

# THE ABERCROMBIES OF BALTIMORE

*A GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
OF THE FAMILY OF DAVID ABERCROMBIE  
WHO SETTLED IN BALTIMORE,  
MARYLAND IN 1848*

BY  
RONALD TAYLOR ABERCROMBIE

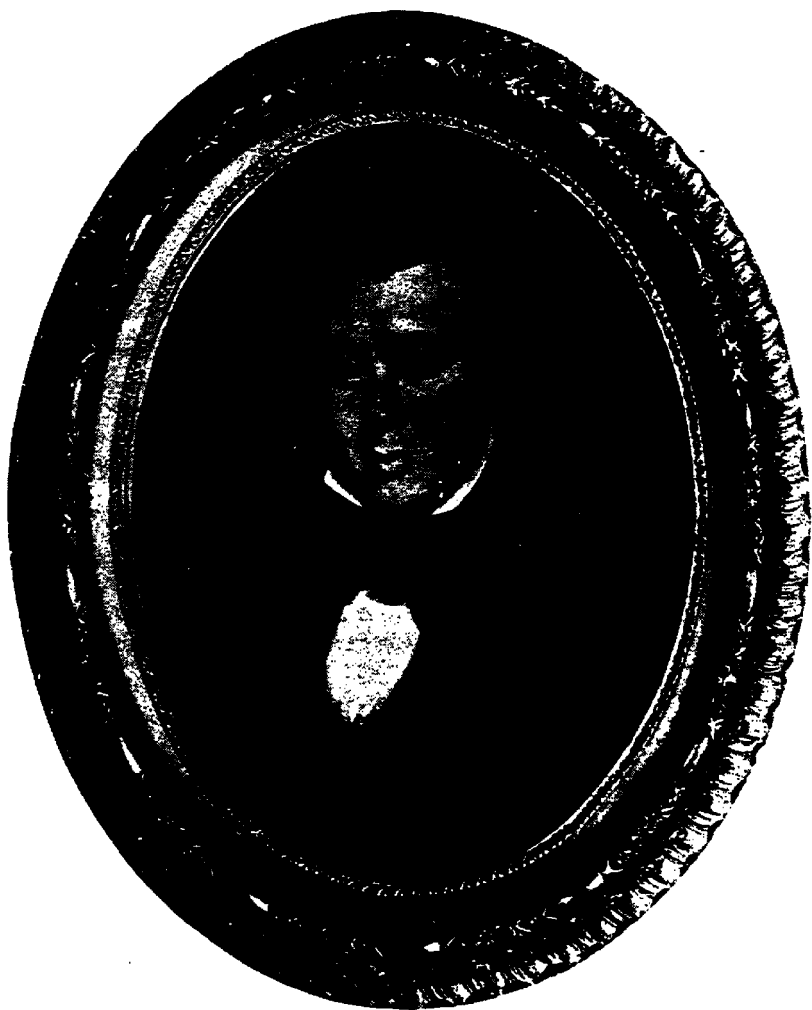


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1940





DAVID ABERCROMBIE, 1815-1864

THIS PORTRAIT AND THAT OF HIS WIFE CHRISTIAN TAYLOR  
ARE (1940) IN POSSESSION OF  
MRS. DAVID T. ABERCROMBIE, OSSINING, N. Y.





CHRISTIAN TAYLOR ABERCROMBIE, 1814-1898

WIFE OF DAVID ABERCROMBIE



## FOREWORD

1 1 1

I am constrained before it is too late to put on record the fruits of my investigations of the Family of David Abercrombie who emigrated from Falkirk, Scotland to Baltimore in 1848. This is by no means meant to be a complete history of this family, but as such is worthy of permanent record. It is my fond hope that this may stimulate the younger generations to continue, and to attempt to complete this interesting sketch. My main purpose is to have an authentic record on file at the Maryland Historical Society, where I have found piece-meal most of the Maryland facts. I am indebted to William J. Abercrombie of London, England for his inspiration and contributions (all of the Scottish Records) who drafted me on the wider scale of collecting the History of the Abercrombie Family in the United States—especially the Colonial folks who contributed an important part in our early history. Mr. Abercrombie is contemplating publishing the result of his research as a supplement to *The Family of Abercrombie* by Cavendish D. Abercrombie, Aberdeen, 1927. I want to thank all the members of this family and their friends who have helped so much in accumulating facts and presenting family records. I am especially indebted to my wife, Jennie Scott Waters, for her constant help and reviews, without whose encouragement this may not have now been recorded. At the proper time, further biographical notes might be added to the records of those still living who are herein mentioned. I ask the charitable consideration of all for error or omission.

The authority for the Scottish genealogical material is William J. Abercrombie of London, to whom I am grateful for his permission to use his records. The other recorded facts are gathered from family letters and records in the possession of the author.

RONALD T. ABERCROMBIE

Baltimore, Maryland  
November 21, 1940





## ABERCROMBIE FAMILY HISTORY

1 1 1

In the Falkirk Parish Register and the Register General of Scotland, as reported by William J. Abercrombie of London, England (November 20, 1937), there is recorded:

"David Abercrombie and Mary Cullens. Both of this Parish. Married 6th April, 1787."

"David Abercrombie, lawful son of David Abercrombie and Mary Cullens. Born 1st December, Baptized 4th December, 1791."

Witnesses: James Buchanan. Adam Smith.

"Mary Abercrombie, lawful daughter of David Abercrombie and Mary Cullens. Born 14th May, Baptized 15th May, 1796."

Witnesses: William Beattie. John Shaw.

"David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, both in this Parish. Married 28 August, 1814."

(Christian Ronald Abercrombie died at — in 183—  
(between 1831 and 1836).

"David Abercrombie and Janet Bryce, both of this Parish. Married 17th March, 1836."

"David Abercrombie, age 62, Boatman, Son of David Abercromby. Died 25th October, 1856."

"Janet Abercrombie, age 80, Widow of David Abercrombie, daughter of John Bryce. Died 6th April, 1873."

"Christian Ronald, lawful daughter of Alexander Ronald and Christian Crawford. Born 9th August, Baptized 15th August, 1790."

Witnesses: John Russell. John Robertson.

"Margaret Ronald, lawful daughter of Alexander Ronald and Christian Crawford. Born (or Baptized) 20th May, 1793."

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"David, son of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald.  
Born 13th July, Baptized 16th July, 1815."

Witnesses: John Shaw. John Aitkin.

"Proclamation, 9th December, 1838."

"David Abercrombie and Christian Taylor, both of this  
parish. Married 28th December, 1838."

(David Abercrombie died March 5, 1864, age 48, at Baltimore, Maryland.)

(Christian Taylor Abercrombie died January 28, 1898, age 83, at Baltimore, Maryland.)

"David Abercrombie, lawful son of David Abercrombie and  
Christian Taylor. Born 6th May, Baptized 24th May,  
1840."

Witnesses: Gavin Fleming. Robert Macauley.

"John Morrison Abercrombie, lawful son of David Abercrombie and Christian Taylor. Born 23rd January, Baptized 1842."

Witnesses: John Russell. Gavin Fleming.

David Abercrombie and Mary Cullens, who were married at Falkirk, Scotland, April 6, 1787, had one son *David* and one daughter Mary of record. This David Abercrombie was born at Falkirk, Scotland, 1st December and was Baptized 4th December, 1791. He married at Falkirk, Christian Ronald on August 28, 1814. Christian Ronald was the daughter of Alexander Ronald and Christian Crawford, and was born at Falkirk 9th August, Baptized 15th August, 1790. There is no record found of her death which took place shortly after the birth of her last child Elizabeth born in 1831. After the death of his first wife, of whom there was issue as recorded, he married a second time Janet Bryce on March 17, 1836, at Falkirk. She was the daughter of John Bryce (who died in 1849, as indicated in a letter of Alexander Reid written in 1849 to his wife's sister, Christian Taylor Abercrombie from Falkirk) and died at Falkirk at the age of 80 years on April 6, 1873, and this would

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indicate her birth was in 1793. She was left a widow in 1856 and lived in Carluke, Scotland, and we have this interesting information from a letter written by David Gibb (1850-1924) from Ayden, North Carolina, dated August 31, 1917, who was a step-grandson, to this widow:

She was very well, a fine little old lady, and everything about her little cottage was always neat and clean. I used to visit her in summer when the fruit was ripe and spent a good deal of time in her garden eating gooseberries, and she liked to see us (step-grandchildren) enjoy our visit. I was a little fellow then and the walk to Lauriston from Grahamston (avenue by Falkirk) seemed a long journey although only about three miles.

