

WILLIAM 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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WILLIAM ABBOTT

Son of Joseph Abbott and second wife (name-unknown)
Born: Abt. 1756, King and Queen County, VA
Married: 2 Dec 1784, Halifax County, VA to Mary "Polly" Parker
Died: 4 Jan 1848, Halifax County, VA

MARY "POLLY" PARKER

Daughter of Edward Parker and wife Susanna/Susan
Born: Abt. 1765, of Halifax County, VA
Died: Bet. Nov 1850 - Sep 1851, Halifax County, VA

CHILDREN of WILLIAM ABBOTT and MARY PARKER:

Rebecca M. Abbott (m. Cornelius Beasley), Elizabeth Abbott (never married), Carter Asbury Abbott (never married), Susanna "Susan" Sharp Abbott (m. Thomas G. Lindsey), Mary "Polly" B. Abbott (m. Perrin A. Giles), Wesley Mansfield Abbott (m. Eliza Ann Robertson), Keturah "Kitty" Abbott (twin to Wesley; never married), Delphia "Delphy" Abbott (m. Perrin A. Giles), Onisha "Ony" May Abbott (m. Alfred Pincham), Stanfield Abbott (died young, never married), Isaac Abbott (died young, never married)

WILLIAM ABBOTT was born abt. 1756 in King and Queen County, VA, per his 23 Oct 1832 application for pension as a Revolutionary War veteran saying he was then 76 years old. *[NARA File W5616]* Given the proved and approximated ages of William's siblings and their groupings in his father Joseph Abbott's will, William appears to be the only son of a second wife whom Joseph married after son Joseph Abbott Jr. was born abt. 1750 but who died soon after William's birth. Joseph married his third and last wife, Frances, abt. 1765. Even if she did not birth William, Frances at least raised him from boyhood, and William lived first with and then next to Frances until her death in 1823.

Contrary to many online files with numerous proved errors, William Abbott had no middle name (allegedly Isaac). William never signed or was recorded with any middle name or initial in any of the abundant records for him both in Halifax County and in his pension papers filed with the U.S. government. As often happened, a later family historian apparently added an erroneous middle name, not realizing that middle names were uncommon in Virginia when William was born. Documents made during their lifetimes prove that neither William nor his 15 known siblings had any middle name, which was normal for their time and place.

Thanks to William Abbott's pension statement, we know that his father, Joseph Abbott, moved his family from King and Queen County to Halifax County, VA around 1762, when

William was about 6 years old. In 1777, at age 21, William enlisted from Halifax to serve in the Revolutionary War as part of the Virginia militia. His war service, outlined in his pension statement (below), included acting as a messenger from Gen. Nathanael Greene, then in command of the patriot army in the South, to Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia and later U. S. President. The dispatch William carried was written at a critical point in the war, and likely the information was vital to both sender and recipient. (See report on Joseph Abbott for more background.) Over the course of the Revolution, William volunteered twice for active duty and was drafted for a third tour of duty. [NARA W5616] He also gave civilian service for another week guarding prisoners of war. [Abercrombie, *Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims*, p. 437] During his last tour of duty in the final six months of the war, William contracted smallpox and survived that as well as the war.

William Abbott appears in court records several times during the war years. In the Court of September 1779, his father, Joseph Abbott, lists William as his only son over 16 years old in his household [HPB10:74], as William's next older brother, Joseph Abbott Jr., married a year or so before and his next younger brother, Richard Abbott, was not born until c1770.

Also in the Sep 1779 Court, William Abbott and his close neighbor and family friend John Fulkerson (later Richard Abbott's father-in-law) were witnesses for the Commonwealth in its case against two other neighbors, John Chandler and Robert Chandler, alleging they assaulted, beat and wounded George Vaughan. (Several Vaughans later intermarried with Abbott family members. The elder William Chandler's family and elder Robert Chandler were long-time close Abbott neighbors; and later Chandlers and Abbotts also intermarried.) The jury, which included William's brother Benjamin Abbott, found the Chandlers guilty. William was paid the regulation 50 lbs tobacco per day in court for his 6 days as a witness in the case. [HPB10:90]

In May 1780, William's father, Joseph Abbott, filed a petition against William Baker and was awarded the money due him from Baker. William Abbott witnessed for Joseph in that case and again was paid 300 lbs tobacco for his 6 days attendance in court. [HPB10:150] Witnesses were paid by the person they witnessed for, but ultimately the person who lost the case had to pay for the winner's witnesses, too, as part of the costs of the case owed by the loser to the winner. This practice is of particular interest in a 1785 case involving William, as we shall see.

The American Revolution for independence effectively ended with the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, VA on 19 Oct 1781. Seven months later in May 1782, William Abbott, abt. 26 years old, was appointed to take his father's place as the road "surveyor" to coordinate and oversee the group of their neighbors responsible for the maintenance of the road along which they lived.

16 May 1782 - Halifax Court

WILLIAM ABBOTT is appointed Surveyor of the road whereof JOSEPH ABBOTT was late surveyor and it is ordered that the said William "with the usual hands belonging to the said road" [shall] forthwith clear and keep in the same in good repair according to Law.

[Halifax Plea Book 10: p. 247. LVA Reel 58. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

This was a position of authority and responsibility generally filled by men much older than William. However, his war service and duties undoubtedly gave him experience beyond his years. As surveyor, William was accountable to the Halifax Court for organizing and overseeing his neighbors assigned to his road segment, who, with their white and black male tithables, had to complete the requisite number of hours each year for the road's maintenance. If the required maintenance was not done in a timely manner or the quality was poor or complaints were lodged, the surveyor was held responsible. Thus, a surveyor needed the cooperation and respect of his neighbors to perform his task. William's oldest brother, Benjamin Abbott, had lived at Difficult Creek for over 10 years and was abt. 35 years old when he was first appointed road surveyor in 1763, probably also the year that he married his wife Ann. [HPB4:119] William's father Joseph Abbott was first appointed surveyor of their road segment in 1768. [HPB6:158] Joseph was again mentioned as the surveyor in 1773 [HPB8:51] and possibly served continuously until William replaced him in 1782 (when Joseph was abt. 72 years old), since no replacement is recorded in the court orders. Surveyors often were re-appointed regularly in order to spread the burden among the various landowners in the group. In June Court 1792, William was allowed a discharge from the responsibility of serving as the road surveyor "in the future" [HPB15:471], although he was appointed again at least by 1810 [HPB28:17] and again in Aug 1821. [HMB1:140] Also, in 1797 and again in 1823, William Abbott was appointed a ProceSSIONER for his district, another vital position of responsibility in the county (as explained in the court record compiled in a separate report). [HPB17:195, HMB2:98]

On 2 Dec 1784, William Abbott, age 28, married Mary Parker, age 19, in Halifax County. There is no surviving marriage record, but the date and Mary's maiden name are included in her 1848 application for a widows pension. [NARA W5616] In her deeds with her husband William, Mary always signed her name as "Polly Abbott," and her father Edward Parker's 1819 will names her "Polly, wife of William Abbott." [RWBH:112] (See note at end of this report regarding Mary/Polly's birthplace and family origins.)

Halifax personal property tax lists, collected annually each spring, began in 1782, and William Abbott is listed from 1782-1784 as the only son over age 21 in his father Joseph's household. Both Joseph Abbott and son William seem missing in the 1785 personal property taxes, but they are included in the special 1785 household enumeration, which, unlike tax lists, counted all persons in the family. [List of Inhabitants, LVA Misc. Reel 1263] William is listed with 2 whites (himself and Mary) but with no "dwelling house," so apparently they were still living with Joseph or in a house Joseph owned. William Abbott is listed as head of his own household beginning in the 1786 personal property taxes, taxed then for 2 horses, 4 cattle, and no slaves.

During the Halifax Court of July 1785, William Abbott became involved in a suit brought by William's oldest half-brother, Benjamin Abbott, against their father, Joseph Abbott. This was not the first or the last time Benjamin Abbott sued his father, even though Benjamin had assets at least equal to Joseph and fewer dependants. The first time, in July 1769, and the fourth time, in May 1786, the Court dismissed Benjamin's suits against Joseph upon hearing the initial arguments. [HPB6:418, HPB11:342] The second suit against Joseph, filed by Benjamin in July 1783, ended in the court records with a hung jury ordered to return the next day to consult again. Since there is no later order against Joseph, and since Benjamin did not re-file, the jury may eventually have found in Joseph's favor. [HPB10:366] (See compiled court order records for detailed notes.)

In this third case, brought in July 1785, Benjamin sued Joseph for loss due to an alleged breach of promise that appears to have occurred 7-15 years before. [HPB11:188] William filed as his father's security on the required replevy bond to ensure payment if Joseph lost the case. The jury trial lasted an unusually long 18 days and finally awarded Benjamin Abbott a little over £53, a substantial sum, plus his costs in the case. Joseph Abbott pleaded "in mercy," meaning he could not pay the full amount or at least could not pay without undue hardship, but that was not addressed further in the existing court orders.

Five months later in December 1785, Benjamin Abbott sued his brother William Abbott, who had given security for Joseph. As a result, William was ordered to pay the sum of over £63 (the £10 difference was for Benjamin's costs in the original case, which included payment to Benjamin's wife for an exceptionally high 18 days' attendance as a witness for him against Joseph), with interest from 13 Aug 1785 until paid in full, plus Benjamin's costs in this case against William.

This suit seems a difficult way for William to begin marriage and family life, but a number of factors involved in Benjamin's group of suits against Joseph leave the impression they had more to do with family relationships than with money *per se*. William was closely involved with his father and remained closely involved with his siblings after Joseph's death. On the other hand, in 1771 Benjamin moved his family abt. 10-12 miles west of Difficult Creek, and so far as we know from the records, the only later contact he or most of his children had with the rest of the family was Benjamin's suits, and at one point in 1779 Benjamin's threatening behavior against his father. [HPB9-2:393] (See compiled court order records and the report on Benjamin Abbott for more information.)

