.75

Description: All of our interest in a certain tract of 140 acres lying on the south side of the Dan River, it being 3/4 [interest] of a tract of land that did belong to Joseph Abbott, deceased.

Bounds: William Chandler on the east, Wade & Sizemore on the south, Thomas Torian on the west, and Dan River on the north.

Signed: Catharin Abbott, Samuel M. Abbott, Prudence (x) Abbott (her mark), Drury Owen, Nany[sic] Owen

Witnesses: Wm. W. Hurt, J. S. Easley (as to M'r O & wife), Wm Wauhop
 Release of Dower by Prudence, wife of Samuel Abbott, and by Nancy, wife of Drury Owen
 Recorded: 29 Mar 1833 (Drury Owen acknowledged the deed before two Halifax Justices 18
 Jan 1833.)

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 41, p. 25. LVA Reel 19. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in
 brackets added.]

Note:

Catharine Abbott (unmarried) and Samuel Abbott (married to Prudence Elam) were
 surviving heirs of Joseph Abbott Jr., who died intestate abt. 1811. (Joseph's wife, Magdaline
 Lacy Abbott, died 1813-1814.) The third surviving heir was Thomas Abbott. Thomas sold his
 share of this 140-acre tract to his cousin Drury Owen by deed dated 8 Aug 1828 (above).

[HDB36:423]

Thus, contrary to some online family files, neither Drury Owen nor his wife Nancy was an
 actual heir of Joseph Abbott Jr. They are only selling the share Drury bought from the heir
 Thomas Abbott. (Drury was a son of Hatcher and Mary Abbott Owen. His wife was Nancy
 Vaughan, whom he married in Halifax by bond of 13 Jan 1823 when she was the widow
 Nancy Jordan.) This 1833 deed also disproves online family files that say the Drury Owen
 who married Nancy Jordan (*née* Nancy Vaughan) was the Drury Owen of adjacent
 Pittsylvania County who married Jane Mayhue 1 Jun 1832 in Pittsylvania, since Drury Owen
 and wife Nancy Vaughan Jordan Owen were still married as of 18 Jan 1833.

The remaining 1/4 interest in Joseph Abbott Jr.'s land was held by Richard Boyd and wife
 Dianna Faulkner, a granddaughter of Joseph and Magdaline Abbott, who also sold their
 share to Thomas Torian/Toryan by deed of 13 Oct 1839. (See more under deed below.)

Date: **20 Jul 1833** - Deed of Trust

From: FRANCES ROBERTSON (spelled "Roberson" in this deed) [*née* Frances Abbott, d/o
 Joseph Abbott]

To: Bird L. Ferrell, Trustee, to secure debt to Bowling Eldridge [Bolling Eldridge]

For: \$1.00

Description: 120 acres of land "I now live on"

Bounds: Ephraim Ferrell, William Clardy, Bird L. Ferrell

Purpose: To secure debts Frances Roberson owes to Bowling Eldridge for \$89.01 by bond
 dated 20 Jul 1833 and another bond to Bowling and John C. Eldridge for \$39.57 due 20 Jul
 1833

Conditions: If debts are not paid in full by 1 Mar 1834, Trustee upon request is to sell
 property at public auction, the proceeds to pay debts plus charges of sale. Balance, if any,
 to go to Frances Roberson.

Signed: Frances (x) Roberson[sic] (her mark) [signature entered twice the same way]

Witnesses: William Davis, Martha (x) Dodson (her mark), Richard Eldridge, Dodson Puckett,
 Levi Hill, Caleb Dodson

Recorded: 5 Sep 1833

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 41, p. 189-191. LVA Reel 19. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments
 in brackets added.]

Note:

This deed of trust further shows Frances Abbott Robertson and family's associations with
 the Ferrell families in southwestern Halifax. Bird L. Ferrell, once again her trustee, is now

listed as an adjacent landowner along with Ephraim Ferrell and William Clardy, whose wife was Ann Ferrell. Witness Caleb Dodson was married to Patsy Ferrell. Ephraim, Ann, and Patsy were children of James Ferrell Sr., and Bird L. Ferrell was his grandson. James Ferrell Sr. died in Halifax in 1808. Interestingly, accounts for James Ferrell's estate show that in Nov 1809, his executors (Bird's father William Ferrell and James Ferrell Jr.) paid Frances Robertson's brother WILLIAM ABBOTT for a debt owed to William, and in Feb 1814, they paid William Abbott for "crying" (auctioneering) Ferrell's land sold by his executors at public auction. This was around the time Frances' husband John Robertson died, and in Mar 1814 William Abbott, who still lived in northern Halifax, was granted administration of his estate. Bird's father William Ferrell is listed in undocumented online files as born abt. 1752 in King and Queen County, VA, where William Abbott was born in 1756. Could the Abbott and Ferrell families have known each other there? *[Estate accounts of James Ferrell Sr. transcribed on the Family Tree Maker Genealogy Site of Michael Shane Dienst, "The Dienst Family."]*

Frances Abbott Robertson died in early 1834, and the inventory of her estate was ordered in June Court 1834. *[HWB17:301]* Only after her death did her trustee and long-time close neighbor Bird L. Ferrell sell her land he held in trust. The deed for 120 acres to William Davis was recorded 28 Sep 1835. *[HDB42:430, per Grantor Index]*

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Date: **15 Oct 1833** - Deed of Trust

From: RICHARD ABBOTT and Catharine his wife [son of Joseph Abbott; wife Catharine Fulkerson]

To: James Adkisson and Samuel Williams of Halifax, Trustees, to secure debts owed to James Bruce surviving partner of the late mercantile concern of John Chappell [and Company], and to James Bruce and James S. Easley merchants trading under the firm of James S. Easley & Co.

For: \$10.00

Description: 608 acres on both sides of Difficult Creek, bounded by William Abbott, Nathaniel Barksdale, Chloe Moore, and David Allen; plus slaves James (age abt. 32), Lidy (age abt. 24), her infant child Milton, and her future increase [children]; plus the whole and entire interest in the estate of John Fulkerson by right of Richard Abbott's wife formerly Catharine Fulkerson [next line blacked out on microfilm]

Purpose: Richard Abbott contracted a deed of trust to the said Adkisson and Williams dated 27 Aug 1827 for a tract of land and negroes to secure debts then due James Bruce surviving partner of John Chappell & Co. and to the said James S. Easley & Co. no part of which has been since part[sic, paid] excepting interest this day settled, and the said Abbott has since the above transactions contracted new debts to the said James Bruce & partners by bond dated this day and on demand with interest from this day for the sum of \$437.77 and to the said James S. Easley & Co. by bond this day and on demand with interest from this day for the sum of \$589.93 which is for transactions with the said Easley & Co. to 1st March last past. The object of this deed is in the first place to secure the two debts first mentioned and in the next place to secure the two bonds last mentioned

Conditions: If Richard Abbott shall fail to pay the full debt with interest plus costs on or before 1 Oct 1834, the Trustees, upon the request of [the creditors] shall sell the above properties at public auction, the proceeds to go to pay the debts, interest, costs, expenses, etc. Remaining balance, if any, to go to Richard Abbott.

Signed: Richard Abbott

Witnesses: Peter B. Sydnor, William Penick

Recorded: 28 Oct 1833 - Acknowledged in court by Richard Abbott
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 41, p. 228. LVA Reel 19. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added; comments in parentheses included in original.]

Note:

The adjacent landowner Chloe Moore, *née* Chloe Irby, was the widow of Reuben Moore and daughter of Anthony Irby (d. 1797). Anthony Irby was a bound on the Difficult Creek land where Benjamin Abbott first lived in Halifax and sold in 1771. [HDB8:42] Witness William Penick, husband of Elizabeth A. Sydnor, was the son-in-law of witness Peter B. Sydnor. The 608 acres in this deed are a miscalculation. Deeds show that Richard's total land purchases plus his inheritance amount to 481.25 acres by 1827 and were never higher.

The above deed of trust was released by deed of 14 Dec 1836, showing the debts with interest, costs, etc. had been paid in full. (See deed below.)

1836

Date: **28 Nov 1836**

From: LEONARD ABBOTT [Jr.] and Catharine his wife [son of Leonard Abbott (Sr.) & Susanna Ferguson; husband of Catharine Shaw]

To: ANNIS ABBOTT [daughter of Elisha Abbott, widow of Thomas F. Abbott]

For: \$220

Description: 59 acres in Halifax, being "part of a tract whereof the late Mrs. Ferguson died seized"

Bounds: A. W. Wimbish [Abraham W. Wimbish] "and others"

Signed: Leonard (x) Abbott (his mark), Catharine (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: None

Release of dower by Catharine Abbott, wife of L. Abbott

Recorded: 28 Nov 1836

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 43, p. 457. LVA Reel 20. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This land is Leonard Abbott Jr.'s 1/5 share of the land devised by the 1821 will of his grandfather Thomas Ferguson to Leonard's mother Susanna Ferguson Abbott (wife of Leonard Abbott Sr.) and her heirs. [HWB13:152] The "late Mrs. Ferguson" in this deed should refer to Thomas Ferguson's widow, Sarah Ferguson, who died bet. 1824-1829 and had lifetime use of all Thomas' land, but it could be an error referring to Susanna Ferguson Abbott, who died in 1826 and whose children could inherit only after she died.

