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Lt. Col. Robert Haden Abercrombie, F&S, 45th AL Infantry, CSA

1838 Sep 11: Robert Haden Abercrombie was born in Cross Keys, AL to parents Milo Bolling Abercrombie and Sarah Lee Haden Abercrombie.

1850 Nov 4: The US Federal Census enumerated in Macon County, AL listed Robert H Abercrombie in the household of his father Milo. Robert was listed at thirteen years old and his father was listed as a farmer.

1858 Sept 29: Robert was commissioned as Justice of the Peace for Macon County, AL.

¹ [findagrave.com/user/BHC](https://www.findagrave.com/user/BHC)

1859 Mar 18: Elected Justice of the Peace for Macon County, AL.

1860 Jan 9: Married Frances Gary in Macon County, AL.

Jun 12: The US Federal Census enumerated in Macon County, AL listed R H Abercrombie living with wife Fannie. Robert was listed as twenty two years old and employed as an attorney at law. The 1860 Slave Schedule conducted the same day listed Robert Abercrombie as the owner of nineteen slaves.

1862 May 1: Enlisted in the Confederate Army.

May 14: Mustered into 45th AL Infantry at the rank of Captain commanding Co. H.

1863 Mar 25: Promoted to Major of 45th AL Infantry.

Oct 28: Promoted to Lt. Col. of 45th AL Infantry.

1864 Nov 30: Lt. Col. Robert H. Abercrombie fought at the Battle of Franklin. He was in command of his regiment and they were in Gen. Mark Lowrey's brigade of Gen. Patrick Cleburne's Division. They attacked up the Columbia Pike, driving an advance line of Federal troops back toward the main Federal defensive works to the north. As they were beginning to break through and wreak havoc near the Carter cotton gin, victory seemed in their grasp but a strong counterattack eliminated any hope of that. Lt. Col. Abercrombie was wounded in action during this battle.

1865 Jan 18: Lt. Col. Abercrombie was given a twenty five day furlough.

After the disastrous Tennessee Campaign and the loss of so many General and Staff officers, Alabama regiments including the 45th AL were consolidated to form the 1st Alabama Infantry and Robert Abercrombie was promoted to Colonel to command this conglomerate.

May 1: Col. Robert Abercrombie surrendered with the worn down Army of Tennessee in Greensboro, NC and was paroled.

1870 Jun 23: The US Federal Census enumerated in Macon County, AL showed R H Abercrombie as the head of the household. He had his wife and three children living with him and Robert was employed as a lawyer. His wife's sixty year old mother was listed as living with them too.

- 1880 Jun 17: The US Federal Census enumerated in Macon County, AL listed Robert H Abercrombie as the head of the household. He was employed as a lawyer and his wife, two daughters, and his mother in law all lived with him.
- 1891 Jun 8: Robert Abercrombie was accidentally killed by his son-in-law, Dr. D.H. Baker. The family had been having issues with chickens being stolen and while watching out for the culprits, D.H. Baker heard a noise and shot towards it. Robert Abercrombie was hit and died shortly after. He was buried in the Tuskegee City Cemetery in Tuskegee, AL.

<p>THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.</p> <p>The Particulars of the Shooting of Col. R. H. Abercrombie At Gadsden—A Sketch Of His Life.</p> <p>GADSDEN, June 9.—[Special.]—There was only time to send announcement of the terrible accident here last night, by which Col. R. H. Abercrombie was shot and killed with a gun in the hands of his son-in-law, Dr. D. H. Baker. The particulars as far as can be learned are as follows:</p> <p>Col. and Mrs. Abercrombie and their son-in-law, Dr. Baker and wife, live in the same house. Chicken thieves had troubled them, and that night Dr. Baker got his gun and watched for the thief. Colonel Abercrombie went out into the yard without the knowledge of his wife and daughter about half past nine, and when they heard a noise they informed Dr. Baker of it. He went out in that direction, and seeing a man, called "who's there!" and receiving no answer, shot twice and Colonel Abercrombie fell, both loads taking effect in his chest and abdomen, and he lived but a few minutes. After being shot his only word were: "My God, my God, have mercy, I have only a few minutes to live." His remains left here for Tuskegee this morning where they will be interred.</p>	<p>Sketch Of His Life.</p> <p>[Col. Robert Haden Abercrombie was a native of Macon county, the son of the late Milo B. Abercrombie, a nephew of Hon. James Abercrombie, of Russell county, and a brother of Messrs. Charles A. and Anderson Abercrombie, who have been citizens of Texas for a number of years and of Mr. J. C. Abercrombie, of Tuskegee, also a brother-in-law of Dr. T. P. Gary, of Selma.</p> <p>He was about fifty-four years of age, had been engaged in the practice of his profession since attaining his majority, and had won an enviable reputation. While not a profound student, he was gifted with a bright, quick and comprehensive mind, and as an advocate before a jury, he was invincible. His forte was to read and judge of human nature, and so rarely did he err in that respect that it was the exception for him to lose a case before a jury. He had been on one side or the other of almost every criminal case of much importance in East Alabama for twenty years and as a criminal lawyer he had few superiors in the State.</p> <p>He went to the front at the sound of the first bugle call and rapidly ascended to the Colonelcy of the Forty-fifth Alabama Infantry in which position he won the love and confidence of his men and displayed that valor and bravery becoming a true soldier. He was of a friendly and companionable nature. No one was ever turned away empty handed who asked his aid. He had accumulated a vast property and at the time of his death was possibly the largest land owner in East Alabama—certainly in Macon county where he occupies the largest space on the tax books of any single tax payer.</p>	<p>He leaves a wife and daughter, Mrs. Baker, with whom he resided at Gadsden where he went only last year. He had another daughter, who married Dr. Jordan of Birmingham, and who died about two years ago. He was a member of the Lodge of Knights of Honor, the American Legion of Honor and carried a very large policy in some leading insurance company. He leaves his widow in very comfortable circumstances.</p> <p>While Colonel Abercrombie took great interest in and played an active part in politics he was never a candidate for and never held any public position, although he was in almost every convention, State, Congressional, District and County held in Alabama for twenty years and has had a leading place in shaping the policy of the Democratic party during that time. A few years ago it is remembered that he shot and killed his brother-in-law, Mr. Bolling Reid, at Tuskegee, and while he was perfectly justifiable in that act, and although he never referred to it, it had a most depressing influence upon him and he never entirely recovered from its effects. The terrible accident which has ended his eventful life, was one of those unavoidable occurrences which come upon us like the flash of lightning, and which leave their imprint behind more impressing and crushing because of their deplorable sadness. The family have the heartfelt sympathy of friends all over Alabama.]</p>
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² The Weekly Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama, Thursday, June 11, 1891, pg. 2.



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³ [findagrave.com/user/Michael Dover](https://www.findagrave.com/user/Michael%20Dover)

⁴ [findagrave.com/user/Sandi H.](https://www.findagrave.com/user/Sandi%20H.)

⁵ [findagrave.com/user/Michael Dover](https://www.findagrave.com/user/Michael%20Dover)