Given William and Joseph's apparently close relationship, Joseph would hardly leave William to carry the full burden of payment to Benjamin. In fact, William Abbott's personal property tax lists show he continued to prosper. William is first listed with a slave (age 12-16) in 1788. By 1793 he had two slaves over age 16 with a third added in 1799, by which time he also had four horses. (Cattle were no longer taxed). The vast majority of county residents had no slaves and many did not own even one horse.

William's father, Joseph Abbott, died abt. April 1788. Joseph's will (written 30 Mar 1787, proved 27 Oct 1788) appointed William to be a co-executor with his (step) mother, Frances, and a friend Nathaniel Manning. [HWPB2:298] William and Frances served together as executors (Nathaniel Manning reserved his service if it was needed), and one of the securities on their executors bond was William's father-in-law Edward Parker. (The other security was their long-time neighbor and friend John Fulkerson, whose daughter Catharine later married William's brother Richard Abbott.)

Joseph's will devised to his son William Abbott a 150-acre tract of land adjacent to his own residence tract. Unlike the lands devised to William's three younger brothers, Joseph gave William his land outright rather than after their mother Frances' death. The will describes William's 150 acres as "where he [William] now lives, which is the greater part of that tract of land I had from Isaac Linch." [HWPB2:298] Joseph purchased the original 200-acre tract in 1778. In 1792, William added another 30 acres. The following deeds show the sequence of purchases and some of the families who lived nearby, some for a short time but others for

several generations. (For more description of each deed, see compiled Abbott deeds included in this research report.)

26 Dec 1771 - Richard Brown of Halifax Co. to William Baker of Amelia Co. - For: £60 - 200 acres on the main road leading from Bonds Ferry to Peytonsburg Town where Joseph Moody lately lived, bounded by Ephraim Hill, John Coleman, Robert Farguson, JOSEPH ABBOTT, Richard Stanley /s/ Rich'd Brown

Wit: Daniel Jones, Richard Brown jr., Jere Keen - Rec. 16 Jan 1772

[Halifax Deed Book 8, p. 305-306. LVA Reel 3. Abstract by J. Horsley]

Note:

William Abbott and his brother Richard Abbott later acquired part of John Coleman's land.

30 Sep 1777 - William Baker of Charlotte Co. to Isaac Linch of Amelia Co. - For: £80 - 200 acres, all that tract whereon the said William Baker lately lived, on the main road leading from Bonds ferry to Petters burg Town [Petersburg Town], bounded by Ephraim Hill, John Coleman, Ambrose Easbrige[sic; Ambrose Estes], JOSEPH ABBOTT, Nath'l Pass - /s/ William Baker

Wit: W'm Shaw jr, Tho's Brown, John Shaw - Amey, wife of William Baker, relinquished her dower. -

Rec. 19 Nov 1778

[Halifax Deed Book 11. p. 168-169. LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

17 Dec 1778 - Isaac Linch of Antrim Parish, Halifax Co. to JOSEPH ABBOTT [Abbott] of same - For £200 - 200 acres on branches of Difficult Creek, being the plantation whereon the said Linch now lives, bounded by the said [JOSEPH] ABBOTT[sic], Col'o Coleman, Ambrose Estes - /s/ Isaac (I L) Linch [his mark] - Wit: Ephraim Hill jr, WILLIAM ABBOTT, John Yeates [John Yates]

Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Linch, relinquished her dower - Rec. 17 Dec 1778

[[Halifax Deed Book 11, p.186-187, LVA Reel 4. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

17 Dec 1785 - Billey Wright to John Yates - For: £62 10s - 137 acres that Wright purchased from Nath'l Pass that lies on the north side of the Courthouse road, bounded by Ambrus Eastis [Ambrose Estes], JOSEPH ABBOTT, James Drummond, John Yates, Robert Chandler [son of William Chandler Sr.] - /s/ Billey Wright

Wit: None - Fanny, wife of Billey Wright, relinquished her dower. - Rec. 19 Jan 1786

[HDB13:357. TLC Gen. p. 40. Comments in brackets added by J. Horsley.]

27 Oct 1788 - The will of JOSEPH ABBOTT was proved in court by the oaths of the two witnesses, Joseph's neighbors Ambrose Estes and John Stanley (who at this time seems to be living on the other side of Ambrose Estes). Upon the recording of the will this same date, WILLIAM ABBOTT inherited the 150 acres "where he now lives, which is the greater part of that tract of land I had from Isaac Linch." [HWB2:298. Will transcribed in report on Joseph Abbott.]

___ 1792 (mo/day missing) - John Yates to WILLIAM ABBOTT - For: £12 - 30 acres, bounded by the old Court House Road, then up the road to an old field known by the name of Fulkers [ie, Fulker Fulkerson], thence running with the said Yateses line to Abbots old path, thence along the path to the said Abbots line, thence along the said Abbots line to the Beginning [at the old Court House Road] /s/ John Yeates [Yates] - Wit: None - Rec. 25 Jun 1792

[Halifax Deed Book 15, p. 346. LVA Reel 6. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

In 1832, John Yates gave testimony supporting William's claim for Revolutionary War pension, stating he had marched with William from Halifax to Williamsburg in 1777.

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Using the descriptions in these and related deeds, Joseph Abbott's land, totaling 500 acres including William's share, was located at the Double Branch of Difficult Creek in north-central Halifax County on the east side of today's town of Crystal Hill, VA and 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, Bonds Ferry Road also ran west to connect to Peytonsburg, the original Halifax courthouse until 1767 and now in Pittsylvania County. (According to today's maps, that distance is now crossed by using a number of local roads.)

Just to the west of Joseph Abbott's land was a primary north/south road referred to in earlier deeds as the Old Courthouse Road, later as Coles Ferry Road [eg, HDB15:156, HDB21:680], and roughly today's Anderson Road/Route 626. It ran between the "old courthouse" near Crystal Hill and the new courthouse location, officially established abt. 1777 (although an actual courthouse was not built until c1792) at today's town of Halifax at the Banister River. William Abbott's 1792 deed from John Yates expanded William's inherited land west to that road.

The crossroads of Bonds Ferry Road and the Old Courthouse Road was just above today's Crystal Hill. Thus, the Abbott lands, in the southeast quadrant of that intersection, were located at two major travel and transportation roads of their day. Today there is still an Abbott Hill Road (Route 609) connecting those two roads and encircling the general area of all the old Abbott lands. The 1940 census shows a great-grandson of William and Mary Abbott, John R. Abbott, was still living on or near Route 609.

William's brother Richard Abbott inherited an adjacent part of their father's land where the family house stood and where their mother Frances continued to live with their unmarried siblings. Their brothers Moody Abbott and Leonard Abbott inherited the other adjacent parcels. After Frances' death abt. 1823, their brother John Abbott, who never married, and their two unmarried sisters, Elizabeth and Martha, continued to live together, apparently building their house on part of Moody's land. Like William, both Richard and Moody expanded their original inheritances, although they all later lost land as the Halifax economy worsened.

The following deeds show that in 1798, William Abbott purchased 328 acres of land adjoining his own on Difficult Creek from Henry E. Coleman. [HDB18:107] The next month, William sold 150 acres of this tract to his brother Richard Abbott [HDB18:128], and Richard purchased more of the Coleman land in 1811. [HDB23:92] In 1832, William purchased another tract adjacent to his own from the five surviving sons of William's brother Leonard Abbott. This was the 100-acre tract that William's father, Joseph Abbott, devised to Leonard by his 1787 will and where Leonard's family apparently continued to live after Leonard's early

death abt. 1815. (Part of this tract William sold in 1838 to Nelson K. Foster [HDB45:33], who also bought land from William's brother Richard Abbott in 1840 and was one of the appraisers of William's estate in 1848.)

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 uper [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. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Leonard and Richard Abbott are William's brothers and co-legatees of Joseph Abbott's land. Earlier deeds and patents refer to Coleman's land as being on the Double Branch, which is an upper branch of Difficult Creek. Henry E. Coleman was the son and heir of John Coleman, named in deeds that include William's father, Joseph Abbott, as a bound (ie, adjacent landowner).

Date: 27 Nov 1798

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT of Halifax

To: RICHARD ABBOTT of same

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. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Richard Abbott and the three witnesses, John, Moses, and Leonard, were all younger brothers of William Abbott. This land to Richard Abbott is part of the land William purchased the previous month. In 1811, Richard purchased 178 acres more of Henry E. Coleman's land, and at the same time sold 56 acres to David Allen. [HDB23:92, 130]. In 1827, William Abbott also sold land to David Allen (deed below).

