

**JOSEPH ABBOTT and FAMILY
of Halifax County, Virginia**

Research Report by Joan Horsley
Based on Research as of December 2013
© 2013 by J. Horsley
Contact: JHGenResearch-Abbott@yahoo.com

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Joseph Abbott's Life in Summary	2
Joseph Abbott's Birth Date Surprise	3
Joseph Abbott's Birth Place	4
Joseph Abbott's Family of Origin	5
Early Abbott Families in King and Queen County, Virginia	6
Early Abbott Families Near King and Queen County, Virginia	7
Early Abbott Families in Stafford County, Virginia	8
Early Abbott Families in Massachusetts	8
Early Abbott Families in Lunenburg County, Virginia, Parent County of Halifax	10
Joseph Abbott's Wives and Children	11
The Abbotts and Richard and Rachel Brown	15
Benjamin Abbott Goes to Court in Early Halifax County, Virginia	17
Joseph Abbott's Family Life in King and Queen County, Virginia	19
Joseph Abbott and Family Move to Halifax County - 1762	20
Joseph Abbott and Family - 1763-1773: Two Weddings and a Funeral	22
Joseph Abbott and Family - The Revolutionary War Years	28
Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott - Hostilities on the Home Front	31
Joseph Abbott and Family - The Post-War Years	35
Death of Joseph Abbott - 1788	38
Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1788-1810: A Time of Change	42
Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1811-1818: Grief and Loss	45
Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1820: Prosperity and Thanksgiving	50
Death of Frances Abbott - 1822-1823	52
Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1826-1844: Life Goes On But So Does Death	54
Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1848-1862: The End of an Era	55
Conclusion	58
Addendum: The Search for Joseph Abbott's Family of Origin	59
Descendants of Joseph Abbott (Outline)	74

Introduction

Joseph Abbott brought his family to Halifax County, Virginia about 1762, just 10 years after the county was formed along the North Carolina border in what was then Virginia's southwestern frontier. Joseph's eldest son had been living there for over twelve years, arriving when the area was still part of Lunenburg County. When Joseph died in early 1788, he left 16 children in Halifax, the last of whom died in 1862 in the same Halifax area where the Abbotts settled a century before. Today's Abbott Hill Road just east of Crystal Hill, VA encircles the general location of the family's original lands, the place where Joseph Abbott's descendants throughout the United States and abroad have their roots.

The current research project tells the story of Joseph Abbott and his family as revealed through the documents made during their lifetimes. These primary records correct many misconceptions and errors currently found in repetitive undocumented online family files (including Ancestry.com Trees and LDS/FamilySearch Pedigree Resource Files) and in previously published works that focused on a single later line. Earlier family historians kept interest in the Abbott family story alive through the generations, and they often had personal knowledge and family papers with information on later generations not publicly available. To them we are all deeply indebted. However, they did not have the research resources we have today to locate and access the earliest original records and to assess them in light of the laws and historical context behind them. Thus, erroneous assumptions and guesses were made that passed down and still persist mistakenly as fact.

During the third generation in the early 1800s, Joseph Abbott's grandchildren began leaving Halifax for the new American frontiers south and west. This project traces them to their new homes to prove their connection to the Halifax Abbotts (eliminating some who proved to be currently misidentified) and adds some little-known information about later generations. Given their large number and the constraints of time and expense, these Abbott families were followed after they leave Halifax only to the extent that I could document them with limited access to local records in the far-flung places of their migrations. My own line through John J. Abbott, son of Joseph Abbott's son Richard Abbott and wife Catharine Fulkerson, I was able to document to the present, although for privacy I omit the generations still living.

The primary focus of this project, however, is on Joseph Abbott and his children during their years in Halifax County, where little original research has been done previously, in order to document, correct, and expand what we know of our earliest Abbott ancestors, their lives, and their community. Every attempt has been made to obtain all surviving Halifax records for them to 1800 and the most significant records indexed for them to 1860. These include court orders, deeds, land patents and surveys, yearly personal property tax lists, land tax lists, marriage records, wills, probate records, voter lists, parish records, special county enumerations, U.S. censuses, and pre-1752 Lunenburg County deeds, court records, and tithables lists. The major document groups--deeds, court records, and wills and probate--are compiled chronologically with explanatory notes in separate sections of this research report. Narrative reports on each of Joseph Abbott's 16 proved children that focus on the details of each child's life, spouse, and children comprise another section of the full report.

These compiled records present a clear picture of the evidence upon which the research conclusions are based. Narrative reports include abbreviated inline citations that give specific records for the information and evidence being discussed. Endnotes in the family group reports give the evidence source for each person's name, dates, and places. *If you pass on the information, please also pass on the citation or endnote source and cite this report* so that documentation is preserved for future generations to separate fiction from fact.

Joseph Abbott's Life in Summary

Joseph Abbott is our earliest proved ancestor, as his parents are unknown. (The Massachusetts parents repeatedly given for him in numerous online files are definitely not his parents, as we shall see.) We can quickly summarize Joseph's life as revealed in the records thus:

Joseph Abbott was born abt. 1710 likely in or near King and Queen County, Virginia. Based on the proved and closely-approximated ages of his children, Joseph apparently had three wives. He married for the first time abt. 1728, when his first child is proved to be born, and married again around 1754, but the names of those two wives are unknown. Joseph married his third and only known wife, Frances (her maiden name is unknown), abt. 1765, three years after moving from King & Queen to Halifax County, Virginia. His last child seems to be born abt. 1777 but possibly as late as 1782. Joseph owned 500 acres at Difficult Creek in north-central Halifax just east of today's Crystal Hill, VA, where he prospered well above the average farmer in his time and place. Joseph Abbott died in early 1788 leaving a will that names his wife Frances (who survived him by 35 years) and 16 surviving children, all still living in Halifax County. [HWB2:298]

Anyone with even rudimentary information currently available about Joseph Abbott will be surprised by much in that brief summary. No one could be more surprised than I was at some of the research discoveries and particularly Joseph's age. Nevertheless, the summary statements are all firmly grounded in evidence from primary records, which are fascinatingly revealing. We discuss the evidence throughout this report, and all records are included in the compiled and annotated Abbott records included in the overall research report.

Joseph Abbott's Birth Date Surprise

Previously, Joseph Abbott's birth year was estimated to be abt. 1723, presumably based on erroneous alleged parents and on his first son Benjamin's estimated birth year abt. 1744, which in turn was based on Benjamin's first known son Elisha, who is now proved born bet. 1764-1765. However, current research has found proof that Joseph's eldest son, Benjamin Abbott, was considerably older and born abt. 1728 instead.

A Halifax Court order of 20 Mar 1753 shows that Benjamin Abbott was a legal adult obligated to a debt he owed from 1 Jul 1749 when the area was still Lunenburg County. [HPB1:71] The next year, 1750, Benjamin is listed as a legal adult responsible for his own taxes in the Lunenburg tithables. (If Benjamin were married by 1749, for which there is some evidence as discussed in the report for him, then Benjamin would be legally responsible as an adult even if not quite yet 21, but he still would not be significantly younger.)

Unlike most of Joseph Abbott's children, the age of his youngest child, Fleming Abbott, is hard to estimate closely. He is proved by his next older brothers' court records to be born no earlier than 1777, and he probably is 21 in his mother's tax list beginning in 1798. (Evidence of ages from various records for her children show Frances had a child born about every year unless some are twins, and Fleming's next older brother, Moses, apparently was 21 when listed as "Frances Abbott & Son" in her tax list of 1797.) Fleming witnessed the will of a neighbor in March 1803, and almost certainly was 21 or older at the time, thus born no later than early 1782. [HWB6:545] For a man to father children in his 70s is unusual but certainly not unknown. (One need only recall a U.S. Senator from South Carolina in the later 1900s who fathered children into his 70s, and I have come across several in Joseph Abbott's time.) Still, such late paternity limits the feasible timeframe when Joseph was born. Given the evidence that his eldest child was born abt. 1728 and his youngest born bet. 1777-1782, Joseph Abbott apparently was born abt. 1710.

That Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin is the same Benjamin Abbott in Halifax's parent county of Lunenburg in 1749 and 1750 is proved by all combined Abbott records and the absence of any other of that name at that time. There is no record, or even an indication by gaps in the records, that an older Benjamin Abbott, such as a brother of Joseph, died or moved away and then Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin began appearing in the records instead. All combined records show that only one Benjamin Abbott, Joseph's son, was continuously in the same place with the same people as Joseph once he arrives in Halifax.

Two records in particular in 1762 and 1763 prove Benjamin's identity directly. Without question, Joseph's son Benjamin was in Halifax at least by 1762, when Joseph arrived with the rest of his family from King and Queen County. *[NARA W5616]* Supporting that presumption, on 21 Jul 1763 *[HDB7:520]*, Benjamin Abbott witnessed a deed from Richard Brown (also closely involved with Joseph, as discussed shortly) using the same mark as when Benjamin deeded property to his children in the 1790s. *[eg, HDB12:286]*

The previous year on 27 May 1762, Benjamin Abbott transferred to Richard Brown his interest in a land patent survey Benjamin had made with Richard Brown on 14 Feb 1750/51 when the area was still Lunenburg County. *[HSB:27]* Then, in August 1763, Benjamin Abbott gave a Halifax Court deposition about a conversation he heard between Andrew Wade Sr. and Nathaniel Hunt that took place in 1755. *[HPB4:199]* In the Halifax Court of 18 Sep 1753, Nathaniel Hunt and Andrew Wade's son Benjamin Wade were securities on the bond required from Benjamin Abbott for one year's good behavior. *[HPB1:182]* In 1750, Benjamin Abbott and Richard Brown are on the same Lunenburg tithables list as Andrew Wade Sr. and his older sons, including Benjamin Wade. Benjamin Abbott is on numerous Halifax deed and court records with sons of Andrew Wade Sr. for over 20 years, and in Halifax Court of June 1769, both Benjamin Abbott and his father Joseph Abbott were paid as witnesses for Andrew's son John Wade in his suit regarding his father's estate. *[HPB6:378]* Thus, in addition to the overall evidence, the particular evidence from these 1762 and 1763 records clearly establishes Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin as the one going back in Lunenburg/Halifax records to the 1749 debt. (For further evidence and discussion, see the report on Benjamin Abbott and the annotated records themselves.)

Joseph Abbott's Birth Place

We know from Joseph's son William Abbott's application for a Revolutionary War pension that when William was born in 1756, his family was living in King and Queen County, Virginia. *[NARA File W5616]* Given the general migration patterns of the early 1700's, if Joseph were born in the Colonies, he likely was born in King and Queen County or in the same immediate vicinity.

King and Queen is a small finger of a county on the "middle peninsula" of the Tidewater Region in northeastern Virginia near the Chesapeake Bay and abt. 120 miles south of Washington, DC. The area was one of the earliest to be settled in the 1600s as the growing population of incoming settlers spread northwest from the Chesapeake up the York River and its tributary the Mattaponi along the lower side of the peninsula and up the Rappahannock River along the upper side. The land was swampy but fertile with numerous creeks for transportation and wharfs along the rivers and other navigable waterways to ship out crops and bring in supplies. Today King and Queen County remains primarily rural. Within its current boundaries, basically set in 1728, King & Queen is no more than 10 miles

wide at any point and abt. 60 miles long. Stretching southeast to northwest along the middle of the peninsula, King & Queen is surrounded by seven adjacent counties, each of which played a role in its history both before and after its official formation in 1691.

Unfortunately, due to courthouse fires almost no early records survive for King and Queen County or for five of its seven adjoining counties. They are: New Kent (formed 1654, from which King & Queen was formed in 1691), King William County (formed 1701 from the western side of King & Queen), Caroline County (formed 1728 in part from the north end of K&Q), Gloucester County (formed 1651, adjacent on the southeastern end of K&Q), and James City County (an original "shire" in 1634, at the south end of K&Q across the York River). Some parish records for a few of these areas still exist, but they are incomplete and cover limited time spans. The other two adjacent counties do have surviving early deed, will, and court records. These are Middlesex County (formed c1669) to the east and Essex County (formed 1692) along the northeastern side, formerly part of "Old" Rappahannock County (formed in 1656 and dissolved in 1692).

Joseph Abbott's Family of Origin

Extensive research was undertaken to try to identify Joseph Abbott's family of origin and other relatives or possible ancestors. The search was based primarily on land grants and abstracts of the relatively complete deeds, wills, court orders, and surviving parish records for adjacent Middlesex County and adjacent Essex County (including now-extinct "Old" Rappahannock from which Essex was formed) as well as the accessible few resources remaining for the relevant "burned counties" of King and Queen and its other five adjacent counties. The results of that research with annotated records and sources are compiled as a separate Addendum. The following is a summary of the most pertinent parts.

Disappointingly, we still know almost nothing about Joseph Abbott's parents, siblings, first marriages, or the first 50-odd years of his life. Given the scarcity of surviving early records in and around King and Queen County and the time gaps in the records found, it is impossible at this point to prove or even to be reasonably sure of Joseph's family of origin or earlier ancestors. In addition, most early records pertain mainly to landowners, who often comprised only 10-25% of a county's free white adult male population during Virginia's early Colonial period, so there easily could be numerous "invisible" Abbotts in the area we do not know existed. In fact, only by Joseph's son's 1832 pension statement do we know for certain that Joseph himself ever lived in King and Queen.

Still, from the scant records found, we can perhaps risk a speculation. It seems possible that an immigrant named William Abbott in early Essex County, VA *might* be the ancestor of a Jacob Abbott, a John Abbott, and our Joseph Abbott, all later in adjacent King and Queen. At the least they all could be related. The "invisible" residents notwithstanding, the latter three were the only Abbotts found in King and Queen during Joseph's proved time there, and William Abbott seems the only feasible possibility for an ancestor among the Abbotts found in the area in the relevant time period. Nevertheless, their possible relationships are, and have to remain, mere speculation unless more evidence is found.

Early Abbott Families in King and Queen County, Virginia

Joseph Abbott had an obviously close relative in King and Queen named Jacob Abbott, whose land was adjacent to a land grant issued to Joseph Abbott. Joseph's son William Abbott's pension statement says that Joseph and the family moved to Halifax the year before the patent deed (below) was written, but Joseph probably used this land for years before, since the formal patent deeds sometimes were issued long after the applicant obtained the required survey for the desired unclaimed land. In fact, the deed states that 50 acres of this land were "formerly patented." Although it does not specify Joseph as their original patentee, no patent on Hogg House branch was previously issued. The adjacent Jacob Abbott is not recorded with a patent, and since county deed records are lost, we do not know when he purchased his land or what other land Joseph may have owned.

- - - - -

7 Jul 1763 - Land Patent to JOSEPH ABBOTT - King and Queen County

64 acres, adjacent to JACOB ABBOTT and Thomas Stevens near the head of the Hogg House branch. 50 acres part thereof formerly patented "the Right and Title whereof is now become Vested in the said Joseph Abbott" and 14 acres the residue never before granted.

[Source: Virginia Land Office Patent Book 35, p. 294, Library of Virginia, online image. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

- - - - -

This Jacob Abbott could be a brother of Joseph. Combined evidence indicates he probably is the Jacob Abbott who first appears in area records in Essex County in 1727, when he was at least 21 years old. [ECO1725-1729:154] Jacob last appears in Essex in Nov 1751, even though the vestry book where he appears from 1739 to 1751 continues to 1779. [South Farnham Vestry Book, p. 8] He is not found later elsewhere in the area and seems a relatively young man, thus he could well be the Jacob Abbott with land next to Joseph in King and Queen by 1763. A younger Jacob Abbott (b. c1740), who could be the elder Jacob's son (or less likely, could be Joseph's adjoining neighbor), married a woman in adjacent Middlesex County abt. 1765. He lived in King and Queen throughout the 1780s and died there bet. 1791-1792. [K&Q PP tax lists 1782-1803] He had at two proved sons, Abner Abbott and Jacob Abbott Jr., who are shown by tax lists to be born abt. 1769 and 1771 respectively. Abner in abt. 1801 and Jacob Jr. in abt. 1804 moved their families to the part of Harrison County, VA that became Lewis County then Upshur County, VA, later part of West Virginia. [See Addendum for details.]

At least by 1759, three years after Joseph Abbott's son William was born in King and Queen, there was also a John Abbott in King and Queen County. He is mentioned in the vestry book for Stratton Major Parish in 1759 and again in 1767, by which time he was widowed with several adult daughters still living with him. [Chamberlayne, p. 24, 168] This John Abbott would be around the age of Joseph Abbott and probably the older Jacob and thus is another possible brother. John's son, also named John Abbott (b. c1737), married abt. 1762 in adjacent Middlesex County, VA and died there in 1776 [MWB:82], leaving a widow and at least three proved children. [MWB1795-1798:65] His only surviving son, Vivion/Bevin Abbott (b. c1773), married in Middlesex in 1801 and moved his family abt. 1808 first to Clark County, KY then by 1820 to Woodford County, KY. [See Addendum for details.]

The only feasible possibility found in the immediate area for the father of Joseph Abbott and his possible brothers Jacob and John was a William Abbott who appears in records for Old Rappahannock/Essex County, adjacent along the northeast side of King and Queen. William

Abbott immigrated into Virginia by 5 Mar 1689/90, when his headright was used by Capt. George Taylor to obtain a certificate for 1150 acres, as recorded in Old Rappahannock Court on that date. [RCO1686-1692:151(199)] In 1692, Old Rappahannock became extinct when it was divided into Richmond County (on the north side of the Rappahannock River) and Essex (on the south side). Three years later, William Abbott, “planter” (ie, farmer) of Essex County, purchased land in Essex:

- - - - -

23 Feb 1694/5 - Deed to “WILLIAM ABBOT” from Nicholas Franklin, both “Planters” of Essex Co. 20 acres in Essex Co. on the South West side of Occopation Creek [Occupacia Creek], adjacent to Nicholas Franklin, John Hackley Senr, and Richard Goode Senr.

/s/ Nicho. Franklin - Witnesses: Jerem Parker [Jeremiah Parker], Cornelius Sale

Recorded: 11 Mar 1794/5

[Source: Essex Records 1692-1695, p. 334-335. Abstracted by J. Horsley from Sparacio, p. 73-74.]

- - - - -

William Abbott continues in Essex Court records in 1699, 1700, and 1702. In Virginia’s 1704 Rent Rolls (“quit rent” was a form of land tax), William is the only Abbott landowner in Essex and then owned 150 acres of land. (There are only four other Abbott landowners in the Virginia 1704 rent rolls, none of whom seem likely progenitors of Joseph Abbott’s line.) William Abbott leaves the Essex records after that year. He could have moved into adjacent King and Queen, where any records for him are now lost, but that is only a hypothetical possibility. [See Addendum for records and other details.]

Taken together, the surviving records are too incomplete to draw any clear conclusions, much less to prove if or how the above William, Jacob, and John might relate to Joseph Abbott, but some close relationships among them seem likely.

Early Abbott Families Near King and Queen County, Virginia

Surviving land records show other early Abbotts in the same area where we first find Joseph Abbott. One of the deeds rescued from a courthouse fire in adjacent King William County (formed 1701 from K&Q) shows a Robert Abbott lived there in 1704. [KWRB1:231] He may be the same or related to Robert Abbott who witnessed a power of attorney filed in 1669 in Old Rappahannock County. [RRB4:129] The power of attorney involved two men of the same name and rank as two who were in King William in 1704. [See Addendum for details.]

Quit Rent Rolls for 1704 list only five Abbott landowners at that time in Virginia (although these rolls exclude the five Northern Neck counties on the north side of the Rappahannock River). Three of the five Abbotts listed were in counties adjacent to King and Queen, but only William seems likely to be somehow related to Joseph Abbott. The 1704 landowners were: William Abbott in Essex County (discussed above), Robert Abbott in King William (who had the deed there the same year), and Francis Abbott in James City County (across the York River from the southern end of King and Queen). The other two, Roger Abbott and John Abbott, were in Accomack County, which is across the Chesapeake Bay abt. 60 miles east of King & Queen and which had a different kind of settlement pattern from the King & Queen area. Wills and deeds for several early generations of Accomack Abbotts show no likely relationship between them and Joseph or the other Abbotts in the King & Queen area.

Going farther back in time, Virginia land patents in the 1600s include Abbots in New Kent (parent county of K&Q), Gloucester (adjacent on the southeast of K&Q), and James City County (also adjacent to K&Q and where a Francis Abbott owned land in 1704). The Michael Abbott who is named as a bound (ie, adjacent landowner) in a 1683 land grant in New Kent County is of particular interest, since King & Queen was formed from the eastern part of New Kent only eight years later in 1691. However, the land seems to be in the part that became King William. The families of Gessige and Richeson, named as other bounds in the grant, were later in King William County (formed 1701 from K&Q), where a Robert Abbott also lived by 1704: *[See Addendum for details.]*

Six earlier land patents in the immediate King and Queen County area name Abbots going back to 1642. These, too, are included in the Addendum.

Early Abbott Families in Stafford County, Virginia

Numerous online family files mistake Joseph Abbott's family for an Abbott family in Stafford County, VA (as we discuss in more detail later). Neither Joseph nor any of his children ever lived, married, or died in Stafford, located abt. 80 miles northwest of King and Queen and 175 miles northeast of Halifax County, VA. However, the surviving parts of the Register of Overwharton Parish prove that at least by Jan 1755 an extended John Abbott family was living in Stafford County. *[Boogher, Overwharton Parish Register p. 6-7]* Over thirty years later, most of this family was still in Stafford. In 1789, four adult male Abbots were living in Stafford County. They were John Abbott Sr., George Abbott, Elijah Abbott, and James Abbott. *[Stafford PP Taxes, LVA Reel 327]* George is likely the same or closely related to the George Abbott "son of John" born in Stafford in 1757. John Abbott Sr. in 1789 may be the one who married Margaret Lyons in Stafford in 1758 or the John Abbott "son of John" born 1755, all recorded in the Overwharton Parish Register. The families of Ann Abbott, wife of Ephraim Knight, and of Rachel Abbott, wife of Peter Knight, whose marriages in the 1750s are also recorded in the Overwharton Parish Register, were likewise still living in Stafford in 1789. As in King and Queen County, most early county records for Stafford have not survived, and even the newly-discovered Stafford Court records from 1749-1758 reveal nothing more about the Abbott families there. A migration up the Rappahannock River from the King and Queen and Essex area to Stafford County was common, so some relationship between Joseph Abbott and the Stafford Abbots possibly could exist, but so far there is no evidence the two Abbott lines were related or connected in any way.

Early Abbott Families in Massachusetts

Another error in numerous online family files claims that Joseph Abbott was born in Massachusetts, an idea first published in 1906 and now proved in error yet still widely disseminated via the internet.

In *Descendants of George Abbott, of Rowley, Mass.* Vol 2, published in Boston in 1906 by the author, Maj. Lemuel Abijah Abbott wrote, "Joseph Abbott, the original settler of the name, of Halifax Co., Va., was probably a son of Capt. John and Elizabeth (Phipps) Abbott, of Mass., Ct. [Connecticut], and No. and So. Carolina." *[p.1038]* However, Capt. John Abbott and Elizabeth Phipps married in Lexington, Middlesex County, MA on 18 Oct 1721, so by date alone they are definitively ruled out as the parents of Joseph Abbott, who was born abt. 1710 and had a son born abt. 1728.

Furthermore, the author shows no connection whatsoever between Joseph Abbott of Halifax County in south-central Virginia and Capt. John Abbott and family in Massachusetts, who are said to go first to Connecticut then to coastal South Carolina then to the southern coast of North Carolina. (Apparently trying to force a fit, some current-day websites change Capt. John Abbott's marriage place of Middlesex County, Massachusetts to Middlesex County, Virginia, but no such marriage took place anywhere in Virginia.) The author also makes no mention of King and Queen County in Virginia's northeastern Tidewater and obviously did not know that Joseph Abbott lived there prior to Halifax.

Incredibly, the author's sole reason for his claim for Joseph's parents was because Capt. John Abbott had a cousin named Joseph, and "fifteen or more of the Halifax family and immediate descendants bear [thirteen] given names... of Capt. Abbott's uncles, aunts, wife, and other near relatives." [p.1040] Besides assigning two wrong "immediate descendants" to Joseph, all but one of the other 11 names Maj. Abbott lists were standard "garden variety" names of the day such that every family large enough or expanded widely enough could have one. The one non-standard name, "Moody," was periodically popular. Naming patterns, as opposed to this kind of single shared names, can sometimes be useful, but only when there is other documented evidence showing a definite link and shared associations between the families. In this case, the author gives no other evidence but the names, and, in fact, research has found no evidence of any relationship or connection between the families.

The same-name association that is the sole basis for Maj. Abbott's claim in 1906 sounds ludicrous today and certainly has no credibility by today's standards for genealogical evidence and proof. However, his was common thinking among family historians in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many errors that have passed down from that era came from their misconception that everyone in the Colonies with the same surname was related and descended from one original immigrant family (thus the prevalence of family legends about two or three brothers immigrating together then settling in different colonies and regions, becoming the ancestor of that "branch"). The problem was compounded by the difference in the types and accessibility of surviving records in the Northeast and South. Unlike in the South that had different settlement patterns, many areas of New England have detailed family information in church and township records surviving back to earliest Colonial times. Often these had been published in local histories and family lineage books that were easily available around the turn of the 20th century. On the other hand, social organization differed in agricultural Virginia with its widely-spread rural population. Very limited early church records still exist, and as we have seen, some historically-significant areas have almost no surviving records and those hard to access, especially for Northeastern researchers like Maj. Abbott, until abstract books were published later in the 1900s. The result is that passed-down information often claimed New England origins for large numbers of 18th century Virginia families when today's historical research and migration studies show that was far more the exception than the rule. There is no evidence or reason to think Joseph Abbott came from Massachusetts, and it is much more historically realistic for Joseph to be related to a family in the King and Queen area of Virginia than to any New England family.

Much more research is needed into the earlier Abbots in Virginia, the first place we can prove our earliest proved ancestor. Record abstract books such as I have used point the way but rarely tell the whole story as the full original records can. Given today's access to records and the necessity for records that show a link between the families, we do our family

heritage an injustice by making any blind leap backwards, especially a leap based on same-names alone.

Early Abbott Families in Lunenburg County, Virginia, Parent County of Halifax

Our search for possible close relatives of Joseph Abbott and his family of origin also included early Lunenburg County (formed 1746), since the southwestern part of Lunenburg became the new county of Halifax in 1752. Joseph Abbott and most of his family did not move from King and Queen to northern Halifax until ten years after its formation. However, Joseph's son Benjamin first appears in 1749 in that same location, so the question arose whether Benjamin went there because close Abbott relatives already lived in Lunenburg. The short answer is yes and no—Benjamin possibly went to Lunenburg because of family connections, but the family was not named Abbott. (That part of the story comes later.) My investigation of the early Lunenburg Abbotts focused on whether or not any apparent link or shared association connected them to Joseph Abbott's family. Most early records for Lunenburg do exist, so we have far more detailed information upon which to draw than in and around King and Queen. Again, I relied primarily on published abstracts with the addition of other records such as tithables and court road orders.

I found no proof or compelling evidence of any close relationship (such as brother, uncle, nephew) between Joseph Abbott and either of the two early Lunenburg Abbott lines, who also do not seem related to each other. During the mid-1700s, there was heavy migration into this vast newly-opened area, not only from other parts of Virginia but from up the Great Wagon Road and other trade routes from the Mid-Atlantic, so unrelated families of the same surname were common. However, more distant relationships among these Abbott cannot be definitively ruled out, so I lay out here what I found in order to provide starting points for further research. (More details are available upon request.)

A William Abbott was living by 1736 in Brunswick County, VA, from which Lunenburg was formed ten years later. [BDB1:339] Brunswick was created in 1720 from Prince George County but was not formally organized until 1732, when parts of adjacent Surry and Isle of Wight County were added. (The man from whom William Abbott "of Brunswick" purchased land 5 Aug 1736 was "of Surry Co.") Most early residents of William Abbott's part of Brunswick tended to come from those southeastern Virginia counties, which had a different kind of early settlement history from King and Queen County in the northeastern Virginia Tidewater. William Abbott lived in the part of Brunswick that later became Mecklenburg County on the far southeast side of later Halifax, and immigration to William's area from the King and Queen area was not common until several decades later [Elliott, p. 9] (although of course every generality has its exceptions).

Lunenburg County was formed from Brunswick in 1746, and William Abbott appears in Lunenburg Court records from Sep 1747 through Oct 1757. Court orders in Dec 1757 and Apr 1758 also reference a William Abbott, but it is unclear whether that is father or son. William Abbott Sr.'s wife was named Agnes, who was still living in Jan 1757. [LOB4:264] Surviving tithables lists show William and Agnes had two sons, George Abbott born abt. 1734 and William Abbott Jr. born abt. 1735. Neither William Abbott Sr. or Jr. appears after 1758. Son George Abbott continues consistently in Lunenburg records through 1764, after which George Abbott is in Mecklenburg County, VA, formed from Lunenburg effective 1 Mar 1765 and adjacent to far southeastern Halifax. George lived a year or so just over the North

Carolina line in Granville County, NC, but moved back into Mecklenburg apparently bet. 1767-1768. [MDB1:433] George Abbott died shortly before 7 Sep 1775, when his Mecklenburg estate was appraised. [MWB1:201] None of the deeds found for him include a wife's name, and no children were identified.

This George Abbott had associations in Halifax County, and in Aug 1770, he was paid as an out-of-county witness in a Halifax Court suit. [HPB7-1:28] (See annotated court orders for more details.) Some of the family names connected with George in Lunenburg/Mecklenburg are also family names associated with Joseph Abbott's family in Halifax, although from different branches of those families. So far that seems more by coincidence of location rather than an indication of a close family relationship between the two Abbott lines.

The only other early Lunenburg County Abbott family in the records is a Samuel Abbott and his son Jonathan Abbott, who lived in yet a different area of the originally extensive county. Samuel Abbott married a (unnamed) daughter of Jonathan Ashworth abt. 1740. [LDB9:204] In 1764, Samuel and his adult son Jonathan Abbott, along with the Ashworth family, were still living in the part of Lunenburg that became Charlotte County, VA in 1765. [1764 Lunenburg tithables for Cornwall Parish] No evidence has been found that indicates Samuel Abbott was related to Joseph Abbott or to the above William Abbott; however, records for Samuel have not been investigated prior to his first appearance in the Lunenburg tithables in 1749, and later Charlotte records have not been searched.

In summary, hampered as we are by the loss of early King and Queen area records, our search for Joseph Abbott's family of origin so far has yielded no definitive answers and has found no Abbott families living in the Halifax area who appear closely related to Joseph. Nevertheless, with continuing research and the possibility of future discoveries of new record sources, that could well change.

Joseph Abbott's Wives and Children

Joseph Abbott married his first wife probably in or near King and Queen County, VA, abt. 1728 (based on his son Benjamin being 21 or at least of marriageable age by July 1749). Nothing is known about Joseph's first wife, but according to the proved age range of his children, Joseph's last wife Frances, who lived another 35 years after Joseph's death, obviously could not be his only wife. By the evidence gleaned from Joseph's will combined with other records, it seems clear that Joseph had three wives, but no records for any marriage of Joseph have survived.

Joseph named 16 children in his will written 30 Mar 1787, proved 27 Oct 1788. [HWB2:298] Joseph's will groups his children in specific ways and identifies some as his "older" children or "youngest" children. Using those groupings and identifiers together with records for each child showing their actual or closely-approximated age, Joseph's children were born in this order:

- 1) First wife, name unknown - Married abt. 1728 - Children:
Benjamin (b. c1728); **Ann, Sarah, and Rachel** (b. bet. 1730-1750); **Joseph Jr.** (b. c1750)
 All born in or near King & Queen County, VA

2) Second wife, name unknown - Married abt. 1754 - Child:
William, b. 1756 in King & Queen County, VA [NARA File W5616]

3) Third wife, **Frances** (maiden name unknown) - Married abt. 1765 - Children:
Mary (b. c1767), **Elizabeth** (b. c1768), **Frances** (b. c1769), **Richard** (b. c1770),
Leonard (b. c1771), **Martha/Patsy** (b. c1772), **John** (b. 1773-1776), **Moody** (b. 1775-1777), **Moses** (b. c1776-1782), **Fleming** (b. 1777-1782) - All born in Halifax County, VA

[Evidence of the birth year for each child is explained in their separate individual reports. Benjamin's age is from court records. Joseph Jr.'s age is based on his father's will and closely-approximated marriage date. William's age is stated in his pension application. Richard and Leonard were born early the year given or later the previous year, as proved by personal property tax lists when each turned 21. Ages for sons John, Moody, Moses, and Fleming are based on a combination of tax list information and records for them that require being a legal adult. Ages of daughters are based on a) their being over or under 21 at marriage, b) the order in which Joseph names them in his will (which the other age indicators show to be chronological for both sons and his daughters), and c) on the near-exact ages for most of their brothers.]

Interestingly, two of Joseph Abbott's sons had children who were twins--William, whose twins Wesley and Keturah are proved by his family register, and Benjamin, whose sons Jacob and James are indicated by tax list ages and family lore to be twins. Thus, it seems highly possible that at least two of Joseph's children with Frances also were twins.

The only children of Joseph Abbott we know for certain are those listed above who survived to be named in his 1787 will. There is some evidence that Joseph may have had a son by his first marriage named George Abbott, born bet. 1730-1739. George Abbott arrived in Halifax County (where Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott was already living) by November 1760, when the court added George Abbott to the Halifax tithables list of residents responsible for their own taxes. [HPB3:182] On 21 Jul 1763, George Abbott (by his mark "A") and Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott (by his mark "B") witnessed a Halifax deed together. [HDB7:520] The deed was from Richard Brown and his wife Rachel to Thomas Tunstall formerly of King William County (adjacent to and formed from King & Queen). Thomas Tunstall became Joseph Abbott's adjacent neighbor in Halifax and was named on a number of Halifax records with him. The next month, August 1763, Richard Brown, a close Abbott neighbor and possible relation, paid Halifax-resident George Abbott for being his witness in a suit Richard brought in Halifax Court. (We shall return to Richard Brown and his wife Rachel, who are a significant part of the early Abbott family story.)

