



The Children
of
Otway Culvin Moorman Abbitt
and
George Francis Abbitt, Sr.



George Francis Abbitt, Jr.



Letter to the Editor

Inmate praises Judge George Abbitt

Editor:

I read the article that was wrote on George Abbitt Jr.

I feel an injustice, somewhat of a injustice has been done since you only wrote hearsay and what Mr. Abbitt's friends in Appomattox, Va. had to say.

Mr. Abbitt also has friends in prison, people he sent there for more than once I may add.

I for one think the world of him,

even now his caring for inmates or me anyhow goes on.

I am not good with words nor can I read or write good. And yes I am doing time. It seemed as though everyone else has given up on me but not Mr. Abbitt he's been to see me three times and talked to me. Though there's very little that can be done, it's the thought that counts. Show me another Judge that would come to jail to see some one.

I wish I could spell the words I want to use. I wish the whole world knew him as I do, caring, understanding and at the same time a judge.

If I could I would write an article on Mr. Abbitt. He was a person you could talk to him. I wouldn't be afraid to go to his home, and be welcome too.

Yes I would say you know him, and I know and care for him too.

Please tell him so.

I am sorry if I've made a fool of myself, but thank you for the time taken in reading this.

Sincerely,
Martin Paul Marston
#176983

P.O. Box 390
c/o Charlotte County Jail
Charlotte Court House, VA
23923

Food bank menu noted

following items are avail-

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

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COUNTRY MUSIC MAKERS—Like the nursery rhyme about 'doctor, lawyer, Indian chief,' Appomattox's Piney Mountain Band members have equally diversified occupations. Shown above are, from left, George F. Abbitt, Jr., Appomattox Commonwealth's attorney, guitarist; William Steve Bowling, REA electrician, guitarist; Thomas Edward Childers, auto body and fender craftsman, tenor banjo; Ben-

nie Beale, farmer, violinist; and Duval A. Conner, retired game warden and ex-deputy sheriff, violinist. Members of the band get together at least once a week, usually on Tuesdays, and enjoy an evening of country music making. They also are available to play for church groups, civic organizations and schools, as well as for old-fashioned square dances, still popular in private homes in the neighborhood.

—W. C. Hubbard Photo

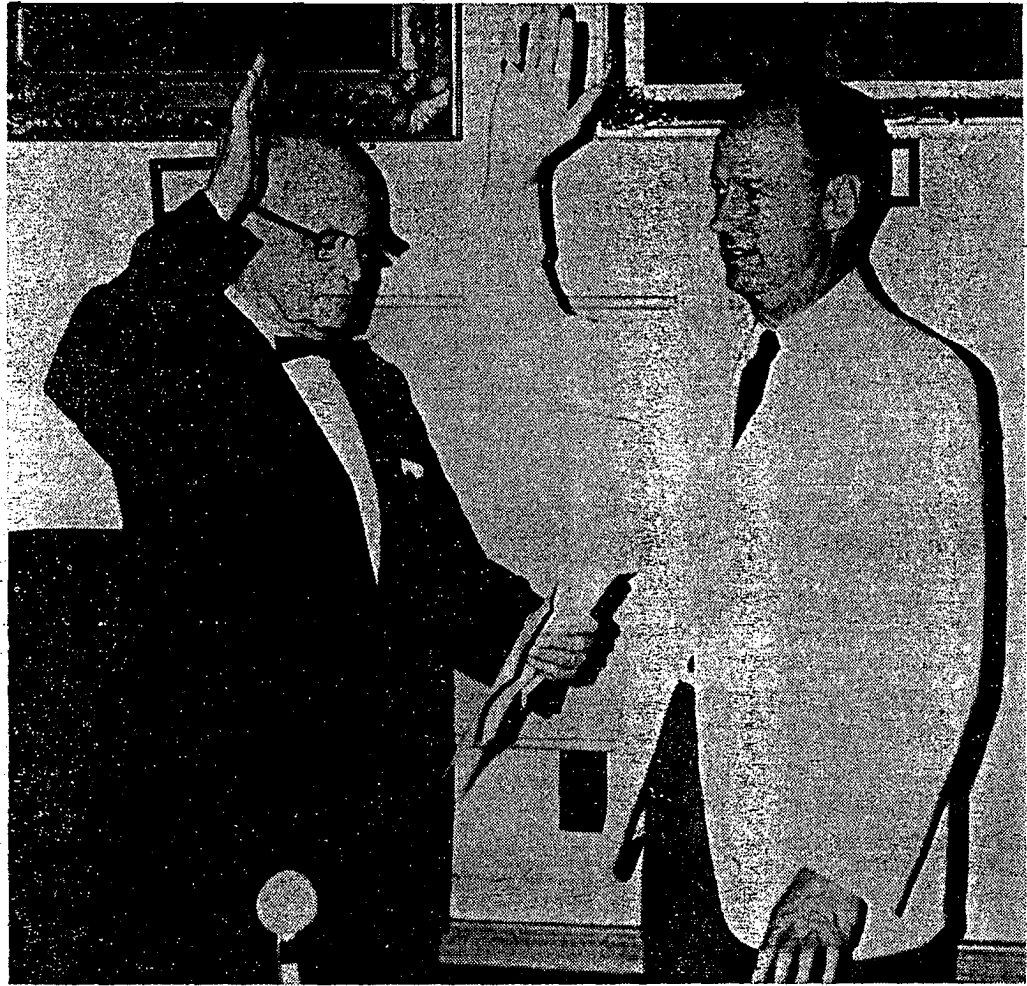
*Daddy's
real passion*



VISITORS — Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Abbitt of Houston, Tex., left, are shown with his brother and sister-in-law, Judge and Mrs. George F. Abbitt Jr. of Appomattox. Other relatives being visited include Mr. Abbitt's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Eyrod Conner, and another brother and sister-in-law, Rep. and Mrs.