The purchaser in this deed, Annis (Abbott) Abbott, was the widow of Thomas F. Abbott, who also inherited a share of the same tract, being another son of Susanna Ferguson Abbott and her husband Leonard Abbott Sr. The other three children and heirs besides Leonard (Jr.) and Thomas were Joseph Abbott (who married Annis' sister Alice), Fleming Abbott who moved to Lincoln Co. TN (deed below) [HDB47:134], and John Abbott who married Polly Owen in 1832 and sold his share the same year. [HDB40:258]

Date: **14 Dec 1836** - Deed of Release

From: James Adkisson, surviving trustee, with James Bruce and James S. Easley concurring

To: RICHARD ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

For: \$1.00

Purpose: Richard Abbott by deeds of trust of 27 Aug 1827 and 15 Oct 1833 did secure payment of \$2345.89 owed to James Bruce, surviving partner of John Chappell & Co., and James Bruce and James S. Easley merchants and partners trading under the firm of James S. Easley & Co. by conveying to James Adkisson and Saml Williams certain properties [repeats the assets listed in the 1833 deed but gives the 1827 deed's ages for the slaves]. The said Richard Abbott has fully satisfied and paid the sum of money thereby secured, which is hereby acknowledged, and all properties held in trust are hereby released.

Signed: Jas Adkisson, James Bruce, James S. Easley

Witnesses: James C. Bruce (as to J Bruce), B. C. Allen (as to J B), Will Penick, John M. Arendall (as to J A), John S. Priddy (as to J A), Geo. W. Davenport (as to J A)

Recorded: 26 Jun 1837

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 44, p. 90-92. LVA Reel 21. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added; parentheses in original.]

1838

Date: **11 May 1838**

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT and Polly his wife [s/o Joseph Abbott; h/o Mary/Polly Parker]

To: Nelson K. Foster

For: \$157

Description: 78-1/2 acres "by recent survey" on Timber Branch

Bounds: beginning at the road leading from the old Rolly [rolling road] to Mt. Laurel in RICHARD ABBOTT's line, to Barksdale's field, crossing Timber Branch, on Foster & Palmer line, to road, then as it meanders to the beginning.

Signed: William Abbott, Polly (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witness: Elisha Barksdale Jr.

Release of Dower by Polly Abbott, wife of William Abbott

Recorded: 12 May 1838

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 45, p. 33-34. LVA Reel 21. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is all or most of the land (originally described as 100 acres) that Joseph Abbott devised to his son Leonard, whose heirs sold the land to William Abbott in 1832. [HDB40:257]

A "rolling road" was used for rolling hogsheads of tobacco pulled by oxen or horses to transport them to central warehouses or to navigable waterways from which they could be shipped out to larger markets and ports. These roads had to be wider, straighter, and clearer of obstacles than the usual local roads. A 1909 plat indicates that the "road to Mt. Laurel" began at today's Anderson Road (formerly Old Courthouse Rd/Coles Ferry Rd) and Winns Creek Road/Route 615 just above Dudley (3 mi. S of today's Crystal Hill) and went northeast from there to Mt. Laurel near the Staunton River. Today the route is a series of connecting county roads, one of which seems to be a part of Abbott Hill Road/Route 609. The 1844 deed from William to his son Wesley M. Abbott (below) also mentions the "rolling

road" with another bound being the old Bonds/Clarks Ferry Road (roughly today's Newbill School Road), which "the road to Mt. Laurel" may have joined. [HDB49:651]

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Date: **12 May 1838**

From: JAMES ABBOTT and his wife Susan of Halifax [son of Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay]

To: James M. Jones to 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

Recorded: 6 Apr 1839

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

Note:

The 1837 will of James Abbott's father Elisha Abbott devised 150 acres to his daughter Alice and "the balance" of his land to son James Abbott. Elisha Abbott has deeds of record for 455 acres he owned at his death. Elisha's will reserved 150 acres of this 305-acre balance for the dower of his widow, Lydia, during her lifetime. Lydia Abbott and James Abbott (with wife Susan) both sold their interests in Lydia's dower tract in 1842. (See deeds below.)

As to the bounds on the land James Abbott is selling, Walns and Milners were bounds on deeds pertaining to Elisha Abbott's lands; Zebedee Petty witnessed Elisha's 1837 will; and James M. Jones was a bound on Lydia's dower land in 1842 and on the land Elisha devised to his daughter Alice when she sold it in 1842 (below). Thus, this land James Abbott is selling seems to be the balance of his inheritance, even though that should be only 155 acres. (According to the Grantor/Grantee Indexes, James independently purchased only one tract of 80 acres in 1830, which he sold by deed recorded 1834. [HDB38:204, HDB41:485]) The discrepancy in the number of acres could come from a missing or unrecorded deed or by more recent surveys that were more accurate than the earlier "more or less" estimations.

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Date: **2 Nov 1838** - Deed of Trust

From: THOMAS ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott (Jr.) & Magdaline Lacy]

To: Williamson Bomer, Trustee, to secure debt owed to Thomas Torian Sen'r

For:\$1.00

Description: one sorrel mare and her increase, 2 cows and yearlings with all their increase, 22 head of hogs with their increase, two beds and furniture with all household and kitchen furniture of every kind, and all plantation and carpenters tools of every description - to Bomer in trust

Purpose: To secure payment of \$52 owed to Thomas Torian Sen'r

Conditions: If Thomas Abbott fails to pay the full debt plus interest from this date on or before 25 Dec 1838, then properties subject to public auction at the request of Thomas Torian Sen'r. Proceeds shall go to paying debt with interest and all costs attending. Balance remaining, if any, to go to Thomas Abbott.

Signed: Tho's Abbott, Williamson Bomer, Tho's Torian Sen'r

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 16 Nov 1838

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 45, p. 227-228. LVA Reel 21. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Williamson's family name in Halifax is usually spelled Bomar. Several Bomar families lived close to the Abbotts in northern Halifax. However, at this time, Thomas Abbott was living in southern Halifax in the area where his father moved the family abt. 1810. The creditor, Thomas Torian, a wealthy planter and entrepreneur, owned land adjacent to Joseph Abbott near Omega and purchased that land from Joseph's heirs in 1833 and 1839.

1839

Date: **3 Aug 1839**

From: FLEMING ABBOTT of Lincoln County, Tennessee [son of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson]

To: Robert D. Lacy of Halifax

For: \$182

Description: 63 acres, Halifax Co., on waters of Terrible Creek...being Lot. No. 5 in the division of that portion of the land which was allowed the heirs of Susan [Susannah] Abbott dec'd as their part of the land of their dec'd Grand father Thomas Ferguson

Bounds: the late William Vaughn, Abraham. W. Wimbish, Robert D. Lacy

Signed: Fleming Abbott

Witnesses: None

Acknowledged by Fleming Abbott and Certified in Lincoln Co, TN 3 Aug 1839

Recorded: 30 Sep 1841, Halifax County Court

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 47, p. 134-135. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This deed is important for establishing beyond a doubt that Fleming Abbott of Lincoln County, TN was a son of Leonard Abbott and Susanna Ferguson of Halifax County, VA rather than a son of a Drury Abbott of the North Carolina Abbotts then living in Lincoln County, as was published in 2006 in *Heritage Book of Lincoln County, Tennessee*. (No relationship between the two Abbott lines has been found in extensive research of the Halifax Abbott line, but many people mistakenly assume a same name in the same place means a same family line.) See report on Leonard Abbott, son of Joseph Abbott, and individual Notes for this Fleming Abbott for more details.

Date: **13 Oct 1839**

From: Richard Boyd and wife Diannah [*née* Dianna Faulkner]

To: Thomas Toryan [Torian]

For: \$33

Description: "All their claim right title and interest in and to a certain tract of land lying just below Grassy Creek So. Dan [south side of Dan River] Halifax County Virginia or so much of said claim as they hold by virtue of the last will and testament of John^[sic] ABBOT dec'd"

Signed: Richard (his mark) Boyd, Dianah Boyd

Witnesses: None

Release of dower: 2 Nov 1839 - Acknowledged by Richard Boyd 2 Nov 1839

Recorded: 28 Jan 1840

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 46, p. 172. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Thomas Torian owned a ferry across the Dan River and at some point built a mill on Grassy Creek where it flows into the south side of the Dan. He purchased 3/4 of the interests in the estate of Joseph Abbott Jr., dec'd, on the south side of the Dan in 1833, and by description, this is the remaining portion of that land.

The above deed is poorly written and has several significant errors. By this deed and a court-ordered estate division dated 23 Feb 1830 [HMB4:131] we know that Dianna Faulkner, later wife of Richard Boyd, was the fourth surviving heir of Joseph Abbott Jr. through Joseph and Magdaline's daughter who married Thomas Faulkner, Dianna's father. Thus, contrary to the wording of this deed, Dianna and husband Richard Boyd held their interest by virtue of the division of the intestate estate of Joseph Abbott (Jr.), not by any will of a John Abbott. (See report on Joseph Abbott Jr. and individual Notes for Dianna Faulkner for more details.)

