

OUR IRISH ROOTS

By Jean Erickson Hoidal

Our Ancestry Through Our Grandma,
Georgia Smith Powell Mittelstadt Chamberlin

Eat What's Set Before Thee and Grumble Thee Not



Grandma's children and grandchildren grew up hearing, "Eat what's set before thee and grumble thee not." Perhaps she grew up hearing it, too, since her adopted father was from Indiana, the home of the Amish and Quakers. It sounds like that kind of saying. Most of my cousins and I thought it was from the Bible and, if not one of the Ten Commandments, it was pretty close. I drew a little poster that Aunt Leabel had posted on her refrigerator for many years. It had the saying and showed the Peanuts dog, Snoopy, sitting before his dog dish. In a balloon above, he's thinking, "What? No cranberries?"

2007

After several trips to Ireland, I decided I wanted to know more about my Irish roots. It was a bit difficult because I didn't know anyone before Grandma. My first step was to go to Ortonville and look up her obituary at the newspaper office. There I learned that her maiden name was Smith and she was born in Arlington, South Dakota. I got in touch with the historical society at Brookings and a very nice lady named Barbara Behrends took me to the cemetery where we found my great grandparents. It's been awhile, but there was a lot of travel and a lot of research. I went to Wabasha to do some searching and spent months on the computer following one lead after another. I found out that great grandma was an Abbott by birth and that lead me down another path.

I had found out that two brothers from Ireland (our "brothers") married two sisters from England. Our brother was George and he was killed in the Civil War, but since Chris, the other brother, was married to the sister, their history was my history. My search followed Chris to Nebraska so I wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper in Hyannis, Nebraska. Ginger Fouse from the historical society there sent me a lot of information. Then I got a huge surprise. Vic Gentry, a distant cousin, sent me a manilla envelope full of information on Christopher Abbott. Vic was about as far down the family tree on one side as I was on the other. Chris Abbott's granddaughter had sat him down and talked with him and documented all he said.

There is still more to be found, but I found a LOT and I want to share it with my cousins

Cousin Jeanie
April 8, 2016

Where it all started...

WABASHA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

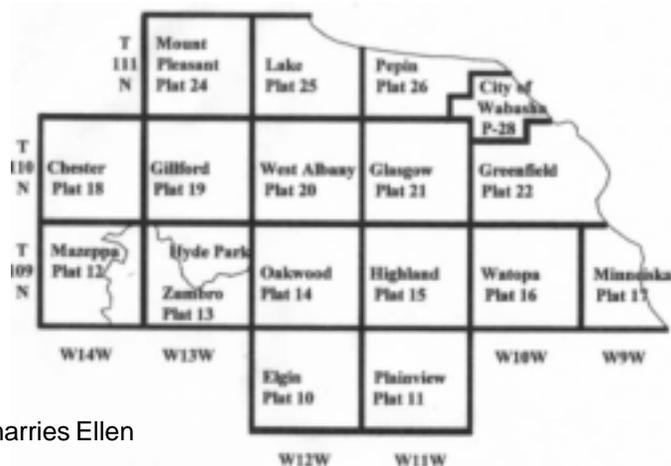
Although our ancestors came from all over, they ended up together in Wabasha County during the mid 1800s. Wabasha County is located in southeastern Minnesota, on the Mississippi River and from there most of the branches of Grandma's family connected.

In the 1860 census, the following families were all living there.

- George and Ellen Abbott and family in Watopa Township
- Christopher and Mary Abbott and family
- Charles Powell and Angeline Hammons, who were married in 1861 — Elgin Township
- Olof Polson — Watopa Township

In the 1870 census, these families were there.

- Abner and Alzina Smith and their family, including George Smith, our great grandfather. (Plainview Township)
- Charles Powell family (Elgin Township)
- Rhoda Hammons, Angeline Powell's mother
- Olof and Ellen Abbott Family, including Ellen's Abbott children and Johanna Polson, the child of Olof and Ellen. (Watopa Township)
- Peter Jacoby family. Daughter Elizabeth eventually marries Ellen Abbott's son John.



Although they all congregated in the Wabasha area, eventually many of them went west to the new homestead lands.

Dakota Territory:

George and Ella Abbott, Arlington, 1880.

John Abbott and eventually, his wife Elizabeth, Arlington, 1881.

Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota:

Charles Powell

Rhoda Hammons

North Dakota:

Madge Smith Hutchinson

R. Cole Smith

Jesse Powell

Nebraska

Christopher J. Abbott, George's brother

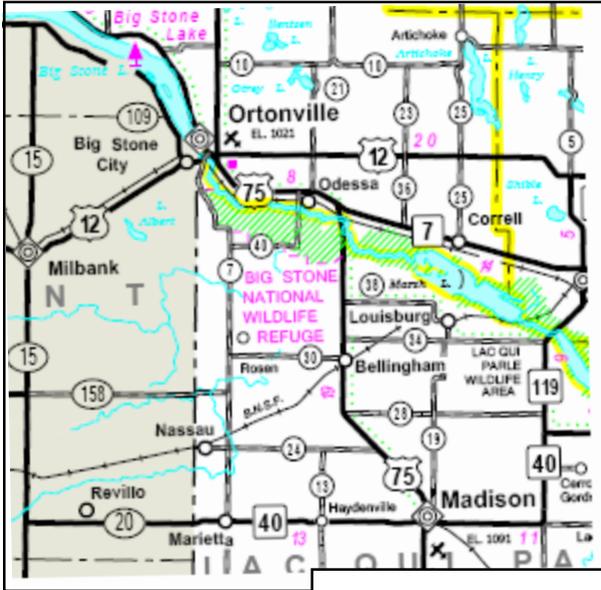
Christopher G. Abbott, George's son

William Abbott, George's son



Grandma

MAPS



LQP Plat book of farm
where children were born

Ortonville MN

Georgia Ethel Smith Powell Mittelstadt Chamberlin



Young Georgia and unknown lady

Georgia “Georgy” Ethel Smith was born on November 20, 1884 to George and Ella May Smith on their farm near Arlington, South Dakota. When she was eight months old, her father died of consumption. Madge was about 8, Claude about 5 and Cole was 4. Almost a year to the day later, July 12, 1865, her mother also died of consumption.

Charles and Angeline Powell of Bellingham, Minnesota took Georgia into their home and eventually adopted her. They had a family of boys: Hiram (23), John (21), Jesse (19), Charles Burton (15), and George, who was eight. The Powells lived on a farm in Hantho Township in Lac qui Parle County. Angeline’s mother, Rhoda Hammons, lived nearby. Very little is known about Georgy’s childhood. Being the only girl in a family of boys, I’m sure her big brothers doted on her. In the 1900 Federal Census, Georgy is living in Agassiz Township with her father (she is now listed as “adopted daughter”), Walter Winchester, an 18-year-old servant, and two boarders: Peter and John Zobrist. Angeline Powell is listed separately, also as “head of house.”



Georgia is wearing her engagement locket from fiance Butch Mittelstadt

In 1908 Georgia and Walter P. Mittelstadt were married in Bellingham, Minnesota. Walter Peter Mittelstadt was born on September 26, 1882 in Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota, to August and Elizabeth Mittelstadt.. Butch gave her a gold locket as an engagement gift. She kept his picture in it and some blue threads. At first I thought it was a lock of hair, but it’s blue and definitely not hair. They lived on a nearby farm and all four of their children were born there.

- Charlett Ruth born on November 25, 1909
- Leabel Angeline born on January 16, 1913
- Inez Lorraine born on June 24, 1914
- Walter Burton born on January 18, 1916



Walter “Butch” Mittelstadt

Charlett’s name was spelled the way it was (and not the the conventional “Charlotte”) because Georgy didn’t want anyone calling her Lottie. Young Walter Burton was never called Junior or Walter. He was called by his middle name, Burton, and later, like his father before him, “Butch.” If you look at the girls’ names, you’ll see that she was very imaginative in her christening.



The family packed up and moved to Ortonville, Minnesota, in 1920 because Butch had a job as town constable. They lived on a street just behind main street and right by the lake. The kids spent their summers in the lake. The neighborhood kids called their group the “Tin Can Alley Gang” as a parody of the famous “Tin Pan Alley” area of New York. The family were members of the Methodist Church. Georgia and Butch were active in many organizations. The picture below is a mock wedding, probably put on by the Oddfellows and Rebekahs. Butch is the flower girl and Georgia is the groom.



Aunt Leabel said that Georgy was the first woman in Big Stone County to get a driver’s license.

The lives of the Mittelstadt family were shattered on December 17, 1932, at the sudden death



MOCK Wedding— Front row: W.P. Mittelstadt, John Carlson, Mrs. Mittelstadt, Mrs. Munsingfort, Mrs. J.O. Johnson; flower girls: Mr. Garvin and Mrs. A. Anderson. Back row: Mr. Fifield, J. O. Johnson, Ed Schultz, Otto Jacobson, Cora Schofield, Ruth Geier, Mrs. Eldred, Martha Rothwell, Fred Kriesel, Mrs. Mullica, Mrs. Eldred and Mrs. Arnold.

of Butch. He came home for lunch and said he wasn't feeling well. He laid down and never woke up. He was only 50 years old, but was a very large man. Burton, the youngest, was almost 17 and Charlett was married by this time.

Five years later, on October 7, 1937, she married Ova Chamberlin, a widower who lived up on the hill. She moved to his home and they spent 17 happy years together. His engagement gift to her was a locket with a heavy chain made up of frames Xs...a chain of kisses.



The chain of kisses

As she aged, she hated to give up any of her many civic and church activities. Her doctor told her, "Georgy, you just can't keep up at this pace. You have to give something up." So she gave up dusting. This wasn't really a problem because Ova was very neat and I'm sure he made sure the home was dust-free.



Grandma and Ovie in their living room.

Her health deteriorated in 1954. Aunt Leabel tried to take care of her, but it was too much so

she and Ova moved to the Keddy Rest Home on Big Stone Lake near Beardsley. There she died on November 14, 1954 and is buried beside Butch in the Bellingham Cemetery. Ova died on September 30, 1956 and is buried in the Ortonville Cemetery

The Children of Georgia and Walter Mittelstadt

CHARLETT RUTH MITTELSTADT WEIGEL

Charlett was born in Agassiz Township, Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota on November 25, 1909. She married John "Jack" Weigel on June 25, 1930. They lived on a farm near Pillager all of their married life. They had three sons: Bob, Don and Bill; and one daughter, Alice. Charlett died on December 25, 1963. Jack died on September 14, 1971.

We all have great memories of going to Aunt Charlett's. When she saw us coming up the driveway, she sent Don to kill some chickens, Alice to pick peas and strawberries in the garden, and Bob to get ice from the ice pit. We had wonderful meals there. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes with chicken gravy made from real cream, and fresh peas. For dessert we had homemade ice cream. Although we all took turns cranking the ice cream freezer, it usually ended up that Bob and Don did most of the cranking and we did most of the eating.

John Robert Weigel (November 3, 1932) Always known as "Bob." Did not know his first name was John until I did research for this history.

Donald Burton Weigel (October 1, 1935) Married to Jeanette. Has one son, Craig.

Alice Lorraine Weigel Dickson (August 20, 1937) Husband Merv Dickson (February 20, 1937). Two daughters: Susan and Sally. They live in Pillager, MN.

Susan Kay Dickson Newkirk (February 19, 1965) Husband: Ian Kenneth Newkirk (April 1, 1965)

Jonathon Ian Newkirk (June 3, 1989)

Sarah Alexis Newkirk (December 14, 1993)

Samuel Lee Newkirk (February 7, 1995)

Sally Ann Dickson (September 7, 1966)

William Lee Weigel (May 5, 1948) Bill was the biggest baby ever born in the Brainerd hospital. He weighed 13 lbs. 7 oz. Alice said he was so fat that his eyes were just little slits in his face, but she thought he was the most beautiful baby she'd ever seen. Bill is married to Jane Harstine (b. February 11, 1948)

Amy Sue Weigel (b. January 24, 1978)

Douglas William Weigel (b. November 9, 1979)

LEABEL ANGELINE MITTELSTADT YILEK

Leabel was born on the home farm in Agassiz Township near Bellingham, Minnesota also. She entered this world on January 16, 1913. She married Herman Yilek On July 8, 1939 in Ortonville, Minnesota, where they lived their whole married life. Herman was born on November 29, 1906 and died on July 31, 1974. His mother's maiden name was Reimal. Leabel passed away on April 2, 1982. Leabel and Herman had three children: Bruce, Sally and Todd.

The best memory I have of Aunt Leabel is the family comic book collection. When you came in the back door, you could go straight ahead down the steps to the basement or you could take a left and go up to the kitchen. Against the wall at the bottom of the basement steps were orange crate cupboards full of comic books. I also remember two toys that Bruce had. He had a little train that was just flat pieces of wood that hooked together like a jigsaw puzzle. It was simple, but so neat. And it was there that I first looked through a Viewmaster and saw my first wart hog. Since we moved around a lot, it always seemed like home to go to Aunt Leabel's because it was always there in the same

place.

Bruce Herman Yilek (November 26, 1943)
Married Addie..... Bruce was a career Navy man.
They now live in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They have three sons.

Clint Robert Yilek (August 3, 1963)

Mark Yilek

Rodney Yilek (1968)

Sally Jane Yilek Van Erem (August 28, 1949)

Sally's children

Todd Lee Yilek (October 16, 1951)

Married Kimberly Kay Wolfe in 1978. Two children were born to them: Kaitlin and Michael. Kimberly died of cancer on February 2, 2007.

Kaitlyn Kay Yilek (June 17, 1983)

Michael Todd Yilek (June 14, 1986)

INEZ LORRAINE MITTELSTADT ERICKSON

Inez was born on June 24, 1914, on the family farm in Aggasiz Township, Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota. She married Clarence B. "Erick" Erickson in 1939. The family lived in South Dakota, Washington state, and Onamia, Hanley Falls, Cottonwood, and Montevideo, Minnesota. They had three children: Jean, Bernie and Donnie. Erick passed away on February 13, 1967. Inez died on January 9, 1983, while wintering in Apache Junction, AZ.

Mom was a grade-school teacher who especially enjoyed history. She taught in Minnesota at Onamia, Montevideo, Watson and Littlefork. She loved reading, especially her Grace Livingston Hill books, and liked to travel.

Jean Ethel Erickson Hoidal (May 6, 1940)

Born in Clear Lake, South Dakota. Married Lyle Hoidal in January of 1962. They lived in or near Montevideo for most of their married life. Two children: Scott and Sandy, both born in Montevideo.

Scott Allen Hoidal (January 9, 1963) Married to Stacey Freese. Later divorced. The children live with Scott.

• *Quinn Adam Hoidal* (December 28, 1996)

• *Mackenzie Lynn Hoidal* (November 13, 2000)

Sandra Jean Hoidal Luecke (February 28, 1967)

Married to Jan Paul Luecke on November 23, 1996. They have triplets.

• *Justin Robert Luecke* (May 24, 1999)

• *Alyssa Jo Luecke* (May 24, 1999)

• *Taylor Anne Luecke* (May 24, 1999)

Bernard Clarence Erickson (May 20, 1941)

Born in Clear Lake, South Dakota. Served in the U. S. Navy. Married Sally Ganyo; later divorced. Lives in Gladstone, Michigan. Has two adopted children.

• Robbie Erickson

• Amanda Erickson

Donald Raymond Erickson (1945)

Donnie was born in Spokane, Washington, in October of 1945 and died of spinal meningitis in December 1945. The city required that he be cremated. His ashes were put in his father's casket and he is buried with his mother and father at Sunset Cemetery in Montevideo, MN.

WALTER BURTON MITTELSTADT

Like his sisters, Burton was born on the family farm near Bellingham, Minnesota. He started work in the neighborhood bakery while he was still in school. He eventually became the owner of the Electric Maid Bakery. He was a respected businessman in Ortonville and people came from all the neighboring towns to buy Electric Maid bread. He married Norma Juliet Gullickson of Hanley Falls, Minnesota, on June 13, 1941. She was a nurse. Her mother's maiden name was Simonson. Burton and Norma spent their entire married life together in Ortonville, Minnesota. They had one child, Rudy. Norma died on December 30, 1976. Burton died on May 26, 1980.