This George Abbott in Halifax does not appear to be the same George Abbott, born abt. 1734, who was a son of William Abbott and wife Agnes of Lunenburg County, VA (discussed above). First, William's son George Abbott signed all known records by signature, not by mark. Second, he appears in Lunenburg records consistently enough throughout the same time period to make it very unlikely he moved his residence to Halifax for a few months. Among his many Lunenburg records, William's son George Abbott witnessed a deed in Lunenburg County in Dec 1759 [LDB5:520]; he was living in Lunenburg on 2 Jun 1761 when he purchased Lunenburg land [LDB7:122]; he was listed in tithables as a Lunenburg resident in 1764 (the previous eight years' tithables have not survived), and he also was on an important Lunenburg grand jury in 1764. The only time he appears for certain in Halifax records is in 1770 when he is paid as a court witness living outside of Halifax. [HPB7-1:28]

Thus, the George Abbott in Halifax bet. 1760-1763 may be a son of Joseph Abbott and brother of Benjamin. This George likely died or left Virginia shortly after 1763, as no further record for him has been found. Neither he nor any heirs are named in Joseph's 1787 Halifax will. [HWB2:298]

Besides Joseph Abbott's proved son Benjamin and possible son George, Joseph's proved son Joseph Abbott (Jr.) and proved daughters Ann, Sarah, and Rachel Abbott likely were also from Joseph's first marriage.

We have almost no information about the women Joseph names in his will as "my three oldest daughters, namely Anney, Sarah, and Rachel." We can make only general assumptions of their ages from the wording of his will. They definitely were born before 1767, the earliest possible birth year of Mary, the first-named of "my four youngest daughters," and apparently they were born long before. These "three oldest daughters" Ann, Sarah, and Rachel were bequeathed jointly with Joseph's son Joseph Abbott Jr., and Joseph Jr. was differentiated by the next clause that "likewise" bequeaths to "my youngest boys beginning with William," born 1756. [NARA W5616] Evidence from the 1782 Halifax household enumeration, from personal property tax lists, and from the ages of his children shows that Joseph Jr. married abt. 1778. Contrary to popular belief, the average age for males to marry in that time period was around 25 years and often significantly older. Like his brother William, Joseph Abbott Jr. easily could have been 28 when he married, thus born abt. 1750, and by the will's grouping and wording we would expect Joseph Jr. to be more than a mere year or so older than William. Coming back around to Joseph Sr.'s "three oldest daughters," this combined information indicates they were born roughly between 1730-1750 during Joseph Sr.'s first marriage.

So far as we know from the records, none of these older daughters married. Joseph's will names all seven of his daughters by their given names only. We have proof that none of his four youngest daughters were married at the time he wrote his will. Presumably, none of the three oldest daughters were married either, since it was highly unusual for wills not to name married daughters by their legal married surnames. No marriage record exists for Joseph's daughters Ann, Sarah, or Rachel in Halifax, where marriage records are generally complete from the end of the Revolution on, but most records for earlier marriages in Virginia have not survived.

One thing is certain: The marriages given in most online family files for Joseph's daughters Ann, Sarah, and Rachel are all in error. Some online files say Joseph's daughter Ann Abbott married Ephraim Knight 12 Feb 1758 and Joseph's daughter Rachel Abbott married Peter Knight 19 Dec 1756, both in Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, VA. Those marriages are, indeed, recorded in the Overwharton Parish Register [transcribed by Boogher, p. 6, 7], but they cannot be for our Joseph Abbott's daughters (another example of errors based on same-name alone). Marriages at that time took place in the county residence of the bride, and Joseph's son William Abbott's pension application proves Joseph's family moved directly from King and Queen County, where William was born in 1756, to Halifax County abt. 1762 and never lived in or near Stafford County, at least 80 miles northwest of King & Queen and 175 miles northeast of Halifax. The families of Ann Abbott Knight and Rachel Abbott Knight were still living in Stafford County in 1789. [Stafford PP Tax Lists] (Also, Joseph's son John Abbott was not the one who married Margaret Lyon 15 Jan 1758 in Overwharton Parish, Stafford

County, as many online files say. In fact, Joseph's son John is proved not born until abt. 1773, and records show John never married.)

Other online files give these same erroneous marriages for Joseph's daughters Ann and Rachel but conveniently change the location to Halifax County, and some even change the years to 1788 and 1796 respectively. No such Halifax marriage records exist, and the different county and dates are obviously only distortions and alterations of the Overwharton Parish Stafford County marriages that do not pertain to our Joseph Abbott's family. (See more in the previous section of this report headed "Early Abbott Families in Stafford County, Virginia.")

Further, many online files mistakenly say that Joseph's daughter Ann Abbott married second to John Keeling on 5 Nov 1804 in Halifax. The Halifax marriage record proves it was Sarah Abbott, daughter of Joseph Abbott Jr. (not Sr.), who married John Keeling by bond of that date and also proves Sarah was not yet 21 years old, as she needed her father's consent.

[Halifax Bond Register No. 1, 1753-1889, LVA Reel 82]

Many likewise unsourced and undocumented family files also say Joseph Abbott Sr.'s daughter Sarah married a Daniel Trigg with no date or place given, but no Trigg family lived in Halifax. An unsourced submission to Ancestry.com does list a Sarah Abbott marrying a Daniel Trigg, but that was on 15 Nov 1799 in Spotsylvania County, VA, not even close to where Joseph Abbott or anyone in his family ever lived. In no way could she be a daughter of Joseph Abbott, much less one of his "older daughters," as Daniel's wife Sarah apparently was born abt. 1780. To make all these errors even worse, some undocumented submissions to the LDS FamilySearch Pedigree Resource Files have collapsed Joseph's daughters Ann and Sarah into the same fictitious person, Ann Sarah Abbott, obviously not realizing Joseph's will clearly shows Ann and Sarah are separate daughters, two of "my three oldest daughters, namely Anney, Sarah, and Rachel."

While on the sometimes seemingly endless subject of errors in online files for this Abbott family, most files say all Joseph Abbott's children (and many of their children) were born in "Maresville, Halifax County, Virginia." This is false even if such a town existed, since Joseph's six oldest surviving children were born before he moved to Halifax. However, according to sources ranging from old Halifax county maps to published county histories to Halifax librarians and local historians, no town called Maresville ever existed in Halifax. (Nor have I found any Maresville in Stafford County, where other online files locate the town and erroneously list Joseph's family as being born or dying, presumably based on the Stafford marriages mistakenly attributed to his children.) Where the name Maresville came from is a mystery, but it may have been a distortion of Meadsville, since some Halifax Abbotts are listed in the 1820 census in the Meadsville District (which actually covered the entire northern half of Halifax County). However, Meadsville, later called Meadville, was not established until 1798 and was over 10 miles west of where Joseph Abbott and his family lived. Beginning in 1773, Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott lived a mile or so upriver from where Meadsville eventually was established, but Benjamin's youngest child was born abt. 1778, 20 years before the town existed. However the error came to be, no Abbott was ever born in the non-existent town of Maresville.

Joseph Abbott's next-born son after Joseph Jr. (b. c1750) was William Abbott, born abt. 1756. William made application in Halifax Court in 1832 for a pension as a former

Revolutionary War soldier. In his statement dated 23 Oct 1832, William said he was “born in the County of King & Queen” and was at present “in the 76th year of his age,” thus born abt. 1756. [NARA File No. W5616] Although Joseph’s will named William first among “my youngest boys” (written when William was 31 years old!), there is an appreciable gap in births of Joseph’s children both before and after William--6 years or so before and at least 11 years after. Beginning no earlier than 1767, Joseph’s last wife, Frances, had 10 surviving children in near-consecutive years, so she is highly unlikely to be William’s mother in 1756. Thus it appears William Abbott’s mother was Joseph’s second of three wives and William was their only surviving child.

It was not unusual for a man of Joseph’s day to have three wives, especially a man who lived to his late 70s, and, indeed, the evidence seems strong that Joseph’s 16 children were born to three successive wives.

The Abbotts and Richard and Rachel Brown

A change came about in Joseph Abbott’s family life shortly before 1750, perhaps coinciding with the death of his first wife, Benjamin’s mother, although her exact death date is unknown. Whatever Benjamin’s reasons for leaving his father’s home in or near King and Queen County, it is in 1750 that Joseph’s eldest son, Benjamin Abbott, first appears in records of Lunenburg County, VA, parent county of Halifax (formed 1752) [1750 Lunenburg Tithables, List of Cornelius Cargill], and a 1753 Halifax court order shows he was in Lunenburg by 1 Jul 1749. [HPB1:71] Benjamin was living among people later in Halifax records with Joseph Abbott, and with whose families some of Joseph’s children later intermarried. The primary person with whom Benjamin Abbott is most closely-associated from his earliest records is Richard Brown. Benjamin was living near Richard (likely on Richard’s land) by 1750, and they jointly entered a land patent survey on 14 Feb 1750/51. [Halifax Survey Book p. 27. Dodson, p. 8]

At this point we need to expand our story of Joseph’s family to include Richard Brown and his wife Rachel, with whom both Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott were closely involved through Richard’s death in Halifax in early 1772. [HPB7-2:349] Records for Richard Brown indicate he was born abt. 1712 or so and married abt. 1738. According to Richard’s will, he had five surviving children. [HWP1:1] The eldest son, Richard Brown Jr., was born by abt 1740 [Chiarito. Land Entry Book 1737-1770, p. 223.], and the youngest son, Daniel Brown, was born around 1756 or so, but the other three children are not named in the will. Richard Brown’s places of birth and marriage are not yet known, but he may have come from the area of King & Queen County where Joseph Abbott was from. In 1752, Richard Brown, then of Halifax County, sold Halifax land to Abraham Maury [HDB1:9], and in 1763, Richard sold Halifax land to Thomas Tunstall [HDB7:520], and each purchaser was named “of King William County,” adjacent to and formed from King & Queen. This could be only coincidence, but it also could mean Richard had connections in that area, which earlier records for him also support.

Richard Brown is significant to the Abbotts in his own right, but also by his wife. She is proved to be named Rachel and is said to be Rachel Abbott by birth. A biographical pamphlet published in 1978 entitled “Tod Carter of the Confederate States Army” includes the information that Tod’s mother was a granddaughter of “Daniel Brown, the son of RICHARD and RACHEL ABBOTT BROWN of Halifax County” [caps added], but unfortunately, no documentation for Rachel’s maiden name was given. The author, Dr. Rosalie Carter (1901-1991), was a Vanderbilt University-trained dentist by profession and a prolific author

of local history and family genealogy by avocation. Whether she or her family had proof for Rachel's maiden name is not discussed; it is merely stated as a given. However, if true, it certainly would make sense of the close connection between both Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott and Richard Brown and wife Rachel, who seems of an age she could be a sister or niece of Joseph Abbott (thus aunt or cousin of Benjamin), although those are only speculation.

Richard Brown was living in Goochland County, VA by 15 Mar 1742/43, when he witnessed deeds with people who had connections with King William County (an area where he might have originated). *[GDB4:128, GDB4:279]* In 1744, Richard purchased the Goochland land where he was then residing. *[GDB4:456]* In 1745, he witnessed a deed for land then in Brunswick County to Andrew Wade, who like Richard was then living in Goochland. *[BDB3:162]* Richard Brown continued close associations with Andrew Wade and his family for several decades in Lunenburg-Halifax County, as did the Abbotts after their respective arrivals.

Richard Brown first appears in the newly-formed Lunenburg County (effective May 1746) in the Court of July 1747. *[LOB1:234]* He is consistently on juries, indicating he was a landowner, even though his first recorded deed for Lunenburg land was in 1748. *[VPB26:647]* Richard was granted his first land patent on Difficult Creek, then in Lunenburg but shortly in Halifax, on 20 Aug 1748, and he established his home there. He eventually acquired over 3500 acres on Difficult Creek alone as well as patents in several other Halifax locations. *[VPB26:647, VPB35:166, VPB35:356; VPB29:475, VPB35:452]* Richard sold parts of his Difficult Creek land to Benjamin Abbott and to Joseph Abbott on which they each lived long before their formal deeds. *[HDB7:3, HDB8:42]*

In the 1748 Lunenburg tithables, Richard is listed next to Andrew Wade with sons John, Benjamin, and Henry Wade (then above age 16) in his household, all of whom are in later Halifax court and deed records with Benjamin Abbott and/or Joseph Abbott. Richard Brown continues to appear in Lunenburg court and deed records and is in the 1749 tithables, where Andrew Wade Jr. is added to his father's list and Martin Brown first appears. Martin may be a brother of Richard Brown or at least closely related. He settled just west of Difficult Creek on Terrible Creek. In 1766, Joseph Abbott was one of the appraisers of the Halifax estate of Martin Brown, even though Joseph was not living immediately near Martin, as appraisers generally did. *[HWB0:208]* This, too, could speak to a possible family connection.

Then in the 1750 Lunenburg tithables Richard Brown is joined by Benjamin Abbott, listed one removed from Richard in the unalphabetized list. As discussed above, on 14 Feb 1750/51, Richard Brown and Benjamin Abbott entered a joint survey for 704 acres of land on Hunting Creek (north/northeast of Difficult) then in Lunenburg, later in Halifax. *[HSB:27]* Benjamin Abbott transferred his half-interest in this land to Richard Brown 27 May 1762, and Richard obtained the patent deed for this land on 30 Aug 1763. *[VPB35:452]*

Richard Brown seems to be living on his Hunting Creek land when he died nine years later (based on the appraisers of his estate), and he apparently moved there in 1763 when he obtained the patent deed. On 21 Jul 1763, "Richard Brown and Rachel his wife" sold to Thomas Tunstall the land on Difficult Creek where "Richard Brown was then living," granted by patent in 1748. *[HDB7:520]* The deed was witnessed by Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott (and by George Abbott, who could be a son of Joseph who did not survive, as we discussed above), and the land was adjacent to Richard Brown's land where Joseph Abbott was living,

per Brown's formal deed to Joseph in 1767. [HDB7:3] The fact that Joseph and Richard remained closely involved the rest of Richard's life even though he was living over five miles northeast of Joseph also supports a close prior relationship.

Numerous online files (unsourced and undocumented) have spread someone's assumption that Benjamin Abbott's wife's maiden name was Brown and passed it on as fact, even though other similarly undocumented files have perpetuated as fact someone else's assumption that her maiden name was Armistead. Benjamin's wife's first name is proved to be Ann. [HPB7-2:312] However, Ann's maiden name is unproved and so far unknown. There is strong evidence that it was neither Armistead nor Brown, and particularly by evidence in court records and Richard Brown's will, Benjamin's wife Ann almost certainly could not be Richard's daughter. (See report on Benjamin Abbott for details.)

In any case, Benjamin Abbott's close association with Richard and Rachel Brown began at least 13 years before Benjamin married his wife Ann, and Benjamin's father Joseph Abbott is equally if not more involved with Richard Brown in the records once Joseph arrives in Halifax. The fact that Richard Brown co-surveyed (thus shared half of) a large tract of 704 acres with a young man just reaching adulthood and newly arrived in the area seems to point to a prior relationship of some kind, and an earlier relationship also would help explain Richard's close involvement with both Joseph Abbott and his son Benjamin. Thus Dr. Carter's claim that Richard Brown's wife was Rachel Abbott seems feasible at least. Rachel would be too old to be Joseph Abbott's daughter (and for various reasons it does not seem logical that Joseph's daughter Rachel could be a late second wife of Richard Brown). However, Rachel Brown seems of an age she might be Joseph Abbott's sister or niece. Whatever the connection, the records do suggest some family relationship. Hopefully in time the proof can be found, but for now the exact nature of their relationship must remain only speculation.

Benjamin Abbott Goes to Court in Early Halifax County, Virginia

Following his joint survey with Richard Brown in early 1751, the next time Benjamin Abbott appears in the records is after Halifax County was formed from Lunenburg in 1752. The first Halifax Court session was held 17 May 1752. Benjamin Abbott first appears three months later at the Court of 17 Aug 1752 [HPB1:30] and appears consistently thereafter the rest of his life. The early court orders and deed records show him closely involved with Richard Brown and numerous other men with whom Joseph Abbott is likewise closely involved after he moved to Halifax ten years later. (See compiled court orders and deeds for details.)

Joseph Abbott's firstborn son was obviously a feisty young man, and Benjamin hits the Halifax records with a splash and quite literally on the move. In suits against Benjamin Abbott for debt (the most common kind of court cases) on 17 Aug 1752 and 19 Dec 1752, the Sheriff reported that Benjamin could not be found. [HPB1:30,46] On 20 Jun 1753, the King's Attorney charged Benjamin with concealing tithables (thereby avoiding the tax owed), and again the Sheriff reported Benjamin was not found. [HPB1:154] Benjamin finally re-surfaced, and on 18 Sep 1753, the King's Attorney charged Benjamin with "opposing the Sheriff in execution of his office," to which Benjamin pleaded not guilty...through his attorney. [HPB1:181]

Meanwhile, three suits of assault and battery or trespass and battery had been lodged against Benjamin; one on 15 May 1753 brought by a Grand Jury injunction, one on 18 Sep

1753 that was dismissed (but soon revived), and another of that same date for which Benjamin was required to post a peace bond, with two securities, for “one year and a day” good and peaceable behavior. [HPB1:98, 169, 179] (His securities were two men, Benjamin Wade and Nathaniel Hunt, with whose families Benjamin Abbott, Richard Brown, and later Joseph Abbott were closely involved and who had been with Richard in Lunenburg since Richard arrived there abt. 1747.) On 16 Oct 1753, a fourth suit of assault & battery was charged against Benjamin. This time he did not show up, and the plaintiff, a woman, was awarded the suit. [HPB1:248]

That same day the second case for assault & battery was re-entered. The case went on for two years and finally went to a jury that on 17 Jul 1755 found Benjamin to be not guilty. [HPB2-1:51] The assault & battery charge brought by the Grand Jury and prosecuted by the King’s Attorney finally was dismissed by consent of both parties on 20 Feb 1754. [HPB1:343] On the same day, the first case of debt against Benjamin in 1752 was also dismissed. [HPB1:345]

The only surviving Halifax Court records are merely court “orders” that give only the barest glimpse of the court suits and usually have no information about the circumstances. They name the plaintiffs, defendants, the charges, and the outcome, yet details, witness testimonies, and legal arguments in civil suits generally are not included. In many ways their greatest importance to family historians is to show on-going family associations, since they usually leave us with more questions than answers about the actual cases themselves. Simple debt cases were common, despite the fact that the one who lost the case had to pay the court costs and legal fees of the winner as well as their own. There was a credit-based economy, and the majority were subsistence farmers. Even the more affluent had little or inconsistent surplus, perhaps why there seems to be no stigma attached to being sued for debt so long as the debt eventually was paid either in full or with a court-mandated discount if the full amount was judged to cause undue hardship under a plea usually stated as “in mercy &c.”

Court cases relating to personal harm or threat, as opposed to property damage or financial loss, were more serious and less common but hardly rare. (Only the high number of such cases against Benjamin throughout his life, and, as we shall see, two of the people in particular who gave oath they were in danger of physical violence from Benjamin make him stand out as exceptional.) While Halifax County is clearly Southern by geography and cultural heritage, at this time it was still frontier country with a hefty helping of the later “Wild West” in their society. Nevertheless, the Court’s responsibility for keeping the community together and functioning on a lawful, just, and relatively peaceful basis was crucial for everyone’s welfare and the community’s survival as well as individual safety. Meeting that communal objective also must have required some finesse, no matter how rough-and-ready their life and times. The jury pool was small relative to the total county population, as only free white adult male landowners could serve, so jury members often tried cases involving close friends and even family members, and the same could also be suing each other.

On the lighter side, the demanding job of justice and maintaining law and order could be a thirsty business, as evidenced by the requisite tavern a convenient few steps from every county courthouse to provide respite and relief (and occasionally some very interesting afternoon court session records). County Court days also served an important social function, bringing together once a month friends from all over the county to share family

news and neighborhood gossip; make business deals; trade stories, goods and produce; and keep community ties intact while offering the prospect of entertaining courtroom drama as a diversion in their generally hard lives.

By the later 1750s, suits against Benjamin Abbott were routine cases of debt, twice with Richard Brown as his co-defendant. After his father's arrival in the early 1760s and perhaps tempered by newly assumed family and civic responsibilities, Benjamin Abbott settled down for a while in the court records and appeared in the types of cases in which any prospering landowner involved in his community normally appeared. Like his father Joseph in later Halifax Court records, Benjamin was in debt cases both as plaintiff and defendant; he stood security and offered bail for friends and neighbors as they did for him; he witnessed deeds and appeared in court to confirm ("prove") them so they could be recorded; he witnessed for friends in jury trials; and he served on juries. It was not until 1771 that Benjamin Abbott again had more serious trouble, first jointly with Richard Brown. Then once again Benjamin was charged with assault, this time by, of all people, Richard Brown. But we shall return to that story in its turn.

Joseph Abbott's Family Life in King and Queen County, Virginia

While Joseph Abbott's eldest son Benjamin was filling the early Halifax County court books, Joseph was raising the rest of his family in the void where the records are lost in King and Queen County, 160 miles northeast of Halifax.

We know Joseph Abbott had six children born by 1756, the sixth (William) likely born of a second wife. However, it is possible Joseph had more children by his first wife than the two sons (Benjamin and Joseph Jr.) and three daughters (Ann, Sarah, and Rachel) who survived to 1787 when Joseph wrote his will naming them. The George Abbott who lived in Halifax between 1760-1763 may have been another child, as discussed earlier above.

Because of the lost records, we have no details of Joseph's life before 1762, when he was in his early 50s. We do not even know how much land he owned prior to Halifax. However, Joseph probably already owned at least one slave, since he consistently owned three slaves over age 16 in Halifax records. Therefore, Joseph likely had at least 100 acres or so in King and Queen. Available land there was much scarcer than in Halifax, thus more expensive, probably one reason why he moved.

We can fill in some of Joseph Abbott's life during the missing years with generalities about his time and place. Joseph would be engaged in the same kind of civic and community responsibilities as he later was in Halifax, such as serving on juries, witnessing friends' deeds and wills and appearing in court to prove them, standing security for friends with law suits against them, witnessing at their trials, and probably dealing with his own routine debt cases as both plaintiff and defendant.

Assuming he, like most, was a farmer by profession, Joseph would be working and managing his "plantation"—the standard word used in Virginia records for a farm, meaning literally "a place of planting," just as "plantation utensils" was the term for farming tools and equipment. Even with a slave or two, there was more than enough work to keep all hands busy. In addition to the arduous work of farming and getting the cash crops (mainly tobacco) ready for and to market, the buildings and tools needed constant repairs, and provisioning

included fishing, hunting, and preserving their meat. His wife and children would attend to household and kitchen chores; keep the kitchen garden and at times perhaps work in the fields; sew clothes and bedding; do the spinning and weaving for routine family use, barter, or even sale (although more formal work would be done by professional weavers who traditionally were men); tend flocks, milk cows, share care of the larger livestock with the men; and together handle the dozens of other tasks required when almost all of what they wore and ate was produced at home. More children meant more helpers (eventually) but also more work to feed, clothe, and house.

The term “mansion” or “mansion house” used in deeds and wills was the term for any residential dwelling, not “mansion” in our grand and elegant sense today. Typically, Joseph Abbott’s house or “mansion” would be wooden logs, whole, split, or planed, with one or two rooms and perhaps a sleeping loft accessed by a ladder. Some but not all of the houses had plank floors, sometimes raised, and stone or brick chimneys for their one central fireplace. In the mid-1700s, even very affluent Virginians generally had no more than two rooms on each of two floors with central hallways between, a central staircase, and a detached kitchen. Their wealth was displayed by special interior features, like enclosed staircases and intricate woodworking, but wealth primarily was displayed in the expanse and rich productivity of their surrounding fields and orchards and the number of barns and farm outbuildings rather than in showplace homes of later time periods that we usually envision as “Colonial Virginia.” Most houses and outhouses (barns, sheds, etc.) were of wood and needed constant repair due to weathering, particularly with the humidity of their climate.

Regardless the work needing to be done, the law forbade all work on Sunday. In Virginia, the Church of England was the official religion, and the law required weekly attendance at their parish church. The parish vestry, which had both church and civic responsibilities and authority, brought to court those who failed to attend. If they were found guilty without an acceptable excuse, heavy fines were imposed. The ministers and operations of the church and church buildings were financed by mandatory taxes. Only after Virginia’s landmark Religious Freedom Act of 1786 could people freely attend the church and denomination of their own choosing. [*Hening, 12: 84*] Most of Joseph Abbott’s children and their families then became either Baptist or Methodist.

Joseph Abbott and Family Move to Halifax County - 1762

The area in and around King & Queen was one of the oldest-settled parts of Virginia. By the 1760s, the soil was wearing out. Little new land was available to expand one’s own holdings or to acquire land to pass on to one’s children where they could raise their own families nearby. Fertile land that could be bought was expensive. These conditions were prime motivators for people to leave King & Queen and the Virginia Tidewater region.

On the other hand, in Halifax County and the rest of Southside Virginia, settlement had only recently begun. Earlier dangers from Indians along the Virginia-North Carolina border had diminished. Vast new land was plentiful and relatively inexpensive, which also gave farmers the option to switch to raising cattle. People were moving into the Halifax area not only from other parts of Virginia but from farther north, such as Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, traveling the routes of old Indian trails that had developed into major Colonial trade and migration roads spanning the Colonies. With his son Benjamin and numerous others

from the Tidewater already living in Halifax County, it was a natural choice for Joseph's migration.

Joseph Abbott's son William Abbott, born 1756, says in his pension statement that the family "resided [in King & Queen] until he was about six years old, at which time (he is informed) he removed to the said county of Halifax." Halifax records support the family's moving there about 1762. Although Joseph did not have a formal deed of purchase for the land until 1767 (yet he voted in the 1765 election requiring land ownership), the deed states he was already living on the same land, as surely he had since his arrival. The land was part of the land owned by Richard Brown and wife Rachel and in the immediate area where they and Benjamin Abbott had lived since before Halifax was formed:

Date: 1 Jul 1767

From: Richard BROWN of Halifax

To: JOSEPH ABBOT *[sic]* of same

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 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. Original spelling retained.]

June 1769 - Halifax Court - RACHEL, wife of Richard BROWN, appeared in court to relinquish her dower to her husband's sales of land to...JOSEPH ABBOT [among others]

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 6, p. 339. TLC Genealogy. *Halifax County, Virginia Court Orders 1767-1770*, p. 220]

In 1778, Joseph Abbott bought additional land adjacent to his own. (Joseph's 1787 will devised 150 acres of this tract to his son William Abbott, where William was then living.)

Date: 17 Dec 1778

From: Isaac Linch of Antrim Parish, Halifax Co.

To: JOSEPH ABBOTT *[sic]* 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 ABBOTT [Joseph Abbott], Col'o 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 - Acknowledged in court by Isaac Linch

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 11, p. 186. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Original spelling retained; caps and 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]

By these deeds and others for adjoining properties we know fairly accurately where Joseph Abbott and his family lived and where some of his children lived the rest of their lives. Joseph Abbott's land, totaling 500 acres, was in north-central Halifax County on the east side of today's town of Crystal Hill, VA. It was located on an upper part of Difficult Creek that in some deeds for adjacent properties was referred to as the south side of the Middle Fork or Double Branch.

The land ran along and south of Bonds Ferry Road, later called Clarks Ferry Road. That road is roughly today's Newbill School Road/Route 621 across northern Halifax on the north side Crystal Hill. It goes east to the Halifax border at the Staunton River and connects with the old primary roads northeast to Petersburg then on to either Williamsburg or Richmond. (Revolutionary War soldiers from Halifax mention in their 1830s pension applications that they mustered at the old courthouse, which was located on land near today's Crystal Hill, and marched out to war by Bonds Ferry Road to Staunton River.) Apparently from Bucholtz's 1858 map of Halifax, the road ran west to Peytonsbury, the original Halifax courthouse location until 1767, when the town became part of the newly-created county of Pittsylvania. (According to today's maps, that distance is now crossed by a series of local roads.)

On the west side of the Abbott land was a primary north/south road referred to in earlier deeds as the Old Courthouse Road and later as Coles Ferry Road. [eg, HDB15:156, HDB21:680] That road is roughly today's Anderson Road/Route 626. It ran between the "old courthouse" located near Crystal Hill and the new (and current) courthouse location at today's town of Halifax at the Banister River abt. 7 miles south of Crystal Hill. (Although the location for the new courthouse was established abt. 1777, the records are vague as to when the transfer took place, and it seems an actual courthouse was not built in the new location until abt. 1792.)

The Abbott land was on the southeast side of the intersection of Bonds Ferry Road and the Old Courthouse Road just above today's Crystal Hill. Thus, Joseph and his family were located at the crossroads of two major travel and transportation roads of their day and in the central part of the county easily accessible to all the courthouse locations. Joseph's sons William, Richard, and Moody, to whom he devised most of his land, continued to live here and expanded their inherited land by the late 1830s to over 1000 acres (although the deteriorating Halifax economy forced the sale of much of the land in the next decade or so). Today there is an Abbott Hill Road (Route 609) curving to connect the two primary roads and encircling the general area of all the old Abbott lands. The 1940 census shows a great-grandson of William Abbott, John R. Abbott, was still living on or near Route 609.

Joseph Abbott and Family - 1763-1773: Two Weddings and a Funeral

Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott married his wife Ann abt. 1763 in Halifax. Marriage records for Halifax have not survived prior to the Revolution, and as mentioned above, Ann's maiden

name is not yet known. Benjamin and Ann's eldest son, Elisha Abbott, was born in later 1764 or early 1765 [*Halifax PP Tax Lists 1785 & 1786*]. Their eldest surviving daughter, Nancy Abbott, signed her own marriage consent 7 Jan 1789 [*Halifax Marriage Bond Register*], so she was born by 1767. (Based on the spread of Benjamin and Ann's children's birth years, it seems unlikely Nancy was born before Elisha, leaving a six-year gap before their next child, Armistead.) Benjamin Abbott would be about 35 years old at this marriage, which was not unusual. The average age for males to marry in this time period was 25 (not 21 as it became in the 1800s), but marrying at older ages was common. In fact, of Joseph Abbott's other five sons who married, we have proof that one was 28 at his first marriage and evidence another was at least that old, one was 31, one was 48, and one was abt. 51 at their first marriage.

Joseph Abbott married his last wife, Frances, abt. 1765 in Halifax, since it seems more likely that his son William (b. 1756) was a child of a second wife rather than Frances, as explained above. Again, no marriage record exists, and Frances' maiden name is unknown. Joseph and Frances Abbott had ten children born between c1767 (Mary) and c1777 or so (Fleming), and Frances lived 45 or 46 years more. Thus, Frances probably was born around 1742 or so and married at around age 23 to a man over 30 years her elder. While that may seem strange to us today, theirs certainly was not the only such marriage then. For a man of any age to marry a young woman who could manage his household, take care of his motherless minor children, and give him more children (always desirable in any rural society with high infant and child mortality rates) simply made good sense.

Both Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott are named as voters in the surviving 1765, 1768, and 1769 poll lists for the elections of two Burgesses from Halifax County to serve in the Virginia General Assembly. [*Chiarito (1986), Warren (1991)*] Only free white adult male landowners could vote, so the poll lists provide further evidence that Joseph and Benjamin at least were perceived to own the lands where they lived, even though their formal deeds were dated in 1767 and 1770 respectively. (Research has eliminated the possibility that either one qualified to vote based on land inherited through their wives.) Also, all those who qualified as voters were required by law to vote and were penalized for not voting. [*Hening, Statutes, 7:521*] By this we know only one Joseph Abbott and one Benjamin Abbott qualified in Halifax, adding to the combined evidence from all records that there was only one Benjamin Abbott in early Halifax County and that he was Joseph Abbott's son Benjamin. (Joseph Abbott's family members were the only Abbotts living in Halifax County from its beginning in 1752 to Dec 1787, when a Mathew Abbott first appears in the records. Mathew's probable relative Jesse Abbott first appears in 1798. Both are proved not to be descendants of Joseph Abbott. Mathew and Jesse moved abt. 1808 to adjacent Pittsylvania County, and thereafter through the 1940 census, again the only Abbotts in Halifax were Joseph Abbott's descendants.)

About the same time he married, Benjamin Abbott was appointed by the Halifax Court of July 1763 as "surveyor of the road from Difficult Creek to Chandlers Bridge." Benjamin's appointment alone shows that he was born much earlier than 1743 as previously thought and that he already had been living in the county some time before his father arrived. A newly-turned adult and recent incomer would not be appointed to such a position of leadership and responsibility (as we discuss shortly). His appointment also supports the other evidence that Benjamin was considered to own his land, which was on the same part of Difficult Creek where his father was living by then. In 1810, Joseph's son William Abbott,

who inherited part of Joseph's land at Difficult Creek, was appointed surveyor of "the road from Chandlers Bridge to John R. Halls." [HPB28:17]

Others listed with Benjamin in the following "road orders" (as road-related court orders are called) are also named in various deeds as living next to or one removed from Joseph Abbott: Thomas Tunstall's land was adjacent to Joseph Abbott, and Fulker Fulkerson and William Chandler Sr. and Jr. were adjacent or one removed from Joseph. Andrew Wade is the same one who was living in this same area near Richard Brown and Benjamin Abbott before Halifax was formed (as was John Legrand), and Andrew Wade and several sons are on numerous records with Benjamin in the 1750s and 1760s. As mentioned above, the word "plantation" as used in this road order simply means "farm."

