

The Abernathys



By
MABEL B. McCLURE



SALTOUN HALL
Home of Abernathys near Edinburgh, Scotland

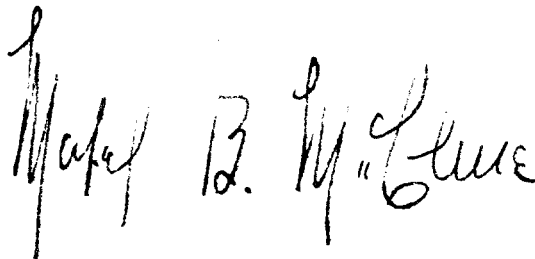
The Abernathys

The Alexanders

The Forneys

The Sims

COMPILED BY
MABEL B. McCLURE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mabel B. McClure". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

BAER'S PRINTERY
ENID, OKLA.
JANUARY 1934

A HISTORY OF THE ABERNATHY FAMILY
and
GENEALOGY OF OPHELIA ABERNATHY McCLURE
THE SIMS
THE FORNEYS

Compiled by
Mabel Byron McClure
May, 1931.

DEDICATED

To MY MOTHER, Whom I never knew
To MY GRANDFATHER, Mark L. Abernathy
To MY UNCLE, Frank Abernathy
Who taught me to love the outdoors.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Miss Elizabeth Denty Abernathy of Pulaski, Tennessee, for most of the Genealogical Records of the first four generations of Abernathy's. She herself has published a short history of the Abernathy Family. And to my Great Uncle Miles Abernathy, who had written out in detail his own family history. These letters of his were given me by Elizabeth D. Abernathy. Without their records, the compilation of this genealogy would not have been possible. To them both, the Abernathys owe a great debt of gratitude. Clara Hesse Hudson also made valuable contributions to this history.

A short time before the death of Elizabeth D. Abernathy which occurred in August 1932, she wrote me that she hoped that her mantle as Historian of the Abernathy Family would fall on my shoulders. She sent me most of the data she had collected and urged me to continue the research for 'missing links', and to arrange materials and data she had accumulated for permanent preservation.

In compliance with her wishes and to honor the trust bestowed upon me, I have arranged for the publication of the material bequeath-

ed me. I regret that it has been so unworthily done—hastily and without the proper revision, but perhaps it will prove a source book for future 'Livy' of our clan, when he appears on the horizon to emblazon the deeds and lives of the noble family of Abernathys who have made the world a better place to live in. Cousin Elizabeth deserves a wreath of Immortelles for her contribution. As a tribute to her and her efforts, this book is published.

The letters of my great Uncle, Miles Turner Abernathy, which she had saved, were in the bequest to me. I have published them in this book. They, too, deserve a permanent place in our history.

The Wills of David Abernathy, Sr., and Robert Abernathy may also be found; included for many specific reasons.

To honor Elizabeth D. Abernathy and Miles Turner Abernathy former historians of the Abernathy Clan, may I present to you the records of our ancestors, compiled by them. We owe them much.

All honor to them and to the Abernathy Clan!

As a loving tribute to their precious memory and their accomplishments this unworthy compilation is spread on the scrolls of the Abernathy Family History.

M. B. McC.

ABERNATHY FAMILY

William Abernathy came from Scotland in 1670 and settled in Branford, Connecticut.

The Abernathy family is one of the oldest and best known in Scotland. It has been prominent in Scottish history for more than 1300 years. In its veins run the blood of Robert Bruce. It embraces in its history Barons, Earls, Lords, and Peers of Realm. It contains a long line of men, prominent in every profession in civil life, its military history boasts a Lt. General in the British army.

Chronicles of old Pictish Kings ascribe its foundation to Nathan I, King of Scotland 458. Register of St. Andrews gives it to Nathan II, 600. Honorable John S. Abernathy, Barrister at Law, in the life of his father James Abernathy, F. R. S., a civil engineer says: The Abernathy family is one of the oldest in Scotland and one of the original three who shared the transcendent privilege of sanctuary.

"That is ye blak Prest of Weddale
The Thane of Fyfe and ye third syne
Quhalwyre the Lord of Abernathy."

The name is derived from two words Aber and Nethy. Aber means Ford and Nethy refers to the river Nethy or in other words the full name means a ford in the river Nethy. Where the river Nethy joins its waters with the Earn, there is the town of Invernethy. A mile further up there is a ford and a town Abernethy.

Its line of royal blood is represented thru Lady Margaret Erskine, a descendant of David I, King of Scotland. One of her descendants married an Abernathy. Rutherfords of New York, Stuyvesants, Pierponts and other prominent N. Y. S. are from this line of descent.

It is remarkable how certain christian names have been preserved in the family. John, William, James, David.

John Abernathy, 1680, was a great divine and a scholar.

John Abernathy, also a great surgeon and writer of medical books.

James Abernathy, a great civil engineer; built docks at Falmouth, Swanson, Alexandria in Egypt, Manchester Canal; associated with deLesseps in building the Suez Canal.

Abernathy has three coats of arms: 1 Lord Saltoun branch is represented by a Lion rampant crossed by a ribbon. 2. Douglas branch; Parrot feeding on a bunch of cherries, supported by two armed folcons. 3. A device similar to that of Earl of Angus.

WILLIAM ABERNATHY, Scotland settled in Branford, Connecticut, 1670. (Hinman history of Puritans listed as Scotch Puritan) married twice: 1. In 1673 to Sarah, 2. to Elizabeth. Moved to

Wallingford, Connecticut, where they had several children. Oldest son William, born July 25, 1675.

William, Jr., married Lois Gaylord of Wallingford, Connecticut, September 26, 1733; 12 children. Oldest son Caleb died in 1759; his son John being executor of will.

John married Lucy Washburn in 1762; had 6 children.

Lydis Butler Miner, aunt of Major General Butler, famous in Civil war.

Son Waite Abernathy, Washington, Conn., 1800, married Sally Powell 1805. 3 children: Delia, John, William.

(Do not know if this family is connected with our branch of Abernathy or not.)

OUR BRANCH ABERNATHYS

Taken from Bristol Parish Register 1720-1789, Virginia.

1. John, son of Robert and Mary Abernathy born 1723.
2. David, son of Robert and Mary Abernathy born May 29, 1726.
Our ancestor.
1. Robert, son of Robert and Sarah Abernathy, born March 7, 1742.

John died in Brunswick in 1813. His sons were Charles, John, Frederick, Robert, Buckner, Joshua, Smith and Herbert.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, BOARD OF PENSIONS
WASHINGTON

August 5, 1930

In reply refer to MMHF:MLB
Rev. and 1812 Wars Section

Mabel B. McClure
Enid, Oklahoma.
Dear Madam:

You are advised that it appears from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, S. 1609, that David Abernathy was born July 29, 1759, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

While residing in Lincoln County, North Carolina, he served with the North Carolina troops, as follows:

One month in Captain McLain's Company, no dates given; from August to October (year not stated), in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, under General Rutherford; in 1781, three months in Captain Jack's Company.

He was allowed pension on his application executed November 20, 1832, at which time he was living in Giles County, Tennessee.

There are no data as to family.

Very truly yours,

E. W. Morgan, Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Pensions.

EXCERPTS FROM "THE HISTORY OF NEWTON, LAWRENCE,
BARRY AND McDONALD COUNTIES, MISSOURI.

Published by the Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888, Page 1011.

BARRY COUNTY.

