

**LEONARD ABBOTT and FAMILY**  
**Son of Joseph Abbott of Halifax County, Virginia**

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

Son of Joseph Abbott and wife Frances  
Born: Abt. 1771, Halifax County, Virginia  
Married: 22 May 1802, Halifax County, VA to Susanna Ferguson  
Died: Bet. 1814 - 1815, Halifax County, Virginia

**SUSANNA FERGUSON**

Daughter of Thomas Ferguson and wife Sarah  
Born: Abt. 1782, Halifax County, Virginia  
Died: Abt. 1826, Halifax County, Virginia

**CHILDREN of LEONARD ABBOTT and SUSANNA FERGUSON**

Thomas F. Abbott (m. Annis Abbott), Joseph Abbott (m. Alice "Ailcey" Abbott), John Abbott (m. Mary "Polly" Owen), Leonard Abbott Jr. (m. Catharine Shaw), Fleming Abbott (m. Lemisa Jane Owens/Owen)

LEONARD ABBOTT was born in Halifax County, Virginia abt. 1771, as he first appears by name at age 21 on the yearly personal property tax lists in 1792. Leonard was the eleventh of his father Joseph Abbott's sixteen proved children. His mother, Frances Abbott (maiden name unknown), was likely Joseph's third wife, whom Joseph married abt. 1765. Leonard was the fifth of Frances' ten children, thus a "middle child" twice over.

Leonard was about 17 years old when his father, Joseph Abbott, died abt. April 1788. Joseph's will, written 30 Mar 1787 and proved 27 Oct 1788, devised to Leonard 100 acres of Joseph's land at Difficult Creek "lying on the timber branch." [HWB2:298] Leonard's portion joined the tracts devised to his brothers William, Richard, and Moody. Joseph Abbott's land was in north-central Halifax County on an upper part of Difficult Creek just east of today's Crystal Hill, VA. This was where Leonard was born and raised and where he and his mother and most of his siblings continued to live after Joseph died.

In 1796, Leonard Abbott witnessed a deed from his brother-in-law Hatcher Owen, who married Leonard's sister Mary Abbott in 1787. The land was a short way southwest of the Abbott lands, and Leonard's older brother Joseph Abbott Jr. lived nearby. Leonard's co-witness Thomas Owen was Hatcher's brother. Their father William Owen's 1806 will appointed his "neighbor John Abbott" (Leonard's younger brother) as a co-executor with Hatcher and Thomas. The Abbott-Owen family connections continue with the next generation. As we shall see, one of Hatcher and Mary Abbott Owen's daughters later married one of Leonard's sons.

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Date: 14 Jul 1796

From: HATCHER OWEN

To: Richard Martin

For: £60

Description: 40 acres on the lower side of Terrible Creek

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

Signed: Hatcher Owen

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

Release of Dower: None

Recorded. 25 Jul 1796 - Acknowledged by Hatcher Owen

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

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Two years later, Leonard Abbott was on a jury with three of his brothers who together comprised one-fourth of the jury. Jury members are not indexed in the court records, so it is not known whether having so many Abbots on a single jury was an unusual occurrence. (This jury happened to be on the same page as an indexed Abbott entry). However, the number of county residents who qualified as jurors could be less than one-fourth of the county's total free white male population, so family and close neighbors serving together on juries was common, and the parties in the suit frequently were relatives or close neighbors of jury members (although the Abbots had no close association with the parties here). Juryman John Fulkerson had lived next to the Abbots since the mid-1760s, and in 1804, John's daughter Elizabeth Fulkerson married juryman Hardaway Chandler, another near neighbor. In 1803, Leonard's youngest brother, Fleming Abbott, witnessed John Fulkerson's will, and in 1818, John's daughter Catharine married Leonard's brother and fellow-juryman Richard Abbott.

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29 Mar 1798 - Halifax Court

Peter F. Kent v. Jeremiah Terry - In Trespass Assault and Battery

Jury included: LEONARD ABBOTT, RICHARD ABBOTT, JOHN ABBOTT, and WILLIAM ABBOTT

Others were: John Fulkerson, David Nicholds, John Bruce, Michael Bruce, Anthony Gresham, Robert Trammell, Martin Miller, and Hardiway Chandler [Hardaway Chandler]

[Source: Halifax Plea Book 18, p. 425. LVA Reel 61. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

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Later the same year, Leonard Abbott witnessed two deeds of his older brothers William and Richard. By the first deed, William Abbott, who lived with his family next to Leonard and his siblings and mother, bought land adjacent to his own. By the second deed the next month, William sold almost half of that tract to his brother Richard Abbott. Leonard's younger brothers John Abbott and Moses Abbott co-witnessed the second deed with him.