- - - - -

July 1763 - Halifax Court

On a motion of Robt Wooding Gent, it is ordered that Andrew Wade, Fulker Fulkerson, John Legrand, and Thomas Tunstall do view and mark the most convenient way for a road from the Courthouse Road between the plantations of the sd Thomas Tunstall & BENJAMIN ABBOTT to the sd Robt. Woodings' Mill

BENJAMIN ABBOTT is appointed Surveyor of the road from Difficult Creek to Chandlers Bridge exclusively, and it is ordered that the sd Benjamin, with the male laboring tithables below sd Bridge, clear and keep sd road in repair

[Source for both entries: HPB4:119, TLC, p. 49]

- - - - -

Road "surveyors" were coordinators to oversee the road maintenance required of the landowners living along each section of the county roads. This was a position of leadership and responsibility for which the surveyor was held accountable to the court and fined for inadequate or incomplete work by his group. Each year the county court divided the roads into segments and then assigned the landowners along each section to a crew or "gang." The landowners, together with their "male labouring titheables" (white and slave age 16 or over in their households), were required by law to work a specified number of hours per year using their own tools and equipment to keep the roads and bridges in their section in good repair. The courts also appointed a coordinator for each group, called an "overseer" or a "surveyor," who was responsible to the court to assemble his group in a timely fashion for the requisite number of hours, assure quality results, and report the group's work and any problems to the court. As such, the surveyors were generally older men of integrity (and usually of some substance) who needed to be respected in their community in order to accomplish the vital work.

In 1768, Joseph Abbott was likewise appointed as a road surveyor. Although the road is not specified, it was in the same immediate area as the one above. Surveyors were regularly re-appointed to spread the burden. John Phelps, whom Joseph Abbott replaces, is in court and deed records with both Joseph and Benjamin. In 1768, Phelps purchased land at Difficult Creek from Fulker Fulkerson [HDB7:114], who is named in the above road order with Benjamin and who was Joseph Abbott's near neighbor. (Fulker's granddaughter Catharine Fulkerson later married Joseph's son Richard Abbott.) The subsequent road orders below give a further indication of Joseph Abbott's location and near neighbors.

May 1768 - Halifax Court

JOSEPH ABBOTT appointed Surveyor of the Road in room of [ie, in place of] John Phelps and it is ordered that he with the gang belonging to the said Road do clear and keep the same in repair.

[Source: HPB6:158. TLC, p. 105.]

October 1768 - Halifax Court

Ordered that male tithables of John Coleman, William Chandler, Richard Stanley, John Brewis, and William Cannady do work on the Road whereof JOSEPH ABBOTT is Surveyor.

[Source: HPB6:260. TLC, p. 166.]

January 1769 - Halifax Court

JOSEPH ABBOTT, Robert Farguson [Ferguson], John Brewis, and John Wood, or any three of them, do view and mark...the most convenient way for a road from this Courthouse into the Road leading to Bonds Ferry and report to Court.

[Source: HPB6:269. TLC, p. 173]

Throughout the 1760s, Joseph Abbott, Benjamin Abbott, and Richard Brown appear in numerous court records helping each other as surety or common bail in suits, as witnesses for each other, and as co-plaintiffs and co-defendants. However, about 1768, something begins to go awry, because in the Court of July 1768, Richard Brown was paid for 7 days attendance as a witness for John Moore in his case against Benjamin Abbott (the case itself is not included in the records). [HPB6:210]

Even so, in August 1768 Joseph Abbott stood common bail for Richard Brown [HPB6:236], in March 1769, Joseph Abbott and Richard Brown were co-defendants [HPB6:278], and Joseph was surety or common bail for Richard Brown in three other suits against Richard that session. [HPB6:279, 298] In March 1769, Benjamin Abbott was surety for Richard Brown [HPB6:308], and in July 1769, Richard paid Benjamin Abbott for 5 days attendance as a witness for him. [HPB6:396]

Then trouble began in earnest. In that same Court of July 1769, Benjamin Abbott sued his father, Joseph Abbott. (This turns out to be only the first of four suits Benjamin brought against Joseph.) The record does not state the issue, but "for reasons appearing," the Court ordered this suit be dismissed.

July 1769 - Halifax Court

BENJAMIN ABBOTT v. JOSEPH ABBOTT - In Case

For reasons appearing [to the Court], suit ordered to be dismissed.

[Source: HPB6:418. TLC, p. 269]

Another surprise comes in the Court of April 1770, when Benjamin Abbott sued Richard Brown. Once again, the Court ordered the case dismissed, with Benjamin ordered to pay Richard Brown his costs. [HPB6:503] The surprises continue in March 1771, when Richard

Brown sued Joseph Abbott (case to be continued). [HPB7:94] Then on 18 Apr 1771, Benjamin Abbott sued Richard Brown for debt and was awarded the case. [HPB7:101]

The next day, their problems intensified with this order for Benjamin Abbott and Richard Brown each to post bond for their “good behaviour” for “one whole year” after behaving “contemptuously” to the Court:

19 Apr 1771 - Halifax Court - Peace Bond

“BENJAMIN ABBOT and Richard BROWN, having behaved Contemptuously to this Court, it is therefore considered that they make their Fine to our Sovereign Lord the King by the payment of five pounds [£5] each and it is ordered that the Sherif[sic] take and keep them in his Custody until they give Security for the payment thereof with Costs and also until they shall give Security for their good behaviour for one whole year (that is to say) said Benjamin ABBOT and Rich’d BROWN in the Sum of Twenty pounds [£20] each and their Securities in the Sum of ten pounds [£10] each.”

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 7, Pt. 1, p. 135. LVA Reel 57. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Caps and comments in brackets added.]

Four months later, surprise turns to shock as the hostility between Benjamin Abbott and Richard Brown deteriorated to the point of physical violence. In August 1771, Richard Brown petitioned the Court for protection against Benjamin Abbott, stating under oath that Benjamin “last night did assault, wound, and evilly treat him, and that he [Brown] is in danger of his life or some bodily hurt to be done by the said Benjamin...” [HPB7-1:244] The Court imposed a peace bond upon Benjamin to keep good and peaceable behavior particularly towards Richard Brown under a heavy penalty of £100 and secured by two others also under penalty of fine if Benjamin did not abide by the conditions of the bond. The court entry reads:

16 Aug 1771 - Halifax Court

Richard BROWN v. BENJAMIN ABBOTT - Peace Bond

“On hearing the Complaint of Richard BROWN on oath alleging that BENJAMIN ABBOT last Night did assault, wound and evilly treat him and that he is in danger of his Life or some bodily hurt to be done by the said Benjamin, Whereupon it is ordered that the Sherif take the said Benjamin and keep him in his Custody until he shall give security for his good behavior one year & a day and pay the Sum of Five pounds Current Money [£5] and Costs -

BENJAMIN ABBOT with Daniel Jones and Samuel Bentley his Securities came into court and atent [jointly] and severally acknowledged themselves indebted to Our Sovereign Lord the King (that is to say) the said BENJAMIN ABBOT in the sum of one hundred pounds [£100] and the said Daniel Jones and Samuel Bentley in the sum of Fifty pounds [£50] each to be atent [levied] of their respective Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements to the use of our said Lord the King, his Heirs and successors on Condition that the said BENJAMIN ABBOT be of good behavior and keep the Peace toward all the Majesty’s liege people and especially the said Richard BROWN for one whole year and a day.”

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 7, Pt. 1, p. 244. LVA Reel 57. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Caps and comments in brackets added.]

“Isaac Coles Gent. Came into Court and undertakes that BENJAMIN ABBOT shall pay the Fine and Costs this day imposed on him within six months or that he the said Isaac Coles will pay it for him.”
 [Source: Halifax Plea Book 7, Pt. 1, p. 246. LVA Reel 57. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Caps added.]

Note:

Daniel Jones, listed here as a security on Benjamin Abbott's peace bond, was a witness for Benjamin Abbott in 1755 when Benjamin was found not guilty of Assault, Trespass, & Battery brought by Nathaniel Terry in 1753. [HPB2-1:53] (Richard Brown had been another witness for Benjamin in that case.) Isaac Coles was a court justice and was one of the justices present at this session of the Court that ordered the peace bond against Benjamin, as was Nathaniel Terry.

- - - - -

Five months later on 11 Jan 1772, Richard Brown wrote his will, being “sick and weak of body but of sound mind and memory...” [HWB1:1] He loans the balance of his estate to “my wife” on the condition she educate son Daniel and “maintain all the rest of my [five] children,” which seems to imply none were married at the time. Richard appointed Thomas Tunstall (whose land from Brown was adjacent to Joseph Abbott) and his eldest son, Richard Brown Jr., as the executors, but only Thomas Tunstall served. [HPB8:7]

Richard Brown's will was proved in court on 21 Jan 1773. However, the following court orders on 22 May 1772 show that Richard actually died within four months after writing his will and within nine months after the peace bond required of Benjamin Abbott to protect Richard from further violence from Benjamin.

22 May 1772 - Halifax Court

Richard BROWN v. JOSEPH ABBOT - In case - BROWN being dead, this suit abates [ends]

Richard BROWN v. BENJAMIN ABBOT - In case - BROWN being dead, this suit abates

[Source: HPB7-2:349. LVA Reel 57. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comment in brackets added.]

This is a sad epitaph for the ending of what had been a long and close relationship, perhaps even as kinfolk. Little more has been found about Richard Brown's family after his death. Richard's wife, Rachel Brown, was still living in Halifax as of 16 Jul 1772, when she appeared in court as “Rachel, widow of Richard Brown, deceased” to release her dower right to land Richard sold “in his lifetime.” [HPB7-Pt.2:417] Rachel may have died before 1782, as she is not listed as a widow with taxable property (slaves, horses, and/or cattle) in any Halifax Personal Property Tax Lists that began in 1782. Richard and Rachel's eldest son, Richard Brown (Jr.), may or may not be the Richard Brown in these Halifax tax lists for 1782 and 1785-1786, but he does not appear thereafter. Their youngest son, Daniel Brown, never appears in these tax lists and apparently died in Halifax by 1782 or so, since his daughter is said to be the Nancy Brown who married Samuel Atkisson (also spelled Atkinson) in Halifax by bond of 1 Apr 1803. She signed her own consent, proving she was over age 21 at the time. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1]

On 22 May 1773, Thomas Tunstall as Executor of Richard Brown, deceased, brought a suit against Joseph Abbott. By consent of both parties, the case was referred to binding arbitration of James Bates, Armistead Watlington, and Nathaniel Cocke Gent., but nothing about the outcome is recorded. [HPB8:140]

In 1770, in the midst of the increasingly hostile court cases involving Joseph, Benjamin, and Richard, Benjamin Abbott began making preparations to sell his land at Difficult Creek where he had lived near (and early on, perhaps even with) Richard Brown for 20 years and near Joseph after he arrived in 1762. Upon selling his land 19 Apr 1771 [HDB8:232], Benjamin moved his family abt. 10-12 miles west to the Banister River. They lived first on land along the north side of the river, then in 1773, they moved to the south bank at the mouth of Bye Creek, a mile or so upriver from today's town of Meadville, VA. [HDB9:67] Perhaps the move was merely a good business proposition, but the timing does seem suggestive. Following Benjamin's first suit against Joseph in July 1769, the only recorded involvement Benjamin has with his father is as an adversary, as we shall see.

By 1773, Joseph and Frances Abbott already had children Mary, Elizabeth, Frances, Richard (their first son, born 1769-1770), Leonard, Martha/Patsy, and probably John.

Joseph Abbott and Family - The Revolutionary War Years

The early 1770s in the larger world were as tumultuous on a grander scale as the Abbott court records in Halifax. The future was uncertain and the consequences potentially disastrous as the American Colonies approached the Revolutionary War that began in earnest in 1775. County records following the war also call it the War of Revolution and the War for Independence. For decades afterward, the final outcome was commemorated in Virginia deeds that routinely began with the day's date "in the year of our Lord ___" then added "and in the ___ year of our Independence," just as Colonial deeds had added "in the ___ year of the Reign of our Sovereign Majesty." However, in 1775, the success of that war was far from assured, and a long, hard six years lay ahead that exacted a high price not only financially but also in terms of human life and hardship for civilians as well as soldiers.

Joseph Abbott's only son for whom I have found proof of Revolutionary War service is William Abbott. Some online files incorrectly say Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott was the one who served July through October 1777 in Morgan's Rifles, but those men were recruited from far northern Virginia counties such as Loudoun and Frederick, not even remotely close to Benjamin in Halifax. The Benjamin Abbott who did serve in the Revolution from Halifax was not Joseph's son Benjamin either. The soldier was a much younger man who either died during the war or left for parts unknown immediately after serving. Evidence in Halifax records indicates he could well be a son of Joseph's son Benjamin by a first marriage around the time Benjamin left home and went to Lunenburg/Halifax (as discussed in detail in the separate report on Joseph's son Benjamin Abbott). As we shall see, Joseph's son Benjamin contributed to the war effort in other ways.

Other undocumented online Abbott files misidentify Joseph's son Joseph Abbott Jr. as serving from Pittsylvania County in the Continental Army with "a brother" whom some files name as John Abbott. First of all, Joseph's son Joseph Jr. would not enlist as a resident of Pittsylvania; second, he did not have a brother who served in the Continental Army (his brother William served with the Virginia Militia); and third, Joseph Jr.'s brother John Abbott was not born until abt. 1773. It is possible that Joseph Abbott Jr. could have served in the Revolution, as he was young enough and probably unmarried when the war began. Many who served in Virginia militia units have no surviving record of service unless they lived long enough to apply for pensions (the one that affected the most veterans was not offered until

1832), but Joseph Jr. died in 1811. So far I have found no record of Revolutionary War service proved for him.

According to William Abbott's 1832 pension application statement, he was 21 years old and not yet married when he first enlisted for Revolutionary War service. [NARA File W5616] William enlisted in Halifax in 1777 for a three-month tour of duty in the Virginia militia company of Capt. James Cobbs. (Enlistments in local and militia units were usually for 3-6 months, as most men were farmers and were needed at home for the welfare of their families and crops. Pension statements sometimes comment that as soon as their 3-month or 6-month commitment was over, they simply left, as they had to get home to work the farm.) Records show that a number of men under Capt. Cobbs were close neighbors of William, and William's father Joseph and brother Benjamin are both on county records with Cobbs family members. William's pension statement says he marched from Halifax to Williamsburg (probably via the old 180-mile route through "Petersburg Town") and from there spent time in Yorktown, Hampton, and Portsmouth, all near the Chesapeake Bay, before being discharged and returning home to Halifax.

Continuing his pension statement in the same routine manner, William tells of a very non-routine assignment when Gen. Nathanael Greene, appointed by Gen. George Washington to be the Commander of the Southern Campaign, sent William Abbott from Halifax with a message to then-Governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson, called the "Author of the Declaration of Independence" and later was the third United States President. (Letters show that in Feb 1781, Gov. Jefferson was in Richmond, 135 miles from Halifax, and from there it was 180 miles or more to return the answer to Gen. Greene, who was by then in northern North Carolina.)

"[William Abbott] further states that he visited the Camps of Gen'l Green [Gen. Nathanael Greene] when he [Greene] was stationed at Halifax Old Courthouse in February 1781 and he was sent by the said Gen'l Green with an express to the then Governor of Va. Viz, Thomas Jefferson. [A]nd he was ordered by the said Gen'l Green to follow the Army on his return until he overtook it, which he did and delivered the dispatches from the said Governor Jefferson to Gen'l Green in the State of N. Carolina near the Highrock on Haw River after a tour of about 3 weeks.

[Source: NARA File W5616. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Original spelling retained. Capitalization and comments in brackets added.]

In the wider frame of reference, even more significant than this assignment of trust and responsibility is the reason Gen. Greene was then in Halifax. The Revolution in the South had been going badly for the Patriot Army, and loss of the South would be the loss of the Revolution. Knowing that the Patriot forces lacked the men and weapons to win in a direct confrontation with Cornwallis at this time, Gen. Greene's military genius had carried out a successful campaign of avoiding out-right battle and using guerrilla-type tactics while wearing down Cornwallis' soldiers and wearing thin their supplies as Cornwallis' forces chased Greene's through South and North Carolina following Greene's "tactical retreat."

The final act in this drama was an epic race through rain, snow, and red clay mud to the Dan River in southern Halifax County near today's town of South Boston just over the North Carolina line. Known today as the "Crossing of the Dan," on 13-14 Feb 1781, Greene's

forces, with the help of Halifax residents who furnished two ferry services and every floating device available, crossed the Dan River with Cornwallis literally at their heels, taking the troops out of the boat-less Cornwallis' reach and keeping Greene's forces intact to continue the war. Seven months later, reinforced Virginia militia troops with Continental and French forces sent by Gen. Washington defeated Cornwallis at the Siege of Yorktown, effectively and successfully ending the Revolutionary War. Gen. Greene's short stay in Halifax was a critical time to regroup and plan, and thus the General's "express" William Abbott carried to Thomas Jefferson and Gov. Jefferson's reply came at a crucial point in the war.

The "Halifax Old Courthouse" where William says Gen. Greene was stationed was a short way down the road from the Abbott home. Surely the Abbott family were among the many Halifax residents who did whatever they could to help Greene's army cross the Dan River to safety and help billet and provision the soldiers while in Halifax before the troops moved south again to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. (An excellent book on the Race to the Dan and the Crossing of the Dan is available online in connection with the permanent museum display at The Prizery in South Boston, VA. See <www.prizery.com>)

Although the tide now was turning, the war was yet to be won. Shortly after William Abbott returned home from delivering Gov. Jefferson's reply to Gen. Greene near Burlington, NC, William again volunteered for war service, this time as a guard escorting British prisoners of war to Albemarle County, VA. Upon his return, he found he had been drafted for a yet a fourth term of service. During that tour William contracted smallpox and had to wait to return home until he was well enough to travel the 140 miles from Salisbury, NC. He returned to Halifax about August 1781, two months before Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781 that effectively brought an end to the war.

William's sister Elizabeth Abbott (b. c1768) lived first with him growing up and then next to him after his marriage until she died in early 1838. Elizabeth was around 13 when William returned from war the last time. Fifty-one years later, Elizabeth attested to William's pension statement. Although stilted in its basic court language due to the purpose her statement was serving, one can imagine between the lines the young Elizabeth, as well as her siblings and anxious parents, awaiting their brother's and son's safe return. Theirs was a family scenario repeated hundreds of times over throughout the newly-created country during these war years.

"I, Elizabeth Abbott of the County of Halifax and State of Virginia do hereby certify that my brother an old Revolutionary soldier left home some time in the Spring of 1781 and was absent for several months, and when he left home he stated that he was going into the Army as a soldier, and when he returned he stated he had been in the Army, and it was my belief and the belief of the family at that time that the cause of his absence was in consequence of him being a soldier in the Army and I remain of that belief..." /s/ Elizabeth (x) Abbott (her mark) - 12 Oct 1832
[Source: NARA File W5616. Transcribed by J. Horsley.]

Meanwhile, those who were not in military service were serving the cause in other ways at home. Especially during the critical late years of the Revolution, primarily 1780-1781, Virginia law required residents to provide supplies as needed by the military out of any surplus beyond the basic needs of their families or occupations. Some of these contributions

are recorded in county court records during the war, but most are found in records immediately following the war. A Virginia Act of 5 Jan 1782 created special hearings for these civilian or "publick" claims to be held at each county courthouse for residents to claim reimbursement for goods or services that had been donated willingly or required of them.

15 Jun 1780 - Halifax Court

BENJAMIN ABBOTT "is atent ed[sic] and desired to furnish Margaret Sumster wife of John Sumster a soldier in the Continental service with one half Barrel of Corn and fifteen pounds of Bacon and render an account thereof to the Court" (Ref. 16 Aug 1781 for reimbursement)

[Source: HPB10:158. LVA Reel 58. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

16 Aug 1781 - Halifax Court

Ordered that it be certified to the Treasurer and Auditors of Publick Accounts that BENJAMIN ABBOTT hath furnish'd Margaret Sumster the wife of John Sumster a Continental soldier with [word cut off] to the amount of £111 current money which sum they [word cut off] to pay to the said Benjamin Abbott.

[Source: HPB10:207. LVA Reel 58. Abstract by J. Horsley]

1782 - Revolutionary War Publick Service Claims - Halifax County Claims Sessions

9 Mar 1782

BENJAMIN ABBOTT

1200 lbs beef (£12), 5 bushels Indian corn (12s 6p), 15 bu. Indian corn (£1 17s 6p)

19 Apr 1782

JOSEPH ABBOTT - 325 lbs. grass beef [no valuation included]

WILLIAM ABBOTT - 8 days service as guard escorting prisoners - 10s 8p - Continental currency

[Source: Janice L. Abercrombie and Richard Slatten. *Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims* (Athens, GA: Iberian Pub. Co.1992), p. 432, 433, 437]

Note:

The currency listed in some records, Continental or State, indicates whether their goods or services had been used by the Continental Army and paid for in US currency or by the state military units and paid for in "current money of Virginia."

William Abbott's 8 days of service as a guard listed here was done as a civilian and different from the month tour of duty guarding prisoners to Albemarle County included in his pension statement.

The formal end of the Revolutionary War came on 3 Sep 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris peace treaty.

Joseph Abbott and Benjamin Abbott - Hostilities on the Home Front

Even while the Revolutionary War was raging in the larger world, hostilities grew on the home front between Benjamin Abbott and his father, Joseph. By the beginning of 1779, almost ten years had passed since Benjamin first sued his father; Benjamin had been living 10-12 miles from Joseph for almost eight years; and the last of Benjamin's seven children was recently born. Joseph was then abt. 68 years old, and Benjamin was abt. 50. There is

no record that Benjamin had any involvement with Joseph or with any former friends or neighbors from Difficult Creek during that time.

However, in February 1779, “Joseph Abbott Sr.” went to the Halifax Court and “crave[d]” for “Security for the Peace” against Benjamin Abbott, stating under oath that “he is apprehensive the said Benjamin will beat wound maim or kill him.” (Transcript below.) It must have taken a lot for a father to publicly petition for security against his own son for fear Benjamin might do him physical violence. This is the same kind of bond for which Richard Brown applied and was granted in 1771, stating he already had been physically attacked by Benjamin. [HPB7:244] This time, though, the bond sums required for both Benjamin and his two securities were five times higher than those in Richard’s case eight years before (which in themselves were high), so obviously the Court was taking this situation between Benjamin and Joseph very seriously.

18 Feb 1779 - Halifax Court
Commonwealth v. BENJAMIN ABBOTT - Peace Bond

“JOSEPH ABBOTT SEN’R came into Court and craves Security for the Peace against BENJAMIN ABBOTT, and also made Oath that he is apprehensive the said BENJAMIN will beat wound maim or kill him. Whereupon it is ordered that the said BENJAMIN enter into recognizance with two Securities, that is to say himself in the Sum of five hundred pounds [£500] and his securities in the Sum of two hundred and fifty pounds [£250] each to be levied of the Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements respectively On Condition that the said BENJAMIN ABBOTT shall be of good behaviour towards all subjects of this Common Wealth and particularly towards the said JOSEPH ABBOTT for the space [of] one year and a day. And thereupon came the said BENJAMIN ABBOTT with James McCraw and Anthony Irby Jr. his securities and severally acknowledged themselves Indebted to his Excellency Patrick Henry Esqr. Governor of the Common Wealth of Virginia and his successors for the time being for the use of this Common Wealth in the several Sums aforesaid to be levied of the Goods and Chattels Lands and Tenements respectively On Condition that the said BENJAMIN ABBOTT shall be of good behaviour towards all Subjects of this Common Wealth and particularly towards the said JOSEPH ABBOTT for the space of one year and a day then this recognizance to cease.”

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 9, p. 393. LVA Reel 58. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Caps and comments in brackets added.]

Not only the Court but apparently Benjamin, too, took this bond seriously. Benjamin Abbott was placed under a peace bond three more times in his life (twice with his then-minor son Elisha and the last time by petition of a woman), making a total of eight peace bonds ordered between 1753 and 1793, as well as suits against him for assault. However, after this peace bond regarding Joseph, Benjamin confined his aggression toward his father to a series of law suits.

Benjamin Abbott brought his second suit against Joseph Abbott in July 1783, fourteen years after his first suit against Joseph and four years after his peace bond petitioned by Joseph. As usual, no details about the issues involved are included in the court orders. However, in general this type of suit was for compensation for alleged financial loss as a consequence of

an action against the plaintiff's real or personal property interests, including withholding property to which the plaintiff feels he has a right.

Two months before, in May 1783, Benjamin Abbott brought the same kind of suit against Mark Milner, who lived across the Banister River from Benjamin. The Court granted Milner permission to depose Joseph Abbott on Milner's behalf, and in the next month's Court of June 1783, the case was dismissed "by agreement of the parties." [HPB10:334, 356]

The following month on 18 Jul 1783, Benjamin brought suit against Joseph. [HPB10:366] Instead of finding agreement, as he did with Milner, Benjamin took his case against his father to a jury trial. The jury could not decide on a verdict, and the Court ordered them to return and "consult again" the next day, but no later information about the case is recorded. This could mean the jury finally found in Joseph's favor, because no order was entered against Joseph to pay Benjamin either the suit amount or any court costs, as was done when the defendant lost the case, and Benjamin did not bring this type of suit against Joseph again, as he could have with a hung jury.

18 Jul 1783 - Halifax Court

BENJAMIN ABBOTT v. JOSEPH ABBOTT - In Trespass on the Case

"This day came the Parties by their attorneys and thereupon came also a jury, to wit, Moza Hurt, Richard Finch, William Wright, James Baley [Bailey], Benjamin Hall, Alexander Hitts [also sp. Hitt & Hittson], Robert Tucker, Andrew Lee, Fulker Fulkerson, Richard Lamkin, John Brown & David Powell, who being elected, I, and sworn the truth to speak of and upon the Issue between the Parties joyn'd withdrew from the Bar to consult on a Verdict and returning again into court alleg'd that they cou'd not agree. Whereupon it is Ordered that the Jurors aforesaid do assemble themselves tomorrow by ten of the clock in the forenoon and again consult on a Verdict and that in case they cannot agree that then they remain impannelled until discharged by the court."

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 10, p. 366. LVA Reel 58. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

The third suit Benjamin Abbott brought against his father, Joseph Abbott, was two years later in July 1785. This time Benjamin sued for financial damages allegedly sustained from a breach of promise by Joseph, which seems to have taken place a number of years before, as we discuss shortly. Once again it went to a jury trial, which lasted an extraordinary 18 days. Benjamin won this suit with a relatively hefty payment of over £53 due from Joseph plus payment of Benjamin's costs expended in his suit. Although Joseph pleaded "in mercy," which is a plea that paying the full amount would cause an undue hardship, no discount was granted.

22 Jul 1785 - Halifax Court

BENJAMIN ABBOTT v. JOSEPH ABBOTT - In case

"This Day came the Parties by their attorneys as[sic] also a Jury, to wit, Daniel Carter, Reuben Jones, Francis Petty, Benjamin Huddlestone, John Anderson, Richard Brown, Harrisson Irby, James Hoskins, John Moore, John Rainey and Daniel Bates who being elected tried and Sworne on their Oaths do say that the I [Joseph] did assume upon himself in manner and form as the Plaintiff [Benjamin] by his Declaration has set forth and that the Plaintiff has sustained Damages besides his

costs by the Defendant's breach of promise to fifty three pounds four shillings and four pence [£53 4s 4p]. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plaintiff recover against the Defendant the damages as assessed by the Jury as aforesaid as[sic, and] also his costs by him about his Suit in this behalf expended and the Defendant in Mercy &c"

[Halifax Plea Book 11, p. 188. LVA Reel 58. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

There are several curious things about this case, even though, as usual, the record tells us no details. First is the timing, as it appears the event in question happened 7 to 15 years before. This is based on one of Joseph's witnesses, Daniel Baugh, who was then a resident of adjacent Mecklenburg and whom Joseph paid for "seven days attendance and three times coming and going twenty miles with Ferriages at Bibbs" on the Staunton River.

[HPB11:189] Various deeds found for Daniel Baugh show that the only period he could have lived in Halifax was sometime between 1770-1778, and no record of any involvement between him and the Abbots after that time was found. This places the "breach of promise" during the tumultuous years when Benjamin's relationships with his father and with Richard Brown seriously deteriorated.

A second curious thing about this case is the unusually long length of the trial and Benjamin's primary witness. Benjamin was ordered to pay his wife, Anne Abbott, for 18 days attendance as his witness in the case. [HPB11:189] Benjamin paid a second witness for 5 days and a third witness for 1 day. Joseph had two witnesses, Baugh who was paid for 7 days and Simon Holt paid for 8 days. Since Joseph lost the case and had to pay Benjamin's costs, the amount owed to Benjamin's wife, as well as to Benjamin's other two witnesses, ultimately was charged to Joseph.

Joseph Abbott's son and Benjamin's half-brother William Abbott entered into this suit as security for their father, Joseph, under a replevy bond, meaning William took upon himself equal responsibility with Joseph to cover the amount owed if Joseph lost the case. On 15 Dec 1785, five months after judgment was made against Joseph (an uncommonly short time in which to expect full payment of such a sum), Benjamin went to court to order William to pay the previously assessed amount (£53) and the previous suit costs (£10) plus interest from the month after the original judgment until paid in full. In addition, William was required to pay for Benjamin's costs in this suit. [HPB11:288]

15 Dec 1785 - Halifax Court

On the motion of BENJAMIN ABBOTT by his attorney (Legal notice being first proved) Judgment is granted him against WILLIAM ABBOTT, Security for JOSEPH ABBOTT on their Replevy bond for the sum of Sixty three pounds [blotted out] shillings and ten pence [£63 ?s 10p], with Legal interest thereon from 13 Aug 1785 until the same shall be paid together with his Costs by him in this behalf expended.

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 11, p. 288. LVA Reel 58. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

At the time of Benjamin Abbott's 1785 suits against Joseph Abbott and William Abbott, Benjamin was abt. 57 years old and already had about the same personal property assets

as his 75-year-old father, Joseph, and had purchased 100 acres more land. (Within eight years, his land purchases totaled 946 acres, almost twice his father's total land.) Moreover, Benjamin had only 7 children, the youngest then abt. age 6, while Joseph was still supporting 11-13 of his 16 children still at home, the youngest three age 10 and under. William Abbott, age 29, just married a year before and as yet had no independent resources with which to pay Benjamin separate from his father. William owned no slaves or land and either was living with his father or in a house his father owned. [1785 HoH Enumeration] From this perspective, it seems these suits may have more to do with family relationships than with money *per se*.

Five months later, Benjamin Abbott sued his father a fourth and last time. Like the first suit, this case was dismissed by the Court.

18 May 1786 - Halifax Court

BENJAMIN ABBOTT v. JOSEPH ABBOTT - Action of Trespass

For reasons appearing to the Court, this suit is dismissed.

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 11, p. 342. LVA Reel 58. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Joseph Abbott wrote his will ten months later on 30 Mar 1787 and bequeathed "to my son Benjamin Abbott One Shilling Current Money." [HWB2:298]

Joseph Abbott and Family - The Post-War Years

Although the Revolutionary War did not formally end until the peace treaty in September 1783, the framework for the U. S. and state governments was in place and operating by 1782 following Cornwallis' surrender in October 1781. The special enumeration in Halifax County in 1782 counting each household's whites and blacks and another in 1785 counting each household's whites, dwelling houses, and outhouses (ie, other buildings) were part of the process whereby the new "United States in Congress assembled" decided how much to tax each state, as provided for in the Articles of Confederation, in order to pay for the high cost of the war and to operate and sustain a central Federal government. [Hening, Statutes, 11:415ff]

Joseph Abbott and his son Joseph Abbott Jr. are among those with a surviving 1782 enumeration, but Joseph's son Benjamin's enumeration is missing.

1782 - Halifax Co, VA - Heads of Household Enumeration

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

[Source: List of Inhabitants 1782-1785. Miscellaneous Reel 1263. Library of Virginia]

Joseph Abbott Jr. (b. c1750) married Magdaline Lacy in Halifax County abt. 1778. Later records show this first child in their 1782 household was Adaline Abbott, born abt. 1780. Joseph Jr.'s wife Magdaline was a daughter of Thomas Lacy and wife Catharine, as proved

by Thomas' 1802 will, naming her "Magdaline Abbott." [HWB6:422; HDB15:156] Undocumented online files mistakenly give her name as Mary Magdalena Lacy, for which there is no evidence at all. Her numerous records consistently name her only as Magdaline, including her father's will, and neither Magdaline nor her siblings had third names. It is frequently a temptation for later family historians to formalize names to modern ones or add middle/third names that have no evidence in the records, not realizing that middle names were uncommon in Virginia until the early 1800s. (The same kind of error applies to Joseph's son William Abbott, who, contrary to some online files, was not named William Isaac Abbott, and Benjamin's son James Abbott, who was not named James Thomas Abbott.)

