

Chapter 11 Abner B. Wetherington 1853-1832

Abner B. Wetherington, the son of Amos Wetherington and Mary Frances Owens, was born April 28, 1853 in the White Oak District of Jones County.^{1,2} Abner appears in the 1860 Jones County census in his parent's household and Abner's mother died about 1870 and his father remarried a young widow, Clarky Cannon Yates. In the 1870 Jones County census, Abner was living with his mother's youngest brother, Elijah Owens in the White Oak District.³ In 1880, Abner appears in the Craven County census in the household of John Ed Taylor and Wealthy Ann Taylor, his sister, living in Tuscarora.

Abner Wetherington married **Georgina Eubanks** on January 19, 1882.⁴ The marriage was performed by Cannon Smith, Georgina's uncle, and witnessed by Thomas Eubanks. Georgina was the daughter of Thomas E. Eubanks and Sabra Jane Stewart.⁵ Georgina was born on May 10, 1863 and died in childbirth on September 27, 1882 in Tuscarora, NC. Georgina E. Wetherington and her child were buried in the Stewart Cemetery in Tuscarora.⁶

After the death of Georgina, Abner married her sister, **Beneta (Beneter) Jane Eubanks** on April 28, 1883.⁷ The marriage was performed by John Humphrey, JP, and was witnessed by Thomas Eubanks. They made their home in Tuscarora on Wetherington Road (now SR 1230, Rollover Creek Road). Abner made his living in the lumber business and had a sawmill on his property on Rollover Creek in Tuscarora. His sons, Josephus and Noah, were also engaged in the family business. Josephus ran the small steam tram and moved felled timber along their private tramlines to the mill. Noah and brother-in-law, Herman Stewart also worked in the operation. In 1913, the operation was relocated for a time to Bolton, NC, but later the family returned to Tuscarora. Abner Wetherington's lumber business was also connected with his younger brother, Amos T. Wetherington's lumber business in Clarks, NC.

A dedicated member of the Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church of Tuscarora, Abner and family appear on the first church rolls of 1916 and also as the Treasurer (1916- 1932).⁸ In the fall of 1932 Abner suffered a stroke and died within a few weeks. Abner died on November 6, 1932 and was buried in the graveyard across from the Gethsemane Free Will Baptist church in Tuscarora.⁹ Beneta Jane died on June 2, 1942 and was also buried in the Gethsemane church graveyard.¹⁰



Figure 23 The Clarks Milling Company, 1913

The children of Abner Wetherington and Benita Jane Eubanks were:

1. **Lehman Wetherington** was born on September 19, 1884 in Tuscarora. ¹¹ He married **Florence Wetherington**, the daughter of Oliver Hazard Perry Wetherington and Nannie Daugherty on June 15, 1918 in Craven County. ¹² Florence was born on April 28, 1889 in Tuscarora. Lehman and Florence made their home in Clarks, NC where Lehman operated a farm supply store. The store built about 1905 by his father Abner, still stands in 2006. ¹³ Lehman died on February 9, 1946. ¹⁴ After Lehman's death, the store was sold to Howard M. Wethington and wife, Bertha, who operated the store for many years into the 1970s. Florence, a long-time schoolteacher at Jasper School, died on February 17, 1976. ¹⁵ Lehman and Florence Wetherington are buried in the Maplewood Cemetery in Kinston, along with Oliver, Nannie, and Florence's sister Julia. ¹⁶

The only child of Lehman Wetherington and Florence Wetherington: ¹⁷

- a. Julia Helen Wetherington 1919 - 1972 m. Ethan Beeson ¹⁸

2. **Noah Wetherington** was born on July 7, 1886 in Tuscarora. ¹⁹ Noah married **Mary Letha Moore** on May 24, 1907 in Craven County.²⁰ Letha Moore was the daughter of Wiley A. Moore and Nancy Shepard Stewart was born on September 19, 1890 in Tuscarora. ²¹ Noah worked with his father, Abner, in the family lumber business. Noah died of influenza on January 26, 1919 in Craven County. ²² He was buried in the Stewart cemetery in Tuscarora, and later re-interred in the New Bern Memorial Cemetery in the 1950s by his son Elbert Ray Wetherington. ²³ Letha Moore Wetherington died on July 5, 1958 in New Bern and was buried in the New Bern Memorial cemetery.