Probably soon after Dianna and Richard married by bond of 30 Oct 1832, Dianna's aunt Catharine Abbott, went to live with them and remained until her death bet. 1860-1870. Catharine's sister and Dianna's mother (her name is unknown) died when Dianna was under age 5. By 1830, Dianna was living with Catharine and her brother Samuel M. Abbott with his wife Prudence Elam. (Samuel and Prudence moved to Gibson County, TN abt. 1838-1839.) Thus, Catharine Abbott, who never married, probably became a surrogate mother to Dianna. Dianna and Richard named their first daughter Catharine A. Boyd, and undocumented online files say the daughter's full name was Catharine Abbott Boyd.

1840

Date: **27 Jan 1840**

From: RICHARD ABBOTT and wife Catharine [s/o Joseph Abbott; h/o Catharine Fulkerson]

To: Nelson K. Foster

For: \$137

Description: 68.5 acres on waters of Difficult Creek

Bounds: Elisha Barksdale Jr., Nelson K. Foster, and the said Richard Abbott (metes & bounds included)

Signed: Richard Abbott, Catharine (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: William Allen, James Young

Release of Dower: 14 Jun 1841 (in Halifax County)

Recorded: 5 Apr 1842

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 47, p. 478. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The purchaser Nelson K. Foster, also a bound on this land, purchased 78.5 acres on Timber Branch from Richard's brother William Abbott and wife Polly in 1838. [HDB45:33] That was land that their brother Leonard's inherited on Timber Branch that adjoined Richard's inherited tract, per Joseph Abbott's 1787 will.

Although Richard's wife, Catharine Fulkerson, is entered here and again in 1843 [HDB49:165] as signing by mark, Catharine's 1818 marriage consent statement, an 1821 deed of agreement among her siblings [HDB28:572], and a letter she wrote in 1854 prove she was literate, as she is marked in the 1850 and 1860 censuses.

1841

Date: **26 Jul 1841**

From: THOMAS ABBOTT and wife Nancy of Halifax (heirs of Edmund Edmundson) [s/o Joseph Abbott (Jr) & Magdaline Lacy]

To: William Tuck of same

For: \$50

Description: All their interest in the land which Edmund Edmondson died possessed which the said Edmondson devised to be equally devised among his children of which the above named Nancy Abbott is one (no acres, location, or bounds)

Signed: Thomas Abbott, Nancy (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: None - Release of Dower: 26 Jul 1841

Recorded: 26 Jul 1841

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 47, p. 26. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

1842

Date: **4 Jan 1842**

From: LYDIA ABBOTT [widow of Elisha Abbott, son of Benjamin]

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 is Lydia's son-in-law, second husband of her daughter Annis Abbott. Annis' first husband, Thomas F. Abbott, son of Leonard and Susannah Ferguson Abbott, died in 1834. Two years after this sale, Lydia moved to Lincoln Co, Missouri with her daughter Alice/Ailcey Abbott (who had inherited another part Elisha's same land) and her husband Joseph Abbott, Alice's husband Joseph Abbott was the brother of Annis' first husband, Thomas F. Abbott. Their father, Leonard Abbott, was a much younger half-brother of Benjamin Abbott, Elisha's father, and about six years younger than Elisha himself. On 12 Nov 1842, Elisha's son James Abbott, the eventual legatee of these 150 acres by Elisha's will, likewise sold his interests to John Milner (deed below).

Date: **2 Apr 1842** - Deed of Trust

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: William Holt and William T. Ballow, Trustees, to secure debt to James Young & Co. etc.

For: \$1.00

Description: 330 acres where the said William Abbott now resides adjoining Richard Abbott, Daniel Palmer, David Allen, Nelson K. Foster, and Dabney Terry, plus 8 slaves, namely Moses (age "50 odd years old"), Rachel (abt. age 26), Nat (abt. age 14), Joe (abt. age 11), Citter (abt. age 9), Albert (abt. age 4), Nancy (abt. age 2), and Mary (abt. age 8 months) - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debts as follows: Whereas William Abbott is indebted to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm of James Young & Co. for \$953.27 by bond of same date as this indenture due 1 Mar 1842 as well as to secure all future dealings of William Abbott with James Young & Co., and also to secure William Bailey from damage or loss as William Abbott's security on a bond for \$170.00 due 25 Dec 1837 owed to James C. Bruce

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Nov 1842, otherwise above properties subject to sale at public auction. If any balance of the proceeds remains after satisfying all debts, including costs of the sale, the remainder to go to William Abbott. Trustees are authorized to take possession of all properties after the execution of this indenture to hold until day of the sale.

Signed: William Abbott, James Young & Co.

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 2 Apr 1842

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 47, p. 469-471. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

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Date: **5 Apr 1842** - Deed of Trust

From: RICHARD ABBOTT and wife Catharine [s/o Joseph Abbott; h/o Catharine Fulkerson]

To: William T. Ballow and John S. Kent, Trustees - to secure debt to James Young & Co. "etc."

For: \$10

Description: 473 acres, bounded by William Abbott, Elisha Barksdale Jr., and David Allen; plus slaves: Lydia (age 32), Milton (age 10), Amelia (8), man Ned, woman Jinncy, boy Charles, girl Sally, girl Mary, boy John, girl Jinncy daughter of Lydia; plus undivided interest in estate of John Fulkerson dec'd (including all land, slaves, monies, and any other properties due to the heirs) - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: Whereas William Bailey and James Young [merchants trading under the firm of James Young & Co] stand as security for Richard Abbott in a bond to James A. Luck for \$1468.72 and interest from 1 Apr 1842 until paid; also the said Richard Abbott is justly indebted to James Young & Co. for \$1402.23 by bond bearing date with this Indenture from 1 Mar 1842 until paid as well as to insure all further dealings and transactions with James Young & Co. from 1 Mar 1842 until the closing of this Indenture

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Sep 1842, otherwise subject to public sale of properties to meet all debts; balance remaining, if any, to go to Richard Abbott.

Signed: Richard Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 16 Jul 1842

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 48, p. 6-8. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Unlike Richard's deeds of trust in 1827 and 1833, this one correctly states to within 10 acres the amount of land Richard actually owned per the recorded deeds. (His sale of 68.5 acres in 1840 is not included here, as the deed was not recorded until the same day as this deed of trust was written.)

Date: **12 Nov 1842**

From: JAMES ABBOTT and wife Susan of Halifax Co. [s/o Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay]

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.]

Note:

James Abbott left the Halifax personal property tax lists after 1842 and apparently died before the 1850 census. There is a James Abbott who married a Susan J. Farris and died in 1845 in Hart County, KY who some think was Elisha Abbott's son James. However, there is significant conflicting evidence and more documentation is needed for a definitive identification. (See report on Elisha Abbott and individual Notes for son James Abbott for details.)

Date: **12 Nov 1842**

From: JOSEPH ABBOTT and wife AILCEY [Joseph s/o Leonard Abbott; Alice "Ailcey" Abbott d/o Elisha Abbott]

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:

Personal property tax lists dates indicate that after Joseph Abbott (son of Leonard Abbott and Susanna Ferguson) married Alice/Ailcey Abbott (daughter of Elisha Abbott and Lydia Clay) by bond of 6 Dec 1831, they settled on part of her father's large property on Bradley Creek, several miles west of where Joseph grew up. By Elisha's will dated 28 Jan 1837 (recorded 24 Apr 1837), Elisha gave his daughter Alice Abbott 150 acres. [HWB18:295] Joseph and Alice along with Alice's widowed mother, Lydia Abbott, moved to Lincoln County, MO in Dec 1844.

The adjacent landowner Giles Martin appears to be related both to Elisha Abbott's daughter Polly Abbott's husband William Martin and to Elisha's daughter Annis Abbott's second

husband Joel Martin. The adjacent landowner William Carr (then deceased) was Elisha's daughter 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 them for more information.)

1843

Date: **9 Jun 1843**

From: MOODY ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: Elizabeth M. Robertson [*née* Elizabeth M. Abbott, d/o Moody Abbott & Martha Lindsey]

For: the natural love and affection I bear for my daughter Elizabeth M. wife of Thomas Robertson [Jesse T. Robertson]

Description: 200 acres to be cut off the tract on which I now reside commencing at Jas. P. Roberts line

Signed: Moody Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded 9 Jun 1843

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 48, p. 557. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Adjacent landowner James P. Roberts was one of the appraisers of the estates of Moody's sisters Elizabeth Abbott in 1839 and Martha Abbott in 1844. Elizabeth and Martha lived with their brother John Abbott, and their house may have been on Moody's land. The sisters left their estates to Moody's only daughter, Elizabeth M. Abbott, who married Jesse Thomas Robertson by bond of 30 Jan 1843.

James P. Roberts' parents, Daniel Roberts and Margaret Purcell, were both related by marriages to the Abbott family. Daniel Roberts' family lived by today's Clay Mill Road, which intersects with today's Abbott Hill Road southeast of today's Crystal Hill. The two roads together basically encircle the east and south area of the old Abbott lands.

Date: **22 Aug 1843** - Deed of Trust

From: RICHARD ABBOTT and wife Catharine [s/o Joseph Abbott; h/o Catharine Fulkerson]

To: William T. Ballow and John S. Kent, Trustees, to secure debt owed to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm of James Young & Co.