In this same house at Lauriston, David Gibb's mother Mary (Cullens) Abercrombie, daughter of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born April 13, 1822 and died at Greenock February 10, 1911 age 89. She married Walter Gibb, a sea captain, in January 1844. He placed the navigation lights of the St. Lawrence River.

David Abercrombie was a sea captain or boatman and was accidentally drowned from his own barge in Forth and Clyde Canal on October 25, 1856.

DAVID ABERCROMBIE (1791-1856) and Christian Ronald (1790-183—) who were married on August 28, 1814 at Falkirk, Scotland. Had issue 4 sons and 4 daughters (alternately):

1. David—Born Falkirk July 13, 1815. Died at Baltimore March 4, 1864. Married at Falkirk December 28, 1838 Christian Taylor. Had issue 5 sons and 5 daughters. (To America 1847.)
2. Christian—Born Falkirk August 3, 1817. Died Manchester, England, age 90. Married June 22, 1838 James Callander. Had issue 3 sons and 3 daughters.
3. Alexander—Born Falkirk December 27, 1820. Died Falkirk October 16, 1901, age 81. Brick and tile maker. Married at Falkirk November 28, 1839 Mary Hamilton. Had issue 8 children.

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4. Mary—Born Falkirk April 13, 1822. Died Greenock February 10, 1911, age 89. Married January 1844 Walter Gibb. Had issue 5 sons and 1 daughter.
5. James—Born Falkirk June 12, 1824. Died Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1909. Married at Baltimore November 27, 1854 Eleanor R. Wilson. Had issue 4 sons and 3 daughters (no surviving issue). (To America 1849.)
6. Isabella—Born Falkirk September 12, 1826. Died ———.
7. John—Born Falkirk April 18, 1828. Died Carlisle October 12, 1900, age 71. Brick maker. Married at Falkirk December 2, 1853 Margaret Martin. Had issue 3 sons and 4 daughters.
8. Elizabeth—Born Falkirk January 8, 1831. Died July 22, 1865 Forth and Clyde Canal. Married at Larbert April 27, 1854 John Halkett, Seaman.

The first son of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, David Abercrombie, was born at Falkirk July 13 and baptized July 16, 1815, and married Christian Taylor at Falkirk on December 28, 1838. He died in Baltimore after a short illness (pneumonia, precipitated by a horse and wagon accident) on March 5, 1864 in his 49th year.

Christian Taylor was born at Stirling, Scotland on September 20, 1814 and died at Baltimore on January 28, 1898, "a devoted mother and true Christian." She was the daughter of John Taylor (born at Stirling, Scotland on February 6, 1779, a carpet weaver, and died February 28, 1825) and Elizabeth Ronald, born at Falkirk on July 30, 1781, and died at Baltimore on December 9, 1872 and was buried at the Baltimore Cemetery. There is a snuff box in possession (1940) of Ronald T. Abercrombie, Baltimore, marked "J. Taylor, Stirling, 1822." Elizabeth Ronald came to America about 1838 with two of her sons, William and Henry Taylor.

William Taylor was born at Falkirk December 12, 1802 and died in Brooklyn March 23, 1854 (in the Taylor Bible April 12, 1855). In a letter from his widow, dated March 23, 1857: "just 3 years to the day on my husband's death." William Taylor married Mary Taylor (her maiden name and of no kin)

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and had issue a son John Henry, a daughter Mary Cullen who married Daniel Baxter and this couple had a daughter Lulu and one son Daniel.

Henry Taylor was the youngest child of John Taylor and Elizabeth Ronald and was born at Falkirk December 6, 1823 and died in California while traveling on December 4, 1898 and was buried in Baltimore. He married first, August 1849, Mary H. Thorne, daughter of Rev. Francis Thorne, a Baptist minister, and lived at "Holyrood," Waverly (the Eastern High School is built on his former estate). He married second, Kate French of New Jersey on April 24, 1883. There was no issue of either marriage. His will was executed in Baltimore June 3, 1896 and settled in May 1901. Previous to coming to the States, Henry Taylor learned the Boot and Shoemaking trade under John Johnston, referred to in a letter of Alexander Reid, date June 1849, as his old master.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR (born Falkirk, July 16, 1816, died in Baltimore, July 2, 1891) sister to Christian Taylor (1814-1898), married at Falkirk, Alexander Reid (b. ———, died Baltimore, October 20, 1859) whose letter is referred to above and who came to Baltimore in 1851. They had three sons and two daughters:

1. John, b. Falkirk, November 19, 1844, d. Iglehart, Maryland, May 5, 1933. Issue: A daughter, Lillian, b. Philadelphia, March 21, 1878, married at Ellicott City, Maryland, June 5, 1906, Henry Wilking.
2. Alexander, b. Falkirk, March 18, 1848, d. Baltimore, July 22, 1856.
3. William Taylor, b. Edinborough, June 30, 1850, d. Baltimore, February 16, 1931, married Baltimore on ———, Mary Ann Graham (1854-1930). Issue: Arthur, Mary, and Elizabeth.
4. Elizabeth, b. ———, d. ———, married Dr. Richard Mansfield ———. Issue: A son, Arthur.
5. Isabella, b. March 25, 1853, d. January 16, 1929, married John Amos Ward, b. April 2, 1847, d. December 28, 1917. No issue.

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Christian Taylor (Abercrombie) had a twin sister Isabella who died in 1864. Elizabeth Ronald Taylor was the first generation in Baltimore of this family connection to attend the Second Presbyterian Church. Her two sons accompanied her until they were married.

So far as recorded, the name of Ronald appears twice—first in Christian Ronald, the wife of David Abercrombie (1791-1856) and second in Elizabeth Ronald (1781-1872), the wife of John Taylor (1779-1825). This shows a close relationship at the period of the birth of David Abercrombie (who married Christian Taylor) on July 13, 1815; and the family of Ronald would be interested in the young family of this David Abercrombie at the time of the death of his first wife Christian Ronald, who must have died between 1831 after the birth (1831) of her last child Elizabeth, and before his second marriage in 1836 to Janet Bryce. It is family tradition that David Abercrombie and John Taylor married cousins—Ronald—and this record seems to substantiate it, although the pedigree of these Ronalds is not definitely established so far.

David Abercrombie and his wife Christian Taylor with their two young sons David (1840-1916) and John Morrison (1842-1911) came to America in 1847 on the urgent insistence of Henry Taylor, Mrs. Abercrombie's brother, and her mother Elizabeth Ronald, who were already established in Baltimore with William Taylor the brother and oldest son. William and Henry Taylor had already started in business and David Abercrombie immediately followed upon his arrival. It is an interesting history as follows, resulting in the Baltimore News Company as it is at present conducted (1940):

This concern was started in Baltimore at 4 North Street in 1840 by William Taylor and with him was associated his younger brother Henry. It was started as a small store dealing in Books, Stationery, Periodicals, and Newspapers. In 1844 Henry Taylor started a newspaper business independently at the then Jarvis Building—on North Street—probably in the same building with his brother William. Later, Henry sold out his business to Burgess Taylor and Company—this Taylor being his brother William—

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who moved the business to Baltimore and Gay Streets—southeast corner—in the old first Sun Building; this was in 1846. Then Henry Taylor purchased the interest of Benjamin Burgess and Benjamin Day in this new concern and with William operated under the firm name of William and Henry Taylor. They opened a branch office in New York at 2 Astor House and Henry resided there as manager, while William conducted the business from Baltimore. This concern was the "publication office of the New York Illustrated Magazine of Literature and Art—edited by Laurence Labree; the office of the Modern Standard Drama, edited by Epes Sargent: and supplied all cheap publications of various publishers: and were agents for Littell's Living Age for cities of New York and Baltimore, published weekly—containing the Spirit of Literature." (From the business letterhead of William Taylor and Co., New York and Baltimore.)

