Rev. Abraham J. Dancy

Abraham J. Dancy (3 Nov 1807 – 30 Sep 1875), was born in Wilkes County, the son of Edward and Amelia 'Milly' Vannoy Dancy. He joined the Reddies River Baptist Church by experience on the 2nd Saturday in January 1830. In 1830, he married Lucinda Wingler (about 1810 – before 1845). The Federal Census of 1840 show that Abraham certified the census for the Captain George McNiel District, which is now Reddies River Township. The minutes of Reddies River Baptist Church show that on the 2nd Saturday in September, 1849, he was ordained to the ministry of the Gospel. On 7 Aug 1865, he was empowered to administer amnesty oaths, and was appointed a judge of elections during the first Federal election following the surrender of the Confederacy.

Lucinda, Abraham's first wife, was the daughter of Leonard and Jyre Dancy Wingler. Lucinda joined Reddies River Baptist Church in May or June 1830, and married Abraham later that year. Abraham and Lucinda had ten children:

1. Amanda
2. John M. (about 1832 – 3 Jan 1865). On 26 Feb 1855 he married Susannah 'Susan' Brown. They had three children, Mary Ann, Enoch and Iris. John enlisted for service in the Confederate Army on 8 Sep 1862 in Iredell County, and served with Co G, 18th NC Infantry. Official records show he was present or accounted for until he was captured at Spotsylvania Court House, VA on 12 May 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, MD until transferred to Elmira, NY on 3 Aug 1864. He died at Elmira Prison of 'Chronic Diarrhea'.
3. Joseph H 'Joe' (about 1834 – 1 Jun 1863). On 29 Jan 1853 he married Frances Harriet 'Fannie' Wilcoxson, daughter of David and Nancy Wilcoxson. Joe also enlisted for service in the Confederate Army on 8 Sep 1862 in Iredell County. Official records show he was present or accounted for until he 'died at home'. The cause of his death is not reported. Fannie later married Wesley Adams. She had children by both marriages.
4. Jesse
5. Wilson 'Dick' (about 1836 – Dec 1899). Dick could not hear or talk, but was a carpenter. He is buried in the Old Reddies River Baptist Church Cemetery.
6. Abraham Murphy (about 1838 – after Nov 1862). He enlisted for service in the Confederate Army on 1 Aug 1862, and served with Co H, 23rd Regiment, NC Troops. This company is generally considered as a Gaston County unit, but we do not know where he enlisted. Official records show he was present or accounted for through...
November 1862, but no further record has been found of him.

7. Sarah

8. William 'Bill' (about 1840 - 24 Aug 1863). On 8 Sep 1862 he enlisted in Iredell County for service in the Confederate Army, and served with Co G, 18 Regiment, NC State Troops. He was captured near Falling Waters, MD on or about 14 Jul 1863 and died in the hospital at Frederick, MD of 'typhoid fever'. Death records show his age as 22.

9. Obadiah D. (15 Oct 1842 - 24 Mar 1922). He enlisted in Ashe County for service in the Confederate Army on 4 Mar 1862 and served as a member of Co A, 1 Cav Regt, 9th NCST through December, 1864. On 14 Aug 1865 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He married his cousin, Alva Shepherd on 5 Mar 1865. (See Article on Obadiah D. Dancy for more details.)

10. Lucinda

Abraham's wife, Lucinda, died prior to 14 Oct 1845, because on that date he married Sarah Ann Brown (Sep 1823 - 1900/10) as his second wife. Ten children were born to this marriage:

11. Noah (1846 - 1908). He enlisted on 14 Aug 1864 and served in Co. A, 9th Regiment, NCST. He was married about 1869 to Sarah Elizabeth Smith (1853-1903). They are both buried in the Dancy Family Cemetery in the Grassy Creek section of Ashe County.