For: \$5.00

Description: Land, slaves, and other properties, to wit: 473 acres, bounded by William Abbott, Elisha Barksdale Jr., and David Allen; slaves Lydia (age 32), Milton (age 10), Amelia (8), man Ned, girl Sally, girl Mary, boy John, girl Jincy daughter of Lydia and the increase [ie, children] of the females; also their undivided interest in the estate of John Fulkerson dec'd [and] the widow of John Fulkerson dec'd (including land, slaves, monies, and any other properties they may be entitled to receive from the said John Fulkerson dec'd estate), plus 3 head horses, 13 head cattle, 51 head hogs, 30 head sheep, 6 feather beds and furniture and bedsteads, also balance of household and kitchen furniture, plantation tools of every description, present growing crop of tobacco, corn, wheat, and oats & fodder, one ox cart and one yoke of oxen - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: Whereas William Bailey and James Young [partners as James Young & Co] stand as security for Richard Abbott in a bond to James A. Luck for \$1468.72 with interest from 1 Apr 1842 and also Richard Abbott is indebted to James Young & Co. for \$1402.23 with

interest from 1 Mar 1842, subject to a credit of \$449 paid 23 Jan 1843. Also Richard Abbott is indebted to James Young & Co. for \$236.22 by bond of this date with interest from 2 Apr 1843. This indenture is taken to secure the last mentioned debt and the better to secure the first mentioned debt and to secure all future transactions with James Young & Co. from 1 Mar 1843 to the closing of this indenture.

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Nov 1843; otherwise subject to public sale of properties to meet all debts; any balance remaining to go to Richard Abbott. If payment date met, then indenture to be null and void.

Signed: Richard Abbott

Witnesses: Edwin R. Ferrell, David Gibbs, William F. Thomas

Recorded; 22 Aug 1843

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 1-4. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added. Information in parentheses included in the original.]

Note:

The above deed of trust amounts to an inventory of Richard Abbott's real and personal property at the time. After his death in December 1848, two slaves were sold to cover the balance on the debt, and the Inventory and Appraisal of Richard Abbott's estate includes a notation that slave Lydia and child were sold after his death, leaving three slave girls in his estate valued at \$875. The Inventory also includes 3 horses, an ox cart and yoke of oxen, 4 beds, and many other items included this deed of trust, for a total appraisal of \$1731.39, which was a substantial sum. From this and other indications, Richard was able to retain a significant amount of the property listed in this deed of trust, even though he had to sell his land (next deed below) and forfeited several slaves before the debt was fully paid.

Date: 21 Nov 1843

From: RICHARD ABBOTT and wife Catharine [s/o Joseph Abbott; h/o Catharine Fulkerson]

To: David P. Hudson

For: \$1992.22

Description: 394.5 acres (by late survey) on Difficult Creek

Bounds: Dr. Foster, Clarks Road [formerly Bonds Ferry Road], Terry, Difficult Creek, down meanders and crossing creek, Penick's line (other bounds are only natural landmarks)

Release: By a deed of 5 Apr 1842, recorded 16 Jul 1842, and deed of 22 Aug 1843, recorded same day, for the purpose of securing debts owed to James Young & Co. and also to secure William Bailey and James Young as securities on a bond to James A. Luck, a tract of land in Halifax and other properties were conveyed to William T. Ballow and John S. Kent, Trustees. The land now having been sold to David P. Hudson, the Trustees aforesaid are made parties to the deed for the purpose of releasing all title to the land, and William Bailey and James Young as James Young & Co. are made parties to the deed for the purpose of registering their approbation to the sale and securities.

Signed: Richard Abbott, Catharine (+) Abbott (her mark), John S. Kent, James Young, W. Bailey

Witnesses: None

Notation in margin: W, T, Ballow's acknowledgement recorded page 217

Release of Dower: 21 Nov 1843

Recorded: 21 Nov 1843

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 165-167. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This sale represents the last of Richard Abbott's land in Halifax, where his parents and later he had lived for the last 80 years. The proceeds to James Young & Co. from the sale of this land left Richard Abbott with a balance of \$665.95 still due on the principal.

Richard Abbott, age 73, with his wife, Catharine Fulkerson, age 54, and their five unmarried children moved before 21 Dec 1843 to adjacent Pittsylvania County, VA. On that date, a copy of the same Halifax deed of trust of 22 Aug 1843 (above) was admitted to record in the Pittsylvania County Court Clerk's Office upon the certificate endorsed by the Clerk of the Halifax County Court, even though the land in the deed of trust had just been sold and the proceeds had significantly reduced the debt owed.

[Source: Pittsylvania Deed Book 48, p. 119-121. LVA Reel 21.]

The next year, that deed of trust was replaced by a deed of trust using only 6 slaves and their "future increase" to secure payment on the balance. [PDB49:46] (See deed below.) Two of those slaves were sold to clear the final debt.

1844

Date: **6 Mar 1844** - Deed of Trust

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: John S. Kent and William T. Ballow, Trustees, to secure debt to James Young & Co. etc.
 For: \$5.00

Description: 330 acres on which the said William Abbott now resides adjoining David P. Hudson [formerly Richard Abbott], Daniel Palmer, David Allen, Nelson K. Foster, and Dabney Terry, plus 10 slaves Moses (age abt. 52), Rachel (28), Nat (16?), Joe (13), Sella (11), Albert (6), Henry (4), Mary Ann (3), June (16), and Nancy a child abt. 6 mos. - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debt of \$1250.18 plus interest from 1 Mar 1844 owed to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm of James Young & Co. and to secure all future transactions with James Young & Co. from this date to the closing of this indenture, and further to secure and leave harmless the said William Bailey against loss on a bond which Bailey stands bound as security for William Abbott to James C. Bruce for \$175.00 plus interest

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Sep 1844, otherwise subject to public sale of properties to meet all debts; any balance if any remaining to go to William Abbott. Trustees are authorized to take possession of all properties after the execution of this indenture to hold until day of the sale.

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: Edwin R. Ferrell, William F. Thomas, John S. Lewellyn Jr.

Recorded: 6 Mar 1844

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 406-408. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Date: (month and day blank) **1844**

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT [son of William Abbott]

For: \$200

Description: tract of land on Difficult Creek (number of acres not included; 70 acres per land tax lists)

Bounds: near the Roling^[sic] Road [rolling road ("to Mt. Laurel")], David Hudson [formerly William's brother Richard Abbott], Difficult Creek, David Allen, Clarks Ferry Road [formerly Bonds Ferry Road], Terry (no metes included)

/s/ William Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 2 Sep 1844

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 651. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

Note:

Wesley Abbott's 1845 land taxes enter this tract from William as 70 acres, but neither William's acres in the land taxes nor the acres in his deeds of trust match his total deeds of purchase and sale. (Due to the way acres were calculated for land taxes, all early Abbott families' land taxes have numerous errors, many carried down each year for decades.) The "rolling road to Mt. Laurel" is referenced in William Abbott's 1838 deed and discussed with that deed above. [HDB45:33]

Date: **11 Oct 1844** - Deed of Trust

From: RICHARD ABBOTT of Pittsylvania County [son of Joseph Abbott]

To: William T. Ballow and John S. Kent of Halifax County and James A. Luck of Pittsylvania County, Trustees

For: \$1.00

Description: 6 slaves and future increase; namely, negro woman Lidia [Lydia], negro girl Amelia, negro girl Sally, negro girl Jane, negro girl Ann, negro boy Milton (children of the woman Lidia) and the future increase [children] of the females - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debt of \$708.43 due by bond on interest this day to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm and style of James Young & Co. of Halifax County, being the balance due on former Deeds of Trust

Conditions: Payment of debt, interest, and costs due in full by 1 Mar 1845; otherwise subject to public sale of the properties to meet debt along with interest, costs, and expenses; any remaining to go to Richard Abbott. If payment date met, then indenture null and void.

Signed: Richard Abbott

Witnesses: None

11 Oct 1844 - Acknowledged by Richard Abbott before John Wilson and John S. Lewellen, Justices of the Peace for Halifax County, and he desired them to certify his acknowledgement to the Clerk of Pittsylvania County Court

Recorded: 24 Oct 1844, Clerk's Office, County Court of Pittsylvania

In margin: Sent to James Young & Co. by mail 14 Dec 1848

[Pittsylvania Deed Book 49, p. 46-48. LVA Reel 21. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is the last deed of trust recorded in either Halifax or Pittsylvania for Richard Abbott. It was settled when Richard died abt. Dec 1848. (He was abt. 78 years old.) The above deed notes the deed above was mailed to James Young & Co. 14 Dec 1848, and on 25 Dec 1848, trustee John S. Kent sold two slaves for \$850, which canceled the remaining debt to James Young & Co. (See deed below.)

1845

Date: **30 Oct 1845**

From: JOHN J. ABBOTT [son of Richard Abbott & Catharine Fulkerson]

To: William T. Ballow and Edwin R. Ferrell, Trustees, to secure debts owed to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm and style of James Young & Co. and to William Bailey, James Young, and John A. Kent merchants and partners trading under the firm and style of Young, Kent, & Co.

For: \$1.00

Description: Rights to 2 feather beds, bedsteads, and furniture; one cupboard; one walnut chest; one folding table; one dressing table; one looking glass; all the balance my household and kitchen furniture; eight chairs; one spinning wheel & cards; all my interest in the estates of Royall Lax and Mary Lax which I am entitled by right of my wife Paulina S. [*née* Paulina S. Lax]; one debt on Richard Abbott [his father] for \$38.98, one debt on Charles Allen Jr. for \$6.50, and the balance that will be due me from William T. Ballow and all other debts due me; and my part of the crop of tobacco made in 1844 as overseer for Mary R. W. Roberts, my part being 1/4; two bridles, one mare; saddle and side saddle; fire stone pots, one brass kettle - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees.