Because Uncle Burton had to get up in the middle of the night to go to the bakery, he slept during the day. We always whispered so we wouldn't wake him up. Aunt Norma was soft-spoken and smiling and a real lady. I was so impressed because she ordered things from Dayton's in Minneapolis. Our family went to the local Gamble store or J.C. Penney. When I was about 10, I stayed with Grandma and Uncle Burton let me "work" down at the bakery. All the baking tins had to be scraped and I thought that scraping off caramel and eating it would be a great job. It got old in a hurry and my career ended pretty quickly. I also loved to watch him frost cakes. He twirled a piece of paper together, put on an end and magic happened.

Rudolph Burton Mittelstadt (July 14, 1946-July 2010)

Married Katherine A. Borchert. Later divorced. One child: Todd.

Todd Alan Mittelstadt

Married to Christine M. Larson on August 14, 1993.

Todd is a Navy reservist and served as part of the Seabees in both Desert Storm and the current war, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

• *Todd's child*

Remembering Grandma

by Cousin Jeanie

This picture is the way I remember seeing Grandma. I have lots of memories of her because she was the only grandma



I knew. We lived in Washington when I was young and she always sewed and sent us clothes for our birthdays. She must have thought my brother and I were twins, because they were usually matching. Of course, we were only a year apart so a lot of people thought we were twins. Then on my 8th birthday, my birthday package contained a circle skirt with a bolero-

type top. The skirt had a big ruffle on the bottom and when I twirled, it stood straight out. I loved that skirt.

Another time, probably 1946 or 1947, she and Ova came out on the train to Spokane to visit us. The train arrived in the middle of the night and I so wanted to stay awake. Mom suggested I use toothpicks, but I couldn't get them to work. In 1948 we moved to Onamia, Minnesota, and Grandma's friend, Cora Schofield brought her and Ova to visit us. Ova was very tall and thin and we have a picture of him sitting on our Shetland pony, Pat. He didn't need stirrups because his toes almost touched the ground.

When I could, I stayed with Ova and Grandma for a few days in the summer. Their house was divided in half and Uncle Burton and Aunt Norma lived in the other side. The pocket doors in the living room were closed and there was a door in the dining room that was kept shut, but opened into Aunt Norma's kitchen. When you stayed overnight, you had to knock on the door and then go through their kitchen and living room to go upstairs. When you're eight years old, that's a long way from Grandma. I got scared one night so I sneaked downstairs, woke Grandma up, and told her I was sick. (Yes, I lied, but it worked.) Ova said there was nothing wrong with me; that I should be sent back upstairs. Grandma had more empathy and let me sleep on the couch. The other thing I remember about her house was waking up in the morning and hearing the sounds of mourning doves floating past the fluffy white curtains of my bedroom window. That was the first time I'd ever heard them. I still look forward to hearing them.

Ova's house was built at the top of a ravine and was on the curve of a street. There was a barn back in the corner of the

yard and Grandma grew sweet peas along the wall. It was a big yard and she had lots of flowers. Between the house and the sidewalk that wrapped around the west side of the house, there were beds of petunias. They ended at the flat back porch...what we would call a deck today. Straight out from the back porch was a large concrete fish pond full of goldfish. Beside it was a tripod of sticks holding a kettle. She always planted red flowers beneath it so it looked like flames. The fish were kept in a barrel in the cellar during the winter and put back in the pond in the spring. There was a mulberry tree on the other side of the pond and she told us if we looked hard, we might find silk worms. We never did. There was a path back by the barn that led to a ledge in the wooded part of the ravine where the stone fireplace was. Once she took us down there for a picnic, but Ova didn't go down there. He did, however, mow that big lawn with a hand-pushed mower once and sometimes twice a week.

In the house, another of my memories are Ovie's clocks. He had many clocks and he staggered their settings so they would chime one after the other. We always had a white linen tablecloth on the table and he always brushed it clean after we ate. He copiously kept a diary...I think for most of his life...and wrote in the temperatures three times a day. He also had entries like, "Inez and her children are visiting today." Grandma always served tea in her dark blue china tea pot. I didn't like tea, but I forced it down so she would read my tea leaves. She used loose tea and there were always stragglers in the bottom of the cups. She swished the leaves around and told us wonderful fortunes. After she died and her things were divided, Mom brought home a small book of hers from the Lipton Tea Company that told you how to read fortunes.

The kitchen had a tiny pantry/closet with a curtain over it on the dining room wall side. The Ritz crackers were kept at a low enough level so I could sneak one without anyone noticing. Above the curtain was the string holder. It was the head of a Dutch girl and the string came out of her mouth. String was always used to wrap packages of food and whatever needed wrapping. No tape in those days. It looked a lot like the one in the picture.

For breakfast we always had toast that Ovie toasted over the electric burner by weaving the bread onto a meat fork and passing it back and forth over the burner. The toast was accompanied by canned grapefruit.

The living room and the dining room were on the inside wall. Running outside, on the parallel wall, were the kitchen and bedroom. Between the them, was the bathroom. Grandma had two mirrors at angles...one as you faced the sink and one on the wall in back of you...so you could see the back of your hair. She used Lifebuoy, the bright orange soap, and I loved taking baths in her claw-foot bathtub. When Uncle Jet would come to visit, the first thing she did was strip him down and get him in the bathtub. He was a little guy and although he wasn't too fond of it, he did as he was told. She



wouldn't let him sit down otherwise.

Their bedroom was in the front of the house, to the right as you entered the front door. No door on the bedroom, however. Just a curtain across a wooden rod. Her dresser was beside the bed and it was so close you could almost sit on the bed and clean the drawers. She had lots of jewelry and if I was careful, I got to try it on. I have the yellow orchid earrings that she is wearing on the formal portrait.

Oh, and one more thing. Remember that the page in the book with *Eat What's Set Before Thee and Grumble Thee Not?* Well, there was one more gem that I heard over and over and that was: Enough is enough and too much is plenty.



Barbara Behrends from the historical society in Brookings, SD e-mailed me with this information and also sent me pictures of their grave site.

I find buried in the Arlington City Cemetery, which is in Brookings County and located on the Brookings-Kingsbury County line and located near Arlington, SD, the following:

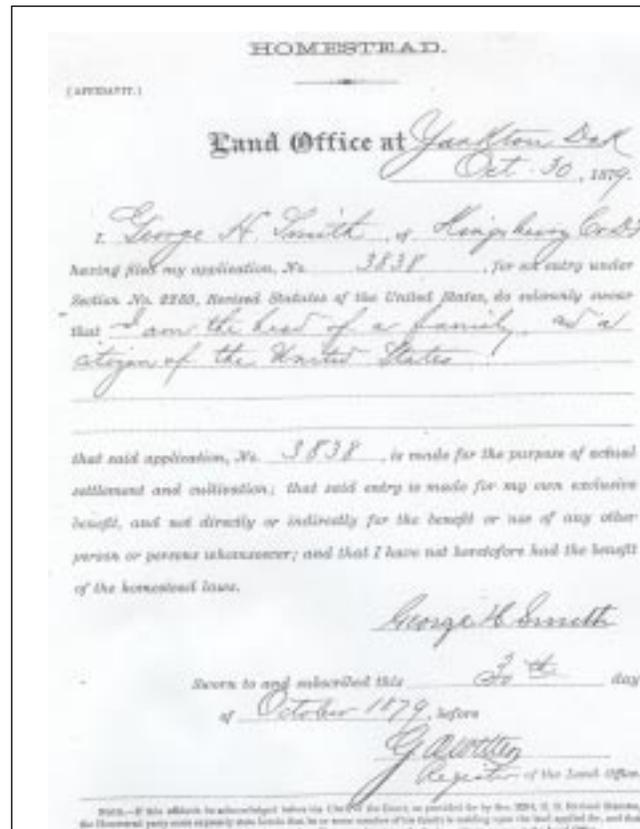
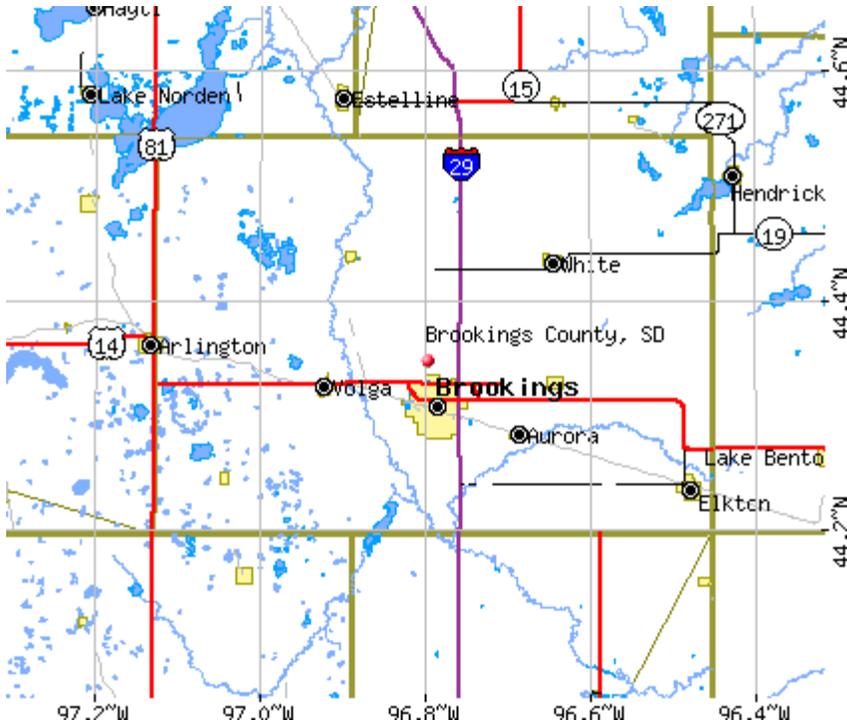
GEORGE SMITH, who died 11 July 1885 and is buried in Block 2, Lot 1.

ELLA SMITH, who died 12 July 1886 and is buried in the same plot.

A few days later, she e-mailed me again. She had been doing some other research and found this in the 22 July 1886 issue of THE BROOKINGS COUNTY PRESS, page 3, column 5.

Mrs. George Smith of Arlington died Sunday night just one year after her husband was buried. The cause of her death was consumption. She leaves several small, helpless children and many friends to mourn her death. --- ARLINGTON SUN

The George and Ella Smith Family



John K. Smith (no relation) and S.S. Cole gave Homestead Proof: Testimony of Witness for George on his homestead application, December 18, 1884. George paid \$14.00 to the Receiver's Office in Yankton, SD, to register his claim. It was in Meridian .05, Township 110N, Range 053W, Section 002. On the application, George states that he has five children. His homestead papers were not finished until after his death. The Case Type: PA; the Document ID: 1740; the date: February 11, 1887.

George and Ella Smith and their Family

George Howard Smith

- Born in Canada in 1850.
- Died July 11, 1885, Denver Township, Kingsbury County, South Dakota
- Buried in Arlington Cemetery, Kingsbury County.
- Parents: Abner and Alzina Smith.

Ella May Abbott Smith

- Born in Illinois in 1854
- Died July 12, 1886, Denver Township, Kingsbury County, South Dakota
- Buried in Arlington Cemetery, Kingsbury County.
- Parents: George and Ellen Woods Abbott

George was born in Stuckley, Shefford County, Quebec, Canada. His birthplace is often listed in the U.S. census as "Canada English." This is because his grandfather moved the family from Highgate, Vermont to lower Canada during the War of 1812. I'm not sure if it was because he was a British Loyalist or because the war was taking place right in their front yard. Whatever the reason, when Abner Smith, George's father, was very young the family moved north into Shefford County, Canada. In May of 1865 Abner moved his family to Plainview Township, Wabasha County, Minnesota.

Ella May was born in Illinois to an Irish father and an English mother. They had each immigrated from their homes in the British Isles and eventually met and married in Chicago. George moved his family to Wabasha in 1856 and settled in Watopa Township, not far from where George's family would eventually settle.

George came from a large, but wealthy family. He was 15 when his family arrived in Wabasha. He worked on his father's farm and eventually built a brick business building in Plainview.

On January 11, 1875, Ella May Abbott and George H. Smith were married in Wabasha by W. J. Boughton, a local minister. Witnesses were Myron Smith and Emma Purvis. George was 25 and Ella was 21. Their first two children, Madgia and Herbert, were born in Minnesota, most likely Wabasha. I can find no records to confirm that. Madge was born in 1876 and Herbert in October of 1879.

In April of 1880 George and Ella, along with their two small children, headed into the Dakota Territory and homesteaded in Denver Township near Arlington in what is now South Dakota. Herbert would have been about 7 months old and Madge about 4.

After becoming an organized territory (in 1861), population increased very slowly during the early years and then very rapidly with the "Dakota Boom" from 1870 to 1880. Population grew slowly for a number of reasons. Mainly, the Sioux Indians were considered very hostile and a threat to early settlers. They were gradually defeated and were not as severe a threat. The population increase can largely be attributed to the growth of railroads, specifically the Northern Pacific Railroad. Life in the Dakotas was organized around agriculture and the fertile soil. Wheat became the main cash crop of the territory. Economic hardship hit the Dakotas in the 1880s because of a decline in price of wheat and a drought that hit the territory hard. —Reprinted from Wikipedia.com

The Dakota Central Railway Company crossed the Minnesota state line and into Brookings County on October 2, 1879. With tracks being built at about one mile per day, the track and first train reached Brookings' Main Street on October 18, 1879. The railroad station was opened a month later. That would most likely have been the way that the Smiths traveled to Dakota Territory the next spring. Here is a very descriptive of their first glimpses of their new home in Dakota Territory.

The barren, treeless prairies which greeted our forefathers, stretched endlessly from horizon to horizon and offered both opportunity and despair along with 160 acres of free land. Gone also are the stony-faced settlers, mostly immigrants, who endured incredible hardships in their determination to conquer the land. The harsh extremes of winter and summer (sometimes measuring as much as 150° difference between the seasons) prevented subsistence farming which had sustained the settlers of other frontiers. Farmers could raise one or two staple crops or graze herds of cattle but could not provide all their needs from the land. Transportation to take their crops to market and bring back necessary supplies was essential for survival on this prairie. The influence of the railroads cannot be overemphasized in both the rapid settlement and ultimate success of Dakota Territory. They tended to neutralize the negative weather and conditions by bringing in fuel, food, fencing and building materials—all unavailable on the treeless plains. And, of course, the railroads brought the farmer closer to his marketplace. Unlike earlier pioneers who formed caravans of prairie schooners across the plains, these settlers came by rail, often to within just a few miles of their final destination —(The Great Dakota Boom, from exploretheoldwest.org)

I contacted the National Archives in Washington, DC and got copies of the homestead papers for George and Ella. The papers state that on April 6, 1880, George established residence therein. April 10, 1880 a one-story frame dwelling (14x28 feet), a barn (16x46 feet), a wind mill and 60 acres broke. Value \$700. It also states that George is a native citizen of the United States, is head of a family and had not made no former homestead entry. That doesn't sound like a mansion, but in comparison to the

other settlers, it was. Because of the scarcity of wood, many early settlers cut the prairie sod and used the sod blocks to make walls for their homes. George and Ella not only had a pretty good-sized house, they also had a large barn and windmill. George probably raised wheat on his 60 tilled acres that first year.

In May of 1881, Claude, their second son, is born in Dakota Territory. Then Robert Cole in April of 1883, about the time his Grandma Smith died in Plainview, Minnesota. Georgia is born in late November of 1884. The young family now has five children. Madge, age 8; Herbert, age 5; Claude, age 3; Cole, only a year old and little Georgia, newly born. Ella has her hands full. Her husband George is ill and she has five small children to care for. By the middle of July in 1885, George has succumbed to consumption or, what is now known as tuberculosis. A year later, almost to the day, Ella May also dies of consumption.

In the late 1800s, tuberculosis spread rapidly in the United States because no one knew what caused it. Doctors at that time thought it was hereditary so there was no isolation of people with TB. In many areas of the country, it was the number one killer. Early symptoms often went undetected, and not until a person lost weight from loss of appetite, contracted a dry cough, had flushed cheeks from a rising afternoon fever and night sweats was it assured that he or she had "consumption." The disease was dreaded, but since there was no treatment or cure, it was met with resignation and the patient was made as comfortable as possible. As the disease became more advanced, the patient would have severe chest pains and bloody sputum as the result of hemorrhaging in their lungs. Although it affected all ages, it seemed most prevalent among young adults.