"Marcus L. Abernathy, clerk of Barry County, Mo., was born in Giles County, Tenn., in 1830, and is the son of John Y. and Matilda (Alexander) Abernathy. John Y. Abernathy was born in North Carolina in 1806, of Scotch parentage. When a small boy he was taken by his father, David Abernathy, to Maury County, Tenn. It was here that he grew to manhood and married. He chose farming for his life vocation and soon after his marriage he removed to Giles County, Tenn., where he resided until his death in 1849. He served in the Seminole war. His wife was born in Maury County, Tenn., and died in 1854. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living. They are Ann (wife of Jacob Yokley, who resided on the old

Abernathy homestead in Giles County). Marcus L., Miles T. (a real estate agent, of Barnum, Texas), Louise J., (wife of John W. Story, of Williamson County, Tenn.) Sarah C., (Mrs. G. Dupree) and Milton S. (a saddler of Rocky Comfort, Mo.) Marcus L. was educated in a pioneer log schoolhouse in Tennessee. He grew to manhood on a farm, making his home with his parents until he was past twenty-one years of age. In 1851 he left his native state for Greene County, Mo., where he purchased land and resumed farming. In 1854 he married Nancy J. Sims, a native of Greene County, Mo., born in 1836. She became the mother of eight children, viz: Mary, wife of Archibald Hessee, a hardware merchant of Cassville,) Ophelia M., (deceased wife of W. T. McClure), William A., (a farmer), Ida (wife of J. B. Hessee, a farmer), Fannie, Frank, Minnie and Walter. In August, 1861, Mr. Abernathy enlisted in the Confederate army, joining Company A, Third Regiment of Missouri Cavalry. During the battle of Pea Ridge on March 7, 1862, he was severely wounded by the bursting of a shell. It was necessary on account of the wound to amputate his left leg near the hip. After the war he clerked in a store at Ebenezer, Mo., until 1871, when he removed to Cassville. Soon after he became deputy clerk of Barry county and in 1874 was elected clerk. He has served his constituents so faithfully and well that he has been re-elected at each succeeding election, being the present incumbent. He is a man of the people, universally respected by all parties, and is an adherent to Democratic principles. He is a consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and is a member of I. O. O. F., and A. F. & A. M. His wife died in 1879."

GENEALOGY OF MARCUS L. ABERNATHY

Barry County, Missouri

Compiled by Mabel B. McClure

1. ROBERT ABERNATHY, SR.

Lived in Bristol Parrish, Virginia, 1720-1772

Wife's name Mary; 6 children

1. John, baptized 1723
2. David, baptized May 29, 1726
died 1814, will made 1808. (Will may be found herein)
3. Robert, will made in 1772 or 1792.
4. Miles, born 1730; will made in 1789.
5. Mary Smith.
6. Ann Turner.

In his WILL Robert, Sr., (which was filed in Tyron County, N. C. in 1772) gives the names of his six children as given above. The Will was witnessed by James Abernathy, David Critz and David Abernathy. Will probated July term of Court, 1772. Three of Robert's sons, Robert, David and Miles died in Lincoln County, North Carolina, and their wills may be found in county records. John remained in Virginia, Brunswick County and his will may be found in Brunswick county records, Virginia.

MILES married the Widow Goode, whose maiden name was Sarah Anne Jones. Bill of Sale, Oct. 2, 1804, this Sarah Anne Abernathy sold her son Robert of Kentucky several negro slaves. This Robert married Sara Nichols, June 23, 1783.

2. DAVID ABERNATHY, SR.

baptized May 29, 1726; died in Lincoln County, N. C., in 1814.

married Ann Turner in Virginia; 11 children:

1. Joseph
2. Robert
3. Pattie, married David Abernathy, son of James.
4. David, married Christina Forney May 27, 1780
5. John, mar. Susan Forney April 21, 1784, 1 son, John D. (Turner Abernathy surety)
6. Turner, married Disney Abernathy Dec. 15, 1788
Wm. Hager surety
7. William (Big Billie), married Winifred Kimbrel January 1, 1799
8. Moses, married Susan Bynum Jan. 29, 1803
Jas. Abernathy surety
9. Nancy, married General Peter Forney Feb. 27, 1783,
12 children. Joseph Henry surety

10. Betsy (The beautiful), married Ephraim Perkins Feb. 1, 1796. Peter Forney surety.
 11. Miles, married Susan Pear.
Miles will is recorded in Lincoln County, N. C. records;
Miles was a member of N. C. legislature;
3 sons: David, Luther and Milton.
3. DAVID ABERNATHY: Our Revolutionary Ancestor. Pension No. S1609
Fourth son of David, Sr., and Ann Turner;
born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, July 29, 1752.
died in Giles County, Tennessee, in 1838
married Christina Forney May 27, 1780 in Lincoln County, N.C.
Christina was the daughter of Jacob and Marie Forney, sister of
Gen'l Peter Forney and Major Abram Forney. She was born
in North Carolina in 1762 and died in Giles County, Tenn., 1842.
DAVID enlisted in the N. C. Revolutionary army and served with
troops of Cap't McLain's army; also in the expedition against
the Cherokees with Gen'l Rutherford; and was three months
with Captain Jack's army. He helped capture Major Andre.
The gun he carried on this occasion is the property of Rev. John
Abernathy, pastor Epworth Methodist church South and a prom-
inent Oklahoma Mason.
Daughters of American Revolution Lineage Number for this
David Abernathy is 269382.
Nine children: names as follows:
1. Milton
 2. Ephraim; twice married
First wife was a Dickinson and had three children:
1. Edward Littleton; 2. Jane; 3. Emily.
Second wife's name unknown or children.
 3. Littleton; no data
 4. John Young; married Matilda Sharp Alexander in 1827
11 children.
 5. Robert G., no data
 6. Sina, married Matthew Johnson in 1818
 7. Drucilla, married James Timon
1 son, Judge John Abernathy Timon of Tennessee
 8. Dionysia, married David Roper
1 daughter Kizzie Roper, married Jackson McKnight
1 son, David Abernathy McKnight, Lebanon, Mo.
 9. Susan, married a McGee of Lynnville, Tenn.
4. JOHN YOUNG ABERNATHY: Fourth son of David and Chris-
tina Abernathy.
born November 27, 1798

died Oct. 29, 1849, in North Carolina
buried in Yokeley cemetery, Tenn.
married Matilda Sharp Alexander in 1827 (daughter of Silas and
Sarah Reece Alexander.) 10 children:

1. Almanza Ann
born Feb. 18, 1829; married Jacob Yokeley in 1850
Children's names: William, Delia, Fannie Josephine,
Sophronia, John A., Sarah Elizabeth, Andrew, Isaac,
Marcus, Mary Forrest, James Henderson, Susan Matilda,
Robert Lee.
(Husband Jacob Yokeley born July 12, 1822; died 1909)
Both buried in Yokeley Cemetery, Tenn.
2. Marcus
born March 16, 1830, married Nancy Jane Sims in 1854
died May 30, 1914.
3. Drusilla D.
born Aug. 1, 1832
married W. A. Richey; 1 son, Will.
4. James Ephraim
born Jan. 6, 1834
died 1884
married Cassandra McCleary Sept. 5, 1858
born Dec. 5, 1839
died Jan. 23, 1912
4 children; John, David Y., Fannie, Annie.
5. Louisa Josephine
born Dec. 23, 1835; married John Story
4 children: Milton, Hugh, Della, Jake.
6. Miles Turner
born Dec. 29, 1837; died Jan. 31, 1917.
died a bachelor.
7. Sarah C.
born Feb. 1, 1840; married G. Dupree
children: Mattie Young, Eula, Joe, Ben.
8. David R.
born Oct. 31, 1842; married
1 child named Maude
David went on a trip to the Black Hills and never returned.
It was rumored that he was killed by Indians.
9. Milton
born August 31, 1843
died Jan. 23, 1922. Never married.
10. Robert G. "Esq. Bob"

born Sept. 20, 1848; married Martha Fry; six children:

1. John
2. Peggy Ann
3. William
4. Turner
5. Forney
6. Martin Van Buren

5. **MARCUS L.**

Born in Giles County, Tenn. Son of John Y. and Matilda Sharp Alexander; grandson of David and Christina F. Abernathy; 1851 moved to Greene County, Mo.; 1854 married Nancy Jane Sims; 1861 enlisted in Confederate army joining Company A. 3rd Missouri Regiment, Missouri Cavalry; 1861 severely wounded at battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., by bursting of a shell which necessitated the amputation of his left leg near the hip; 1871 moved to Cassville, Mo. Served as County Clerk for sixteen years, then retired to a farm near Cassville, Mo.

Nancy Jane Sims

born March 26, 1836

died July 30, 1879; married in 1854; 10 children:

1. William, married Laura Hawks
4 children: Flora, Kate, Venia, George.
2. Mary; married Arch Hessee
3 children: Claude, Clara, Bert.
3. Ida, married Bedford Hessee
11 children.
4. Fannie, married Dr. Elliott, Havana, Illinois.
5. Ophelia, married Walter Tennant McClure
4 daughters: Mabel, Ethel Jane, Maude, Edna Ophelia.
6. Minnie, married E. C. Drake, Beaumont, Tex, now Cala.
1 son Ezra now deceased.
7. Frank, married Lily Perrine
3 children: Gladys, Frank, Virginia.
8. Cora, born Aug. 19, 1867, died Nov. 21, 1872.
9. Leonard, born July 29, 1879, died Aug. 9, 1879.
10. Walter, born Aug. 18, 1874, died Dec. 2, 1913.