Watkins M. Abbitt. Mr. Abbitt, a retired U. S. Army Air Force colonel, is now program manager for Project Apollo with Philco-Ford at NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. The Abbitts have two children, a son, Charles W. II, 21, and a daughter, Caroline, 20, both students at the University of Texas in Austin.

—W. C. Hubbard Photo



Judge Abbitt Takes Oath

The Honorable George F. Abbitt, Jr., receives his oath, above administered by Judge William Old of the Thirty-Seventh Circuit in impressive ceremonies held at Appomattox Court House Monday at 4 p. m. The court room was crowded during the cere-

mony. Judge Charles F. P. Crawley, in opening court for the occasion paid tribute to the late Judge Joel W. Flood, whom Judge Abbitt succeeds. Senator Charles S. Moses introduced Judge Old.

retirement system's early retirement window.

Carter's retirement announcement came at the same time as Superintendent of Schools Lloyd Walton's, who is also taking early retirement.

Carter said he would remain available to the school board to assist in any way needed during the transition period.

An announcement about the position vacancy was sent out earlier this week. Applications for the position, titled "Director of Vocational Education and Technology," are due at the school board office by Aug. 2.

Carter has served as assistant superintendent for administration

(Continued on page 5)

choices to between three and five, Walton said.

These top candidates will be invited to Appomattox for an interview, probably sometime in late August or early September, he added.

"The board may decide to call the top two or three candidates back for a second interview. Then, the board should be ready by the middle of September to make a selection," Walton said.

The school board does have some leeway in the process. The board may appoint an acting superintendent for 60 days if it has not been able to select a replacement for Walton by the time of his retirement.

(Continued on page 2)

Bypass plans 'on schedule'

By FRANCES ABBITT

Sandra Lindsay of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation told the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors Friday that the by-pass is on schedule for September.

She said the department has decided to use concrete for construction of the road.

Board member David Nash said that asphalt is 20 percent less expensive than the concrete planned for construction.

"I would like to urge you to write the Commission on Roads, Virginia Department of Transporta-

tion, to request the use of asphalt on the new by-pass around Appomattox," said Nash. "Let's keep the money at home with asphalt."

Appomattox County School Superintendent Lloyd Walton told the board that there will be three pre-school classes at the Appomattox Primary School this coming year. Two pre-school classes have been held in the past. Walton explained that each class is composed of eight students.

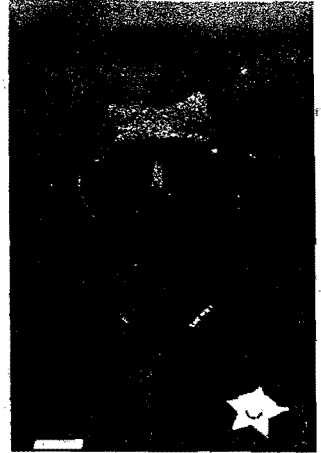
The final school attendance report for the year was 2,261, according to Walton.

Ida H. Campbell, Appomattox County Treasurer, reported of \$94,000 in delinquent county taxes whereas last year the total was \$55,000.

Milton Woodlief with Virginia Power and Jim Smith of the Economic Development Corporation presented the board with a updated profile of Appomattox County.

"With the help of Smith and Appomattox County Administrator it was re-written and updated," Woodlief said.

A total of 1,000 copies were printed.



Gene Richardson

Ceremony honors Judge George Abbitt for gift

By FRANCES ABBITT

An impressive ceremony was held in the Appomattox Court House building last Friday morning when George F. Abbitt's law library was dedicated.

Abbitt, retired attorney and judge donated his extensive law library, consisting of 3,002 books, to the County of Appomattox to be used by local attorneys and the public.

Appomattox County Board of Supervisors Chairman William E. (Bill) Jamerson, presided at the ceremony and presented Judge

Abbitt with a plaque.

A second plaque will be placed on the door of the law library in the Court House Building.

A gathering of family members and friends listened as local attorneys spoke of Abbitt and his work in the county.

Robert Gray, local attorney, spoke of the generosity of Abbitt in giving such a gift to the county.

"Judge Abbitt was always willing to take time to help other attorneys," Gray said.

"It was his spirit of scholarship

and willingness that motivated him to make such a generous gift to our county. We appreciate the gift and all he has done for Appomattox County," he added.

Thomas Lawson, Commonwealth Attorney for Appomattox County, spoke of the help Abbitt had been to him personally when he began his law practice in Appomattox in 1975.

"As a young beginning attorney, I didn't have any books except maybe a code book and Judge Abbitt always let me use his books. When I first began my law practice I didn't have a lot to do and I spent a lot of time in Judge Abbitt's office reading his books," Lawson said.

"In my opinion, Judge Abbitt has the most scholarly legal mind I've ever known," Lawson concluded.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judge Harry C. Lawson expressed appreciation to Abbitt for his gift to the county and spoke of help he had received from Abbitt as a young lawyer.