Purpose: To secure the debt John J. Abbott owes to James Young & Co. of \$118.74 due by bond with interest from 1 Mar 1845, and a debt to Young, Kent, & Co. of \$25.70 due by bond payable 1 Mar 1846

Conditions: If John J. Abbott fails to pay the above-mentioned debts or any part thereof with the interest due thereof by 1 Mar 1846, the above-mentioned properties shall be subject to public auction at the request of John J. Abbott, James Young & Co., or Young, Kent, & Co. After payment of debts, including interest and expenses, from the proceeds, any balance remaining to go to said Abbott.

Signed: John J. Abbott

Witnesses: Bev. Barksdale Jr., Geo. C. Holt, W'm H. Morgan

Recorded: 30 Oct 1845

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 51, p. 49-50. LVA Reel 24. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

John James Abbott, eldest son of Richard Abbott & Catharine Fulkerson, did not move with his parents when they left Halifax for adjacent Pittsylvania County. John married Paulina S. Lax/Lacks by bond of 22 Nov 1841 and stayed in Halifax another 10 years before they, too, left Halifax to move to Alabama. Here John is using his wife's inherited interest in the estates of her recently deceased parents, Royall Lax and Mary (Hodge) Lax, as well as the rest of his personal estate to secure the merchant debts he owes.

This deed shows John J. Abbott was working as an overseer for Mary R. W. Roberts (*née* Mary R. W. Hill), widow of William D. Roberts, who lived near the Abbots at Difficult Creek. William D. Roberts was a cousin of John's mother Catharine Fulkerson, whose mother Sally Roberts Fulkerson was a sister of William's father Daniel Roberts. Several of Daniel's children and grandchildren were involved with Abbots well into the 1850s, and a son of William and Mary Roberts married a granddaughter of Joseph Abbott's daughter Mary Abbott Owen in 1854.

1847

Date: **3 Jul 1847** - Deed of Trust

From: THOMAS ABBOTT [son of Joseph Abbott (Jr.) & Magdaline Lacy]

To: Richard Tuck Jr., Trustee, to secure debts owed to William Griffin

For: \$1.00

Description: 29-5/8 acres near Hyco Meeting House, one bay mare, one bay colt, ten heads hogs, two feather beds and furniture, one cupboard and loom with appurtenances, all the present year's growing crop on the aforesaid plantation, all my interest in present year's growing crop which I may make at Wm. J. Boxley's being 1/9 part of the crop to be made on Wm. J. Boxley's farm for the year 1847 which part I am entitled to for services as an Overseer, together with all my stock, crop, household and kitchen furniture, plantation tools, lands, interest on crop made at Wm. J. Boxley's farm, together with all I possess of every description whatsoever - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debts owed to William Griffin, to wit: \$88.10 by bond 10 Jun 1845 with Thomas Torian as security, and \$37.90 with interest due by bond 25 Dec 1846 bearing date 7 Apr 1847, with interest from aforesaid dates to full payment is made

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Nov 1847. If payment date met, then indenture null and void. But if at any time any part of the principle or interest shall be in arrears and unpaid, then the said Richard Tuck Jr. shall and may sell the abovementioned properties at public auction to the highest bidder at the dwelling house or premises of Thomas Abbott with ten days' previous notice of the time and place at some public place. Any balance remaining after paying all costs, expenses, debts, interest, etc. to go to Thomas Abbott.

Signed: Thos. Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 26 Jul 1847

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 52, 189-191. LVA Reel 25. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

There is no deed for this land to Thomas Abbott. He sold his share of his inheritance from his father, Joseph Abbott Jr., in 1828 [*HDB36:423*], and in 1841, Thomas and his wife Nancy Edmundson sold all their interests in her deceased father's land to Nancy's brother-in-law. [*HDB47:26*] Still, by the location and the fraction of acres, this land seems to be an inheritance to Thomas' wife Nancy Edmundson. They sold the above land in 1850 to Nancy's nephew [*HDB54:448*], who in 1852 purchased an adjacent tract that the deed states Nancy also jointly inherited with her siblings. [*HDB54:564*]

1848

Date: **28 Feb 1848**

"Account of Sales of WILLIAM ABBOTTs property sold for cash under a deed of trust bearing date 6 Mar 1844"

[For debt owed to James Young & Co.]

To James R. Ferrell, negro girl Citter for \$492

To Reuben A. Puryear for negro boy Albert for \$373

Less costs for crying sale and cost to record of \$2.32 - Balance: \$862.68

/s/ William T. Ballow, John S. Kent, Trustees

Recorded: 27 Mar 1848

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 52, p. 446. LVA Reel 25. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

William Abbott died 4 Jan 1848. *[NARA File W5616]* His will was written 15 Mar 1847, proved 24 Jan 1848. *[HWB22:24]* This sale cleared his debt to James Young & Co., freeing the remainder of the properties held in trust to go to the heirs. The deed formally releasing his land held in trust is dated 5 Jun 1850. (See deed below.)

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Date: **25 Dec 1848**

"Account of Sales of RICHARD ABBOTT's property sold under a deed of trust"

Cash for James Young & Co.: Total: \$850

To Edwin Grubbs - negro girl Amelia for \$450

To Charles B. Bomar - negro girl Rosey for \$400

/s/ Jno. S. Kent "as one of the trustees"

Recorded: 22 Jan 1849

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 53, p. 52. LVA Reel 25. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

Richard Abbott's last recorded deed of trust, under which these two slaves were sold to pay his remaining debt, was signed 11 Oct 1844. A notation on the deed says it was sent to James Young & Co. (the creditors) on 14 Dec 1848, likely immediately upon Richard's death at abt. 78 years old. Richard's will, written 18 Mar 1847, was first presented in Pittsylvania Court 15 Jan 1849.

There is no doubt Richard was deceased by this sale date. The wording of his brother William Abbott's similar sales account 28 Feb 1848 is the same, and William, like Richard, was not called "deceased" even though William's will was proved in court the month before his sales account. (In the clerk's notation when this sale of Richard Abbott's slaves was recorded, Richard's name is mistakenly written as William Abbott, but the sales account itself clearly states it is for Richard Abbott, and it is the only record whereby Richard's debt was fully repaid. William's sales account 28 Feb 1848 already had cleared his debt with no debt balance remaining.)

1850

Date: **4 Apr 1850**

From: THOMAS ABBOTT and wife Nancy [s/o Joseph Abbott Jr.; h/o Nancy Edmundson]

To: Samuel R. Hailey

For: \$87

Description: 29-3/8 acres on waters of Hilly Creek

Bounds: Elijah Torian and the said Samuel R. Hailey

Signed: Thos Abbott, Nancy (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Nancy Abbott, wife of Thomas Abbott

Recorded: 22 Mar 1852

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 448-449. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

On 3 Jul 1847, Thomas Abbott used this land to secure a debt, and there it was described as "29-5/8 acres...near Hyco Meeting House." *[HDB52:189]* This land was inherited through his

wife Nancy Edmundson, whose father's land was close to Thomas' father Joseph Abbott Jr.'s land on Grassy Creek at the south side of Dan River and not far from Hyco River, where Thomas' brother Samuel M. Abbott purchased land in 1821. [HDB31:243] Hilly Creek is a short stream that flows into the west side of the Hyco a few miles southeast of where Grassy Creek meets the Dan. Both Grassy and Hilly Creek are near Omega, VA, still Thomas and Nancy Edmundson Abbott's post office address in the 1870s.

Thomas Abbott's wife Nancy Edmundson was a daughter of Edmund Edmundson and Jane Howerton. Edmund's will, written 4 Mar 1815 (witnessed by Thomas Abbott and his brother Samuel Abbott) names a grandson "Samuel Hailey," one of two children left by his then-deceased daughter Frances Hailey. "Fannie Edmundsen" married Royal Hailey in Halifax by bond dated 1 Apr 1812, and the purchaser Samuel R. Hailey appears to be their son Samuel. The 1850 census shows "Samuel R. Hailey" unmarried living together with Edmund Edmundson's unmarried daughter Elizabeth Edmundson (b. c1802) and listed two households from Thomas and Nancy (Edmundson) Abbott, but Samuel was to inherit directly only if he left an heir. (Samuel's age in 1850 is listed as 33, thus b. c1817, after Edmund wrote his will in 1815; however, census ages frequently are inaccurate, and no other Samuel Hailey was found who could be the right one.)

In 1852, Thomas and Nancy (Edmundson) Abbott are among Edmund's legatees who sell their interests in 50 acres they inherited jointly to Samuel R. Hailey, where Samuel then lived. (See deed below.) He was not found in Halifax in the 1860 or 1870 census.

Samuel's sister, Catharine Hailey, is also named in Edmund Edmundson's will as a daughter of Frances (Edmundson) Hailey. Catharine married "Atha Jenkins" by bond of 13 Jan 1846 (per marriage bond register). In the 1880 census, widow Nancy Edmundson Abbott, age 81, was living with Catharine and Atha's son Andrew Jenkins and family and listed as his aunt (although Nancy actually was his great-aunt).