On the strong solicitations of Henry Taylor, his brother-in-law, David Abercrombie with his wife Christian Taylor and their two young sons, David and John, came to America from Falkirk, Scotland to New York in 1847 and then to Baltimore in 1848. This David Abercrombie organized the firm of Gobright, Thorne and Abercrombie (the Mr. Thorne here named was a relative of Henry Taylor's wife) which dealt in Books and Magazines and started also at 4 North Street. This concern was soon absorbed by Henry Taylor who combined with his brother William, and then conducted the business of William and Henry Taylor at Baltimore and Gay Streets and in New York.

In 1851 William and Henry Taylor moved their business to the new Sun Iron Building at the southeast corner of Baltimore and South Streets. They were the first tenants, moving in before the building was completed, about six months before the Sun Office occupied it. They remained here for fifty years. Henry Taylor bought his brother's interest in the firm and created the new firm, Henry Taylor and Co., starting January 1, 1861 and including in this company his brother-in-law David Abercrombie and the latter's two sons, David and John. In 1864, David Abercrombie the senior died and the two sons were taken into the firm. During the Civil War, 1861-65, this concern was instrumental in keeping open communications between the North and the South when the regular lines were closed, particularly during the time of Gilmore's Raid, for about three weeks after the Susquehanna Bridges were destroyed their store wagons carried United States mail, express matter, and a few passengers through the lines. This was more readily possible by reason of David the father and his son John

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Abercrombie being Northern sympathizers, while David the son and his uncle Henry Taylor were Southern sympathizers, and the father and son carried on the greater activities during this time.

In 1870 this concern was absorbed by the American News Co. of New York, one of the first so-called Trusts, or Chain Stores, and has been conducted since as a branch of this interstate organization as the Baltimore News Co., with Henry Taylor remaining as President, David Abercrombie as Treasurer, and John Abercrombie as Secretary, and when later (1888) Henry Taylor retired, David was made Manager and Treasurer, and John was made Assistant Manager and Secretary, and as such continued the business the rest of their time. Their younger brother William T. Abercrombie joined this concern on May 15, 1873 and continued for 65 years—till he resigned on April 15, 1938. David Abercrombie (above) asserted to his nephew John Robert Abercrombie that this concern published the first complete set of Charles Dickens' works printed in America.

In 1899 the Baltimore News Co. was required to move from the Sun Iron Building on account of the Sun Office and themselves needing more space. They then established themselves at 38 West Baltimore Street, now the bed of Hanover Street which was cut through after the Great Fire in 1904. This place was burnt out in this conflagration and the office of this company was temporarily established at 827 Hamilton Terrace—the home of John Abercrombie. Shortly, however, the business was fully established at 318 West German Street where it was conducted till their new building was completed at 227 North Calvert Street when they moved in on May 1, 1911, where the business still continues (1940).

1. DAVID ABERCROMBIE and his wife Christian Taylor were devout Presbyterians and attended the Second Presbyterian Church at the southwest corner of Baltimore and Lloyd Streets. There are well executed portraits of this couple hanging (1940) in the drawing room of Mrs. Lucy Cate Abercrombie, widow of David Thomas Abercrombie, at her estate "Elda" near Ossining, New York. There is another portrait of this David Abercrombie owned by Mrs. Jessie Christie Abercrombie at Carluke, Scotland which was sent from Baltimore to his brother John at Carluke, arriving there on December 25, 1858. These portraits are similar,



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but different in that the one in Scotland is of a younger age. David Abercrombie independently and with his association with his brother-in-law, Henry Taylor, had made during his short life a widespread reputation for his business ability and integrity and energetic activity. His residence was on North High Street from which he was buried. He was an active member of the Second Presbyterian Church and a member of St. Andrew's Society, officer of the Burns Club of Baltimore, and a Mason, member of Franklin Lodge No. 2. His widow lived a long, active life, residing with her son John till her death in her 84th year. This family is kin to the Stirling Branch of the Abercrombie Family of whom there is a wonderful chart from 1456.

2. CHRISTIAN, daughter of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk August 3, and baptized August 31, 1817, and died in 1907 at Manchester, England, age 90. She married at Falkirk June 22, 1838 James Callander. Issue 3 sons and 3 daughters (one son was resident in Guelph, Ontario, also a granddaughter named Anne).
3. ALEXANDER, son of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk December 27, 1820 and baptized January 17, 1821. He died in New Monkland District October 16, 1901, age 81. He was a Brick and Tile Maker. He married at Falkirk November 28, 1838 Mary Hamilton and she died at Glasgow April 2, 1888. They had eight children:
  1. Ann Gilmour, b. 1841, d. unmarried at Glasgow Jan. 29, 1926, age 85.
  2. Christian, b. 1842, d. Dalserf, Lanark, Feb. 10, 1925, age 83. Married at Carluke to James Anderson, Colliery Engineer, Dec. 13, 1861. James Anderson died at Wishaw Dec. 7, 1913, age 76. Had issue:
  3. Elizabeth, b. 1846, d. Dalziel Jan. 22, 1913, age 67. Married at Eastwood Dec. 27, 1872 to Neil McGougan. Had issue:

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4. Alexander, b. 1849, d. at Bothwell Feb. 2, 1928, age 79, unmarried.
  5. Mary, b. 1853 at Patrick, d. Glasgow March 29, 1927, age 74. Married at Eastwood June 23, 1876 to James Torrance. Had issue:
  6. James, b. 1855, d. at Glasgow July 3, 1914, age 59. Grocer. Married at Glasgow Aug. 2, 1892 Grace Hume. Had issue: 4 sons and 2 daughters:
    - I. Mary Hamilton, b. Greenock July 13, 1890.
    - II. Alexander, b. Busby Lanark May 4, 1893. Married Elizabeth McGuffie at Stranraer Dec. 30, 1927. Had issue: Robert Hume Abercrombie, b. Glasgow July 26, 1930.
    - III. David, b. Busby Feb. 28, 1895. Engineer. Married Dunedin, New Zealand, Mary Ashton White in January 1923. Had issue:
      1. David Hume Abercrombie, b. Dunedin Jan. 3, 1924.
      2. George Ashton Abercrombie, b. Dunedin May 13, 1925.
    - IV. James Hamilton, b. Busby Sept. 5, 1897. Clerk. Married Amy Beatrice Cowie at Wanganui, N. Z., July 17, 1924. Had issue:
      1. Betty Jean, b. Nov. 10, 1929.
      2. Ross Hamilton, b. March 31, 1933.
    - V. Grace Roxburgh, b. Busby Jan. 25, 1900. Married David Livingston Russell Black at Glasgow Sept. 25, 1929. Had issue:
      1. Grace Marjory Black, b. May 11, 1931.
      2. Robert Thomas Black, b. July 10, 1933 at Busby.
    - VI. Robert Hume, b. Busby May 1902. Boiler Maker. Married Florence Longden at Hamilton, N. Z., Dec. 19, 1931. Had issue:
      1. Diana Mary Abercrombie, b. at Wellington Feb. 13, 1933.
      2. Sylvia Anne Abercrombie, b. at Wellington July 17, 1936.
  7. Helen, b. Carlisle 1858, d. ——. Married at Eastwood Dec. 11, 1877 to John McAdam. Had issue:  
(Subsequently went to America.)
  8. David, son of Alexander Abercrombie and Mary Hamilton, b. at Carlisle June 11, 1861, d. at Johnstone, Renfrewshire Aug. 30, 1932, age 71. Married at Glasgow Oct. 26, 1926 Agnes Highgate McHarg who died Oct. 1, 1937 at Glasgow, age 52. No issue.
4. MARY, daughter of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk April 13 and baptized May 5, 1822, and died at Greenock February 10, 1911, age 89.