The Brookings County Press, July 22, 1886, page 3, column 5.

Mrs. George Smith of Arlington died Sunday night just one year after her husband was buried. The cause of her death was consumption. She leaves several small, helpless children and many friends to mourn her death. --- ARLINGTON SUN
Arlington Sun

The Plainview News printed this article on July 18, 1885.

Mr. Abner Smith received a telegram last Saturday informing him of the death of his son, George, who resided in Denver (Township), South Dak., and he took the first train west to be present at the funeral. Mr. George Smith was formerly an inhabitant of this village and built the brick building now occupied by Ed. Marshall for a barber shop.

The children were sent to live with relatives. Georgia went to live with the Charles Powell family in Bellingham, Minnesota, who eventually adopted her. I have not been able to find out where the boys went, but their Uncle John Abbott lived near Arlington. In the 1900 census, Madge is married and living with James/John Smith in Andover, SD. He may have been the friend who signed the homestead. Cole is living with his Uncle Christopher Abbott in Nebraska.

CHILDREN:

Madgis M. Smith, born June 4, 1876 in Minnesota.

Herbert Clyde Smith, born in October 27, 1879 in Minnesota

Claude Smith, born on May 3, 1881 in Kingsbury, Dakota Territory (Now South Dakota)

Robert Cole Smith, born April 22, 1883 in Kingsbury, Dakota Territory (Now South Dakota)

Georgia Ethel Smith, born on November 20, 1884, South Dakota

Children of George and Ella Smith

MADGE MAUDE SMITH HUTCHINSON

Madge was born in 1876, the first child of George and Ella. She would have been about 10 when her parents died. In the 1900 census she is married to William C. Hutchinson (1872) and they are living with James I. Smith in Andover, Day County, South Dakota. They are listed as "boarders." The number of years married is "0" so they would have had to be married before June 1st of that year. Their first child was born on August 11, 1900. William is a railroad station agent. (Actually, he is listed as Walter P. instead of William C., but there are lots of errors in the census names. The census takers just wrote down what it sounded like. I'm also wondering if James Smith was a relative of some kind. She may have gone to live with them when her parents died.)

In the 1910 census she is living in Dunn, North Dakota. That's where her brother R. Cole Smith lived. She now has three children: Donald Hutchinson, born August 11, 1900 in South Dakota; Gladis Hutchinson, born September 2, 1902; Kenneth Hutchinson, who was 5 years old. In the 1920 census, there are two more children: Forest, age 9; and daughter Corlisle, age 6. Forrest is living with Gladys and her husband, Donald Cook, in the 1930 census. They are living in Werner, Dunn County, ND.

Cannot find an obituary for her yet. According to Grandma's obituary, she was living in Portland, Oregon in 1954. The Social Security site has her death in November of 1958 and that she is survived by her husband William.

Herbert Clyde Smith

In the 1880 census, there are two children: Madge and Herbert C. It says that he was 8 months old and that he was born in Minnesota in October of 1879. More research and I have his birth date as October 27, 1879 and most likely in Arlington. Married Mae D. Reynolds on May 19, 1912 in Beadle, SD. Later they lived in Stanley county, in the town of Hayes. He died on January 8, 1937 in Stanley County and is buried in the Sansarc Cemetery there. The only obituary I could find was an article on the front page of the Pierre SD newspaper. Just said he was a well-known businessman in the area. No real particulars.

They had one son, Donald Frederick Smith, born in 1916. He married Roberta Brine in Sully County, SD in 1941.

I also found that his first wife was Christina Smith and she died on May 16, 1910 in the county of Stanley. I don't think they were married very long. I need to go through my notes to find out more.

Claude Merrill Smith

Claude was born in May 3, 1881 in Kingsbury County, South Dakota, in what was then the Dakota Territory (DT). He was five years old when his mother died and it's not known where he was sent to live. However, his mother's brother, John Abbott, lived near Arlington so the boys were probably taken

in by that family.

In the 1910 census, at age 28, he is still single and living on a farm in Rapids School District, Valley, Montana, as head of the household. At the age of 35, he married Angeline, who was 23. Do not know what her maiden name was. To this union were born Walter, George, Glen and Hazel Smith. The social security death index states that he died on February 8, 1970 in Sheridan, Montana. His last residence was Plentywood, Montana.

Robert Cole Smith

Born Robert Cole, he was known as "Cole" most of his life. I remember hearing about Uncle Cole and also Aunt Madge. A nice lady at the Dunn County Historical Society sent me his obituary. She put on a note that read: *I did not know him, but I took piano lessons from his daughter. Small world!* The obit lead me to search for him in Nebraska and that's where I found him...living with Chris Abbott, his Mother's brother.

Obituary from THE HERALD for

Robert Cole Smith

Funeral services for R. Cole Smith were held February 19 from St. John's Lutheran Church in Killdeer with Rev. Carl Fredrickson officiating. Burial was in the Spring Creek Lutheran Cemetery near Halliday. Pall bearers were Jim Bosch, Don Sitter, Tim Sitter, Warren Smith, Paul Bosch and Bill Bosch.

Mr. Smith died February 16, 1977. He was 93.

He was born April 22, 1883, at Arlington, S. Dak., to George Smith and Ella Abbott Smith. As a young man he worked on ranches in Nebraska and Wyoming before coming to Dunn County in 1906 where he homesteaded north of Taylor. He and Lee (Leah) Carns were married at Emerson December 24, 1910, and made their home on the homestead, later moving to a farm south of Halliday. Mrs. Smith died December 10, 1953.

On January 2, 1955, Mr. Smith and Grace Hutchinson were married at Manning. They lived on the farm until November 1959 when they moved to Killdeer to make their home.

Mr. Smith was elected as a Dunn County Commissioner and served from 1921 to 1930. He also served as president of the Halliday School Board in 1928 and was a member of the Dunn County Soil Conservation District from 1946 to 1950. He was a life member of the Killdeer Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by one son, Robert Smith of Halliday; three daughters, Georgia Bosch of Dickinson, Gwendolyn Scott of Carrington, and Marjorie Sitter of Halliday; 13 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, one son*, two brothers, two sisters and two grandsons.

* In the 1920 census, he has a son, Keith, who is 9 months old. He is not listed in the 1930 census so he must be the son who died.

Georgia Smith Powell Mittelstadt Chamberlin

Ortonville Independent, Thursday, November 18, 1954

rites held for Mrs. Chamberlin at Methodist church

Final rites for Mrs. Ova Chamberlin, who passed away Sunday, November 14, at the Keddy Rest Home, were held today at two o'clock from the Methodist church, Ortonville, with interment in the Bellingham cemetery. Reverend R. V. Holt officiated.

At the service Robert and Leonard Kollitz sang two of her favorite songs, accompanied at the organ by Mr. R. V. Hasselin.

Pallbearers were Henry Housauer, Harry Geier, Otto Jacobson, W. B. Sellin, Roy Bergstrom and Fred Kreisel.

Georgia Ethel Powell was born November 20, 1884, at Arlington, South Dakota, the daughter of George and Ella Smith. After the death of her parents, she, at the age of two, made her home with the Charles Powell family of Bellingham.

On March 25, 1908, she was united in marriage with Walter P. Mittelstadt at Madison. The couple resided on a farm near Bellingham until 1920 when they moved to Ortonville. Mr. Mittelstadt preceded his wife in death on December 17, 1932.

On October 7, 1937, she married Ova Chamberlin of this city. Mrs. Chamberlin became ill the first part of this year and since June lived at the Keddy Home near Beardsley.

She became a member of the Methodist Church in 1921. She was a member of the Rebekkah Lodge and the Past Noble Grand Club. She also belonged to the Grandmother's Circle of the church and had always been an active worker in the community.

Surviving are her husband, Ova Chamberlin, and her four children: Mrs. John Weigel (Charlett) of Pillager, Mrs. Herman Yilek (Leabel) of Ortonville, Mrs. C. B. Erickson (Inez) of Cottonwood, and Burton Mittelstadt of Ortonville. Other surviving relatives are three granddaughters and seven grandsons, **three brothers: William Powell of Long Beach, California, Cole Smith of Halliday, North Dakota, Claude Smith of Plentiwood, Montana, and one sister, Mrs. Madge Hutchinson of Portland, Oregon.**

Abner and Alzina Smith and their Family

ABNER SMITH

Plainview News, Plainview, MN — July 18, 1885

Mr. Abner Smith received a telegram last Saturday informing him of the death of his son, George, who resided in Dever, Dakota, and he took the first train west to be present at the funeral. George Smith was formerly an inhabitant of this village and built the brick building now occupied by Ed. Marshall for a barber shop.

Plainview News, Plainview, MN — January 19, 1889

Abner Smith who has been confined to his bed for the past number of months died last night. The funeral will be held at the Congregational Church at 2 o'clock this (Saturday) afternoon.

Obituary for Abner Smith

Plainview News, Plainview, MN — January 26, 1889

Mr. Abner Smith whose death was announced last week, was born in Highgate, Vermont, April 20th 1811, making his age at death nearly 78 years. When he was quite young he went with his parents to South Stukley, Shefford Co. Canada, and was there married at the age of 23 to Miss Alzina Montle. Settling down to the business of farming, he continued in the honorable vocation for a series of years with much success, accumulating considerable wealth, besides supporting a large family of children, six daughters and six sons, eight of whom are still alive, six daughters and two sons, three of whom were near him when the spirit took its flight, viz. Mrs. H.A. Knowlton, Lester A. and Myron Smith. The deceased moved to Plainview in May, 1865, bought the farm where E. L. Struble now lives; afterwards selling it, and buying one over south of town where his wife died in the spring of 1883. Having lost his life long companion and his children all being scattered, he rented his farm and took a trip to Iroquois, Dakota to visit his son George (who is now dead) and there became acquainted with Mrs. Harriet Brown whom he married in November. Returning here with his wife and settled in the village, where he had some property. But only for a short period did he enjoy rest, for his health failed and he became a helpless invalid and required constant attention. His beloved wife, however, with uncommon patience never falter or complained, but with a sonsconsciousness of pure wifely love performed her duty faithfully till the last, and too much honor and commendation cannot be accorded to her by the friends of the deceased. She truly has had the sympathy of all her neighbors and acquaintances during his long sickness of nearly three years, he being quite helpless for over one year.

Mr. Smith was a good husband, kind parent, excellent neighbor and true friend and his peaceable and consistent life for so many years among us won the respect of the entire community, and the high regard of all who knew him. He suffered but little during his illness—died without a pain. Derangement of the liver perhaps was the cause of his first ailments, but lastly nothing more nor less than old age—the machinery of life run down, and like a clock stopped.

ALZINA SMITH

Plainview News, Plainview, MN — April 21, 1883

Mrs. Abner Smith, who died last Friday morning after a long illness, was buried in Plainview Cemetery on Sunday at 2 o'clock. Services conducted by Rev. Alfred Cressey, were held at the family residence, three miles southwest of town, and very numerous attended. Mrs. Smith was born in Canada sixty-six years ago and has lived in Minnesota eighteen years. She was the mother of twelve children, nine of whom are still living, three boys and six girls. One of her neighbors, after acquaintance of over thirty-five years, wants it said for the departed that "she was a model neighbor, one of the most devoted of wives and kindest of mothers." Dr. Taber, her nephew, says that he made it his home with her family for a couple of years, and that in all that time he never knew her to speak an unpleasant or unkind word. Affection, love and reason were the only weapons she used in governing her family. It is a sad thought that the noblest of God's creatures must be taken from our midst. Mr. Smith and his bereaved family, among whom THE NEWS finds many readers, will please accept our heart-felt sympathy.

NOTE: Dr. Taber was a dentist and target shooter. He went west to California in the late 1880s.

Abner Smith born in New York in about 1811. Alzina Montel Smith born in Vermont/Canada in about 1817. Abner and Alzina are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Plainview Township, Wabasha County, Minnesota.

The 1870 census has the family living in in Plainview Township, Wabasha County, with the following people in the household, besides Abner and Alzina.

George, age 26

Adelia, age 23

Mary, age 17

Myron, age 15

Valma, age 13

Amelia, age 8, listed as a male.

George married Ella May Abbott.

Adelia married H. A. Knowlton

Mary

Myron

Velma married Stuart

Amelia married Bryant

MYRON SMITH

Plainview News, Plainview, MN — March 6, 1936

The remains of Myron Smith were brought here Monday for burial in Greenwood cemetery. At the service Harry Smith, L. E. Ryan, A. C. Nelson, John Puetz, Wallace Wolfe and George Hunter acted as pallbearers. The funeral service was held at Huron, S.D. Rev. Greene presided at the burial service.

Mr. Smith died at 11:30 p.m. Friday, February 28 at Huron, S.D. where he had made his home for the past twenty years. The infirmities of old age was the cause of his death, with chronic nephritis as the immediate cause.

Mr. Smith was born September 4, 1853, at Stuckley Milk, Canada. He came with his parents (Abner and Alzina Smith) to Plainview in 1861 and lived the greater part of his active

life here, engaging in farming until his retirement from active work. He operated the farm now occupied by John Mason, and later lived for a number of years in Plainview.

In 1917 he moved to Huron, S.D., where he has since had his home. He and his wife spent a winter a few years ago here in Plainview. He was married to Lucy B. Butts on October 29, 1879.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, four children, Mrs. Vern Sedan, Huron, S.D.; Jay N. Smith, Vancouver, Wash.; Mrs. Adda Harmon, Spokane, Wash., and Robert G. Smith, Spring Valley, Minn; three sisters, Mrs. Adelia Knowlton, Plainview; Mrs. Velma Stuart, Charlestown, Mass. and Mrs. Amelia Bryant, Andover, S.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sedan accompanied the body here for burial.

Shefford County, Quebec

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Shefford County is an historical county in southern Québec, Canada. It is named after a small town in Bedford County, England of the same name and is in the Eastern Townships region of Québec.

Topographically, part of the county is situated on the western foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The county contains four small lakes, Lake Waterloo near Waterloo, Lake Boivin in Granby Township, Lake Roxton in Roxton Township, and **Lake Stukely in Stukely Township**. All of the lakes flow into the Yamaska River, except for **Lake Stukely which feeds into the St-François River**, both of which flow northwards and are tributaries to the Saint Lawrence River.



The county is divided into seven townships of which six are square-shaped, three in the north (from east to west, the Township of Ely, the Township of Roxton and the Township of Milton); and three in the south (from east to west, the **Township of Stukely**, the Township of Shefford and the Township of Granby). The county seat is Waterloo, located in the Township of Shefford.

In the early 1980s, Quebec abolished its counties, and Shefford County was divided. Stukely is now Memphremagog Regional County Municipality (southeast).

South Stukely, founded in 1855, is a municipality located across Route 112 between Eastman and Waterloo. It was originally colonized and settled by New England Loyalists at the end of the 18th century. At the beginning of the 19th century, Francophones from overflowing parishes in the Saint Lawrence valley and veterans of the War of 1812 cleared new farms. The municipality's name reflects this dual origin. "Stukely" was chosen to commemorate a village in Huntingdonshire in the centre of England. Three churches harken from that era: St. Matthew's Anglican Church (1856), the United Church (1880), which has become a Catholic church, and the Adventist Church (1883). The latter is the oldest Adventist church in Eastern Canada while St. Matthew's is now a site for cultural and community activities. The history of the village is linked to the Stagecoach Road, which offers a wonderful view to those who drive through the area or cycle past on the Route Verte. South Stukely residents are sometimes called "Diligents" (the French word for stagecoach) – a throwback to that bygone era. Today, the municipality is working to improve its residents' quality of life and number of services, ensuring a rural community that is welcoming to visitors and new inhabitants.

Charles and Angeline Powell and their Family

In the summer of 1886, after the death of her parents, Georgia Smith is sent to live with the Charles Powell family in Bellingham, Minnesota. They eventually adopted her and were the only parents she ever knew.

Charles Powell

- Charles Powell was born on February 20, 1836 in Butler Township, Franklin County, Indiana.
- He lived there until he was 20 years old, when he moved to Wabasha County, Minnesota. He lived in Elgin Township and was employed in farming and blacksmithing.
- In 1878 he moved to western Minnesota and built a grist mill near Appleton, Minnesota in Swift County. He sold it a year later.
- In 1879 he moved to Hantho Township in Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota, where he farmed.
- In 1881 he made a visit to Texas.
- Charley died on February 13, 1917, three days shy of his 81st birthday.