In the 1782 household enumeration, Joseph Abbott Sr. is listed with 14 whites and 3 blacks. If this is correct, then besides Joseph and wife Frances, the 12 others appear to be:

1. William Abbott - b. 1756 - m. 2 Dec 1784, Mary Parker
2. Mary Abbott - b. c1767 - m. 16 Oct 1787, Hatcher Owen
3. Elizabeth Abbott - b. c1768 - never married
4. Frances Abbott - b. c1769 - m. 15 Jan 1795, John Robertson
5. Richard Abbott - b. c1770 - m. 1 Sep 1818, Catharine Fulkerson
6. Leonard Abbott - b. c1771 - m. 9 May 1802, Susanna Ferguson
7. Martha "Patsy" Abbott - b. c1772 - never married
8. John Abbott - b. c1773 (possibly as late as 1776) - never married
9. Moody Abbott - b. c1775 (possibly as late as 1777) - m. 31 May 1826, Martha Lindsey
10. Moses Abbott - b. c1776 (possibly as late as 1782) - never married
11. Fleming Abbott - b. c1777 (possibly as late as 1782) - never married
12. One of the "three oldest daughters" - Ann, Sarah, or Rachel (b. c1730-1750)

Note:

It is not known whether the other two oldest daughters are employed in other households (governess, nursemaid, midwife, housekeeper, etc.) or the number was simply miscounted or mis-entered. (Benjamin's count in his 1785 enumeration is also wrong.) There is no evidence any of the three daughters were married. (See above or see individual reports for details.) The evidence we have for the two youngest sons' ages is more nebulous than for the others, and it is possible that Moses and Fleming could be born in 1782 and 1783 respectively. If so, then all Joseph's unmarried children are accounted for here.

The year 1782 is also when the yearly land tax lists and personal property tax lists began in each Virginia county. Land taxes show Joseph Abbott continued to own the 500 acres he purchased by deeds in 1767 and 1778, which was a significant amount of land relative to his time and place. Personal property tax lists tell the other taxable items Joseph owned each year, which combined with his land shows him to be a prosperous farmer well above the average.

During the years 1782 through 1787, the taxable personal property categories varied, and cattle were taxed (although common necessities such as sheep, chicken, and hogs were not). Beginning in 1788, cattle were not longer taxed, and the basic taxable properties that continued were slaves (or "Blacks") ages 12 to 16, slaves age 16 and over, and horses. [Halifax PP Taxes, Reel 147, LVA] From 1787-1790, Halifax tax lists broke down males age 21+ and those age 16-21 (which is a great boon to family research), but thereafter they simply enumerated all males over age 16. Also, beginning in 1787, the tax lists were to be collected door-to-door by the tax official (rather than delivered to the tax official at a given time and

location as was done previously), and the date the list was received was to be recorded. This can give us a general idea of who was living nearby based on how close the dates were, although any single year's list is not always a reliable indicator.

In 1782, Joseph Abbott is listed in the Halifax personal property tax lists with 2 white males age 21 and over (who were Joseph and son William), 3 slaves, 5 horses, and 12 cattle. The number of horses in itself shows relative affluence, as the average was one horse, and many in the county owned no horse at all. Even though Joseph was not among the wealthy, he had done well by his large family who continued to be comfortably well-off.

In 1783, again Joseph and William were the only white males over 21 in the household, and Joseph was listed with 3 slaves age 16+, 1 slave age 12-16, 6 horses, and 12 cattle. The lists for 1783 and 1784 include the names of the taxpayer's slaves. Joseph's slaves were named Dick, Fann, London, and Hannah, the last three of whom are also named in Joseph's 1787 will. In a deed dated 19 Apr 1774, Joseph used his slave London to secure a debt of £41 (one pound more than he paid for his 300 acres in 1767) that Joseph owed to a merchant firm operating out of Glasgow, Scotland. [HDB9:306] Joseph apparently paid the debt in the allotted time, since he still owned his slave London in the 1783 and 1784 tax lists and in his 1787 will.

On 2 Dec 1784, Joseph Abbott's son William Abbott, then age 28, married 19-year-old Mary Parker in Halifax County. [NARA File W5616] She is often recorded as Polly, the standard nickname for Mary. Mary was a daughter of Edward Parker and his wife Susannah and is named "Polly wife of William Abbott" in her father's 1819 will written in Rowan County, NC. [RWBH:112] William and Mary lived on a part of Joseph's land at Difficult Creek that Joseph devised to William in his 1787 will.

In Joseph Abbott's personal property tax list dated 13 April 1787, he added a white male designated as being age 16-21 (the first year this category was included). This male, like all others in this category, is only enumerated not named, but later lists prove he is Richard Abbott, Joseph and Frances Abbott's first son. Richard was born abt. 1770, as he first appears in his own name at age 21 in 1791. Joseph is also listed in 1787 with 2 slaves over age 16, 1 slave age 12-16, 4 horses, and 10 cattle.

In 1787, Joseph's son William Abbott is listed on the same day as Joseph, as he should be, since he lived on some of Joseph's land. William was taxed this year for no slaves, 2 horses (at least one of which Joseph apparently gave him) and 4 cattle. William's family register that is part of his widow's 1848 pension file shows their first child, Rebekah M. Abbott (who later married Cornelius Beasley), was born the next year.

Joseph's son "Joseph Abbott Junr." Is listed this year with one horse and no slaves or cattle. His list is dated 17 Apr 1787, four days after Joseph Sr. and William. Joseph and Magdaline may already be living on the land he formally purchased from Magdaline's parents in 1791 located on Winns Creek and the Old Courthouse Road a short distance south of Joseph Sr. and family at Difficult Creek. [HDB15:156] Later records show Joseph and Magdaline have two daughters by this year, Adaline and Sarah, and their first son, Thomas Abbott, was born the next year.

Joseph Sr.'s son Benjamin Abbott is listed in a different tax district from the other Abbotts, since Benjamin was living at Bye Creek, which was on the south side of Banister River abt. 10-12 miles west of the rest of Joseph's family. (Banister River flows diagonally across Halifax northwest to southeast to its mouth at the Dan River, which then flows east to the Halifax border at the Staunton River. The Halifax tax districts, North and South, divided the county basically north and south of the Banister and Dan.) In 1787, Benjamin Abbott is listed with 2 slaves age 16+, 1 slave 12-16, 3 horses, and 13 cattle, about the same as his father but with a much smaller family to support. Benjamin also has a son that year enumerated between age 16-21, who later proves to be his second son, Armistead Abbott, born abt. 1771. (Benjamin's daughter Nancy Abbott was born abt. 1767, but daughters are not included in the tax lists.) Benjamin's eldest son, Elisha Abbott, born bet. 1764-1765, is listed with 2 horses and 1 cattle and also owns 170 acres that Benjamin gave him in 1783, when Elisha was abt. 18 years old. [HDB12:286]

On 10 Oct 1787, Joseph Abbott gave consent for his and wife Frances' first daughter, Mary Abbott, to marry. [Halifax Marriage Bonds Register, LVA Reel 82] (Males and females not yet of legal adult age of 21 needed parental consent to marry, and a mother could not give consent without the father unless he was deceased and she was not remarried.) Mary's husband-to-be, Hatcher Owen, gave bond the same date, and his security (bondsman) was Mary's brother Richard Abbott. Oddly, Richard Abbott was then only 17-18, not yet of legal age. However, the chances of Richard's being called upon to pay the bond were nil, as that would happen only if Hatcher reneged on the marriage and would not pay the bond himself. In actuality, the marriage bond essentially sealed the marriage, as the bond penalty was steep (at that time \$150). The bond served like today's marriage license by which the minister or legal official was authorized to perform the ceremony. Signing the bond and the marriage ceremony frequently took place the same day, and usually they were no more than a week or so apart. Mary Abbott married Hatcher Owen on 16 Oct 1787 with the Methodist minister Rev. Hawkins Landrum officiating.

Death of Joseph Abbott

Joseph Abbott wrote his will on 30 Mar 1787, saying nothing about being sick or weak in body, only "calling to mind the uncertainty of this transitory life." In Oct 1787, Joseph signed consent for his daughter Mary's marriage, and he apparently was still alive on 27 Mar 1788, per a court case of that date. [HPB12:355] (Ironically, the case was one that Richard Brown began just before his death in 1772 and was abated but brought again by Richard's executor, Thomas Tunstall. Once again, this case in Mar 1788 was abated, this time because the plaintiff Tunstall had "departed this life." Presumably, this is the Thomas Tunstall whose will was proved 19 May 1788 in Pittsylvania County, VA.)

Joseph Abbott died between this case on 27 Mar 1788 and 8 May 1788, when the Halifax tax list for his personal property shows no white males over age 21, only the son age 16-21 (Richard). Joseph Abbott's will was proved in Halifax Court on 27 Oct 1788 and reads as follows:

WILL OF JOSEPH ABBOTT

Written 30 Mar 1787 - Proved 27 Oct 1788 - Halifax Will Book 2, p. 298-300

In the name of God amen, I Joseph Abbott of the County of Halifax being in perfect sense and memory and calling to mind the uncertainty of this Transitory life knowing it is appointed once for all men to die and as touching such worldly estate as it has pleased almighty God to give me, I do give and bequeath in the following manner

Imp[rimis] I give and bequeath to my wife Frances Abbott my hole estate both real and personal during her natural life or Widowhood except that tract of land which my son William lives on which contains one hundred and fifty [150] acres But if she should marry I do give her the third part of my estate --

Item I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Abbott One Shilling Current Money --

Item I give and bequeath to my son William Abbott that Parcel or Tract of Land whereon he now lives containing one hundred and fifty [150] acres which is the greater part of that tract of land that I had from Isaac Linch to him and his heirs forever --

Item I give and bequeath to my son Richard Abbott my house and plantation whereon I now live containing one hundred and fifty [150] acres to him and his heirs forever --

Item I give and bequeath to my son Lennard Abbott one hundred [100] acres of land adjoining to the same tract or parcel of land lying on the timber branch To him & his heirs forever --

Item I give and bequeath to my son Moody Abbott the whole remainder of my lands [ie, 100 acres] to him and his heirs forever --

Item I give and bequeath to my three young Sons namely John, Moses and Flemmon a Negro Wench named fan [Fan], and all my stock of Horses to be sold and the money equally divided amongst them at the decease of Myself and my Wife

Item I give and bequeath to my four youngest Daughters namely Mary, Elizabeth, Frances & Paty, One Negro Girl named Hanna She and her increase to be sold by my executors or administrators hereinafter mentioned and the Money to be equally divided amongst them all to them and their heirs forever

Item I give and bequeath to my three Oldest daughters namely Anney, Sarah and Rachel and also to my son Joseph Abbott One Negro fellow named London to be sold and the money equally divided amongst them four at the four discease mentioned [ie, aforementioned decease] of myself and my wife

Likewise all the rest and residue of stock I have to be equally divided amongst my youngest boys beginning at William Abbott

Likewise all household and furniture I give to my wife Frances Abbott to dispose of as she should best see cause amongst her children } and my wife Frances Abbott Exex [Executrix]

And lastly I appoint my son William Abbott Executor and Nathaniel Manning Executor of this my last will and testament revoking and disanuling all other will or wills heretofore by me made

[n] witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this thirty day of March 1787 [30 Mar 1787] /s/ Joseph (his mark) Abbott

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of --
Ambrose Estes, John Stanly

At a Court held for Halifax County the 27th day of October 1788 [27 Oct 1788] The last will and Testament of Joseph Abbott deceased was exhibited in Court and was proved by the oaths of two of the witnesses thereto subscribed to be the act and will of the said Joseph and was ordered to be Recorded, and on the motion of Frances Abbott Exex [Executrix] and Wm Abbott one of the Exors [Executors] therein named who made Oath according to law Certificate for obtaining Probate of the said Estate was granted them: they giving security whereupon they together with Edward Parker and John Fulkerson their securities entered into and acknowledged their bond for that purpose according to law reserving liberty for Nathaniel Manning the other Exor therein named to join in the execution thereof when he shall think fit. Teste: George Carrington

[Source: Halifax Will Book 2, p. 298-300. Reel 36. Library of Virginia. Richmond, VA. Transcribed by J. Horsley. Original spelling retained; paragraphing, commas between names, and comments in brackets added.]

- - - - -

Although Joseph signed his will by mark, this probably was due to age, as Joseph signed his 1774 deed of trust by signature. Joseph's widow, Frances Abbott, was about 46 years old when Joseph died. One very unusual part of Joseph's will is that he allowed Frances 1/3 of his estate (the legal dower amount) even if she should remarry. Usually, if a wife was still of an age where another marriage was possible, her husband's will stipulated that any bequest was only during her lifetime or widowhood, that is, until she remarried, at which time his legal responsibility to her ended. Also, upon re-marrying, any properties she held became the property of her new husband, and it was possible (albeit unethical) for him to sell or will any property she had, thus leaving her children by her first husband without that part of their inheritance. In contrast, Joseph's will placed no such restriction on Frances' dower amount. Thus, either way, whether she re-married or not, Joseph left Frances well-provided financially. She lived another 35 years and never re-married.

Will witnesses Ambrose Estes and John Stanley were Joseph's adjacent neighbors, and one of the appointed executors, Nathaniel Manning, also owned adjacent land (although his residence may be a different tract a short way south at Winns Creek and adjacent to Joseph Abbott Jr. [HDB2:680]). Frances Abbott's and William Abbott's executor bond was secured by Edward Parker, father of William Abbott's wife Mary Parker, and John Fulkerson, Joseph's near neighbor and father of Catharine Fulkerson who married Joseph's son Richard Abbott in 1818.

The routine court-ordered inventory and appraisal of Joseph Abbott's estate was ordered in court the same day his will was proved [HPB13:43] and was made in November 1788 by near neighbors John Wood, Ambrose Estes (a will witness), and Fulker Fulkerson (John Fulkerson's father). [HWP2:308] (Oddly, the spring personal property taxes in 1787-1789 for Joseph and then for his Estate list him with 4 horses each year and 10 cattle in 1787, the

last year taxed, while Joseph's inventory in Nov 1788 lists only 2 horses and 8 cattle.) As was common for slaveholders, the value of his slaves made up half the value of his total personal property, and often slaves comprised an even high percentage. This gives some idea of how dependant their economy was on slave labor and the institution of slavery.

Inventory and Appraisal of the Estate of Joseph Abbott, dec'd
 Taken November 1788 - Recorded in Halifax Court 25 Nov 1788
 Appraisers: John Wood, Ambrose Estes, and Fulker Fulkerson
 Items include: 3 slaves: "negro man London (£55), negro girl Fan (£40), and negro girl Hannah (£30);" 2 horses; 2 sows, 8 shoats, 4 cows, 2 "heffers," 2 "earlings" [yearlings], gun[?], 4 butter potts, 2 tubs, 1 pan, 2 pr. Pott hooks and 2 potts, 1 duch [dutch] oven, 2 tubs, 1 pigin [piggin], sifter, 1 tub, parcel of casks, parcel of jugs, parcel of leather, parcel of cotton, parcel of hoes, parcel of blades, 2 wedges, 3 axes, 1 box iron and __, 1 auger, saw, chisel, and gouge, parcel of crokery [crockery] ware, 1 tea kettle, 1 candle stick, 1 loom, 2 cotton wheels, 1 flax wheel, 2 pr of cards, 1 bed bedstead & furniture, 1 bed and bed stead, 1 bed stead and cord, 2 chests, 1 trunk, 2 tables, 7 chairs, 1 side-saddle, 1 looking Glass, parcel of meat, 1115 lbs of inspected tobacco, parcel of uninspected tobacco, parcel of corn, 2 stacks of wheat. [several items illegible] Total = £247 15s 9p
 [Source: Halifax Will Book 2, p. 308-310. Reel 36. Library of Virginia. Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

The final sale of Joseph Abbott's estate took place 7 Nov 1823 after the death of his widow, Frances Abbott, whose will was proved 22 Sep 1823 [HWB13:30], in order to account for the slaves and their "increase" (ie, children) loaned to Frances for lifetime use. The balance of Joseph's estate and the legacies of personal property could then be divided among Joseph's children or their heirs as directed by his will. Ownership of the devised lands automatically became the property of the designated heirs upon Frances' death.

Sale of Estate of Joseph Abbott dec'd
 Date of sale: 7 Nov 1823
 Only the 8 slaves were included in the report. Purchased by:
 Fielding Williams - 1 slave for \$202
 Thomas McCargo - 1 slave for \$488
 Elizabeth Abbott [Joseph's daughter] - 6 slaves for \$1376
 Total: \$2066
 Signed by William Abbott, Executor of Joseph Abbott dec'd
 Recorded: 24 Aug 1825

Account of Estate of Joseph Abbott, dec'd
 Dated: 18 Aug 1825
 Amount from sale of the estate: \$2066.00
 Balance due in favor of the estate: \$1957.63
 Signed by Wm. Bailey, Samuel Williams, Benjamin Hunt jr, Commissioners
 Recorded: 24 Aug 1825

[Source: Halifax Will Book 13, p. 558-559. Reel 41. Library of Virginia. Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1788-1810: A Time of Change

When Joseph died, nine of his ten children with Frances and some, if not all, of his oldest daughters were still living at home. The youngest child (Fleming) was probably 11 years old but possibly younger. Even without William Abbott's adjacent 150 acres that went to him upon Joseph's death, Frances still had a significant tract of 350 acres for her lifetime use. The 1789 personal tax lists show that one slave had been sold (perhaps Hannah, per Joseph's will), but Frances still had the use of the other two slaves (and their future children), and the estate continues to be listed with 4 horses. Thus, Frances was in a much better position financially than many a widow her age with minor children. From her own estate accounts and the intervening years' tax lists, Frances was a good business woman and an adept manager of her resources.

Joseph and Frances' son Richard Abbott, then about 18 years old, was the oldest male in the household. He obviously became the acting head-of-house, although the family's taxes are listed as "Joseph Abbott Estate" until 1791 when Richard was 21 and could be named as the responsible taxpayer. In 1793 and 1795, his taxes are listed as "Richard Abbott & Mother," combining his personal property with Frances' property, and in other years, the property for which Richard is taxed includes his mother's as well. The "white tithes" listed for Richard's household include his younger brothers but apparently only as each turned 21 rather than the usual 16, based on other records for them. Frances Abbott does not appear in her own name until 1797. From then on, her younger sons usually are included in her tax lists rather than Richard's, although Richard apparently remained part of the family household for some time to come. (The house and the land it was on was to come to him after Frances died, although Richard purchased adjacent property in the meantime.)

Richard's next younger brother, Leonard Abbott, is still listed between age 16-21 under "Joseph Abbott Estate" in 1791 and first appears in his own name at 21 in 1792 (thus born c1771). Leonard, too, remained part of the family household until his marriage 10 years later, after which he lived on adjacent land.

In 1795, Joseph and Frances' third daughter, Frances Abbott, married. (Their second daughter, Elizabeth, born abt. 1768, and fourth daughter, Martha/Patsy, born abt. 1772, never married.) Their daughter Frances was then abt. 25 years old and signed her own consent to marry John Robertson. John's marriage bond is dated 14 Jan 1795 with Stith Harrison as his security. [*Halifax Marriage Bonds Register No. 1*] John and Frances were married 15 Jan 1795, and like her sister Mary in 1787, Frances' marriage to John Robertson was officiated by the Methodist minister Rev. Hawkins Landrum. Many online Abbott files with other proved errors give Frances Abbott Robertson's death date as her marriage date. Other undocumented files say Joseph Abbott's daughter Frances died in February 1797 with no children. However, both are mistaken. Tax lists, censuses, deeds, probate records, and grave markers prove John Robertson's widow Frances lived to 1834 with six surviving children and a seventh child who died abt. three years before Frances.

Joseph Abbott's eldest son, Benjamin Abbott, died between May 1796 - May 1797 at abt. 68 years old. Obviously aware that his life was drawing to a close, between August 1794 and May 1796 Benjamin deeded all his land and slaves among each of his seven children in lieu of writing a will. He made an effort to divide these properties so that their values would be equal to what he had given each child over time, adding in some deeds the phrase "to do

him/her equal right and justice with the rest of my children.” As no dower release is included in any of the five land deeds and as he did not provide in any way for his wife, Ann, after his death, it seems obvious that Ann Abbott was deceased by the time of these deeds.

In 1796, the last year Benjamin appears on the tax lists, he is listed for the first time ever with no personal property, since his slaves had been deeded and other tax lists show that his horses were distributed among his three youngest children to whom he gave the slaves. There was no probate of his estate, since he owned no property when he died, and a question regarding the absence of administration for “the estate of Benjamin Abbott, deceased” arose in the court records in 1805, misleading some family researchers to think that was the year Benjamin died. [HPB23:452] However, it begs credibility that Benjamin would simply disappear from all Halifax records and be missed in the yearly personal property taxes for 9 years. Even adult male residents with no personal property were required to return a tax list, which at this time were collected by the tax officials going door-to-door, and Benjamin is never enumerated in any child’s household. Also, after a lifetime of regular court appearances, Benjamin last appears in the Halifax Court records in Feb 1796. All this combined with several records regarding his children leaves no question that Benjamin died bet. 1796-1797. (See Report on Benjamin Abbott for more details.)

Although Benjamin Abbott left no will, his children are proved by the deeds for their inheritance. All were born in Halifax County, VA. They began leaving Halifax in early 1804 [HDB20:151], and by 1820, Benjamin and Ann’s only child remaining in Halifax was their son Elisha Abbott, who died there in 1837. [HWB18:295]

Children of Benjamin Abbott & wife Ann:

1. Elisha Abbott - b. Bet. 1764-1765; m. 29 Oct 1793 to Lydia Clay (d/o Margaret Clay);
d. Bet. 28 Jan - 24 Apr 1837, Halifax Co, VA
2. Nancy Abbott - b. Abt. 1767; m. 12 Jan 1789 to William Goodwin;
d. Aft. 1807, Place unknown
3. Armistead Abbott - b. Abt. 1771; m. 23 May 1797 to Frances Priddy (d/o George Priddy);
d. Bet. Jun - Sep 1840, Stokes Co, NC
4. Joseph Abbott - b. Abt. 1774; m. 26 Dec 1796 to Elizabeth Priddy (d/o George Priddy);
d. 1818, Stokes Co, NC
5. Jacob Abbott - b. Abt. 1775; m. 19 Dec 1799 to Polly Dickson;
d. Bet. 26 Jan - 22 Feb 1830, Madison Co, AL
6. James Abbott - b. Abt. 1775; unmarried; d. Bet. 1814 - 1815, Halifax Co, VA
7. Elizabeth Abbott - b. Abt. 1779; m. 20 Jul 1807 to Jasper Wyatt;
d. Aft. 1807, Place unknown

[See Report for Benjamin Abbott for sources and each person’s Notes for more information.]

The next major family event was in 1802 with the marriage of Joseph and Frances’ son Leonard Abbott (b. c1771). Leonard was abt. 31 years old when he married Susanna Ferguson, daughter of Thomas Ferguson, who named her as “Susanna Abbott” in his 1821 will. [HWB13:152] (The family name in Halifax County usually was spelled Ferguson until Susanna’s generation when it transitioned to the modern Ferguson spelling.) The Fergusons had been friends of the Abbott family since Joseph moved his family to Halifax [HDB7:3], so like most couples of their day, Leonard and Susanna had known each other all their lives.

Leonard's marriage bond, dated 19 May 1802, was secured by his brother Moody Abbott as bondsman, and Susanna's father, "Thomas Farguson," gave his consent. [*Halifax Marriage Bonds Register, LVA Reel 82*] Leonard and Susanna were married on 22 May 1802 by Rev. Thomas Dobson, a Baptist minister.

Leonard Abbott raised his family on the land at Difficult Creek devised to him by his father's will. His land was adjacent to Joseph's residence tract devised to son Richard (who did not marry until 1818). Their lands were adjacent to the lands Joseph devised to sons Moody (who did not marry until 1826) and William (now with a family of eight children). By the conditions of Joseph's will, Leonard's mother, Frances. Was to have lifetime use of all the land. However, all Joseph's children who continued to live with and next to Frances (including their children John, Elizabeth, and Patsy who never married) seem from the records to be a close-knit family group. Either they farmed all the land together or divided its use among them in an amicable fashion. Also, in 1798, William and Richard purchased tracts adjacent to their devised lands, further expanding the family resources.

In 1802, their brother Joseph Abbott Jr. and wife Magdaline continued to live just south at Winns Creek, now with all their seven children who survived to adulthood. Their sister Mary Abbott Owen with husband Hatcher Owen and family lived nearby at Terrible Creek a short distance west of Joseph Abbott Jr. Six of Mary and Hatcher's seven known children were born by 1802. Their sister Frances Abbott Robertson with husband John Robertson and family also lived for some time in same general area as her mother and siblings, and two of their seven children were born by 1802. The several John Robertsons in Halifax at that time are sometimes difficult to identify in the tax lists; however, it seems to be around 1805-1806 when Frances and John moved abt. 25 miles away to live in southwestern Halifax County near today's towns of Elmo and Paces.

In 1803, Joseph and Frances' next-to-youngest child, Moses Abbott, appears in the Halifax personal property tax lists for the first time by name living in the South District and away from his family who were in the North District. Five years before in 1798 Moses witnessed a deed between his older brothers William and Richard [*HDB18:128*], and this 1803 tax list is the only other time Moses Abbott appears in Halifax records. Later records indicate he left Halifax abt. 1804 to move to Richmond, VA, where he is proved to be living in 1813.

Also in 1803 is the only Halifax record for Joseph and Frances' last child, Fleming Abbott. On 31 Mar 1803, "Flemmen Abbott" witnessed the will of long-time Abbott neighbor and friend John Fulkerson. [*HWB6:545*] John and his father, Fulker Fulkerson, had lived near Joseph Abbott's family at least from 1765 [*HDB5: 457*], and in 1818, John's daughter Catharine Fulkerson married Fleming's brother Richard Abbott. The 1804 personal property tax lists show Frances Abbott still with one male over age 16, who almost certainly is Fleming. (After 1804, Frances is not listed again with a male over 16 except in an occasional year when her unmarried son Moody Abbott is missing by name and Frances' extra taxable property coincides with Moody's in the other years in that time frame when he is named separately.)

After 1804, no record or even an indication of Fleming has been found in Halifax or anywhere else. The most obvious explanation is that Fleming Abbott died in Halifax County shortly after spring 1804. There may be some possibility that Fleming followed Moses to Richmond and died there before 1816, but that idea is based on an unreliable family story that includes a number of proved errors, and there is no evidence in the records to support

it. Interestingly, Fleming's older sister Frances Robertson had a son born 25 Nov 1805 whom she and John named Fleming Robertson, which might relate to her brother Fleming's recent death. *[Grave marker Trigg Co, KY]* On the other hand, another brother, Leonard Abbott, had a son he named Fleming Abbott who was born abt. 1815. In any case, Joseph and Frances' son Fleming almost surely died before Dec 1815, as he is omitted in his next older brother Moses Abbott's will that bequeaths to his only full brothers still alive at that time, which we discuss further below. (See report on Joseph Abbott's son Fleming Abbott for more details and evidence.)

Another Abbott family death possibly occurred not long after 1804, although again the exact year is not known. Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen's last child was born abt. 1804 according to the 1820 census, and Hatcher is widowed by that that year. Mary would be only about 37 years old in 1804, still of childbearing age, so she may have died closer to 1804 than 1820, when the census proves Mary to be deceased by then. Hatcher Owen died in 1829. Later records show their family remained involved with their Abbott cousins. Their children are proved by tax lists, censuses, and marriage records. (See report on Mary Abbott for details.)

Children of Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen

1. Drury Owen - b. Abt. 1788; m. 13 Jan 1823 to Nancy Vaughan Jordan
(Nancy was the daughter of James Vaughan and widow of Samuel Jordan)
d. Bet. 1850 - 1860, De Soto Co, MS
2. William Owen - b. Abt. 1794; m 1st 22 Dec 1818 to Martha Owen,
m 2nd 5 Dec 1836 to Judith Penick
d. Bet. 1860 - 1870, Halifax Co, VA
3. Rebecca Owen - b. Abt. 1798; m. 29 Nov 1819 to Edwin Vaughan (of Nancy Vaughan)
d. 1852, Tipton Co, TN
4. Beverly Owen - b. Abt. 1799; never married; d. Aft. 1820, prob. Halifax Co, VA
5. Elizabeth Owen - b. Abt. 1800; m. 30 May 1820 to Royal Daniel;
d. Bet. 1860 - 1870, Muhlenberg Co, KY
6. Moody Owen - b. Abt. 1802; m. 16 Nov 1836 to Martha Jane Johnson;
d. 15 Apr 1884, Halifax Co.
7. Mary "Polly" Owen - b. Abt. 1804; m. 16 May 1832 to John Abbott (son of Leonard Abbott)
d. Aft. Oct 1832, Place unknown

(See report on Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen for more information and sources.)

Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1811-1818: Grief and Loss

Between 1811 and 1818, there were six untimely deaths in the immediate Abbott family. Some were half-siblings or Frances' step-children; however, except for Benjamin who was significantly older, such distinctions among Joseph Abbott Sr.'s children seem to be of no importance to their relationships or how involved they were with each other. The six who died were Joseph Abbott Jr., his wife Magdaline Lacy Abbott, Frances Abbott Robertson's husband John Robertson, Leonard Abbott, Moses Abbott, and William Abbott's son Carter A. Abbott. Thus in effect, Joseph's widow Frances Abbott lost three sons, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and an adult grandson within these seven years. (Also bet. 1814-1815, James Abbott, son of Benjamin Abbott, died unmarried at abt. 40 years old in another part of

Halifax, although he seems to have no involvement with these others.) So far I have not found a particular local or regional epidemic during this time period, but that remains one possible cause for at least some in this series of deaths.

Joseph Abbott Jr. died in 1811 at about 61 years old, leaving seven children, three of whom were still minors. He obviously died unexpectedly, as he only recently sold his land at Winns Creek near where he had lived since his early teens. At the same time Joseph purchased new land in southeastern Halifax and may still have been in the process of moving there when he died. Joseph sold his Winn Creek land on 25 Dec 1809 to Thomas Owen, brother of Joseph's brother-in-law Hatcher Owen. [HDB22:266] Earlier the same month, on 2 Dec 1809, Joseph purchased land at the Dan River near today's Omega, VA [HDB22:265], and on 25 Dec 1809, Joseph used this new land to secure a merchant debt he owed. [HDB23:292] Joseph last appears in the yearly personal property tax lists in May 1810, when he was still living in the North District of his old home near his siblings and step-mother Frances Abbott, with whom Joseph lived from the age of 15. Joseph apparently was still alive on 5 Oct 1810 [HDB23:162], but he is missing in the spring 1811 tax lists. He died before 25 Nov 1811, when the administrator of his estate was appointed, and his widow, Magdaline Abbott, first appears in the tax lists 6 May 1812, then in their new home in the South District.

Joseph Abbott Jr. died intestate (ie, without a will). On 25 Nov 1811, his younger brother John Abbott applied for and was granted administration of Joseph's estate, and his brothers William Abbott and Richard Abbott secured John's administrative bond. [HPB29:223] Technically they all were Joseph's half-brothers, but among Joseph Abbott Sr.'s children (except Benjamin, who was much older), there seems to be no distinction between half-sibling and full-sibling in how involved they were with each other. The administrator John Abbott, who never married, was involved with the probate of several of his siblings. In Joseph's case, evidence in tax lists and estate accounts shows that John Abbott moved down close to Magdaline and the children for at least three years while he was settling Joseph's estate. This was fortuitous, because John was still there when Joseph's widow, Magdaline Lacy Abbott, died shortly after Joseph. Magdaline died bet. March 1813, when she last appears on the annual tax lists, and March 1814, when their eldest child, Adaline Abbott, then abt. 34 and unmarried, assumed the tax responsibility for herself and several younger siblings.

Joseph and Magdaline's children are proved by tax list and census information and particularly by the division of Joseph's estate and sales of inherited land bet. 1828-1839. (See report on Joseph Abbott Jr. for details, evidence, and sources.)

- - - - -

Children of Joseph Abbott Jr. and Magdaline Lacy

1. Adeline Abbott - b. Abt. 1780; never married; d. Abt. 1821, Halifax Co, VA
2. Sarah Abbott - b. Abt. 1784; m. 5 Nov 1804 to John Keeling;
d. Aft. 1804, possibly in Union Co, KY
3. Thomas Abbott - b. Abt. 1788; m. 28 Dec 1830 to Nancy Edmundson;
d. 18 Dec 1871, Halifax Co, VA
4. Catharine Abbott - b. Abt. 1790; never married; d. Bet. 1860 - 1870, Halifax Co, VA
5. Daughter Abbott - b. Abt. 1792; m. Abt. 1815 to Thomas Faulkner;
d. Bet. 1816 - 1820, Halifax Co, VA

6. Samuel M. Abbott - b. 10 Mar 1794; m. 7 Jul 1818 in NC (poss. Granville Co.) to Prudence Elam;
d. 21 Dec 1866, Gibson Co, TN
7. Magdelane Abbott - b. Abt. 1796; never married; d. Abt. 1825, Halifax Co, VA
(See report on Joseph Abbott Jr. for more details and sources.)

Another family death occurred within same year that Joseph Jr.'s widow Magdaline died. Joseph Sr. and Frances Abbott's daughter Frances Abbott Robertson had been living at least since 1806 and perhaps longer in southwestern Halifax some distance away from her mother and siblings. Frances' husband John Robertson died there between March 1813, when he last appears on the yearly personal property tax lists, and March 1814, when his widow Frances Robertson is listed for the first time. All of Frances and John's seven children were still minors, the youngest abt. age 6 or so, and Frances was abt. 44-45 years old. (John's age is not known.)

Even though the families had not lived near each other for some time, once again an Abbott sibling came in to assist at this critical time. In March Court 1814, Frances' brother William Abbott (a half-brother 13 years her senior) applied for and was granted administration of John Robertson's estate. [HPB31:67] Frances remained living near today's Elmo, VA. Like her mother, Frances never re-married and raised her children on her own. Her eldest son, John Robertson Jr., married in 1816 but continued to live close to Frances. Her next four children were sons who lived with her and helped run the farm. The youngest two children were daughters still unmarried at Frances' death, so they, too, could give Frances needed assistance as she grew older.