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Married Walter Gibb in January 1844 (a sea captain). He placed the navigation lights of the Saint Lawrence River. He was the Master of the barque John Bunyan of Greenock who had sailed the river for over 30 years. On August 28, 1871 he wrote from Quebec that he lost his ship John Bunyan. From the "Quebec Chronicle" dated Greenock, May 1883, all the improvements and suggestions in these letters were from Captain Gibb and they have all been adopted, thus showing how they were required in their positions even to the building of the light on the Avignon Rock and shifting the light on Cape Chatte farther out. Had issue 5 sons and 1 daughter:

1. Peter, d. age 7?
  2. Christian, b. Dec. 9, 1844, d. April 5, 1883, age 38. Married Falkirk Jan. 11, 1876 James Muirhead. Had issue 3 sons and 2 daughters:
    - I. James William Alexander, b. Jan. 1, 1877.
    - II. Walter David, b. July 23, 1878. Married Margaret Torey Sept. 16, 1909.
    - III. Mary Abercrombie, b. Sept. 4, 1879.
    - IV. Alan Ker, b. Dec. 19, 1880. Married Rosie Dowie in 1907. Had issue 1 son and 1 daughter.
    - V. Christiana, b. March 31, 1883. Died Sept. 8, 1930, unmarried.
  3. David, b. Sept. 3, 1850, d. Ayden, North Carolina, Feb. 1924, age 73, unmarried.
  4. Walter, b. Nov. 3, 1854. Sea Captain. Drowned at sea in 1880, age 26, unmarried.
  5. Alexander, b. Falkirk Oct. 8, 1857, d. Greenock Dec. 2, 1938, age 81. Banker. Married Lily Tozer Nickels Sept. 13, 1887; d. Aug. 18, 1932 at Merryport, Eng. No issue:
  6. William, b. Jan. 7, 1861, d. Aug. 3, 1910, age 49. Married Harriet Vina Brittle Nov. 12, 1890. Had issue 1 son: David Alexander, b. May 12, 1905. Married New York Feb. 3, 1940 Mildred Anne Deuscher.
5. JAMES, son of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk on June 12 and baptized July 4, 1824.

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He died at Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1909, age 85. He married Eleanor R. Wilson at the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland on Nov. 27, 1854, the minister being the Rev. Isaac P. Cook. She was born at Carson Shore near Glasgow June 16, 1829 (daughter of Andrew Wilson and Margaret Clowald Hardy—only daughter with 13 brothers) and died at Kalamazoo April 10, 1905, age 76. At the age of 19, Eleanor R. Wilson became engaged to James Abercrombie who soon left for America. This attachment was not lessened by this separation, for after seven years she crossed in a sailing vessel and was married in Baltimore from the home of one of her brothers. They settled in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, and in 1871 moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan. They had issue 4 sons and three daughters:

David, James, Eleanor (1862-1882), Wilson (1864-1907), and John (b. March 24, 1866; d. July 6, 1937 at Fort Wayne, Indiana; married Mary Elizabeth McClure—no issue), Mary and Margaret. There is no living issue of this family.

James Abercrombie at the early age of 14 left home and went to sea, sailing into many parts and seeing much of the world. In a letter from Alexander Reid dated Falkirk, June 1849 to Henry Taylor in New York, he speaks of seeing James Abercrombie off by train and giving him the address of William Taylor in New York who saw him there just before he sailed for San Francisco, California. In 1849 he sailed from New York on a 50-ton schooner loaded with canned goods and general supplies bound for San Francisco to take necessities to the "Gold Rush." It took 18 months to complete the trip around Cape Horn. He arrived in San Francisco in April 1851 and soon left his ship in quest for gold. He wrote to his brother David in Baltimore on Sept. 27, 1851, stating he went in to stake his gold on the 1st day of May. He found gold, was robbed of it, and after various vicissitudes found gold again and after three years came east with some wealth. He married in Baltimore the sweet-

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heart of his youth who came from Greenock, Scotland to him. An obelisk carved out of granite in Scotland, marks his grave in Kalamazoo.

6. ISABELLE, daughter of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk Sept. 12, baptized Nov. 5, 1826.
7. JOHN, son of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk April 18, baptized May 11, 1828 and died at Carluke Oct. 12, 1900, age 71. He was associated with his brother Alexander in manufacturing brick and tile, a brickmaker. He wrote a letter from Carluke dated July 16, 1864 to his sister-in-law widow of David Abercrombie, his brother who had recently died in Baltimore. In this letter he mentions his step-mother, Janet Bryce Abercrombie, living in Carluke. He married at Falkirk Margaret Martin Dec. 3, 1853. She was born at Carluke and died there May 31, 1885. They had issue 3 sons and 4 daughters:
  1. David, b. Carluke Nov. 2, 1854, d. Dec. 1855.
  2. Mary Martin, b. Carluke Nov. 20, 1856, d. Feb. 17, 1864.
  3. Christian Ronald, b. Carluke Oct. 1, 1858. Married (1st) William Miller Dec. 31, 1878 at Carluke. No issue. Married (2nd) James Haig Dec. 25, 1903. No issue.
  4. Elizabeth Ronald, b. Carluke Sept. 28, 1861. Married Tarrance Shields Nov. 19, 1890. Had issue:?
  5. David, b. Carluke Feb. 16, 1864, d. Carluke Oct. 11, 1909, age 45. He was a Draper and Tailor in Carluke. Married (1st) at Carluke Dec. 13, 1888 Isobel Somerville Hastie who died at Carluke May 21, 1902. Had issue 4 sons and 3 daughters:
    - I. John Hastie, b. Carluke April 16, 1890, a Joiner.
    - II. Robert Stewart Hastie, b. Carluke Aug. 16, 1891, d. Aug. 14, 1906, age 14.
    - III. David Ronald Martin, b. Carluke May 21, 1893, d. U. S. A. Sept. 10, 1910, age 17.
    - IV. Jeanie Forrest Hastie, b. Carluke Jan. 25, 1896.
    - V. Margaret Mary Martin, b. Carluke Aug. 12, 1898. Married June 25, 1925 John Muir Williamson. Colliery Engineer.

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- VI. William Forrest Hastie, b. Carluke Aug. 12, 1898, twin to above; d. April 14, 1926, result of war wounds. Married Isabella Greenhorn Anderson Aug. 26, 1925. No issue.
- VII. Jessie Watt, b. Carluke June 21, 1902, d. Blantyre Sept. 1919. Married (2nd) at Glasgow June 20, 1907 Jessie Cochrane Christie. Had issue: 1 son: Christie Ramsay Forsyth, b. Carluke April 9, 1908. Joiner.
6. John, b. Carluke in 1867, d. in infancy, 1867.
7. Margaret Miller, b. Carluke Jan. 28, 1869. Married in 1894 at Glasgow Robert Shaw. Had issue:?
8. ELIZABETH, last issue of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, was born at Falkirk Jan. 8, baptized Jan. 30, 1831. She was found drowned in Forth and Clyde Canal July 22, 1865. Married at Falkirk April 27, 1854 John Halkett of the Parish of Larperth—a Seaman.
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1. DAVID ABERCROMBIE, son of David Abercrombie and Christian Ronald, married Christian Taylor Dec. 28, 1838 at Falkirk, Scotland and had issue 5 sons and 5 daughters:
1. David, b. Falkirk May 6, baptized May 24, 1840, d. Baltimore Sept. 2, 1916. Married at Baltimore Oct. 10, 1863 to Adreanna Genness. No issue.
  2. John Morrison, b. Falkirk Jan. 23, 1842, d. Baltimore Jan. 7, 1911. Married at Ottawa, Canada Oct. 10, 1865 Elizabeth Sarah Daniel. Had issue 5 sons and 2 daughters.
  3. William Taylor, b. Jan. 19, 1844 (no record of place of birth), d. Dec. 8, 1847.
  4. Elizabeth, b. Jan. 1, 1846 (no record of place of birth), d. Nov. 5, 1846.
  5. Elizabeth Taylor, b. Baltimore June 29, 1848, d. April 30, 1929. Married Francis Hyde Oct. 20, 1874. Had issue 2 sons and 1 daughter.
  6. Christine, b. Baltimore July 17, 1850, d. June 5, 1851.