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Date: 6 Oct 1798

From: Henry E. Coleman of Halifax

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT of same

For: £213

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

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

Signed: Henry E. Coleman

Witnesses: William Keene, James Thompson, LEONARD ABBOTT, RICHARD ABBOTT

Recorded: 25 Feb 1799

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

Note:

Joseph Abbott's original Halifax land on the south side of the Double Branch of Difficult Creek in the 1760s also was bounded by Ephraim Hill. [HDB7:3] Earlier deeds and patents refer to Coleman's land as also being on the Double Branch.

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Date: 27 Nov 1798

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT

To: RICHARD ABBOTT

For: £90

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

Bounds: Difficult Creek, Ephraim Hill, said ABBOTT

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: JOHN ABBOTT, MOSES ABBOTT, LEONARD ABBOTT

Recorded: 22 Apr 1799

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

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Leonard Abbott married Susanna Ferguson 22 May 1802, with Rev. Thomas Dobson, a Baptist minister, officiating. Leonard's marriage bond was dated 19 May 1802, with his brother Moody Abbott as his security. Susanna's father, "Thomas Farguson," signed his consent, which was required for anyone marrying under age 21. [Halifax Marriage Bonds Register, LVA Reel 82] Prior to Susanna's generation, the family name usually was spelled "Ferguson" in Halifax records, including Thomas' 1821 will (signed by mark). [HWB13:152] Spelling was phonetic and reflected the local and regional accents.

The Abbott and Ferguson families had lived near and known each other in Halifax since before Leonard and Susanna were born. In fact, Thomas Farguson witnessed Joseph Abbott's deed of 1 Jul 1767 when Joseph formally purchased the land where his family lived from their arrival in Halifax in 1762. [HDB7:3] Leonard's eldest half-brother, Benjamin Abbott, had lived in that same place from abt. 1749 to 1771. On 23 Aug 1767, a Robert Farguson purchased land near Joseph Abbott on Difficult Creek, and the deed also was witnessed by Thomas Farguson. [HDB7:18] The land that Leonard Abbott's children inherited through their grandfather Thomas Farguson and where Thomas lived at least by the time of his death in early 1824 was on an upper part of Terrible Creek, that ran west of the Abbotts' part of Difficult Creek. [HDB47:134] Abbott-related families of Owen and Lacy lived on lower parts of Terrible Creek.

Leonard Abbott is listed consistently from 1792 in the Halifax North District personal property taxes living among his widowed mother and his brothers on the original family land, part of which he was to inherit at Frances' death. The tax list dates indicate Leonard may have moved his family abt. 1810-1811 near or onto the land of his wife's father, Thomas

Ferguson, to the northwest at Terrible Creek. Leonard generally was taxed for one horse and no slaves, except for 1802-1805 when he was charged for one slave age 16 or older.

Leonard Abbott last appears in the yearly personal property tax lists on 4 Mar 1814. He is last mentioned in Halifax Court records in a road order in 1814. [HPB31:246] Leonard is missing in the personal property tax lists in spring 1815 so may be deceased by then. In any case, Leonard surely died before 24 Dec 1815, when his younger brother Moses Abbott wrote his will and Leonard is not included among Moses' surviving (full) brothers. (The only surviving brother omitted was a half-brother.) [Henrico WB5:71] There were at least seven untimely adult deaths in the immediate Abbott family bet. 1811-1818, including Leonard, which may suggest some kind of local epidemic. The War of 1812 with its uncertainties also took place during this period, so these were difficult times in many ways for Leonard and Susanna's immediate and extended families.

Leonard Abbott was only 43 or 44 years old when he died. His widow, Susanna, abt. age 33, was left with five sons to raise. The oldest was about 11 or 12; the youngest was an infant or perhaps not yet born. No will or probate records exist for Leonard Abbott, but his children are proved by later deeds selling inherited property (discussed below).

Leonard's widow, Susanna Abbott, appears on the Halifax personal property tax lists for the first time in March 1817, charged for Leonard's one horse. Either Susanna sold the horse or more likely her father paid her tax with his, because she does not appear again in the tax lists until her father died in 1824. (Her 1824 list is dated a month before his will was proved in court.) About the time Susanna's sons would be of an age for her to list a male age 16 or over in her household, the tax lists for her district no longer included that information.

