

POLLY 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

Elisha and Lydia Clay Abbott's daughter POLLY ABBOTT was born in Halifax County, VA in late 1799 or early 1800, based on her siblings' ages, the order in which she is named in her father's 1837 will, and the fact that she needed her father's consent to marry in early 1820.

Polly Abbott was married to William Martin on 24 Feb 1820 by Rev. John Jenkins. Polly's father Elisha Abbott gave his consent, which was required for those marrying under age 21. William's marriage bond was dated 22 Feb 1820, secured by Silas Carr. The witnesses were Silas Carr and William Ridgway/Ridgeway (who married Mary Carr in 1812). Silas Carr was William Martin's brother-in-law. Silas married in 1818 to Nancy Martin, whose father Austin Martin gave consent, and Silas' bondsman was William Ridgway. Silas Carr was a son of William Carr (who gave consent for Silas' marriage) and a brother of Thomas Carr, who married Polly's sister Nancy Abbott in 1815, and William Ridgway was also Thomas Carr's bondsman.

Austin Martin, father of William Martin and Nancy Martin Carr, married their mother Elizabeth Carr in Halifax by bond of 23 Nov 1793. He is named on several deeds for Elisha Abbott's family; in particular, Austin Martin is named as a bound on the Bradley Creek land Elisha purchased and moved to in 1803. [HDB19:522] Thomas Carr's father William Carr was another bound on Elisha's land. [HDB48:461]

The year following Polly's marriage to William, her sister Sarah/Sally Abbott married William Richardson 17 Oct 1821, and William Martin was a witness. Polly's sister Martha/Patsy Abbott married on 28 Dec 1821 to John S. Cooley. William Martin was John Cooley's bondsman, and Polly (Abbott) Martin and William Martin were witnesses. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register]

Within the next several years, Polly and William Martin moved to Henry County, TN. They moved with his parents, who still had two children in their household (daughter Sarah, who married a Milliken abt. 1836, and son Beverly S. Martin) along with some Ridgeways and other Halifax relations and friends. William Martin and his father, "Austine Martin," are listed in Henry County, TN in the 1830 census. (Austin and wife are listed as 50-59 years old. In 1850, Austin is listed as born c1772 in Virginia.)

1830 - Henry Co, TN

William Martin - Males: 1(und. 5), 1(5-9), 1(30-39); Fem: 2(und. 5), 2(5-9), 1(30-39)
3 slaves, 1 "free colored" male under 10

Polly Abbott Martin's father Elisha Abbott wrote his will 28 Jan 1837 in Halifax County, VA and died before 24 Apr 1837, when his will was proved in Halifax Court. [HWB18:295] Elisha bequeathed to "my daughter Polly Martin" 2 slaves, a horse, saddle, and bridle that were "previously given" (probably at her marriage). Polly is also named among five of Elisha's

daughters who were to divide certain slaves loaned to Polly's mother, Lydia Clay Abbott, after Lydia's death.

William Martin's mother, Elizabeth Carr Martin, died in Henry County, TN between 1830 and 18 Dec 1838, when his father, Austin Martin, re-married to Catharine Ramsay/Ramsey in Henry County, TN.

["Tennessee, State Marriage Index, 1780-2002" citing p. 45, FamilySearch.org] Catharine died before 1850, and Austin Martin died bet. 1850-1860 In Henry County, TN.

1840 - Henry Co, TN

William Martin

Males: 1(und. 5), 1(5-9), 1(10-14), 1(15-19), 1(40-49);

Females: *1 or 2(und. 5), 1(10-14), 1(15-19), 1(40-49) [*number looks like 1 written over 2]
5 slaves

Polly Abbott Martin died abt. 1846 in Henry County, TN. Her youngest (surviving) child was born abt. 1845, and in December 1847, William Martin re-married to Susan C. Ward in Henry County. ["Tennessee, State Marriage Index, 1780-2002" citing p. 7 & 45, FamilySearch.org] (Note: The abstract citing p. 7 gives the date as 6 Dec 1847; the abstract citing p. 45 gives 7 Dec 1847.)

William Martin lived in Henry County, TN through 1870, and he married a third time on 7 or 17 Oct 1861. ["Tennessee, State Marriage Index, 1780-2002" (p. 5 & 6); FamilySearch.org]

According to information on the website "Mason Hall, Tennessee," William Martin died in Henry County, TN in July 1879. The site owner, "Dennis in UC," gives a list of 11 children for William and Polly Martin and states, "Living heirs' names from estate file." The two not included seem to be Henry Harrison Martin and Melinda A. Martin, but I found each of them in the 1860 census with their father. I include the website information here for follow-up research to verify by the original probate documents.

From: Website "Mason Hall, Tennessee" Contact: Dennis in UC (2013:
dennisinuc@yahoo.com)

<<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=masonhall&id=I12854>>

James Madison Martin b: 01 Jul 1820 in Halifax Co VA

Elizabeth Martin b: 1822 in Halifax Co VA

Margarette Martin b: 13 Jan 1823 in TN[sic?]

Elisha Austin Martin b: Dec 1824 in Halifax Co VA[sic?]

Sarah Ann Martin b: 1829 in Henry Co TN

William M. Martin b: 17 Apr 1831 in Henry Co TN

Mary J. Martin b: 1836 in Henry Co TN

Martha Melissa Martin b: 1838 in Henry Co TN

William[sic?] Henry Harrison Martin b: 1839 in Henry Co TN [found as Henry H. & Harrison only]

Melinda A. Martin b: 1842 in Henry Co TN

Emily P. Martin b: 1845 in Henry Co TN

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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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