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Date: **5 Jun 1850** - Deed of Release

From: William T. Ballow and John S. Kent, Trustees

To: ONY [Abbott] PINCHAM, ELIZABETH ABBOTT, and KITTY ABBOTT, Legatees of WILLIAM ABBOTT dec'd

For: \$1.00

Description: release of 330 acres and slaves held by the Trustees with the approbation of James Young & Co.

Purpose: Certain land and negroes (the land being 330 acres adjoining David P. Hudson, Daniel Palmer, David Allen, Nelson K. Foster, and Dabney Terry) were held by trustees William T. Ballow and John S. Kent under a deed of trust from William Abbott dated 6 Mar 1844 for debt of \$1251.18 [1844 deed says \$1250.18] owed to William Bailey and James Young, merchants, operating under the firm James Young & Co. William Abbott is now deceased, and the debt owed to James Young & Co. has been satisfied by the sale of sufficient properties by the Trustees. This deed releases the remainder held by the Trustees to the grantees, all legatees of the land and slaves by the last will and testament of William Abbott.

Signed: Wm. T. Ballow, John S. Kent, James Young & Co.

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 29 Jun 1850

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 53, p. 553. LVA Reel 25. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **6 Nov 1850**

From: NANCY CARR [*née* NANCY ABBOTT, d/o Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay]

To: Thomas A. Carr [son of Nancy Abbott & Thomas Carr (now dec'd)]

For: \$50

Description: all her interest in the slaves held by her mother, Lydia, for lifetime use by the will of her father, Elisha Abbott dec'd and her interest in the "increase" [children] of the female slaves

Signed: Nancy (x) Carr (her mark), Thos A. Carr

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 7 Nov 1850

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 23-24. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Elisha Abbott's 1837 will [*HWB18:295*] gave his wife, Lydia, lifetime use of nine slaves and any children they might have, then after her death, certain of those slaves were to go jointly to five daughters, including Nancy Carr and Sally Richardson (see next record below). Lydia Clay Abbott left Halifax County abt. Dec 1844 and moved with her daughter Alice Abbott's family to Lincoln County, MO, where she is listed as part of Joseph and Alice Abbott's family in the 1850 census.

Lydia's estate accounts show that she left her slaves in Halifax to be leased out for income and that she died in Lincoln County, MO on 4 Oct 1857. [*HWB26:175, 273*] There is no record whereby Lydia released her slaves to the legatees at any time prior to her death. (See report on Elisha Abbott for more details.)

Date: **16 Nov 1850** - Power of Attorney

From: William Richardson of Hart County, KY [h/o SARAH/SALLY ABBOTT, d/o Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay]

To: Richard Thornton Jun'r of Halifax County, VA

Purpose: To grant Power of Attorney to Richard Thornton to act on my behalf and in my stead 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 evidenced by the will of said Abbott recorded in the Clerk's Office of Halifax County Court.

Signed: W'm Richardson

"Halifax - William Richardson personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the said [Halifax] County and acknowledged the said Power of Attorney to be his act and deed..." /s/ Peter Rives

Recorded: 25 Nov 1850

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 41-42. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Elisha and Lydia Clay Abbott's daughter "Sally Abbott" married William Richardson in Halifax County, VA by bond dated 17 Oct 1821 and moved shortly to Hart County, KY. Her father Elisha Abbott's will written 28 Jan 1837 includes Sally Richardson as one of his five daughters who were jointly to inherit certain slaves after the death of their mother, Lydia

Clay Abbott, who had lifetime use. [HWB18:295] According to Elisha's will, Sally/Sarah Richardson was "previously given" her individual legacy from Elisha (probably at her marriage). Thus, this power of attorney can only refer to the slaves Sally was to inherit jointly with four sisters after their mother's death. Sally's sister Nancy Carr, another of the five joint legatees, deeded "all her interest in the slaves held by her mother, Lydia, for lifetime use" on 6 Nov 1850. [HDB54:23] (See deed above.)

Despite these two records in Nov 1850 relating to the slaves Lydia Abbott held for lifetime use, her estate records show Lydia lived another seven years and died 4 Oct 1857 in Lincoln County, MO. [HWB26:175, 273]

Interestingly, William Richardson actually was in Halifax to sign this power of attorney on 16 Nov 1850, although he and Sarah/Sally left Halifax in the early 1820s and William is listed in the 1850 census (enumerated 28 Aug 1850) with his wife Sarah (Abbott) Richardson and their family in Hart County, KY, where they continued to live to their deaths after 1880.

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Date: **19 Nov 1850** - Deed of Agreement

From: MARY ABBOTT, widow of WILLIAM ABBOTT dec'd

To: Alfred Pincham, administrator of the Estate of William Abbott, ELIZABETH ABBOTT, KITTY ABBOTT [Keturah Abbott], and Alfred Pincham and his wife ONEY PINCHAM [née Onisha Abbott] in their own right

Purpose: An Agreement whereby Mary Abbott does covenant and agree to consent to the sale of the [slave] boy Henry bequeathed to her for life by her husband William Abbott's will and for the proceeds to be now divided as hereafter mentioned between Alfred Pincham and his wife Oney, Elizabeth Abbott, and Kitty Abbott, who were to be the devisees after the death of Mary Abbott according to William Abbott's will.

Conditions of Agreement: "The said Alfred Pincham and his wife Oney taking their full third of the proceeds of the sale of the boy after dividing the expenses for crying Boy at sale [ie, paying the auctioneer] & Clerk ticket [ie, fees to record, etc.] to be free from any demand for interest on the amount, in consideration of...Alfred Pincham [the] administrator's releasing Mary Abbott from payment of a Bond due to the Estate...at [the estate] sale for the sum of \$81.50 and also his relinquishing all claims to commissions as administrator of said Estate..."

"Mary Abbott also agrees that the said Elizabeth Abbott and Kitty Abbott shall also take the remainder of the proceeds [of the sale] of the boy Henry after satisfying the deed of trust to James Young & Co. and expenses attending the settlement of same and an open account of \$61.26 due James Young, Kent, & Co. along with a small balance [from?] the neighbourhood debts which the proceeds of Perishable property sold at sale were not sufficient to pay and divide the amount between them the said Elizabeth & Kitty, requiring them to pay her [Mary] interest annually on the respective amounts which they shall each receive."

Each of the others also agrees to the conditions pertaining to each of them.

All of them bind themselves, their heirs, and assigns to the contract agreement under penalty of \$500.

Signed: Mary (x) Abbott (her mark), Elizabeth Abbott, Keturah Abbott, Alfred Pincham, Oney Pincham

Witnesses: Jn'o S. Lewellen, Peter S. Cardwell

Recorded: 25 Nov 1850

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 45-46. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets and minor punctuation added to quotations.]

Note:

William Abbott's 1847 will loaned the slave boy Henry to his wife "Polly" (Mary) for her lifetime, then after her death, the slave was to be sold and the proceeds divided among his daughters Elizabeth, Keturah/Kitty, and Onisha/Ony, wife of Alfred Pincham who also was granted administration of William's estate. Since the heirs agreed to sell the slave prior to Mary's death contrary to the terms of the will, their mutual consent was recorded here along with the sanction of the Estate Administrator, who was also a legatee by right of his wife, Ony.

Mary Abbott and her two unmarried daughters, Elizabeth and Keturah/Kitty, had continued to live together after William Abbott's death in 1848. Apparently Mary died soon after this agreement, as the land that William's will loaned to her for lifetime use was deeded on 6 Sep 1851 by consent of the heirs with no mention of Mary or her dower. [HDB55:124]

1851

Date: **6 Sep 1851**

From: Alfred Pincham, Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM ABBOTT dec'd, ONETIA M. PINCHAM his wife [*née* Onisha Abbott], ELIZABETH R. ABBOTT, and KITTY ABBOTT [ie, Keturah; all three daughters and legatees of William Abbott]

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT [son of William Abbott]

For: \$100 "pursuant to this agreement"

Purpose: The will of William Abbott dec'd directed that the land where he lived at his death be sold ["at public auction after the death of my wife"] and that the money be divided equally among ["my three daughters"] Elizabeth Abbott, Kitty Abbott, and Onetia Pincham, wife of Alfred Pincham, who also was the administrator of the estate. By this Agreement, the land is to be conveyed to Wesley M. Abbott instead of sold at public auction.

Agreement: The said legatees and administrator of William Abbott dec'd agree to make over title and possession of the said land to Wesley M. Abbott, and Wesley in turn agrees and covenants "to pay or cause to be paid" to the others the sum of \$600 "in full consideration for the absolute purchase" of the said tract of land.