"I began practicing law in Appomattox in 1961 and at that time Judge Abbitt was the Commonwealth's Attorney for Appomattox County and he helped me as well as other lawyers. He is in my opinion, a true 'Virginia Gentleman,'" he concluded.

Sam Kerr, attorney, spoke of

Abbitt's work and dedication to both the business of practicing law and serving as judge.

"We all relied on Judge Abbitt's library," said Kerr who is a former Appomattox County Commonwealth's Attorney.

George Francis Abbitt, Jr. was born August 6, 1906 in Newport News, the son of the late George F. Abbitt Sr. and Otway Moorman Abbitt.

"Before I was old enough to begin school the family moved to Lynchburg and after a couple of years we moved to the Vera community in Appomattox County," Abbitt recalled.

The first school he attended was

Hollywood School...a one-room facility with a teacher who had approximately 40 students, grades one through seven.

"I didn't attend Hollywood School but a short time and then I went to Rugby and after Rugby began school at Vera, attending through the junior year of high school but had to come to Appomattox to complete the senior year," Abbitt explained.

After graduation from high school in 1925 Abbitt attended the University of Richmond and following graduation, the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.

"I began my law practice in

Appomattox in 1931 with my brother, Watkins M. Abbitt, Sr. We were not partners but shared the same office," Abbitt said.

Judge Abbitt remembers a lot of amusing things that happened during his time as lawyer and judge.

"I remember well one time when I was representing a man for cutting another man. I worked out a plea bargain with the commonwealth's attorney for Charlotte Court House and everybody seemed satisfied," Abbitt related.

"Then after I became judge I had to preside over a case of cutting...the same man had cut another man. This was his second

(Continued on page 3)



BILL JAMERSON (right), chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, presents George Abbitt with a certificate of recognition and appreciation for his contributions. (Photo by Frances Abbitt)

Nash, McCoy will lead board

The Appomattox County School Board elected Winfred Nash and Ora McCoy as its chairman and vice chairman, respectively, at its July meeting Monday morning.

Nash, operations manager at Babcock and Wilcox, has served on the board since 1988. McCoy, the Appomattox postmaster, has been on the board since 1986.

The board also re-appointed Lois Foxwell as clerk and Brenda Gowin as deputy clerk at the meeting.

Superintendent of Schools Lloyd Walton told Board members that the board is in "An ideal situation to

move toward setting funding for a Head Start program for the 1992-'93 session."

The board has expressed an interest in instituting a Head Start program in the county for pre-school-aged children.

"The program", Walton explained, "includes the entire development of the child. It's not just an educational program. It covers nutrition, early development, education, parental involvement."

Walton said an application for Head Start funding could be ready

by mid-winter, which would mean the county could have a program by the 1992-'93 session.

In a related move, board members voted to commit two rooms at Appomattox Primary School to be used for the Head Start program.

In other business, Assistant Superintendent for Administration Richard Carter told board members that the county's adult education enrollment this year has been at the highest level since 1983-'84, with 672 people enrolled in 23 classes.

Abbitt to resign as judge in 10th

APPOMATTOX — Appomattox Judge George Abbitt Jr. has resigned as judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit effective Sept. 30.

Gov. Mills Godwin today accepted the resignation of Abbitt, who will reach his 70th birthday on Aug. 6.

In accepting the resignation, Godwin applauded Abbitt's "distinguished contributions and exemplary service in this high office."

Abbitt was first appointed interim Appomattox circuit judge in 1964 by Gov. Albertis S. Harrison. He was appointed to succeed the late Judge Joel W. Flood.

He has served as Appomattox judge since December of that year when he was elected by the General Assembly to fill Flood's unexpired term.



Judge George Abbitt Jr.

A native of Newport News, Abbitt is a graduate of Appomattox High School and received an LLB degree from the University of Richmond in 1931.

Following graduation from the University of Richmond, he began a private law practice in Appomattox.

He served as a substitute judge for Appomattox County Court from 1939 to 1943, and was chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors from 1943 to 1948.

He was appointed to succeed his brother, former 4th District Rep. Watkins M. Abbitt, as Commonwealth's Attorney in 1948 when the former representative was first elected to Congress. He served in the commonwealth's attorney post until 1964 when he was appointed judge.

George Abbitt honored here

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

A special session of court convened on Saturday morning, June 4 at 11 a.m. in the Appomattox Court House, the Honorable John A. Snoddy, Jr., Judge, presiding. At this time a portrait of the Honorable George Francis Abbitt, Jr., Judge, Tenth Judicial Circuit Court, State of Virginia, was unveiled, where it will hang with the portraits of other prominent men of Appomattox County.

The portrait, painted by local artist, Ed Hopkinson, was unveiled by 12-year-old Sadie Quarrier and

seven-year-old Alexander Quarrier, grandchildren of Judge Abbitt and his first wife, the late Josephine Cundiff Abbitt.

Guest speaker for the occasion was former Governor of Virginia, Mills Godwin of Richmond.

A son of the late George Francis Abbitt, Sr., an Appomattox County native, and the late Otway Moorman Abbitt of Lynchburg, Judge Abbitt was born in Newport News on August 6, 1906.

Although he was born outside of this county, Judge Abbitt considers himself "an Appomattox boy." His

family moved back to this area before he was old enough to begin public school.