Angeline Hammons Powell (b. 1848)

- Angeline Hammons was born in Dixmont, Penobscot, Maine in 1847.
- Parents: Hiram and Rhoda Hammons. Both parents born in Maine: Hiram in about 1822 and Rhoda L. Hammons in July of 1829. Besides Angeline, they had one son, Henry. In 1870 they lived in Plainview Township in Wabasha County, Minnesota. After Hiram's death, Rhoda lived with her daughter. When Angeline died in 1917, she moved to live with her son Henry in Plains, Montana. On April 1, 1923, she died in Sanders County, Montana.

Angeline married Charles Powell on September 22, 1861 in Wabasha County, Minnesota. Their first three sons, Hiram, Jesse and John were all born in Wabasha County.

The Children of Charles and Angeline Powell

Hiram Powell (1863 in Minnesota)

Wife: Nellie

Ruth Powell (b. 1898)

In 1910 census, Charles is living with Hiram.

John Henry Powell (1865 in Minnesota)

Jesse Gordon Powell (1867 in Minnesota)

Charles Burton Powell (1871 in Minnesota)

Willis Worth Powell (1876 in Minnesota)

George Arthur Powell (1878 in Minnesota)

Georgia Smith Powell (Adopted daughter)



Clara Powell, 1906; Carlos Powell, 1884; Hiram Powell, 1862
Angeline Powell, 1847; Rhoda Hammons, 1829.

Mrs. A. Powell, member of above Five Generation Picture, passes away

Nearly four years ago we printed above five generation picture at the same time expressing our hope that possibly we would be permitted to print a six-generation picture of this family tree. Today the chain is broken, a link is gone. Angeline Powell died at her home about four miles northwest of here last Monday forenoon after a long illness all that medical skill and loving care could do, was done but her earthly course was run and at last she had to yield to the inevitable.

Mrs. Angeline Powell; nee Hammons was born in 1847 in the state of Maine. Later the family moved to Indiana and still later came to Minnesota. She was married to Chas. Powell and to them seven children were born, five of them survive her and an adopted daughter. They are according to age, Hiram of this village, Jessie of Mohall, N.Dak. Dr. C.B. of Madison, Willis who at present is in New York, G. Arthur of Ortonville and Georgia Mittelstadt near here all of whom were present except Willis. Besides above children she is survived by her aged mother, Mrs. R. Hammons, husband and a large number of other friends and relatives who mourn her comparatively early departure.

Appropriate services were held in the M. E. Church yesterday. Rev. Kettlewell of Appleton conducted the services being assisted by the choir. As pall bearers acted J.C. Vaupel, C. W. Brown, F. Kottke, John Sahr, J. W. Morrison, L. F. Clark. After the services in the church the cortege moved up to our silent city where that, that was mortal was laid to rest.

It is not necessary to add columns of laudatory comments on her past life as she had a circle of friends that reached beyond the usual limit who are a living testimony as to her exemplary station in life.

---Bellingham Newspaper

Note: The M.E. Church was the Methodist Evangelical in Bellingham.

The Abbotts

THE GEOGRAPHY OF OUR ROOTS

Our families congregated in the southeastern corner of Minnesota in Wabasha County of the Minnesota Territory in the mid-1800s. The county ran parallel to the Mississippi River and the shores were the landing place for many early settlers. Early riverboats were the fastest mode of travel to the new territory. As

“
••• Minnesota Territory was an organized territory of the United States from March 3, 1849 to May 11, 1858, when Minnesota was admitted as the 32nd state. The original boundaries, as carved out of Iowa Territory, included the current Minnesota region and most of what later became Dakota Territory east of the Missouri River. Minnesota Territory also included portions of Wisconsin Territory that did not become part of Wisconsin, located between the Mississippi River and Wisconsin, including the Arrowhead Region.

At the time of its formation, the territory contained three cities: St. Paul, St. Anthony (now Minneapolis), and Stillwater. The major territorial institutions were divided between the three: St. Paul was made the capital; Minneapolis was selected as the site of the University of Minnesota; and Stillwater was chosen as the site of the Minnesota Territorial Prison.--- Reprinted from *Wikipedia*

Ireland: The Abbott Branch

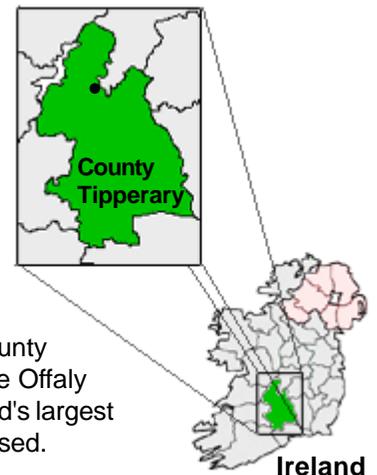
Our Abbotts lived in Munster Province in the county of Tipperary. In the Nebraska articles on Christopher Abbott, there are three different places listed. As Christopher told it to his granddaughter, he and George were “born on an estate near Cork.” Later, after their father, John Abbott, inherited money, they moved to Dublin. In the other article, it states “the family was born in the small towns of Modreeny and Templederry, County Tipperary, Ireland.” Tipperary is a county.

In some online Irish Records, I found that William Abbott, son of John and Mary Abbott, was born in Cloughjordan, county Tipperary, Ireland. On February 9, 1834, he was baptised in Modreeny, county Tipperary. Under “Miscellaneous” it says “Shopkeeper.” The source of this information was the Parish Register of Modreeny, Diocese of Killaloe.

“
••• How Cloughjordan was named. A Norman knight by the name of De Marisco, had travelled to the Holy Land to take part in a Crusade against the Saracen invaders, is said to have brought back a stone from the River Jordan which he built in over the doorway of his castle and it was from that stone that the village got its name – the Stone of Jordan – Clogh Shiúrdáin – Cloughjordan.

Cloughjordan (Cloch Shiurdáin in Irish, meaning "Jordan's Stone"), in North County Tipperary, Ireland is situated in the northwest part of North Tipperary close to the Offaly border. It is almost equidistant from Nenagh, Roscrea and Birr and is close to Ireland's largest river, the Shannon, and Lough Derg. The alternate spelling 'Cloghjordan' is recognised.

In Cloughjordan life moves at a measured pace. Poet and patriot Thomas McDonagh, a native of Cloughjordan, described it as a place “in calm of middle country”.--- Reprinted from *Wikipedia*



England/Ireland: The Woods Branch

The two Irish brother, George and Christopher Abbott, married two sisters from Manchester, England. Their father was James Woods and he was born in Ireland. Manchester is in Lancashire County in the northwestern part of England. It is said to be the first “industrialized city” in England.

THE GEORGE AND ELLEN ABBOTT FAMILY

George Abbott

- George Abbott born on an estate near Cork, Ireland in about 1825
- Parents were John and Mary Abbott. He had two brothers: Christopher and William; four sisters: Mary, Harriett, Edith and Cherry Francis. (For more information on the Abbott family, go to page 22.)
- George died on January 3, 1865
- Immigrated to America with his brother Christopher in about 1845, probably by way of Quebec.

Ellen Woods Abbott Polson

- Ellen Woods Abbott born in Manchester, Lancashire, England on July 14, 1835.
- Father: James Woods (Born in Ireland in 1798) No information on her mother.
- Ellen died on May 1, 1917 and is buried in the Lakewood Cemetery, Lake Township, Lake City, Minnesota.
- She immigrated to America with her family in 1848. They lived in Chicago.
- She married a neighbor, Olof Polson, after her husband was killed in the Civil War. They were married in Wabasha on June 23, 1866. They had one child together, Johanna Elizabeth, who was born in March of 1867. Johanna (Josie) later moved to Nebraska. Her married name was Josie Spurling and she lived in Hyannis Nebraska.

Brothers George and Christopher Abbott met two English girls from Manchester, England in Chicago. In about 1853 George married Ellen Woods in Chicago, Illinois. Christopher married her sister Mary.

George and Ellen's first two children, Ella May and John, were born in Illinois. George and his brother, Christopher, went to Wabasha some time between 1851 and 1854 and established homesteads. In the History of Wabasha County, it says, *In the summer of 1851 Andrew Olson emigrated to this section with his family, took a claim and erected a house, the first in this vicinity. Soon after, two brothers, George and Christopher Abbott, and in 1857 William Weaver arrived from New York State.*

George settled near Weaver, Minnesota, in Wabasha County where he farmed, but was also a blacksmith, according to the Territorial Census of 1857. Two more children were born in Minnesota. They were William and Christopher.

On August 17, 1862 George was inducted into the K Ninth Regiment with the Minnesota Wabasha Volunteers and fought for the Union Army in the Civil War. He was wounded in battle near Nashville, Tennessee on December 15, 1864 and died two weeks later of the wounds on January 3, 1865. George is buried in the National Cemetery in Nashville.

CHILDREN:

- Ella May Abbott
- John Abbott
- William Abbott
- Christopher Abbott

THE CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND ELLEN ABBOTT

ELLA MAY ABBOTT

Ella May was our great grandmother. She married George Smith. More information about them on pages 3-4-5.

JOHN ABBOTT (Our great uncle)

Obituary from the front page of the *Arlington Sun*...

ARLINGTON BUSINESS PIONEER IS SUMMONED

Business Houses Close During Final Rites of John Abbott

As the *Arlington Sun* goes to press the business places of the city have closed their doors as an act of respect for a departed pioneer business man and one time mayor of the city of Arlington, and the people are gathering at the Christian church where funeral services will be held under direction of the Reverend Ralph Tietsort, pastor of that church, over the remains of John Hasken Abbott.

Mr. Abbott had been about his accustomed daily duties until Sunday night when he was taken with what was diagnosed as extreme toxic poisoning. He arose during the night, but fell through weakness, and it was a time before he could arouse the household for help. The doctor was called and all that was possible was done for his relief, but the end came about one o'clock Tuesday noon.

John Hasken Abbott was born April 13, 1855, in Illinois. As a boy he lived at Kellogg, Minnesota, and in the spring of 1881 he came to South Dakota and settled at Arlington, then Nordland. After taking a homestead in Spring Lake township, he was united in marriage on February 12, 1884, with Elizabeth Jacoby, of Weaver, Minnesota, and a home was made here.

Mr. Abbott engaged in various businesses in addition to looking after his farming interests, in turn operating a drug store, an elevator and a real estate office. He was alderman for number of terms and mayor of the city for a time. He retired some fifteen years ago, and has held his residence here ever since.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Abbott, all of whom, together with the widow mourn the loss of husband and father at this time. The children are: Mrs. H.H. Sabo of Arlington, Mrs. Clifford Maltby of Rapid City, James of Sioux Falls, George of Arlington, and Grace of Rapid City. He is also survived by one brother, W. J. Abbott of Whitman, Nebraska. The deceased was a member of the Episcopal church and of the A.O.U.W. lodge.

At the funeral the pall bearers are to be Messrs. John Haxton, G. H. Glendenning, John Maxwell, Basil Dill, William Habel, and M.E. Maxwell. In addition to these, there will be six honorary pall bearers, chosen from among those who have been associated with Mr. Abbott since territorial days. These are E.W. Smith, A. H. Hewett, C.S. Peterson, W.P. Allen, Allen Matteson and L.P. Phelps.

Thus has passed from our community another of the pioneers who withstood privations and hardships incident to settlement of this when it was a new country, and laid the foundation for the advantages which the present generation

enjoys. He is one of a rapidly vanishing company, that all too soon will be known only in history. Let us honor his memory and respect his achievement in life. James (John?) Abbott has gone in person, but what such as he has achieved will live on for all time.---From the front page of the *Arlington Sun*, August 29, 1929

WILLIAM & CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT

Note from Ginger Fouss, Curator of the Grant County Museum of in Nebraska.

Your letter was printed in the local paper as a letter to the editor. I elected to answer it. Attached is the obituary for William J. — forever known here as "Wilse." In fact, is listed in our cemetery records in Whitman as Willis James. We also have obits for his wife and some of the children if you are interested.

WILLIAM JAMES ABBOTT

William James Abbott was born at Wabasha, Minn., October 16, 1856, and died at Crawford, Nebr., Oct. 7, 1935, at the age of 78 years, 11 months and 21 days.

He came to Nebraska in 1890 and located on a homestead north of Whitman where he engaged in ranching until 1900 when he retired and moved to Whitman where he has since resided.

In 1891 he was united in marriage with Mary Bergerson, and to this union four children were born, namely, Mrs. Floyd Taylor, Harry Abbott, Willard Abbott, Mrs. Ed Rasmussen, all of whom and their mother survive him.

For four years...from January, 1921, to January, 1925, he served as a member of the Board of County Commissioners, representing Whitman precinct.

Funeral services were held at the home in Whitman Thursday afternoon, October 10th, conducted by Dean Oscar Taylor, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Alliance, in the presence of a large number of friends and acquaintances and an elaborate display of floral offerings, interment being made in the Whitman Cemetery.

The pall bearers were C. C. Gentry, Harry H. H. Haney, Earl H. Monahan, R. R. Gentry, C. J. and LeRoy Abbott, all cousins of the deceased.

Christopher George Abbott

Born September 20, 1859; died March 6, 1924. He is buried in the Whitman Cemetery, Whitman, Nebraska.

The 1900 Census has him living in Whitman, Nebraska. Besides himself, his household included his wife, Bessie W. and their daughter, Hazel M. Abbott, who was two years old. Cole Smith, age 17, was also living with them. He would be our grandma's brother. In the 1910 Census, he was 50 years old and living in Crawford with his wife, Laura, who was 35 years old, and his daughter Hazel, who is now 12. His first wife, Bessie, must have died. Laura was born in Illinois, as was her mother. Her father, however, was born in Pennsylvania.

And more of the letter from Ginger Fouss of the Grant County Museum.

In unpublished notes by Raymond Gentry, he states: "Christopher G. is a brother of 'Wilse' and that in the very early

days he was a saloon keeper and gambler in the Mullen and Whitman area. When he knew Chris in later years during the heydays of Ft. Robinson, Chris owned a saloon in Crawford, NE. Also mentioned a daughter named Hazel. We do not have an obit, but you might get one from Crawford or the Dawes County Historical Society, Chadron, NE. In another source, his wife's maiden name is Manning. There is a pioneer Manning family here, but I'm not able to make the connection. Raymond Gentry's mother was Frances "Fanny" Abbott Monahan Gentry. He was a local historian and the R.R. Gentry listed as pallbearer in "Wilse's" obituary.

From the Crawford Tribune in Crawford, NE
dated May 16, 1924

OBITUARY

Christopher George Abbott was born at Wabasha, Minn., on September 20, 1959, died May 6, 1924, in Whitman, Nebr., aged 64 years, 7 months, and 16 days.

He married Jessie Mannin at Hyannis, Nebr., in 1893, who died about six months after their marriage.

He was married again to Bessie Chamberlain at Hyannis, Nebraska, in 1896. To them one child was born, Hazel Marie, who married O. D. Slater, of Sidney, Nebraska.

He was married again to Laura Sharer at Omaha, Nebr., in 1905.

Mr. Abbott came to Nebraska in 1886 with his uncle, Christopher Abbott. He homesteaded seven miles southwest of Whitman. He filed at North Platte, where they received their mail and supplies. Later he lived at Mullen for several years, and has made his home at Crawford since 1906.

He was a member of Gate City Lodge, O.O.O.F., Crawford, and was a Past Grand of that Lodge, and a Past Chief Patriarch of the Encampment. He was one of the most active in building the new Odd Fellows Temple at Crawford, contributing liberally, not only of money, but of time, labor and influence. He has proven his loyalty to the Order.

Funeral services were held at the home of his brother, W. J. Abbott, Whitman, Nebraska, where he spent the last few days of his life. Rev. Clinton Senneff officiated.

Another pioneer of Nebraska has passed out into the great beyond.

Also in the same issue of the Crawford Tribune.

RESOLUTION **Dedicated to the Memory of** **CHRISTOPHER G. ABBOTT** **by Members of Gate City Lodge** **No. 224 Independent Order of** **Off Fellows, Crawford, Nebraska**

Whereas it has pleased the Almighty Creator of the Universe to call from this life and from our membership our Beloved Brother Christopher G. Abbott, we, in humble submission to the Master's will, in special session do assemble to pay tribute to the memory of our departed Brother.