Date: 6 Dec 1799

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT

To: Mathew Seemore [also sp. Seamore, Seymour]

For: £27

Description: 27 acres, part of the tract that William Abbott bought of Capt. H. Coleman [HDB18:107]

Bounds: James Brown corner, "red oak where a path comes in the old court house road near the mouth of Standley's [Stanley's] lane, Standley's line, James Brown's line

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: William Standley [Stanley], James Brown, Nancey Semore

Recorded: 27 Jan 1800 - Acknowledged in court by William Abbott
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 18, p. 290. LVA Reel 8. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 28 Oct 1816
 From: WILLIAM ABBOTT
 To: RICHARD ABBOTT
 For: \$18
 Description: 6 acres
 Bounds: Richard Abbott on the NE, William Abbott on the SW, "and touching on no other men's lines"
 Signed: William Abbott
 Witnesses: None
 Recorded: 28 Oct 1816
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 26, p. 235. LVA Reel 12. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: "this day" 1824 [no day/month given]
 From: WILLIAM ABBOTT and wife Polly
 To: David Allen
 For: \$91.50
 Description: 6-1/10 acres on Difficult Creek
 Bounds: said Abbott & Allen, Difficult Creek, the old creek [metes included but no other landowners in legible part of microfilm]
 Signed: William Abbott, Poly[sic] Abbott
 Witnesses: None
 Recorded: 28 Feb 1825
 Release of Dower: 28 Jan 1828 - recorded on p. 622, as noted in margin of deed
 [Halifax Deed Book 33, p. 168. LVA Reel 15. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]
 Note:
 In 1857, William's unmarried daughters Elizabeth Abbott and Keturah Abbott sold 70 acres originally belonging to William to David's son Simeon Allen. [HDB57:383]

Date: 4 Dec 1827
 From: WILLIAM ABBOTT and wife Polly
 To: David Allen Sen. [Sr.]
 For: \$160
 Description: 35 acres adjoining the lands of William Abbott and David Allen Sen.
 Bounds: mouth of Poplar Spring Branch, up meanders of the branch...to...a path leading into Clarks Ferry Road [formerly Bonds Ferry Road], along path to the said road and then bounded by said Allen's land
 Signed: William Abbott, Polly Abbott
 Witnesses: None
 Release of Dower by Polly wife of William Abbott certified 4 Dec 1827
 Recorded: 7 Jan 1828
 [Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 259-260. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 23 Oct 1832

From: Thomas F. ABBOTT, Joseph ABBOTT, John ABBOTT, Leonard ABBOTT, and Fleming ABBOTT [surviving children of William Abbott's brother Leonard ABBOTT, selling the land they jointly inherited from Leonard by intestate law]

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT

For: \$180

Description: tract of land in Halifax Co. [number of acres and metes not included; should be 100 acres on Timber Branch]

Bounds: Daniel Palmer, Nathaniel Barksdale, and the said WILLIAM ABBOTT

Signed: Joseph Abbott, John (x) Abbott (his mark), Leonard (x) Abbott (his mark) [sons of Leonard Abbott (Sr.)]

Witness: John A. McCraw as to Jos. Abbott

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

[Note: deed is dated 23 Oct, only after the last signer acknowledged the deed written at least by 28 Sep]

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 40, p. 257-258, Halifax Courthouse, Halifax, VA. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Date: 11 May 1838

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT and Polly his wife

To: Nelson K. Foster

For: \$157

Description: 78-1/2 acres "by recent survey" on Timber Branch

Bounds: beginning at the road leading from the old Rolly [Rolling Road] to Mt. Laurel in Richard Abbott's line, to Barksdale's field, crossing Timber Branch, on Foster & Palmer line, to road, then as it meanders to the beginning.

Signed: William Abbott, Polly (x) Abbott (her mark)

Witness: Elisha Barksdale Jr. [a Justice of the Peace as well as long-time close neighbor]

Release of Dower by Polly Abbott, wife of William Abbott

Recorded: 12 May 1838

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 45, p. 33-34. LVA Reel 21. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

This is all or most of the land (originally described as 100 acres) that Joseph Abbott devised to his son Leonard, whose heirs sold the land to William Abbott in 1832. [HDB40:257]

A "rolling road" was used for rolling hogsheads of tobacco pulled by oxen or horses to transport them to central warehouses or to navigable waterways from which they could be shipped out to larger markets and ports. These roads had to be wider, straighter, and clearer of obstacles than the usual local roads. A 1909 plat indicates that the "road to Mt. Laurel" began at today's Anderson Road (formerly Old Courthouse Rd/Coles Ferry Rd) and Winns Creek Road/Route 615 (south of Crystal Hill) and went northeast from there to Mt. Laurel near the Staunton River. Today the route is a series of connecting county roads, one of which seems to be a part of Abbott Hill Road/Route 609. The 1844 deed from William to his son Wesley M. Abbott (below) also mentions the "rolling road" with another bound being the old Bonds/Clarks Ferry Road (roughly today's Newbill School Road), which "the road to Mt. Laurel" may have joined. [HDB49:651]

All in all, William lived the last 85 of his 91 years on and near his father's original Halifax land among the families of his brothers Richard, Leonard, Moody, and John, and his two unmarried sisters, Elizabeth and Martha/Patsy. After William's son Wesley M. Abbott married in 1834, Wesley remained to raise his family in the same area, and it was Wesley's line who carried on the family surname in Halifax after 1900, when all the other once-numerous Abbotts had died or moved away.

While most of William's siblings stayed together in the same area in northern Halifax, two siblings moved to southern Halifax, yet the families remained closely involved. William's brother Joseph Abbott Jr. moved to southeastern Halifax shortly before his obviously-unexpected death in 1811. Their brother John Abbott applied for and was granted administration of Joseph's estate, and William Abbott and his brother Richard Abbott secured John's administrative bond. [HPB29:223] Tax lists indicate John Abbott, who was not married, even moved down near Joseph's family for three years after Joseph died, apparently to help with the family, so John was there when Joseph Jr.'s wife, Magdaline Lacy Abbott, died only two years later.

Their sister Frances Abbott married John Robertson in 1795, and for a while they remained in northern Halifax near her mother and siblings. However, Frances and John's family had been living about 25 miles away in southwestern Halifax for a decade or so when John Robertson died in late 1813 or early 1814. Frances' brother William Abbott applied for and was granted administration of John Robertson's estate. [HPB31:67] William's security on his administrative bond was his brother-in-law William Purcell, husband of Nancy Parker, a sister of William Abbott's wife, Mary Parker.

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Halifax Court of 28 Mar 1814

"On the motion of WILLIAM ABBOTT who made oath according to law and for reasons appearing to the Court Certificate is granted him for obtaining letters of administration of the estate of JOHN ROBERTSON dec'd in due form he giving Security whereupon he together with William PURCELL his Security entered into and acknowledged their bond under penalty of two hundred dollars [\$200] conditioned according to law"

[Halifax Plea Book 31, p. 67. LVA Reel 66. Transcribed by J. Horsley.]

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William Abbott had an intriguing connection in southern Halifax several years before John Robertson's death. Records show that from at least 1819 on, William's sister Frances Abbott Robertson and her children were closely involved with a group of Ferrell families living around her in southwestern Halifax. The patriarch of these Ferrells was James Ferrell (Sr.) who moved his family from Mecklenburg County, VA in the later 1790s to southern Halifax, where he died in 1808. Accounts for James Ferrell's estate record that in Nov 1809, his executors paid William Abbott for a debt owed to him, and in Feb 1814, they paid William Abbott for "crying" (auctioneering) James Ferrell's land sold by his executors at public auction. While the second payment was made to William Abbott around the time Frances' husband John Robertson died, the earlier payment suggests that William may have known the Ferrells through his family's ongoing contact with Frances after she moved south. [*Estate accounts of James Ferrell Sr. transcribed on the Family Tree Maker Genealogy Site of Michael Shane Dienst, "The Dienst Family."*]

Also at the Halifax Court of 28 Mar 1814, William Abbott was appointed "Guardian in General" of the children of James Purcell (Jr.), then deceased. [HPB31:67] James was a brother of William Abbott's brother-in-law William Purcell, who was also security on William Abbott's guardianship bond of \$5000. The children are named as "John H., William B., James O., Sally R., Betsy H., Alexander D., Nancy M., and Chany A. Purcell, orphans of James Purcell dec'd." (Children whose father had died were called "orphans" even when their mother was still living.) At the Halifax Court of March 1818, commissioners were appointed to review the accounts of William Abbott, Guardian of the orphans of James Purcell dec'd, as required by law. [HPB34:42]

Another of William Abbott's younger brothers, Leonard Abbott, died bet. 1814-1815. As mentioned above, Leonard inherited an adjoining tract to William from their father, Joseph Abbott, and raised his family there. Leonard died at abt. age 44 and left a 33-year-old widow, Susanna Ferguson Abbott, with five children (all sons) between age 12 and infancy or perhaps not yet born. There is no recorded administration of Leonard's estate. However, William Abbott was appointed guardian of at least some of Leonard's children. [HMB6:286, per General Index to Halifax Court Orders.] Then when Leonard's widow Susanna died abt. 1826, William Abbott applied for and was granted administration of her estate. [HMB4:243]

William Abbott apparently was a devoted Methodist. (His siblings were divided between Methodists and Baptists.) Following the Revolution and the abolition of the Anglican Church as the sole official church in Virginia, Methodists were very active in Virginia, and the first head of the Methodist Church in the United States, Bishop Asbury, made several visits to the Halifax area. At least two of William's siblings, Mary Abbott (in 1787) and Frances Abbott (in 1795) and three children of William's brother Benjamin Abbott were married by the Methodist minister Rev. Hawkins Landrum, at whose home Bishop Asbury reportedly stayed. In 1790, William Abbott witnessed Rev. Landrum's deed purchasing land some miles from where William lived. [HDB14:719] Likely it was for Bishop Asbury that William and Mary named their first son Carter Asbury Abbott (b. 1791). Their second son, Wesley (b. 1798), carried the name of the Wesley brothers, John and Charles Wesley, who founded Methodism. (Halifax County records frequently misspelled William's son's name phonetically as "Westley Abbott,").

William and Mary's eldest son, Carter A. Abbott, died unmarried at abt. 26 years old. He last appears on the yearly personal property tax lists on 24 Feb 1817 and died before October 1818, when the Halifax Court ordered the inventory and appraisal of his estate. This was taken 23 Nov 1818 by William's brothers John Abbott and Moody Abbott and by their close neighbor Nathaniel Barksdale. William Abbott was granted administration of his son's estate that included a silver watch, a horse with saddle and bridle, and \$55 in cash, a good sum for a young man in their credit-based economy. [HWPB11:209] Between 1811 and 1818, William had a number of deaths in the immediate family. Three of his siblings (Joseph Jr., Leonard, and Moses), a sister-in-law (Magdaline, widow of Joseph Jr.), and a brother-in-law (John Robertson) died during this time, and two other siblings (Mary Abbott Owen and Fleming Abbott) probably died bet. 1804-1810 but by 1820 at the latest, all but one (Joseph Abbott Jr.) being much younger than William. However, the death of William and Mary's oldest son when only in his mid-20s had to be the most difficult.