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7. Christine Isabella, b. Baltimore Jan. 29, 1852, d. June 5, 1902, unmarried.
8. Henry Taylor, b. Baltimore Dec. 18, 1853, d. July 1, 1856.
9. William Taylor, b. Baltimore Dec. 17, 1855 (still living, 1940). Married June 12, 1883 Mary Eugenie Dougherty. Had issue 3 sons and 3 daughters.
10. Henry Taylor, b. Baltimore Dec. 24, 1858, d. July 1, 1860.
1. DAVID ABERCROMBIE, the first child of David Abercrombie and Christian Taylor, was born at Grameston near Falkirk, Scotland May 6, 1840 and baptized May 24, 1840. When 7 years of age he came to America with his parents, residing one year in New York and coming to Baltimore in 1848. He attended the public schools but for a short time and at age 12 he went to work with his father's concern and then with Henry Taylor and Company, becoming a member of this firm in 1863. After his father died in 1864 his brother John also was taken into the firm. When this firm was absorbed by the American News Company in 1870 David became general manager and John secretary of the branch known as the Baltimore News Company; Henry Taylor remained the senior in this concern till 1893. David married at Baltimore Oct. 10, 1863 Adreanna Genness, daughter of John A. and Mary A. Genness, who died May 4, 1904 leaving no issue. Upon this marriage he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and was always a very active church worker. He was a member and treasurer for many years of the St. Andrew's Society, an Odd Fellow, a 33rd Degree Mason, Past Master of St. John's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, charter member and treasurer of the Emory Grove Camp Meeting Association, a director of the Economy Savings Bank, a trustee of the Home for the Aged of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a member of the Board of Managers of the Preachers' Aid Society. After a long and active career he died in Baltimore at the age of 76 on Sept. 2, 1916 and was buried at Druid Ridge Cemetery.

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2. JOHN MORRISON ABERCROMBIE was born at Falkirk, Scotland Jan. 23, 1842 and baptized the same day, the second son of David Abercrombie and Christian Taylor. He came to America in 1847 with his father and mother and older brother David (b. 1840) upon the earnest solicitations of his mother's mother Elizabeth Ronald Taylor and his mother's brother Henry Taylor who were already established in America (Baltimore and New York). This family remained in New York (residing in Brooklyn) for a year and in 1848 moved to Baltimore where the father of this young family established himself in business at 4 North Street (Jarvis Building) and, as described previously, finally continuing with the American News Company, carrying on the branch in Baltimore as the Baltimore News Company. This John was christened John Morrison, the middle name being taken from an old friend and minister (in Falkirk) of the family, but when he arrived in the States the family of Taylor did not like it because the middle name was not Taylor and the result was that the middle name was dropped and he was known thereafter as John Abercrombie. His early education was in the public schools and he graduated from the old High School (now the Baltimore City College) and went to work with his father in the Book and Magazine business. Thus when a very young man he became associated in this enterprise and continued throughout his lifetime.

He married at Ottawa, Canada on Oct. 10, 1865 Elizabeth Sarah Daniel who was born at Port Stanley, Ontario, Canada on Jan. 17, 1844 and died in Baltimore Feb. 16, 1907. She was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Daniel, one of the first physicians to go to Canada to cope with the smallpox epidemic of 1837, and who founded the first hospital in this Province—the Provincial Hospital which later became the Ottawa General Hospital. Dr. Thomas Daniel was born in Dumfries, Scotland in 1807 and was graduated in Medicine at Glasgow University. He married Mary Banks



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Netherclift (b. Sept. 2, 1820, d. Sept. 26, 1875 at Baltimore), daughter of William Netherclift who secured a grant in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Thomas Daniel's brother Robert Daniel was for twenty-five years Head Master of St. Andrew's Parochial School, Madras, India, one of the first English Schools in India. Resigning on Dec. 23, 1845, he later established the Collegiate Institute of Baltimore. At the close of his service in India he was presented by his pupils with a silver cup now in the possession of Ronald T. Abercrombie (Baltimore, 1940).

John Abercrombie achieved prominence in Maryland for the manner in which he maintained communications between the City of Baltimore and the North when this city was besieged by Gilmor's Raiders during this short period of the Civil War. He was a Northern sympathizer, but was discharged from military duties, as the official documents show, for "bunions on the bottom of both feet," but the real disqualification was due to the fact that both feet were frost-bitten in the earlier days of the war due to the terrific exposure during his escapades in blockade running as a very young man when he succeeded in carrying merchandise, news and mail through the lines when communications between the North and South were cut off. He suffered to the end at periods from this injury of frost-bitten feet.

He participated actively (with his wife) in the work of the Second Presbyterian Church in Baltimore and it was this church he attended all his life after arriving in Baltimore. He was superintendent of Breckenridge Sunday School, a mission of the Second Presbyterian Church located on Forrest Street where the Penitentiary now stands. He was an officer in this church for over 50 years and for 35 years was Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, never missing a meeting of any of these boards until his injury which preceded his death by only a few weeks. When the old church at the southwest corner of Baltimore and Lloyd Streets was abandoned

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(sold) and the new Second Presbyterian Church was built and reestablished in a northern suburban district known as Guilford, a memorial tower was dedicated to him and his wife, and a bronze tablet commemorating this hangs on its walls, as does also a portrait presented March 21, 1915 by Mr. Harry G. Evans and friends. The tablet reads:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF

1842 · JOHN ABERCROMBIE · 1911

FOR THIRTY-NINE YEARS SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE

AND FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS CLERK OF SESSION

AND HIS WIFE

1844 · ELIZABETH SARAH ABERCROMBIE · 1907

THIS TOWER IS DEDICATED

1926

He was tremendously energetic in everything he did, devout and strict, upright and sturdy, an excellent type of man. He lived to be nearly 70 years of age, passing away at Baltimore Jan. 17, 1911 of pneumonia, following a fracture of the leg caused by a fall. He, with an equally courageous, resourceful, and energetic wife, raised a family of five boys and two girls.

John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Sarah Daniel had ten children, seven of whom survived and reached maturity. Their issue:

1. Elizabeth, b. July 20, 1866, d. shortly after birth.
2. David Thomas, b. June 6, 1867, d. Aug. 29, 1931. Married Lucy Cate April 25, 1896 Baltimore—with issue.
3. John Robert, b. Feb. 21, 1869. Married Anna D. Schultz, M. D., June 30, 1909 Baltimore—no issue.

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- 1898
4. Harry Netherclift, b. April 4, 1871. Married Mary Katharine Bay Nov. 23, 1898 Baltimore—with issue.
  5. Mary Christina, b. May 19, 1873, d. May 25, 1874.
  6. Maud Morrison, b. April 24, 1876—unmarried.
  7. Ronald Taylor, b. Jan. 19, 1879, Baltimore. Married Jennie Scott Waters Nov. 21, 1906 Baltimore—with issue.
  8. Mary Taylor, b. Dec. 26, 1880, Baltimore. Married Edwin Hamilton Verner April 10, 1910 Baltimore—with issue.
  9. Robert Fulton, b. May 8, 1883, Baltimore. Married Marjory Hartshorn at Montclair, New Jersey, April 17, 1912—with issue.
  10. Myra, b. Jan. 28, 1886, d. just after birth.