Frances lived to abt. 65 years old. The inventory of her estate was ordered in June Court 1834. [HWB17:301] Only after her death did several of the sons leave Halifax to go to Kentucky. (See report on Frances Abbott for more information.)

Children of Frances Abbott & John Robertson

1. John Robertson - b. 2 Nov 1796; m. 8 Oct 1816, Caswell Co, NC to
Nancy Cabaniss of Halifax (d/o Matthew Cabaniss & Susannah Carter)
d. 30 Jul 1860, Trigg Co, KY
2. William Robertson - b. Abt. 1798; never married; d. Abt. 1831, Halifax Co, VA
3. George M. Robertson - b. Abt. 1804; m. 11 Dec 1830 to Sarah "Sally" Newbill
d. Bet. 1843 - 1850, Caldwell Co, KY
4. Fleming Robertson - b. 25 Nov 1805; never married; d. 26 Apr 1866, Trigg Co, KY
5. Joseph Robertson - b. Abt. 1807; m. Bet. 1850 - 1860, Pittsylvania Co, VA to Dolly C.
d. Bet. 1880 - 1900, Pittsylvania Co, VA
- 6 & 7. Two Daughters (names unknown) b. Bet. 1805 - 1810; no marriages known;
d. Aft. 1830 (residents of Halifax Co, VA in 1830)

(See report on Frances Abbott and notes for each child for more information and sources.)

The fourth consecutive family death came within a year of the previous one. Joseph and Frances Abbott's second son, Leonard Abbott, apparently moved from Difficult Creek abt. 1810-1811 to land at his wife's parents on Terrible Creek, where Leonard died bet. 1814-

1815. Leonard last appears in the yearly personal property taxes on 4 Mar 1814, and he is last listed in court records in road orders for the same year. [HPB31:246] Leonard Abbott died before 24 Dec 1815, when his brother Moses Abbott's will (discussed shortly) named his surviving full brothers as legatees and Leonard was not among them.

Leonard was only around 44 years old when he died. His widow, Susanna Ferguson Abbott, was then abt. age 33 and had five minor children, one an infant or perhaps not yet even born. Leonard did not leave a will, and there is no probate recorded for his estate. His widow, Susanna Abbott, is not listed in the tax lists until Feb 1817, taxed for one horse, and then not again until Feb 1824, when her father died. (Apparently Susanna's father was paying the taxes on her horse in the interim. Her sons did not reach the age where they would appear as "tithes" in her household until after those no longer were included in tax lists for her district. Women were included in the tax lists only if they were unmarried adults who had taxable property or white males "tithes" ages 16+.)

Susanna Ferguson Abbott died shortly before Nov 1826 when the inventory of her estate was made. [HWB14:251] Leonard's brother William Abbott, who lived next to them, was granted administration of her estate. [HMB4:243] William also had guardianship of at least one of Susanna's still-minor sons, the youngest being abt. age 11. [HMB6:286]

Neither Leonard Abbott nor his wife Susanna Ferguson left a will. Their five children, all sons, jointly inherited land through both their father, Leonard (who inherited the land from his father Joseph Abbott), and through their maternal grandfather, Thomas Ferguson. Thus, Leonard and Susanna's children are proved by the sales of their inherited lands and by the division of Thomas' estate. [HMB4:202] (See report on Leonard Abbott for details.)

Children of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson

1. Thomas F. Abbott - b. Abt 1803; m. 16 Jan 1827 to Annis Abbott (d/o Elisha Abbott);
d. 1834, Halifax Co, VA
2. Joseph Abbott - b. Abt. 1805; m. 6 Dec 1831 to Alice "Ailcey" Abbott (d/o Elisha Abbott);
d. Bet. 1850-1854, Lincoln Co, MO
3. John Abbott - b. Abt. 1806; m. 16 May 1832 to Mary "Polly" Owen (d/o Mary Abbott &
Hatcher Owen); d. Aft. Oct 1832, place unknown
4. Leonard Abbott (Jr.) - b. Abt. 1809; m. 14 Mar 1832 to Catharine Shaw;
d. Bet. 1844 - 1850, Carroll Co, TN
5. Fleming Abbott - b. Abt. 1815; m. Abt. 1837, TN to Lemisa Jane Owens/Owen;
d. Bet. 1860 - 1870, Lincoln Co, TN

(See Report on Leonard Abbott and children's individual notes for details and sources.)

Shortly after Leonard died, Joseph and Frances' next-to-youngest child, Moses Abbott, died quite suddenly probably in late December 1815 or within the next several weeks. He was abt. 39 years old and unmarried. Moses left Halifax County abt. 1804 and apparently moved directly to Richmond, Henrico County, VA, where he is proved to be living at least by 1813. Evidence from Moses' will and probate indicates that Moses was traveling from his residence in Richmond to spend Christmas with his family in Halifax when he became too ill to continue and died in the town of Charlotte Court House, VA, about 30 miles from home.

Moses Abbott wrote his will on Christmas Eve 24 Dec 1815. *[Henrico WB5:71]* Moses left the whole of his substantial estate in specified ways to “my dear mother,” Frances Abbott, “my three brothers Moody, John and Richard” (then his only surviving full brothers, as William Abbott, though still living, was a half-brother at least 20 years older than Moses) and “my two unmarried sisters Elizabeth and Patsy” (the nickname for Martha). After Frances’ death, the siblings were to share equally in Moses estate, except for a particular bequest to John: “I devise to my brother John and his heirs a lot of Ground which belongs to me in the City of Richmond upon condition that he pays annually to my two unmarried sisters the sum of one hundred dollars to be equally divided between them during their lives.” Moses appointed his brother John Abbott as executor, and their brother Moody Abbott was security on John’s executor’s bond of \$8000. Although Moses left no orphans as did the other Abbott family members who died around the same time, his death has its own poignancy as a relatively young man with a promising future who did not live long enough to fulfill his potential. (For more about Moses Abbott’s life and death, see the separate report on him.)

Then in 1817 or 1818, Carter A. Abbott, son of William Abbott and Mary Parker, died unmarried at age 26 or 27. Carter last appears in the Halifax personal property tax lists on 24 Feb 1817. For the first time he was listed in the South District away from his parents at Difficult Creek, where all his life Carter was surrounded by uncles, aunts, cousins, and his grandmother Frances Abbott. (Even though Frances did not birth his father, William Abbott, she raised William from abt. 9 years old.) William Abbott was granted administration.

[HWB11:209] The inventory of Carter’s estate, ordered October Court 1818, was taken by William’s brothers John Abbott and Moody Abbott and their close neighbor Nathaniel Barksdale. Carter was the eldest of William and Mary’s two sons, which must have added to the sadness of their loss.

In the midst of these deaths, the United States was embroiled in the War of 1812 that particularly involved Virginia troops and soldiers, enlisted and drafted, in 1813 and 1814. Fighting did not threaten the immediate Halifax area, but no one during the war years was spared other kinds of threats. Families were affected by fears and uncertainties about the safety of loved ones who were in service and by worries over the outcome of this war. Often called America’s Second War of Independence, the consequences of defeat threatened all that the hard-won Revolution had gained.

At least two members of the Abbott family served in the War of 1812. They were Samuel M. Abbott and Thomas Abbott, both sons of Joseph Abbott Jr. and Magdaline Lacy. Samuel was drafted in Aug 1814 and served to mid-Dec 1814. *[War of 1812 Pension File 11696, NARA]* Samuel’s older brother, Thomas Abbott, was drafted twice. He was drafted first in Jul 1813 and served to Dec 1813, then drafted again in May 1814. Thomas was to serve his second tour again for 6 months, but he was honorably discharged in Sep 1814 due to “extreme debilitated state of health.” *[War of 1812 Pension File 17118, NARA]* The brothers’ mandatory service came of the heels of their father’s death in 1811 and their mother’s death in 1813 or early 1814.

After all the Abbott family’s series of deaths, shock, and loss during the previous seven years, surely a marriage was welcomed with joy as a promise of new life and new beginnings. By a bond of 1 Sep 1818, Joseph and Frances’ eldest son, Richard Abbott, at age 48, married Catharine “Caty” Fulkerson, 20 years his junior. Richard was born and grew

up next to Caty's family, and she had known him all her life. Catharine Fulkerson (b. c1790) was the daughter of John Fulkerson and Sarah "Sally" Roberts. John's father Fulker Fulkerson (originally named Volkert Volkertson) moved to Halifax from Somerset County, NJ around 1750, and at least by 1765, Fulker's family lived a tract away from the Abbotts at Difficult Creek. [HDB5:457] In 1788, Fulker Fulkerson was one of the appraisers of Joseph Abbott's estate, and Fulker's son John Fulkerson (Caty's father) was one of the securities on the executors' bond. Then when John Fulkerson died in 1803, Richard's brother Fleming Abbott witnessed John's will. Caty continued to live with her widowed mother helping to raise four of her seven siblings, just as Richard remained with his widowed mother and helped her with his nine younger siblings. After they married, Richard and Caty continued to live next to their families at Difficult Creek for another 25 years and raised six surviving children. (Like the Abbotts in 1818, I, too, have reason to celebrate Richard and Caty's marriage, as they are my great-great-grandparents.)

Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1820: Prosperity and Thanksgiving

The Abbotts welcomed in the new decade with much for which to be grateful. The siege of deaths was behind them, and once again they could focus on life and the living. The family was continuing to prosper, and the two widows seem well-provided for.

Frances Abbott with her unmarried daughters Elizabeth and Martha and unmarried sons John and Moody were living together at Difficult Creek. Combining their individual tax lists for 1820 shows they collectively were taxed for 7 slaves over age 12 and 6 horses. Joseph Jr. and Magdaline Abbott's unmarried son Thomas Abbott, abt. age 32 in 1820, lived among his Abbott relations at Difficult Creek for several years before returning to his siblings in southeast Halifax on the land they jointly inherited from their father.

Next door to Frances' household on adjacent properties were Frances and Joseph's married sons Richard Abbott, with 5 slaves and 2 horses, and William Abbott, with 4 slaves and 6 horses. William and Mary's son Wesley M. Abbott (b. 27 Sep 1798) is listed by name for the first time this year on his personal property tax list dated 11 Feb 1820, the same date as his father's list. Wesley married in 1834 and continued to live on part of his father's land.

William Abbott, Richard Abbott, and Moody Abbott each had expanded their inherited lands with adjoining tracts. In 1820, William owned 325 acres, including his 150-acre tract from his father. By 1820, Richard Abbott had purchased 334 acres in addition to his inherited 150-acre tract still loaned to his mother. In late 1819, Moody Abbott purchased an adjacent 654 acres on Difficult Creek [HDB28:174], then sold 352.5 acres of that tract in 1823. [HDB32:35] Joseph's widow Frances Abbott still held the 350 acres Joseph left for her lifetime use. All together, the Abbotts at Difficult Creek owned over 1350 acres to the east of Crystal Hill and the Old Courthouse Road from Bonds Ferry Road on the north and almost to Winns Creek on the south. (See compiled Abbott deeds for details.)

Susanna Ferguson Abbott, widow of Leonard Abbott, is missing in the 1820 tax lists, and, like most Abbotts in Halifax County, she is also missing in the 1820 census. Susanna may be living with her aging parents farther northwest on Terrible Creek, as her father's 1821 will specifies she was to inherit the part of his land that included "the house I now live in." [HWB13:152] However, knowing that her sons would inherit their father's land, this could be only a precaution for Susanna's future. She may have continued to raise her sons on

Leonard's land at Difficult Creek, where her unmarried sons were living after Susanna died, since Leonard's brother William Abbott at Difficult Creek later became administrator of Susanna's estate and guardian of at least one of their still-minor children. Either way, her father Thomas Farguson was very affluent and would make certain Susanna and her still-minor sons were well provided for.

Mary Abbott Owen was deceased at least by 1820 and perhaps for some time before, as we discussed above. However, Mary's husband Hatcher Owen was highly affluent and provided well for his motherless children. In 1820, Hatcher had 12 slaves over age 12 and 2 horses. Listed on the same day as Hatcher were his eldest son, Drury Owen, with 1 slave and 1 horse, and his second son William Owen, who married in 1818, with 2 slaves and 1 horse. Two more of Mary and Hatcher's seven children were married by mid-1820, while their youngest child was still abt. 16 years old. Hatcher Owen and his family continued to live a short distance southwest of their Abbott kinfolk at Difficult Creek. Only in the later 1820s did some of the Mary and Hatcher's children begin leaving Halifax. Hatcher Owen died in 1829 [HWB15:132] , but several of their children remained closely involved with the Abbotts.

Frances Abbott Robertson had been widowed for abt. seven years by 1820. She and her family continued to live in southwestern Halifax. Son William Robertson, abt. age 22 this year, was listed in his own name in the tax lists, but like most of his younger siblings, he still lived with Frances, as the 1820 and 1830 censuses show. Her son John Robertson Jr. and wife Nancy Cabaniss lived in the immediate area. While Frances did not have slaves and was taxed for only one horse, she seems to have been left with adequate resources, even though John had owned no land. By 1827, Frances Robertson was able to purchase 120 acres of her own on Birch Creek in the same general location near Elmo, VA. [HDB34:657]

As of 1820, the only one of Benjamin and Ann Abbott's seven children still living in Halifax was their eldest son, Elisha Abbott, with his wife, Lydia Clay, and their family. Several of Elisha's daughters were married by this time, and one had already left the state. Elisha Abbott lived on 455 acres on Bradley Creek in northwest Halifax and is listed with 6 slaves and 6 horses in his 1820 tax list.

All in all, the Abbott family was doing very well financially as the new decade began. By this time, the three Abbott families in other parts of the county had established their own lives and circles of associates in their respective neighborhoods, but the majority who lived on and near Difficult Creek remained closely involved with each other.

There was, however, a surprising reconnection between two of the branches who had not lived near each other for almost 60 years when two grandchildren of Joseph Abbott married two grandchildren of his son Benjamin Abbott, who apparently died alienated from his father Joseph. After Benjamin's series of law suits against his father (that began when Benjamin's son Elisha was 4-5 years old) and Joseph's subsequent death in 1788, the records do not show any involvement between Benjamin's children and Joseph's other children. This is not surprising, since they all lived some distance apart, and at least there are no negative court actions among them. However, even better were the positive relationships that culminated in marriages between two children of Elisha Abbott and two children of Joseph Abbott's son Leonard. In Jan 1827, Elisha Abbott's daughter Annis Abbott married Leonard Abbott's son Thomas F. Abbott, and in Dec 1831, Elisha's daughter Alice Abbott married Leonard's son Joseph Abbott

Death of Frances Abbott - 1822-1823

Frances Abbott had been a widow for 32 years when she wrote her will on 18 Nov 1820. Frances was the mother of 10 of Joseph Abbott's 16 children who survived him. She had out-lived four of her children plus a stepson to whom she had been like a mother, his wife, and a son-in-law as well as Joseph's three oldest daughters who seem to have lived with her. Except for the grief of the untimely deaths during the previous decade, Frances appears to have led an abundant life surrounded by those who had reason to care for her deeply.

Frances last appears in the yearly personal property tax list 25 Feb 1822. She is missing in the 1823 tax lists, while her sons with taxable property living with or around her all appear in Feb 1823. [*Halifax PP Taxes, LVA Reel 149 & 150*] Frances Abbott's will was proved in Halifax Court 22 Sep 1823. [*HWB13:30*] She was around 80 or 81 years old or so when she died.

Frances Abbott bequeathed her personal property, other than what was loaned to her by Joseph's will, to her two unmarried daughters Elizabeth Abbott (then abt. age 55) and Martha/Patsy Abbott (abt. age 51) who were living with her, as was her son John. It was common practice for parents to bequeath particularly to older unmarried daughters, as they had far fewer opportunities to provide for themselves than unmarried sons. Frances appointed her son John Abbott (abt. age 50) as an executor along with John R. Hall, a local merchant who may be the estate's primary creditor. They both stepped aside, and Elizabeth Abbott, the older of the two legatees, was granted administration of the estate. Elizabeth's brothers Richard Abbott and Moody Abbott secured her administrative bond.

- - - - -

Will of Frances Abbott - Abstract
Written 18 Nov 1820 - Proved 22 Sep 1823
Halifax Will Book 13, p. 30

"In the Name of God Amen I Francess Abbott of Halifax County being of perfect Sence [sense] and memory and considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of that time at which it may approach do hereby make my last will and Testament..."

Legacies: "I give and bequeath all my Stock of Horses together with all my house hold and kitchen furniture of every kind and all my plantation utensils my Grind Stone Cast and Oxen to my two Daughters namely ELIZABETH ABBOTT and PATSEY ABBOTT I also give unto my afores'd two Daughters all my crop on hand after paying my Just debts to them their heirs forever."

Executors: John R. Hall and JOHN ABBOTT

Signed: Francess (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: John Chandler, Abel Chandler, Thomas ABBOTT, Patsey M. Barksdale

22 Sep 1823 - Halifax County - The will of Frances Abbott was proved by the oaths of three of the witnesses. John R. Hall declined to serve as executor, and administration was granted to ELIZABETH ABBOTT with RICHARD ABBOTT and MOODY ABBOTT as her securities on bond of \$500.

[Source: Halifax Will Book 13, p. 30. Reel 41. Library of Virginia. Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Original spelling in quotes retained; caps and comments in brackets added]

- - - - -

Will witness Thomas Abbott, the son of Joseph Abbott Jr. and Magdaline Lacy, was like a grandson to Frances and lived among the Abbott families at Difficult Creek at the time. Witnesses John Chandler and Abel Chandler were sons of William Chandler (Jr.) whose Chandler family had lived next to Joseph and Frances for three generations since the 1760s. Witness Patsey M. Barksdale (*née* Martha Hunt) was a close neighbor and the wife of Nathaniel Barksdale, an appraiser of Frances' estate.

The inventory and appraisal of Frances Abbott's estate was taken 3 Nov 1823 by neighbors Nathaniel Barksdale, Daniel Palmer, and James Fulkerson, a younger brother of Caty Fulkerson Abbott. [HWB13:114]

Inventory & Appraisal of the Estate of Frances Abbott

Dated 3 Nov 1823.

Appraisers: Nathaniel Barksdale, Daniel Palmer, and James Fulkerson.

Inventory includes in addition to the usual eating and cooking ware, farm tools, and stored supplies: 2 black walnut tables (\$7 each), parcel of books (\$1), 2 looking glasses (\$3), brass candlestick, brass kettle (\$1), parcel of knives & forks (\$2), 7 chairs (\$2), 3 "bed sted cord & furniture" (\$26 each), pine chest, flax wheel, 2 cotton wheels, 3 pair cotton cards, ox cart (\$7), crop of tobacco (\$55), crop of corn (\$40), 1 horse (\$20), grind stone (\$4). Total: \$300

Signed: Nath'l Barksdale, Daniel Palmer, James Fulkerson [the three appraisers] and signed by Elizabeth Abbott as Administratrix. (All signed by signature.)

Recorded. 23 Feb 1824, Halifax Court

[Source: Halifax Will Book 13, p. 114-116. Reel 41. Library of Virginia. Richmond, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

After Frances' death, the land Joseph Abbott had devised in his 1787 will automatically became the property of the devisees Richard Abbott and Moody Abbott, and Leonard Abbott's five surviving children had equal shares of his devised land. The children of Joseph Abbott's slaves on loan to Frances were sold, and six of the eight slaves were purchased by their daughter Elizabeth.

Sale of Estate of Joseph Abbott dec'd

Date of sale: 7 Nov 1823

Only the 8 slaves were included in the report. Purchased by:

Fielding Williams - 1 slave for \$202

Thomas McCargo - 1 slave for \$488

Elizabeth Abbott [Joseph's daughter] - 6 slaves for \$1376

Total: \$2066

Signed by William Abbott, Executor of Joseph Abbott dec'd

Recorded: 24 Aug 1825

[Source: Halifax Will Book 13, p. 558-559. LVA Reel 41. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Joseph and Frances' unmarried children Elizabeth, Martha/Patsy, and John continued living together and sharing the same house the rest of their long lives. They apparently lived on part of their brother Moody's 400 acres that included his inherited land next to his brothers Richard and William.

Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1826-1844: Life Goes On But So Does Death

Three years or so after Frances died, her son Moody Abbott married at about age 51. By a bond of 31 May 1826, Moody married Martha W. Lindsey in her home of Prince Edward County, VA, two counties northeast of Halifax. [*Prince Edward Marriage Bonds 1822-1829*] Moody probably knew Martha through his brother William Abbott's daughter, Susannah/Susan, who had lived in Prince Edward since her marriage in 1818 to Martha's brother Thomas G. Lindsey. Martha was 30 years younger than Moody and her parents recently died. Moody had significant assets by that time to be able to take care of her and provide for her well.

Their first child, a daughter Elizabeth M. Abbott, was born abt. 1828. Then tragically Martha died either in childbirth or within the next year or so. Moody did not marry again, but he had ample child-rearing help. Not only was Moody surrounded by relatives and their families and owned 14 slaves including 5 females by 1830, but apparently his unmarried sisters Elizabeth and Patsy in particular became surrogate mothers to the child Elizabeth M. They surely helped to raise her, and they bequeathed their significant estates to Moody's daughter Elizabeth M. Abbott.

Joseph and Frances' daughter Elizabeth Abbott wrote her will 22 May 1836, "being in perfect health, sense, and memory." [*HWB18:334*] Elizabeth left all of her estate to her sister Martha, with whom she lived all her life, except for two young female slaves whom she bequeathed to Moody's 8-year-old daughter Elizabeth M. Abbott. The elder Elizabeth, then about age 70, died between 27 Feb 1837, when she last appears on the tax lists, and 26 Feb 1838, when her will was proved in Halifax Court. Elizabeth named her brother Moody as executor; however, he declined in favor of his sister and the primary legatee, Martha Abbott. Moody was security on Martha's administrative bond along with their nephew Wesley M. Abbott, then age 39.

Around the time Elizabeth Abbott died, her sister Martha Abbott made her own will on 27 Jan 1838, although Martha did not die for another six years. [*HWB20:519*] (Martha's last tax list was dated 28 Feb 1844, and her will was proved 26 Aug 1844.) Martha's will requested that all her estate be kept intact "at my late dwelling place" during the lifetime of her brother John Abbott (who, like Elizabeth, had lived together with Martha all his life), and during that time, John should have charge of her estate. However, after John's death, all Martha's estate (which then also included Elizabeth's) was to go to Elizabeth M. Abbott, Martha's niece and Moody and Martha Lindsey Abbott's daughter. Martha Abbott also named Moody Abbott as executor, and again Moody declined. Instead, administration was granted to their nephew Wesley M. Abbott, with Moody a security on his bond.

Wesley Abbott was the only surviving son of William and Mary Parker Abbott and lived next to his parents and the other Abbott siblings at Difficult Creek. Wesley married on 22 Jan 1834 to Eliza Ann Robertson, daughter of Christopher Robertson and his first wife. [*HWB25:479*] The year before Martha Abbott died, by bond of 30 Jan 1843 Moody's daughter

Elizabeth M. Abbott married Jesse T. Robertson, a brother of Wesley's wife Eliza Ann. Thus Wesley was related to Elizabeth M. both by blood and by marriages.

Elizabeth M. Abbott's inheritance from her aunts was significant, and she was the only child of her very affluent father. In addition, both Elizabeth M. and her husband Jesse Robertson were soon to inherit sizable tracts of land in Halifax from each of their aging fathers. Even so, abt. 1848, Elizabeth M. Abbott and her husband Jesse T. Robertson moved 60 miles southwest to Rockingham County, NC. Although we do not know the particular reason for their move or choice of location, there is ample evidence in general for why they would leave Halifax, as we shall see.

Joseph Abbott's Family in Halifax - 1848-1862: The End of an Era

The economic situation in Halifax County had been deteriorating for several decades. During the 1820s and 1830s and into the 1840s, the Halifax deed books increasingly were filled with deeds of trust whereby people in all economic brackets, from the most modest to wealthy entrepreneurs, were having to place their properties under trust to secure payment of their ever-mounting merchant bills.

Times were changing everywhere as the Industrial Revolution affected the overall economy. Nevertheless, this was greatly exacerbated in Halifax as a small group of wealthy merchants and large landowners gained control of the sources of vital supplies and resources such as general stores, mills, tobacco warehouses, and granaries. (Some call these the first chain stores; others call them a monopoly.)

Those who could leave, did. The ensuing heavy indebtedness to the interconnected merchants and the resulting losses and foreclosures in their credit-based economy caused a great exodus from Halifax County from which some local historians say the county never recovered. New lands were opening in the nation's west and south, and the next generation of Abbotts took full advantage of those opportunities to leave Halifax. Beginning in the later 1820s and for the next three decades, almost all of the children of Joseph Abbott's children left Halifax County, and the majority of them left the state.

Those who stayed in Halifax were having a harder time keeping up with the cumulative effects upon a farming community needing credit from a few interconnected and interrelated suppliers. Joseph and Frances' son Richard Abbott had substantial assets which he finessed through over a decade of successive deeds of trust before finally selling the last 395 acres of his Difficult Creek land on 21 Nov 1843. *[HDB49:165]*

Richard and Caty Fulkerson Abbott's eldest son, John J. Abbott, married 22 Nov 1841 in Halifax to Paulina S. Lax, whose family had lived near the Abbotts for several generations. John and Paulina stayed in Halifax another 9-10 years before moving to Alabama. However, Richard and Caty along with their other five children moved in Dec 1843 to the southeastern part of adjacent Pittsylvania County north of Danville near Keeling. Even with the loss of his land, Richard's later inventory and appraisal show he was able to retain an appreciable estate that provided well for his widow and children after his death. *[PAC16:436]*

Richard Abbott died five years later at abt. 78 years old in Dec 1848, and his will was presented in Pittsylvania Court 15 Jan 1849. *[PWB2:68]* Richard appointed his wife, Catharine

Abbott, as executrix, and if she declined (which she did), then son Joseph M. Abbott was to be executor. Richard bequeathed his entire estate to Catharine for her lifetime, then all was to be sold and divided among their children. Catharine Fulkerson Abbott died in Pittsylvania County, VA in Dec 1875 at abt. 85 years old. (See reports on Richard Abbott and on Catharine Fulkerson for details.)

- - - - -

Children of Richard Abbott & Catharine "Caty" Fulkerson

1. John James Abbott - b. 3 Feb 1821; m. 22 Nov 1841, Halifax Co, VA, to Paulina S. Lax (daughter of Royall Lax & Mary Hodge - aka Perlina S. Lacks);
d. 22 Nov 1876, St. Clair Co, AL
2. Joseph M. Abbott - b. Abt. 1824; m. 14 Sep 1847, Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA to Martha J. Fitzgerald;
d. Bet. 1873-1880, Rockingham Co, NC
3. Sarah "Sallie" F. Abbott - b. Abt. 1826; never married; d. Bet. 1900-1910, Pittsylvania Co, VA
4. William Abbott - b. Abt. 1827; m. 4 Apr 1871, Jefferson Co, AL, to Mandeline F. Davis (daughter of Daniel Davis & Lanie Brownlee);
d. Bet. 1880-1900, Etowah Co, AL
5. Richard M. Abbott - b. 8 Apr 1830; m. Abt. 1852, to Leticia "Lettie" J. Downs;
d. 22 May 1883, Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
6. Cassandra Abbott - b. Abt 1835; m. 24 Oct 1852, Person Co, NC, to Moore W. Dollahite;
d. Bet. 1880-1900, Person Co, NC

(See reports on Richard and Catharine and notes for each child for details and sources.)

- - - - -

Earlier the same year, Joseph Abbott's son William Abbott died in Halifax County on 4 Jan 1848 at age 91. *[NARA File W5616]* His will, written 15 Mar 1847, was proved in court 24 Jan 1848. *[HWB22:24]* William Abbott also had been struggling under successive deeds of trust to secure merchant debts. Only after his death with proceeds from the sale of several slaves was the debt cleared and his land at Difficult Creek was released back to his heirs. *[HDB53:553]* (Although the deed of release was for 330 acres, the actual amount of land left seems to be 195 acres. *[HDB55:124]*) William's will appointed executors James Young, to whose firm William's debt was owed, and a nephew William Owen. William Owen was the son of Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen, and three of William Owen's sons witnessed the will. In Feb 1849, administration of William Abbott's estate was granted to his son-in-law Alfred Pincham, husband of William's daughter Onisha/"Ony" Abbott.

William and Mary Parker Abbott's family register, submitted in 1849 as part of his widow Mary Abbott's pension application, gives the full names and birth dates of their 11 children, but 5 of their children predeceased William. *[NARA W5616]* His will names son Wesley M. Abbott and daughters Elizabeth and Kitty (ie, Keturah, twin to Wesley) who never married; Susan Lindsey, then widow of Thomas G. Lindsey; Polly Giles, who married Perrin Giles after the death of his first wife who was Polly's sister Delphia/Delphy Abbott; and Ony Pincham, wife of Alfred Pincham. William's widow Mary "Polly" Parker Abbott continued to live in Halifax with her two unmarried daughters, Elizabeth and Keturah, until her death abt. 1851 at age 86.

- - - - -

Children of William Abbott and Mary "Polly" Parker

1. Rebekah M. Abbott - b. 23 Jan 1788; m. 24 Apr 1814 to Cornelius Beazley;
d. Bet. 1820 - 1847, place unknown
 2. Elizabeth Abbott - b. 26 Oct 1789; never married; d. 1867, Halifax Co, VA
 3. Carter Asbury Abbott - b. 2 Oct 1791; never married; d. 1818, Halifax Co, VA
 4. Susanna Sharp Abbott - b. 5 Jan 1794; m. 27 Jul 1818 to Thomas G. Lindsey
d. Bet. 1847-1850, Prince Edward Co, VA
 5. Mary B. "Polly" Abbott - b. 14 Aug 1796; m. 9 Nov 1831 to Perrin Giles;
d. Bet. 1870-1880, Gibson Co, TN
 6. Wesley Mansfield Abbott - b. 27 Sept 1798; m. 22 Jan 1834 to Eliza Ann Robertson;
d. Abt. 1884, Halifax Co, VA
 7. Keturah "Kitty" Abbott - b. 27 Sept 1798; never married; d. Abt. 1870, Halifax Co, VA
 8. Delphia "Delphy" Abbott - b. 1 Jan 1801; m. 8 Aug 1818 to Perrin Giles;
d. Bet. 1830-1831, Halifax Co, VA
 9. Onisha "Ony" May Abbott - b. 9 Apr 1803; m. 12 Jan 1824 to Alfred Pincham;
d. Bet. 1860-1870, Halifax Co, VA
 10. Standfield Abbott - b. 11 Nov 1805; never married; d. Bef. 1830, Halifax Co, VA
 11. Isaac Abbott - b. 20 May 1809; d. never married; d. Bef. 1830, Halifax Co, VA
- (See Notes for William Abbott for more details and sources.)

In 1849, the year after William and Richard died, their younger brother John Abbott died in Halifax at abt. 76 years old. [HWB23:378] John never married and had continued to share a home with his sisters Elizabeth and Martha after their mother's death. Although John owned no property in his own name, he contributed to his extended Abbott family in many ways through his business acumen and sense of responsibility and rightly shared their prosperity. John's nephew Wesley M. Abbott was administrator of his estate, which then passed to Elizabeth M. Abbott Robertson by the directions of John's sister Martha Abbott's will.

The last of Joseph Abbott's 16 children to die was Joseph and Frances' son Moody Abbott. Moody lived to see the start of the Civil War that began in April 1861 and died the next year at abt. 87 years old. Moody left no will, but since his daughter was his only child, no will was needed. His son-in-law, Jesse T. Robertson, was granted administration, and the inventory and appraisal of Moody's estate was taken 23 Sep 1862.

Like all affluent Virginians, the bulk of his personal property wealth was in slaves. Moody is listed in the 1860 census with land valued at \$3,500, personal property valued at \$8,256, and 9 slaves. His inventory taken two years later lists 7 slaves, whose value comprised 65% of the worth of Moody's total personal estate that totaled \$7,584.89. This is a graphic example of the adjustments required of slave-owning Southerners at the end of the Civil War on top of the enormous costs, both economic and otherwise, of the war's devastation and its aftermath.

Child of Moody Abbott & Martha W. Lindsey

Elizabeth M. Abbott - b. Abt. 1828; m1. 30 Jan 1843, Halifax, to Jesse Thomas Robertson;
m2. 1872, Rockingham Co, NC, to Jonathan G. Watkins;
d. Bet. 1880-1900, Rockingham Co, NC

The only Abbott family to remain in Halifax County and carry on the family name was that of William Abbott's son Wesley M. Abbott, who died abt. 1884. In the 1940 census (the last one publicly released to date), two of Wesley's grandsons were still living in Halifax, William A. Abbott and John R. Abbott. Both lived close to the original family land. In particular, though, John R. Abbott, with wife, Reba, and son W. Alex Abbott, was listed as living on Route 609-610. Route 610 is now called Clays Mill Road. It intersects with Route 609, which is called Abbott Hill Road, and together they encircle the east and south side of the area where John's great-great-grandfather Joseph Abbott settled his family 178 years before.

Conclusion

Joseph Abbott and his immediate family lived in Halifax County, Virginia for over 110 years of births, deaths, and new births, both personal and in the larger world. He and his children were born as subjects of the British monarch under British Colonial rule. His eldest son was in Halifax over two years before the county was formed. Joseph and the rest of his family arrived in Halifax fifteen years before the Revolution. They weathered the uncertainties and dangers of the Revolution and the personal, economic, cultural, and political turmoil of the war and its aftermath.