On 25 Jan 1821, Susanna's her father, Thomas Ferguson, wrote his will naming "Susanna Abbott" as his daughter and legatee along with "her children" (unnamed). [HWB13:152] His will was proved 22 Mar 1824, and his widow, Sarah, was granted administration of the estate. By the terms of Thomas Ferguson's will, his wife, Sarah Ferguson/Ferguson, had lifetime use of all his estate except one slave to a granddaughter, Sarah Vaughan. After his wife Sarah's death, his land and slaves were to be divided equally on loan to Susanna and her two sisters, Kitty Ferguson Bryan (wife of John Bryan) and Elizabeth Ferguson Vaughan (wife of William Vaughan). At each sister's death, her share was to be divided equally among her children. Of the money left on hand, Susanna and Elizabeth were to get \$100 each, then the rest equally divided with Kitty, indicating Thomas already had given Kitty a \$100 gift. Interestingly, Thomas excluded one of Kitty's sons, Thomas Bryan, "who from his conduct I wish to have no part of my Estate."

Specifically, Susanna (Ferguson) Abbott was to have 1/3 of the land and 1/3 of the slaves for her lifetime, then at her death, the same was to be divided equally among her children. The will designated that Susanna's portion of the land was to include the house where her parents were then living. Thomas Ferguson owned significant property, being taxed in 1820 for 10 slaves and 6 horses, and in 1824 the court required an administrative bond of \$20,000 for his estate. After Leonard died, Susanna and her children perhaps lived for a while with her parents, benefiting both their needs, as they were elderly, and her needs with such young children. However, that is merely speculation, based in part on her estate inventory that does not include the kind of heavy equipment or crops she normally would

have if she were farming her own land for income rather than just the perfunctory kitchen garden.

By the time Susanna reappears in the Halifax personal property tax lists in 1824, the dates of her lists show she and her children were then living on Leonard's inherited land at Difficult Creek in the midst of most of his Abbott siblings. Susanna is listed on 23 Feb 1824 and again on 15 Feb 1825, each year taxed for one horse. She is missing in the tax lists taken in February and March 1826. Her sons do not appear on the tax lists until 1827, when her three eldest who then were adults--Thomas, Joseph, and John--are each taxed for one slave and one horse, indicating Susanna's mother Sarah Ferguson may then be deceased and her father Thomas Ferguson's legacies had been distributed.

Susanna Ferguson Abbott died during 1826 at about 44 years old. The inventory and appraisal of her estate was taken in Nov 1826 and presented in Halifax Court to be recorded on 26 Mar 1827. The appraisers were William Royster and John Winn.

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Susanna Abbott, Dec'd - Estate Inventory and Appraisal

Taken Nov 1826 by William Royster and John Winn

Included: 1 bed & [bed]stead; 1 bed & stead & cord, 1 bed & 2 bedsteads, 1 large trunk, 8 chairs, 1 pine painted table, 2 large jugs, 3 butter pots, 2 pots & 2 pr hooks & 1 oven, 1 pine cupboard, 3 pewter dishes, 2 large basons [basins], 1 pot rack, 1/2 doz. plates, 1 sm pitcher, 3 cups, 2 decanters, 1 glass can[?], tea pott & waiter, 1 pine table, 1 tray, 1 parcel knives & forks, 1 sm drill, 1 large drill, 1 shot gun, 3 hilling hoes, 1 grub hoe, 2 pole axes, 1 red sow & 2 pigs, 11 shoats, 3 cows & 2 yearlings, 1 loom, 1 flax wheel, 1 spinning wheel. - Total: \$126.62

Recorded 26 Mar 1827

[Source: Halifax Will Book 14, p. 251-252. LVA Reel 41. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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The administrator of Susanna's estate was William Abbott, who presented the final accounts for her estate in Halifax Court 24 Aug 1830. *[HMB4:243]* William was Leonard Abbott's older (half) brother and uncle of their five surviving sons. William Abbott also had guardianship of at least one of Leonard and Susanna's younger boys. *[HMB6:286, per General Index to Court Records]* William's inherited land at Difficult Creek was adjacent to the land Leonard and then his sons inherited. William Abbott was 15 years older than his half-brother Leonard Abbott, so William had known and lived next to both Leonard and then Leonard's sons all their lives. In 1832, as the sons began going their separate ways, they jointly sold William Abbott their inherited Difficult Creek land. *[HDB40:257]* (See deed below)