Of this family there were five sons and two daughters who lived to maturity—two of the sons, David Thomas and Robert Fulton, were manufacturing merchants in New York; two, John Robert and Ronald Taylor, were medical doctors in Baltimore; and one, Harry Netherclift, a lawyer in Baltimore. Of the two daughters the older, Maud Morrison, was one of the first kindergarten teachers in Baltimore and later a Deaconess in the Presbyterian Church; the second daughter, Mary Taylor, received an A. B. degree from Goucher College at Baltimore in 1903 and married a Civil Engineer, Edward Hamilton Verner from Toronto, Canada in Baltimore April 29, 1910, and went to the Province of British Columbia where the husband is the Public Works Engineer for British Columbia. Have issue:

DAVID THOMAS ABERCROMBIE, the son of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Sarah Daniel, was born at Baltimore June 6, 1867 and died at Ossining, New York, Aug. 29, 1931. He was not only prominent as an engineer and an explorer, having been the head of several surveys into comparatively unknown territory, but his work as an officer of the United States Army was of such a meritorious character that he received a special citation from Washington. He was a man with a decided imagination as well, and this, combined

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with his engineering ability, made it possible for him to be the inventor of a number of interesting and unusual articles, the most important of which is a paper that will stretch in two different directions. His now well known inventions for water-proofing cloths of the simplest types are, perhaps, in greater use today, but it is this stretchable paper which lays hold upon one's mind as a most remarkable thing.

His inventive genius enabled him to make a practical solution to most every problem of the prospector, huntsman, camper and woodsman. He was one of the best woodsmen, in its broadest sense, of his time. When sheet aluminum was first made, he was the first to utilize it in manufacturing of camp utensils, nesting kits and other useful articles for the camper. This application was soon followed in general use in home kitchen ware.

David Thomas Abercrombie received his early education in the public schools of Baltimore; he later attended and graduated from Baltimore City College with the class of 1885. He pursued his scientific training at the Maryland Institute. His first work was begun within almost the same week of his graduation when, on June 7, 1887 he entered the employ of the Louisville and Harrisburg Railroad as a civil engineer. This carried him through the lesser known parts of Kentucky on various surveys. He then became a member of the staff of engineers of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, with whom he remained until 1889, when he resigned to become an explorer and the Chief of Survey for a firm of bankers reporting physical properties on a large tract of land in North Carolina. After completing that work he became associated with the Norfolk & Western Railway. This carried him through the almost unknown coal and timber lands of West Virginia along the Kentucky border, work with which he was constantly engaged until the year 1892, when he went with the Boston and Maine Railroad for a short period. Then, owing to the inability to use his eyes at close work, he was obliged to give up his

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engineering work entirely and entered the manufacturing field as waterproofer of cotton cloths and a maker of tents and camp outfits.

This business was suggested by a company of interested contemporary civil engineers who had wondered at the unique and model camps that he always maintained in the field, even under most trying physical conditions, which added much to the efficiency of his work and the greater comfort of his men. They urged him to duplicate his personal outfit and persuaded him to start such a business, and collectively gave him sufficient orders to make a successful beginning.

He associated himself with his uncle, Frank Hyde, in the National Waterproof Fibre Company in 1892, and soon reorganized this business in an old sail loft on South Street, New York City. He soon found it necessary to expand and organized under the firm name of Derby and Abercrombie, taking over a larger warehouse at No. 30 South Street. Continuing this till further expansion necessitated more capital, he then organized the firm of Abercrombie & Fitch, being founder and president of this unique and internationally known firm. He relinquished control of this concern in 1907 and organized again the David T. Abercrombie Company at 311 Broadway, New York. Mr. Abercrombie disposed of all his interest in Abercrombie & Fitch after this country entered the first World War. However, the original manufacturing end of the business is still carried on by the David T. Abercrombie Company, presided over by the founder's youngest brother, Robert Fulton Abercrombie.

He was nationally known in this work, for he designed and invented many new and useful articles for campers, hunters and explorers. As already mentioned, David Thomas Abercrombie was the inventor of a copper waterproofing process which will protect cotton cloth from the ravages of both tropical insects and water, for it renders it

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absolutely waterproof. He was also the designer of many new methods of packing articles for transport to better protect them against theft and pilferage while in transit, and to also bring about a reduction of the shipping space needed. In this capacity he operated a large plant and acted as advisor and expert for several of the larger marine insurance underwriters and companies.

During the year 1915 Mr. Abercrombie entered the Plattsburg movement, and on September 6, 1916 he was recommended for the rank of Major, Quartermaster Reserve Corps. He sold his business and began aggressively to prepare for a career of army officer. During the fall and winter of 1916 he acted as an instructor in the Quartermaster Corps, training reserve officers for active duty in this branch of the service. He himself was called to active duty on July 30, 1917 and was stationed at the New York Depot where he was the officer in charge of the Packing Division of the New York Depot, Quartermaster Corps, United States of America.

There his operations were handled upon a gigantic scale, for his department saw to the proper inspecting, packing and shipping of what was undoubtedly the largest part of the clothing and equipment supplies sent overseas to the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Major, later Lieutenant Colonel, Abercrombie was in charge of thousands of civilian employees who turned out on an average of six thousand uniform-size packages per day. This tremendous handling power was probably only due to the fact that Lieutenant Colonel Abercrombie himself was the inventor of the new packing process now used by the entire United States Army for the proper folding, packing and baling of clothing and equipment supplies. Indeed, such was the merit of the work he performed in this capacity that he was cited for distinguished and meritorious service while acting as the Officer in Charge of the Baling Division.

Michael Connors, writing in the *Popular Science Monthly* (New York, October 1919), said:

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Major Abercrombie experimented and found that clothing could be squeezed so that, roughly, twenty cubic feet of material could be made to occupy four cubic feet of space. Consider that ship tonnage is charged for on cubic-foot basis, and that during the war the rate was eight dollars per cubic foot, and you can see at once that by compressing twenty cubic feet to four cubic feet a saving of ninety-six dollars was at once effected. Then consider that during the war 1,371,000 bales were shipped, that the net saving on each bale ranged from fifty to sixty dollars, and you see that the Government saved eighty-five million dollars. Major Abercrombie's project also released 8,180,000 cubic feet of shipping space. Major Abercrombie discovered that proper baling depends on proper folding of a uniform. Baling should crease a uniform along the right lines. To carry out Major Abercrombie's process, the garment is carefully folded to form. A given number of folded garments are then packed in a brick container, corded together so that the bricks cannot fall apart. The folded uniforms in their brick container are then placed in a power baler. Waterproof paper is used as a lining for each bale. The outer burlap was used overseas for the making of two million sand bags.

Colonel Abercrombie also invented and applied for patents on a paper that is stretchable in two directions; it is a point of some interest in connection with this invention that he assigned the patent claims, immediately after application, to the Secretary of War. A detailed description of this unusual paper, the new and unique method of inspecting, folding, baling, and shipping clothing, was given in *Science and Invention*, *The Literary Digest*, *The Army and Navy Register*, in official papers, and in many magazines and home organs, and in all of them full credit was given to Lieutenant Colonel Abercrombie as the inventor.

Upon his return to civilian status, Mr. Abercrombie once more resumed his normal duties, and until August 1926 devoted his time to commercial use of his packing knowledge, and it is interesting to note that, despite the many varied and exacting requirements of the work in which he was engaged, he still found time in which to take a keen and active interest not only in the club and social life of

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his community, but also as a member and officer of a number of learned societies, among the more important of which are: The American Museum of Natural History, the New York Zoölogical Society, the Audubon Society, and the New York Academy of Science. He was also a member of the New York State Chamber of Commerce, and was one of the executive committee and National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America. He was one time President of the Camp Fire Club of America, member of the Explorer's Club, member of the Hamilton Club, Honorary Commodore and member of the Greenwood Lake Boat and Country Club, member of the Anglo-American Fish and Game Club, member of the Pines River Fish and Game Club, member of the Southern New York Fish and Game Club, and member of the Dirt Trails Association.