Mourning his loss, we cherish a fond recollection of his devotion and valued services to our Brotherhood and the up-building of our Lodge, therefore be it

Resolved that the Charter of Gate City Lodge be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days, and be it further,

Resolved, that we extend to his bereaved family, our sincere sympathy and condolence, and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Records of this Lodge and a copy handed to his family.

Given under our hands at Crawford, Nebraska, this 7th day of May, 1924.

V.H. Golden

H. M Confer

John D. Heywood

Committee

Child of Ellen Abbott Polson and Olof Polson

Johanna Elizabeth Polson Spurling

Half-sister of Ella May Abbott Smith

Johanna (Josie) was born in Wabasha County to Ellen and Olof Polson in March of 1867. In the 1870 census she is listed as Johanna. In the 1880 census she is listed as Elizabeth Polson. Since her nickname in later life was "Josie," I think her name was probably Johanna Elizabeth. She and her mother lived together on the farm after her father died.

In 1890 she married Cyrus A. Spurling. He was the son of William Spurling and Cordelia Brooks, who were both born in Indiana. Cyrus was born in Iowa in 1863 and died in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on July 31, 1935. Cyrus was a salesman who sold farm machinery. The couple had no children. After the death of Cyrus, Josie moved back to Hyannis, Nebraska to be near her brothers.



Battle of Nashville: Federal outer line, December 16, 1864, the day after George Abbott was wounded.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE STATISTICS	
Date	December 15 – December 16, 1864
Location	Davidson County, Tennessee
Result	Decisive Union victory
Combatants:	
United States of America	Confederate States of America
Commanders:	
... George H. Thomas	John Bell Hood
Strength:	
... IV Corps,	
... XXIII Corps,	
... detachment of Army of the Tennessee,	
... provisional detachment,	
... and Cavalry Corps	Army of Tennessee
Casualties:	
2,900	approximately 13,000

NASHVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Nashville National Cemetery is located about six miles north of downtown, on Gallatin Road in Madison a short distance north of the Briley Parkway interchange. The 65.5-acre cemetery contains 33,258 interments, as of October 1997 (the cemetery is now in closed status).

View MAP of Nashville National Cemetery and more information go to http://www.bonps.org/natlcem/natlcem_a.htm

BURIAL LISTINGS:

Great-great grandfather George Abbott is the first one listed.

Private George Abbott of Minnesota, who died Jan. 3, 1865, is buried in Cemetery Section H, Grave No. 09472.

NASHVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
 1420 Gallatin Road South, Madison, TN 37115
 (615) 860-0086
 Director is William A. Owensby, Jr.
 Office hours are M-F 8-4:30.
 Gates open for visitation during daylight hours.

Private George Abbott

Union Army

K Ninth Regiment

Wabasha County, Minnesota

George Abbott enlisted and was inducted into the K Ninth Regiment of on August 17, 1862. On December 15, 1864, he received fatal wounds at the Battle of Nashville. He died of those wounds on January 3, 1865.

Minnesota Civil War Soldiers

Surname: **Abbott**
 Given Name: **George Pvt**
 and Rank:
 Age: 37
 Induction Date: 17 Aug 1862
 Regiment: K NINTH
 Birth Place: Ireland
 Town of: Watopa
 Residence: Wabashaw
 County of: Wabashaw
 Residence: Minn
 State of: Minn
 Residence: WND. 15/DEC/64.
 NASHVILLE; DIED
 03/JAN/65,
 NASHVILLE, TENN

Source: Dalby, John. *Minnesota Civil War Soldiers*



Main Gate



The Graves



The 9th Minnesota Regiment

The 9th Minnesota Regiment was organized in August of 1862, and was stationed at frontier posts until September, 1863, when it was ordered to St. Louis, Missouri. From there it was ordered to Jefferson City, Missouri, and thence distributed among several posts in the interior of that state; ordered to St. Louis again in May, 1864, and from there to Memphis, Tennessee. This fine regiment engaged in the Guntown expedition in June, 1864, and was assigned to the 16th Army Corps, same month. Was at Tupelo in July, 1863, at Tallahatchie in August, and in the Oxford expedition the same month. This regiment participated in the celebrated march in pursuit of Price, from Brownsville, Arkansas, to Cape Girardeau, and thence by boat to Jefferson City; from there marched to the Kansas line, and from that again to St. Louis. This regiment participated also in the battles of Nashville, Tennessee, December 15 and 16, 1864, Spanish fort and Fort Blakely, in April, 1865, and was discharged at Fort Snelling, August 1865.

---RootsWeb.com

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## THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

**The Battle of Nashville was a two-day battle in the Franklin-Nashville Campaign that represented the end of large-scale fighting in the Western Theater of the American Civil War. It was fought at Nashville, Tennessee, on December 15 and December 16, 1864.**

### Prelude

Following the Battle of Franklin on November 30, the forces of Union Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield left Franklin, Tennessee, and concentrated within the defensive works of Nashville alongside the Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas. Thomas, the Rock of Chickamauga, was in command of the overall force, numbering approximately 49,000 men.

The Union defensive line was quite similar to the one at Franklin. A semicircular line surrounded Nashville from the west to the east, dipping a mile (1,600 m) to the south; the remainder of the circle, to the north, was the Cumberland River. Clockwise around the line was the division of Maj. Gen. James B. Steedman on the Union left, Schofield's XXIII Corps, Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood's IV Corps, and Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Smith's XVI Corps. Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson's Cavalry Corps was stationed just north of the river.

The Confederate Army of Tennessee under Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood arrived south of the city on December 2 and took up positions facing the Union forces within the city. Not nearly strong enough to assault the Federal fortifications,



Union private in field dress

Hood opted for the defensive. Rather than repeating his suicidal attack at Franklin, he entrenched and waited, hoping that Thomas would attack him. Then, after Thomas smashed his army against the Confederate entrenchments, Hood could counterattack and take Nashville. (Assuming that worked, Hood's longer-term plan was to recruit additional soldiers in central Tennessee and Kentucky and then push through the Cumberland Gap to relieve Robert E. Lee in Petersburg.)

The Confederate line opposed the southeasterly facing portion of the Union line (the part occupied by Steedman and Schofield). From right to left were the corps of Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham, Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, and Maj. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart. Cavalry commander Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest was off to the southwest of the city.

Although Thomas's forces were stronger, he could not ignore Hood's army. Despite the severe beating it suffered at Franklin, by its mere presence and ability to maneuver, the Army of Tennessee presented a threat. He knew he had to attack, but he prepared cautiously. In particular, he concentrated on outfitting his cavalry, commanded by the energetic young Brig. Gen. James H. Wilson.

It took Thomas over two weeks to move, causing great anxiety in President Abraham Lincoln and Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who anticipated that Hood was poised for an invasion of the North. Grant later said of the situation, "If I had been Hood, I would have gone to Louisville and on north until I came to Chicago." Lincoln had little patience for slow generals and remarked of the situation, "This seems like the McClellan and Rosecrans strategy of do nothing and let the rebels raid the country." [1] Grant pressured Thomas to move, despite a bitter ice storm that struck on December 8 and stopped much fortification on both sides. A few days later, Grant sent an aide to relieve Thomas of command, believing that Hood would slip through his fingers. On December 13, Maj. Gen. John A. Logan was directed to proceed to Nashville and assume command if, upon his arrival, Thomas had not yet initiated operations. He made it as far as Louisville by December 15, but on that day the Battle of Nashville had finally begun.

### Battle

Thomas finally came out of his fortifications to attack on December 15. Before he did so, however, Hood made a terrible mistake. On December 5, he sent away most of his cavalry, commanded by Nathan Bedford Forrest, to attack the Union garrison at Murfreesboro. By doing so, he further weakened his already weaker force. When the Union forces finally went into action on December 15, they had 49,000 men, compared to the Confederates' 31,000.

Thomas planned a two-phase attack on the Confederates. The first, but secondary, attack was to be on the Confederate right flank, by Steedman. The main attack would be on the enemy left, by Smith, Wood, and Brig. Gen. Edward Hatch (commanding a dismounted cavalry brigade). Steedman attacked at 6 a.m. and kept Cheatham on the Confederate right occupied for the rest of the day.

The main attack launched at dawn and wheeled left to a line parallel to the Hillsboro Pike. By noon, the main advance had reached the pike, and Wood prepared to assault the Confederate outposts on Montgomery Hill, near the center of the line. Hood became concerned about the threat on his left flank and ordered Lee to send reinforcements to Stewart. Wood's corps took Montgomery Hill in a gallant charge by Brig. Gen. Samuel Beatty's division.

At about 1 p.m., there was a salient in Hood's line at Stewart's front. Thomas ordered Wood to attack the salient, supported by Schofield and Wilson. By 1:30 p.m., Stewart's position along the pike became untenable; the attacking force was overwhelming. Stewart's corps broke and began to retreat toward the Granny White Turnpike. However, Hood was able to regroup his men toward nightfall in preparation for the battle the next day. The Union cavalry under Wilson had been unable to put enough force on the turnpike to hamper the Confederate movement, since many of its troopers were participating as dismounted infantry in the assault. The exhausted Confederates dug in all night, awaiting the arrival of the Federals. The new line was in the Brentwood Hills, extending from Shy's Hill to Overton Hill, covering his two main routes of retreat—the Granny White Pike and the Franklin Pike. Hood moved troops from Cheatham on the right flank to reinforce his left.

The first day's fight had been a simple matter of the Union forces bringing overwhelming power and numbers to bear upon the Confederate forces. For example, when one strategic Confederate outpost manned by 148 soldiers and 4 cannons resisted more than expected, the Union regrouped and attacked the outpost with 28 cannons and 7,000 soldiers.

It took most of the morning on December 16 for the Federals to move into position against Hood's new line. Once again, Thomas planned a two-phase attack but concentrated on Hood's left. Schofield was to drive back Cheatham, and Wilson's cavalry was to swing to the rear to block the Franklin Pike, Hood's only remaining route of withdrawal. At noon, Wood and Steedman attacked Lee on Overton's Hill, but without success. On the left, Wilson's dismounted cavalry was exerting pressure on the line.

At 4 p.m., Cheatham, on Shy's Hill, was under assault from three sides, and his corps broke and fled to the rear. Wood took this opportunity to renew his attack on Lee on Overton's Hill, and this time the momentum was overwhelming. Darkness fell, and heavy rain began. Hood collected his forces and withdrew to the south toward Franklin.

### Aftermath

The Battle of Nashville was one of the most stunning victories achieved by the Union Army in the war. The formidable Army of Tennessee, the second largest Confederate force, was essentially destroyed and would never fight again. Hood's army entered Tennessee with over 30,000 men but left with fewer than 10,000. Hood, although not greatly outnumbered, was out-generaled by Thomas, who was able to concentrate his forces at the right time for victory. For example, at the pivotal Shy's Hill, on the Confederate left, 40,000

Union soldiers attacked and routed 5,000 Confederates, one of the worst defeats of the war.

The Union army set off in pursuit of Hood. The rainy weather became an ally to the Confederates, delaying the Union cavalry pursuit, and Forrest was able to rejoin Hood on December 18, screening the retreating force. The pursuit continued until the beaten and battered Army of Tennessee recrossed the Tennessee River on December 25.

The Battle of Nashville marked the effective end of the Army of Tennessee. Historian David Eicher remarked, "If Hood mortally wounded his army at Franklin, he would kill it two weeks later at Nashville." [2] Although Hood blamed the entire debacle on his subordinates and the soldiers themselves, his career was over. He retreated with his army to Tupelo, Mississippi, resigned his command on January 13, 1865, and was not given another field command.

The battlefield at Nashville is completely unreserved. There is no national, state, or municipal park or museum that attempts to interpret the events of 1864. Nashville suburban sprawl and the neighborhoods of Green Hills, Grassmere, and Brentwood occupy the battlefield. Fort Negley, Traveler's Rest Plantation, the Tennessee State Museum, and numerous roadside historical state markers are the only markers of the site.

The Battle of Nashville monument was originally created in 1927 by Giuseppe Moretti, who was commissioned by the Ladies Battlefield Association. In 1974, the obelisk and angel were destroyed by a tornado, and during the 1980s, construction of a large interstate highway interchange obstructed the monument from public view. The new monument has been restored, with the bronze sculpture of the youth and horses refinished, and the marble base, obelisk, and angel reconstructed in granite, which is more durable than the original marble. It was dedicated on June 26, 1999, in a different location, not far from the 1927 site.

---Wikipedia.org



The original battle monument, destroyed by a tornado in 1974

## More about the Abbott Family

The following information was sent to me by Vic Gentry, a distant cousin of ours in Nebraska. His great grandmother, Mary Woods, and our great grandmother, Ellen Woods, were the sisters who married George and Christopher Abbott. Our roots stretch out to New Zealand and beyond. My heartfelt thanks to Vic for all the help he's given me.

Christopher is known as "Dad" Abbott and his story follows this article. Keep in mind that since they were brothers, all of this information applies to George and his progeny as well.

We all know a little about Christopher "Dad" Abbott after he came to the United States and the Sandhills, but what about his family and their history in Ireland? It turns out that "Chris" and his brother George, who came to America and stayed, are just a small part of the family. The rest went to the far corners of the world, and their descendants are to be found there today.

**Members of the Abbott Family in Ireland**—Chris came from a family of eight children, of whom he was the oldest. He had two brothers, George and William, and five sisters: Edith (Joynt), Sarah Maria (Rickman), Harriett Rosetta (Pavitt), Cherry Frances (Parsons), and Charlotte (Pavitt). Harriett and Charlotte married brothers. The family was born in the small towns of Modrenney and Templederry, County Tipperary, Ireland (Tipperary is a county just about in the exact center of the Republic of Ireland).

**Parents**—Chris's parents were John Abbott and Mary Cooke. Mary was the daughter of Richard Cooke. John was a shopkeeper in his early years, but in later years had risen to the rank of "gentleman", which indicates he had considerably more wealth than a shopkeeper did.

**Grandparents**—Christopher ("Dad") was named after his father's father, Christopher Abbott, whose first wife, Chris's grandmother, was Charity Dancer. (These names are wonderful, aren't they?) Charity died shortly after John Abbott's birth, and Christopher Sr. married Sara Marie Sheppard and had three daughters: Harriet, Cherry, and Frances. (Can you see the names of Chris's sisters in the names of his aunts and step-grandmother?)

**The Sheppards and the Dancers** were both very well-to-do families in Ireland. Maybe this is how John got to be a gentleman—by inheriting the wealth of his mother and step-mother! We may never know, but the speculation is interesting. (Note: According to the information from Chris's granddaughter, John, the younger son, inherited a mill and money from his maternal grandfather.)

**Time to leave Ireland**—Some time after the birth of John's last child, the family story says that John went to his door one morning to find a casket on his doorstep. This indicated that the Feinians, the Home Rule Party and a rough equivalent of today's Irish Republican Army, had marked him for death. As would any sane man in that situation, he chose to leave Ireland. Instead of coming to America, as did so many Irish, he chose to take his remaining family and travel to New Zealand. In 1860 they sailed. One of John's daughters had



### THE ABBOTT FAMILY CREST

The name Abbott in Ireland is usually of immigrant origin having been brought to the country by settlers from England, especially during the seventeenth century, although it has been recorded as early as the fourteenth century. The Gaelic form of the name is 'Aboid' and the name is now most often found in County Dublin.

The Abbott Family Motto, *Deo patria Amicis*, translated:  
**A friend to God and my country.**

married a ship's captain and settled in Australia and so they had a way provided for their passage.

**Destination: New Zealand**—They settled on Innes Road in Christchurch, Canterbury State, New Zealand, which is on the South Island in New Zealand. Not only John and his wife and daughters went, but also at least two of John's sisters, Cherry and Frances. Cherry and Frances were single, and might have found it hard to make their way had they been left alone in Ireland.

**William Abbott**—William, Chris's brother, it is said, came first to America, but having lost money and property in the Civil War, chose to join his family in New Zealand. It may be at this time that Chris visited the family in New Zealand, because he went when his daughter Fanny was still a young child. Other accounts give the time of this trip as much later, perhaps in the late 1870's.

