

RACHEL ABBOTT
Daughter of Joseph Abbott of Halifax County, Virginia

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

Daughter of Joseph Abbott and his first wife (name unknown)
Born Bet. 1730-1750, in or near King and Queen County, VA
Died Aft. 30 Mar 1787, Halifax County, VA
No recorded or apparent marriage

Rachel Abbott is named in her father Joseph Abbott's 1787 will among "my three oldest daughters namely Anney, Sarah and Rachel." [HWB2:298] Like her older sisters Ann and Sarah, research has not found a birth date for Rachel. Using information in Joseph's will we can only approximate that these three older daughters including Rachel were born roughly between 1730-1750. (See report for Ann Abbott for more details about their age range.)

No marriage record has been found for Rachel, but most Virginia marriage records prior to the Revolutionary War have not survived. However, the scant evidence indicates none of these three oldest daughters married. Joseph's will written 30 Mar 1787 names all his daughters by their first name only, and the "four youngest daughters" are all proved to be unmarried at the time. If a daughter were married, she generally was named in her parent's will by her legal married surname.

Contrary to many online files, Joseph's daughter Rachel is proved not to be the Rachel Abbott who married Peter Knight 19 Dec 1756 in Stafford County, VA. [Boogher, Overwharton Parish Register, p. 6] Marriages took place in the bride's county of residence, yet Stafford County is 80 miles northwest of where Joseph Abbott's family was living at the time. Joseph's son William Abbott's Revolutionary War pension application proves that their father Joseph Abbott and family never lived in or near Stafford County but moved abt. 1762 directly from King and Queen County, where they lived at least by 1756, to Halifax County. [NARA File W5616]

Other online files wrongly say Joseph's daughter Rachel Abbott married Peter Knight 19 Dec 1796 in Halifax County, VA. This obviously is only a distortion of the Overwharton Parish record that gives the same names, day, and month, and merely changes the year and place. No such record exists in Halifax, where marriage records after the Revolutionary War are generally complete, and no Knight family is associated or connected with Joseph Abbott's family in Halifax. The family of Peter and Rachel Abbott Knight was still living in Stafford County in 1789, as was Rachel's sister Ann Abbott Knight and their close relatives Elijah, George, James, and John Abbott Sr. (who are proved not to be descendants of Joseph Abbott of Halifax). [Stafford Personal Property Tax Lists]

Joseph Abbott was closely associated with Richard Brown after arriving in Halifax abt. 1762, the earliest records found for Joseph. Joseph's eldest son, Benjamin Abbott, was closely

involved with Richard Brown since Benjamin's arrival in 1749. [HSB:27] Records prove that Richard Brown's wife's first name was Rachel, and some Brown descendants say that her maiden name was Rachel Abbott (although no documentation for her maiden name is given). Records indicate Richard Brown was born around 1712 and married abt. 1738. Since Joseph Abbott married for the first time abt. 1728, Richard Brown's wife Rachel could not be Joseph Abbott's daughter Rachel. If there were a family relationship between Rachel Brown and Joseph Abbott, then Rachel Brown could be Joseph Abbott's sister (thus Benjamin Abbott's aunt); however, that is still merely speculation, and her maiden name of Abbott is not yet proved. (See Report on Joseph Abbott for more details.)

Nothing more has been found about Joseph's daughter Rachel Abbott. Like her two older sisters Ann and Sarah, Rachel apparently died unmarried in Halifax County sometime after her father's will written 30 Mar 1787, but the date of her death is not known, and no probate records exist.

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