He conceived the plan of and engineered a semi-public bridle path through adjoining estates in Westchester County, New York. The owners of the land through which the path was cut organized the Dirt Trails Association, and invented the name in his honor, the initials of which correspond to his own, namely, D. T. A.

It would seem almost unnecessary to state, after the foregoing, that Mr. Abercrombie's favorite recreations were fishing, hunting and exploring.

David Thomas Abercrombie married, April 25, 1896, at Baltimore, Maryland, Lucy Abbott Cate, a daughter of Isaac M. Cate, a former steel broker, railroad president and executive of Boston, Massachusetts and Baltimore, Maryland. They had four children, two sons and two daughters:

1. Elizabeth Abercrombie, who was born at Newark, New Jersey March 6, 1897 and married Frederick Reed Hoisington, Jr., at Brooklyn, New York June 12, 1923. Issue: 1 son and 3 daughters:
  - I. Elizabeth Cate, b. Brooklyn, N. Y., March 13, 1924.
  - II. Lucy May, b. Brooklyn, N. Y., April 20, 1927.
  - III. Frederick Reed III, b. Ossining, N. Y., June 6, 1929.
  - IV. Edith, b. Ossining, N. Y., July 30, 1932.



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2. Lucy Abercrombie, who was born at Newark, New Jersey February 6, 1899, and met a tragic death in an explosion in her father's factory at Ossining, New York November 27, 1929. There is a Memorial Room for her at the Ossining General Hospital.
3. David Abercrombie, Ensign United States Navy, Annapolis, 1925, who was born at Newark, New Jersey October 24, 1901 and died a tragic death by a kick from his horse at his ranch, Gros Ventre, Kelly, Wyoming March 14, 1937. He married Cornelia Winters at Dillon, Montana July 29, 1930. They had no issue.
4. Abbott Abercrombie, who was born at Newark, New Jersey March 7, 1908 and married at Briarcliff, New York December 10, 1938 Jane Gray Carter, daughter of James Henry Carter. Issue: David Carter, b. New York July 31, 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Abercrombie named their estate and residence "ELDA," in the town of Newcastle on the Kitchawan Road, Westchester County, P. O. Ossining, New York, the word ELDA being made up of the first letter of the name of each of their four children, in order.

He was one of the necessary men, necessary for setting standards of behavior, and standards of good cheer. His vigorous companionship meant much in the satisfaction of life. Those who knew him well feel better for having come in contact with his bright and cheerful personality. This courageous spirit passed away from rheumatic heart disease at Ossining, New York, August 29, 1931.

JOHN ROBERT ABERCROMBIE, second son of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Daniel, was born at Baltimore, Maryland February 21, 1869, and was educated in the Baltimore Public Schools, graduating from the Baltimore City College. He entered The Johns Hopkins University, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from that institution in 1892, and then took his medical training at the University of Maryland (this was before the Hopkins Medical School opened), graduating in 1895, and has been an active practitioner in Baltimore since. He was coroner at Baltimore 1896-1900,

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appointed by Gov. Llownes. He specialized in skin diseases and was for a long time Associate in Dermatology at the University of Maryland Medical School, having charge of the Dermatological Clinic there. He was Dean of the Woman's Medical College and performed a splendid service there. He married somewhat late in life Dr. Anna D. Schultz of Baltimore on June 30, 1909. She was Resident Physician at the Good Samaritan Hospital. The two have practiced medicine since. They have no offspring. He has been prominent in the affairs of his native city, a wonderfully useful practitioner, very versatile in his activities, being for many years an active member of the St. Andrew's Society, a former president of this organization and very interested in all its activities. For years he and his wife made the Haggis for the Annual Robert Burns Festival. He has been active in church life, being a Vestryman of Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, one of the largest and most successful parishes in Baltimore. In his earlier years he was a great athlete—football, lacrosse, and track, and especially in his college days a gymnast and wrestler; he was fond of the outdoors, a good hunter, an ardent fisherman, a specialist on bee culture, and a good woodsman. He was an excellent mechanic and could turn his hand to almost any endeavor, and was also a good wood worker. In these activities he has received his recreation from the hard routine of his profession. He is now no longer a young man.

**HARRY NETHERCLIFT ABERCROMBIE**, third son of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Daniel, was born at Baltimore April 4, 1871, and married at Baltimore November 23, 1898 Mary Katherine Bay, daughter of John W. Bay and Emily Gallup of Harford County, Maryland. He was educated in the Baltimore Public Schools and graduated from the Baltimore City College in 1891, being awarded the Shakespearean Prize. He spent one year at The Johns

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Hopkins University (Class of 1893) pursuing work in electrical engineering. He switched over to law and took the degree of Bachelor of Law in 1895 at the University of Maryland. He read law in the office of Robert H. Smith with whom he became associated after being admitted to the Bar. He was affiliated with the Republican Party and was elected in 1895 to the Legislature of Maryland from the Second District of Baltimore. He was the author of several important bills, and chairman of the Committee on Corporations. He was appointed one of the Judges of the People's Court when it was first organized by Governor Goldsborough in 1912. He was the first lay moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. He was very athletic, having played football and lacrosse, and was a good huntsman. This couple have issue two daughters:

1. Emily Bay, born at Baltimore October 6, 1902; married at Utica, New York, September 12, 1927 Gerald Longacre Marvin. They have one son—Gerald Longacre, born at Montreal, Canada February 6, 1931.
2. Elizabeth Netherclift, born at Baltimore December 5, 1905; graduated from Goucher College 1927, and married at Baltimore November 23, 1927 Stephen Robert Shinn, II. They have one son—Stephen Robert, III, born at Kansas City, Missouri, September 29, 1929.

**RONALD TAYLOR ABERCROMBIE**, fourth son of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Daniel, was born at Baltimore, Maryland, January 19, 1879. He was educated in the Public Schools of Baltimore, Professor Maupin's Preparatory School, and The Johns Hopkins University, receiving his A.B. degree there in 1901 and his M.D. degree in 1905. He married at Baltimore on November 21, 1906, Jennie Scott Waters, daughter of Fannie Scott and Francis E. Waters (descendant of Lieutenant Edward Waters of Virginia, 1608). They had issue one son and two daughters:

1. Francis Waters, b. January 12, 1908, d. June 30, 1909.

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2. Margaret Waters, b. November 11, 1909. Married at Baltimore October 28, 1931 Arthur L. Nelson. They have two sons—Arthur Abercrombie, born at Baltimore January 21, 1935, and Ronald Waters, born at Baltimore October 11, 1938.
3. Katharine Gordon, b. April 11, 1914. Married at Baltimore September 29, 1936 McCord Sollenberger. They have one son—Randall Talbot, born July 3, 1939.

Ronald Taylor Abercrombie began business in New York associated with a brother, David T. Abercrombie who was the founder of Abercrombie & Fitch. Since 1905 he has practiced medicine to the present time at Baltimore and has been associated during that time with The Johns Hopkins University as Director of Physical Education, being instigator or founder of the "Lily White" practice in college athletics. An all-round athlete and gymnast at college, he is still rated as the best College Center at Lacrosse ever produced in this country. He organized the first military unit at The Johns Hopkins University when that University moved from its downtown location to its present site at Homewood. This unit was soon taken over by the newly-established Reserve Officers' Training Corps of which the Hopkins unit became a model for the country.