Joseph Abbott and his children lived through the birthing of a new country built upon truly revolutionary ideals of democracy, religious freedom, and liberty and justice for all, and they knew its growing pains in the years that followed. Joseph's children faced more uncertainties during the War of 1812, also called America's Second War for Independence, in which some of their children served when once again the British mother county was the adversary. They experienced the miracles and the changes, welcomed and otherwise, that accompanied the Industrial Revolution with its machinery and railroads that transformed how they lived their daily lives.

They knew 16 U.S. Presidents from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln. They saw the apex of institutionalized slavery -- the foundation of Virginia's economy since the late 1600s -- into which economic and social system Joseph, his children, and theirs were born and raised. The inventory of the estate of Joseph Abbott's last surviving child took place less than four weeks after the Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for slaves throughout the Confederacy including Virginia. Like the Revolution, the Civil War set in motion its own cycle of death, hardship, uncertainty, the birth of the new, and the challenges of change.

Few of Joseph Abbott's descendants remained in Halifax County, but Halifax remains in each of us as part of our history, our heritage, and our ancestral home. The strength, fortitude, perseverance, and family relationships that the Abbotts called upon to see them through are part of their legacy to us on our own lives' "Difficult Creeks."

~~~~~

ADDENDUM:  
Searching for Ancestors and Family of Origin of Joseph Abbott  
of King and Queen County and Halifax County, VA

The following is an overview of an extensive search for early Abbott families in and around King and Queen County in the hope of finding Joseph Abbott's parents and family of origin. Finding answers has been extremely hampered by the loss of almost all early records for King and Queen County, formed in 1691, and for five of the seven adjacent counties: Caroline County (north, formed in part from K&Q 1728), Gloucester County (southeast), James City County (south), New Kent County (southwest, parent county of K&Q), and King William County (west, formed from K&Q 1701). Only Essex County (northeast) and Middlesex County (east) have fairly complete early records. In addition, the early existing records pertain mainly to landowners, who comprised only 10-25% of any Virginia county's population during the early Colonial period, so there could be three times or more "invisible" Abbotts we may never know. Surviving records for King and Queen and its surrounding counties have been searched primarily through published abstract books (included in the general report bibliography) at least through 1750 and often later, and the results are informally summarized below.

Although new family discoveries were made during this search, particularly in later records, the scarcity of records from Colonial times and the time gaps in the records found make it impossible to prove the ancestors and family of origin for Joseph Abbott or even to say who they might be with any degree of certainty. There is a possibility that William Abbott in early Rappahannock/Essex County could be the father of our Joseph Abbott and a John Abbott and Jacob Abbott later in adjacent King and Queen. At the least they seem somehow related. However (please take note), these have to remain merely speculations in the hope that new evidence can come to light in time.

As you will see, these records go back and forth among several of King and Queen's adjacent counties as we go through time looking for possible Abbott relations. Ever since 1728, when today's borders basically were set, King and Queen has been a small county abt. 60 miles long and only abt. 10 miles across at its widest point. It seems common for King and Queen families in the 1700s to have branches and associated families in adjacent counties, and naturally the ones about whom we know the most are in the two counties, Essex and Middlesex, where most early records have survived. However, our search begins even before these counties were formed.

-----  
Early land patents that reference Abbotts around King and Queen County, Virginia  
[Source: Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants. Images online from Library of Virginia.]

Note: Patentees were not necessarily residents of the county where their patent or grant was located, nor did they necessarily live on their patented land.

22 Dec 1642 - Land Grant to SAMUELL ABBOTT - County not named  
500 acres on Rappahannock River some 14 or 15 miles up the river, adjacent to the upper side of John Bentons land.

[VPB1:867]

Note:

The Rappahannock River flows one county away from the east and northeast side of today's King & Queen. A patent to John Benton dated 13 Oct 1642 was for land "15 miles up the Southward side of Rappahannock River" [VPB1:837], which would seem to place it in today's Middlesex County on the east side of King & Queen.

10 Apr 1644 - Land Grant to SAMUEL ABBOTT - James City County  
400 acres near the head of Grays Creek.

The original grantee was Samuel Abbott, but "this patent is surrendered up unto Thomas Gray..."  
[VPB1:950]

Note:

Today's James City County is across the York River from the southwestern tip of King and Queen.

8 Sep 1645 - Land Grant to David Mansell - York County

72 acres in Kiskeake Parish. Upon the land of CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT also adjoins his own land.  
[VPB2:37]

Note:

This likely refers to the Christopher Abbott who in 1657 obtained a land grant in Gloucester County, formed from York County in 1651. (See grant below.) Greer's "Early Virginia Immigrants 1623-1666" (1912) lists Christopher Abbott as a headright claimed by Jeremiah Clement in 1635. The area that became King and Queen County in 1691 was originally in York County.

25 Feb 1648/9 - Land Grant to SAMUEL ABBOTT - James City County

775 acres, part of the land on Checkroes Creek, the remaining part near the head of Checkroes Creek, lying on Chickahominy River.

[VPB2:260]

Note:

On 8 Oct 1646, Samuel Abbott also got a land grant for 400 acres in Nansemond County in southeastern Virginia. In 1656, a George Abbott also got two land grants in Nansemond.

25 Sep 1650 - Land Grant to Edward Knight - James City County

140 acres lying at the head of Checkroes Creek, on the east side of Chickahominy River, adjoining land of Robert Holt and SAMUEL ABBOTT

[VPB2:264]

Note:

The 1704 Rent Rolls list a Francis Abbott living in James City County. (See below.)

20 Jan 1657 - Land Grant to CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT - Gloucester County - 300 acres

[VPB4:229]

Note:

Gloucester County is adjacent to the southeastern end of King and Queen.

15 Oct 1669 - Land Grant to Cornelious[sic] Reynolds - Gloucester County

180 acres, adj. to CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT ["Xpofer"] and Mrs. Williams

[VPB6:264]

6 Mar 1674/5 - Land Patent to Daniel Langham - Gloucester County

350 acres in Abingdon Parish; adjoining the land of Robert Coleman. Formerly granted to CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT ["Xper"], Jany. 20, 1657, now said Langhans by marrying Mary, the daughter of said ABBOTT.

[VPB6:549]

Note:

A patent for land in Gloucester to Robert Barlow dated 26 Apr 1684 refers to "Christopher Abbot, Deceased." [VPB7:386]

16 Apr 1683 - Land Patent to Thomas Plunkett - New Kent County  
582 acres adjoining land of Gizage [Gessige], Richason [Richeson], MICH. ABBOT [MICHAEL ABBOTT], and Will'm. Burches.  
[VPB7:238]

Note:

New Kent is the parent county of King and Queen, which was formed 1691 from the northeast side of New Kent. Gessige and Richeson were families later in King William County, formed 1701 from the west side of K&Q, where a Robert Abbott was living by 1704 (see below).

With the exception of a 1714 land grant in Richmond County outside of the pertinent King and Queen area, the next land grant issued or referring to an Abbott was to Joseph Abbott in 1763 for land in King and Queen:

7 Jul 1763 - Land Patent to JOSEPH ABBOTT - King and Queen County  
64 acres, adjacent to JACOB ABBOTT and Thomas Stevens near the head of the Hogg House branch. 50 acres part thereof formerly patented "the Right and Title whereof is now become Vested in the said Joseph Abbott" and 14 acres the residue never before granted.  
[Source: Virginia Land Office Patent Book 35, p. 294, Library of Virginia, online image. Abstract by J. Horsley.]  
-----

(OLD) RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY - Formed 1656

In 1692, this county was divided into Essex County on the south side of the Rappahannock River (now adjacent to King and Queen's northeastern side) and Richmond County on the north side of the river. "Old" Rappahannock then became extinct.  
-----

22 Jan 1669/70 - ROBERT I ABBOTT witnessed a power of attorney from Thomas Brereton of Northumberland County to "my loveing brth Coll William Claybourne & my loveing Brother Mr. Thomas Claybourne" to be his attorneys for debts owed by Richard Mosely from 17 Feb 1664  
Rec. 12 Feb 1669/70

[Source: Rappahannock Records No. 4, 1668 - 1672, p. 129. Sparacio, p. 76]

Note:

When old Rappahannock County was divided in 1692 into Essex County and Richmond County, Richmond was still adjacent to Northumberland County mentioned in the deed. However, by 1704, Col. William Claiborne and Capt. Thomas Claiborne were in King William County (formed from King & Queen 1701), where a ROBERT ABBOTT then lived according to the 1704 rent rolls and this deed:

King William County - 8 Nov 1704 - From Richard Yarborough to ROBERT ABBOTT - 80 acres [in King William Co.] bounded by John Hurt, William Hurt, and Maurice Floyd. Witnesses: William Pollard, Joseph Cockram, Benjamin Arnold. Sarah wife of Richard Yarborough relinquished her dower.

[Source: King William Record Book 1, p. 231. Beverly R. Conolly. "King William County, Virginia Records 1701-1806" p. 15]  
-----

4 Apr 1688 - Certificate granted to Mr. Henry Awbrey for 300 acres "due for six persons imported," including DANIEL ABBOTT.

[Source: Rappahannock Court Orders 1686-1692, p. 60 (76). Sparacio, Vol. 3 (1687-1689), p. 18.]

Note:

Each immigrant coming into the Colony of Virginia (from abroad or from another Colony) was due 50 acres of land, called their "headright." Originally, if another person paid for the immigrant's transportation (eg, family member, employer, master of an indentured servant, etc.), that person could claim the immigrant's headright. However, twentieth century historical scholars have found that the system quickly evolved into a kind of market exchange whereby headrights could be sold, traded, or otherwise passed around. Land investors could then purchase blocks of such headrights to obtain large tracks of unsettled land. Thus the immigrant did not necessarily arrive the year his headright was used; he did not necessarily know (and frequently did not know) the person who used his headright; he was not necessarily an indentured servant (as was the earlier misconception); and he may or may not have lived in the county where the land was granted. Therefore, such records as the one above simply tell us that a Daniel Abbott was in Virginia by this time and probably was a relatively recent immigrant. No later record for this Daniel Abbott was found in the area.

- - - -

5 Mar 1689/90 - Certificate granted to Capt. George Taylor for 1150 acres "due for the Importacon of Twenty three [23] severall persons," including WILLIAM ABBOTT [sp. Wm Abbott]  
[Source: Rappahannock Court Orders 1686-1692, p. 151 (199). Sparacio, Vol. 4 (1689-1692), p. 2.]

Note:

The Note above for Daniel Abbott applies to this record for William Abbott as well. Thus, this record simply shows that William Abbott was in Virginia by this time and probably arrived rather recently, but contrary to earlier misconceptions, he was not necessarily an indentured servant or an actual "transportee" of Col. Taylor. In fact, the normal indentured servant contract was for seven years, but William Abbott purchased his own land only five years later. Unlike the above Daniel, we have evidence that this William Abbott was then in Old Rappahannock/Essex and continued to live there at least through 1704 (see records below).

-----  
ESSEX COUNTY - Formed 1692; formerly part of Old Rappahannock  
Adjacent to the northeast side of King & Queen

Essex County - Deeds:

23 Feb 1694/5 - Deed to "WILLIAM ABBOT" from Nicholas Franklin, both "Planters" of Essex Co. 20 acres in Essex Co. on the South West side of Occopation Creek [Occupacia Creek], adjacent to Nicholas Franklin, John Hackley Senr, and Richard Goode Senr.

/s/ Nicho. Franklin - Witnesses: Jerem Parker [Jeremiah Parker], Cornelius Sale

Recorded: 11 Mar 1794/5

[Source: Essex Records 1692-1695, p. 334-335. Abstracted by J. Horsley from entry in Sparacio, "Record Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia 1794-1795" p. 73-74.]

Note:

Occupacio Creek flows west to east across Essex from what was then its border with King and Queen (now Caroline County) almost to the Rappahannock River. This land was in the upper part of Essex. At the creation of Essex in 1692, it was in South Farnham Parish but became St. Anne's Parish in 1704. However, the line dividing the two parishes was just 5 miles and less south of Occupacio Creek. (As we shall see, by 1727 a JACOB ABBOTT appears in Essex records and is identified in 1739 in South Farhnam Parish, which was then in lower Essex, south of St. Anne's, and adjacent to St. Stephen's Parish, King and Queen, and to the northeastern corner of Stratton Major Parish, King and Queen, where we find a John Abbott by 1759.)

## Essex County - Court Orders

11 Mar 1694/5 - Nicholas Franklin acknowledged his deed to WM ABBOTT  
 [Source: Essex Records 1692-1695, p. 229. Sparacio, p. 26.]

13 Nov 1699 - Among various cases dismissed "for want of prosecution" were:  
 WM ABBOTT vs Judith Holloway  
 WM ABBOTT vs Richard Mathews  
 WM ABBOTT vs Edward Roe.  
 [Source: Essex Records 1699-1702, p. 22. Sparacio, p. 20.]

12 Apr 1700 - Among various cases dismissed "for want of prosecution" were:  
 WILLIAM ABBOTT vs Thomas Plummer  
 WILLIAM ABBOTT vs William Hammitt  
 [Source: Essex Records 1699-1702, p. 39. Sparacio, p. 35.]

11 Mar 1701/02 - Suit between WILLIAM ABBOTT and Ellinor Drury dismissed "for want of prosecution."  
 [Source: Essex Records 1699-1702, p. 114. Sparacio, p. 108]

1704 - Essex County - Quit Rent - WILLIAM ABBOTT - 150 acres  
 [Source: Elizabeth Lawrence-Dow. "Virginia Rent Rolls 1704." P. 31]  
 Note:

Quit rent was in essence a land tax owed to the British Crown, who technically owned most of the land in Virginia. Fourteen counties are included in this year's rent rolls; however, they exclude the "Northern Neck" counties on the north side of the Rappahannock, which were under a proprietorship granted by the Crown.

The only other Abbott landowners in the 1704 Rent Rolls were:  
 ROBERT ABBOTT in King William County (formed from western King & Queen in 1701); also see 1704 deed above.  
 FRANCIS ABBOTT in James City County (adjacent to the southern tip of King & Queen across the York River).  
 ROGER ABBOTT and JOHN ABBOTT in Accomack County (some distance east from K&Q across the Chesapeake Bay)  
 [Source: Virginia 1704 Rent Rolls. Contributed by Wright Electronic Genealogy Project to USGenWeb Archives]

William Abbott was not found in Essex records after 1704. (*If* he moved into King and Queen, he would be lost to the burned records, but that is merely an "if.") No Abbott was found in Essex deeds and wills after 1700 through 1754 (last year checked), although as we shall see, several Abbotts are mentioned in Essex court orders and parish records through 1751.

-----

Abt. 1710 - JOSEPH ABBOTT was born about this time most likely in or near King and Queen, where he is first documented in 1756. [NARA File W5616]

-----

Essex County - St. Mary's Parish (in Caroline County as of 1728)

Bet. 29 Jun 1710 - 10 Jun 1720: 400 acres in St. Mary's Parish, Essex Co. surveyed for ROGER ABBOTT

[Source: Essex Records 1717-1722, p. 200-202. Sparacio, p. 20.]

Note:

This survey might be for a Roger Abbott in Accomack County, who seems to have several scattered land holdings but who resided in Accomack, 60 miles east across the Chesapeake Bay from King and Queen. For example, a Roger Abbott got a land grant in 1714 in Richmond County (on the north side of the lower Rappahannock River), and Roger Abbott is named as an adjacent land owner in a patent granted to John Edy on 4 Mar 1726 for land in King George County, just northwest of Richmond County and adjacent to this part of Essex (later Caroline). I did not find a Roger Abbott living in Richmond or King George (albeit my resources there were limited), and no Roger Abbott was in surviving records for early Caroline (formed 1728). The Accomack Roger Abbott's line has been investigated and no apparent relationship with the Abbots in and close to King and Queen was found.

21 Mar 1716/17 - Grand Jury presentment against FRANCIS ABBOTT (sp. Abbot) "of the Parish of St. Maries" for "not frequenting his Parish church" referred to next court for Abbott's proof of "his being at Church within the time limited by Law"

[Source: Essex Court Order Book 5 (1716-1723), p. 13. Sparacio, p. 8.]

22 May 1717 - Grand Jury presentment against FRANCIS ABBOTT (sp. Abbot) for not frequenting church is dismissed

[Source: Essex Court Order Book 5 (1716-1723), p. 36. Sparacio, p. 26.]

Note:

St. Mary's Parish was in an upper part of Essex that became Caroline County in 1728. Caroline County was formed in 1728 from the upper parts of Essex, King and Queen, and King William County, and additional parts of King and Queen County were added in 1742 and 1762. Except for court orders, most other early records for Caroline County have not survived

No Abbott appears in the extant Caroline Court records until the 1760s. A MATHIAS ABBOTT (also recorded as MATHEW ABBOTT) is named in 1764 and 1765, and a JAMES ABBOTT is named in 1766. No Abbott appears in the first part of 1767 (the last part of the records searched).

[Source: Caroline Court Orders 1732-1767. John Frederick Dorman, "Caroline County, Virginia Order Book" (multiple volumes)]

Caroline County records after mid-1767 were not searched, as they were not pertinent to our search for Joseph Abbott's ancestors and family of origin.

-----

Essex County - Court Orders (continued)

22 Jul 1724 - Stephen Brewer ordered to pay MARY ABBOT for two days as his witnesses and coming and going 16 miles in his suit brought by Thomas Rutherford. (Brewer also paid Elizabeth Tarpley for two days attendance, no travel.)

[Source: Essex Court Orders 1723-1725, p. 188. Sparacio, p. 5.]

Note:



Mary Abbott did not live in Essex County, proved by the travel costs allowed to her. Depending upon how much she was paid, which is not included in this order, the 16 miles could be one way or round trip (as proved by other cases with the same wording that do include amount paid)..

20 Jul 1727 - Suit brought by JACOB ABBOT against James Hindley is dismissed

[Source: Essex Court Orders 1725-1729, p. 154. Sparacio, p. 85.]

Note:

Jacob Abbott would have to be at least 21 years old by this time, thus born at least by 1706. He is likely the same Essex County Jacob Abbott named in the following parish records in 1739, 1743, and 1751.

- - - - -

Essex County - South Farnham Parish Vestry Records (covering 1739-1779)

South Farnham Parish was originally established abt. 1683. After 1704 (when St. Anne's Parish was created), it comprised the lower part of Essex County that was adjacent to both King & Queen and Middlesex County.

27 Nov 1739 - Processioners Report - Line between Capt. Beale and Mr. Corbin and the line between Mr. Corbin and Mrs. Adams was processioned "in company of JACOB ABBOTT" and William Yarrington.

[Source: Vestry Book of South Farnham Parish (1739-1779), p. 8. Blomquist, p. 11.]

17 Nov 1743 - Processioners Report - [Lines of] Mr Vass & Capt. Beal & Mr. Corbin & Mrs. Adams "& JACOB ABBOTT & Wm. Jones were with us." - Signed by: Joshua Boughton, John (x) Boughton

[Source: Vestry Book of South Farnham Parish (1739-1779), p. 30. Blomquist, p. 38.]

26 Nov 1751 - Processioners Report - Line between Capt. William Beale & Mr. John Vass Sen [Clerk of the Vestry]; Between M. John Vass & M. Tabitha Adams; Between Mr. John Vass & the "Orphants" of Abraham Mountague Deceas'd; Between Mr. John Vass & the Glebe Land of South Farnham Parish; Between Capt. William Beale & Richard Corbin Esqu "JACOB ABBOTT & James Gardner present." - Signed 11 Jan 1752 by John Boughton, John Smith

[Source: Vestry Book of South Farnham Parish (1739-1779), p. 44. Blomquist, p. 59.]

Note:

"Processioners" were appointed by each parish vestry every four years to meet each landowner in their assigned district on the landowner's property and "walk the bounds" with the adjacent landowner to be sure the boundary markers were in their proper places and clearly marked. This ancient British custom was continued in the Colonies as a way to settle boundary disputes on the spot before burdening the courts with law suits and requiring costly re-surveys.

Jacob Abbott apparently did not own land in this parish, as he was not named among the landowners whose property was processioned. Each entry simply mentions that Jacob Abbott accompanied the processioners. Taken together, they could mean that Jacob Abbott was in the employ of William Beale or Richard Corbin and representing his employer at the processioning.

This Jacob Abbott seems likely to be the same Jacob Abbott in the 1727 Essex court record. Since Jacob last appears in 1751 in South Farnham Vestry records that continue another 28 years, he could well be the Jacob Abbott with land in King and Queen County next to Joseph Abbott's land patent by 1763 (see more further below).

-----

1756 - JOSEPH ABBOTT was living in King and Queen County by this year, as proved by the Rev War pension application of his son WILLIAM ABBOTT. William stated on 23 Oct 1832 that he was then "in his 76<sup>th</sup> year of age," and was born in King and Queen County, VA.

[Source: Revolutionary Pension File of William Abbott. NARA File W5616. ]

-----

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY - Formed 1691 - Stratton Major Parish Vestry Records 1729-1783

Due to courthouse fires in 1828 and 1865, no county records (deeds, wills, court orders, etc.) exist for the time period we need. Although King and Queen was formed in 1691, the extant Stratton Major Parish Vestry records do not begin until 1729. Vestry records for other parishes then in K&Q (primarily Drysdale in upper K&Q and St. Stephen's in middle K&Q) do not exist.

27 Jul 1759 - JOHN ABBOTT with Rich'd Crittenden and John Foster appointed to procession the land from Portopotank Creek [Poropotank Creek] to Matasip Swamp [also sp. Mattasip and Mattasup Swamp]

[Source: Vestry Book of Stratton Major Parish (1729-1783), p. 80. Chamberlayne, p. 124]

Note:

Poropotank Creek is at the lower border of King and Queen dividing it from Gloucester County. Its mouth is at the York River but its head is northeast at Middlesex County. I have found others specified in this same district assigned to John Abbott who owned land at least as far northeast in the county as today's Cologne, VA, almost parallel to Christchurch, VA in Middlesex County, the county where we later find a younger John Abbott (almost certainly this John's son) with a Thomas Crittenden (closely related to Richard Crittenden here).

1763 - Joseph Abbott and Jacob Abbott are named with adjacent land in King and Queen, per the land grant deed issued to Joseph this year and discussed further below. [VPB35:294]

11 Dec 1767 - Pews allotted to Families &c in the new Church

No. 7: JOHN ABBOTT - No. 5: MR. ABBOTT's Daughters [no wife mentioned, apparently deceased]

[Source: Vestry Book of Stratton Major Parish (1729-1783), p. 105(?). Chamberlayne, p. 168]

Note:

From this record it appears that John Abbott was then widowed with two or more unmarried adult daughters still living with him. This could place him in the same age bracket as Joseph Abbott of King and Queen and the Jacob Abbott of Essex and likely later in King and Queen. Records indicate that this K&Q John Abbott was the father of John Abbott (b. c1737) who married in adjacent Middlesex County abt. 1762.

The "new church" (called the Upper Stratton Major Church) was located just south of today's Shanghai, VA. Richard Crittenden and "wife" (unnamed) were also listed in the pew assignments (as well as two George Dillard, a Thomas Dillard, and a Nicholas Dillard.) Richard Crittenden's wife was Frances Shephard, daughter of "Samuel Shepard" (d. 1751 in K&Q), named in Samuel's will that was proved in both King and Queen and Essex County. [Research of Mike Marshall] This becomes relevant to our Abbott search as another indication of the interconnections between families in Essex, King and Queen, and Middlesex.

The apparent son of this John Abbott, also named John Abbott (born around 1737), moved east over the county line into Middlesex County, where he had land adjacent to a Thomas Crittenden. Thomas'

first wife, whom he married in Middlesex 13 Feb 1777, was Catharine Shephard (named as an heir of "Robert Shepherd" in the 1803 division of his estate [MWB2:207]). Surely Thomas Crittenden who married Catharine Shephard was closely related to (perhaps a son of) Richard Crittenden and Frances Shephard who were with the older John Abbott in King and Queen.

-----  
By the time of the 1767 pew assignments, JOSEPH ABBOTT and family had been in Halifax Co, VA for five years.

We shall return to the King and Queen records for him and for an older and younger Jacob Abbott after following the above John Abbott's line into Middlesex County, because there seems to be a close relationship among these Abbott lines.

-----  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Formed 1669

Adjacent to the east side of what became King & Queen, and both were adjacent to Essex

Note: Middlesex record abstracts were searched from 1673, and, except for the 1687 marriage of a widow Ellinor Abbott, the following records beginning in 1771 are the earliest records found for any Abbott in Middlesex.

\_\_\_ 1771 - Survey made for JOHN ABBOTT - 100 acres - Chain carriers: John Dillard, Robert Smith - Bounds: Neilson's Mill Pond, Stamper, Patterson - Surveyor: William Parry - Rec. 1 Sep 1773 [Source: Middlesex Surveys 1735-1807, p. 25. Included in Hopkins, *Middlesex Wills and Inventories*, p. 41.]

Note:

This survey might be for the John Abbott earlier in King and Queen, but that seems a stretch. Much more likely it was made for his son John Abbott, who married Susannah Mickleborough of Middlesex abt. 1762. Ultimately it was inherited by John and Susannah's son, Bevin Abbott, through intestate laws of primogeniture. The younger John could have inherited it from his father by primogeniture, too, but since there is no other indication that the older John Abbott ever went to Middlesex, where most records seem to have survived, the survey almost certainly was made directly for the younger John Abbott.

-----  
26 Dec 1772 - JOHN ABBOTT witnessed the Middlesex will of Elizabeth Smith. Her will name granddaughters Frankey Smith and and Judith Smith (both underage), grandson John Smith. Executors: Philip Mountague, Maurice Smith. Other witnesses with John Abbott were Robert Daniel and W. Young. -- On 24 Jul 1775, the slaves of Elizabeth Smith dec'd were divided equally among Robert Smith, John Smith, Thomas Smith, Judith Smith, and John Dean [Source: Middlesex Will Book F, p. 9. Hopkins, p. 128.]

Note:

It seems more than coincidence that in Nov 1751 in Essex County (adj. to Middlesex and King and Queen County), Jacob Abbott was present when the land inherited by the children of Abraham Mountague (then deceased) was processioned, and one of the two processioners was a John Smith. (From online information, it seems some of the same Smith and Montague families in Essex did go into Middlesex.) The King and Queen Joseph Abbott, Jacob Abbott (prob. earlier of Essex), and John Abbott, along with the younger John Abbott in Middlesex and younger Jacob Abbott in King and Queen all seem to be closely related.

The will witness above obviously is the younger John Abbott who married Susannah Mickleborough. His co-witness Robert Daniel was married to Susannah's sister Sarah Mickelborough (who had a son

named Vivion/Bevin, as did John and Susannah Abbott). The third co-witness, "W. Young," likely was William Young who married Susannah's and Sarah's half-sister Jane Mickleborough 7 Apr 1773.

- - - - -

22 Apr 1776 - Appraisal of the estate of JOHN ABBOTT

[Source: Middlesex Will Book F, p. 82. Hopkins, p. 130.]

Note:

This John Abbott is definitely the one who married abt. 1762 to Susannah Mickleborough. (Their surviving children are proved by a record of the division of Susannah's father's slaves in 1796 below.) Susannah married second to Nicholas Tuggle 16 Feb 1777. [*Parish Register of Christ Church*]

- - - - -

A Middlesex deed written in 1789 names "Abbott" as a bound (ie, adjacent) to land sold by Thomas Crittenden (and his second wife, Jane Kidd). As discussed above, Richard Crittenden and the older John Abbott were in adjacent King and Queen in 1754 and still there in 1767. By other bounds and names in this deed, the Abbott land was the same surveyed in 1771 (above). The names I marked in the deed below with an asterisk show connections to the survey and other Abbott records.

(One abstractor, TLC, gives the deed date as 15 May 1789, and another, Sparacio, gives the deed date as 15 May 1808. In both cases, the entry notes it was recorded out of time sequence. However, the purchaser, George Dillard, died testate in 1804. He includes this land by its bounds in his will, and he did not have a son George, so obviously the deed was not written in 1808.)

15 May 1789 - Deed from Thomas Crittenden and Jane his wife to George Dillard\*, all of Middlesex County

312.75 acres in Christ Church Parish, Middlesex, according to a survey made by Isaac Carlton 9 Mar 1789 and

bounded by Tobias Allen\*, Henry Chowning\*, "corner of the land sold for the Mill," John George\*, "on ABBOT's line," Robert Stamper\*, Brooks\* heirs.

/s/ Thos. Crittenden - Wit: Henry Batchelder\*, Thos Patterson\*, William Chowning\*

Rec. 27 Jul 1812 - Deed first presented in court 27 Jul 1812, and the handwriting of Thos Patterson dec'd was proved by James Ross. Further proved 27 Apr 1813 proving the handwriting of Henry Batchelder.

[Source: Middlesex Miscellaneous Records 1752-1831, p. 243-244. TLC, p. 36 (Also in Sparacio, Records 1721-1813, p. 83.) Asterisks added by JH.]

Note:

This referenced "Abbott" land is the land surveyed for JOHN ABBOTT in 1771. The names I marked in the deed with an asterisk show the connections to the survey and other Abbott records. The survey names John Dillard as a chain carrier (usually a close trusted friend) and bounds included "Stamper" and a Mill pond (referenced as "the Mill" in the above deed). "Patterson" was also a survey bound, and Thomas Patterson witnessed this deed. The deed witness Henry Batchelder is the same or related to the one who married Elizabeth Dillard 31 Mar 1787. Henry Batchelder was also related to Hannah Batchelder the wife of Daniel Stringer, whose 1789 will was witnessed by his son-in-law JACOB ABBOTT, whom we discuss shortly. Stringer's will also names a Chowning granddaughter. Another will witness was a John George, probably the one who had land adjacent or one removed from Samuel Brooks mentioned in James Kidd's 1792 will.

The seller above, Thomas Crittenden, was then married to his second wife, Jane Kidd. "Jane Crittenden, wife of Thomas Crittenden," is named as a daughter in the Middlesex will of James Kidd dated 21 Sep 1792 (proved 22 Feb 1796). The will devises one tract adjacent to Col. John George

and Samuel Brooks. James Kidd also devises a tract that adjoins the land of "ABBOTT's orphans."  
[Source: Middlesex Wills 1795-1798, p. 48. Hopkins, p. 154]

The "Abbott orphan" who inherited the land (by intestate laws of primogeniture) was Bevin Abbott, apparently still under 21 at the time of James Kidd's will. (According to combined evidence, Bevin was born around 1773 or 1774.)

When George Dillard, purchaser from Thomas Crittenden in the 1789 deed, wrote his will 9 May 1804 (proved 23 Jul 1804). George willed the land to his wife, Mary, and described it as adjoining BEVIN ABBOTT, Robert Stamper, and Griffin Tuggle (Bevin's half-brother).

[Abstracts of the wills of James Kidd and George Dillard are in Hopkins' *Middlesex Wills and Inventories 1673-1812*.]

- - - - -

25 Apr 1796 - "Division of the slaves given by Henry Micklebury [Henry Mickleborough] to [his now-deceased daughter] Susannah Tuggle among her children viz Jane Lee [formerly JANE ABBOTT], Elizabeth Goode [formerly ELIZABETH ABBOTT], VIVION ABBOTT [aka BEVIN ABBOTT] and Griffin Tuggle."

[Source: Middlesex Wills 1795-1798, p. 65. Hopkins, p. 154. Comments in brackets added by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The first three children were by Susannah Mickleborough and her first husband, John Abbott, who died in Middlesex in early 1776. The last child was by Susannah's second husband, Nicholas Tuggle, whom she married as "Susanna Abbot" 16 Feb 1777. [*Parish Register of Christ Church (1897)*] The following are marriage bond dates and spouses for Susannah's children.

Jane Abbott married by bond of 25 Oct 1784 to Richeson Lee (listed in Nicholas Tuggle's household in 1787 pp tax lists)

Elizabeth Abbott married by bond of 30 Oct 1788 to William Goode.

Bevin Abbott married by bond of 15 Jun 1801 to Nancy Dejarquette, d/o Daniel Dejarquette

Griffin Tuggle married by bond of 2 Sep 1800 to Patsey Dillard [Patsy/Martha Dillard], d/o George Dillard [d. 1804].

[Source: Marriage bond abstracts at "Virginia, Marriages, 1785-1940," index, FamilySearch]

The Christ Church Parish Register lists the actual marriage date for Bevin Abbott and Nancy Dejarquette as 18 Jun 1801.

The male and female names "Vivion/Vivian" were used interchangeably with "Bevin" (variously spelled). Bevin Abbott's first cousin Vivion Daniel (some list him as Vivion H. Daniel) was also called Bevin/Bivin. Their mothers, Susannah Mickleborough Abbott and Sarah Mickleborough Daniel, had a brother Vivion Mickleborough, likely named for their maternal grandmother, Margaret Vivion (wife of James Daniel).

Bevin Abbott continues to be named in Middlesex records at least through 1806. By 1810, he and his family are in Clark County, KY, and by 1820, they are in Woodford County, KY. Bevin Abbott is last listed in the censuses in Woodford County in 1830. His wife, apparently still Nancy, was enumerated with him in 1830 and not named in 1840 or 1850. Thus, both apparently died bet. 1830-1840 in Woodford County, KY.

I have not been able to prove any children for Bevin and Nancy, although censuses indicate they had at least two sons and four daughters. The following Abbott marriages were found for the time and

places where they lived, and no other Abbott was in these counties during Bevin's years there. These are not proved children, but they seem likely to be and might give other researchers a lead to find further proof:

Susanna Abbott married Joseph Davidson 8 Nov 1821, Woodford Co, KY  
 Elizabeth Abbott married Thomas Morris 18 Nov 1824, Woodford Co, KY  
 Barzilla D. Abbott married Eveline Rankins 15 Apr 1825, Clark Co, KY  
 Catharine Abbott married Albert G. Rankin 14 Apr 1828, Woodford Co, KY  
 [Source: "Kentucky Marriages, 1785-1979," index, FamilySearch online]

-----  
 We now go back in time to earlier records in Middlesex and King and Queen, which seem to indicate the Middlesex Abbotts were related to Joseph Abbott and an older and younger Jacob Abbott in King and Queen.

21 Oct 1789 - JACOB ABBOTT witnessed the Middlesex will of Daniel Stringer (Sr.).

Will of Daniel Stringer - Dated 21 Oct 1789

Names son John Stringer, son Daniel Stringer Jr., Elizabeth Daniel [twin to Sarah/Sally]; SALLY ABBOTT [m. JACOB ABBOTT], Judith Stringer, Clary Ware [Clara m. Isaac Ware 16 Mar 1771], daughter Caroline Hughes, granddaughter Fanny Chowning [possibly Fanny ABBOTT m. Robert Chowning 1 Jan 1789], my three children viz Daniel Stringer, John Stringer and Caroline Hughs.  
 Exors: Two sons.

Wit: John George, W. George, JACOB ABBOTT, N. Laniel [Daniel?]

Will proved 28 Jun 1790.

[Source: MWBG:130. William Lindsay Hopkins. *Middlesex County, Virginia Wills and Inventories 1673-1812*, p. 16. Comments in brackets added by J. Horsley. (Marriage dates from Parish Register of Christ Church)]

Note:

Sally, named as Sarah Stringer, and her sister Elizabeth Stringer were twins born 5 Jul 1742 to Daniel and Hannah Stringer.

Daniel Stringer married 1 Dec 1737 in Christ Church Parish to Hannah Batchelder, born 5 Jan 1721, daughter of William Batchelder and Elizabeth Watts.

[Dates and relationships from Parish Register of Christ Church.]

Some say that their daughter Elizabeth Stringer Daniel married a John Daniel, although I have not found the evidence for that.

Some also say that Daniel's granddaughter "Fanny Chowning" was a daughter of Hannah Stringer and an unknown Chowning husband, although I have found no proof or evidence for that either. Instead, Fanny could be a daughter of Jacob Abbott and Sally Stringer who married Robert Chowning on 1 Jan 1789 in Middlesex County. (If not, she was a daughter of John Abbott and Susannah Mickleborough who died with no heirs before the 1796 division of Henry Mickleborough's slaves, as she is not named there as an heir.)

No JACOB ABBOTT (or any adult Abbott) was living in Middlesex in 1787 or 1790, according to the personal property tax lists for those years (the only years for which I have had access so far). Apparently the only Abbotts in Middlesex at that time were "Abbott's orphans" mentioned in James Kidd's 1792 will (above) who were not yet 21. The "orphan" who inherited the land mentioned in

Kidd's will was Bevin Abbott born around 1773. Bevin and his father John Abbott (d. 1776) are the only male Abbotts in abstracts of Middlesex records, which are generally complete.

However, there was a JACOB ABBOTT in adjacent King and Queen County, where a John Abbott (the apparent grandfather of Bevin Abbott) was living at least by 1759, where Joseph Abbott was living at least by 1756, and where an older Jacob Abbott was living at least by 1763 and probably by the mid-1750s. The fact that the younger Jacob Abbott's Stringer in-laws had contacts in King & Queen is shown by this excerpt:

"In 1790 [year will was proved], Daniel Stringer left to his son Daniel the plantation where Stringer, Sr. lived and his brandy still, and that was the same year Daniel (Jr) and [second wife] Mary Stringer conveyed the 196 acre estate to John Jesse of KING AND QUEEN CO. who had married Elizabeth Street in 1787. [*Research of Bobby E. Britnell, citing "Historic Homes of Middlesex Co., VA" p. 125 ("Ellaslee", the home near Church View...)*]

Jacob Abbott who married Sally Stringer likely was born abt. 1740. Although he was around the same age as Bevin's father John Abbott (Jr.), born abt. 1737, Jacob does not seem to be John Jr.'s brother. The latter's father John Sr. leaves the surviving Stratton Major Parish records in King and Queen after 1767, and no later Abbott is recorded, even though those extant parish records where John Sr. was listed continue to 1783, 18 years or so after Jacob married Sally Stringer. If this Jacob Abbott were another son of John Abbott Sr., one would expect to see Jacob in the same place that John Abbott Sr. lived and in the same parish records, yet he is not. However, we cannot positively rule out that Jacob, too, was John Sr.'s son.

Instead, JACOB ABBOTT, husband of Sally Stringer, seems likely to be a son of an older Jacob Abbott in King and Queen with Joseph Abbott and at the same time as John Abbott Sr.

-----  
KING AND QUEEN COUNTY Records (continued)

The only record for JOSEPH ABBOTT in King and Queen County is dated the year after he moved from there to Halifax County, VA, although he probably had use of the land involved for years before. In fact, the only way we know for certain the Halifax Joseph Abbott was in King and Queen is by the 1832 Revolutionary War pension application of his son WILLIAM ABBOTT, saying he (William) was born in 1756 in King and Queen, from where his family moved directly to Halifax abt. 1762. [*NARA File W5616j*] (This is a good reminder of how easily people can become lost to history in these counties with extensive record losses and how there may be other Abbotts in these same areas of whom we do not know.)

-----  
7 Jul 1763 - Land Patent to JOSEPH ABBOTT - King and Queen County

64 acres, adjacent to JACOB ABBOTT and Thomas Stevens near the head of the Hogg House branch. 50 acres part thereof formerly patented "the Right and Title whereof is now become Vested in the said Joseph Abbott" and 14 acres the residue never before granted.

[Source: Virginia Land Office Patent Book 35, p. 294, Library of Virginia, online image. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Note:

The deed states that 50 acres of this land were "formerly patented." Although it does not specify Joseph as the original patentee, he seems implied, especially since no other grant deed was issued that included "Hogg Head Branch" or Thomas Stevens as a bound. [*LVA Land Office Grants Index*] The location of the Hogg Head Branch could not be ascertained, as it seems no longer to exist by that name.

The younger Jacob Abbott (b. c1740) did not marry Sally Stringer until abt. 1765 or somewhat later, so the Jacob Abbott who owned land next to Joseph by 1763 and likely for much longer does not seem to be the younger Jacob. Instead, the landowner may be the Jacob Abbott (born by 1706) who leaves the Essex County records after 1751, even though the parish records where he was listed continue to 1779.

If the older Jacob was the landowner, then the younger Jacob Abbott could be the son of the older Jacob. In turn, the older Jacob could be a brother Joseph Abbott and John Abbott, both in King and Queen County at least by the mid-1750s. Take note, though, that this is still only speculation, as the surviving records are too few with too many gaps to prove their relationships, even though they do seem somehow related.

-----

12 Sep 1780 - King and Queen County

Received from JACOB ABBOTT 1-1/2 gallons of brandy at £25 per gal. £37.10

/s/ Rob't Hill, Commissioner. Endorse: No. 472. WL [initials of William Lyne]

[Beverly Fleet. Virginia Colonial Abstracts. Vol II, p. 290]

Note:

This Jacob Abbott most likely is the younger one who married Sally Stringer abt. 1765, as he was the only Jacob Abbott--in fact, the only Abbott--in King and Queen in the yearly personal property tax lists when they began in 1782. (These lists include all free male adult residents whether or not they owned taxable property any particular year.)

This record above is a receipt showing that Jacob Abbott contributed brandy for use by the military during the Revolutionary War. After the war, the receipt certificates were presented at special county court hearings for reimbursement by either the state or the federal government.

-----

1782 - 1803

Yearly land and personal property tax lists began in each Virginia county in 1782, and since a copy was sent to state authorities, these records are preserved for King and Queen even though county records (deeds, wills, court orders, etc.) were lost to courthouse fires. As mentioned above, the personal property tax lists include all free male adult county residents, even those with no taxable property, and Jacob and later his two proved sons are the only Abbotts in King and Queen from 1782 through 1803 (last year checked).

The land tax records show that JACOB ABBOTT owned 112 acres of land in King and Queen County by 1782, and after his death his two sons continued to own the same 112 acres jointly through 1803, after which time their land is no longer included in the tax lists indicating it was sold.

JACOB ABBOTT is listed in the 1782 personal property tax lists with 4 slaves and 3 horses. After that year, he is listed with 2 slaves over age 16 and 3 horses. Jacob Abbott died in King and Queen County, VA between Mar 1791, when he last appears on the personal property tax lists, and Mar 1792, when only his estate is listed but no white males are included. Sally Stringer Abbott may have predeceased Jacob. She was alive when her father wrote his will 21 Oct 1789 [MWBG:130], but she never appears as Jacob's widow in the tax lists, even though his estate's taxable property remained.

The King and Queen County personal property tax lists prove that JACOB ABBOTT and wife Sally Stringer had two sons who survived to adulthood: ABNER ABBOTT, born abt. 1769, and JACOB ABBOTT JR., born abt. 1771. Such tax lists do not include wives and daughters, but Jacob and Sally



may have had at least one daughter, FANNY ABBOTT, born abt. 1767, who married Robert Chowning in 1789, as mentioned above. However, Fanny's parents are not fully proved.

Jacob and Sally Stringer Abbott's proved son ABNER ABBOTT was born abt. 1769, as he first appears in the tax lists by name at age 21 in 1790. Abner Abbott leaves the King and Queen personal property tax lists after 1800, and by 1810, Abner and his family were living in Harrison County, VA (now West Virginia) with his brother Jacob Abbott Jr. Abner Abbott and his wife (name so far unknown) apparently died in Lewis County, VA/WV bet. 1830-1840. Abner seems to have had a son Daniel Abbott (the first name of Sally Stringer's father), who was listed next to Jacob and Mary's son Josiah Abbott in Lewis County in the 1840 census for Lewis County, VA/WV.

Also with Abner Abbott and his brother Jacob Abbott (Jr.) in Lewis County by 1820 is a Daniel Stringer over age 45, probably somehow related to their mother, Sally Stringer Abbott.

Jacob and Sally Stringer Abbott's proved son JACOB ABBOTT JR. was born abt. 1771, as he first appears in the tax lists by name at age 21 in 1792. (If Jacob Jr.'s father Jacob Abbott were the son of the elder Jacob Abbott in King and Queen, then "Jacob Jr." actually would be Jacob Abbott III, but since that earlier relationship is not fully proved and the youngest is recorded as "Jr." in the records with his father, we shall continue to list him that way.)

Jacob Abbott Jr. married abt. 1797 to Mary (maiden name unknown). Her first name is proved by the Washington County, OH death record of their son Abner Abbott (1808-1876). Their first son, John R. Abbott, was born abt. 1798 (per 1850 and 1870 censuses).

Jacob Abbott Jr. remained on the King and Queen personal property tax lists through 1803, but the land he inherited with Abner is gone by the 1804 land tax lists. Thus, Jacob Jr. and his brother Abner apparently were together by this time in Harrison County, VA/WV, where they are listed together in the 1810 census. They both lived in the area of Harrison that became Lewis County in 1816. Jacob Abbott Jr. died in Lewis County, VA/WV bet. 1840-1850, but at least part of Jacob's family remained in the part of Lewis that became Upshur County in 1851. Jacob's wife, Mary, died bet. 1850-1860 in Lewis/Upshur County, VA/WV.

Interestingly, Jacob Abbott Jr. and wife Mary had a son Bevin Abbott (b. 1808-1811; d. c1881). The very uncommon name of Bevin was also the name of John Abbott and Susannah Mickleborough's only son in Middlesex. The compiled evidence indicates Jacob Jr.'s father Jacob Abbott in King and Queen is more likely a cousin rather than a brother of the John Abbott in Middlesex, but the latter cannot be completely ruled out. At least the interesting coincidence of names supports that the earlier King and Queen Abbott families (Joseph Abbott, an elder Jacob Abbott, and an elder John Abbott grandfather of Bevin Abbott in Middlesex) were closely related.

We shall end this search for Joseph Abbott's family of origin as we began:

Even with the later records found, the scarcity of earlier records and the gaps in time and place make it impossible to prove the ancestral line of Joseph Abbott. There is a possibility that the William Abbott in early Essex could be the father of Joseph, John, and Jacob later in King and Queen. At the least they seem somehow related, but, alas, these have to remain only speculations in the hope that new evidence can come to light in time.