Description: 195-1/2 acres where William Abbott resided at the time of his death

Bounds: Daniel Palmer, James H. Hudson, David Hudson, Martin Canada

Signed: Elizabeth B. [*sic; R.*] Abbott, Katurah P. Abbott, Onetia M. Abbott, Alfred Pincham

Witnesses: MOODY ABBOTT [brother of William Abbott], Peter S. Cardwell, Stephen D. Palmer

Release of Dower by Onetia M. Pincham, wife of Alfred Pincham

Recorded: 5 May 1853

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 55, p. 124-125. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

In 1844, William Abbott sold a tract of land to his only surviving son, Wesley M. Abbott. (The acres are not included in the deed, but land taxes indicate it was 70 acres, but as mentioned above, neither William's acres in the land taxes nor the acres in his deeds of trust match his total deeds of purchase and sale.) William's 1847 will bequeathed to Wesley a slave girl

"and nothing else." Unless there is another explanation given, usually this phrase indicates the heir had been given other assets or monies over time that would equal his/her share of inheritance. Two years after the above agreement, in Sep 1853, Wesley and wife Eliza sold 70 acres of land to his sisters Elizabeth and Keturah (deed below). [*HDB55:236*]

There are several interesting items to note in the above document in addition to the agreement itself. First, William's will stipulated that land where he lived should not be sold until after his wife's death. Since there is no mention of Mary or her dower share included in their agreement, Mary Parker Abbott apparently died between her own agreement made 19 Nov 1850 and this deed of 6 Sep 1851.

Second to note is Onisha Pincham's release of dower. Even though Onisha was the actual legatee, the laws were still in effect whereby a husband was the legal owner of any property or "interest in" any property that came to his wife. Thus, Onisha had to formally release her 1/3 dower right as if Alfred had inherited or purchased it himself. Such laws began gradually to change across the country around this time, but it was not until the later 1870s that married women in Virginia were allowed full rights to buy, sell, inherit, and control property separate from their husbands. [*Ref. Evan Roberts, "Women's Rights And Women's Labor" (2006)*]

The third item of interest is the middle initials of the females. The family register that William Abbott wrote with the names and birth dates of each of his children is included in Mary Parker Abbott's pension application, and neither Elizabeth (b. 1789) nor Keturah (b. 1798) was given a middle name or initial at birth. This was normal for their time and place, as middle names did not begin to become popular in the South until the early decades of the 1800s (although several of William and Mary's children born before then did have middle names from birth, including "Wesley Mansfield Abbott" and "Onisha May Abbott"). However, as time went on, middle names/initials became the norm and it was unusual not to have them, so some who were born without them took on their own middle name/initial. Many, like Keturah, used them only sporadically, and some used them just for a while then dropped them as unnecessary.

1852

Date: 26 Jan 1852

From: William M. Cabaniss, Trustee for JOHN ROBERTSON & Nancy his wife [John was son of Frances Abbott (d/o Joseph Abbott Sr.) & John Robertson (Sr.); h/o Nancy Cabaniss]

To: William Henderson

For: \$250

Description: 100 acres, being the land conveyed by Henry Edmunds and wife to said Cabaniss for the benefit of said Jno Robertson and wife on 31 Jan 1827

Bounds: on the north by said Henderson, on the west by the heirs of Frederick Ferrell dec'd, on the south by Jonas Anderson, on the east by David Firesheets

Signed: W'm M. Cabaniss

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 26 Jan 1852

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 399-400. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

This was the land that Nancy Cabaniss Robertson's brother William M. Cabaniss and her brother-in-law Philip Howerton bought in 1827 for Nancy's lifetime use and which they held

for her in trust so it could not be attached to pay debts her husband might incur. [HDB34:400] (Married women could not hold property separate from their husbands, and husbands owned and controlled any properties given to or inherited by their wives.) Between 1845-1846, Nancy and her husband, John Robertson, with all of their children moved from Halifax County, VA to Trigg County, KY, where on 25 May 1853, John and Nancy made their own deed transferring the land to Henderson. [HDB54:4] (See deed below.)

Date: **3 Nov 1852***

From: John H. Edmondson & Eddy his wife, James H. Edmondson and Pamela his wife, THO'S ABBOTT & NANCY his wife, William Tuck and Jane his wife, and Elizabeth Edmondson

To: Samuel R. Hailey

For: [amount left blank]

Description: All right, title, and interest as either distributees of their father Edmund Edmondson dec'd or of Catharine Edmondson dec'd, in the 50 acres whereon the said Samuel R. Hailey now resides

Bounds: None given

Signed: John H. Edmondson, Eddy Edmondson, James H. Edmondson [his wife Pamela did not sign], Thomas Abbott, Nancy (x) Abbott (her mark), Wm (x) Tuck ["his mark" omitted], Jane W. Tuck, Elizabeth (x) Edmondson (her mark)

Witnesses: None

Releases of Dower by Eddy Edmondson, Nancy Abbott, Jane Tuck, and Pamela Edmondson

Recorded: 6 Nov 1852

*Day and month left blank in deed but stated as the deed date in the releases of dower certificate

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 564-564. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added]

Note:

As discussed above, Samuel R. Hailey was a grandson of Edmund Edmondson by his deceased daughter Frances "Fannie" Edmondson and her husband Royal Hailey. (See Note above for deed dated 4 Apr 1850. [HDB54:448])

1853

Date: **25 May 1853**

From: JOHN ROBERTSON and Nancy C. Robertson his wife of Trigg County, Kentucky

To: William Henderson of Halifax

For: \$250 paid by Henderson to their agent William Cabaniss

Description: 100 acres in Halifax County, Virginia, "being the same land conveyed to him said Robertson by Richard Haines or by some one for him and conveyed to Cabaniss as Trustee for Nancy Robertson"

Bounds: Nat Ragsdale [Nathaniel Ragsdale], Frederick Ferrell, Wm Henderson, and Jonas Anderson

Signed: John (x) Robertson (his mark), Nancy C. Robertson

Witness: A. S. Dabney

25 May 1853 - Trigg Co., KY - Deed was acknowledged by John Robertson and his wife Nancy C. Robertson relinquished her dower before Albert S. Dabney, Clerk of Trigg County

Court, who certified the deed and dower release. These certifications were certified by Thos. C. Dabney, Presiding Judge of Trigg County Court.

Recorded: 26 Feb 1855, Clerk's Office of Halifax County Court

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 4-5. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This deed as written is confusing. There is no deed indexed whereby a Richard Haines conveyed land to John Robertson, only John's 1824 deed to Richard W. Haymes for 7.5 acres on the Danville Road that Nancy inherited from her father Matthew Cabaniss. This deed is for the land referred to in the 1827 trusteeship deed and being released here to William Henderson, who purchased it from the Trustee William M. Cabaniss in 1852.

This deed proves that the John Robertson with wife Nancy in Trigg County, KY is the same John Robertson with wife Nancy Cabaniss formerly of Halifax County, VA.

Date: 15 Oct 1853

From: WESLEY M. ABBOTT and Eliza A. Abbott his wife [s/o William Abbott & Mary Parker]

To: ELIZABETH R. ABBOTT and KATURAH ABBOTT [daus. of William & Mary Abbott]

For: \$200

Description: 70 acres, Difficult Creek

Bounds: David Allen, David Hudson, James Hudson

Signed: Wesley M. Abbott, Eliza A. Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Eliza A. Abbott, wife of Wesley Abbott

Recorded: 15 Oct 1853

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 55, p. 236-237. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

1857

Date: 16 Nov 1857

From: ELIZABETH R. ABBOTT and KATURAH ABBOTT [daus. William Abbott]

To: Edward J. Owen [grandson of Hatcher Owen & Mary Abbott]

For: Value received and in consideration of the fact that Edward J. Owen is to furnish the said Abbots with a home and necessary provisions during their lives.

Description: All of the property they may possess at their deaths, including slaves (Mary, her child Milton, Nannie who belongs to Keturah Abbott, and the two other slaves to Elizabeth R. Abbott), household and kitchen furniture, all their stock of every description, and any other property they may own at their decease. Each of the grantors' property is intended to pass to the said Owen at the death of each of the grantors respectively.

Signed: Elizabeth Abbott, Keturah Abbott

Witnesses: William H. Owen [brother of Edward J. Owen], Thomas L. Roberts

Recorded: 16 Nov 1857

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 306-307. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

The Owens were close neighbors and friends of the Abbots long before Hatcher Owen married William Abbott's sister Mary Abbott in 1787 and they then became related as well. When William Abbott wrote his will in 1847, he appointed one of his executors to be Hatcher and Mary Abbott Owen's son William Owen, whose sons Edward J. Owen (the above

grantee), William H. Owen, and James M. Owen witnessed the will. [HWB22:24] In 1848, James M. Owen married Lucy J. Robertson, a sister of Eliza Robertson, wife of William Abbott's son Wesley M. Abbott (brother of Elizabeth and Keturah).

The Abbots and Owens were also long-time close neighbors and relations of the Roberts family of witness Thomas L. Roberts, with numerous intermarriages through the years. As recently as 1854, Thomas' brother John H. Roberts married Mary A. Owen, a sister of Edward J. Owen, both grandchildren of Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen, whose first wife was Elizabeth Roberts. Thomas and John were sons of William D. Roberts and Mary R. W. Hill. William D. Roberts helped appraise the estate of William's sister Elizabeth Abbott on 15 Mar 1839. [HWB19:175] His wife, Mary R. W. Roberts, was widowed by the 1840 census, and by 1844, she employed as an overseer John J. Abbott [HDB51:49], son of William Abbott's brother Richard Abbott and his wife Catharine Fulkerson, whose mother was Sally Roberts, sister of Elizabeth Roberts Owen (Hatcher's first wife).

Thus, this deed is one of many examples of the continuing connections among the Abbots and their relations in the Difficult Creek area near today's Crystal Hill, VA.