From 1905 to 1906 he served as Resident Physician, Church Home and Infirmary in Baltimore; from 1907 to 1912 he was Physician in Charge, Christ Church Dispensary, in Baltimore; from 1905 to 1926 he was Dispensary Surgeon, Johns Hopkins Hospital; he was an Instructor of Bacteriology and Pharmacology, Woman's Medical School, Baltimore, from 1907 to 1909; and an Instructor of School Hygiene, Johns Hopkins Summer Schools in 1911 and 1912. He served as a Coroner-at-Large, Baltimore, from 1908 to 1912. In 1918 he was a Contract Surgeon, Medical Corps, United States Army, and served as Medical Officer in charge of the Students' Army Training Corps at The Johns Hopkins University. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of

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Science, the American Public Health Association, the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, the Baltimore City Medical Society, the Maryland Historical Society, the Virginia Historical Society, and Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. He is a member of the Maryland Club, Elkridge Club, the Johns Hopkins Club, St. Andrew's Society, and the Downtown Farmers, Baltimore, and of Lake Placid Club of New York State. He is senior member of the Board of Collegiate Studies of The Johns Hopkins University, beginning his service under the first Dean, Dr. E. H. Griffin. In this connection, he has had the distinction of being present at every Commencement and Commemoration Day Exercise of his Alma Mater since 1897.

He is the author of "Lacrosse, How to Play It," in the *Book of College Sports* published in 1904; "The Relation of Bodily Health to Business Activity," published in *American Gentleman*, February, 1914; "Venereal Diseases and Hygiene," published in 1920; and "A Plan for Physical Education," published in *The Johns Hopkins University Alumni Magazine* in June, 1923.

He is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore and his political affiliation is with the Democratic Party. His artistic interest is the Municipal Art Society; his literary interest is Genealogy; his hobby is Photography; and his recreations are Farming, Golf, and Bridge.

MARY TAYLOR ABERCROMBIE, second surviving daughter of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Sarah Daniel, was born at Baltimore on December 26, 1880, educated in Baltimore, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goucher College in 1903. She married a civil engineer from Toronto, Canada at Baltimore April 10, 1910, Edwin Hamilton Verner, who was born January 27, 1886 at Lisnacloon House, County Tyrone, Ireland, a descendant through his mother from an Abercrombie, though this line is not distinct. He is Public Works Engineer for British Columbia. They have issue 2 sons and 3 daughters:

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1. Edwin Abercrombie, born at Vancouver January 21, 1911. Married Garnet Gourley from Manitoba November 7, 1931 at Burnaby Lake. They have issue:
  - I. Donanita, born Vancouver September 2, 1932.
  - II. Ronald Gourley, born Vancouver March 25, 1935.
  - III. Edwin James, born Berkeley, California December 8, 1938.
2. James Abercrombie, born at Vancouver April 17, 1912. A Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Married at Toronto, Canada December 24, 1938 to Isabella Hamilton. Have issue:

James Hamilton, born Hitchen, Herts, England February 22, 1940.
3. Kathleen Abercrombie, born at Vancouver November 25, 1914. Married at Burnaby Lake, British Columbia June 24, 1938 to Thomas W. Hall.
4. Jean Abercrombie, born North Vancouver Hospital April 5, 1918.
5. Margaretta Abercrombie, born New Westminster Hospital May 7, 1922.

ROBERT FULTON ABERCROMBIE, fifth son of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Daniel, was born at Baltimore on May 8, 1883. He was educated in the Public Schools of Baltimore and finished in the Class of 1903, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, and then attended the Baltimore Business College. He entered the camp and prospector outfitting business of his brother David in 1903 and continued as a member of Abercrombie & Fitch until 1907. As an associate organizer of the David T. Abercrombie Company in 1908, he left New York for Chicago to become associated with Von Lengerke and Antoine, 1910 to 1927; he returned to David T. Abercrombie Company, 311 Broadway, New York City, and obtained controlling interest in the concern and operated a general outfitting business—the trade name being "Abercrombie's Camp."

He married at Montclair, New Jersey, April 17, 1912 Marjory Hartshorn, a descendant of Sir Richard Hartshorn who was granted Highland of Navesink in 1664 by King James and also a great-great-grand niece of John Kinsey,

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first Speaker of the House, Hall of Independence, Philadelphia. They had issue 2 sons and 1 daughter:

1. Robert Fulton, born Chicago April 14, 1913. Married July 4, 1937 Constance Murro Williams, born October 30, 1916.
2. Lois, born Chicago January 30, 1916. Married March 6, 1939 Charles Anthony La Macchia.
3. Warren Hartshorn, born Chicago October 13, 1918.

Robert Fulton Abercrombie is a member of the Board of Governors, Camp Fire Club of America; Chairman, Camping and Executive Board of the Hendrick Hudson Council, Boy Scouts of America; member of the American Canoe Association; member of Masonic Lodge, Glencoe No. 983; and Junior Officer, Ossining Rod and Reel Club. He was a great athlete and an outstanding woodsman.

The two daughters of John Abercrombie and Elizabeth Daniel, MAUD MORRISON ABERCROMBIE, who never married, and MARY TAYLOR ABERCROMBIE (VERNER) are treated elsewhere.

5. ELIZABETH TAYLOR, daughter and fifth child of David Abercrombie and Christian Taylor, was born at Baltimore June 29, 1848 and died at Baltimore April 30, 1929, age 80. She married at Baltimore October 20, 1874 Francis Hyde, born April 12, 1847 and died February 29, 1920. They had issue 1 daughter and 2 sons:
  1. Adelaide Ashton, born at Baltimore October 13, 1876. Married at Baltimore May 9, 1907 George Edward Pragnell, born September 14, 1866, Honesdale, Pennsylvania. They had issue 1 son and 1 daughter:
    - I. James Hyde, born Wilkesbarre, Pa., January 23, 1909. Married at Haddonfield, New Jersey, May 26, 1934 to Laura Crandell.
    - II. Emily Elizabeth, born Wilkesbarre, Pa., July 15, 1911.
  2. William Henry Campbell, born at Baltimore September 26, 1878. Married June 14, 1917 Lillian Jane Jenkins (widow of Charles Nusbaum), born June 14, 1886. They had issue 2 sons:
    - I. Earl Campbell, born Deal, Maryland April 17, 1919.
    - II. William, born Deal, Maryland April 3, 1923.
  3. Francis Abercrombie, born at Baltimore October 15, 1880.

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Married at Baltimore February 20, 1917 Sarah Eaton Anderson, born at Frederickton, New Brunswick, August 7, 1885, daughter of Robert Andrew Anderson. They had issue 1 son:

Robert Francis, born Baltimore January 8, 1918.

9. WILLIAM TAYLOR, son and ninth child of David Abercrombie and Christian Taylor, was born at Baltimore December 17, 1855. He early (1873) became associated with the firm of Henry Taylor and Company as clerk and continued with his older brothers David and John in the conduct of the Baltimore News Company, resigning in 1938. He married at Baltimore on June 12, 1883 Mary Eugenie Dougherty, the daughter of J. J. C. Dougherty and Mary E. Stapleton (died October 3, 1882). His wife was born June 22, 1852 and died in Baltimore March 13, 1935. He joined the Episcopal Church at the time of his marriage and he and his wife were very active church workers. He is still living (1940).

William Taylor Abercrombie and Mary Eugenie Dougherty had issue 3 sons and 3 daughters:

1. Mary Eleanor, born at Baltimore February 29, 1884—unmarried.
2. Walter, born at Baltimore March 1, 1888; died May 6, 1891.
3. Helen Marguerite, born at Baltimore January 20, 1890—unmarried.
4. Lillian Ward, born at Baltimore February 25, 1893—unmarried.
5. William Taylor, born at Baltimore November 9, 1894. Married (first) at Baltimore on September 3, 1919 Grace Ethel Miller, daughter of William J. and Margaret C. Miller. No issue. Married (second) at Moorestown, New Jersey, January 6, 1939 Lucy Alvey Brude.
6. Reginald Eugene Stapleton, born at Baltimore May 10, 1897. Married at Baltimore June 3, 1922 Ruth Jarvis Beauchamp, daughter of Isaac Frank and Ida Elizabeth Beauchamp. They have issue 2 sons and 2 daughters:
  - I. David Eugene, born Baltimore December 1, 1923.
  - II. James Reginald, born Baltimore January 6, 1927.
  - III. Ruth Elaine, born Baltimore March 31, 1928.
  - IV. Mary Elizabeth, born Baltimore December 14, 1933.



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