

MARTHA ABBOTT and FAMILY  
Daughter of Elisha Abbott of Halifax County, Virginia

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

MARTHA ABBOTT is named in her father Elisha Abbott's will written 28 Jan 1837 by her married name of Martha Cooley. [HWB18:295] She is named as Patsy Abbott on John S. Cooley's marriage bond dated 28 Dec 1821. The bondsman was William Martin, husband of Martha's sister Polly Abbott. Polly Martin and William Martin were witnesses. Martha/Patsy's father, Elisha Abbott, gave the consent required for those marrying under age 21. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1, LVA Reel 82.]

Shortly after they married, Martha and John Cooley moved from Halifax to Roane County, TN. Martha was still living in Tennessee when her father wrote his will in 1837 naming her Martha Cooley, but she may have been married to her second husband, Hamilton Stewart, by then.

The following chancery court case filed in 1843 shows that Martha Abbott's husband John Cooley died in November 1825 in Roane County, TN, leaving his widow Martha with two young children, Elisha and Lydia. Martha subsequently married Hamilton Stewart, and in 1843, they were living in adjacent McMinn County, TN. (This abstract indicates the case was over ownership of a slave Elisha was said to have given to John Cooley shortly after he married Martha.)

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Case No.268) O. Bill Filed 6 Nov. 1843 Elisha Cooley vs Hamilton Stewart & wife (Martha) & Lydia Cooley, S. Parshley, Sec.

Cooley of Roane Co. - John Cooley died intestate in Roane Co. leaving two children Elisha, about 3 or 4 at the time, and Lydia still a minor, and a widow Martha who has sinc [since] married Hamilton Stewart and the Stewarts and Lydia live in McMinn Co. 1845, witness Amos Marney, 55, in Roane Co. says Elisha was raised by his grandfather James Cooley and Grandmother Cooley. 1844 in Monroe Co., witness Robt. Cooley, 52, and Martha Cooley, 75; John Cooley died Nov 1825; John's new wife's father Elisha Abbott gave John the slave, Martha Cooley [the grandmother?] says Elisha stayed at her house except for one year. Other witnesses say Elisha lived with Stewarts several years. Elisha Abbott father of Martha Stewart died testate after John Cooley died.

[Source: Monroe Co. TN Chancery Court Records 1832 - 1887 (Abstracted). Typed by Edith Ward & Bobbi Kirkland Russell from loose papers formerly in possession of the late Bob Taylor Lee Sr. Online at [www.TNGenNet.org](http://www.TNGenNet.org), Monroe Co. Comments in brackets added by J. Horsley.]

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No marriage record was found in online resources for Martha and her second husband, Hamilton Stewart. The children's age categories in the following censuses indicate they could have married abt. 1826, although the eldest female might be a first wife of Hamilton instead.

1830: McMinn Co, TN

Hamilton Stewart - Males: 1(under 5), 1(30-39); Females: 2(under 5), 1(20-29)

1840: McMinn Co, TN  
 Ham'l [Hamilton] Stewart  
 Males: 2(5-9), 1(10-14), 1(40-49); Females: 1(5-9), 1(10-14), 1(15-19), 1(30-39)

Neither Martha nor Hamilton Stewart was found in the 1850 census.

Elisha Cooley, son of John Cooley and Martha Abbott, was still living in Roane Co, TN in 1850. No marriage record was found online; however, the 1946 death record of a daughter, Isabelle Cooley Falls, gives her parents as Elisha Cooley and Betty Eldridge. Elisha and Elizabeth/Betty moved to Hamilton Co, TN bet. 1850-1860. The 1870 census shows all their children except for John Cooley, b. c1848, who died before 1860, and daughter Rachel Cooley, b. c1849, who married bet. 1860-1870.

1870: Hamilton Co, TN - PO: Long Savannah  
 Elisha Cooley - 47 - Farmer - VA [b. 1822 in all other censuses]  
 Elisebeth Cooley - 42 - TN [Elizabeth Eldridge ("Betty")]  
 Simeon Cooley - 17  
 Martha Cooley - 14  
 Vinson Cooley - 12  
 Mary Cooley - 8  
 Salley Cooley - 6  
 James Cooley - 3  
 Isabell Cooley - 2 mos  
 Saponah Bolin - 17 - Domestic help  
 [surname spelled Coolley in this census]

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The only marriage record found for Martha Abbott and John Cooley's daughter Lydia is for "Lidia Cooley" who married 5 Feb 1846 in McMinn County, TN, which is where Martha and Hamilton Stewart lived. ["Tennessee, State Marriage Index, 1780-2002," index, FamilySearch] The bond abstract gives Lydia's husband's name as Andrews or Andrew Cooley, but neither this Lydia nor a possible Andrew Cooley was found in the 1850 or 1860 census.

However, online family information says Martha and John's daughter Lydia Cooley married an Andrew Goforth. There is, indeed, an Andrew Goforth with wife Lydia (b. 1822-1824, TN) living in McMinn County, TN in 1850 and in Meigs County, TN, in 1860. The ages of their children fit with a marriage in Feb 1846, as listed in the abstract for Lydia Cooley and "Andrew Cooley." More research is needed to confirm the correct Lydia, but this is Andrew and Lydia Goforth's household in 1860 for further reference:

1860 - Meigs Co, TN - Dist. 3 - P.O. Pine Land  
 Andrew Goforth - 40 - NC  
 Lydia Goforth - 38 - TN  
 Margaret Goforth - 13  
 Angeline Goforth - 11  
 Nancy Goforth - 10  
 Celia E Goforth - 8  
 John Goforth - 6  
 James Goforth - 4  
 Martha Goforth - 8 months

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

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

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