On 26 Jul 1830, the Halifax Court in Chancery confirmed the division of land and slaves "formerly assigned" to each of the heirs of Thomas Ferguson deceased. The exact division is not specified in this order; however, Thomas Ferguson's heirs are stated to be: Elizabeth Vaughan wife of William Vaughan, Kitty Bryan [widow of John Bryan] and the children of Susan[sic] Abbott, deceased, namely THOMAS. ABBOTT [elsewhere recorded as Thomas F. Abbott], JOSEPH ABBOTT, JOHN ABBOTT, LEONARD ABBOTT [Jr.], and FLEMING ABBOTT. *[HMB4:202]*

The sons' identities and their shares of Thomas Ferguson's land are proved more clearly in a series of Halifax deeds whereby the brothers sold the properties they inherited, which are included below.

Sons Thomas, Joseph, and John are named in the personal property tax lists for the first time on 2 Mar 1827 with their inherited taxable property, proving each was age 21 or over by that time. Son Leonard (Jr.) appears for the first time in tax lists in 1830, thus born abt. 1809. Son Fleming Abbott left the state before turning 21, but as discussed more below, evidence shows he was born abt. 1815, either right before or right after his father died..

Thomas Abbott, the eldest son, born abt. 1803, married 16 Jan 1827 to Annis Abbott, daughter of Elisha Abbott and Lydia Clay. Elisha was a son of Benjamin Abbott, eldest son of Joseph Abbott and half-brother to Thomas' father Leonard Abbott. The Halifax Marriage Bond Register and the 1830 census do not list Thomas with a middle initial. However, he is named Thomas F. Abbott in personal property taxes beginning in March 1827, in the 1832 deed below, and in his estate probate and children's guardianship accounts recorded bet. 1846-1856. [*Pippenger, Index to Virginia Estates 1800-1865, Vol 5, p. 1*] (The only other Thomas Abbott in Halifax County through 1850 is Joseph Abbott Jr.'s son Thomas Abbott, born abt. 1788, who married Nancy Edmundson in 1830 and is never recorded with a middle initial.).

In the 1830 census, Leonard and Susanna's son Thomas Abbott is the head-of-house with his wife, Annis, and two children, although the 1850 census shows Annis was born abt. 1809, thus abt. 21 this year. (The older Thomas Abbott in Halifax is not named in this census.)

1830 - Halifax Co, VA

Thomas Abbott - Males: 1(under 5), 1(20-29); Females: 1(under 5), 1(15-19) - 4 slaves

Thomas' brothers are living together, all still unmarried:

1830 - Halifax Co, VA

John Abbott - Males: 1(10-14), 3(20-29) - 3 slaves

The three older males, listed as born between 1801-1810, are Joseph (listed in 1850 as born c1805), John (b. c1806, per tax lists), and Leonard (b. c1809, per tax lists). The youngest is Fleming, who turned 15 within the next few months.

In October 1832, all five of the brothers jointly sold the land their deceased father, Leonard Abbott, was devised by the 1787 will of his father, Joseph Abbott, to be inherited after the death of Leonard's mother, Frances Abbott, who died in 1823. Since Leonard died intestate, his children automatically inherited equal shares of his estate by the laws of inheritance then in effect. The purchaser was Leonard's older brother William Abbott (the boys' uncle), who also was devised land by their father Joseph Abbott's will and whose own land is listed as an adjacent "bound" to the one being sold:

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Date: 23 Oct 1832\*

From: THOMAS F. ABBOTT, JOSEPH ABBOTT, JOHN ABBOTT, LEONARD ABBOTT, and FLEMING ABBOTT

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

For: \$180

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

Bounds: Daniel Palmer, Nathaniel Barksdale, and the said William Abbott

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

Witness: John A. McCraw as to Jos. Abbott

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

\*Note: Deed written by 28 Sep. Dated only after last signer acknowledged the deed.

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 40, p. 257-258, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley.

Comments in brackets added.]

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Although the number of acres is missing in the deed, there is no question where the land is located and that it was originally the land devised to Leonard by his father Joseph Abbott. In addition to the purchaser and bound William Abbott, the other bounds equally identify the land. Nathaniel Barksdale is on a number of Abbott records, and at least by 1818 he land adjacent to the Estate of Joseph Abbott, part of which was Leonard's inherited share.