Halifax Court - Inventory and Appraisal of Estate of CARTER A. ABBOTT, dec'd

Ordered October Court 1818 - Taken 23 Nov 1818

Items are: small chest (\$.75), silver watch (\$5), cow (\$10), yearling (\$8), bay horse (\$55), saddle
bridle &c (\$21), cash (\$55) - Total: \$154.75

Appraisers: JOHN ABBOTT, Nathaniel Barksdale, MOODY ABBOTT

Administrator: WILLIAM ABBOTT

Recorded: 23 Nov 1818

[Source: Halifax Will Book 11, p. 209. LVA Reel 40. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Less than three years later, Mary Parker Abbott's father died in North Carolina. Her parents, Edward and Susannah/Susan Parker, along with some of Mary's siblings moved in late 1796 from Halifax to the part of Rowan County, NC, southwest of today's Winston-Salem, NC, that in 1836 became Davie County. In a Halifax Court case on 24 Oct 1796 against William Abbott and John Yates for a debt allegedly owed, the Court granted depositions to be taken on their behalf from Edward Parker and Daniel Parker. [HPB18:27] The next month on 28 Nov 1796, David Parker and William Abbott were co-defendants in another debt suit (the most common type of suit). [HPB18:40]

Edward Parker wrote his will in Rowan County, NC on 3 May 1819 and proved in May Court 1821 naming "my daughter Polly, wife of William Abbot." [RWBH:112] Prior to leaving Halifax, Edward had given gifts of inheritance to Mary and his other children who did not move to North Carolina with him. Although he gave these children nothing more of monetary value in his will, he left them with the valuable gift of his blessing: "Having already given to...each and every one of them due Proportions of my estate, I now bequeath to them my blessing and fervent wish that they will live in friendship and harmony with each other." [Transcription of will by Marvin Schubert online at his website "Edward Parker Family of Davie County, NC"]

William and Mary's eldest child, Rebecca M. Abbott, married in Halifax on 24 Apr 1814 to Cornelius Beasley. They were married by Rev. Leonard Baker, a Baptist minister. [Halifax Marriage Bond Register and Ministers Returns No. 1] (Contrary to online family files with numerous proved errors, William and Mary Abbott did not have a daughter Rebecca who married George A, Irion, as explained further below with Mary's pension application.) In 1822, Cornelius Beasley and wife Rebecca Abbott (presuming she was still alive) were preparing to leave Halifax, and Cornelius gave his father-in-law William Abbott power of attorney to tend to any unfinished business affairs in the county. The document states that the Beasleys' destination was "the Western Country," which could refer to present-day West Virginia or to Kentucky, both formerly the western part of Virginia, or it could refer to any of the newer areas being settled to the west or southwest. Rather surprisingly, there were several of his name in the early 1800s, and this Cornelius Beasley could not be identified definitively in later censuses. Rebecca was alive in Halifax in 1820, according to the census entry for Cornelius, but she was deceased by the time her father William Abbott wrote his will in 1847. Rebecca had no children in the 1820 census at age 32 and apparently had none later, as William's will names no children or heirs for her.

Date: 23 Dec 1822

From: Cornelius Beasley of Halifax [husband of Rebecca M. Abbott, d/o William & Mary Parker Abbott]

To: WILLIAM ABBOTT

Purpose: To grant Power of Attorney to William Abbott - "December Court 1822, Halifax County (to wit) whereas Cornelius Beasley of said County is moved to the Western Country and cannot attend to his affairs in this County he has thought it proper to appoint William Abbott his Lawful attorney to act for him in all Matters of his Business and also makes him a party in his Lawsuits now Depending and undetermined between him the said Beasley and Granvel [Granville] Craddock to receive in and pay out as far as the assets left in his hands may hold out and all other Matters whatsoever..."

Signed: Cornelius Beasley

Witnesses: Stephen Kent, W'm Baseley[?]

Recorded: 23 Dec 1822 - Acknowledged in Halifax Court by Cornelius Beasley

[Halifax Deed Book 31, p. 137. LVA Reel 14. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

William and Mary's next child to marry was Susannah/Susan Sharp Abbott, who married Thomas G. Lindsey by bond dated 27 Jul 1818. [*Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1 & Ministers Returns*] Thomas was from Prince Edward County, VA, two counties northeast of Halifax. No close Abbott relatives are known to be living in Prince Edward, but Mary Parker Abbott apparently had family connections there, and the children likely met through them. Susan and Thomas returned to settle in his home in Prince Edward. Interestingly, in 1826, William's younger brother, Moody Abbott, then abt. age 51, married Thomas G. Lindsey's sister Martha W. Lindsey, abt. age 21. [*Prince Edward Marriage Bonds 1822-1829*] They settled on Moody's land close to William, but Martha died during or shortly after giving birth to their only child, Elizabeth M. Abbott, abt. 1828. In 1843, Elizabeth M. Abbott married a brother-in-law of William and Mary's son Wesley M. Abbott (discussed below).

A month after Susan's marriage, William and Mary's daughter Delphia/Delphy Abbott married in Halifax to Parin/Perrin A. Giles. "Delphy Abbott" and "Parin Giles" married by bond dated 8 Aug 1818. [*Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1*] By the 1820s, the economic situation in Halifax was deteriorating (and continued to do so, as we shall see), and apparently Perrin was having a difficult time paying back loans from his father-in-law William Abbott. In 1827, Perrin's brother-in-law Wesley Abbott became trustee of Perrin's assets to secure the debt Perrin owed to William. In contrast to most deeds of trust at this time that secured debts owed to a group of local merchants through trustees connected with the merchants, Perrin's deed of trust among family members specifically allowed Perrin to retain the use of his attached properties. This gave him a better opportunity to earn enough profit to pay back the debt within the time required before the properties would have to be sold to pay the debt.

Date: 15 Nov 1827 - Deed of Trust

From: Parin A. GILES

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT, Trustee, to secure debt to WILLIAM ABBOTT

For: \$1.00

Description: 15 barrels corn, 2500 lbs. tobacco now in the barn, 6 [illegible], 1 bay horse, all the hogs and cattle of every description, all my household and kitchen furniture, all my plantation utensils of every description, all my crop for the present year

Purpose: To secure debt of \$400 plus legal interest that Parin A. Giles owes to William Abbott
 Conditions: Parin A. Giles is permitted by Wesley M. Abbott to remain in possession of the above property and take the profits thereof until fault [default] be made in the payment of the \$400 owed either in the whole or in part. If such default of payment happens, then Wesley M. Abbott, when he thinks proper, or upon the request of William Abbott, shall and will sell the above property, or as much as is sufficient for the purpose and he thinks proper to sell, at public auction for cash after 10 days notice and proper advertisement of time and place. Any money remaining from such sales after payment of the debt and of all charges and expenses involved to go to Parin A. Giles. If the debt and legal interest is paid in full without default to the satisfaction of William Abbott by 25 Dec 1828, then this indenture to be void.

Signed: Parin A. Giles, William Abbott

Recorded: 15 Nov 1827 - Acknowledged by Parin A. Giles and William Abbott at the Office of the Halifax Clerk of Court

[Halifax Deed Book 35, p. 97-99. LVA Reel 16. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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Like most of the Halifax Abbott families, William Abbott's family is missing in the 1820 census, the first surviving U.S. census for Halifax County, but William's family is included each census thereafter.

1830 US Census - Halifax Co, VA

WILLIAM ABBOTT - Males: 1(20-29), 1(70-79); Females: 1(20-29), 2(30-39), 1(60-69) - 9 slaves

William' and Mary's 1830 household includes their son Wesley M. Abbott (b. 1798) and daughters Elizabeth (b. 1789), Mary B. Abbott called Polly in the Family Register (b.1796), and Keturah (b. 1798). The Family Register included with Mary Abbott's 1848 pension application (below) shows that Wesley and Keturah were twins.

Included in the Family Register but missing in this census are William and Mary's sons Standfield Abbott (b.1805) and Isaac Abbott (b. 1809). No marriages for them are recorded in Halifax through 1850. Neither was found in this or later censuses or in Halifax personal property taxes, and neither they nor any heirs are named in William's 1847 will. Thus, Standfield and Isaac apparently died young before this 1830 census. (The Isaac Abbott living in adjacent Pittsylvania County, VA in 1850 was a son of Jesse Abbott. Jesse is proved by Joseph Abbott's 1787 will not to be Joseph's son, as some have thought, and no evidence of any family relationship has been found.)

Yet another death occurred among William and Mary's children soon after this census. Parin/Perrin A. Giles' wife Delphia/Delphy Abbott is enumerated in Perrin's Halifax household in the 1830 census with four children under age 11. Delphy died before 9 Nov 1831, when "Perrin A. Giles" married by bond to "Mary B. Abbott," Delphy's sister "Polly." The bondsman was John Roberts. John's parents were Daniel Roberts and his wife Margaret Purcell, who had lived at Difficult Creek near the Abbots. Margaret Purcell was a sister of James Purcell Jr., for whose orphans William Abbott was guardian in 1814. Margaret's and James Jr.'s brother William Purcell was married to Nancy Parker, a sister of William Abbott's wife, Mary Parker Abbott. The Roberts also were related to William Abbott through his brother Richard's wife Catharine Fulkerson, whose mother Sally Roberts was a sister of Daniel Roberts. Daniel and Margaret's son James P. Roberts is on a number of

Abbott records in the 1830s and 1840s, and later there are several Abbott connections with the widow and sons of Daniel and Margaret's son William D. Roberts, as we shall see. However, Daniel and Margaret's son John Roberts, the 1831 bondsman, left Halifax for McCracken County, KY soon after Perrin Giles and Polly Abbott married and died in adjacent Ballard County, KY bet. 1860-1870.