When George Abbitt entered school for the first time, it was at Hollywood School, a one-room facility approximately two miles southeast of Vera. Little did he dream that someday he would become a prominent lawyer and then a judge, but someone else made this prediction.

"When I was a young man," said Judge Abbitt, "there was a restaurant here in Appomattox, located on 460, The Bandana Cabin. One day I went there for lunch. One of the women who worked there was a fortune teller. She read my palm and consulted the cards to foretell what the future held for me."

"Young man," she said, "you will someday become active in government. I see a bright future for you in that area." And the young boy, who, by his own admission, was a "bit on the sickly side" when he was little, walked into the future of which the fortune teller spoke.

"When I was about five or six," Abbitt said, "I had some health problems and I didn't get to start to school at the usual age and by the time I was ready to enter school at age nine, my younger brother Watt was ready to begin school also. Consequently Watt and I not only entered school together, we went through college and law school together."

"Yes sir," said Watt Abbitt with a smile, "George was older than I was when we started to school; in fact, I was ten years old before I realized I didn't have to call George 'Mister'."

Watt and George entered Hollywood School, a one-room facility, attended for a short time, moved to Rugby School and finally to Vera School, a facility of several rooms, as soon as construction was

completed. Vera School even had a high school program and the Abbitt boys attended three years of high school there. However, when it was time for them to enter the senior year, they came to what was then Appomattox Agricultural High School, graduating in 1925.

Coming from a family of hard workers, both Abbitt boys worked on the family farm and later in the family store in Vera, saving money toward their college education.

Following high school, there was the University of Richmond facing these two boys from Appomattox County but they were ready for it.

George Abbitt has loved music all of his life and today plays several instruments, regularly participating in the group called The Piney Mountain Music Makers. So, when they went off to college it was only natural that they take the musical instruments. When it was 'hazing' time at college, George, with all his musical talent, played and Watt had to dance, whether he wanted to do so or not. At this particular time, Watt wasn't paying much attention to making music. But, when the Abbitt boys came home for the Christmas holidays, Watt had suddenly developed an interest in music. He had found out that playing 'paid off' so to speak.

"Why, we played for dances all during the Christmas holidays when we came home," commented Watt. "A lot of people had dances in their homes and we played; they passed the hat and we made a little money."

Both of them good students, the Abbitt boys breezed through the University of Richmond completing three years before entering the T. C. Williams School of Law, another three years of hard work. They received their degrees in 1931 and headed for Appomattox where they would begin the practice of law.

(Continued on Page 7)



SADIE QUARRIER, LEFT AND ALEXANDER QUARRIER, right, had the honor of pulling the cords that unveiled the portrait of their grandfather, The Honorable George Francis Abbitt, Jr., on Saturday morning, June 4 at the Appomattox Court House.

George Abbitt

honored here

(Continued from Page 1)

"We didn't have to pay any rent," said George with a smile. "We lived at Vera with our parents in the combination store-dwelling."

"We were fortunate in having office space made available to us. We set up a law office in quarters belonging to the late Judge Joel W. Flood in the Court House building... rent free!"

"We really didn't have any salary as such," Abbitt added. "We just took what the clients brought in. Most of our work consisted of writing wills, deeds, deeds of trust and such."

The field of law has been good to Judge Abbitt; he is a highly respected judge, but there are some who think he may have been a better lawyer than a judge!

"A man was accused of cutting another man and I defended him. Things went well for him and he was pleased," commented Judge Abbitt. "We both went our separate ways. Some years later, after I became judge, I went to an adjoining county to serve as judge and who should appear but the same man I had defended some years earlier. He had been on another cutting spree. The verdict was clear cut, he was guilty. I had nothing to do but sentence him to what he deserved," said Abbitt.

"Earlier in the trial, the man had been asked if he had anything to say and he had replied 'no.' After the

sentencing he asked, 'Judge Abbitt, may I say something now?' He was granted permission to speak.

"I tell you Judge Abbitt, I do believe you are a better lawyer than you are a judge!"

Judge Abbitt and his first wife, Josephine C. Abbitt, had three children, Peyton Abbitt, deceased; Penny Abbitt Quarrier; and Nancy Abbitt Torrence, and two grandchildren.

In September of 1981 George married the former Harriet Smith Redding. They reside at 125 South Church Street.

Judge Abbitt is past president of the Appomattox Lions Club; past President of Appomattox County Ruritan Club; Past Chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors 1942-1948; Commonwealth Attorney for Appomattox County 1948-1964; past member of Appomattox Town Council 1938 until 1942; past officer of Appomattox County Bar Association - Tenth Judicial Circuit Bar Association and Judicial Conference of Virginia. He is a member of Liberty Baptist Church.

"When I went to Washington as a congressman," said Watt with a laugh, "somebody remarked, 'There goes Watt with his brother.' After George was made judge, they remarked, 'Now it'll be, there goes George with his brother!'"



Watkins Moorman Abbitt



12-5 7066 (10/10/12)

Watkins Moorman Abbitt, Sr.

Watkins M. Abbitt, Sr., son of George Francis Abbitt (1875-1962) and Otway Moorman (1880-1966) was born May 21, 1908 in Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1912 at four years of age the family moved to the old homeplace near Vera.

Watt attended the one room school in Hollywood, walking the 3 miles there with his older brother George. On bad weather days they would ride horseback. He also attended the Rugby one room school, Vera Elementary and High School and in his senior year attended and graduated from Apomattox Agricultural High School in 1925. He did well in school and graduated in 1931 from the University of Richmond with a LL.B degree.