[HDB27:396] In 1823, Nathaniel Barksdale and Daniel Palmer, the third bound, were two of the neighbors who appraised the estate of Joseph Abbott's widow, Frances, who was living on Joseph's land [HWB13:114], and Nathaniel's wife, Patsey M. Barksdale, witnessed Frances Abbott's will in 1820. [HWB13:30]

The land Leonard and Susanna's children inherited through their grandfather Thomas Ferguson was held by his widow, the brothers' grandmother Sarah Ferguson, for her lifetime. Sarah died between 22 Mar 1824, when she was granted administration of Thomas' estate, and no later than 3 Feb 1829, when Leonard and Susanna's son Joseph Abbott sold his share of the land. Over the next 10 years, three of Joseph's brothers--John, Leonard Jr., and Fleming Abbott--also sold their shares inherited from Thomas Ferguson. The fifth brother, Thomas F. Abbott, presumably was living on his inherited Ferguson land when he died abt. 1834, because land taxes show his widow, Annis Abbott, retained his 59-acre share, and she purchased Leonard Jr.'s adjoining 59-acre share in 1836. [HDB43:457]

The specific division of Thomas Ferguson's land with formal plats and descriptions apparently has not survived. However, references in several of their deeds show that their 1/3 share of their grandfather's total tract was divided into Lots 1 - 5. By this, as well as the above-mentioned court order in July 1830, we know that these five brothers were Leonard and Susanna Ferguson Abbott's only surviving children. An abstract of each deed is included at the end of this report and in the individual notes for each brother, but a summary here hopefully can show the overall picture.

1. Joseph Abbott sold his share of 57 acres by deed dated 13 Feb 1829. [HDB36:653] Joseph sold this land to William Vaughan, who is also named as a bound (ie, adjacent landowner) of the land being sold. William Vaughan was the husband of Elizabeth Ferguson, Susanna Abbott's sister who, like Susanna, was a legatee of 1/3 of Thomas Ferguson's land. (At that time, a wife could not hold land separate from the husband, so in effect, William Vaughan was a co-legatee.) The other adjacent landowner named in the deed is "Mrs. Bryan." She is the widowed Kitty Ferguson Bryan, Thomas' third daughter and legatee. Thus, while this particular deed does not reference Thomas Ferguson or Joseph's inheritance, the

purchaser, the bounds and the related deeds clearly show it as such, and no deed exists whereby Joseph obtained this land otherwise.

Joseph Abbott married 6 Dec 1831 to Alice Abbott (called "Ailcey"), sister of Annis Abbott, who married Joseph's brother Thomas Abbott. The sisters were daughters of Elisha Abbott, son of Leonard Abbott's eldest half-brother, Benjamin Abbott. Joseph and Alice lived on part of her father's land eventually devised to her by Elisha's 1837 will. Joseph and Alice Abbott moved to Missouri abt. Dec 1844 along with Alice's widowed mother, Lydia Clay Abbott.

2. John Abbott's deed of sale, dated 31 Oct 1832, specifies his 63-acre share as "being Lot No. 4 in the distribution of a portion of the lands of Thos Ferguson, dec'd, between the heirs of Susanna Abbott, dec'd." [HDB40:258] John's share was bounded by Lots 1, 2, and 3 and by the widow "Mrs. Wimbish." (Fleming Abbott's 1839 deed sold Lot 5, bounded in part by Abraham. W. Wimbish.) Like his brother Joseph, John Abbott sold his share to William Vaughan, whose wife was another legatee of Thomas Ferguson and who already owned Ferguson land adjacent to the brothers' shares.

John Abbott married 16 May 1832 to Mary Owen ("Polly"), a daughter of Hatcher Owen and Mary Abbott, who was Leonard Abbott's older sister. John and Polly Abbott sold this land inherited from his grandfather during the same time that John and his brothers sold the land inherited from their father, indicating John and Polly were preparing to leave the area, and, indeed, this John Abbott leaves the yearly Halifax personal property tax lists after 1832. However, neither John nor his wife Mary/Polly has been located anywhere after these Oct 1832 deeds. (The John Abbott in the 1840 census was Leonard's brother John Abbott, born c1773.)

3. Leonard Abbott (Jr.) sold his share of 59 acres on 28 Nov 1836. [HDB43:457] It is described as "part of a tract whereof the late Mrs. Ferguson died seized," referring to Thomas Ferguson's widow Sarah Ferguson, who had life-rights, and the properties could not be sold until her death. The entire deed is poorly written (eg, the female purchaser is referred to with male pronouns), and the only bounds are "A. W. Wimbish and others." However, "Abraham W. Wimbish" is a bound on Fleming Abbott's share (sold 1839, next deed below), and the widow "Mrs. Wimbish" was a bound on John Abbott's share sold in 1832.