Mary/Polly Abbott Giles continued raising her sister Delphia's four children as well as a daughter born to Mary and Perrin abt. 1833. Mary and Perrin Giles left Halifax for Tennessee shortly after their marriage. They were living in Carroll County, TN in the 1840 census and in adjacent Gibson County, TN by 1850. A letter Perrin Giles wrote in the 1850s shows the family was in close contact with "Sam Abbott" who also lived in Gibson County. Samuel M. Abbott was the son of Joseph Abbott Jr., an older brother of William Abbott. The letter also refers to "the people" in adjacent Carroll County, where the family of Leonard Abbott Jr. lived. This Leonard was a son of William Abbott's brother Leonard Abbott (d. c1815). In Oct 1832, shortly before Leonard Jr. left Halifax for Carroll County, TN, he and his four brothers sold the land they inherited from their father to William Abbott, whose land was adjacent. (See deed above.) Samuel M. Abbott moved from Halifax to Gibson County, TN abt. 1838. [Perrin Giles' letter is transcribed on Stan Giles Genealogy website at: <http://home.grandecom.net/~stangilesdad/Giles~Perrins~LTR.html>]

William and Mary's only surviving son, Wesley M. Abbott, married 22 Jan 1834 to Eliza Ann Robertson, daughter of Christopher Robertson by his first wife, whose name is not known. [HWB25:479]. Wesley had his own family and farm responsibilities yet still took on probate responsibilities for several of his father's siblings and their heirs living next to them. In 1838, Wesley was security on the administrative bond for the estate of William's sister Elizabeth Abbott. [HWB18:334] (Elizabeth gave testimony to William's war service when he applied for his pension in 1832, included below.) In 1844, Wesley M. Abbott was granted administration of William's sister Martha Abbott's estate. [HWB20:519] Both Elizabeth and Martha Abbott bequeathed to Moody and Martha Lindsey Abbott's only child, Elizabeth M. Abbott, whom Moody raised from infancy after her mother's death, undoubtedly with the help of his two unmarried sisters. In 1843, Elizabeth M. Abbott married Jesse T. Robertson, a brother of Wesley's wife Eliza A. Robertson. In 1849, Wesley M. Abbott was administrator of the estate of William's brother John Abbott, who was also unmarried and lived with Elizabeth and Martha all their lives. Jesse and Elizabeth Abbott Robertson moved to nearby Rockingham County, NC abt. 1848. By a deed dated 7 Apr 1858, they sold Wesley M. Abbott their interest in the Halifax land Jesse inherited from his father, Christopher Robertson (d. 1857). [HDB57:480] Wesley was also a legatee of Christopher Robertson by right of his wife Eliza Ann.

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1840 US Census - Halifax Co, VA - North District
WILLIAM ABBOTT - Males: 1(80-89); Females: 2(30-39), 1(70-79) - 7 slaves
Listed as a Revolutionary War Pensioner - Age 84 (b. c1756)

Also::

Westly[sic] M. ABBOTT - Males: 1(30-39); Females: 1(under 5), 1(20-29) - 5 slaves

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Throughout the 1820s, 1830s, and 1840s, the economy in Halifax continued to worsen. This was a time of economic change nation-wide, but the problems were exacerbated in Halifax as debts owed to a group of merchants who controlled vital supplies and services mounted

and compounded. The prospect or actual event of loss to debt led to mass emigration from the county during this period. Among those who stayed, few families, regardless of their economic status, could avoid putting their assets under trust to secure payment. Along with his other land-owning brothers, Moody and Richard, and numerous friends and neighbors, William Abbott had to do likewise, granting their assets "to the only proper use and behoof of" the trustees.

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Date: 2 Apr 1842 - Deed of Trust

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT

To: William Holt and William T. Ballow, Trustees, to secure debt to James Young & Co. etc.

For: \$1.00

Description: 330 acres where the said William Abbott now resides adjoining Richard Abbott, Daniel Palmer, David Allen, Nelson K. Foster, and Dabney Terry, plus 8 slaves, namely Moses (age "50 odd years old"), Rachel (abt. age 26), Nat (abt. age 14), Joe (abt. age 11), Citter (abt. age 9), Albert (abt. age 4), Nancy (abt. age 2), and Mary (abt. age 8 months) - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debts as follows: Whereas William Abbott is indebted to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm of James Young & Co. for \$953.27 by bond of same date as this indenture due 1 Mar 1842 as well as to secure all future dealings of William Abbott with James Young & Co., and also to secure William Bailey from damage or loss as William Abbott's security on a bond for \$170.00 due 25 Dec 1837 owed to James C. Bruce

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Nov 1842, otherwise above properties subject to sale at public auction. If any balance of the proceeds remains after satisfying all debts, including costs of the sale, the remainder to go to William Abbott. Trustees are authorized to take possession of all properties after the execution of this indenture to hold until day of the sale.

Signed: William Abbott, James Young & Co.

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 2 Apr 1842

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 47, p. 469-471. LVA Reel 22. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

Two years later, another deed of trust was made adding two more slaves and showing the amount of debt increasing, even though William likely was paying on this debt all along:

Date: 6 Mar 1844

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT

To: John S. Kent and William T. Ballow, Trustees, to secure debt to James Young & Co. etc.

For: \$5.00

Description: 330 acres on which the said William Abbott now resides adjoining David P. Hudson [formerly Richard Abbott], Daniel Palmer, David Allen, Nelson K. Foster, and Dabney Terry, plus 10 slaves Moses (age abt. 52), Rachel (28), Nat (16?), Joe (13), Sella (11), Albert (6), Henry (4), Mary Ann (3), June (16), and Nancy a child abt. 6 mos. - to the only proper use and behoof of the said trustees, their heirs and assigns

Purpose: To secure debt of \$1250.18 plus interest from 1 Mar 1844 owed to William Bailey and James Young merchants and partners trading under the firm of James Young & Co. and to secure all future transactions with James Young & Co. from this date to the closing of this indenture, and further to secure and leave harmless the said William Bailey against loss on a bond which Bailey stands bound as security for William Abbott to James C. Bruce for \$175.00 plus interest

Conditions: Payment in full, plus interest, costs, expenses, etc. due by 1 Sep 1844, otherwise subject to public sale of properties to meet all debts; any balance if any remaining to go to William Abbott. Trustees are authorized to take possession of all properties after the execution of this indenture to hold until day of the sale.

Signed: William Abbott

Witnesses: Edwin R. Ferrell, William F. Thomas, John S. Lewellyn Jr.

Recorded: 6 Mar 1844

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 406-408. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley.]

In 1844, William Abbott deeded to his son Wesley M. Abbott part of his land on Difficult Creek, where William had lived almost all his life.

Date: (month and day blank) 1844

From: WILLIAM ABBOTT

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT

For: \$200

Description: tract of land on Difficult Creek (no acres included)

Bounds: near the Roling [sic] Road [rolling road ("to Mt. Laurel")], David Hudson [formerly William's brother Richard Abbott], Difficult Creek, David Allen, Clarks Ferry Road [formerly Bonds Ferry Rd], Terry (no metes included)

/s/ William Abbott

Witnesses: None

Recorded: 2 Sep 1844

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 49, p. 651. LVA Reel 23. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

Wesley Abbott's 1845 land taxes enter this tract from William as 70 acres, but neither William's acres in the land taxes nor the acres in his deeds of trust match his total deeds of purchase and sale. (Due to the way acres were calculated for land taxes, all early Abbott families' land taxes have numerous errors, many carried down each year for decades.) The "rolling road to Mt. Laurel" is referenced in William Abbott's 1838 deed to Nelson K. Foster and discussed above. [HDB45:33] The old Bonds/Clarks Ferry Road is roughly today's Newbill School Road.

WILLIAM ABBOTT died 4 Jan 1848 (per Mary's pension statement) at age 91. His will, dated 15 Mar 1847, was proved in Halifax Court 24 Jan 1848. [HWB22:24] One of the executors he appointed, William Owen, was William Abbott's nephew, son of his sister Mary Abbott and Hatcher Owen, both then deceased. (When Hatcher Owen's father William Owen wrote his will in 1806, one of his appointed executors was William Abbott's younger brother John Abbott, named in Owen's will as "my neighbor.") The witnesses to William Abbott's will were three sons of the appointed executor William Owen and grandsons of Mary Abbott Owen. The other executor, James Young, likely was appointed because he was the primary creditor of William Abbott's estate, per deeds of trust in 1842 and 1844. Both appointed executors stepped aside in favor of William Abbott's son-in-law Alfred Pincham, husband of Onisha Abbott, who applied for and was granted administration of William's estate.

1847 - WILL of WILLIAM ABBOTT

Written 15 Mar 1847 - Proved: 24 Jan 1848, Halifax County, VA

Legacies:

To wife POLLY, negro boy Henry and choice of best furniture for life, which after her death are to be sold and the proceeds divided equally among my three daughters namely ELIZABETH ABBOTT, KITTY ABBOTT, and ONY PINCHAM;

To daughter ELIZABETH ABBOTT, negro boy Albert and feather bed & furniture;

To daughter KITTY ABBOTT, negro girl Nancy and one bed & furniture;

To son WESLEY M. ABBOTT [name spelled "Westly"] negro girl Jane "and nothing else;"

To daughter SUSAN LINDSEY one dollar more than she has already been given "which is about \$500;"

Executors to sell the tract of land on which I now live at public auction after the death of my wife and the money divided equally among my three daughters ELIZABETH ABBOTT, KITTY ABBOTT, and ONA PINCHAM;

All other personal property not otherwise disposed of by this will to be sold to pay debts and legacies; if any money remains after paying debts and other legacies, I give to my daughter POLLY GILES thirty dollars; any other money remaining to be divided equally between daughters ELIZABETH ABBOTT and KITTY ABBOTT; if any of the negroes given to Elizabeth and Kitty should die before I die, I wish to make them [?]hold

Executors: James Young, William Owen

Signed: WILLIAM ABBOTT

Witnesses: James M. Owen, William H. Owen, Edward J. Owen

Halifax Court

24 Jan 1848 - Will presented and proved by oaths of two witnesses and ordered recorded

28 Feb 1848 - Administration of the estate granted to Alfred PINCHAM under bond of \$2000, with James Young and WESLEY M. ABBOTT his securities

[Source: Halifax Will Book 22, p. 24-25. LVA Reel 45. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Note:

William's daughters Elizabeth and Keturah/Kitty never married. His will reflects his concern that they have adequate resources after his death. Daughter Onisha/Ony Pincham was the only other daughter living nearby. Daughter Susan Lindsey moved after her 1818 marriage to live the rest of her life in her husband's home of Prince Edward County, VA, two counties northeast of Halifax. Susan died between March 1847, when her father wrote his will, and the 1850 census, when her 14-year-old son was living with her brother Wesley M. Abbott and his family in Halifax. William Abbott's daughter Polly Giles moved after her 1831 marriage to live in Carroll County, TN and then to adjacent Gibson County, TN, where she was still living in 1850.