MARCUS L. ABERNATHY CHILDREN

OPHELIA ABERNATHY

married Rev. W. T. McClure, M. E. Church South

Ophelia born Aug. 24, 1858

died Jan. 20, 1887; married Aug. 26, 1878.

W. T. McClure, born Dec. 9, 1856; died Sept. 17, 1932

4 daughters:

1. Mabel Byron, Librarian, Enid, Okla.
2. Ethel Jane, died Springfield, Mo., June 25, 1905
3. Maude Mira, married Harry Snare, Gretna, Neb.
4. Ophelia, died in infancy.

MARY ABERNATHY, married Arch Hesse

Mary born May 3, 1857; died Nov. 17, 1907

Arch, born Feb. 20, 1848; died Feb. 27, 1923

married Feb. 14, 1875; 3 children

1. Claude, married Willie Hobbs, 2 daughters:
Margaret, married Key Browning, Harrisonville, Ark.
Helen Mary.
2. Clara, married Harris Hudson, Cassville, Mo.;
2 sons: Ralph, married Virginia Heffey
3 children: James Harris, Joe Allen, Mary Jane.
Clara died Nov. 1932
Ralph died Nov. 1932.
Arch Allen married Mabel Slead.
3. Bert unmarried; died Oct. 1932.

FAMILY OF IDA ABERNATHY, daughter of Marcus L. Abernathy

Married Bedford Hesse; 11 children:

1. Guy married Ida Dewey; 4 children
Leonard, Donald, Ruby, Mary.
2. Fred, married Flo Sullivan; 2 children:
Marc and Dick.
3. Eula married W. C. Hawkins; 1 son:
John Bedford.
4. Elmer married Lillian Rodawall; 6 children:
Robert, Marvel, Mabel, Lee, Paul, Pauline.
5. Lela married T. H. Hickman; no children.
6. Janie
7. Joe, deceased.
8. Earl married Lela Erwin; 2 children:
Jeanette and Betty.
9. E. C. married Sadie Patten.
10. John, married Prebble Lewis; 1 child:
Joyce.
11. Mark, married Bernice Edmon; 3 children:
E. C., Billie, Florence.

FRANK ABERNATHY, son of Marcus L. Abernathy and Jane Sims
Abernathy,

born Jan. 19, 1871; died Feb. 19, 1907 in Kansas City, Kansas.

Buried in Cassville, Mo.. Most of this branch of Abernathy Family, Marcus L., his wife, brothers and children are buried in Cassville, Mo.

Married Lily Perrine; 3 children:

1. Gladys, 2. Frank, 3. Virginia.

EPHRAIM ABERNATHY'S CHILDREN

EPHRAIM; second son of David and Christina Forney Abernathy

Twice married; first wife was a Dickinson

two children by first marriage:

1. Edward Littleton
2. Jane M.
Second marriage, 1 daughter, Emily,
married M. W. Riggins.

1. EDWARD LITTLETON, married Nancy Jane Headlee, who
was first cousin to my grandmother, Nancy Jane Sims.
3 children; 1. Robert; 2. Jane; 3. Emily.

1. Robert Perkins, married Lizzie Evans, 3 children:

- a. Horace Evans, married Ethel Faulkner
1 daughter, Margaret Jane.
- b. Robert Turner, married Frieda Payne, 3 chil.
1. Twins; William Payne, Robert Payne
2. Cora Beth
3. Joe Edward
- c. Berneice Edwina, married Elvin Appleby
3 boys:
1. Robert
2. Paul
3. Elvin

2. Mary Belle, married Adam Thompson, banker in
Amity, Mo., in 1886; 2 children:

1. Mary Emily, married Dr. Glen Johnson
2. William Edward, married Lola Robertson,
2 children:
1. Annie Jean
2. William Adam
3. Lily May, unmarried died Mar. 1934

2. JANE, married William Jackson

3. EMILY, married M. W. Riggins

N. B. Nancy Jane Headlee, Springfield, Mo., had one sister, Mary Headlee, who married James Montgomery; they had two children; John Crockett Montgomery, deceased, and Mary Luella, who married John T. Hays, San Francisco; 1 son, Brooks Hays, married Minnie ? and had one daughter, Virginia Hays.

JAMES EPHRAIM ABERNATHY'S FAMILY

4th son of John Y. and Matilda Sharp Alexander.

born—? died 1884, Decatur, Texas.

married Cassandra McCleary, Sept. 5, 1858, at Ebenezer, Mo.

born Madisonville, Monroe County, Tenn., Dec. 5, 1839

died Jan. 23, 1912, Harbin, Texas.

4 children:

1. David Y. Abernathy, Okmulgee, Okla.
married Mary Sousebury, Harbin, Tex.
3 children: Garnett, Faye, John.
2. Rev. John Abernathy, Pastor Epworth Methodist Episcopal South, 18th and Douglas, Oklahoma City, Okla.
married Helen Hinman Oct. 16, 1907, Centralia, Mo.
3. Anna, married John Henson, Stephenville, Texas
13 children: Frank, Lela, Aminta, Ida, John, Ollie Dee, Gertrude, Newton, Rena, Pearl, Mabel, Bessie.
4. Fannie married Connor Carpenter, Ft. Worth, Texas
4 children: Clyde, Horace, Lorene, Johnnie Dee.

ROBERT G. ABERNATHY'S (ESQ. BOB) FAMILY

ROBERT G.

Tenth son of John Y. and Matilda Sharp Alexander

Grandson of David and Christina Abernathy.

married Martha Fry; 6 children:

1. John Fry married Emily Richey; 7 children.
2. Peggy Ann married Frank Richey, 2 girls
 - a. Eva (Mrs. Eva Lowry, Oklahoma City)
 - b. Bessie (Mrs. Bessis Brown, Oklahoma City)
3. William, died unmarried.
4. Turner, died unmarried.
5. Forney married Rebecca Mills; 5 children:
Edgar, Christina, Eva, Seth, Claude.
6. Martin Van Buren, married Kitty Thompson; 3 children:
Annie, Van, John, friend of Roosevelt.

CHILDREN OF JOHN FRY ABERNATHY

1. Will Turner Abernathy, married Flore Taylor; 2 children:
King Abernathy of Iowa Park, Texas.
Frances (Mrs. Carl Bradley) Temple, Texas.
2. Ida, married Joe Trice; 2 children:
Kathleen (Mrs. Norman Coleman) Bend, Oregon.
Marguerite (Mrs. J. R. Boyd) Burkburnett, Tex. No children
3. Maggie, married David Holvey, Lorena, Tex. No children.
4. Robert, married Bertha Cornforth, 1 son, Robert, deceased.
5. Alice, married Joe Trice; no children.
6. Mary, married Fred Cornforth; 1 son, John Cornforth, Waco, Tex.
7. Richey, married Kate Laughlin; 1 daughter, Janey Katherine Abernathy, Iowa Park, Texas.

FORNEY FAMILY

Wheeler's History of North Carolina
Jacob and Marie (Bergner) Forney

JACOB

born about 1721; died 1806; married Maria Bergner

3 sons and 4 daughters:

1. Jacob (1754-1840) married Mary Carpenter; 11 children
2. General Peter Forney, married Nancy Abernathy; 12 ch.
3. Major Abram, married Rachel Gabriel; 2 children.
4. Catherine, married Abram Earhardt.
5. Elizabeth, married John Young.
6. Christina, married David Abernathy; 9 children.
7. Susan, married John D. Abernathy.

See also Hunter's sketches of Western North Carolina. Christian Reinhart married Polly Forney in 1803. See Amer. Genealogy First Families V. 1., P. 695. LONG.

ALEXANDER FAMILY

(Matilda Sharp Alexander)
married John Young Abernathy; 4th son of
David and Christina Abernathy.

SILAS ALEXANDER

born in Virginia; moved to North Carolina; then to Maury,
County, Tenn.

died in Fayette County, Tenn; married Sarah Reece. Children:

1. George Reece
2. Frank Houston
3. Silas G.
4. James O.
5. Daniel
6. Margaret
7. Caroline
8. Louisa
9. Priscilla
10. Matilda Sharp
11. Esther

ABERNATHYS BURIED In Yokeley Cemetery, Tennessee

David and Christina Abernathy.

John Young and Matilda Sharp Abernathy,

Their daughter Drucilla Abernathy Richey.

Milton P. Abernathy, born March 23, 1785; died Jan. 10, 1841

Son of David and Christina.