12. Susanna E 'Sis' (17 Dec 1847 - 11 Apr 1934). She married Thornton Staley on 24 Dec 1867. He was the son of Adam and Nancy Kilby Staley. Thornton was born 14 Feb 1844 and died 2 Jan 1918. Both Sis and Thornton are buried at the Old Reddies River Baptist Church Cemetery.

13. Edward Taylor (28 Oct 1849 - 13 Jul 1936). He first married Diana Staley (10 Aug 1845 - 3 Mar 1887), a sister of his brother-in-law Thornton. She is buried in the Vision Baptist Church Cemetery in Union Township, Wilkes County. On 27 Nov 1887, Taylor married Martha Elizabeth Kilby (26 Sep 1853 - 29 Dec 1933). She was the daughter of Thornton and Sally Yates Kilby. Taylor and his second wife are buried in the Old Reddies River Baptist Church Cemetery.

14. Thomas 'Tom' (1852 - ?). I am told that Tom suffered from a condition which caused convulsions. After picking cherries one day, he went swimming. He had a convulsion and drowned. The date of his death is not recorded, but the last record I find of him is the 1880 Census, where his age is listed as 28.

15. Louanna 'Lou' (24 Dec 1854/6 - 22 Jul 1927). The Federal Census of 1860 shows her age as 6 years, so she was probably born in 1854, although her death
certificate shows her date of birth as 24 Dec 1856. She married Hamilton D Baker (1851 - 24 Sep 1929) and lived in Buncombe County. She is buried with her husband in the Asheville Cemetery.

16. Sarah Ann. (12 Dec 1856 - 27 Jul 1933). She married Sidney Stokes Wingler (1852-1905), the son of Leonard Wingler, Jr. and Susannah 'Susan' Woody. Sarah Ann is buried in the Royal Cemetery in Union Township, Wilkes County. If Stokes is buried there, he doesn't have a tombstone. Estate papers show he died in 1905.

17. Meshack Boyden 'Bud'. (28 Apr 1859 - 25 Mar 1923). He first married, on 5 Aug 1883, Samantha Jane Kilby (30 Aug 1868 - 21 Jun 1902), the daughter of James and Amanda Brown Kilby. After her death, Bud married his cousin, Delia Virginia Dancy (31 Mar 1868 - 17 Mar 1934), the daughter of James Rufus and Frances Martha 'Fannie' Edminster Dancy. Bud and his two wives are buried in Pilgrim Baptist Church Cemetery.

18. Millard (1860 - ?). His age is listed as 3 months in the 1860 Census. He went to work on the railroad and was killed in a train accident. I do not know when the death occurred, or where he is buried.

19. Emmeline 'Emma' (about 1863 - after 1930). Her first marriage was on 14 Dec 1890 in Ashe County to M. B. Taylor, son of Susan Taylor. On 22 Feb 1891 she married Joseph Lefler, son of Henry and Nancy Finley Lefler as her second husband. Emma was living in a nursing home in Johnson City, TN in 1930. I do not know when she died.

20. James A. 'Jim'(18 Feb 1867 - 13 Apr 1929). On 16 May 1885 he married Nancy Weaver (31 Jan 1866 - 15 May 1951). She was born in Grayson County, VA., the daughter of James and Mazie Sturgill Weaver. Jim was a 'Revenuer', living in 1841 on Horse Creek in Ashe County. The Wilkes Chronicle dated in 1894 printed an article stating that Jim was shot 78 times by blockaders. He did not die from this incident, but carried buck shot in his body the remainder of his life. He died at Bondtown, Wise County, VA. Jim is buried at Coeburn, Wise County, VA. Nancy is buried in the Union Baptist Church Cemetery in Union Township, Wilkes County.

Sources: Public Records, Church Minutes, Civil War Records, Tombstones, and Family Members.

Joyce D. McNeil
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1849 - 2nd Sat. Dancy made application to the church for a license to speak in public. Granted. Request was made for his ordination. (35)

Ordained 2nd Sat. in Sept. 1849 (p.36)