*NOTE: In 1874 Christopher Abbott is listed on the Passenger and Immigration Lists for that year which would pretty much prove that he went to New Zealand that year as stated in his granddaughter's story. The NZ article states that there is some question as to the time.*

*Also, William Abbott is in Wabasha County with his brothers, George and Christopher, in 1860. From THE HISTORY OF WABASHA COUNTY: "The political town of Watopa was organized May 11, 1858. The earliest records of election and public acts have been destroyed, but this much has been learned in regard to that election from early settlers: The Indian name, Watopa, was adopted, after considerable discussion of other titles. The supervisors chosen were William Abbott, chairman, John Gage and Henry Wagner.*

*1859 the town officers elected were: supervisors, Garrett Fitzgerald, George A. Laves and John Keating; town clerk, William Abbott.*

*In 1861 William Abbott was chairman of the supervisors.*

*From the Irish Records, I got William Abbott's baptismal record.*

*Name: William Abbott; Sex: Male; Birthplace: of Cloughjordan, County Tipperary, Ireland  
Baptism: 9 February 1834  
Baptism Place: Modreeny, County Tipperary, Ireland  
Father: John Abbott; Mother: Mary  
Misc: Shopkeeper  
Source: Parish Register of Modreeny, Diocese of Killaloe, County Tipperary.*

*His sister, Edith Abbott, has the same baptismal information, except for the date, which was 12 September 1830*

William became a man of some means in Southbridge, Canterbury State, New Zealand. Southbridge is as it sounds, a little south of Christchurch, and near Lake Ellesmere, the largest lake on the south island. It borders on the other side of the Rakaia River. William was a landowner and farmer with considerable acreage, and called his place "Clifton Farms". He died in 1898, leaving several young sons and daughters. In his will, William lists his property as being "farms", indicating either that he had several holdings, or that the one holding was large enough to be divided into several areas for several purposes. The family must have remained close, for Thomas Ingham Joynt, one of William's brothers-in-law, is a witness to his will.

**William's sons**—Two of William's sons, including his youngest, Ameral Christopher (named for William's American brother Chris) died in World War I, within 3 months of each other. Ameral Christopher died on May 8th 1915, in Cairo, Egypt, of polio. His older brother George Duncan Abbott, who served with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, died in the horrific and heroic Battle of Gallipoli in Turkey on August 28th, 1915. Both boys are memorialized on monuments in Cairo and Turkey, maintained by the ANZAC War Graves Commission. (April 25th, by the way, was ANZAC Day in Australia and New Zealand, when the two countries remember their war dead - sort of like our Memorial Day.)

**A sad time for the family**—Chris "Dad" Abbott had his share of sadness during the war years, as he lost two nephews to the fighting and disease of that war.

**Buried in New Zealand**—John and Mary, Chris's parents, along with his aunts, Cherry and Frances, are buried in Papanui, New Zealand, which is now a part of greater Canterbury, but in the early days was a little town all its own just north of St. Albans. St. Albans is now the center of the great city of Canterbury. John died of a hernia of three days duration, at age 80, in 1881. Mary died of old age at age 78, in 1883. It is interesting to note that on the death certificates in New Zealand, they list the ages of all the surviving children of the deceased. Both John and Mary list four girls and two boys, because their son George Abbott had died in America in 1865. When Mary died, William is listed as her "only son resident in the colony of New Zealand". Since William himself gave the information, it's good to see that he still remembered his brother Christopher, living in America. He may have been the only son in New Zealand, but not the only son!

William, Chris's brother, and his wife, Isabella Campbell,

are buried in or near Southbridge, where William had his land.

The Abbott family seemed to be destined to be pioneers wherever they settled. Chris was a pioneer in the American West, and John and Mary were pioneer settlers of Canterbury, New Zealand. The first permanent white settlers didn't arrive until the 1850's, and John and Mary were there by 1861. William, Chris's brother, was one of the early settlers of Southbridge, and he was one of the premier landowners in the town and surrounding area. And his sons, Chris Abbott's nephews, gave their lives in even farther-away places, in an effort to keep us all free. In every way, the Abbotts have been leaders into uncharted, and in some cases unknown, territories. How fortunate to have had some of them settle with us here!

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*A major contributor of the information contained in this article is Sandra Hughes, who lives in New Zealand. She is a direct descendant of Chris's sister Edith and Edith's husband Thomas Ingham Joynt. They are her great, great-grandparents.*

## Our New Zealand Cousins

New Zealand is a country in the south-western Pacific Ocean comprising two large islands (the North Island and the South Island) and numerous smaller islands. It is notable for its geographic isolation, being separated from Australia to the northwest by the Tasman Sea, approximately 1250 miles across. Its closest neighbours to the north are New Caledonia, Fiji and Tonga.



The population is mostly of European descent, with the indigenous Ma-ori being the largest minority.



# Christopher (Dad) Abbott

by Dorothy Abbott Peterson, his granddaughter

NOTE: This is the brother of our great-grandfather George Abbott, but their lives were intertwined so it also is a lot of the life of George Abbott.

My grandfather, Christopher (Dad) Abbott, was born on an estate in County Cork, Ireland, about 1825. He was the second son of John and Mary Abbott. When he was a teenager, his grandfather died; and since John (his father) was a younger son, he inherited a mill and money and moved his family to Dublin, Ireland. There were three boys: **George**, Christopher and William; and four girls: Mary, Harriett, Edith and Cherry Francis. They lived near and attended the Anglican Christchurch in Dublin and Christopher attended Trinity College.

About 1845 George and Christopher came to America, probably by way of Quebec, Canada. Christopher made a trip down the Mississippi and across the Canal Zone to California for the gold rush.

*NOTE: In checking the New Orleans Passenger Lists, 1820-1945, I found that C. Abbott, age 30, arrived 26 August 1852, on the Falcon. His Port of Arrival was New Orleans; his Port of Departure was Aspinwall, Panama. I can't find any documentation that George went with him. It appears that Christopher was the more adventurous of the two.*

Later, he and his brother George met two English girls, Ellen and Mary Woods from Manchester, England, in Chicago. George married Ellen and settled in Weaver, Minnesota. They had three boys: William (Wilts), Christopher George (Chris) and John; one daughter, Ellen. George went with the Minnesota Volunteers to the Civil War and was wounded at the battle of Antietam near Nashville, Tennessee. He died January 3, 1865. Later his wife Ellen married Olof Polson and they moved to Wabasha, Minnesota. They had a daughter, Josie Spurling, who lived in Hyannis from 1867 to 1920.

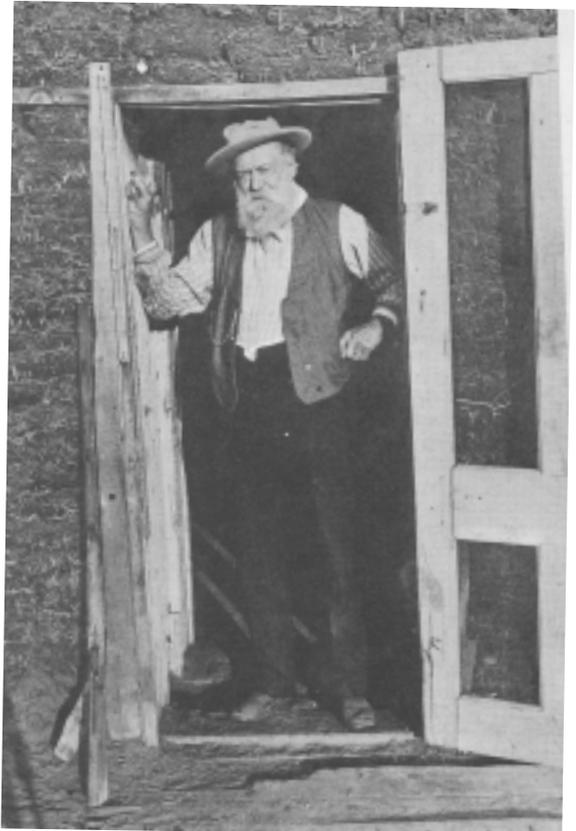
Christopher (my grandfather) married Mary Woods and they lived in Minneiska, Minnesota, where they had a stage station on the St. Paul-to-Chicago run. They had three children: Frances (Fanny), Harrison (Harry, who was killed by Indians) and Arthur (1862-1928). When Arthur was about 18 months old, Christopher packed his family and, at Fort Snelling, they joined a troop of Cavalry and some other settlers and moved to Miles City, Montana. They were driving an ox and a cow, and Arthur learned to walk along the wagon tongue as it was propped up at night. In Miles City, Christopher sold timber to the miners. They moved on to Fort Benton, Montana, and some time during the next few years, Mary died of tick fever.

About 1867, after Mary's death, Christopher decided to bring his family back to Iowa where he had friends. They came down the Missouri River in flood season on a flatboat.

Fanny remembered a buffalo calf getting caught in the paddle wheel, and they were delayed while the men cut him out. She also almost got thrown overboard by the swift current. Arthur remembered that his father went into Yankton, South Dakota, to buy food; and the boat captain was going to sail off without him. The three Abbott children got off the boat and yelled until their father got back. They continued on down the river to Percival, Iowa. They made their home there for several years. Fanny married Thomas Monahan, and Grandfather and his two sons moved farther west.

They stopped at Atwood, Kansas, and settled on the head of the "Little Beaver." In the fall of 1874, Christopher left his two boys (Arthur, 11, and Harrison, 13) with neighbors and went to visit his father and mother in Christ Church, New Zealand. During the famine in Ireland of 1847-48, one sister had married a sea captain and he loaded the mill and all the remaining Abbott family on his boat and they were among the first settlers of Christ Church, New Zealand. One sister had married and moved to Melbourne, Australia.

About 1880 Arthur spent the winter in a line camp owned by the Creightons, just south of Merriman, Nebraska. He helped round up cattle in the Sandhills and fell in love with them. There were some very dry years in Kansas, and Rufus Haney and Arthur rode up into the Sandhills to find a place



This is Christopher "Dad" Abbott standing in the doorway of his "soddy," the house of the prairie. Sod was cut and stacked to form the walls of the homes of many of the early settlers since there were very few trees. The photo was sent to me by his great grandson, Vic Gentry.

to move the cattle. The following spring of 1885 they brought the cows and calves. Later they brought the rest of the cattle with Jim Newton as the cook and several of the Haney's and other neighbors as cowboys. They settled on what is now the Rex Ranch, and the winter of 1886-1887 sold beeves to the railroad crews that were wintering in Whitman. Fanny Monahan and her three children joined Christopher during these years.

In the spring of 1888 Art went back to Kansas to sell the ranch. He reburied his brother Harry's body in a cemetery at Lewdal, Kansas. On December 24, 1888, he married Hannah Minor. The Minors, Theodore and Mary, had the post office in their homestead house on Beaver Creek. Art and Hannah had a sod house on his homestead near Bird City, Kansas, as their first home. They finally finished selling all the land and started for Grant County in the late summer of 1890. Christopher Joseph was nine months old. (1889-1954).

They came across southwestern Nebrasks from Benkleman to the Forbes ranch, pulling two wagons, one behind the other, with two horses. My mother had her house plants hidden in the churn and the oven and when the team began to play out, she didn't dare mention the plants. They stayed at the Forbes ranch several days. Anna Minor Forbes was Hannah's sister. Art bought a preemption claim in the North Valley, just over the hill from Raymond Lake. There was a whole neighborhood of relatives. My grandfather had settled at Krump Lake (Carver Gentry Ranch), Fanny and Mac Gentry were at the end of the valley with sons Carver and Raymond, and Wilts Abbott (cousins) were a few miles east.

*NOTE: Wilts Abbott is William, the son of George and Ellen Abbott, and would have been our great-great uncle.*

From 1890-1895 my folks lived on the ranch. In 1895 my brother Arthur John was born (1895-1900). They built the little white house in Hyannis in 1895 and moved to town so Christopher could go to school. There was a scourge of scarlet fever in the community about 1898-1900 and nearly every family lost a child. My brother Arthur was a victim.

I was born in 1901; my brother LeRoy, in 1904. We spent the summers at the ranch and the winters in town going to school. Our grandfather, Christopher, lived with us and made our lives richer by his presence. He passed away October of 1913, about 88 years old. My brother Christopher was sent to Wesleyan High School in Lincoln the fall of 1904. From there he went to the University of Michigan. He married Helen Sears, a native Hyannis girl on July 10, 1914. They had four children: Arthur Johh and Glaideth (twins in 1915), Phyllis (1919) and James Sears (1930-1931). He was killed by a train in May 1931. Helen died April 1932 and Christopher J. died in a plane crash January 10, 1954.

Leroy and I went to Omaha to school September 1917. These were the war years. I graduated from Omaha Central High School June 1919, and entered the University of Nebraska that fall. Leroy graduated from Lincoln High School and went to the University of Nebraska for two years; then, to the University of California. He graduated in 1926. I spent four years at the University of Nebraska and married George S. Petersen on May

17, 1923. He was a World War I veteran from Arizona and California, and came to Lincoln in the spring of 1921 to work for his uncle who owned the Dobson Construction Company. George was a construction engineer, and we lived in several small cities before moving to the Sandhills in 1926. We had two daughters, Georgia Shirley Jenkins and Catherine E. Cover.

Leroy married Eugenia Townley of Alliance and they had two sons, Leroy II and James E.

## **Arthur James Abbott**

**(Son of Christopher "Dad" Abbott)**

Arthur J. Abbott was a Sandhill cattle pioneer who was born in 1863. He lived in Hyannis and Alliance. He was president of the Abbott Land and Cattle Col., Ashby Lumber Co., Abbott-Boyd Co., Guardian State Bank of Alliance and a member of the Nebraska Stockgrowers.

He served as one of the early County Treasurers; later he served several terms as Chairman of the County Commissioners. during his tenure of office the Alt Survey was made the official survey for the Sandhills. On March 6, 1967, he was named to Lincoln Journal's "Builders Hall of Fame."

## **Christopher J. Abbott**

**(Son of Arthur Abbott, grandson of Christopher "Dad" Abbott)**

"Chris" Abbott was born in 1889 on his father's homestead near Bird City, Kansas, and came to the Sandhills nine months later. He became a partner in Abbott Brothers, operators of some of the largest cattle ranches in Western Nebraska, and president of the Abbott Company.

Mr. Abbott was president of banks at Hyannis, Alliance, Mullen, Wood River and Chadron, Nebraska. Corporations of which he was a director at the time of his death include the Northwestern Bell Company, the Omaha National Bank, the Omaha Union Stock Yards and the American Motorist Insurance Company of Chicago. He was a director of the Nebraska Stockgrowers Association and a trustee of the Tax Foundation of New York. He also had been vice president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, president of the American Livestock Association and chairman of the Transportation Association of America.

Mr. Abbott dies in a plane crash January 10, 1954. He is survived by his widow Ethel Abbott, a son, Arthur, who lives near Hyannis and two daughters, Mrs. Phyllis Drummond and Glaideth, both of Denver.

## **Leroy Abbott**

**(Son of Arthur Abbott, grandson of Christopher "Dad" Abbott)**

Leroy Abbott was born October 18, 1904, at Hyannis, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Abbott. When the family bought

the Guardian State Bank in 1927, he went to Alliance as cashier and later became vice president. He assumed the presidency of the Guardian State Bank and titular head of all Abbott Company banks in 1954 upon the death of his brother, C. J. Abbott, in a Louisiana plane crash.

Mr. Abbott, who received his early education in Hyannis, Lincoln and Omaha, attended the University of Nebraska and was a graduate of the University of California. He was married to the former Eugenia Townley of Alliance, Nebraska, November 8, 1935, in Torrington, Wyoming.

Mr. Abbott was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, in the Nebraska Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association.

He was active in the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, having served the past few years as chairman of the Public Lands Committee and in June of 1966, as well as the years 1957 and 1964, served as general chairman for the association conventions held in Alliance.

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### THE INDIAN BOY

*From Teepees to Soddies*

by E. S. Sutton

It was October, 1878, when unsuspecting settlers along the Beaver were attacked by Dull Knife's raiders. Many of the warriors from the Southern Cheyenne reservation at Darlington had joined their northern cousins as they fled toward their old home near the Black Hills. The braves broke away from the main band with the purpose of raiding the Sappa and Beaver Valleys as payment due to the whites for killing so many of the Dark Horse people by the hunters, and the Military at the Sappa Hole three years earlier. The two Van Cleve girls were driving to town when they were attacked, beaten, and one of the girls lost most of her hair when a huge buck jerked it out by the handful. Pat Lynch, in rescuing the girls, killed Buffalo Chips and wounded a young warrior who escaped, waving a fresh scalp lock. Ben Ingals, Sol Reese and Lew Caley pursued several Indians into Rawlins County where one red-skin bit the dust properly, and a young brave, who seemed hurt, sustained other wounds, but with the help of others he escaped. Without doubt, this was the same young Indian who was with Buffalo Chips and was left by his comrades at Hundred Head Draw.