Martha Abernathy, born 1803; died 1841.

(Do not know who she was)

BUCKNER ABERNATHY McKINNEY

Banker of Dallas, Texas. Vice President of First National Bank
and on Federal Reserve Bank Board.

He is a descendant of David Abernathy but connection not yet
worked out.

His grandfather was Richard Abernathy; he married a Miss
Tarpley. Their daughter Catherine was twice married. Her first hus-
band was Thomas Clarke McKinney. They had two children; Buck-
ner Abernathy, Jr., and Hallie Frances McKinney.

Buckner A. McKinney married Lucile Geers, Sept. 12, 1906.
They had three children.

Rebecca Catherine Abernathy McKinney married the second time
Mr. Carr, a prominent educator in Texas.

SIMS FAMILY

Mrs. Louis Brownlow (Bess Sims of Tennessee) states that her father, Thetus Willrette Sims, was a Representative in Congress for many years. His father's name was Paris or Parrish and he had several brothers, who also came from Virginia, and went to the Wantaga Settlement in Tennessee.

In an old account book of 1789 are the names of Matthew, Mark, John and Paris Sims. These are still family names. Name of Mrs. Brownlow's grandfather was Matthew Sims. Several Sims served in the Revolutionary war. A great uncle of Mrs. Brownlow's, Robert Sims, used to tell her about visiting his grandfather in North Carolina and hearing him tell of the Crossing of the Delaware with Washington. His name was also Paris Sims.

On the wall of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia is inscribed the name of Col. Charles Sims, Mayor of Alexandria. He was also of the 106th Regiment, Virginia Militia and an officer on General George Washington's staff. One of his descendents is Dr. Lewellyn Powell of Alexandria.

These facts are all yet gleaned, but hope some day to find the connecting links. There is a relationship existing between these families but just what is not known.

GENEALOGY OF NANCY JANE SIMS

Since compiling the history of the Abernathy family in 1931, Mrs. Alice Robberson Holland (Mrs. Lee Holland of Springfield, Mo.) has given some new data on the Sims family. She states that her grandmother, ELVIRA SIMS, was a ~~sister~~ of my grandmother Nancy Jane Sims. That in this family there were seven girls and seven boys all of their names are not definitely known, or the first names of the parents. Mrs. Holland says that the older Sims children were born in Fairfax County, Virginia, then later moved to South Carolina. Mrs. Holland's great grandmother's name was a DUKE. ~~There may have been two marriages for~~ my great grandmother was an ADAMS. They moved to Springfield, Greene County, Mo. in the fall of 1831. One of the sons lived in Van Buren, Arkansas, and was 108 years old when he died. I am not sure that the following genealogy is correct, but hope some one will give me the correct data.

ROBERT SIMS: Father. ~~Perhaps had two wives:~~

A DUKE of South Carolina

AN ADAMS, (Mary or Alice?)

14 children: 7 boys and 7 girls.

1. ELVIRA SIMS

married Bennett Robberson; had ~~several~~ children.

Dr. Edwin Taylor Robberson, M. D., was one of the sons; married Elizabeth Sproul, cousin of Jefferson Davis and a relative of Captain Joe Davis of Revolutionary fame; his records may be obtained in Stanford, Kentucky. 6 children:

1. Belle, married Dr. William Otterson; 1 daught., Emily.
2nd marriage to Mr. James Dunn
1 daughter, Mary Dunn Turner, of England. 1 daughter.
2. Hattie, married John Morris; several children.
3. Walter, married Emma Hardin; 2 daughters.
4. Bess, married Arthur Taylor.
5. Georgia, married Robert Clark; 3 children:
 1. Elizabeth, married Dr. Winifred Post.
 2. Julia.
 3. Robert.
6. Lydia, married Arch Johnson; 2 daughters:
 1. Mary Jane.
 2. Helen.

2. NANCY JANE SIMS

born March 26, 1836; died July 30, 1879.

married Marcus L. Abernathy in 1854; 10 children:

1. William, married Laura Hawks
4 children: Flora, Kate, Venia, George.
2. Mary, married Arch Hessee.
3 children: Claude, Clara, Bert.
3. Ida, married Bedford Hessee; 11 children.
4. Fannie, married Dr. Elliott.
5. Ophelia, married Rev. W. T. McClure; 4 daughters.
6. Minnie, married E. C. Drake; 1 son.
7. Frank, married Lily Perrine; 3 children.
8. Cora, died in infancy.
9. Walter.
10. Leonard H., died in infancy.

For a complete history of this family see the History of "The Abernathy Family" under Marcus L.

3. FRANCIS LANIER SIMS

married George R. Barrett

5 children:

1. Mary Jane, married William A. Reed; 6 children:
 1. William E. Reed, married Maggie May Guthrie
 2. Joseph, married Alice Tower
 3. Georgia May, married Robert L. Carpenter

4. John A. (Hal) ., married Edith White
5. Lawrence, married Olivia Smead
6. Eugene B.
2. Annie M., married Alfred Ball
3. John R., married Allie Pipkin
4. George R., married Rebecca Browning
5. Frank, died in infancy.

This information was given by Hal Heed, N. Y. Life Insurance Company, Springfield, Missouri, a grandson of Frances L. Sims Barrett.

4. MARY SIMS

married John Headlee.

Lily Abernathy and George R. Barrett of Neodesha, Kansas have supplied the names of seven brothers of Elvira, Nancy Jane and Frances Lanier Sims and they are as follows:

1. Washington
2. Briggs
3. Zach
4. Robert
5. James
6. Leonard H.
7. Nat (Doc. Sims)

James Sims was one of the early settlers of California; his family now live in the state of Nevada.

Puss Sims name was Sadie.

Leonard H. Sims served as a Representative in Congress from Greene County, Mo., from 1845-1848. He also held many local offices in Greene County, Mo., during his lifetime.

Mrs. Joel Sanford Hindman, of Seattle, Washington, and Hope, Idaho, was a descendant of the Sims family. She also had a daughter.

There are three SIMS sisters whose names are not known, if Mr. Holland is correct and there were really seven girls and seven boys. Mrs. Hindman may be a descendant of one of those three.

Some day I hope to have a complete record of the Sims family. I will appreciate any additional information concerning them.

THREE SIMS REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SIMS, Alexander Dromgoole.

Representative in Congress from South Carolina. 29th and 30th sessions. 1840-1844 until year of his death. Had been re-elected in 1848 to the 31st Congress; died in Kingtree, Williamsburg County South Carolina. Buried in First Baptist Cemetery in Darlington, South Carolina.

He was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, near Randals Ordinary, June 12, 1803. Attended University of N. C. Chapel Hill. Graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y. Practiced law and admitted to Bar in 1829, and practiced in Darlington, N. C.

SIMS, Leonard H.

Representative in Congress from Missouri, 29th Congress, March 4, 1845, March 3, 1848. He was born in North Carolina and lived in Springfield, Mo., Greene County. He is no doubt a relative of ours. In all probability brother of Jane and Elvira.

SIMS, Thetus Willrette.

Representative in Congress from Tennessee, elected as democratic Representative to 55th Congress and to the eleven succeeding Congresses. March 4, 1897, March 4, 1921.

He was born near Waynesboro, Wayne County, Tenn., April 25, 1852. Graduated Law Department Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., June 1876. Practiced in Linden, Perry County, Tenn.

After retiring from Congress, settled in Lexington, Tenn.

MY SUMMER IN SCOTLAND

I arrived in Scotland, July 4, 1931, the day King George and Queen Mary came to Edinburgh on their Royal Scotsman. The city was gaily decorated in their honor and the newspapers daily announced their itinerary, so it was an easy matter to see them. They worshipped at St. Giles Church and we had a good view of them there as they entered; another of the Queen and the Duchess of York at Holyrood Castle as they departed. I feel quite sure we saw them both in a store in Edinburgh. A chance acquaintance reported that she was locked in the Art Gallery with the Royal Family for two hours and "that the Queen looked at me twice." The Queen did not look at me but I had several good looks at her of which she was blissfully unconscious, but it gave me a great thrill nevertheless.