~~~~~

Descendants of Joseph Abbott of Halifax County, VA

Research by Joan Horsley

- 1 **Joseph Abbott** b: Abt. 1710 of King and Queen Co, VA d: Bet. 27 Mar - 8 May 1788 Halifax Co, VA
- . **+First wife** - Name unknown m. Abt. 1728 in or near King and Queen Co, VA d: Abt. 1752
- 2 **Benjamin Abbott** b: Abt. 1728 in or near King and Queen Co, VA d: Bet. May 1796 - May 1797 Halifax Co, VA
- +Ann (maiden name unknown) b: of Halifax Co, VA m: Abt. 1763 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 22 Jul 1785 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Elisha Abbott b: Bet. 1764 - 1765 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 28 Jan - 24 Apr 1837 Halifax Co, VA
- +Lydia Clay b: Abt. 1775 Chesterfield Co, VA m: 29 Oct 1793 Halifax Co, VA d: 04 Oct 1857 Lincoln Co, MO
- 4 Elizabeth Abbott b: Abt. 1795 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1850-1860 prob. Stokes Co, NC
- +William Hill b: Abt. 1793 NC m: 07 Nov 1810 Stokes Co, NC d: prob Bet. 1870-1880, Calloway Co, KY
- 4 Nancy Abbott b: Abt. 1797 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Halifax Co, VA
- +Thomas Carr b: Abt. 1790 Halifax Co, VA m: 30 May 1815 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1825 - 1830 Halifax Co, VA
- 4 Polly Abbott b: Abt. 1800 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1846 Henry Co, TN
- +William Martin b: Bet. 1795 - 1800 of Halifax Co, VA m: 24 Feb 1820 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Henry Co, TN
- 4 Martha "Patsy" Abbott b: Abt. 1802 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1843 - 1850 McMinn Co, TN
- +John S. Cooley m: 28 Dec 1821 Halifax Co, VA d: Nov 1825 Roane Co, TN
- *2nd Husband of Martha "Patsy" Abbott:
- +Hamilton Stewart m: Bet. 1826 - 1843 TN d: Bet. 1843 - 1850 McMinn Co, TN
- 4 Sarah "Sally" Abbott b: Abt. 1803 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Hart Co, KY
- +William Richardson b: Abt. 1797 VA m: 17 Oct 1821 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Hart Co, KY
- 4 Rebecca Abbott b: Abt. 1806 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1841-1850 Pittsylvania Co, VA
- +Brooks Dawson b: Abt. 1799 VA m: 11 Oct 1824 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Pittsylvania Co, VA
- 5 William C. Dawson b: Abt. 1841 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1880 Halifax Co, VA (1880 residence)
- +Sarah A. E. Clay (d/o Joel T. Clay & Susan F. Abbott) b: Abt. 1848 Halifax Co, VA m: 22 Jul 1865 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1880 Halifax Co, VA (1880 residence)
- 4 Annis Abbott b: Abt. 1809 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860 Halifax Co, VA
- +Thomas F. Abbott (s/o Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson) b: Abt. 1803 Halifax Co, VA m: 16 Jan 1827 Halifax Co, VA d: 1834 Halifax Co, VA
- 5 Susan F. Abbott b: Abt. 1828 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860 Halifax Co, VA
- +Joel T. Clay b: Abt. 1825 Halifax Co, VA m: 17 Jan 1846 Halifax Co, VA d: Oct 1859 Halifax Co, VA
- 5 Elisha M. Abbott b: Abt. 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1862 Civil War
- +Susan Ann Clay b: Abt. 1835 Halifax Co, VA m: 15 Nov 1852 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Halifax Co, VA
- 5 Sarah A. Abbott b: Abt. 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850

..... *2nd Husband of Annis Abbott:
..... +Joel Martin b: Abt. 1810 Virginia m: 31 Dec 1838 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1855 -
1860 Halifax Co, VA
..... 5 Mary A. Elizabeth Martin b: Abt. 1839 Halifax Co, VA
..... +William H. Motley m: 13 May 1857 Halifax Co, VA
..... 5 Ganaway T. Martin b: Abt. 1843 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1861 - 1865 Civil War
..... 5 Louisa L. Martin b: Abt. 1845 Halifax Co, VA
..... +James N. Ives m: 23 Dec 1866 Halifax Co, VA
..... 5 Lydia A. Rebecca Martin b: Abt. 1848 Halifax Co, VA
..... +John R Ives m: 15 May 1868 Halifax Co, VA
..... 5 John V. Martin b: Abt. 1850 Halifax Co, VA
..... 5 Johannes R. Martin b: Abt. 1855 Halifax Co, VA
..... 4 James Abbott b: Bet. 1804 - 1808 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. Nov 1842 - Jun 1850
Place not yet proved
..... +Susan J. m: Bet. 1834 - 1838 Unknown d: Aft. 12 Nov 1842 Place not yet proved
..... 4 Alice "Ailcey" Abbott b: Abt. 1815 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Lincoln Co,
MO
..... +Joseph Abbott (s/o Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson) b: Abt. 1805 Halifax
Co, VA m: 06 Dec 1831 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1850 - 1854 Lincoln Co, MO
..... 5 Mary Abbott b: Abt. 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 McLennan Co,
TX
..... +William C. Farmer m: 24 Feb 1859 Lincoln Co, MO d: Aft. 1880 TX
..... 5 Margaret Abbott b: Abt. 1840 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850 Lincoln Co, MO
..... 5 Thomas F. Abbott b: Abt. 1841 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1870 Lincoln Co, MO
..... +Mary J. Miller m: 01 Dec 1859 Lincoln Co, MO
..... 5 William Harrison Abbott b: Feb 1842 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1900 McLennan
Co, TX
..... +Mattie Dowell (widow) m: 11 Feb 1880 McLennan Co, TX
..... *2nd Wife of William Harrison Abbott:
..... +Mary E. Bedwell (widow) m: 18 Dec 1887 McLennan Co, TX
..... 5 Joseph Abbott b: Abt. 1845 Lincoln Co, MO d: Bet. 1850 - 1860 Lincoln Co,
MO
..... 5 Leonard Abbott b: Abt. 1846 Lincoln Co, MO d: Abt. 1893 McLennan Co, TX
..... +Judith Shelton b: Abt. 1851 of St. Charles Co, MO m: Abt. 1868 Lincoln Co,
MO d: Aft. 1900 McLennan Co, TX
..... 5 John F. Abbott b: Jan 1848 Lincoln Co, MO d: Aft. 1900 Lincoln Co, MO
..... +Mary E. "Lizzie" b: Jun 1852 MO m: Abt. 1871 Lincoln Co, MO d: Aft. 1900
Lincoln Co, MO
..... 5 Susan Abbott b: Abt. 1850 Lincoln Co, MO d: Bet. 1873 - 1878 MO
..... +Crafton Allen Glore b: Abt. 1850 MO m: 12 Nov 1868 St. Charles Co, MO
d: Aft. 1900 Boone Co, MO
..... *2nd Husband of Alice "Ailcey" Abbott:
..... +Bird Farmer b: Abt. 1814 VA m: 17 Aug 1854 Lincoln Co, MO d: Bet. 1860 -
1870 Lincoln Co, MO
..... 3 Nancy Abbott b: Abt. 1767 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1807 Place unknown
..... +William Goodwin m: 12 Jan 1789 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1807 Place unknown
..... 3 Armistead Abbott b: Abt. 1771 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. Jun - Sep 1840 Stokes Co, NC
..... +Frances Priddy b: Abt. 1780 of Halifax Co, VA m: 23 May 1797 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet.
Sep 1841 - Jun 1842 Stokes Co, NC
..... 3 Joseph Abbott b: Abt. 1774 Halifax Co, VA d: 1818 Stokes Co, NC
..... +Elizabeth Priddy b: Abt. 1778 of Halifax Co, VA m: 26 Dec 1796 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt.
1818 Stokes Co, NC
..... 3 Jacob Abbott b: Abt. 1775 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 26 Jan - 22 Feb 1830 Madison Co, AL
..... +Polly Dickson/Dixon b: Halifax Co, VA m: 19 Dec 1799 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1811 -
1830 Halifax Co, VA or Madison Co, AL

- 3 James Abbott b: Abt. 1775 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1814 - 1815 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 Elizabeth Abbott b: Abt. 1778 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1807 Place unknown
- +Jasper Wyatt m: 20 Jul 1807 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1807 Place unknown
- 2 **Ann Abbott** b: Bet. 1730 - 1750 of King and Queen Co, VA d: Aft. 30 Mar 1787 prob. Halifax Co, VA (apparently never married)
- 2 **Sarah Abbott** b: Bet. 1730 - 1750 of King and Queen Co, VA d: Aft. 30 Mar 1787 prob. Halifax Co, VA (apparently never married)
- 2 **Rachel Abbott** b: Bet. 1730 - 1750 of King and Queen Co, VA d: Aft. 30 Mar 1787 prob. Halifax Co, VA (apparently never married)
- 2 **Joseph Abbott, Jr.** b: Abt. 1750 of King and Queen Co, VA d: 1811 Halifax Co, VA
- +Magdaline Lacy (d/o Thomas Lacy & Catharine) b: Abt. 1757 of Halifax Co, VA m: Abt. 1778 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. Mar 1813 - Mar 1814 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Adaline Abbott b: Abt. 1780 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1821 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 Sarah Abbott b: Abt. 1784 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 05 Nov 1804 poss. Union Co, KY
- +John Keeling b: Abt. 1785 Halifax Co, VA m: 05 Nov 1804 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 05 Nov 1804 poss. Union Co, KY
- 3 Thomas Abbott b: Abt. 1788 Halifax Co, VA d: 18 Dec 1871 Halifax Co, VA
- +Nancy Edmundson b: Abt. 1799 Halifax Co, VA m: 28 Dec 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1882 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Catharine Abbott b: Abt. 1790 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 Daughter Abbott b: Abt. 1792 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1816 - 1820 Halifax Co, VA
- +Thomas Faulkner b: Abt. 1789 Halifax Co, VA m: Abt. 1815 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1850 - 1870 Halifax Co, VA
- 4 Dianna Faulkner b: Abt. 1816 Halifax Co, VA d: 01 Apr 1890 Halifax Co, VA
- +Richard Boyd b: Abt. 1797 Halifax Co, VA m: 30 Oct 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: 08 Nov 1892 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Samuel M. Abbott b: 10 Mar 1794 Halifax Co, VA d: 21 Dec 1866 Gibson Co, TN
- +Prudence Elam b: 12 Apr 1800 Mecklenburg Co, VA m: 07 Jul 1818 NC (prob. Granville Co.) d: 08 Mar 1876 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 James T. Abbott b: 14 Nov 1819 Halifax Co, VA d: 26 Oct 1865 Gibson Co, TN
- +Rebecca E. Barton b: 01 Nov 1830 TN m: 08 Apr 1846 Gibson Co, TN d: 08 Oct 1862 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 William H. Abbott b: Abt. 1824 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1872 - 1880 Gibson Co, TN
- +Mary Jane Baker b: 01 Dec 1830 TN m: 16 Aug 1847 Gibson Co, TN d: 24 May 1923 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 Rowena P. Abbott b: 01 Mar 1827 Halifax Co, VA d: 12 Jan 1875 Gibson Co, TN
- +William C. Barton b: 14 Nov 1823 MO m: 18 Jul 1844 Gibson Co, TN d: 18 Feb 1905 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 Elizabeth C. Abbott b: 07 Apr 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: 17 Apr 1856 Gibson Co, TN
- +Alexander L. Lett b: Abt. 1830 TN m: 28 Jan 1850 Gibson Co, TN d: 07 Dec 1909 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 Samuel M. Abbott, Jr. b: 20 May 1834 Halifax Co, VA d: 22 Aug 1859 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 Joseph L. Abbott b: 1837 Halifax Co, VA d: 21 Mar 1862 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 Mary J. Abbott b: 02 Apr 1840 Gibson Co, TN d: 02 Jun 1891 Gibson Co, TN
- +Augusta H. Johnston b: 28 Dec 1837 TN m: 15 Nov 1858 Gibson Co, TN d: 13 Aug 1913 Gibson Co, TN
- 4 John L. Abbott b: 16 May 1843 Gibson Co, TN d: 09 Feb 1914 Gibson Co, TN
- 3 Magdelane Abbott b: Abt. 1796 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1825 Halifax Co, VA (never married)

+**Second wife** - Name unknown m: Abt. 1754, King and Queen Co, VA

- 2 **William Abbott** b: 1756 King and Queen Co, VA d: 04 Jan 1848 Halifax Co, VA
- +Mary "Polly" Parker (d/o Edward Parker & Susannah) b: 1765 of Halifax Co, VA m: 02 Dec 1784 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. Nov 1850 - Sep 1851 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Rebekah M. Abbott b: 23 Jan 1788 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1820 - 1847 Place unknown
- +Cornelius Beazley/Beasley m: 24 Apr 1814 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 23 Dec 1822 Place unknown
- 3 Elizabeth Abbott b: 26 Oct 1789 Halifax Co, VA d: 1867 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 Carter Asbury Abbott b: 02 Oct 1791 Halifax Co, VA d: 1818 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 Susanna "Susan" Sharp Abbott b: 05 Jan 1794 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. Mar 1847 - Oct 1850 Prince Edward Co, VA
- +Thomas G. Lindsey b: Abt. 1795 of Prince Edward Co, VA m: 27 Jul 1818 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1840 - 1850 Prince Edward Co, VA
- 3 Mary "Polly" B. Abbott b: 14 Aug 1796 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Gibson Co, TN
- +Perrin A. Giles b: Abt. 1793 VA m: 09 Nov 1831 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Gibson Co, TN
- 3 Wesley Mansfield Abbott b: 27 Sep 1798 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1884 Halifax Co, VA
- +Eliza Ann Robertson b: Abt. 1814 Halifax Co, VA m: 22 Jan 1834 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1881 - 1885 Halifax Co, VA
- 4 Rebecca A. Abbott b: Abt. 1838 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1885 - 1900 Halifax Co, VA
- +John Q. Snead b: Abt. 1834 VA m: 23 Jan 1856 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Halifax Co, VA
- 4 William H. Abbott b: 10 Sep 1840 Halifax Co, VA d: 12 May 1905 Halifax Co, VA
- +Bettie A. Irby b: Abt. 1846 VA m: Abt. 1868 d: 15 Apr 1876 Halifax Co, VA
- *2nd Wife of William H. Abbott:
- +Mattie W. Caldwell b: 31 Jan 1850 Halifax Co, VA m: 22 Feb 1877 Halifax Co, VA d: 10 Jul 1930 Halifax Co, VA
- 4 Milton C. Abbott b: Jun 1843 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1901 Halifax Co, VA
- +Hallie R. Snead b: Jan 1850 VA m: Abt. 1872 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1910 Halifax Co, VA
- 4 Janetta T. Abbott b: Abt. 1849 Halifax Co, VA d: 01 May 1876 Halifax Co, VA
- +Samuel E. Snead b: Abt. 1843 VA m: 11 Jan 1870 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1880 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Keturah "Kitty" Abbott b: 27 Sep 1798 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1870 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 Delphia "Delphy" Abbott b: 01 Jan 1801 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1830 - 1831 Halifax Co, VA
- +Perrin A. Giles b: Abt. 1793 VA m: 08 Aug 1818 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Gibson Co, TN
- 3 Onisha "Ony" May Abbott b: 09 Apr 1803 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Halifax Co, VA
- +Alfred Pincham b: Abt. 1798 VA m: 14 Jan 1824 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1880 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Standfield Abbott b: 11 Nov 1805 Halifax Co, VA d: Bef. 1830 Halifax Co, VA (prob. died young)
- 3 Isaac Abbott b: 20 May 1809 Halifax Co, VA d: Bef. 1830 Halifax Co, VA (prob. died young)

. **+Frances** - Third wife - Maiden Name Unknown b: Abt. 1742 of Halifax Co, VA m: Abt. 1765 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1822 - 1823 Halifax Co, VA

..... 2 **Mary Abbott** b: Abt. 1767 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1804 - 1820 Halifax Co, VA

..... +Hatcher Owen b: Bef. 1761 VA m: 16 Oct 1787 Halifax Co, VA d: 1829 Halifax Co, VA

..... 3 Drury Owen b: Abt. 1788 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1850 - 1860 De Soto Co, MS

..... +Nancy Vaughan b: Abt. 1801 Halifax Co, VA m: 13 Jan 1823 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1840 - 1850 Lawrence Co, AL or De Soto Co, MS

..... 3 William Owen b: Abt. 1794 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Halifax Co, VA

..... +Martha Owen b: Halifax Co, VA m: 22 Dec 1818 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1834 - 1836 Halifax Co, VA

..... 4 James M. Owen b: Abt. 1827 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Halifax Co, VA

..... +Lucy J. Robertson b: Abt. 1830 Halifax Co, VA m: 24 Jan 1848 Halifax Co, VA d: 15 Jul 1891 Halifax Co, VA

..... 4 Martha Owen b: Abt. 1828 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850 Halifax Co, VA

..... 4 Edward J. Owen b: Abt. 1829 Halifax Co, VA d: 26 Dec 1883 Halifax Co, VA

..... +Elizabeth W. D. Hill b: Abt. 1834 Halifax Co, VA m: 25 Oct 1852 Halifax Co, VA d: 16 Jul 1858 Halifax Co, VA

..... *2nd Wife of Edward J. Owen:

..... +Sarah "Sallie" B. Bostick m: 15 Nov 1859 Halifax Co, VA

..... 4 William H. Owen b: Abt. 1831 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1862 - 1865 Civil War

..... 4 Mary A. Owen b: Abt. 1834 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Halifax Co, VA

..... +John H. Roberts b: Abt. 1832 Halifax Co, VA m: 08 Nov 1854 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1910 - 1920 Halifax Co, VA

..... *2nd Wife of William Owen:

..... +Judith Penick b: Abt. 1802 VA m: 05 Dec 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Halifax Co, VA

..... 4 Sarah E. Owen b: Abt. 1839 Halifax Co, VA

..... 4 Tabitha R. Owen b: Abt. 1841 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1870 Halifax Co, VA (1870 residence)

..... +Abraham V. Daniel b: Abt. 1837 Charlotte Co, VA m: 02 Jul 1867 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1870 Halifax Co, VA (1870 residence)

..... 3 Rebecca Owen b: Abt. 1798 Halifax Co, VA d: 1852 Tipton Co, TN

..... +Edwin Vaughan b: Abt. 1794 Halifax Co, VA m: 29 Nov 1819 Halifax Co, VA d: 1854 AR

..... 4 James L. Vaughan b: Abt. 1820 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Faulkner Co, AR (1880 residence)

..... +Frances E. b: Abt. 1831 AL m: Abt. 1859 prob. AR d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Faulkner Co, AR (1880 residence)

..... 4 Joseph C. Vaughan b: 1822 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Tipton Co, TN

..... +Mary Margaret McCoy b: Feb 1828 TN m: 21 Jan 1846 Tipton Co, TN d: 27 Jan 1910 Tipton Co, TN

..... 4 Rebecca Vaughan b: Abt. 1825 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1843

..... +Carlton Allen m: 04 Apr 1843 Tipton Co, TN

..... 4 Sarah H. Vaughan b: Abt. 1826 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850

..... 4 Mary J. Vaughan b: Abt. 1827 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850

..... 4 Ann Vaughan b: Abt. 1828 TN d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Chicot Co, AR

..... +Edward G. Allen b: Abt. 1825 TN m: 19 Dec 1844 Tipton Co, TN d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Chicot Co, AR

..... 4 Martha Vaughan b: Abt. 1834 Tipton Co, TN d: Aft. 1850

..... 4 Edwin L. Vaughan b: 09 Jul 1836 Tipton Co, TN d: 28 Mar 1884 Conway Co, AR

..... +Elizabeth J. Martin m: 03 Jun 1858 Conway Co, AR d: Abt. 1860 Conway Co, AR

..... *2nd Wife of Edwin L. Vaughan:

..... +Mary J. Brown b: Dec 1848 Conway Co, AR m: 16 Jan 1870 Conway Co, AR d: 27 Nov 1901 Little River Co, AR (Buried Conway Co, AR)