Date: 28 Feb 1848

Account of Sales of WILLIAM ABBOTT's property sold for cash under a deed of trust bearing date 6 Mar 1844

[For debt owed to James Young & Co. and others - HDB49:406]

To James R. Ferrell, negro girl Citter for \$492

To Reuben A. Puryear for negro boy Albert for \$373

Less costs for crying sale and cost to record of \$2.32 - Balance: \$862.68

/s/ William T. Ballow, John S. Kent, Trustees

Recorded: 27 Mar 1848

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 52, p. 446. LVA Reel 25. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Inventory and Appraisal of Estate of WILLIAM ABBOTT, dec'd

[Date taken not included]

Appraisers: Nelson K. Foster, Daniel Palmer, and Thomas W. Bradley

Includes: writing desk & books, looking glass, shotgun, musket, chest, pine table, cupboard, 9 split bottom chairs, 3 milk cows, 9 calves, yearling, 1 yoke oxen, young steer, 2 sows, 9 pigs & shoats, 4 slaves (boy Henry, \$250; girl Mary, \$200; girl Nancy, \$150; old man Moses, \$5), farm and kitchen equipment - Total: \$837.12

Recorded: 27 Mar 1848

[Source: Halifax Will Book 22, p. 44-45. LVA Reel 45. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

A month after William Abbott's death in January 1848, Congress passed a law that provided pensions to certain widows of Revolutionary War soldiers for which Mary Abbott qualified. Mary applied on 12 Sep 1848, and after supplying the required statements and proofs, her pension was granted in 1849. It is from Mary's pension application (summarized below).that we have their marriage date, William's death date, and the Family Register with full names and birth dates of their seven daughters and four sons, none of which exists otherwise in extant public records.

In 1850, Mary Parker Abbott was still living in Halifax with her two unmarried daughters, Elizabeth and Keturah/"Kitty." Their family is listed next to Mary's daughter Onisha Pincham and her family. Mary's son Wesley and family are listed several households away near Moody Abbott (b. c1780), William Abbott's only sibling still alive in 1850. (Their brother Richard Abbott, who had lived first with then adjacent to them all his life, gave up the economic struggle in Halifax and at 73 years old moved his family in late 1843 to adjacent Pittsylvania County, where Richard died abt. Dec 1848.)

1850 - Halifax Co, VA - Northern District

Abbott, Mary - 92 [sic] - Real Est: \$500 - VA [age 85; b. c1765, per pension application]

Elizabeth R - 61 - VA

Kitty P - 51 - VA [Keturah, then age 52]

1850 - Halifax Co, VA - Northern District

Pencham[sic], Alfred - 51 - Farmer - Real Est: \$500 - VA - 6 slaves

Onetia M - 47 [Onisha Abbott]

Mary E - 18

Mariah K - 16

Alfred R - 14

Frances D - 10

1850 - Halifax Co, VA - Northern District

Abbott, Wesley M - 51 - Farmer - Real Est. \$300 - VA - 5 slaves

Elizabeth[sic] A - 36 [Eliza Ann Robertson Abbott]

Rebecca S[sic] - 12 [Rebecca A. Abbott]
 William A[sic] - 9 [William H. Abbott]
 Milton C - 7
 Jennetta F[sic] - 1 [Janetta T. Abbott]
 Lindsey, Merret H - 14 [Merritt, son of Wesley's sister Susan Abbott and Thomas G. Lindsey, both deceased]

In June 1850, the trustees holding land and slaves by William's last deed of trust made 6 Mar 1844 formally released them to the legatees Ony Pincham, Elizabeth Abbott, and Kitty Abbott following the above 1848 sales of sufficient properties to pay the outstanding debt:

Date: 5 Jun 1850
 From: William T. Ballow and John S. Kent, Trustees
 To: ONY PINCHAM, ELIZABETH ABBOTT, and KITTY ABBOTT, Legatees of WILLIAM ABBOTT, dec'd
 For: \$1.00
 Description: release of 330 acres and slaves held by the Trustees with the approbation of James Young & Co.
 Purpose: Certain land and negroes (the land being 330 acres adjoining David P. Hudson, Daniel Palmer, David Allen, Nelson K. Foster, and Dabney Terry) were held by trustees William T. Ballow and John S. Kent under a deed of trust from William Abbott dated 6 Mar 1844 for debt of \$1251.18 [1844 deed says \$1250.18] owed to William Bailey and James Young, merchants, operating under the firm James Young & Co. William Abbott is now deceased, and the debt owed to James Young & Co. has been satisfied by the sale of sufficient properties by the Trustees. This deed releases the remainder held by the Trustees to the grantees, all legatees of the land and slaves by the last will and testament of William Abbott.
 Signed: Wm. T. Ballow, John S. Kent, James Young & Co.
 Witnesses: None
 Recorded: 29 Jun 1850
 [Source: Halifax Deed Book 53, p. 553. LVA Reel 25. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

Now that the legatees had full control of their legacies from the properties remaining, in November 1850 they drew up an agreement regarding a slave boy, Henry. William Abbott's 1847 will loaned this slave to his wife "Polly" (Mary) for her lifetime, then after her death, the slave was to be sold and the proceeds equally divided among his daughters Elizabeth, Keturah/Kitty, and Onisha/Ony, wife of Alfred Pincham, who also was administrator of William's estate. Instead, Mary and her three daughters, the legatees, agreed to sell the slave prior to Mary's death contrary to the terms of the will. Thus, Mary's consent to the sale and their mutual agreement as to how the proceeds now would be divided was recorded here along with the sanction of the Estate Administrator, who was also a legatee by right of his wife, Ony. This agreement spells out what they each agreed was fair and gives a glimpse into the family and financial considerations that were taken into account. It also indicates the monetary value of even one slave in the economic structure of their slave culture. (In Feb 1848, William's slave boy Albert was sold at auction for \$373, almost half the value of William's remaining personal estate appraised the next month. That appraisal

included the slave boy Henry and two girl slaves whose combined value was \$600 out of the total appraisal of \$837.)

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Date: 19 Nov 1850 - Deed of Agreement

From: MARY ABBOTT, widow of WILLIAM ABBOTT dec'd

To: Alfred Pincham, administrator of the Estate of William Abbott, ELIZABETH ABBOTT, KITTY ABBOTT [Keturah Abbott], and Alfred Pincham and his wife ONEY PINCHAM [nee Onisha Abbott] in their own right

Purpose: An Agreement whereby Mary Abbott does covenant and agree to consent to the sale of the [slave] boy Henry bequeathed to her for life by her husband William Abbott's will and for the proceeds to be now divided as hereafter mentioned between Alfred Pincham and his wife Oney, Elizabeth Abbott, and Kitty Abbott, who were to be the devisees after the death of Mary Abbott according to William Abbott's will.

Conditions of Agreement: "The said Alfred Pincham and his wife Oney taking their full third of the proceeds of the sale of the boy after dividing the expenses for crying Boy at sale [ie, paying the auctioneer] & Clerk ticket [ie, fees to record, etc.] to be free from any demand for interest on the amount, in consideration of...Alfred Pincham [the] administrator's releasing Mary Abbott from payment of a Bond due to the Estate...at [the estate] sale for the sum of \$81.50 and also his relinquishing all claims to commissions as administrator of said Estate..."

"Mary Abbott also agrees that the said Elizabeth Abbott and Kitty Abbott shall also take the remainder of the proceeds [of the sale] of the boy Henry after satisfying the deed of trust to James Young & Co. and expenses attending the settlement of same and an open account of \$61.26 due James Young, Kent, & Co. along with a small balance [from?] the neighbourhood debts which the proceeds of Perishable property sold at sale were not sufficient to pay and divide the amount between them the said Elizabeth & Kitty, requiring them to pay her [Mary] interest annually on the respective amounts which they shall each receive."

Each of the others also agrees to the conditions pertaining to each of them.

All of them bind themselves, their heirs, and assigns to the contract agreement under penalty of \$500.

Signed: Mary (x) Abbott (her mark), Elizabeth Abbott, Keturah Abbott, Alfred Pincham, Oney Pincham

Witnesses: Jn'o S. Lewellen, Peter S. Cardwell

Recorded: 25 Nov 1850

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 54, p. 45-46. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets and minor punctuation added.]

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MARY "POLLY" PARKER ABBOTT apparently died within the next year. She signed the above agreement in Nov 1850, and on 6 Sep 1851, the three daughters who were the devisees of William's land conveyed to their brother Wesley the land that William Abbott loaned Mary for life with no mention in the deed of Mary's consent or of a dower portion.

William's will directed that at Mary's death the land was to be sold at public auction and the proceeds divided among the three daughters, Elizabeth, Keturah, and Onisha. Instead, here they are giving their consent and stating the conditions for their brother Wesley M. Abbott to purchase the land directly from them. Again, Ony's husband Alfred Pincham has to be a party to their agreement in his capacity of estate administrator in addition to being a devisee by right of his wife.