Watt was a fun loving youngster during his growing up years and pulled many pranks on friends, teachers, and ministers. When he entered college he found that if he played a musical instrument then he wouldn't have to go through hazing, but play for the student dances. He learned to play the guitar in a hurry.

In July of 1931 Watt began to practice law in Appomattox. He became Commonwealth Attorney in 1932. He went up against his older brother, George, who was the public defender in many cases and later a judge. Watt held this position until he entered Congress in 1948, serving as president of the Commonwealth Attorney Association.

Watt and Corinne Hancock were married on March 20, 1937. Their children are Anne Abbitt Kerr, Watkins, Jr., and Corinne Abbitt Hynes.

When Watt decided to run for Congress, he had the backing and trust of the people of Appomattox and the surrounding counties in the district. He had won their

devotion from his interest and respect for all the people in the area. Watt won the special election by a landslide and after the election went to every county to thank his supporters and pay his respect to his supporters and also his opponents and their supporters before he left for Washington.

Watt spent his years in Congress traveling between Washington and Appomattox. Attending to his congressional duties and the needs of his family and friends and supporters here in his home district. He kept his law office open on weekends and returned full time when he retired from Congress January 1973.

Watt was active in his hometown serving his church, club activities at home as well as the state bar and other Virginia associations.

He was a man of action both in the public eye and behind the scene. A major influence in state, local and national politics for decades. He was a part of the political machine that successfully led us through times of intense conflict and social change.

Everyone was encouraged to "come by my office and we'll see what we can do about it."

A man who did not like to broadcast what he had done for you when asked for something special, just a "thank you". A man loved and missed.

words: 487

submitted by:



Watkins M. Abbitt

Young Democrats Hear Senator Tuck

APPOMATTOX — The second annual banquet of the Young Democratic Club of Appomattox County was held Tuesday when 175 members gathered to hear an address by Senator William M. Tuck of South Boston.

Watkins M. Abbitt, Commonwealth's attorney of Appomattox County, and newly elected president of the club, presiding over the occasion, congratulated the membership committee on its good work in securing the largest membership ever enrolled in this club. Mrs. Ryland Mann was presented an award for securing the largest number of members.

Gordon M. Scarborough, treasurer of Dinwiddie County and chairman of the Young Democratic Clubs in the Fourth Congressional District, congratulated Appomattox County on its organization and stated that he recently had visited the clubs throughout his district and had found the Appomattox club to be the largest and most enthusiastic group in the district. Mr. Scarborough was accompanied by A. Mitchell Smith, of the Young Democratic Club of Dinwiddie County, who spoke briefly.

Colonel Joel W. Flood introduced Senator Tuck as an outstanding leader of the party in Halifax.

The senator said that the Democrats have been in power in Virginia for the past 60 years and as a result the State is in splendid financial condition. Large delegations from other States of the Union travel to Richmond to study Virginia legislation in order that



Dora Otway Abbitt Conner



①

Aug 6, 2000

Dora Abbott Conner as
seen by Betty Conner Carter

Mother has always been a special kind of person. She was soon to be eighteen when she had me in 1930, two years after she married Edward Conner, my father. I don't remember alot about her in my very early years but ever since I can remember she was the mainstay of help for Tatsie and H. Daddy. Every week she came down to Vera to help Tatsie cook or can or whatever she had to do. Every Sunday they were carrying us to church and eating lunch at Vera.

Whenever Tatsie had company Mother was there to help her pick the chickens and go to the garden and whatever. When the time came for Tot and Daddy to close the store and live with someone, it was Mother and my daddy who built an apartment on to their house and took care of both of them till they died.

Mother has always been a great family woman, helping keep her brothers and sisters ^{keep} in touch with each other. She has always been a wonderful Christian and has worked in the Church, Sunday school and missionary organizations all these years. She saw that I attended every Bible school in the town - Baptist and