But a greater thrill than seeing the King and Queen was the meeting of the delightful Abernathy family in Edinburgh. Knowing that my forbears all came from bonny Scotland, I chanced to look through the telephone directory for names of the family who might be residents of the city. My heart almost stopped beating when the first name I read was DAVID Abernathy—great Caesar's ghost—that was the identical name of my Revolutionary ancestor who helped capture Major Andre. I called at once and was informed that Mr. Abernathy was playing golf. His wife later called and invited us to Tea. It was a great experience for me to be entertained in a Scotch

home and to have the exceedingly great pleasure of meeting this David Abernathy and several members of his family. At 104 Mayfield Road. Mr. and Mrs. Abernathy received and cordially welcomed us. Mr. Abernathy was a delightful, genial gentleman, along in years. Formerly with the Internal Revenue office, he has now retired. A son, David Norman Abernathy, who served during the entire four years in the World War with a Scottish Regiment, was a most charming young man. At that time, he was connected with an Insurance Company. He had married a French girl during the war and had a young son David, who was also present at the tea. A daughter, Mrs. Stewart, was also a guest and we were happy to meet her. Another son, associated with Thos. Nelson Publishing Company and a younger daughter, we did not have the pleasure of meeting. There was much talk of Abernathy history and plans for establishing the relationship with that family and mine were made, but so far, no progress has been made.

It was with great regret that we bade farewell to our delightful host and hostess. It was an afternoon never to be forgotten.

Another day on a return trip from "Abbotsford", the beautiful home of Sir Walter Scott, we visited Melrose Abbey, where lies buried the heart of Robert Bruce. He was an ancestor of the Abernathys. As I stood by this sacred spot, I felt great pride in his achievements—perhaps I might be one of his descendants—how proud I would be to know that his blood flowed in my veins—but perhaps I shall never know. I gathered a few wild flowers and scattered them over the hallowed spot where his still heart rests in peace, but sends forth emotions of pride and joy today although many centuries dead.

It is said one of his friends by name of LEE brought back his heart from foreign soil to be buried in Melrose Abbey.

MABEL B. McCLURE.

THE WILL OF DAVID ABERNATHY, Sr., AUG. 1808

In the name of God, Amen.

I, David Abernathy, Sr., of the State of North Carolina, and County of Lincoln, being of sound mind and memory but feeling the weight of increasing years and old age, and calling to mind the mortality of the body, knowing it is appointed to all men once to die, do hereby make, ordain and establish this to be my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

And First, I bequeath my soul to God who gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent christian manner as my Executors shall direct.

Second: As to such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, I do give and bequeath in the following manner, viz:

The land I live on, negroes, horses, cattle, sheep and household furniture of every description and all property, I may die possessed of, I allow to my beloved wife, Ann Abernathy, to have the use of for and during the term of her natural life if she should live longer than I.

Third: Having heretofore given unto my children Joseph Abernathy, Robert Abernathy, Patty Abernathy, David Abernathy, Turner Abernathy, John Abernathy, William Abernathy, Moses Abernathy, Nancy Forney and Betsy Perkins, all the property I intended to give them and which I judged consistent with my circumstances, and considering my son Miles Abernathy, having charge of myself and his mother in old age, after my own and my wife's decease, I do hereby give and bequeath unto my son, Miles Abernathy and his heirs and assigns forever, the plantation on which I live, supposed to contain two hundred and twenty (220) acres or thereabouts joining lines with Turner Abernathy, William Abernathy, Richard Rosedale and Peter Forney's land; and the following negroes, viz: Tom, Jimmie, Anthony, Aleck, Eddie, Winnie, Lizzie, Mat, Olive, Louisa, together with their increase if any before my decease, and eight head of horse creatures. All my cattle, sheep, hogs, my household furniture, farming utensils, and property of every description of which I may die seized and possessed of, although not herein mentioned or specified, I do give and bequeath unto my son Miles Abernathy, after my wife's decease if she should live longer than I, provided nevertheless that the funeral expenses of myself and wife and all my just debts be paid out of my estate first.

Lastly, I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my beloved son, Moses Abernathy and Peter Forney, my son-in-law, executors of this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this the 24th day of August, 1808.

David Abernathy (Seal)

Signed, sealed, acknowledged in the presence of us by David Abernathy as his last Will and Testament.

J. Graham

Sam'l Saunders

John D. Graham.

This will was probated July, 1814.

WILL OF ROBERT ABERNATHY, 1772.

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Robert Abernathy, Sr., of Tyron County and Province of

North Carolina, being weak in body, yet of sound and perfect understanding and memory, thanks be to God, and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life, and knowing it is appointed unto all men once to die, and being desirous to settle things in order, do make and constitute and appoint this and no other to be my last will and testament in manner and form following; that is to say first and principally I give my soul to God, the giver thereof, in hopes to receive the same again at the joyful resurrection at the last day with a full and free pardon of all my sins and transgressions through the death and merits of my blessed Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken, to be buried in a decent and christian like manner and as to touching my worldly estate as the Lord in his mercy hath lent me, my will and meaning is that the same be employed and disposed of in the manner following, and first that all my just debts and funeral expenses be first paid. Item I leave, give and bequeath to my loving wife the labor of two negroes during her life to-wit, Will and Sue, and after her death I give these negroes with increase to my son Robert. I leave, give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Turner, five shillings, likewise to my daughter Mary Smith, five shillings. Item I leave, give and bequeath to my son John, five shillings, likewise to my son David, five shillings. Item I leave, give and bequeath to my wife aforesaid, her choice of my beds and furniture, also the use of what part of my stock as will be sufficient for her well support. Item I leave, give and bequeath to my son Miles, seven negro slaves, to-wit, Sue, aforesaid after my wife's decease, likewise Anthony, Jess, Joe, "Tom," Bet and Millie, together with all my other estate, real or personal with my outstanding debts. And lastly I do hereby appoint my son Miles aforesaid sole executor to this my last will and testament revoking and disannulling all other will or wills by me made allowing this and no other to be my last. In witness, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 31st day of January, 1772.

his
Robt. x Abernathy, Senr.
mark

Signed, sealed, published and declared in the presence of us
James Abernathy

his
David x Critz
mark

his
David x Abernathy
mark

Probate "July Term 1772.

LETTERS OF MILES T. ABERNATHY

Miss Lizzie D. Abernathy
Pulaski, Tenn.

August 11, 1911

Dear Madam:

Your letter to my sister, Sallie C. Dupree, nee Abernathy, has been referred to me and I take pleasure in giving you what ancestral information and data we possess. Being mutually interested in the lineage of our descent, we have many mutual interests and rejoice in the fact that we have been well born, and are heirs of these pious and patriotic men and women, who rendered it possible by their indomitable will and courage to open up the wilds of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee for a civilization to which we are the legal and legitimate heirs.

Following are names of our line of ancestors, as far back up the stream as we can trace them from our traditions and records:

Our grandfather, David Abernathy was of English descent and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War; he was born July 22, 1759; died Aug 28, 1838 and is buried at the Yokeley Cemetery, on Big Creek, Giles County, Tenn. Our family possess the gun which he carried while serving in the army—a flint lock rifle, the present custodian being David Y. Abernathy, a great-great grandson, of Harbin, Texas. David Abernathy was in the squad which captured the ill-fated Major Andre, the British officer to whose intrigue the covetous Arnold fell a prey. He was a native of Virginia but emigrated to North Carolina where he courted Christina Forney, a sister of Gen'l Daniel Forney of Revolutionary fame, the bride having been born in North Carolina in 1726; she died Dec. 7, 1842 and was buried beside her husband in the family cemetery, where plain lime stone rock mark their last resting place, but the monument to their patriotic and religious devotion to God and country, constitute a more enduring one than bronzed or marble statuary, into which their descendants have interred, and greatly enriched and beautified the lives of their descendants, and given strength and symmetry to their character.

Our grandmother, Christina Forney, was of German descent. They emigrated from North Carolina to Tennessee in an early period of settlement of Tennessee, and located near the waters of Bigby Creek, in what is now Maury County, Tenn., about eight miles southwest of Columbia. To the union of David and Christina Forney Abernathy was born nine children, as follows: Sons, Milton P.; Ephraim; Littleton; John Y.; Robert G.; daughters, Sina, Drucilla; Dionysia; Susan.

Our father, John Young Abernathy, married Matilda Sharp Alexander, daughter of Silas and Sarah (nee Reece) Alexander, natives of Virginia, but of Scotch descent, on Dec. 6, 1827. They lived together

in peace for 22 years, 1 month and 12 days. To this union was born 10 children as follows: Alamanza A.; Marcus L.; Drucilla; James E.; Louisa J.; Miles T.; Sarah C.; David R.; Milton S.; Robert G.