We should accept the story as related by Mr. Abbott to Mr. Stilgebauer: Mr. Abbott had gone to the creek for a bucket of water when the Indians opened fire, but he managed to reach the protection of his soddy. Harry, a lad of 20, returning from the pasture with horses, attempted to reach the soddy, but was killed and the horses driven away. The father had punched holes through the wall and fired his needle gun without deterring the raiders. One Indian folded up and appeared to be wounded, but straightened up and rode away.

Arthur Abbott, a cousin, (Note: I think this should read a *brother*) returned after a visit with a neighbor. He helped fashion a coffin from available scraps of lumber and the murdered boy was buried in their yard.

About six weeks later, Arthur and a friend named Harney were herding cattle when they saw an object up near the top of the canyon and thinking it was a skunk, took a shot and then rode up to investigate. To their surprise, the skunk proved to be an Indian with a gun pointing at them. They quickly withdrew and one of the boys rode around behind the caprock to get a shot from the rear. The Indian raised his head a bit too high and the alert man sent a bullet crashing

through his head. It proved to be an Indian lad about 19 years of age. He had been left by his companions when it was seen that he would be unable to travel with a shattered leg. The "gun" was a wood stick. At his side was a white man's scalp and a rabbit pelt he had managed to trap with a loop, and some well tenderized beef which had been provided by his friends from the cattle killed in what became known as Hundred Head Draw. According to Mari Sandoz, the warriors had promised to return for him. The body was left where it fell in the sandstone crevice.

In 1896 human bones, thought to be those of the Indian lad, were found by Irv and Ki Kesselring. G.E. Perkins, president of the Burlington Railroad, erected a monument to the memory of the Indian lad. The monument is situated in view of the old valley highway east of the Fleischacker farm, four miles east of Ludell.

*Excerpts from*

### THE TIME THAT WAS

**The Courageous Acts and Accounts of Rawlins County, Kansas 1875-1915**

by Ruth Kelley Hayden

#### The Last Indian Raid in Kansas.

In September 1878, a Cheyenne Indian named Dull Knife and a band of some three hundred of his people were moving away from the Cheyenne Agency at Darlington, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), toward the old home of the Cheyennes near the Black Hills in South Dakota. As they traveled, a group of braves broke away from the main band with the intent of raiding along the Sappa and Beaver valleys and avenging the loss of lives of their tribesmen in 1875. (*The Battle of Sappa Creek, April 1875, brought death to twenty-seven Cheyennes and gave determination to other members of their tribe to avenge those deaths.*)

C.C. Abbott had started a cattle ranch three miles west of Herndon in 1876 with his two sons, Leroy and George

Harrison—"Harry," a nineteen-year-old cripple. On October 1, Harry was bringing horses from the pasture about a mile from the house when the Indians shot and killed him. They rode on to the Abbott house and C.C. Abbott fired at them until they rode away. The boy was buried near where he fell, but later his body was moved to the Union Cemetery northwest of Herndon. The marker with its incorrect death date reads:

In Memory Of  
George Harrison  
son of  
Christopher Abbott  
born  
February 10, 1859  
killed by Cheyenne Indians  
October 2, 1878  
age 19 years, 7 mo. 22 D.

Several weeks after the raid Arthur Abbott, C.C. Abbott's nephew, and a friend named Harney saw an object moving in a ravine; they shot, rode closer, and then saw it was an Indian boy with what they thought was a gun. They killed the boy and found the gun to be only a stick. Apparently, he had been wounded in the raid and left behind by the Cheyennes, or perhaps he had become lost from the band and for six weeks had been living among the rocks, eating off the land.

And later on, this paragraph:

Arnold Kubitz, a victim of the Indians, had been given a double-barreled gun by C.C. Abbott and warned of Indian trouble. But when the Indians rode up behind him, he forgot to fire the gun, whipped his horse into a gallop, and rose until he was shot in the back.

And another:

Full names of eleven victims are available, and then there were the two men from Illinois, making a total of thirteen. The last Indian raid in Kansas brought death to at least the following persons in Rawlins County: Fred Hamper, Anton Stenner, George Harrison Abbott, George Fenburgh, Egnac Janousek, Frank Socher, Henry Shidler, Peter Janousek, Rudlph Springler, Alexander Foster, Arnold Kubitz, and Morrison and Zeidler.

## THE INDIAN BOY MONUMENT

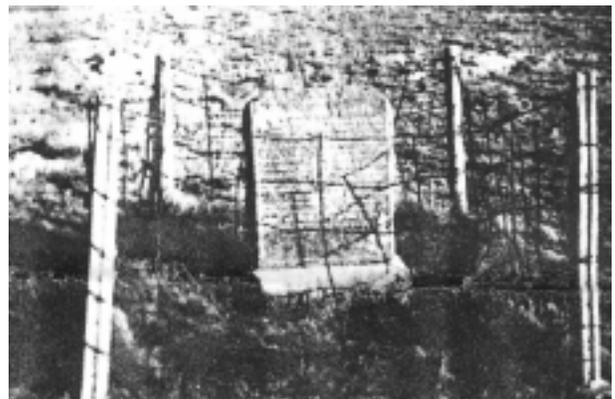
Compiled by  
Rawlins County History Book Committee

The Indian boy monument stands on top of a quartzite cliff 4 miles east of Ludell, one-half mile south of the railroad and about one-half mile west of the section line (SE 22-2-32). He was wounded in the Last Indian Raid, 1878, and had lived in the rocks for about six weeks before being killed on November 15 by Abbott and Harney who were herding cows.

According to an account written by F.S. Miller and published in The Citizen Patriot, August 1955, Mr. Blume and Mr. Bouda found the body and started to Oberlin with it to deliver it to the Army authorities who were stationed there. Mr. Bouda became concerned that the authorities would hold them responsible for the boy's death and refused to go farther. Since the wagon and team belonged to him there was nothing Mr. Blume could do but return. They unloaded the corpse and hid it in the bunch grass. Mr. Blume got some other people to help him a few days later but were unable to find the corpse. It is believed that the coyotes had gotten it or that the Indians had followed and removed it.

About 1900, President C.E. Perkins of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad had a granite marker erected near the site where the Indian boy died. It stands today overlooking the valley. The letters, cut in the granite and now eroded by time, read:

A party of Cheyennes from the Indian Territory cross the Beaver on their way north between what is now Atwood and Watts, now Herndon. They killed 12 whites on the Beaver, went north of the Union Pacific railroad where some of them were captured near Ogalalla. An Indian boy about 19 years old was wounded and left behind on what has since been known as Hundred Head Draw, near where this stone stands. He was killed on the spot Nov. 16, 1878, by Abbott and Harney, who were herding cattle there. The body was never recovered except by the coyotes.



Indian Boy Monument

## Our Nebraska Cousins

Christopher Abbott eventually settled in the Sand Hills of Nebraska near Hyannis in Grant county. He was joined by his nephews, Christopher G. Abbott and William Abbott, sons of his brother George. Later their half-sister, Josie Polson Spurling, also lived in Nebraska. The Abbotts became some of the largest cattle ranchers in the state.

### What are Sand Hills?

About a quarter of Nebraska is covered by the Sand Hills, so called because the hills are entirely made of---what else?---sand. The Sand Hills are Pleistocene sand dunes derived from glacial outwash eroded from the Rockies, and now (mostly) stabilized by vegetation.

numerous tiny lakes. Much of what passes for lakes in Nebraska consists of closed depressions between dunes.

*The article below was reprinted from National Geographic.com*

### Sand in a Grassland?

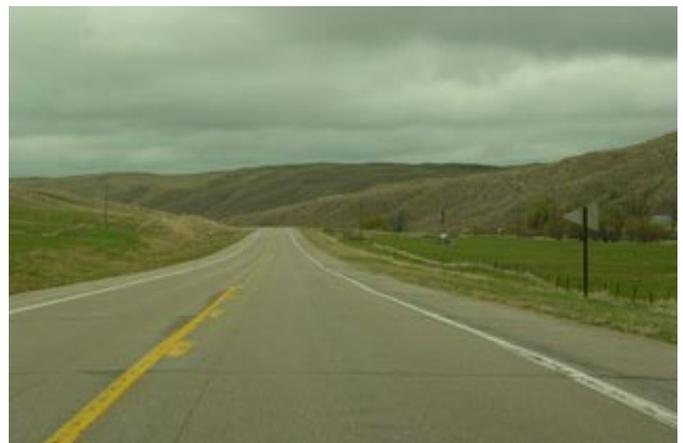
It's not hard to figure out how the Sand Hills got their name. Sand dunes and sandy soil make this piece of grassland unique. The Nebraska Sand Hills are located almost entirely within the state of Nebraska.

The irregular dunes and sandy soils of the Sand Hills are so distinct within the Great Plains that they are considered an ecoregion. There are also small lakes and wetlands in the western portion of the northern Sand Hills. These provide important habitat for many species of water birds, such as swans, ducks, and grebes.

This ecoregion is an important staging and stopover area during migration for sandhill cranes. Up to 80 percent of the total population sometimes can be found on the Platte River, which is on the south side of this ecoregion.

This ecoregion contains distinct grass communities that can survive in sandy soil, particularly sand bluestem communities. Bison used to be the main grass-eaters here, but they have been displaced by cattle.

As much as 85 percent of the Nebraska Sand Hills Mixed Grassland is intact. Toward the eastern section, habitat loss is higher because of irrigation and development. The absence of farming in the Sand Hills has allowed this ecoregion to escape extensive plowing. Excessive cattle grazing is the primary disturbance here



# Rest in Peace

## Dear Ancestor

Author Unknown

Your tombstone stands among the rest  
Neglected and alone  
The name and date are chiseled out  
On polished marble stone.  
It reaches out to all who care  
It is too late to mourn.

You did not know that I exist  
You died and I was born  
Yet each of us are cells of you  
In flesh and blood and bone  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor ~ the place you filled  
One hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so.  
I wonder how you lived and loved  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday I would find this spot  
And come to visit you.

*(Taken from the Wabasha Historical Web Page;  
contributed by Bill Wisen)*



War Memorial Cemetery in Cairo where Ameral Christopher and George Duncan Abbott are memorialized.



George Abbott (1825-1865)  
Nashville National Cemetery



**George and Ella May Smith**, buried in Block 2, Lot 1, Arlington City Cemetery, Arlington, SD. George's name is on the west side of the headstone; Ella's on the east. George's side reads: George H. Smith died July 11, 1885, aged 35 years. Ella's side reads: Ella M. wife of G. H. Smith died July 12, 1886, aged 32 years.

# TIMELINE FOR Ellen Woods Abbott Polson & George Abbott Family and In-laws

## 1810

- 1811 Abner Smith, father of George, born in New York.
- 1815 Olof Polson, Ellen Abbott's 2nd husband, born in Sweden
- 1817 Alzina Montel Smith, wife of Abner, born in Canada or Vermont

## 1820

- 1825 George Abbott born about 1825 in Ireland. Christopher Abbott born in Ireland a year later.
- 1829 Rhoda L. Hammons born in Maine (Hammons is married name. She is the mother of Angeline Powell) In some of the places, her last name is spelled Hammond.

## 1830

- 1835 Ellen Woods Abbott born July 14, 1835 in England. Father's surname: Woods (per Ellen's death certificate)
- 1836 Charles Powell born February 20, 1836 in Franklin County, Indiana

## 1840

- 1845 George and Christopher Abbott immigrate to America, probably through Quebec
- 1847 Adelia Smith born to Abner and Alzina in Canada  
Sometime between 1847 and 1848, the John and Mary Abbott and the rest of their family leave Ireland and sail to Christ Church, New Zealand, where they are some of the first settlers
- 1848 Year of Immigration for Ellen Woods
- 1848 Angeline Hammons is born in 1848 in Maine to Rhoda and Hiram Hammons.
- 1849 **Minnesota Territory.** Minnesota Territory was an organized territory of the United States from March 3, 1849 to May 11, 1858, when Minnesota was admitted as the 32nd state. The original boundaries, as carved out of Iowa Territory, included the current Minnesota region and most of what later became Dakota Territory east of the Missouri River. Minnesota Territory also included portions of Wisconsin Territory that did not become part of Wisconsin, located between the Mississippi River and Wisconsin, including the Arrowhead Region.

At the time of its formation, the territory contained three cities: St. Paul, St. Anthony (now Minneapolis), and Stillwater. The major territorial institutions were divided between the three: St. Paul was made the capital; Minneapolis was selected as the site of the University of Minnesota; and Stillwater was chosen as the site of the Minnesota Territorial Prison.

## 1850

- 1854 George and Ellen Abbott married in Illinois (?)
- 1850 George H. Smith born in Canada to Abner and Alzina Smith
- 1850 Rhoda and Hiram Hammonds live in Penobscot, ME with Angeline (3) and Henry (1)
- 1853 Mary Smith born in Canada to Abner and Alzina Smith
- 1854 Ella May Abbott born in Illinois to George and Ellen Abbott
- 1855 Myron Smith born in Canada to Abner and Alzina Smith
- 1856 John Harkin Abbott born in Illinois (Sometimes spelled Harken)  
Charles Powell moves to Wabasha
- 1856 George Abbott and his brother, Christopher Abbott, come to Wabasha
- 1857 Valma Smith born in Canada to George and Alzina Smith
- 1858 **Minnesota becomes a state**
- 1858: William Abbott born in Minnesota (most likely Wabasha) to George and Ella Abbott

## 1860

- 1861 Christopher George Abbott born in Minnesota (most likely Wabasha) on September 20, 1861 to George and Ellen Abbott. On the Nebraska cemetery index, his DOB is 9-20-1859)
- 1861 **Dakota Territory is created.** It became a historic, organized territory on March 2, 1861. Upon creation, the territory of Dakota Territory included much of present-day Montana and Wyoming; by 1868, creation of new territories reduced Dakota Territory to the present boundaries of the Dakotas.
- 1861 Charles Powell and Angeline Hammond married on September 22, 1861 in Wabasha.
- 1861 **The American Civil War begins and lasts until 1865**
- 1862 Amelia Smith born in Canada to Abner and Alzina Smith
- 1862 Elizabeth Jacoby Abbott born in Illinois on April 3, 1862 to Peter and Margret Jacoby. Her father is from Russia and her mother from Bavaria. Elizabeth eventually marries John Abbott.
- 1862 George Abbott inducted 08-17-1862 into Union Army as a private; Served in the Minnesota K Ninth Regiment. Lived in Wabasha County at that time when inducted.
- 1862 **Homestead Act.** The Homestead Act was a United

States Federal law that gave freehold title to 160 acres (one quarter section) of undeveloped land in the American West. The person to whom title was granted had to be at least 21 years of age, and to have built on the section, and lived in for 5 years, a house that was at least 12 by 14 feet in size. The Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862.

- 1862** Hiram Powell born to Charles and Angeline Powell in Wabasha (?)
- 1864** George Abbott wounded 12-15-1864 at the Battle of Nashville;
- 1865** George Abbott dies two weeks later (January 3, 1865) in Nashville Tenn of battle wounds. Buried in National Cemetery in Nashville.
- 1865** Christopher Abbott takes his family to Fort Snelling, where he joins a group of settlers traveling with the Cavalry to Miles City, Montana.
- 1865** John Henry Powell born to Charles and Angeline Powell in Wabasha (?)
- 1866** Ellen Abbott marries Olof Polson in Wabasha on June 23, 1866  
Ellen's Abbott children: Ella May is 12; John is 10; William is 8; Christopher is 4.
- 1866** Christopher Abbott and his family move on to Fort Benton, Montana. His wife, Mary Abbott, dies of tick fever.
- 1867** Daughter Johanna Elizabeth Polson born to Ellen and Olof Polson in Wabasha (Daughter later listed in census as Elizabeth Polson)
- 1867** Jesse Jordan Powell born to Charles and Angeline Powell in Wabasha (?)
- 1867** Christopher Abbott takes his three children (Fanny, Arthur and Harry) back to Percival, Iowa. Daughter Fanny eventually marries Thomas Monahan there.
- 1868** Dakota Territory ends as North Dakota and South Dakota become states.
- 1868** Ova Chamberlin born on November 5, 1868.