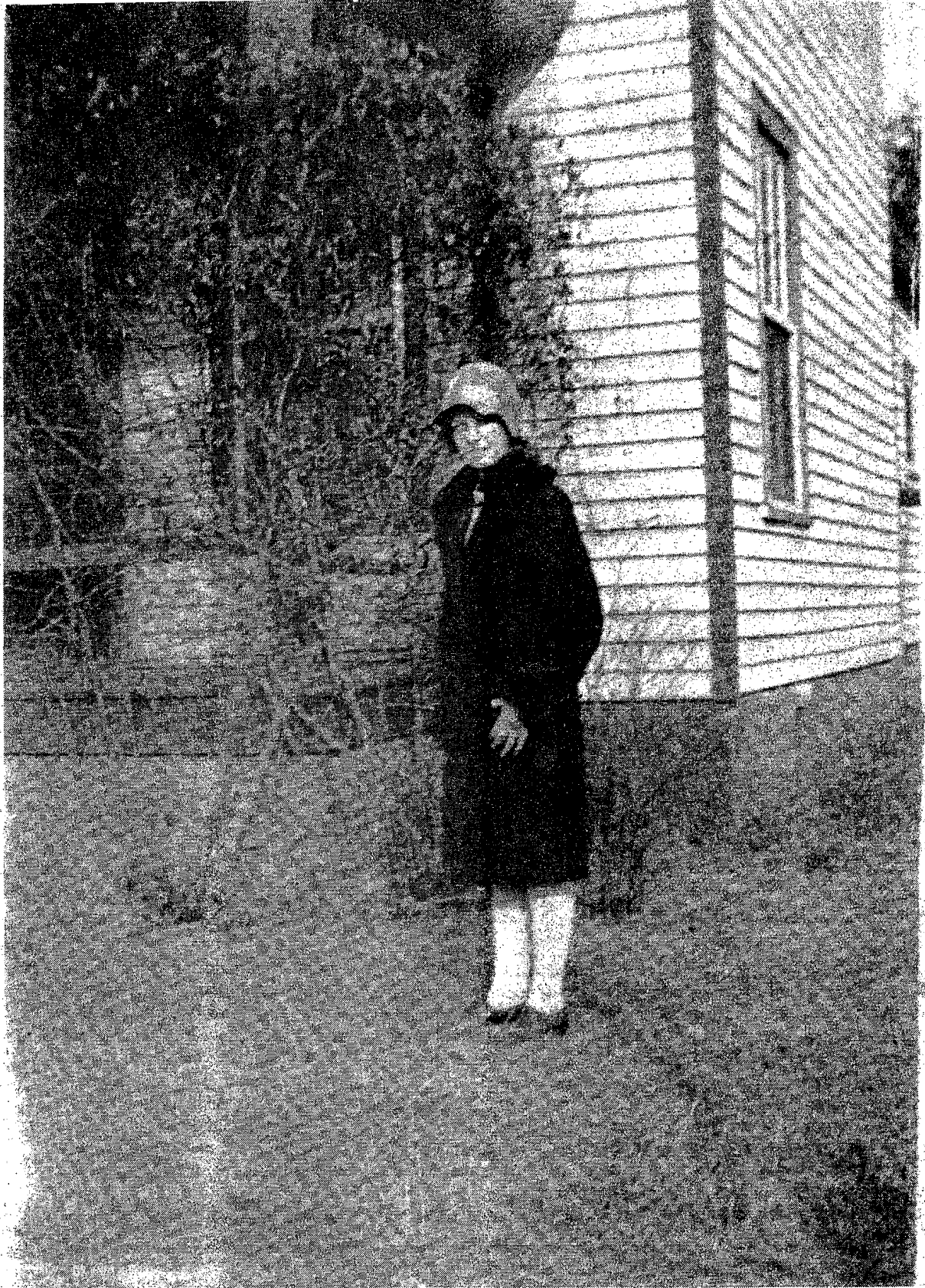
Methodist and sang in the Liberty choir
as a young girl as well as an attendee. New Hope
she worked at Poe Hardware for years
when I was just married she supplied
Dick and me with countless kitchen
necessities that she bought from Poes. She
also worked in the school cafeteria and
loved the children. When her grandchildren
came through her school she took care of
their food idiosyncracies, like more turnip greens
for R.B. She and Daddy kept Beth and R.B.
every Friday night when Dick and I
got a chance to go out to eat or else
she cooked ^{meals} ~~supper~~ for us at her house
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday while
we lived in Chase City during the week.

She must have sent thousands of
cards to sick people over the years and
she's still doing so at 88 years. She loves
her family, her church, and her God
and she is loyal to all of them in every
way.

She is truly a remarkable and unique
woman - a role model for all of her family
members. There is no way I can say how
much I admire and love her. There is no
way I can tell her how much I appreciate the
love shown through the years.

EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, MAMA DORA HAS BEEN A CARING, CONCERNED, CONSIDERATE, HONEST, AND LOVING PERSON. SHE WAS AND IS ALWAYS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP ANYBODY IN NEED AND DOES THIS WITH SUCH GRACE. I HAVE ALWAYS COUNTED ON HER FOR HELP IN JUST ABOUT ANY SITUATION YOU CAN NAME BUT I REMEMBER THREE INCIDENTS IN MY LIFE I NEEDED HER THE MOST. ONE WAS WHEN STELLA WAS TWO YEARS OLD AND SHE HAD TO HAVE HER EYES OPERATED ON, BOTH OF THEM. I WAS HORRIFIED. MAMA DORA WAS THERE WITH ME TO TEACH HER HOW TO LEARN TO HAVE HER EYES COVERED SO SHE WOULD NOT BE AFRAID WHEN SHE WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL. WE ALL CAME THROUGH THE ENCOUNTER, BUT MAMA DORA WAS THE STRENGTH. THEN WHEN DADDY WAS TOLD HE HAD CANCER IN HIS EYE I REMEMBER THE QUIET CONCERN MAMA HAD. SHE WAS THERE FOR HIM AS WELL AS FOR ALL OF US. THIS WAS SUCH AN AWFUL THING FOR ME AND I HAD A VERY HARD TIME WITH IT. WHEN I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER, MY WHOLE FAMILY WAS MOST SUPPORTIVE. I WAS TOTALLY DEVASTATED AND I ONLY FUNCTIONED OUT OF HABIT. EVERY DAY THAT PASSES, I THINK OF THE WAY MAMA DORA LOOKED AFTER ME WHEN I RETURNED TO APPOMATTOX FROM DUKE MEDICAL CENTER. I WAS SO VERY SICK AND WEAK. I REMEMBER THE NICE, CLEAN, CRISP SHEETS, THE CLEAN CLOTHES FOR GARY AND ME, THE FOOD SHE TRIED TO FIX FOR ME TO EAT EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOO SICK TO EAT. SHE BROUGHT ME ICE COLD WATER FOR THE TABLE BY MY BED MANY TIMES A DAY. IT WAS NEVER A TIME THIS COLD WATER WAS NOT THERE. I THINK SHE REMEMBERED I COULD NOT GET ENOUGH ICE IN THE HOSPITAL. SHE HELPED ME PACK GARY'S LUNCH FOR HIS WORK AND COOKED HIS SUPPER EVERY NIGHT. SHE WAS THERE DURING THE DAY WHEN I WAKED UP SO MANY TIMES HAVING THE HORRIBLE NIGHTMARES I HAD EVERY TIME I WENT TO SLEEP FOR SO MANY WEEKS. I WOULD ALWAYS CALL MAMA DORA BECAUSE I WAS SCARED AND SHE WOULD ALWAYS ANSWER. SHE NEVER LEFT ME BY MYSELF. I COULD NEVER THANK HER FOR ALL SHE DID. EACH DAY I THANK GOD FOR MY SPECIAL MAMA AND THAT I WAS RAISED IN A CHRISTIAN HOME. BOTH OF THESE WERE GIFTS FROM GOD!