I am a bachelor and a Methodist of 73 years, but think I may set up some claim for redemption for myself and my younger brother, Milton, who is also a bachelor, for we assumed the care of our brother James E's widow and four children, among whom was two boys aged 5 and 7, David Y. and John, whom we reared and educated. The elder is a successful farmer at Harbin, Tex. (Now in Okmulgee, Okla.) and the younger is Rev. John Abernathy, a minister at the capital of the new state of Oklahoma, Guthrie. The two girls are happily married and have good homes in Texas.

They are the glory of our old age, for we can live only in the fruit of our bodies, or the good we do for others; my life is but a part of all that has touched it. Consider myself fortunate to have had grand ancestry, came under the influence of Godly men early in life, such as J. B. McFerin, T. O. Summers, and Bishop E. M. Marvin.

May I request an acknowledgement of this small and imperfect contribution, and I beg to add, that I am on a visit to my sister and my address while here will be No. 34 E. 9th, Columbia, Tenn. Later Dublin, Texas, R. F. D. No. 6 or Box 398, Guthrie, Okla.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles T. Abernathy.

Yokeley Home
Yokelek, Tenn.,

P. S. I had forgotten to state that 9 and 12 year old Louis and Temple Abernathy, who have for these past three years been so much in the limelight, on account of their horseback rides alone to New Mexico and New York are lineal descendants of Robert G. Abernathy, who is their great grandfather. I had the pleasure of a week's outing with their family on Lake Ellison, three miles out of Guthrie, Okla., and was conveyed thither in their new autos received in N. Y. My nephew and his wife, The John Abernathys, chaperoned the party, I having just arrived from Texas and transferred from train to auto. I am pleased to say that I was much impressed with Louis and Temple; they were bright boys, with most gracious and pleasing address.

I am enjoying my visit in my native hills, a few miles above Campbellville greatly. I am in the home of Jacob Yokley, deceased, who married my sister Alamanza A. Abernathy, in 1850, moving that year to this home, where they have resided continuously, until his death.

I was for years after the death of my parents, a guest in this home, where Jacob Yokeley showed me great kindness; to re-visit it is a great pleasure, but mingled with sadness and sorrow, for since

the translation of many loved ones, it seems different—I miss them greatly.

I trust you may be able to put in tangible form, the information enclosed.

I am, very truly yours,
Miles T. Abernathy.

Dublin, Texas, Nov. 8, 1911

Miss Lizzie D. Abernathy
Pulaski, Tenn.

Dear Cousin:

I returned home Nov. 1 on account of illness in the home and business. I have written several letters and will endeavor to enlist the western branches interest and send to you their contributions to the family history.

Have written to E. L. Abernathy's family in Springfield, Mo., R. R. No. 1; also the grandson of Esq. Robert G. Abernathy and William Turner Abernathy of Waco, Texas.

I suggest that you open correspondence with Cam McGee of Lynville, Tenn., R. R. No. 1, and D. A. McGee of Newburn, Tenn., who are sons of Susan McGee (nee Susan Abernathy,) daughter of David A. John O. Johnson of Austin and Drucilla F. Organ of Bastrop, Texas are also descendants of David A.; their grandmother was also his daughter, but I do not know her name but will, if possible, obtain it.

Sina Abernathy married Matthew Johnson of Giles County, Tenn. Dionysia Abernathy married David Roper of Big Creek, Tenn. Hope to send more data later. I am too nervous to write either well or rapidly but I will try to get my nephews interested; the preacher from Guthrie will make us a visit soon.

Hope you'll hear from all the Western branches, I am,

Very truly,
Miles Turner Abernathy.

Yokeley, Tenn., Nov. 18, 1911

Miss Lizzie D. Abernathy,
Pulaski, Tenn.

Dear Cousin:

Yes, call me 'Cousin' for the family records clearly authorize the fact. I esteem it an honor to have the privilege of contributing what I may to the enterprise in which you are engaged. I know nothing of Joe Abernathy. Robert G. Abernathy was Esq. Bob and great grandfather of the two boys who are now famous for long ride they made, and of whom you spoke in your last letter. Peggy Ann was

Esq. Bob's only daughter. He had five sons, the younger being Martin Van Buren, who is the grandfather of the two boys and resides in Frederick, Okla.

David's daughter, Dionysia, married David Roper and was the grandmother of Abernathy McKnight, whose mother was Kizzie Roper.

I am pleased to have been given the lineage of your family and am greatly obliged.

Yes, I knew the Richard A's. descendants well, both in Tennessee, Missouri and Texas, but little of White Bill, Jones or Burwell. I will, if my stay permits, try to visit you and W. L. A. of the Citizen's Bank, but believe I have reached the limit of my knowledge of ancestry in these letters already written to you. I congratulate both you and your co-laborers on your undertaking for it seems to me most praise worthy, if not a bounden duty to transmit to posterity of our tribe, the records and achievements of our fathers. I think some of David's most inspiring Psalms are those in which he speaks of the wondrous achievements of the Father, especially the 43rd.

I shall appreciate more than I can express, a copy of your book, which I trust may become a monument to you, more enduring than marble and more inspiring than gold.

Respectfully
M. T. A.

Dublin, Texas, Oct. 8, 1913.

Miss Lizzie D. Abernathy,
Pulaski, Tenn.
Esteemed Cousin:

Your favor of the 24th received and the delay in answering is not want of interest, I assure you, but I have rather an extensive correspondence, which has grown into somewhat of a burden, owing to my age, being 76 on December 29th, yet I am alive to the current events of this brighter and the best age of the world. I wrote for and received the booklet which you so kindly gave me as reference and I appreciated it and my opinion is that the Abernathys of Scotland are part of our family, judging from names common in both families, and which I found mentioned.

Yes, I received a copy of "The Citizen" giving a reference to grandfather David A. I failed in my effort to get my article published in the Columbia papers—I never knew why.

I am not sure for whom I was named; I heard it was from one of the Forney relations of North Carolina, but of this I can by no means say as to whether my ancestors bore the name of "Miles" but I think so. Christina Forney, sister of Gen'l David Forney, was my grandmother, as you know, and the wife of David Abernathy. I cannot say;

it is most probable, as it is clearly shown by your letters that name existed among the branches mentioned.

Jack Abernathy, whom President Roosevelt appointed U. S. Marshall for the Western District of Oklahoma, is a descendant of David Abernathy and Christina Forney—they were his great grandparents; Robert G. Abernathy was his grandfather and M. Van Abernathy, son of Robert G., was his father.

Have you the book written by my nephew, Rev. John Abernathy, giving an account of Jack's long ride to N. Mex., and N. Y. on horseback? If not, if you will write him Box 398, Guthrie, Oklahoma, he will be pleased to supply you.

I have used all my endeavors to induce the Abernathys of my own lineage, residing in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri to contribute to your laudable undertaking of compiling the family history, but no appeal seems to elicit any response. However, I am planning to spend some time in my nephew's home in Oklahoma and he is a ready and fluent writer and if permitted to do so, will endeavor to arrange and give the genealogies of David Abernathy and his descendants for a place in your book; but I've passed my threescore and ten years and am living on time borrowed indeed from eternity, therefore, I plan in reference to these facts, for all future enterprises.

I wish to express my very great obligation and pleasure at your interest in tracing our common descent, which I reciprocate most fully. I beg to congratulate you on progress made in work on your book, particularly since the show of interest on the part of those who, it seems to me, should feel an equal pride with yourself, is so lacking. It raises the question as to whether we are degenerating or not? But no Bible student but is impressed with the emphasis placed on keeping alive the memories of our fathers and the duties of transmitting to posterity of which the 44th Psalm is fitting confirmation. Be of good courage; your reward will not be measured by a lot of degenerate Abernathys, who like Esau, lightly esteem their glorious birthright.

Thanking you for your past favors and desiring their continuance, I am,

Most respectfully yours,
Miles Turner Abernathy

**A RURAL SCHOOLMASTER OF THE 19TH CENTURY
ELIZABETH DENTY ABERNATHY**

(Extracts from articles that appeared in The Progressive Teacher, 1902-1904.)

Thirty-five years ago it was my privilege to attend an old-fashioned country school in which one man, David Abernathy McKnight,

instructed forty or fifty pupils in spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, history, Latin, algebra, composition, physiology, physics, rhetoric, geometry, and other branches for which there was an occasional demand.

He came to our neighborhood in 1865, when we were poorer than we are today. There was no school building, no public library, not even an unabridged dictionary at his command. At first, he taught in an old blacksmith shop. Later, his pupils, all the different types usually found in communities remote from town and railway conned their lessons in the pews of our little country church.

