



# ***George F. Abbitt, Sr.***

***Written by Bolling Carter  
Additional Materials contributed  
by Herbert M. Abbitt***



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George F. Abbutt, Sr. as seen by  
Aug. 6, 2000 Bessie Carter

I lived with Herbert's Daddy and Totsie alot in the first 10 yrs. of my life. Because I stayed with them so much, I called him "Daddy" because Totsie called him that unless she was irritated with him. Then she called him "George" or "now, George". When my father was around, I had to distinguish him from "Daddy" so I called "Daddy" "Herbert's Daddy" for some reason which I don't recall.

Herbert's Daddy loved to have me around and I loved being with him. I was with him constantly except when Uncle Charlie, H. Daddy's brother, came to visit. I hated for him to come because H. Daddy gave him all the attention he usually gave me. But he was the only one that stole H. Daddy from me and he didn't visit very often.

Occasionally Jo and George, Jr. would ask Totsie and Daddy to come to their house to eat, but they never included me in the invitation. Totsie and Daddy always debated and debated whether to sign the invitation down for that reason because they contended that I was with them so I should be invited.

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Whenever we had company to eat, which was pretty often, Totsie & mother always had fried chicken and I only liked the breast. So H. Daddy always had to see to it that I got my piece of chicken first because I sat right by him at the table - on the right side. It was great "coming on" if someone came to eat that should be sitting on Daddy's right, like the preacher, and I would have to give up my seat. It didn't happen often.

Herbert's Daddy loved people - talking to them, visiting them, and teasing them. He loved to play practical jokes on his customers sitting around the tin stove in the store. He would throw a firecracker in the stove to make people jump. He would tease the children and the older unmarried people about their sweethearts - whether they were their sweethearts or not.

He and I would go visiting the neighbors far and wide - walking, of course, with canes and hobnob sticks. This left Totsie to watch the store, but she didn't seem to mind. Aunt Abbie and Francis Abbutt next door had chickens which they occasionally

let out to roam our garden and flowers. H-Daddy and I would shoot at them with a BB rifle. One time I shot one in the head and killed it - so Daddy had to go make it right with Eddie & Francis. Since I didn't go with him, I don't know how he made it right.

At least once a week, he and I would walk to Grand Knoll to check it out. Usually we'd stop by every <sup>on the way</sup> house and visit with the people. Then after looking around Grand Knoll and eating our lunch, we'd walk back. By the time we got half way home, I'd get tired and Daddy would carry me home on his back.

A lot of times we'd all three sit in "Tataie's room" - their bedroom - and rock in our rocking chairs. He had a big one and I had a smaller big one while Tataie sat in Uncle Herbert's leather covered wingback easy chair. Daddy loved to listen to Tataie read the newspaper because he never read it himself since his eyes were bad and he couldn't read for very long. His eyes always caused him a lot of trouble but I don't know what was wrong with them. Sometime we would rock and sing. His favorites were "Take the Name

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of Jesus with you" and "Revive us again". He and I sang lustily and Totsie put up with it. She rarely joined in. Many times I would climb upon his lap while we sang and he rocked me and himself.

We always had family devotions with Totsie reading the Bible and praying. Daddy and I were silent participants, but Daddy was the Sunday School superintendent for years and saw to it that someone prayed for opening exercises.

We had a big Guernsey cow which he milked every morning and night. She was called "Belling" and she was very gentle. We'd go across the road to get her for the stable and he would let me ride on her back.

Every morning of the week all three of us would listen to the "Cable ~~Tapenade~~ <sup>Taperade</sup>" on the radio and every night we listened to Gabriel Heaton with the news. On the summertime we would sit on the front porch and listen to the whip-poor-wills call and look at the passing cars which were few at that time.

There's nothing that can do more for a child's self-esteem than loving, caring, God-fearing grandparents. I realize that now and am very grateful to both of ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup> for sharing ~~themselves~~ <sup>their lives</sup> with me.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1962

**St. Ann's Episcopal Church**

Sunday, August 12, 1962

No Church School until further notice. No Service: Church open for Meditation.

## DEATHS

**GEORGE F. ABBITT SR.**

APPOMATTOX—George F. Abbitt Sr., 87 died at 2 p. m. Friday in a Lynchburg nursing home. He had been ill for 10 days.

Born in Appomattox County April 6, 1875, he was the son of George W. Abbitt and Frances Webb Abbitt.

He was a retired postmaster and merchant and had been in the wholesale mercantile business in both Lynchburg and Norfolk.

He is survived by his wife, Otway Moorman Abbitt; two daughters, Mrs. Dora Conner of Appomattox, and Mrs. Eloise Snead of Lynchburg; four sons, George F. Abbitt Jr., Commonwealth's attorney for Appomattox County, Congressman Watkins M. Abbitt of Appomattox, Herbert M. Abbitt of Highland Springs, and Col. Charles W. Abbitt of Bedford, Mass.; also 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral service were conducted Sunday afternoon at New Hope Baptist Church by the Rev. Marvin Jacobs, the Rev. John P. Leitner and the Rev. O. W. Moore. Pallbearers, who were Mr. Abbit's four sons and two sons-in-law at his request, were Watkins M. Abbitt, George F. Abbitt, Jr. Herbert M. Abbitt, Charles W. Abbitt, W. Ben Snead, and Errod Conner.

Mr. *W. C. Turner*

I take this means of announcing myself a candidate for the position of CLERK for the County of Appomattox,

I was born and reared in Appomattox, and I believe in my own County, I believe that the good old County of Appomattox need not go to another State to find a man to serve her as Clerk, but that she might find such a man within her own boundaries.

As to my qualification, permit me to state that I was associated with my father, Geo. W. Abbitt while he served the County as Clerk, and I have thus familiarized myself with the duties attached to the Office.

Let me assure you that I shall be deeply grateful for your friendly consideration, and that, should you elect me to the Office of Clerk, I shall do my utmost to discharge the duties of that Office as they should be discharged.

Yours most sincerely,

*George F. Abbitt*