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Date: 6 Sep 1851

From: Alfred Pincham, Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM ABBOTT dec'd, ONETIA M. PINCHAM his wife [nee Onisha Abbott], ELIZABETH R. ABBOTT, and KITTY ABBOTT [Keturah Abbott, all three daughters and legatees of William Abbott]

To: WESLEY M. ABBOTT [son of William Abbott]

For: \$100 "pursuant to this agreement"

Purpose: The will of William Abbott dec'd directed that the land where he lived at his death be sold ["at public auction after the death of my wife"] and that the money be divided equally among ["my three daughters"] Elizabeth Abbott, Kitty Abbott, and Onetia Pincham, wife of Alfred Pincham, who also was the administrator of the estate. By this Agreement, the land is to be conveyed to Wesley M. Abbott instead of sold publicly.

Agreement: The said legatees and administrator of William Abbott dec'd agree to make over title and possession of the said land to Wesley M. Abbott, and Wesley in turn agrees and covenants "to pay or cause to be paid" to the others the sum of \$600 "in full consideration for the absolute purchase" of the said tract of land.

Description: 195-1/2 acres where William Abbott resided at the time of his death

Bounds: Daniel Palmer, James H. Hudson, David Hudson, Martin Canada

Signed: Elizabeth B.[sic; R.] Abbott, Katurah P. Abbott, Onetia M. Abbott, Alfred Pincham [Adm'r]

Witnesses: MOODY ABBOTT [brother of William Abbott], Peter S. Cardwell, Stephen D. Palmer

Release of Dower by Onetia M. Pincham, wife of Alfred Pincham

Recorded: 5 May 1853

[Source: Halifax Deed Book 55, p. 124-125. LVA Reel 26. Abstract by J. Horsley. Comments in brackets added.]

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In Oct 1853, Wesley M. Abbott and his wife Eliza A. Robertson sold to his sisters Elizabeth Abbott and Keturah Abbott 70 acres of their father's land for \$200.^[HDB55:236] The sisters were then ages 64 and 55, respectively. Four years later in Dec 1857, the sisters sold these 70 acres for \$400 to Simeon Allen, son of David Allen, long an adjacent landowner.

^[HDB57:383]

At the same time, in Nov 1857, Elizabeth Abbott and Keturah Abbott deeded to Edward J. Owen "all of the property they may possess at their deaths" (including slaves, household furniture, stock, etc.), with each one's property to be conveyed at the time of her death, in return for "value received" and for Edward's furnishing them with a home and necessary provisions during the rest of their lives. Edward J. Owen was a son of William Owen (whom William Abbott appointed an executor in his will) and a grandson of Hatcher Owen and Mary Abbott, sister of William Abbott. The Owens and Abbotts had lived near each other and been closely involved ever since arriving in Halifax County several decades before Hatcher and Mary married in 1787. By this time they were connected by other intermarriages, including a sister of Wesley Abbott's wife Eliza Ann Robertson, Lucy J. Robertson, marrying James M. Owen, a brother of Edward J. Owen.

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1860 - Halifax Co, VA - Northern District - Post Office: Scottsburg

Abbott, Elizabeth - 60 [sic, 71] - "unocupied"

Catherrie[sic] - 55 [sic, 62] - Housekeeper [Keturah]

Note:

Listed four households below Edward J. Owen with his family and one below Edward's brother William H. Owen, unmarried. In 1862, William H. Owen enlisted in the Confederate Army in the same company as Wesley's son Milton C. Abbott. William died during his service, but Milton survived.

1860 - Halifax Co, VA - Northern District - Post Office: Scottsburg
 Abbott, Westley M - 60 - Farmer - Real Est: \$3000; Pers. Est: \$11,310 - 11 slaves
 Eliza A - 47
 William - 20 - Laborer
 Milton - 17 - Laborer
 Janetta - 12

1860 - Halifax Co, VA - Northern District - Post Office: Scottsburg
 Pincham, Alfred - 62 - Farmer - Real Est: \$1464; Pers. Est: \$8272 - VA - 9 slaves
 Onetia M - 57 - Housekeeper
 Robert M - 33 - Laborer
 Eliza - 31 - Laborer [Mary E. in 1850 & 1870]
 Maria K - 28 - Laborer
 Alfred R - 25 - Laborer
 Francis D - male - 20 - Laborer

In 1866, Elizabeth Abbott and Keturah Abbott entered cases in Common Law Court with E. J. Owen indexed as the defendant. [HCL7:172] The court entries have not been obtained; however, this kind of court proceeding involved "equity" or "fairness" issues not covered by statutory law. The sisters' cases began at the end of the Civil War when the economic situation in Virginia was dire and slavery, historically the bulwark of Virginia's economy, was abolished. Yet slaves made up almost all the value of the sisters' estates that Edward J. Owen was to receive at their deaths for providing a home and provisions for them since 1857. The index notes the death of Elizabeth Abbott in 1867 [HCL7:302], although the case was continued into 1868 before being dismissed. Keturah's case continued to 1870 [HCL8:258], although Keturah apparently died that same year, as she is missing in that year's census and not found in later records. (Edwin J. Owen died 26 Dec 1883.)

Onisha Abbott Pincham died in Halifax bet. 1860-1870. Her sister Mary "Polly" Abbott Giles died in Gibson County, TN bet. 1870-1880. Their brother Wesley M. Abbott died in Halifax County, VA shortly before 23 Feb 1885, when his will was proved in Halifax County. [HWB34:121] (See individual notes for more information.)

In the 1940 census, at least Wesley's grandsons William A. Abbott and John R. Abbott (sons of William H. Abbott) were still in the immediate area of the original Abbott lands. In fact, one is listed on or near Abbott Hill Road. John R. Abbott, with his second wife Reba and son W. Alex Abbott, is listed on Route 609-610. Route 610 is called Clays Mill Road. It intersects with Route 609 called Abbott Hill Road and together they encircle the east and south side of the general area where John's great-great-grandfather Joseph Abbott settled his family, including son William Abbott, 178 years before.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION APPLICATIONS for WILLIAM ABBOTT
& HIS WIDOW MARY ABBOTT

WILLIAM ABBOTT - Revolutionary War Pension Application - NARA File No. W5616
Statement dated 23 Oct 1832, Halifax County, VA

[Source: Transcribed by Joan Horsley from images of the original court documents online at Fold3.com. Paragraphing and comments in brackets added; comments in parentheses are in the original. Original spelling retained; minor changes made in punctuation and capitalization for ease of reading.]

On this 23rd day of October 1832 [23 Oct 1832] Personally appeared before the Court of the County of Halifax William Abbott a resident of the County aforesaid who states that he was born in the County of King & Queen [VA] and resided there until he was about six years of age at which time (he is informed) he removed to the said County of Halifax, who is at this time in the 76th year of his age [b. c1756], who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832

[T]hat he volunteered as a Private in the year 1777 under Capt. James Cobbs and Lieut. John Wadlington of Halifax and William McDaniel was the orderly Sergeant belonging to Capt. Cobbs company. [H]e marched from the aforesaid County to Williamsburg where he was stationed a short time. [H]e recollects Capt. Quarles who was stationed at said place belonging to..... [dotted space in the original] Col. Thomas Marshalls Regiment of State Artillery. [H]e also recollects a certain Private by the name of Butler who belonged to the State troops of Virginia who was from Halifax

[A]nd from Williamsburg he marched to York Town, thence to Hampton in the County of Elizabeth City, and from thence he recrossed the Hampton Roads to Portsmouth on Elizabeth River where he was stationed for a considerable time, and from thence he marched to the Plasure house where he was stationed for some time. [A]nd from thence he returned to Portsmouth where he was discharged by the said Capt Cobbs some time in the fall after serving 3 & 1/2 months.

He further states that he visited the Camps of Gen'l Green [Gen. Nathanael Greene] when he 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.

Very shortly after his return to said County after the delivery of the dispatches as aforesaid he volunteered as a Private to guard certain Prisoners from the aforesaid County of Halifax (who stated that they were taken in the South) to Col. John Coles in Albemarle County Va who took charge of them & I returned to the said County of Halifax after being in service about One month,

[A]nd I was informed when I volunteered as one of the guard as aforesaid that it would clear me of a 3 months tour of duty. But on my return to said County of Halifax I was informed that

I had been drafted as a Private in Capt. James Turner's Company. I started in pursuit of Capt. James Turner some time in April of the year 1781, and Joseph Terry was Capt. Turner's Ensign. [H]e recollects the following soldiers belonging to Capt. Turner's Company, viz., John Pass, Peter Roberts, George Anderton & Thomas Puckett.

He marched from Halifax to Guilford Courthouse [NC] where the battle was fought, vizt, on the 15th day of March 1781, and some of the wounded had not left the said Place, and from thence he marched to Salsberry [Salisbury] in the said State of N.C. where he was stationed for a considerable time. [A]nd he was taken sick at the said place with small Pox. [A]fter he recovered so that he could march he returned to Halifax and was discharged by the said Capt. James Turner some time in August after being in service about four months. [A]nd he is unable to produce a discharge for either of the aforesaid tours of duty.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a Pension or annuity except the Present and declares that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State

/s/ William Abbott

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid and the said Court do hereby declare their Opinion after the Investigation of the matter and after Putting the Interrogatories Prescribed by the War department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary Soldier and served as he States.