Figure 24 Noah Wetherington

The children of Noah Wetherington and Mary Letha Moore were: ^{25,26}

- a. Elbert Ray Wetherington 1909-1971 m. Adaltha Rodgers 1909-1999
- b. Delilah Wetherington 1911 -2002 m. J. Milton Speight 1908-1961
- c. Thelma Jane Wetherington 1912 - 1977 m. Levi V. Norris 1894-1966
- d. Mamie C. Wetherington 1914 - m. George Thomas Ipock 1906 -1993
- e. Nannie B. Wetherington 1916 - m. Jay Lee Humphrey 1916 - 1990
- f. Noah Janet Wetherington 1919 - m. 1st Samuel J. Debruhl 1919 - 1967, m. 2nd, Victor Haywood Conway
- g. Beatrice Wetherington m. 1st Charles Raymond Pigott 1924 - 1958 married 2nd, C. W. Scott

See Chapter 13, Noah Wetherington

3. **Lillian Wetherington** was born on May 24, 1888 in Tuscarora. ²⁷ She married **Herman Eason Stewart** in December 1908 in Craven County. ²⁸ Herman Stewart was the son of John C. Stewart and Delila Smith. Herman worked with Abner and Noah Wetherington in the timber business and later worked for the postal service, in the early years delivering mail with a horse and buggy. Lillian W. Stewart died on March 17, 1967 and was buried in the Greenleaf Memorial Park in New Bern. ²⁹ Herman E. Stewart died on November 14, 1968 and was also buried in the Greenleaf Memorial Park. ³⁰

The children of Herman Stewart and Lillian Wetherington were: ^{31,32}

- a. Elma Stewart 1909 - 1909
- b. Lottie Lucille Stewart m. -?- Adams
- c. Edna Earl Stewart m. George S. Cook
- d. Guy Eugene Stewart – d. 1998 m. Mae Bell Simpson
- e. Ruth Ennis Stewart - d. 2002
- f. Walter Herman Stewart – 1993 m. Jane Hudson
- g. Lillian Christine Stewart 1921-1921

See Chapter 21, John Stewart

4. **Luke Herbert Wetherington** was born in 1890 in Tuscarora. ³³ Luke married **Mary Alice Dickerson** about 1915. ³⁴ Luke became a Baptist minister and was also Superintendent of the Middlesex Childrens Home. More details on Luke Wetherington, Jr. and his family may be found in the book, *A Chosen Vessel, The Luke H. Wetherington Story*. Luke died in 1944 was was buried in the new section of Cedar Grove cemetery in New Bern. Mary Alice Wetherington died in 1972 and is also buried at Cedar Grove. ³⁵



Figure 25
Luke H. Wetherington, Sr. ³⁶

The children of Luke H. Wetherington and Mary A. Dickerson were:

- a. Luke H. Wetherington, Jr. 1916 - 1993 m. Mabel Guthrie - d. 1996
 - b. William Eubanks Wetherington (1920) - d. 1996 m. Geneva Pearl Humphrey
5. **Josephus S. Wetherington** was born on February 24, 1892 in Tuscarora. ³⁷ He married 1st **Amy Register** on March 27, 1912 in Craven County.³⁸ Amy Register Wetherington was born on October 20, 1891 and died on June 8, 1928 in Tuscarora and was buried in the Stewart Cemetery in Tuscarora. ³⁹ Josephus married 2nd **Mabel Baker** and moved to the Baltimore, MD area. Josephus Wetherington died in April 1948. ⁴⁰

The children of Josephus Wetherington and Amy Register:

- a. Infant Son 1913 - 1913
- b. Harold Wetherington
- c. Clifton Wetherington - d. (1980)

The children of Josephus Wetherington and Mabel Baker:

- d. Robert Wetherington
- e. Richard Wetherington

6. **Abner Royal Wetherington** was born on May 16, 1891 in Tuscarora. Abner Royal married **Lorena Manning** 1897 - 1985, of Greene county, NC. ⁴¹ They lived in northern Greene County until the death of Lorena's father, and then moved to Clarks. Abner Roy died on December 15, 1961 in Craven County and was buried in the Greenleaf Memorial Park in New Bern. Lorena died in 1985 and is also buried at Greenleaf.⁴² Abner and Lorena Wetherington's farm became the Craven County Industrial Park at Clarks in the 1980's.