Ottie Conner-Huddleston
8/2000



Memories

Send us your interesting old photos to The Times-Virginian, P.O. Box 2097, Appomattox, VA 24522. The Framery of Lynchburg will frame any photo used in the memories column free.

The year was 1928, the place, Vera, the young woman, Dora Abbitt Conner. She's proudly wearing a new winter coat. Her father, the late George F. Abbitt, Sr. sold a cow in order for his daughter to have a new coat. Dora turned 83 on July 7. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Richard Carter.



Herbert Moorman Abbitt





---A Brief History ---

Herbert Moorman Abbitt was born May 4th, 1916. He attended Wake Forest College and Medical College of Virginia. He served in the US Army during W.W.II. He owned and operated a drug store in Highland Springs, VA and has worked at the Appomattox Rexall Drug Store in Appomattox, VA since 1972.

He taught Sunday school at New Bridge Baptist Church in Highland Springs, VA and is a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Vera, VA as well as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.





HERBERT M. ABBITT

A pharmacist for over 60 years.

A jokester.

Talks alot.

Loves flowers.

And vegetable gardens, too!

Likes to be a sporty dresser.

Loves family history.

Always telling family stories.

Sleeps alot.

Loves to eat.

3 wives— going for the 4th.

Can be tender—

Can be hurtful.

Colorful stories.

Stretches the truth.

Remembers...

Gravel Knoll

Vera

W.W.II

Highland Springs, VA

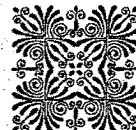
Tot and Big Daddy

Loves Dora.

Loves Uncle Herbert.

Likes to say the blessing.

Reads his Bible.





Snores.

Likes upbeat music.

Loves the old hymns.

Likes to argue.

Taught Sunday School.

Was a deacon.

Likes to sing.

Likes to whistle.

Loves the birds!

Has a cat — "Inky".

Wishes he had a dog.

Perfectionist with material things; but not himself.

Likes to wear short shorts.

Likes to take his shirt off outside.

Wants a tan.

Does not like to travel.

Dearly loves Tot and Big Daddy.

Loves the song "Goin' Home".



POMATTOX, VIRGINIA, TH

HONESTY

(By Herbert Abbitt, A. H. S.)

Honesty is the one thing without which there can be no success and since success is the thing for which all humanity longs and the goal for which all people strive, it is plainly evident that honesty is the best policy. Honesty is, as it were, the foundation on which the structure of success is raised. Sometimes it seems as if some men have obtained success through trickery and dishonesty, but this is merely a phantom, a mirage of the desert, which when man seeks to reach and grasp, fades away into nothingness and "leaves him naught but grief and pain for promised joy." From time immemorial there has been in the heart of man a horror of slavery. There is no slavery comparable to the slavery of dishonesty. Learn to know truth, "the truth shall make you free"—free from the slavery of dishonesty. There is no power that can conquer truth. Often seemingly for a time truth is conquered but this is only temporary for "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again, The eternal years of God are hers." For every cause there is some effect, some reason. In this case God is the reason. No man can build unless he has the attributes of God in him and God is truth, therefore, we must have truth and honesty.

All home life, all school life, and all business must be based on honesty. The child must be honest with the parents and the parents with the child. He must be honest and true with his schoolmates. When a man is summoned up before the courts of this country, he must obligate himself to deal in honesty and truth in his testimony and whenever there comes a reasonable doubt that has not kept this, he is no longer counted worthy of consideration of his peers and his testimony is stricken from the records. It has been found that in all colleges the honor system has done more to bring about truth and success than all the old fashioned espionage which only caused boys and girls to hide the things of which they were ashamed.

All business is founded upon honesty. When a man goes to a bank and wishes to borrow money, unless he is honest no matter how much security he gives the banker will be shy of lending him the money and will not deep down in his heart want to lend him the money.

All relations of life are founded on honesty,—business, as we have said, society family relations, in fact, from the king upon his throne to the lowest gamin on the street. Honesty is the one thing which is paramount in importance to all others. Sometimes in life a lazy man may make a success, sometimes a stupid one, sometimes a cynical one, but a dishonest man never makes a success.