The purchaser, Annis Abbott, was the widow of Leonard's brother Thomas F. Abbott who himself had a share of the same tract as Susanna Ferguson Abbott's child and heir. Land taxes show Annis retained Thomas' share, listed as 59 acres. This parcel of an additional 59 acres that Annis buys from Leonard Jr. obviously would be an adjacent tract, thereby enlarging the land she held for Thomas' children.

Leonard Abbott (Jr.) married in Halifax on 14 Mar 1832 to Catharine Shaw. Shortly after Feb 1838, they moved from Halifax to Carroll Co, TN, adjacent to Gibson County, TN, where Leonard Jr.'s cousin Samuel M. Abbott and family moved from Halifax the same time as Leonard and Catharine.

4. Fleming Abbott sold his 63-acre share on 3 Aug 1839 as a resident of Lincoln County, TN. [HDB47:134] Perhaps because he was selling from out-of-state, his deed gives the most thorough description of the land and of the chain of inheritance. His deed specifies that the Halifax County, VA land was "on waters of Terrible Creek...being Lot. No. 5 in the division of

that portion of the land which was allowed the heirs of Susan [Susannah] Abbott dec'd as their part of the land of their dec'd Grand father Thomas Ferguson." The bounds are listed as "the late William Vaughn" (who purchased Joseph's and John's shares adjacent to the land he inherited through his Ferguson wife), Abraham. W. Wimbish (a bound in Leonard Jr.'s deed), and Robert D. Lacy, who was also the purchaser. (Robert D. Lacy was related to Magdaline Lacy who married Leonard Abbott Sr.'s brother Joseph Abbott Jr.)

Fleming Abbott apparently left Halifax County, VA and moved to Lincoln County, TN the year after he and his brothers jointly sold the land they inherited through their father Leonard Abbott in Oct 1832. Fleming was about 18 years old in 1833. It would be interesting to know why and with whom he moved, since no other Halifax Abbots are known to have moved to that part of Tennessee, although Halifax friends and neighbors certainly could have. There was a large Abbott family living in Lincoln at the time, but that family came from North Carolina and had been in Lincoln County since 1803. Research has found no relationship between those Abbots and the Halifax Abbots. Furthermore, Fleming's 1839 deed proves he was not the son of Drury Abbott of the NC Abbots then in Lincoln, as was published in 2006. [*Heritage Book of Lincoln County Tennessee, article 586*] (See more details in individual Notes for this Fleming Abbott.)

The following are abstracts of each deed summarized above.

Date: 13 Feb 1829

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

To: William Vaughan of same

For: \$147

Description: 57 acres in Halifax Co.

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

/s/ Joseph Abbott

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

Recorded: 23 Feb 1829

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

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Date: 31 Oct 1832\*

From: John Abbott and wife Polly of Halifax [son of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson]

To: William Vaughan of same

For: \$189

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

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

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

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

Recorded: 6 Nov 1832

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

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

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Date: 28 Nov 1836

From: Leonard Abbott and Catharine his wife [son of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson]

To: Annis Abbott [widow of Thomas F. Abbott, son of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson]

For: \$220

Description: 59 acres in Halifax, being "part of a tract whereof the late Mrs. Ferguson died seized"

Bounds: A. W. Wimbish [Abraham W. Wimbish] "and others"

Signed: Leonard (x) Abbott (his mark), Catharine (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witnesses: None

Release of dower by Catharine Abbott, wife of L. Abbott

Recorded: 28 Nov 1836

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 43, p. 457. LVA Reel 20. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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Date: 3 Aug 1839

From: Fleming Abbott of Lincoln County, Tennessee [son of Leonard Abbott & Susanna Ferguson]

To: Robert D. Lacy of Halifax County, Virginia

For: \$182

Description: 63 acres, Halifax Co., on waters of Terrible Creek...being Lot. No. 5 in the division of that portion of the land which was allowed the heirs of Susan [Susanna] Abbott dec'd as their part of the land of their dec'd Grand father Thomas Ferguson

Bounds: the late William Vaughn, Abraham. W. Wimbish, Robert D. Lacy

Signed: Fleming Abbott

Witnesses: None

Acknowledged by Fleming Abbott and Certified in Lincoln Co, TN 3 Aug 1839

Recorded: 30 Sep 1841, Halifax County [VA] Court

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 47, p. 134-135. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

For more information about each of the five sons of Leonard and Susanna Ferguson Abbott and their wives and families, see their individual notes.

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Researched and written by Joan Horsley - Based on research as of Dec 2013

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