Certified and signed 29 Oct 1832 by Samuel Williams, Clerk of the County Court of Halifax

Three affidavits were filed in support of William Abbott's application statement. The first is by his sister Elizabeth Abbott:

12 Oct 1832 - "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. We then, and do at this time reside in the aforesaid County. Given under my hand this 12th day of October 1832" - /s/ Elizabeth (x) Abbott (her mark)

The other two affidavits are from men who still lived in Halifax and could give first-hand witness to William Abbott's service. They are John Yates, from whom William bought adjacent land 40 years before, and Moses Dunkley, for whose application William likewise testified. The following are extracts of their statements:

23 Oct 1832 - Capt. John Yates of Halifax County "certified and swore that he was well acquainted with William Abbott of said County and that said William Abbott marched from the County of Halifax as a Private soldier in the Company of James Cobbs who was [sic, were] volunteers in the year 1777 to the City of Williamsburg where the said John Yates joined a Company of artillery which separated from him the said William Abbott..." Sworn to 23 Oct 1832 before J. H. Wimbish, Justice of the Peace for Halifax County

22 Oct 1832 - Moses Dunkley of Halifax County does "hereby certify and solemnly swear that in the Spring of 1781, I was detailed as a guard and was at Halifax Court house with a Parcel of British Prisoners and went with the said Prisoners to the Green Mountain in Albemarle County Virginia, and that William Abbott also went as a guard with the said Prisoners from the said Halifax Court house to Albemarle County Virginia that he Acted on the march as a sergeant under Daniel Roberts who acted as Captain of the Said guards. Given under my hand this 22nd day of October 1832" /s/ Moses Dunkley
Sworn to and certified by Mel Spragins, Justice of the Peace for Halifax County

22 Oct 1832 - William Abbott in turn gave testimony in support of Moses Dunkley's pension application [NARA S9331].

"I William Abbott of the County of Halifax and State of Virginia, do hereby Certify, and Solemnly Swear, that in the Spring of 1781 I was detailed as a guard to go with Some British Prisoners from Halifax Court House to the barracks in Albemarle County Virginia, that I acted on that tour as a Sergant under Daniel Roberts who was made Captain pro tem for the purpose of Commanding the Said Guard, I further Certify that Moses Dunkly of the said County of Halifax was a guard to the Said Prisoners at Halifax Court House and marched as such with us to the Green Mountain in Albemarle County Va
Given under my hand this 22nd day of October 1832" - /s/ William Abbott - Certified by Mel Spragins, J. P.

[Revolutionary War Pension File No. S9331, NARA. Images on Fold3.com. Transcribed by J. Horsley]

15 Sep 1843 - A letter of this date in William Abbott's pension file sent from Halifax Courthouse, VA to a pension official in Washington, DC shows that the Abbotts' longtime neighbor Elisha Barksdale Jr. was the lawyer who helped William obtain the proper certificate and pension amount due him. Elisha "Jr." was a son of Nathaniel Barksdale (whose brother was the "Sr." or older Elisha Barksdale). Nathaniel and his brother Elisha Barksdale were involved in a number of probate records for Abbott family members, including William's mother Frances Abbott, whose 1820 will was witnessed by Nathaniel's wife, Martha/Patsy Hurt Barksdale.

William Abbott died 4 Jan 1848.

MARY PARKER ABBOTT - Revolutionary War Widows Pension - NARA File No. W5616
Statement dated 12 Sep 1848, Halifax County, VA

On 12 Sep 1848, Mary Abbott, widow of William, age 83 [b. c1765], made claim for pension benefits to widows of persons who served in the Revolutionary War under an Act of Congress of 2 Feb 1848 The pension was allowed.

Her statement included that they married 2 Dec 1784 (also that her maiden name was Parker) and that William died 4 Jan 1848.

Halifax Justice of the Peace Jno. S. Lewellen states that Mary Abbott swore to her statement under oath but was unable to attend the court personally due to "old age and bodily infirmity."

Also on 12 Sep 1848, Alfred Pincham, age 50, states he is well acquainted with William Abbott's widow Mary Abbott and affirms Mary's statement. (He signed by signature.)

Note:

Alfred Pincham was Mary Abbott's son-in-law who married her daughter Onisha Abbott in 1824. Alfred Pincham was also the administrator of William Abbott's estate.

26 Apr 1849 - Benjamin V. Traynham [elsewhere spelled Trainham], age 79, states he was well acquainted with William Abbott and Mary his wife from 1785 until William's death 4 Jan 1848. He further states that William and Mary were married since he first knew them, and "it was believed by every person in the neighborhood where the said William Abbott lived that they were lawfully married in the year 1784." (He signed by signature)

Per a notation dated 26 Sep 1849, no official record survived in the Clerk of Court Office for William Abbott's marriage to Mary Parker. Therefore, their marriage was required to be substantiated by testimony and by the following register of their children.

On 26 Sep 1849, Mary Abbott submitted the Family Register. She stated:

"I hereby certify that the register hereto annexed is the original Family Register kept by William Abbot my deceased husband in his life time..." /s/ Mary (x) Abbott (her mark)
[Comments in brackets below added by J. Horsley. Marriages are from Halifax Marriage Bond Register No. 1.]

Rebekah M. Abbott - b. 23 Jan 1788	[m. 24 Apr 1814, Cornelius Beazley]
Elizabeth Abbott - b. 26 Oct 1789	[never married]
Carter Asbury Abbott - b. 2 Oct 1791	[died unmarried 1818 (inventory: HWB11:209)]
Susanna Sharp Abbott - b. 5 Jan 1794	[m. 27 Jul 1818, Thomas G. Lindsey]
Polley Abbott - b. 14 Aug 1796	[m. 9 Nov 1831, Perrin A. Giles (his 2nd wife; "Mary B." in bond)]
Wesley Mansfield Abbott - b. 27 Sept 1798	[m. 22 Jan 1834, Eliza Ann Robertson]
Keturah Abbott - b. 27 Sept 1798	[twin to Wesley; never married]
Delphia Abbott - b. 1 Jan 1801	[m. 8 Aug 1818, Perrin A. Giles (sp. Delphy & Parin in bond)]
Onisha May Abbott - b. 9 Apr 1803	[m. 12 Jan 1824, Alfred Pincham (sp. Onishee in bond)]
Standfield Abbott - b. 11 Nov 1805	[died young, unmarried]
Isaac Abbott - b. 20 May 1809	[died young, unmarried]

[Included in the Register but no relationship stated]

George A. Irion & Rebeccah Hunt was married
in the year of our lord 1805 Dec'r 3'd [3 Dec 1805]

Wm. H. Irion - b. 28 March 1807

Robt. R. Irion - b. 21 Aug 1808

Polly Ann Irion - b. 25 Dec 1810

[Note:

Contrary to many online files, this Rebecca was not a daughter of William and Mary Abbott. (Their daughter Rebecca married Cornelius Beasley in 1814, and both Rebecca's were alive in 1820.) Other such family registers submitted with pension applications also include some people outside the immediate family. In one such case I found, the submitter explains the names were added at the request of the other family in order to have such a record kept for

them. George A. Irion and his wife Rebecca Hunt moved their family from Halifax County, VA to Williamson County, TN between 1815-1820. "George A. Irion and wife Rebecca" sold their Halifax Co. land from Williamson Co., as recorded in the Williamson Court Minute Book in 1821. [Albert L. Johnson, *Minute Book Genealogy of Williamson County, Tennessee*, p. 25] By 1830, George and Rebecca were living in Avoyelles Parish, LA, where they apparently died before 1840, leaving son "R. R. Iron" (Robert R. Irion) still in Avoyelles in 1840.

RE: MARY PARKER'S BIRTHPLACE and FAMILY ORIGIN

Various online family files say this William Abbott's wife Mary Parker (b. 1765) was from Northampton County, VA, but this is undocumented, unproved, and almost certainly mistaken. It apparently originated from a letter included in William Abbott's NARA pension file written in 1924 by a woman in Mississippi requesting pension information for her D.A.R. application. She writes that her family said William Abbott's wife Mary lived in Northampton County, VA. However, the writer's family stories also said William was wounded at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina (where Mary Parker's husband William Abbott never served or fought, nor was he ever in battle, much less wounded in one), that he lived to about 97 years (Mary Parker's husband William Abbott died at 91), and the writer says she did not know if William enlisted in Virginia or in South Carolina (where Mary Parker's husband William Abbott never lived). Obviously the writer or her family stories confused two different William Abbotts. Passed-down family stories can be useful for clues to research, but they are highly unreliable for factual information and need to be judged against the evidence in original records made during the ancestor's lifetime. A same name is not *de facto* the same person. In this case, I have found no evidence whatsoever that our William Abbott's wife Mary Parker could have been born or ever lived in Northampton County.

Other online files that seem well-researched indicate Mary Parker's family came to Halifax from Henrico County, VA. I have not attempted to verify the evidence presented, as it is outside the focus of this current research. However, the Henrico origin seems much more likely for Mary Parker's birthplace. A number of early Halifax settlers migrated from that area, as did the family of Thomas G. Lindsey who married William and Mary's daughter Susanna/Susan Abbott despite the fact that neither he nor his family had ever lived in Halifax. Thomas Lindsey lived in Prince Edward County, VA, two counties northeast of Halifax but located on a common migration route from Henrico to Halifax.

Thus, the families of Thomas and Susan could have known each other through earlier Parker and Lindsey relatives or associates in Henrico. Some Lindsey researchers think Thomas Lindsey's grandmother was a Polly Parker of Henrico County (although no evidence is included to be able to judge its validity). Researcher Marge Gish has found solid evidence that the Halifax Edward Parker's wife Susanna could be Susanna Sharp, a daughter of Henry Sharp of Henrico County who died in 1758. Given our proof that Edward Parker's daughter Mary Parker Abbott named a daughter Susanna Sharp Abbott, this seems a strong possibility. These other researchers' evidence suggesting that Mary's father Edward Parker was in Henrico County when Mary was born needs to be investigated and verified with documentation that connects the Halifax Edward Parker with the one in Henrico. As the example from the pension file shows, simply having the same name is only the beginning and not sufficient in itself for reliable proof of fact. In this case, though, the cumulative evidence so far seems very promising.

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

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