- 4 Milton H. Vaughan b: Nov 1839 Tipton Co, TN d: 06 Oct 1926 Pulaski Co, AR
 +Sallie E. b: Jan 1846 MS or AR m: Abt. 1876 AR d: Bet. 1910 - 1920 Pulaski Co, AR
- 3 Beverly Owen b: Abt. 1799 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1820 prob. Halifax Co, VA (unmarried)
 3 Elizabeth Owen b: Abt. 1800 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Muhlenberg Co, KY
 +Royal Daniel b: Abt. 1792 Halifax Co, VA m: 30 May 1820 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Muhlenberg Co, KY
- 3 Moody Owen b: Abt. 1802 Halifax Co, VA d: 15 Apr 1884 Halifax Co, VA
 +Martha Jane Johnson b: Abt. 1819 Virginia m: 16 Nov 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1900 - 1910 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Mary "Polly" Owen b: Abt. 1804 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 31 Oct 1832 Place unknown
 +John Abbott (s/o Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson) b: Abt. 1806 Halifax Co, VA m: 16 May 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 31 Oct 1832 Place unknown
- 2 **Elizabeth Abbott** b: Abt. 1768 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 27 Feb 1837 - 26 Feb 1838 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 2 **Frances Abbott** b: Abt. 1769 Halifax Co, VA d: 1834 Halifax Co, VA
 +John Robertson m: 15 Jan 1795 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. Mar 1813 - Mar 1814 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 John Robertson b: 02 Nov 1796 Halifax Co, VA d: 30 Jul 1860 Trigg Co, KY
 +Nancy Cabaniss b: 16 Nov 1802 Halifax Co, VA m: 08 Oct 1816 Caswell Co, NC d: 20 Apr 1875 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 John C. Robertson b: 30 Aug 1820 Halifax Co, VA d: 02 May 1875 Trigg Co, KY
 +Mary Ann Mathews m: 20 Nov 1848 Christian Co, KY
 *2nd Wife of John C. Robertson:
 +Charlotte T. Mathews b: 02 Jun 1822 KY m: 28 Nov 1860 Christian Co, KY d: 12 Nov 1877 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 William A. Robertson b: 08 Mar 1822 Halifax Co, VA d: 08 Jan 1879 Trigg Co, KY
 +Eliza Ann Edwards b: 26 Nov 1835 Trigg Co, KY m: 18 Dec 1853 Trigg Co, KY d: 11 Feb 1875 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 Charles H. Robertson b: 21 Mar 1824 Halifax Co, VA d: 05 Feb 1875 Trigg Co, KY
 +Cassandra S. Stewart b: 17 Feb 1827 KY m: Abt. 1850 Trigg Co, KY d: 29 Aug 1860 Trigg Co, KY
 *2nd Wife of Charles H. Robertson:
 +Mary Jane Stewart b: 07 Mar 1825 VA m: 27 Feb 1861 Trigg Co, KY d: 18 Jan 1918 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 Susannah F. Robertson b: 15 May 1826 Halifax Co, VA d: 17 May 1873 Trigg Co, KY
 +William P. Lewis b: Abt. 1825 KY m: Bet. 1846 - 1850 prob. Trigg Co, KY d: Aft. 1860 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 S. J. Robertson b: 02 Jun 1828 Halifax Co, VA d: 08 Dec 1869 Trigg Co, KY
 +Martha A. Dillard (widow) b: 16 Jul 1823 Louisiana m: Bet. 1855 - 1860 Trigg Co, KY d: 03 Sep 1864 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 Phillip T. Robertson b: 17 May 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: 19 Jan 1905 Caldwell Co, KY
 +Keziah Frances "Fanny" Shelton b: 07 Dec 1840 Trigg Co, KY m: 05 Jan 1857 Trigg Co, KY d: 03 Jul 1882 Caldwell Co, KY
- 4 Judith "Judy" Robertson b: Abt. 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Trigg Co, KY
 +John N. Shelton b: Abt. 1830 Halifax Co, VA m: 27 Jan 1853 Trigg Co, KY d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 Amanda Ann Robertson b: 04 Jun 1834 Halifax Co, VA d: 26 Nov 1868 Caldwell Co, KY
 +James H. Hartigan b: 21 Jan 1815 VA m: 25 Dec 1855 KY d: 24 Apr 1875 Caldwell Co, KY

- 4 Elizabeth J. Robertson b: 30 Jun 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: 24 May 1904 Trigg Co, KY
 +Sovereign Larkins b: 10 Jul 1830 KY m: 17 Jan 1858 Trigg Co, KY d: 14 Jul 1888 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 Nancy J. Robertson b: 12 Sep 1838 Halifax Co, VA d: 27 Nov 1900 Graves Co, KY
 +William Martin b: 22 Oct 1814 KY m: Abt. 1865 Trigg Co, KY d: 11 Apr 1900 Graves Co, KY
- 4 Mary George Robertson b: Jan 1845 Halifax Co, VA d: 18 Apr 1917 Trigg Co, KY
 +Joseph J. Roach b: 1847 KY m: Abt. 1868 Trigg Co, KY d: 1898 Trigg Co, KY
- 3 William Robertson b: Abt. 1798 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1831 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 3 George M. Robertson b: Abt. 1804 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1843 - 1850 Caldwell Co, KY
 +Sarah "Sally" Newbill b: Abt. 1810 of Halifax Co, VA m: 11 Dec 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1850 - 1860 Caldwell Co, KY
- 4 Mary F. Robertson b: Abt. 1831 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Trigg Co, KY
 +William W. Carney b: Abt. 1826 KY m: 14 Oct 1850 Caldwell Co, KY d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 James L. Robertson b: Abt. 1834 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Caldwell Co, KY
 +Frances Elizabeth Purdy b: Abt. 1836 KY m: 06 Dec 1855 Caldwell Co, KY d: Bet. 1856 - 1859 Caldwell Co, KY
- *2nd Wife of James L. Robertson:
 +Harriet Hollowell b: Abt. 1836 KY m: 28 Dec 1859 Trigg Co, KY d: Bet. 1900 - 1910 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 Eliza Ann Robertson b: 01 Oct 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: 02 Dec 1907 Trigg Co, KY
 +William Clinton Haydon b: 12 Apr 1826 Trigg Co, KY m: 15 Jan 1855 Caldwell Co, KY d: 22 Dec 1896 Trigg Co, KY
- 4 John A. Robertson b: Aug 1839 Caldwell Co, KY d: 20 Jul 1925 Caldwell Co, KY (never married)
- 4 Sarah E. Robertson b: Abt. 1843 Caldwell Co, KY d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Trigg Co, KY
 +Joel H. Dunning b: 13 Jan 1834 Caldwell Co, KY m: Abt. 1863 Trigg Co, KY d: 21 Aug 1913 Caldwell Co, KY
- 3 Fleming Robertson b: 25 Nov 1805 Halifax Co, VA d: 26 Apr 1866 Trigg Co, KY (never married)
- 3 Joseph Robertson b: Abt. 1807 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +Dolly C. b: Abt. 1808 VA m: Bet. 1850 - 1860 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Pittsylvania Co, VA
- 3 Daughter One Robertson b: Bet. 1805 - 1810 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1830 Halifax Co, VA (1830 residence)
- 3 Daughter Two Robertson b: Bet. 1805 - 1810 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1830 Halifax Co, VA (1830 residence)
- 2 **Richard Abbott** b: Abt. 1770 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. Dec 1848 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +Catharine "Caty" Fulkerson (d/o John Fulkerson & Sally Roberts) b: Abt. 1789 Halifax Co, VA m: 01 Sep 1818 Halifax Co, VA d: Dec 1875 Pittsylvania Co, VA
- 3 John James Abbott b: 03 Feb 1821 Halifax Co, VA d: 22 Nov 1876 St. Clair Co, AL
 +Paulina "Perlina" S. Lax/Lacks (d/o Royall Lax & Mary Hodge) b: 11 Mar 1824 Halifax Co, VA m: 22 Nov 1841 Halifax Co., VA d: 09 Oct 1866 St. Clair Co, AL
- 4 James B. Abbott b: Abt. 1843 Halifax Co, VA d: 1863 Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN - Civil War (unmarried)
- 4 John H. Abbott b: Abt. 1846 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
 +Idora McClellan b: Oct 1852 AL m: 06 Mar 1873 St. Clair Co, AL d: Bet. 1900 - 1910 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL

- 4 Mary "Mollie" Catherine Abbott b: 25 Nov 1848 Halifax Co, VA d: 13 Nov 1926 Pell City, St. Clair Co, AL
- +William David McCargo b: 07 Sep 1828 Halifax Co, VA m: Abt. 1868 St. Clair Co, AL d: 26 Oct 1889 Talladega Co, AL
- 4 Nicholas Wade Abbott b: 30 Jun 1850 Halifax Co, VA d: 04 Oct 1921 Calera, Shelby Co, AL
- +Nancy Elizabeth Lowery b: 13 Nov 1859 St. Clair Co., AL m: 25 Jan 1874 St. Clair Co, AL d: 11 May 1887 Cook's Springs, St. Clair Co, AL
- 5 John J. Abbott b: 09 Dec 1874 St. Clair Co, AL d: 27 Jun 1887 St. Clair Co, AL (age 12)
- 5 Susan "Sudie" Kate Abbott b: 19 Dec 1876 St. Clair Co, AL d: 21 Apr 1965 Pell City, St. Clair Co, AL
- +William Walter King, Sr. b: 09 May 1871 Easonville, St. Clair Co, AL m: 19 May 1895 Easonville, St. Clair Co, AL d: 16 Sep 1909 St. Clair Co, AL
- 5 Minnie Mae Abbott b: 12 Apr 1881 St. Clair Co, AL d: 03 Mar 1939 Pell City, St Clair Co, AL
- +Eugene La Taste b: 04 Jul 1875 AL m: 22 Nov 1905 St. Clair Co, AL d: 27 Feb 1927 Anniston, Calhoun Co, AL
- 5 Mary Ella Abbott b: 10 Apr 1882 St. Clair Co, AL d: 16 Feb 1949 Columbiana, Shelby Co, AL
- +William Joseph Horsley, Sr. b: 19 Aug 1876 Tallapoosa Co., AL m: 08 Apr 1903 Easonville, St. Clair Co., AL d: 23 Apr 1949 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL (res. Columbiana, Shelby Co, AL)
- 5 Robert Wade Abbott b: 22 Sep 1883 St. Clair Co, AL d: 22 Nov 1974 Hudson, St. Croix Co, WI
- +Mary Ethel Robertson b: 02 May 1881 GA m: 29 Apr 1905 Jefferson Co, AL d: 27 Dec 1923 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- 5 Edgar Cook Abbott b: 14 Aug 1886 St. Clair Co, AL d: 06 Jun 1887 St. Clair Co, AL (age 9 mos.)
- *2nd Wife of Nicholas Wade Abbott:
- +Mary "Molly" Isabelle Alexander b: 04 Jun 1866 Shelby Co, AL m: 07 Nov 1889 Shelby Co, AL d: 19 May 1932 Shelby Co, AL
- 5 Myrtle Mae Abbott b: 08 Aug 1890 Shelby Co, AL d: 18 Aug 1971 Shelby Co, AL
- +William Alexander Reid b: 1886 AL m: 29 Nov 1911 Shelby Co, AL d: 1951 Shelby Co, AL
- 5 Arthur Alexander Abbott b: 04 Mar 1892 Shelby Co, AL d: 18 Dec 1975 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- +Ida Bess Pilgreen Blackmon b: Abt. 1890 Shelby Co, AL m: Bet. 1920 - 1930 Shelby Co, AL d: 29 Dec 1948 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- *2nd Wife of Arthur Alexander Abbott:
- +Flora Frances Cole Howard b: 15 May 1922 Cullman, Cullman Co, AL m: 05 Dec 1949 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- 5 Katie Belle Abbott b: 23 Feb 1894 Shelby Co, AL d: 20 Nov 1991 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- +Earl T. Peterson b: 14 Aug 1896 Hanceville, Cullman Co, AL m: 25 Dec 1917 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL d: 16 Aug 1971 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- 5 Nalda Florence Abbott b: 01 Oct 1895 Shelby Co, AL d: 28 Aug 1985 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL (never married)
- 5 Cora Exie Abbott b: 26 May 1897 Shelby Co, AL d: 13 Jul 1987 Calera, Shelby Co, AL
- +Arthur Baine Crim b: 01 Feb 1888 AL m: Abt. 1916 Shelby Co, AL d: 27 Jan 1958 Shelby Co, AL

- 5 James Wade Abbott b: 29 Aug 1900 Shelby Co, AL d: 27 Jun 1974
Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- +Lilly b: Abt. 1904 TN or AL m: Abt. 1922 prob. Shelby Co, AL d: Aft. 1946
Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL (1946 residence)
- *2nd Wife of James Wade Abbott:
- +Eder Mae Davis Wingo b: 02 Jul 1898 Jefferson Co, AL m: 21 Mar 1948
Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL d: Nov 1984 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- 5 Dora Felicia Abbott b: 02 Nov 1903 Shelby Co, AL d: 29 Jul 1995 Gulf
Breeze, Santa Rosa Co, FL
- +Alfred Vann Garrett b: 08 Oct 1896 Shelby Co, AL m: Abt. 1923 Shelby Co,
AL d: May 1976 Louisville, Jefferson Co, KY
- 5 Walter Douglas Abbott b: 10 Oct 1905 Shelby Co, AL d: 20 Dec 1995
Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- +Agnes Marie McHale b: 31 Oct 1909 AL m: 12 Aug 1932 Birmingham,
Jefferson Co, AL d: 29 Aug 1995 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- 4 Richard Abbott b: Abt. 1852 Lauderdale Co, AL d: Abt. 1868 St. Clair Co, AL
(age 16)
- 4 William Royal Abbott b: 1854 Talladega Co, AL d: 1896 St. Clair Co, AL
- +Annette "Netta" L. Cosper b: Aug 1861 AL m: 27 Jan 1878 St. Clair Co, AL
d: 1937 St. Clair Co, AL
- 4 Pauline Rebecca Abbott b: Abt. 1856 Talladega Co, AL d: Abt. 1868 St. Clair Co,
AL (age 12)
- 4 Thomas J. Abbott b: 25 Sep 1857 Talladega Co, AL d: 17 Aug 1931 St. Clair Co,
AL
- +Martha "Mattie" Frances Willingham b: 19 May 1867 St. Clair Co, AL m: 26 Apr
1886 St. Clair Co, AL d: 16 Jun 1939 St. Clair Co, AL
- 4 George W. Abbott b: Abt. 1858 Talladega Co, AL d: Aft. 1870
- 4 Jefferson D. Abbott b: 14 Mar 1861 Talladega Co, AL d: 17 Mar 1889 Eureka,
Talladega Co, AL (never married)
- 4 Matthew Turner Abbott b: 24 Mar 1864 St. Clair Co, AL d: 08 Nov 1932
Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- +Mary Adelaide "Addie" Brewer b: Sep 1868 Georgia m: 07 Jul 1886 Jefferson
Co, AL d: 18 Aug 1965 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- *2nd Wife of John James Abbott:
- +Amanda "Mattie" McCargo b: 17 Jul 1838 Halifax Co, VA m: Abt. 1869 St. Clair Co., AL
d: 21 Dec 1898 Easonville, St Clair, AL
- 4 Susan "Sudie" Malvina Abbott b: 06 Jan 1870 St. Clair Co, AL d: 26 Jul 1941 Pell
City, St Clair Co, AL
- +Leonidas "Lon" Cunningham Davis b: 22 Jan 1861 AL m: 31 Dec 1891 St. Clair
Co, AL d: 08 Dec 1938 Pell City, St Clair Co, AL
- 4 Robert Edgar Abbott b: 10 Apr 1872 St. Clair Co, AL d: 25 Jan 1932 Easonville, St.
Clair Co, AL
- +Eliza Ellen Willingham b: 09 Jul 1877 St. Clair Co, AL m: 30 Dec 1897 St. Clair
Co, AL d: 04 Jul 1934 Easonville, St. Clair Co, AL
- 4 Mattie Abbott b: 10 Jul 1874 St. Clair Co, AL d: 05 Aug 1915 Birmingham,
Jefferson Co, AL
- +Jerry D. Bell b: 15 Aug 1874 Easonville, St. Clair Co, AL m: 08 Dec 1897 St.
Clair Co, AL d: 24 May 1935 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
- 4 Gertrude Abbott b: Aug 1876 St. Clair Co, AL d: 23 Nov 1940 Pell City, St Clair Co,
AL
- +William Benjamin Wallace b: Sep 1875 Georgia m: 19 Dec 1907 St. Clair Co, AL
d: 15 Oct 1939 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL

- 3 Joseph M. Abbott b: Abt. 1824 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Rockingham Co, NC
 +Martha J. Fitzgerald b: Abt. 1829 Surry Co, NC m: 14 Sep 1847 Danville, Pittsylvania
 Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Rockingham Co, NC
 4 Georgiana Abbott b: 08 Sep 1849 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Apr 1923 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +William T. Pruitt b: 12 Apr 1837 Caswell Co, NC m: 17 Oct 1881 Rockingham
 Co, NC d: 17 Aug 1914 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
 4 John R. Abbott b: Abt. 1851 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1910 - 1920 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +Elizabeth "Bettie" B. Hall b: Abt. 1860 Rockingham Co, NC m: 17 Dec 1884
 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet. 1910 - 1920 Rockingham Co, NC
 4 Emma J. Abbott b: Abt. 1854 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1920 - 1930 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +Lewis B. Hall b: Abt. 1854 Rockingham Co, NC m: 18 Dec 1879 Rockingham
 Co, NC d: Bet. 1900 - 1910 Rockingham Co, NC
 4 Mary Kate Abbott b: Abt. 1856 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet. 1920 - 1930 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +William R. Wray b: Abt. 1862 NC m: 26 Jan 1887 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet.
 1900 - 1910 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
 4 Josephine Abbott b: Abt. 1859 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet. 1920 - 1930 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA (never married)
 4 William Walter Abbott b: 20 Dec 1867 Rockingham Co, NC d: 27 Sep 1929
 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
 +Lillian Lavenia Lovett b: Jan 1876 Charleston, Charleston Co, SC m: Abt. 1899
 Charleston, Charleston Co, SC d: 26 Mar 1951 Birmingham, Jefferson Co, AL
 4 Ida Dodson Abbott b: Abt. 1870 Rockingham Co, NC d: Apr 1907 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +Nathan Anderson Fitzgerald b: 1855 Pittsylvania Co, VA m: 25 Sep 1895
 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1910 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
 3 Sarah "Sallie" F. Abbott b: Abt. 1826 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1900 - 1910 Pittsylvania Co,
 VA (never married)
 3 William Abbott b: Abt. 1827 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Etowah Co, AL
 +Mandeline F. Davis b: Abt. 1832 Tuscaloosa Co, AL m: 04 Apr 1871 Jefferson Co, AL
 d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Etowah Co, AL
 4 Forney William Abbott b: 05 Aug 1872 Jefferson or Etowah Co, AL d: 03 Oct 1950
 Houston, Harris Co, TX (resident of Palestine, Anderson Co, TX)
 +Lizzie b: Abt. 1884 Indiana m: Abt. 1905 IN d: Bet. 1917 - 1920 Anderson Co, TX
 *2nd Wife of Forney William Abbott:
 +Lula B. Cornwell m: Bet. 1920 - 1930
 3 Richard M. Abbott b: 08 Apr 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: 22 May 1883 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 +Letitia "Lettie" J. Downs b: 05 Aug 1832 VA m: Abt. 1852 d: 18 Jul 1901 Danville,
 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 4 Ellen or Ella Abbott b: 12 Sep 1853 Henry Co, VA d: Bet. 1853 - 1860 VA or NC
 4 Leticia J. Abbott b: Abt. 1855 VA d: Aft. 1880 Pittsylvania Co, VA (last known
 residence)
 +F. B. Gentry m: 22 Dec 1870 Rockingham Co, NC d: Abt. 1879 Pittsylvania Co,
 VA
 5 C. H. Gentry b: Abt. 1874 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 5 R. B. Gentry b: Abt. 1879 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 4 Susan Kate Abbott b: Apr 1857 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet. 1930 - 1940 Newport,
 Warwick Co, VA
 +Powhatan H. Brightwell b: Abt. 1849 Prince Edward Co, VA m: 19 Jan 1876
 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1895 - 1900 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
 5 Frank P. Brightwell b: Jan 1889 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1910
 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (last known residence)
 +Katherine m: Abt. 1910 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA

- 5 Anna B. Brightwell b: Sep 1894 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1930 - 1940 Newport, Warwick Co, VA
- +William A. Lash b: Abt. 1890 VA m: Abt. 1912 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Newport, Warwick Co, VA
- *2nd Husband of Susan Kate Abbott:
- +George Washington Chandler b: May 1849 Halifax Co, VA m: 05 Mar 1905 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1920 - 1930 Newport, Warwick Co, VA
- 4 George W. Abbott b: Sep 1859 Rockingham Co, NC d: 08 Jun 1901 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
- +Mollie Frances Morgan b: Abt. 1874 Rockingham Co, NC m: 12 Mar 1894 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1910 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1910 residence)
- 4 Ella V. Abbott b: Oct 1861 Rockingham Co, NC d: Apr 1914 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (never married)
- 4 Cora May Abbott b: Aug 1872 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1940 residence)
- +William E. Ponton b: Abt. 1856 Nottoway Co, VA m: 05 Feb 1889 Pelham, Caswell Co, NC d: Bet. 1894 - 1900 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
- 5 William Hazel Ponton b: 05 Feb 1890 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: 16 Jan 1964 Fayetteville, Cumberland Co, NC
- +Thelma M. Blankenship b: Abt. 1891 Macon, Bibb Co, GA m: 14 Dec 1911 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1912 - 1920
- *2nd Wife of William Hazel Ponton:
- +Elaine Hilda Brophy b: 10 Feb 1901 Maryland m: Abt. 1920 d: 06 Jan 1974 Fayetteville, Cumberland Co, NC
- 5 Peter R. Ponton b: Sep 1891 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1940 residence)
- +Hazel M. b: Abt. 1898 OH m: Abt. 1921 d: Aft. 1940 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1940 residence)
- 5 Frank T. Ponton b: Jan 1895 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Martinsburg, Berkeley Co, WV (1940 residence)
- +Ruth b: 1899 VA m: Abt. 1925 poss. Richmond, Henrico Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Martinsburg, Berkeley Co, WV (1940 residence)
- *2nd Husband of Cora May Abbott:
- +Chillie L. Weiford b: May 1872 VA m: 26 May 1900 Pelham, Caswell Co, NC d: Aft. 1940 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1940 residence)
- 5 C. Langhorn Weiford b: 1901 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Norfolk, Norfolk City, VA
- +Toaksie Turner b: 31 Jan 1901 Pittsylvania Co, VA m: 24 Mar 1921 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: 05 Sep 1988 Norfolk, Norfolk City, VA
- 4 Pet L. Abbott b: 07 Dec 1874 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft. 1940 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1940 residence)
- +John T. Luther b: Dec 1870 NC m: 07 Sep 1892 Pelham, Caswell Co, NC d: Aft. 1940 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA (1940 residence)
- 3 Cassandra Abbott b: Abt. 1835 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Person Co, NC
- +Moore W. Dollahite b: Abt. 1826 Person Co, NC m: 24 Oct 1852 Person Co, NC d: Bet. 1865 - 1870 Person Co, NC
- 4 Belle Dollahite b: Abt. 1855 Person Co, NC d: Bet. 1870 - 1876 Person Co, NC
- 4 Ida Green Dollahite b: Abt. 1857 Person Co, NC d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Person Co, NC
- +Reuben Tapp m: 14 Dec 1877 Person Co, NC d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Person Co, NC
- 4 Catharine "Kate" Agnes Dollahite b: Nov 1858 Person Co, NC d: 21 May 1946 Roxboro, Person Co, NC (never married)

..... 2 **Leonard Abbott** b: Abt. 1771 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1814 - 1815 Halifax Co, VA
 +Susanna Ferguson b: Abt. 1782 Halifax Co, VA m: 22 May 1802 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1826
 Halifax Co, VA
 3 Thomas F. Abbott b: Abt. 1803 Halifax Co, VA d: 1834 Halifax Co, VA
 +Annis Abbott (d/o Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay) b: Abt. 1809 Halifax Co, VA m: 16 Jan
 1827 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860 Halifax Co, VA
 4 Susan F. Abbott b: Abt. 1828 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860 Halifax Co, VA
 +Joel T. Clay b: Abt. 1825 Halifax Co, VA m: 17 Jan 1846 Halifax Co, VA d: Oct
 1859 Halifax Co, VA
 5 Sarah A. E. Clay b: Abt. 1848 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1880 Halifax Co, VA
 (1880 residence)
 +William C. Dawson (s/o Brooks Dawson & Rebecca Abbott) b: Abt. 1841
 Pittsylvania Co, VA m: 22 Jul 1865 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1880 Halifax Co,
 VA (1880 residence)
 5 Patience L. Clay b: Abt. 1850 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860
 5 Charles T. Clay b: Abt. 1856 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860
 4 Elisha M. Abbott b: Abt. 1830 Halifax Co, VA d: Abt. 1862 Civil War
 +Susan Ann Clay b: Abt. 1835 Halifax Co, VA m: 15 Nov 1852 Halifax Co, VA
 d: Bet. 1870 - 1880 Halifax Co, VA
 5 Mary A. E. Abbott b: Abt. 1855 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1930 Pittsylvania Co,
 VA
 +John F. Eans b: Abt. 1845 VA m: 18 Nov 1869 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1920
 - 1930 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 5 Martha J. Abbott b: Abt. 1857 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1870
 5 James T. Abbott b: Abt. 1859 Halifax Co, VA d: 10 Nov 1885 Halifax Co, VA
 +Mary E. Beal m: 01 Jan 1880 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1885
 5 Elisha J. Abbott b: May 1862 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1934 - 1940 Pittsylvania
 Co, VA
 +Clementine Hancock b: Dec 1865 VA m: 09 Dec 1885 Halifax Co, VA
 d: Bet. 1930 - 1934 Pittsylvania Co, VA
 *2nd Wife of Elisha J. Abbott:
 +Mary Ethel Richardson m: 09 Jun 1934 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Aft.
 1940 Danville, VA
 4 Sarah A. Abbott b: Abt. 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850
 3 Joseph Abbott b: Abt. 1805 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1850 - 1854 Lincoln Co, MO
 +Alice "Ailcey" Abbott (d/o Elisha Abbott & Lydia Clay) b: Abt. 1815 Halifax Co, VA
 m: 06 Dec 1831 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Lincoln Co, MO
 4 Mary Abbott b: Abt. 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 McLennan Co, TX
 +William C. Farmer m: 24 Feb 1859 Lincoln Co, MO d: Aft. 1880 TX
 4 Margaret Abbott b: Abt. 1840 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850 Lincoln Co, MO
 4 Thomas F. Abbott b: Abt. 1841 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1870 Lincoln Co, MO
 +Mary J. Miller m: 01 Dec 1859 Lincoln Co, MO
 4 William Harrison Abbott b: Feb 1842 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1900 McLennan Co, TX
 +Mattie Dowell (widow) m: 11 Feb 1880 McLennan Co, TX
 *2nd Wife of [18] William Harrison Abbott:
 +Mary E. Bedwell (widow) m: 18 Dec 1887 McLennan Co, TX
 4 Joseph Abbott b: Abt. 1845 Lincoln Co, MO d: Bet. 1850 - 1860 Lincoln Co, MO
 4 Leonard Abbott b: Abt. 1846 Lincoln Co, MO d: Abt. 1893 McLennan Co, TX
 +Judith Shelton b: Abt. 1851 of St. Charles Co, MO m: Abt. 1868 Lincoln Co, MO
 d: Aft. 1900 McLennan Co, TX
 4 John F. Abbott b: Jan 1848 Lincoln Co, MO d: Aft. 1900 Lincoln Co, MO
 +Mary E. "Lizzie" b: Jun 1852 MO m: Abt. 1871 Lincoln Co, MO d: Aft. 1900
 Lincoln Co, MO
 4 Susan Abbott b: Abt. 1850 Lincoln Co, MO d: Bet. 1873 - 1878 MO
 +Crafton Allen Glore b: Abt. 1850 MO m: 12 Nov 1868 St. Charles Co, MO d: Aft.
 1900 Boone Co, MO

- 3 John Abbott b: Abt. 1806 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 31 Oct 1832 Place unknown
 +Mary "Polly" Owen (d/o Hatcher Owen & Mary Abbott) b: Abt. 1804 Halifax Co, VA
 m: 16 May 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 31 Oct 1832 Place unknown
- 3 Leonard Abbott, Jr. b: Abt. 1809 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1844 - 1850 Carroll Co, TN
 +Catharine "Kate" Shaw b: Abt. 1807 VA m: 14 Mar 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1870 -
 1880 Carroll Co, TN
- 4 Royal F. Abbott b: Abt. 1832 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1850 Carroll Co, TN (1850
 residence)
- 4 John W. Abbott b: Abt. 1836 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1863 Carroll Co, TN (1863
 residence)
 +Martha C. Jones m: 18 Dec 1863 Carroll Co, TN
- 4 Leonard B. Abbott b: 12 Aug 1838 Carroll Co, TN d: 06 May 1916 Carroll Co, TN
 +Mary Jones m: 14 Dec 1866 Carroll Co, TN
- 4 Sarah Abbott b: Abt. 1840 Carroll Co, TN d: Aft. 1850 Carroll Co, TN (1850
 residence)
- 4 Jacob D. Abbott b: Abt. 1844 Carroll Co, TN d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Carroll Co, TN
 +Mary Elizabeth Green b: Dec 1851 TN m: 06 Sep 1870 Carroll Co, TN d: Aft.
 1900 Carroll Co, TN
- 3 Fleming Abbott b: Abt. 1815 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1860 - 1870 Lincoln Co, TN
 +Lemisa Jane Owens/Owen b: Abt. 1817 TN m: Abt. 1837 TN d: Bet. 1860 - 1870
 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 Napoleon B. Abbott b: 17 Apr 1838 Lincoln Co, TN d: 16 Feb 1928 Lincoln Co, TN
 +Laura S. Brewer b: 15 Feb 1859 TN m: 10 Jan 1895 Lincoln Co, TN d: 31 Aug
 1937 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 Isabelle Susan Abbott b: Abt. 1840 Lincoln Co, TN d: Aft. 1870 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 Sarah N. Abbott b: Abt. 1842 Lincoln Co, TN d: Aft. 1860 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 Sophronia Marrian Abbott b: Abt. 1846 Lincoln Co, TN d: Aft. 1860 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 Margaret A. Abbott b: 17 Feb 1848 Lincoln Co, TN d: 03 Dec 1917 Giles Co, TN
 +Leonard C. Roden b: Mar 1844 TN m: 17 Dec 1868 Lincoln Co, TN d: Aft. 1900
 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 James Alex Abbott b: 14 Jul 1850 Lincoln Co, TN d: 04 Jun 1904 Lincoln Co, TN
 +Eliza A. Reed b: 21 Jul 1851 TN m: 30 Dec 1875 Lincoln Co, TN d: 26 Jun 1907
 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 Rebecca Abbott b: Abt. 1853 Lincoln Co, TN d: Bet. 1880 - 1888 Marshall Co, TN
 +Thomas J. Roden b: Dec 1846 TN m: 30 Dec 1874 Lincoln Co, TN d: Aft. 1900
 Lincoln Co, TN
- 4 John Abbott b: Abt. 1856 Lincoln Co, TN d: Aft. 1870 Lincoln Co, TN (1870
 residence)
- 2 **Martha "Patsy" Abbott** b: Abt. 1772 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 28 Feb - 26 Aug 1844 Halifax Co,
 VA (never married)
- 2 **John Abbott** b: Bet. 1773 - 1776 Halifax Co, VA d: 1849 Halifax Co, VA (never married)
- 2 **Moody Abbott** b: Bet. 1775 - 1777 Halifax Co, VA d: 1862 Halifax Co, VA
 +Martha W. Lindsey b: Abt. 1805 of Prince Edward Co, VA m: 31 May 1826 Prince Edward
 Co, VA d: Bet. 1828 - 1830 Halifax Co, VA
- 3 Elizabeth M. Abbott b: Abt. 1828 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1880 - 1900 Rockingham Co, NC
 +Jesse Thomas Robertson b: Abt. 1816 Halifax Co, VA m: 30 Jan 1843 Halifax Co, VA
 d: Bet. 1864 - 1870 Rockingham Co, NC
- 4 William W. Robertson b: Abt. 1846 Halifax Co, VA d: Aft. 1860 Rockingham Co,
 NC
- 4 Christopher Moody Robertson b: Jun 1852 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet. 1910 -
 1920 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA
- +Emma Lee Anderson b: 30 Jun 1861 Pittsylvania Co, VA m: Abt. 1880 prob.
 Pittsylvania Co, VA d: Bet. 1910 - 1920 Danville, Pittsylvania Co, VA

- 4 Martha "Mattie" Frances Robertson b: 16 Jan 1855 Rockingham Co, NC d: 18 Sep 1923 Ruffin, Rockingham Co, NC
- +Richard Thomas Fitzgerald b: 26 Oct 1837 Caswell Co, NC m: 07 Nov 1869 Rockingham Co, NC d: 11 Jun 1918 Ruffin, Rockingham Co, NC
- 4 Thomas D. Robertson b: 11 Sep 1857 Rockingham Co, NC d: 06 Oct 1930 Wentworth, Rockingham Co, NC
- +Henrietta Dallas b: 17 Sep 1868 Rockingham Co, NC m: 27 Dec 1899 Rockingham Co, NC d: 12 Jul 1958 Rockingham Co, NC
- *2nd Husband of Elizabeth M. Abbott:
- +Jonathan G. Watkins m: 1872 Rockingham Co, NC d: Bet. 1872 - 1880 Rockingham Co, NC
- 2 **Moses Abbott** b: Bet. 1776 - 1782 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 24 Dec 1815 - 01 Apr 1816 Charlotte Co, VA; resident of Richmond, VA (never married)
- 2 **Fleming Abbott** b: Bet. 1777 - 1782 Halifax Co, VA d: Bet. 1804 - 1815 Halifax Co, VA or poss. Richmond, Henrico Co, VA (never married)

Note: All names, dates, places, and relationships above are from original document research. Specific sources are included in the above report and in the reports or notes for each individual. For more information, please feel free to contact me.

Researched and written by Joan Horsley
 Based on research as of Dec 2013
 © 2013 by J. Horsley
 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:

Joan Horsley. *Joseph Abbott and Family of Halifax County, Virginia*. (Raleigh, NC: J. Horsley, 2013) Available online at www.joanhorsley.org.

© 2013 by J. Horsley

This document may not be used in part or whole for commercial purposes or paid subscriber services. All personal use needs to reference the research report and author.