Date: 15 Dec 1857

From: ELIZABETH R. ABBOTT and KETURAH ABBOTT [daus. of William Abbott]

To: Simeon Allen

For: \$400

Description: 70 acres on Difficult Creek

Bounds: David Allen [father of Simeon Allen], David Hudson, and James Hudson

Signed: Elizabeth R. Abbott, Katurah^[sic] Abbott

Witnesses: William Owen, Edward J. Owen, Zachariah Standley

Recorded: 28 Dec 1857

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 383-384. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Witness William Owen was a son of Hatcher & Mary Abbott Owen and the father of Edward J. Owen discussed with the previous deed above. Elizabeth and Keturah's father William Abbott and his brother Richard Abbott both sold original Abbott lands to the adjacent landowners David Allen (father of the purchaser Simeon Allen and listed as 93 years old in the 1860 census) and David Hudson. Witness Zachariah Stanley's family had owned land near and sometimes adjacent to Abbott lands since the 1760s.

In the 1860 census, Elizabeth and Keturah Abbott were living together listed four households from Edward J. Owen and listed next to Edward's brother William H. Owen (who died during the upcoming Civil War). They appear to be living in a home provided by Edward (as he promised), since Simeon Allen is listed between several of the above-named bounds and 23 census pages from Elizabeth and Keturah. William's daughter Elizabeth Abbott died in 1867, and Keturah died abt. 1870.

1858

Date: 7 Apr 1858

From: Jesse T. ROBERTSON & ELIZABETH his wife of Rockingham Co., NC [d/o Moody Abbott & Martha Lindsey]

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT of Halifax [son of William Abbott & Mary Parker]

For: \$650

Description: All our interest in three tracts of land in Halifax Co. which we inherited by the will of Christopher Robertson dec'd

Bounds: First tract: 289 acres, called the Winns Creek Tract, bounded by William Bailey, Pleasant C. Robertson [brother of Jesse], Edward J. Owen [grandson of Hatcher Owen & Mary Abbott, sister of Moody and William Abbott], "and others"

Second tract: 135 acres, called the Carlton [Carleton] Tract, bounded by Richard Logan, James S. Easley, "and others"

Third tract: 20.5 acres, called the Epps Tract, bounded by James Young, Joseph C. Terry, and Banister River

Signed: Jesse T. Robertson, Elizabeth M. Robertson [*née* Elizabeth M. Abbott]

Release of Dower by Elizabeth M. Robertson, wife of Jesse T. Robertson

Recorded: *6 Apr 1858 - Halifax Clerk's Office - Ack. by Jesse T. Robertson & Elizabeth M. Robertson

*Note: The deed is dated 7 Apr but the record date is 6 Apr. The penstroke makes some mentions of Jesse's middle initial look like "F," but in other places it is written clearly as "T," which is correct.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 480-482. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This and the next four deeds relate to land devised by the will of Christopher Robertson written 15 Jul 1857 and proved 26 Oct 1857 in Halifax Court. [*HWB25:479*] The will names his four children by his first (unnamed) wife as Pleasant C. Robertson, Eliza A. Abbott (wife of Wesley M. Abbott), Jesse T. Robertson (husband of Elizabeth M. Abbott, daughter of Moody Abbott & Martha W. Lindsey), and William W. Robertson.

Christopher's son Jesse T. Robertson and wife Elizabeth M. Abbott moved from Halifax to Rockingham County, NC abt. 1848. By the deed above, they sold his interest in the jointly-inherited tracts to Elizabeth's cousin Wesley M. Abbott and his wife Eliza Ann Robertson, a sister of Jesse and devisee of Christopher Robertson in her own right. This rest of this series of deeds variously divides the lands among the three legatees still in Halifax, with each releasing their claims on the other one's share. Together the tracts jointly devised to these four children comprised one-half of Christopher Robertson's significant estate.

Christopher Robertson's second wife, by whom he had seven surviving children with their own inheritance, was Elizabeth Penick, a sister of Judith Penick, second wife of Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen's son William Owen.

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Date: 7 Apr 1858

From: WESLEY M. ABBOTT and Eliza his wife and Pleasant C. Robertson

To: William W. Robertson

For: \$935

Description: All of our interest (which is three-fourths) in two tracts of land which we inherited by the will of Christopher Robertson dec'd

Bounds: First tract: 135 acres, called the Carleton tract, bounded by Richard Logan, James S. Easley, "and others"

Second tract: 20.5 acres, bounded by James Young, Joseph C. Terry, and Banister River

Signed: Wesley M. Abbott, Eliza A. Abbott, Pleasant C. Robertson

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Eliza A. Abbott [*née* Eliza Ann Robertson]

Recorded: 7 Apr 1858

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 79-80. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: **24 Apr 1858**

From: Pleasant C. Robertson and William W. Robertson

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT and wife Eliza

For: the premises and for a like conveyance for our several portions of the same tract that the said Wesley M. Abbott and his wife Eliza have made to each of us and for \$1.00 to each of us

Purpose: Whereas Pleasant C. Robertson, William W. Robertson, Eliza Abbott wife of Wesley M. Abbott, and Wesley M. Abbott by purchase from Jesse T. Robertson are all heirs and distributees of a certain tract of land by the will of Christopher Robertson dec'd and being all of lawful age and having divided among themselves, a certain parcel of 130-2/4 acres was allotted to Wesley M. Abbott and Eliza his wife. By this deed the grantors release our interests in this land for the considerations as stated

Description: 130-2/4 acres (except the right of way allotted to Pleasant C. Robertson by his father Christopher Robertson and expressly reserved to Pleasant C. Robertson)

Bounds: Pleasant C. Robertson, William W. Robertson, Winns Creek, Owen, Meeting House lot, Thomas

Signed: Pleasant C. Robertson, W'm W. Robertson

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 24 Apr 1858

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 512-513. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

As mentioned above, Christopher Robertson's 1857 will bequeathed half of his real property ("the remainder of my estate") to be equally divided among "the children of my [unnamed] first wife," namely Pleasant C. Robertson, William W. Robertson, Jesse T. Robertson, and Eliza A. Robertson, then wife of Wesley M. Abbott. On 7 Apr 1858, Wesley M. Abbott purchased the interest held by Jesse T. Robertson, who then was married to Wesley's cousin Elizabeth M. Abbott (d/o Moody Abbott & Martha Lindsey) and living in Rockingham County, NC. [*HDB57:480*] The remaining three legatees and Wesley Abbott, by right of owning Jesse's share, divided the jointly-bequeathed land among themselves by agreement.

Date: **24 Apr 1858**

From: Pleasant C. Robertson and WESLEY M. ABBOTT & Eliza Abbott his wife

To: William W. Robertson

For: the premises and for a like conveyance for our several portions of the same tract that the said William W. Robertson has made to each of us and for \$1.00 to each of us

Purpose: Whereas Pleasant C. Robertson, William W. Robertson, Eliza Abbott wife of Wesley M. Abbott, and Wesley M. Abbott by purchase from Thomas Robertson [Jesse T. Robertson] are all heirs and distributees of a certain tract of land by the will of Christopher Robertson dec'd and being all of lawful age and having divided among themselves, a certain parcel of 78-1/4 acres was allotted to William W. Robertson. By this deed the grantors release our interests in this land for the considerations as stated

Description: all of the interests of each of us in 78-1/4 acres in two tracts

Bounds: First tract: 29-5/8 acres, bounded by Winns Creek below the old Mill dam, stake near the old Meeting House Spring, Thomas, Stevens, and Bailey - Second tract: 48-5/8 acres, bounded by Meeting House lot, Owens, Coles Road as it meanders [today's Anderson Road/Route 626].

Signed: Pleasant C. Robertson, Wesley M. Abbott, Eliza A. Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Eliza A. Abbott

Recorded: 24 Apr 1858

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 513-515. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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Date: **24 Apr 1858**

From: William W. Robertson and WESLEY M. ABBOTT & Eliza Abbott his wife

To: Pleasant C. Robertson

For: the premises and for a like conveyance for our several portions of the same tract that the said Pleasant C. Robertson has made to each of us and for \$1.00 to each of us

Purpose: Whereas William Robertson, Pleasant C. Robertson, Eliza Abbott wife of Wesley M. Abbott, and Wesley M. Abbott by purchase from Thomas Robertson [Jesse T. Robertson] are all heirs and distributees of a certain tract of land by the will of Christopher Robertson dec'd and being all of lawful age and having divided the land among ourselves, a certain parcel of 80-1/4 acres was allotted to Pleasant C. Robertson. By this deed the grantors release our interests in this land for the considerations as stated

Description: all of the interests of each of us in 80-1/4 acres

Bounds: Winns Creek, stake near the old Meeting House, Owen

Signed: W'm W. Robertson, Wesley M. Abbott, Eliza A. Abbott

Witnesses: None

Release of Dower by Eliza A. Abbott

Recorded: 24 Apr 1858

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 57, p. 515-516. LVA Reel 27. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

By 1900, the only Abbott families still living in Halifax County were sons of Wesley M. Abbott and Eliza Ann Robertson. As late as the 1940 census (the last one available), several grandsons of Wesley were still living in the area where their great-great-grandfather Joseph Abbott settled in 1762.

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Research by Joan Horsley as of Dec 2013

Contact: JHGenResearch-Abbott@yahoo.com - Website: www.joanhorsley.org

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

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