Without assistance other than that afforded by common sense, simple methods, and well chosen text-books, he solved for himself and his patrons, the rural school problem of that period. He did very little teaching—that is, of the kind that is done today. Very carefully, however, he instructed us in the intelligent use of books.

Our text-books were simple but comprehensive. They furnished material and instruction necessary for the preparation of lessons with the teacher's constant supervision. He stimulated a spirit of emulation that encouraged us to master difficulties. In recitation, we did most of the talking. Much that the dull or indolent pupil failed to get from his text-book, he learned from intelligent presentation of the subject by his more successful classmates. Our teacher simply planned and directed the work.

Just a commonplace school, with commonplace teacher, and commonplace methods; but strange to say, whenever a pupil left that school to continue his studies in college or university, he took first rank, graduating with distinction in almost every case.

Mr. McKnight's Methods.

When I entered college at the age of sixteen, I had had but one teacher besides my mother. I was Mr. McKnight's pupil for eight years. He was not a very popular teacher in those days with some of his pupils and their parents, because he did not explain things as they thought he should. Why, he made us explain everything we found in our lessons to him and to each other. That was his method.

One class had such a time with an example in partial payments. For two weeks they declared every day that they could not get it. The class was composed of young men, some of whom had been in the army. How they ciphered! One of them had a large double slate and he covered all four sides of it with that example. The young men compared slates, and reviewed rules leading up to partial payments, trying to find the weak links in their mathematical chains. They worked morning, noon and night. Again and again they went over the rule for partial payments and the example that had been solv-

ed by the author.

When the class came to recitation on the eleventh or twelfth day they announced triumphantly, "We've got it!" And they had it—not the answer given in the book, but the only possible answer to the question stated. For two weeks Mr. McKnight had allowed those pupils to work for a given result, when he could have told them it was not the answer to the problem. Was there madness in his methods, or method in his madness?

In the business world do we not always work examples to find unknown results?

A COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE 19TH CENTURY ELIZABETH DENTY ABERNATHY

(Extract from "The Spirit of the South," a paper written for the New Orleans meeting of the Southern Conference for Education and Industry, 1916.)

Fifty years ago we had a great school in Pleasant Valley. We were all in it with our teacher—fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. It was our school. Our parents supported their teacher and his authority. "Mother, if Mr. McKnight should tell me to go to bed with my muddy boots on, you would say, 'Yes, son, sleep in your boots,'" declared a small boy of those days, who is now one of the leaders of Uncle Sam's military forces. Tyree Rivers and his brother, William, are still working and thinking their way through their problems, loyal to their old teacher to whom their father and mother were loyal—the teacher who led them to discover and develop their own latent powers. He taught us by showing us how to teach ourselves and each other. He did not claim to be anybody's leader. He served us; and because he served us, he became our leader, for we followed. We are following him still—our faithful teacher of the long ago.

LOOK AT HOME.

By Elizabeth D. Abernathy.
(Air, Dixie)

—1—

We wish we lived in a land of good roads,
Small teams could then pull their big loads,
Look at home! Look at home!
Look at home! Dixie Land!
Our Dixie is a land of mudholes;
Swimming lanes with teams of tad poles;
Look at home! Look at home!
Look at home! Dixie Land!

Chorus

Don't we hope to die in Dixie?
O say! O say!
For Dixie's Land let's take our stand,
To live and work for Dixie.
At home! At home!
At Home down south in Dixie.
At home! At home!
At Home down south in Dixie.

—2—

In Dixie's Land that we were born in,
Land of mud we now are stuck in—
Look at home! Look at home!
Look at home! Dixie Land!
The ruts and cuts and splash and spatter
Make us sad and a little sadder,
Look at home! Look at home!
Look at home! Dixie Land!

(Chorus)

—3—

Now, don't we want to end this sorrow?
Why not build good roads tomorrow?
Work at home! Work at home!
Let's drain and drag and haul the gravel;
In Dixie's Land we're bound to travel;
Work at home! Work at home!
Work at home! Dixie Land!

—34—

Dallas, Texas, November 13, 1930.

Miss Mabel McClure,
c-o Carnegie Public Library,
Enid, Okla.

Dear Miss McClure:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of the 9th in which you enclosed a copy of the Abernathy Family Tree which you said you would send me when you were in Dallas. I am glad to get this and also enjoyed the visit which you paid me.

As I think you detected when I was talking to you, I have a very great affection, as well as admiration, for the Abernathy family of Giles County and I am glad to be able to count myself one of them.

My father's name was Thomas Clarke McKinney. My mother's name was Rebecca Catherine Abernathy. My mother's father was Richard Abernathy and the maiden name of my mother's mother was Tarpley. I have her name at home but can't recall it at this minute. As I recall, the Tarpleys lived in the Southern part of Giles County and my grandmother Abernathy was herself related by blood to the Abernathys. My wife's name was Lucile Geers. We were married at Denton, Texas, on Sept. 12, 1906. I have two children, one Buckner Abernathy McKinney, Jr., twenty-one years old and the other Hallie Frances McKinney, who is eighteen.

I hope you get well acquainted with Doris McKinney for she is a fine girl. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you at some future time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

BAM-hm

B. A. McKinney.

OKLAHOMA ABERNATHYS

COLONEL JOHN R. ABERNATHY— Friend of President Theodore Roosevelt was the son of Van Abernathy and was born in Bosque County in 1876. Shortly after his parents moved with him to Sweetwater on Bitter Creek. He was a regular cowpuncher at the age of 9, could ride and shoot like an expert and loved the freedom of the big cattle ranges. Strangely enough he loved music in contrast to rough life he led. Presently this love of music mastered his love of the saddle and gun and he went to Galveston to study under Professor Taliaferro. But romance was waiting and he fell in love with a niece, the cultured young violinist, Jessie Pearl Jordan. No novel could match in color and adventure the love and flight of these two youngsters. Slipping away by night, Young Abernathy, with his skill and daring nature evaded the officials, using the sight of his pistol as a password several times. Five minutes after the marriage

ceremony, an officer touched Abernathy on the shoulder and said "you are wanted in Galveston". Abernathy laughed, "Too late" he answered.

Abernathy took his wife to Greer County before the Kiowa and Comanche country was opened up. There he began his picturesque career which brought him the title "The Cowboy Prince of the Southwest" and "Catch-em-alive-Abernathy." In 1905 came the remarkable feat of capturing wolves alive barehanded; his famous hunt with Theodore Roosevelt and other notables in Oklahoma, and later appointment as Field Marshall of the U. S. In later years, he left Oklahoma and went to Texas.

Col. Abernathy has just published a new book "In Camp with Theodore Roosevelt" published by the Times Journal Co., of Oklahoma City, which is an autobiography of his colorful career given in detail. I hope all of the family may have the opportunity of reading his story, written by himself. His two famous sons Louis and Temple have followed in their father's footsteps.

In President Theodore Roosevelt's book "Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter", he devotes 37 pages to the famous wolf hunt staged under the direction of Col. Jack Abernathy in the Big Pasture, Frederick, Oklahoma, April 8, 1905.

GENEALOGY OF COL. JOHN R. ABERNATHY

John R. Abernathy has given in his book "In Camp With Roosevelt" the following history of his family:

John R. Abernathy, called "Jack" Abernathy, was the second son and the fifth and youngest child of Martin Van Buren Abernathy and Kittie (Williams) Thomas Abernathy. He was born in Bosque County, Texas, January 28, 1876.

Robert Abernathy, his parental grandfather, was a native of S. W. Missouri living near Springfield, Mo., where he became prominent in mercantile lines and also engaged in extensive farming operations. About 1857, he migrated to Texas, settling near Waco, where he purchased the McGaha ranch; he strongly opposed Secession but his three sons, John, Forney, and "Van" (Martin Van Buren) all three entered the Confederate Army. Van joined the Waco Rifles, a company of 130 picked men and served with them through the war. This service was of the most arduous character. He went through the Vicksburg and Atlanta campaigns, was severely wounded and was captured a few months before the war ended, remaining a prisoner until hostilities ceased. After this he returned to his parents at Waco. His father had sold the McGaha ranch for Confederate money. The family fortune was at a low ebb, but Van, veteran of the

armies of a vanquished cause, was quick to sense the possibilities in the live stock industry, he therefore went into the business of buying and selling horses and mules. Within a year after he went into this business he met in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mrs. Kittie (Williams) Thompson, the widow of a confederate soldier, whom he married within a few days. She was the mother of four young sons and two daughters by first marriage. She was a woman of great intelligence, strong character, and attractive personality.