The children of Abner Roy and Lorena Manning were:

- a. John Roy Wetherington 1917 - 1989 m. Victoria Elizabeth Riggs ⁴³
- b. Virginia Doris Wetherington 1920 - 1990 m. George E. Grady ⁴⁴

7. **Henrietta 'Retta' Wetherington** was born on July 25, 1898 in Tuscarora. ⁴⁵ Retta married **Leon William Cook** on April 18, 1916 in Craven County. ⁴⁶ Leon Cook was born on July 26, 1898 and died on July 6, 1965. ⁴⁷ Retta W. Cook died on June 5, 1990 in Craven County and along with her husband, they are buried in the New Bern Memorial Cemetery. ⁴⁸

The children of Leon W. Cook and Retta Wetherington: ^{49,50}

- a. Mabel Cook 1917 – m. John D. Simpson 1916 - 1993
- b. Elizabeth Cook 1920 - m. Thomas Rogers
- c. Elbert A. Cook 1922 - m. Belle McLawhorn
- d. Vera Christine Cook – 1925 –1956 m. Manly L. Conner, Jr. ⁵¹

8. **Phebe Jane Wetherington** was born on October 30, 1900 in Tuscarora. ⁵² Janie married **Wiley Augustus "Gus" Moore** on April 3, 1920 in Craven County. ⁵³ Wiley "Gus" Moore, born in 1898, was the son of Wiley A. Moore and Nancy Shepard Stewart of Tuscarora. Gus was a farmer and lived in several areas of Craven County including Tuscarora, Clarks, and Spring Garden. Wiley Augustus Moore died on January 20, 1971 in Craven County and was buried in the Greenleaf Memorial Park in New Bern. Janie Wetherington Moore died in 1987 and is also buried at Greenleaf. ⁵⁴

The children of Wiley Moore and Janie Wetherington:

- a. Mildred Marie Moore 1921 - m. Charlie Brice Morris 1915 – 1998 ^{55,56}
- b. Wiley Augustus Moore, Jr. 1935 - 1978 m. Jewell Fay Felts ⁵⁷

See Chapter 16, Wiley A. Moore

9. **Neppie Wetherington** was born on July 16, 1903 in Tuscarora. ⁵⁸ Neppie married **Charles L. Hines** on September 22, 1923 in Craven County. ⁵⁹ Charles was the son of Charles and Mary Hines of Tuscarora. Charles and Neppie lived on Rollover Creek at the Abner Wetherington homeplace. Charles Hines was a dairy farmer and Neppie, a homemaker, also sold Avon products in the area for many years. Neppie W. Hines died in 1987 and was buried in the Greenleaf Memorial Park in New Bern. Charles Hines died in 1984 and is also buried at Greenleaf. ⁶⁰

The children of Charles Hines and Neppie Wetherington were: ⁶¹

- a. Lillian Beatrice Hines m. Samuel Weeks
- b. Charles L. Hines m. 1st Christine Lee, m. 2nd, Edna Worley
- c. Mary Jane Hines m. 1st __?__ Spence, m. 2nd, Rex Williams





Figure 26 Abner Wetherington Family, circa 1931

***l-r front row:** Doris Wetherington, Lillian Hines, Christine Cook, Marie Moore, Elbert Cook, Walter Stewart, William E. Wetherington; **2nd row seated l-r,** Wealthy Taylor, Abner Wetherington, Charles Hines (in Abner's arms), Jane Eubanks Wetherington, **3rd row l-r,** Janet Wetherington, Helen Wetherington, Luke H. Wetherington, Jr, Rena Manning Wetherington, Neppie Wetherington Hines, Nannie Wetherington, John Roy Wetherington, Elizabeth Cook, **4th row l-r,** Florence Wetherington, Helen Wetherington Delilah Wetherington, Ruth Stewart, Lottie Stewart, Edna Stewart, Guy Stewart, Retta Wetherington Cook, Wiley Augustus Moore, Janie Wetherington Moore, Alice D. Wetherington, Ray Wetherington, Mabel Cook, **back row,** Lehman Wetherington, 3 unidentified males.*