Here in school we are beginning to establish the honor system, and when we do this we take such a step in progress as we could make in no other way and we try to appeal to all that is highest, and best in the hearts of the youth of the land. By beginning early we are teaching the boys and the girls things which will grow by what they are fed on.

In the words of the great Shakespeare we are teaching ourselves this, "To thine ownself be true and it must follow as the night follows the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

TIMES-VIRGIN

Herbert Abbitt presents sword to Appomattox park service

by FRANCES ABBITT

The Confederate staff sword of the late Captain George W. Abbitt found a new home on Tuesday morning when Abbitt's grandson, Herbert Moorman Abbitt, presented the sword to the Appomattox Court house National Historical Park.

Accepting the sword on behalf of the park was Joe Williams, curator and Jon Montgomery, park superintendent.

Captain Abbitt was born in 1828. He was a farmer when he enlisted in the Confederate Army on June 19, 1861. He served in the 46th Virginia Regiment, Company B.

According to the 46th Infantry records first edition Abbitt was on General Wise's list of men recommended to be officers on Sept. 24, 1861. He was elected captain on May 19, 1862. He commanded the regiment from March 29 until the end of the war.

Abbitt mustered out along with General Lee's soldiers following the surrender at Appomattox.

General Grant gave the Confederate officers the privi-

lege of keeping their side arms, thus Captain Abbitt kept his sword.

Abbitt graduated from Buckingham Military Academy in Buckingham County. The school was located one mile from the Appomattox Buckingham line.

He married Ann Maria Frances Webb. They lived on a farm near Six Mile Bridge in Campbell County for a time later moving to Appomattox to continue farming.

Private C.C. Ferguson of Appomattox who served under Captain Abbitt was one of the cooks of Company B, 46th Virginia Regiment.

Soldiers were hungry and meat was scarce. Captain Abbitt, known for his ability as a fast runner, often meant Pvt. Ferguson would have meat to prepare for the men's supper.

Captain Abbitt was so fast a runner that if, when marching or walking, a rabbit happened along, Abbitt would quickly reach out and grab the animal in his hand. Rabbit was on the menu that night!

The chuck wagon was always plagued with rats trying

to steal what little food they had.

One night Private Ferguson, the cook, told Abbitt "I have some tasty squirrel and dumplings for supper tonight."

After Abbitt has eaten his fill, enjoying his dinner to the fullest, he said, "It's the best squirrel and dumplings I have ever had."

Abbitt knew there was no gun powder to be wasted on shooting squirrels and he did not long entertain the thought that there might be one less rat in the chuck wagon that night.

In 1887 while serving as Commissioner of Revenue for Appomattox County, Abbitt successfully ran for clerk of the County.

When the new county seat was established following the burning of the courthouse in what is now the park area, Abbitt opened the clerks office at new county seat. The first recorded deeds in the new clerks office were attested to by George W. Abbitt, clerk.

Abbitt resigned from office in 1892 due to ill health. He died in June of 1912 and was buried at Gravel Knoll in Appomattox County.

Eloise Frances Abbitt Snead

After graduation from Appomattox High School, Eloise Frances Abbitt attended and completed Phillips Business College in Lynchburg. Eloise initially was a switch-board Clerk at Lynchburg Foundry and later became the first woman to be a billing clerk and an order clerk. She was ultimately made the first and only female paymaster at the Foundry. During these early adult years Eloise married ~~the~~ William Benjamin Sneed of Lynchburg.

Eloise left the Foundry in 1948 just before the birth of the first of her three sons. Ben and she purchased a farm in Campbell County where they sponsored a Polish family after World War II and assisted in their resettlement in this country. Even now the children in this family continue to express their thanks for the love and help Eloise gave them during these difficult years.

When her oldest child was ready for grade school, Eloise and Ben moved back to Lynchburg to insure their children obtained a good education. During these nurturing years Eloise stayed close to her sons by being actively involved in their activities including their education, scouting and tennis. The Sneed boys were the fourth

generation of Sneads to be members of First Presbyterian Church. Eloise volunteered for many Church duties and became the person in charge of all of the dinners served at the church, which at times had over four ~~hundred~~ hundred attendees. She is an accomplished cook with several recipes published in the Lynchburg newspaper.

With the youngest of her three sons in third grade, Eloise resumed her career with short stays as a secretary at two schools. She soon found her calling as secretary at First Presbyterian Church and later became business manager at the Church. During the fifteen years she was employed by the church, Eloise continued to serve on many committees at the Church and the Presbytery and as head chef and bottle washer. After her first retirement from this job, which was done more out of love for the Church than income, Eloise was called back because the Church could not find another "Eloise."

Like all of the Abbitts, Eloise has an inquiring mind. In addition to bible study, she has read many philosophical texts. With a deep understanding and belief of God's love and

purpose, she has been able to counsel many within her family, church and community. For several years she worked with inmates at the Rustburg prison facility. Her sons^{all} went on to obtain college degrees and post graduate education and are all active members of their churches. Their high school friends still come by the Sneed home just to talk to Eloise.

In her retirement years Eloise continued to serve coffee and juice at the church after Sunday service. She takes roses from the Church Rose garden and visits sick and shut in members of the church. She also serves meals to the homelers at the Daily Bread. Like all of her brothers and sisters, even in her twilight years, she continues to share her love with her family, both close and extended, her church fellowship, and her community.

Compiled by Ben, George, & John
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