Col. John R. Abernathy was himself twice married.

A very romantic, runaway wedding was his first one; Jessie Pearl Jordan eloped with him and they were married at Cleburne, Texas after a romantic flight from Galveston. They settled in Greer County, Oklahoma.

These are the names of their children:

1. Kittie Joe Abernathy; educated at St. Ursuline Academy, New York; now Sister Mary Stanislaus, St. Joseph Academy Guthrie, Okla.
2. Vera Golda Abernathy
married John Branham, Wichita Falls, Texas.
3. Louis Van Abernathy
Prosecuting Attorney, Wichita Falls, Texas.
4. Johnnie Martin Abernathy
married Roy Ashton, Longview, Texas; 2 girls:
1. Mary Esta; 2. Jessie Belle.
5. Jessie Pearl Abernathy
married Charles Walker, Gainsville, Texas.
6. Theodora Lucille Abernathy
married Lee Phillips, Belva, Okla.

Louis and Temple were "the kids" wha made the famous ride.

His second wife was Mrs. Lillie McCarty, widow of Gainsville, Texas. Col. Abernathy married her in Denton, Texas, August 29, 1928. At that time he was operating in the Burkburnett Oil field, drilling the Moore No. 1 well. Mrs. McCarty had two sons by her first marriage. R. E. and Monroe McCarty of Gainsville, Texas.

TEMPLE AND LOUIS ABERNATHY

Sons of Col. John Abernathy, former U. S. Marshall of Oklahoma and a personal friend of President T. R. Roosevelt, gained fame for their ride across the country on horseback.

The youngest one was only three years old when his young mother died leaving six small children. He became an expert horseman and rode often with his father. Together they made many cross-country rides, making many of the journeys alone, as fearless and as enthusiastic as Colonel Abernathy had ever been. It was in 1911, I

believe, that the Philadelphia Enquirer carried the following story: "Lumbering throught the streets yesterday, with a small boy mounted on its swaying back, Old Judy, a 7600 pound elephant, emblematic of the Republican Party, was the cynosure of a thousand eyes. Behind it ambled a little donkey, Jennie, astride of which was another small boy, who smilingly acknowledged the plaudits of the throngs who gazed upon him and his minature steed with undisguised approval. These boys were Temple Abernathy and his brother Louis Abernathy, who had gained national fame by riding from their native Oklahoma to greet former President Roosevelt when he returned from his hunting expedition to Africa. The elephant and the donkey are participants in a novel race from Luna Park, Cony Island to Washington, D. C. The race was the result of a wager as to the fleetness and staying qualities of the two animals and was made by Frederic Thompson, the amusement man and Uncle Joe Cannon, famous old politician and former speaker of the House. Uucle Joe had bet several of his favorite cigars that the elephant, like the Republican Party could not be beaten by the democratic donkey. The race was not finished because the Humane Society objected. The attempted ride was made to Washington when Temple was 6 and Louis 10. The famous ride was made from New York to San Francisco when Louis was 11 and Temple 7 years of age. They set out to make the trip in 60 days, but completed it in 62 days. They thus lost the reward they were to have received had they made the trip in 60 days. Then they issued a challenge to any rider in the states. This picturesque incident in their career gained much notoriety for the boys. They stated they did not know what FEAR was. Their father had taught them many principles of honest living; things to be done and not to be done. But famous as they were, after many exhibitions and making pictures for the movies, and doing other stunts, Col. Abernathy and his sons became interested in oil operations in Texas.

REV. JOHN R. ABERNATHY

Rev. John R. Abernathy was born Oct. 26, 1879, near Hamilton, Texas. His father died when he was five years old and the family moved to Exeter, Mo., where for some years they lived with Uncle Miles and Mark Abernathy, later moving back to Texas and lived near Dublin. Attended school at Proctor, Texas, and later went to Neosho, Mo., where he graduated from Scarrit Collegiate Institute. Also studied at Vanderbilt School of Theology.

Entered the Southwest Missouri Conference in 1900 and remained a member of that conference until 1906 when he transferred to the Missouri Conference and served at Centralia and Rock Port in that conference, transferring to Oklahoma in 1908. Served six

years at Guthrie, seven years at Okmulgee, one year Presiding Elder Tulsa District, one year in Educational work, six years pastor at Chickasha, and now in his fifth year at Epworth, Oklahoma City.

Rev. Abernathy holds Ph. B. degree from Scarritt and D. D. from Oklahoma City University. In Masonry he is Grand Orator for the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Oklahoma, also Master of Kadosh, Oklahoma Consistory No. 1., and is a 33d degree Mason having been elevated to that degree at Washington, D. C. in 1915.

He was Charter President of the Okmulgee Rotary Club and is at present a member of the Oklahoma City Rotary Club and a member of the Board of Directors. He has been active in the Boy Scout organization since that movement was organized in 1910 and has continuously held a commission with the National Council since that date and was recently awarded a Veterans badge. At present is Commissioner of the Central Area Council, Boy Scouts of America; has also had a part in the work of the Chamber of Commerce wherever he has been and was a member of the Board of Directors at Okmulgee and Chickasha, and at present he is chairman of the Banquet Committee for the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to having served the church as pastor, presiding elder, Educational Secretary, Rev. Abernathy is a delegate to the General Conference which meets at Jackson, Miss., in April of this year, 1934.

Names of his parents, brothers and sisters may be found in the Abernathy genealogy. See James Ephriam Abernathy. He married Helen Hinman Oct. 16, 1907. Had one son who died in infancy.

2340 S. Street N. W.
Washington, D. C., 8th June, 1922

My dear Miss McClure:

I cannot let your delightful note of June 7th go by without acknowledgment. It gave me real pleasure and in return I wish to express my regret that I did not have the pleasure of greeting you in person and can only send this written message of friendship and cordial salutation.

I share your confidence that the Missouri democrats will in August thoroughly vindicate the honor and ideals of the party and the country. It is delightful to believe that they feel as you do.

With warmest good wishes,
Cordially and sincerely yours,

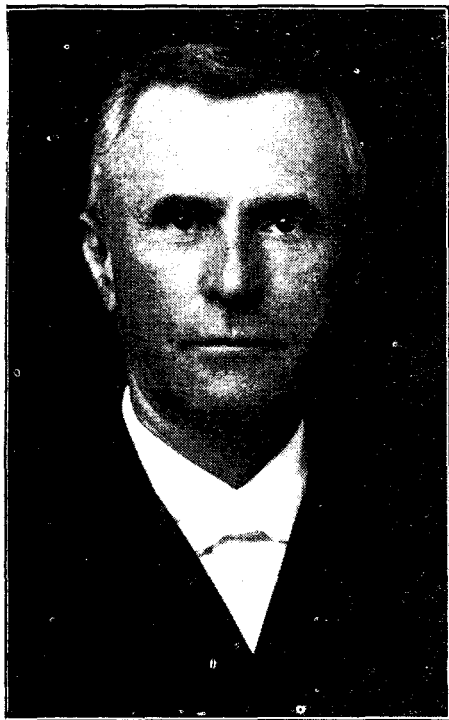
WOODROW WILSON.

Miss Mabel B. McClure,
Kansas City, Mo.

In explanation will say that I was in Washington, D. C. in June, 1922, and wrote Mr. Wilson that I was a Missouri Democrat and we had two things in common—the same birthday and the same opinion of Senator James A. Reed of Kansas City. Also that I regretted not seeing him, but since he was ill, I did not dare intrude. Later I saw him on his daily ride to Mt. Vernon and then sent him some flowers. Many times I sent him a birthday greeting, which he always acknowledged but formally. This letter is my prize treasure.

Mabel B. McClure

Family Album



1856- 1932
REV. WALTER TENNANT McCLURE, D. D.



MRS. OPHELIA ABERNATHY
McCLURE
Mrs. W. T. McClure



REV. W. T. McCLURE
and his bride Ophelia Abernathy on
their wedding day, Aug. 26, 1878



ETHEL JANE McCLURE



MAUDE McCLURE



MABEL B. McCLURE
1905



MRS. HARRY SNARE
(Maude McClure)



MABEL B. McCLURE



LAURA CREWS MABEL McCLURE
St. Marks Square, Venice Italy, August 1931.



COL. JOHN R. ABERNATHY
Friend of Theodore Roosevelt



REV. JOHN ABERNATHY
Oklahoma City, Okla.

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