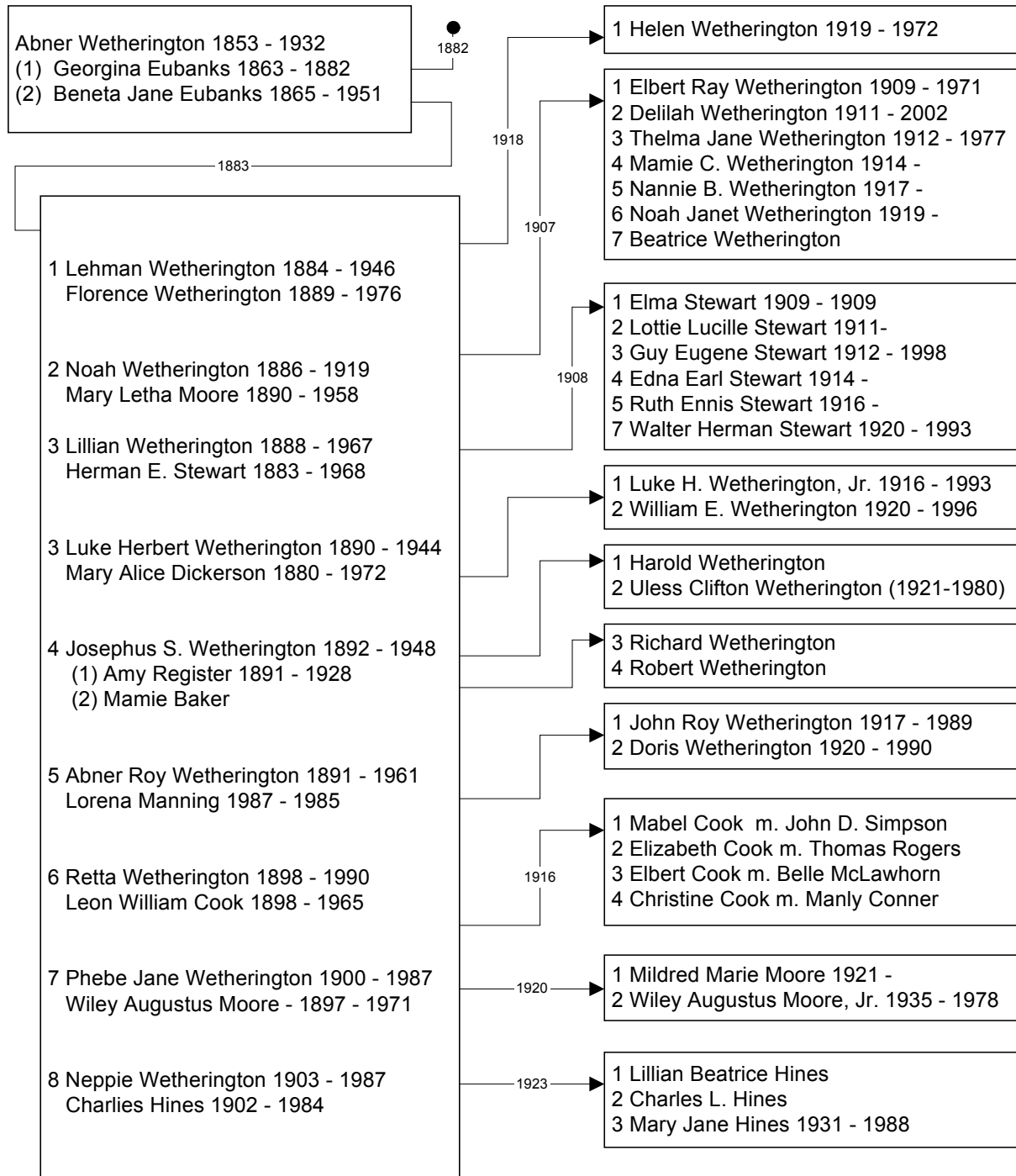


Figure 27 Abner Wetherington Family Tree