## 1870

- 1870** **According to the 1870 census, these people are living in Wabasha County, Minnesota:**  
Abner Smith Family: Abner, his wife Alzina Smith, Adelia "Delia" Smith, George Smith, Mary Smith, Myron Smith, and Velma Smith...all in Plainview Township.  
Charles Powell Family: Charles, his wife, Angeline, and sons Jesse, Hiram and John living in Plainview Township  
Hiram and Rhoda Hammons are living in Plainview Township. They are Angeline Powell's parents.  
Olof Polson Family: Olof Polson and Ellen Abbott Polson are living in Watopa Township with their daughter, Johanna Elizabeth (3) and Ellen's Abbott children: Ella May (16), John (14), William (12) and Christopher (10).

Peter Jacoby Family: Peter and Margret and their children, are living in Wabasha. John Abbott eventually married their daughter, Elizabeth Jacoby.

In the early 1870s, Christopher "Dad" Abbott and his sons, Arthur and Harry, settle on the head of the "Little Beaver" in Atwood, Kansas

- 1871** Charles Berton Powell born to Charles and Angeline in MN (Wabasha ?)
- 1873** **Railroad comes to the Dakota Territory**
- 1874** Christopher Abbott goes to New Zealand in the fall to visit his parents.
- 1875** George H. Smith and Ella May Abbott are married on January 11, 1875, in Wabasha
- 1875** Laura Powell Abbott (Christopher's 2nd wife) is born in Illinois. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and her mother in Illinois. She is probably a niece of Charles Powell.
- 1876** Madgis M. Smith born in June to George and Ella May Smith in Minnesota (Most likely Wabasha)
- 1876** William Worth Powell born in 1876 in Minnesota (1880 has him listed as Willes Worthy Powell, but William Powell is listed as a surviving brother in Georgia Chamberlin's obit and I remember my mother talking about William Powell.
- 1878** Charles Powell Family moves near Appleton, Minnesota, in Swift County, where Charley builds a grist mill.
- 1878** George Archy Powell born to Charles and Angeline Powell in Minnesota
- 1879** Charles Powell Family moves to Hantho Township in Lac qui Parle County
- 1879** Herbert Clyde Smith born in Minnesota in October 1879 to George and Ella May Smith. This is the only time he is mentioned that I can find.

## 1880

- 1880** George Smith establishes residence on his homestead in Arlington, Dakota Territory, on April 6, 1880. On April 10, 1880, he builds a house, a barn, a windmill, and has 60 acres broke.
- 1880** Claude Smith born in Minnesota to George and Ella Smith on May 3, 1880
- 1880** George H. and Ella May Smith living in Kingsbury, DT, per census taken on June 20, 1880. George is 30, Ella 26. They have two children: Madgis M. Smith, age 4 and Herbert C. Smith, age 8 months.
- 1881** John Abbott moves to Arlington, SD where he takes up a homestead in Spring Lake Township. He is Ella Smith's younger brother and follows them to Arlington.
- 1881** Charles Powell makes a visit to Texas.
- 1882** Claude Merrill Smith born in Kingsbury County, SD to George and Ella Smith. In the Montana Death Index, his estimated birth year is listed as 1881. In the South Dakota births from 1856-1903, his DOB is listed

as May 3, 1880. Since Herbert was born in October of 1879, it is most likely that Claude's birth year is 1881. However, the Social Security site lists his birth as 1880. He wouldn't be on the 1880 census because "all persons will be included who were living on June 1, 1880." Perhaps he was premature.

- 1883** Robert Cole Smith is born on April 22, 1883, in Kingsbury County, SD to George and Ella Smith
- 1883** Alzina Smith dies on April 13, 1883, in Plainview, Wabasha County, Minnesota
- 1884** Georgia Ethel Smith is born on November 20, 1884, in Kingsbury County, SD to George and Ella Smith
- 1884** John Abbott and Elizabeth Jacoby are married on February 14, 1884, in Wabasha, MN and move to Arlington, SD where they remain for the rest of their lives.
- 1885** George H. Smith dies in Arlington, SD, of consumption (tuberculosis) on July 11, 1885. Ella May is left with several small children, including our Grandma Georgia who was one.
- 1886** Ella May Smith dies in Arlington, SD, of consumption on July 12, 1886...a year after the death of her husband. Both George and Ella May are buried in the Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, SD. Georgia, at the age of two, is sent to live with the Charles Powell family in Bellingham, MN. She is eventually adopted by the Powells.
- 1888** Arthur Abbott, son of Christopher Abbott, goes to Kansas to sell the ranch. He reburies his brother Harry's body in the cemetery at Lewdal, Kansas. Harry was killed by Indians.
- 1889** **Dakota Territory ends when North Dakota and South Dakota become states.**

## 1890

- 1890** All records from the 1890 federal census were burned in a fire in Washington, DC so I have a blank spot for this decade.

## 1900

- 1900** Charles Powell is now 64 years old and the census shows that Georgia Powell is 15 and living with him in Agaxiz Township, Lac qui Parle, Minnesota.
- 1900** Christopher G. Abbott is now living in Whitman, Grant County, Nebraska. He is married to Bessie Abbott, who is almost 20 years younger than he and they have a two-year-old daughter, Hazel M. Abbott. Cole Smith is living with them and he is now 17. Cole is the son of Christopher's older sister, Ella May Smith.
- 1904 Clarence B. Erickson born on May 19, 1904.
- 1905 John "Jack" Weigel born on June 13, 1905.
- 1906** Herman Yilek born on November 29, 1906.
- 1908** Georgia Smith Powell marries Walter P. Mittelstadt on March 25, 1908, in Madison, MN where they re-

sided on a farm.

- 1909** Charlett Ruth Mittelstadt Weigel born on November 25, 1909.

## 1910

- 1910** Charles Powell is living in Bellingham, MN with his son Hiram and Hiram's wife, Nellie.
- 1910** Angeline Powell is listed in the census as Head of the house and is living in Agassiz Township, Lac qui Parle County and has four boarders. Her marital status is still listed as "married," but Charles is not living with her.
- 1910** Christopher Abbott is now 50 years old and listed as C.G. Abbott (or C. Y. Abbott) in the census. He is living in Crawford Ward 2, Dawes County, Nebraska. He is now married to Laura Abbott who is 15 years younger. His daughter, Hazel Abbott is living with them and is now 12. Something must have happened to Bessie and he remarried.
- 1911** Angeline Powell dies on December 18, 1911 in Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota.
- 1912** Norma Gullickson Mittelstadt born on November 29, 1912.
- 1913** Leabel Mittelstadt Yilek born on January 16, 1913.
- 1914** Inez Mittelstadt Erickson born on June 24, 1914.
- 1916** Walter Burton Mittelstadt born on January 18, 1916.
- 1917** Ellen Abbott Polson dies in Wabasha County, MN on May 1, 1917, at the age of 81 years. She is buried in the Hillside Cemetery, Minneiska Township, Wabasha County, Minnesota
- 1917** Charles Powell dies on February 13, 1917 in Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota

## 1920

- 1920** Georgia and Walter "Butch" Mittelstadt move to Ortonville, MN.
- 1920** Rhoda Hammons is living with her son, Henry Hammons in Plains, Montana.
- 1923** Rhoda Hammons dies in Sanders City, MT on April 1, 1923.
- 1924** Christopher George Abbott
- 1929** John Henry Abbott dies on August 29, 1929 in Arlington, SD.

## 1930

- 1930** Charlett Mittelstadt and John Weigel married on June 25, 1930.
- 1930** William J. "Wilts" Abbott, son of George and Ella Abbott, is 73 years old and living in Whitman, Grant County, Nebraska. He is married to Mary Abbott.

- 1932** John Robert "Bob" Weigel born to Jack and Charlett Weigel on November 3, 1932
- 1932** Walter Mittelstadt dies on December 17, 1932. He was the Chief of Police in Ortonville and came home for his lunch. He laid down for a short nap and never woke up.
- 1935** Donald Weigel born October 1, 1935.
- 1937** Mervin Dickson born on February 20, 1937.
- 1937** Lyle Hoidal born on June 23, 1937.
- 1937** Alice Weigel Dickson born on August 20, 1937.
- 1937** Georgia Mittelstadt and Ova Chamberlin married on October 7, 1937.
- 1939** Leabel Mittelstadt and Herman Yilek married on July 8, 1939. (The plaster didn't dry in their new house so she couldn't have the June wedding she wanted.)
- 1939** Inez Mittelstadt and C. B. Erickson married on October 17, 1939 at the Little Brown Church in the Vale.

## 1940

- 1940** Jean Erickson Hoidal born on May 6, 1940.
- 1941** Bernie Erickson born on May 20, 1941.
- 1941** Burton Mittelstadt and Norma Gullickson wed on June 13, 1941
- 1943** Bruce Yilek born on November 26, 1943
- 1946** Rudy Mittelstadt born on July 14, 1946
- 1948** William Weigel born on May 5, 1948
- 1949** Sally Yilek Van Erem born on August 28, 1949.

## 1950

- 1951** Todd Yilek born on October 16, 1951.
- 1954** Georgia Ethel Smith Powell Mittelstadt Chamberlin died on November 14, 1954 at the Keddy Rest Home in Beardsley, MN. She is buried in the Bellingham Cemetery, Bellingham, MN.
- 1956** Ova Chamberlin died on September 30, 1956.

## 1960

- 1961** Alice Weigel and Mervin Dickson married on September 30, 1961.
- 1962** Jean Erickson married Lyle Hoidal on January 27, 1962.
- 1963** Scott Hoidal born on January 9, 1963.
- 1966** Clarence B. Erickson dies on February 13, 1966
- 1967** Sandra Hoidal born on February 28, 1967.

## 1970

- 1970** Claude Smith dies on February 8, 1970. He is living in Sheridan County, Wyoming. He is widowed and his birth year is listed as about 1881.
- 1971** John "Jack" Weigel died on September 14, 1971.
- 1977** Robert Cole Smith dies on February 16, 1977. He is living in Killdeer, Dunn County, ND

## 1980

## 1990

- 1996** Sandy Hoidal and Jan Paul Luecke married on November 23, 1996.
- 1996** Quinn Hoidal born on December 28, 1996.
- 1999** Triplets Justin Robert, Alyssa Jo and Taylor Anne Luecke born on May 24, 1999.

## 2000

- 2000** Mackenzie Hoidal born on November 13, 2000.

## The Little House Series

\* Little House in the Big Woods. Pa, Ma, Mary, Laura, and Baby Carrie live in a log cabin in the big woods near Pepin, Wisconsin, in the 1870s.

\* Little House on the Prairie. The Ingallses leave their cabin in the big woods and travel by covered wagon to Kansas Territory where they accidentally settle on land belonging to the Osage Indians.

\* Farmer Boy. The story of Almanzo Wilder's boyhood growing up on a farm near Malone, New York.

\* On the Banks of Plum Creek. The Ingallses move to a farm near Walnut Grove, Minnesota, where they live in a dugout until Pa borrows money to build a frame house for the family.

\* By the Shores of Silver Lake. After grasshoppers destroy their wheat crop, the Ingallses sell their farm in Minnesota and move to Dakota Territory where Pa gets a job working for the railroad.

\* The Long Winter. During the hard winter of 1880-1881, the Ingallses move into their store building in De Smet, South Dakota. When the supply trains stop running, the family must survive with little food and no coal.

\* Little Town on the Prairie. In the little town on the Dakota prairie, Laura attends socials and "litteraries" and studies to become a teacher so she can earn money to send her sister, Mary, to a college for the blind in Iowa.

\* These Happy Golden Years. Laura teaches at Brewster School, twelve miles from De Smet. Every Friday Almanzo Wilder arrives at the school to take her home.

\* The First Four Years. Almanzo and Laura begin their married life on a homestead near De Smet and their daughter, Rose, is born. Each year brings many hardships but Almanzo and Laura never lose their courage and determination.

## Laura Ingalls Wilder Time Line

1857

February 13. Almanzo James Wilder is born to James and Angeline Day Wilder on a farm near Malone, New York.

1867

February 7. Laura Elizabeth Ingalls is born to Charles Philip and Caroline Quiner Ingalls in a log cabin near Pepin, Wisconsin.

1869

The Ingalls family leaves Wisconsin and moves to Kansas.

1871

The Ingalls family returns to Pepin, Wisconsin.

1874

The Ingalls family moves to Walnut Grove, Minnesota.

1876

The Ingalls family leaves Minnesota and moves to Burr Oak, Iowa.

1878

The Ingalls family leaves Iowa and returns to Walnut Grove, Minnesota.

1879

Almanzo Wilder files a homestead claim near DeSmet, Dakota Territory. The Ingalls family leaves Minnesota and moves to DeSmet, Dakota Territory.

1885

August 25. Laura Ingalls and Almanzo Wilder are married. She and Almanzo make their new home on his claim at DeSmet.

1886

December. Rose Wilder is born.

1888

Spring. Almanzo and Laura suffer from diphtheria. Almanzo resumes work too soon and suffers a relapse causing a stroke that leaves him partially paralyzed. Even though he recovers from the paralysis, he has permanently crippled feet.

1889

August. An infant son dies after a few days of life. Laura and Almanzo lose their home to fire.

They build a two-room shanty on the claim.

1890–1891

Laura and Almanzo move to Spring Valley, Minnesota and then to Westville, Florida seeking recovery for Almanzo's weakened health.

1892

August. Laura and Almanzo return to a rented house in DeSmet, South Dakota. Laura works at sewing and Almanzo does carpentry.

1894,

July 17. Laura and Almanzo leave DeSmet to build a new home in the Missouri Ozarks. Laura keeps a diary of the trip, later published as *On the Way Home*.

1894,

August 31. Laura and Almanzo arrive in Mansfield, Missouri with \$100 saved from Laura's sewing money. They make a down payment on a 40-acre place that Laura names "Rocky Ridge Farm." In later years, Laura will write the Little House books at Rocky Ridge Farm.

1912–1920s

Laura serves as a columnist and as the Home Editor for the *Missouri Ruralist*.

1919

Laura writes "The Farmer's Wife Says" for the June issue of *McCall's* magazine.

1925

Laura publishes "My Ozark Kitchen" in the January 17 issue of *Country Gentleman*.

1932

Harpers Brothers of New York publishes *Little House in the Big Woods*, which is a Junior Literary Guild selection. Harper and its successor firms will publish all subsequent Little House titles.

1933

*Farmer Boy* is published.

1935

*Little House on the Prairie* is published.

1937

*On the Banks of Plum Creek* is published.

1938

*On the Banks of Plum Creek* is named an ALA Newbery Honor Book.

1939

*By the Shores of Silver Lake* is published.

1940

*The Long Winter* is published. *By the Shores of Silver Lake* is named an ALA Newbery Honor Book.

1941

*Little Town on the Prairie* is published. *The Long Winter* is named an ALA Newbery Honor Book.

1942

*Little Town on the Prairie* is named an ALA Newbery Honor Book.

1943

*These Happy Golden Years* is published.

1944

*These Happy Golden Years* is named an ALA Newbery Honor Book.

1949

October 23. Almanzo dies of heart failure at Rocky Ridge Farm.

1953

The Little House books are reissued with new illustrations by Garth Williams.

1954

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Award is established; Laura Ingalls Wilder is presented with the first award.

1957

February 10. Laura dies of heart failure at Rocky Ridge Farm three days after her 90th birthday.

## NOTES

This is "Uncle Jet" who was a bachelor and died in a dirty shack in Mohall, ND. I can remember Grandma (Georgia Chamberlin) putting him in the bathtub and scrubbing him when he came to visit her one time. He had quite a bit of land and mineral rights on the land. Since there were numerous oil wells in the area, we all waited for "Uncle Jet's Oil Well" to come in so we'd inherit some money from Grandma's share. Whenever we asked for something, Mom would say, "Wait until Uncle Jet's oil comes in." As of 2007, we're still waiting.

George was born about 1825 near Cork, Ireland, and immigrated in about 1845. Ella was born Ella May Woods in Manchester, England, in 1835. She immigrated to America with her family in 1848 and lived in Illinois. She and her sister, Mary, married the brothers, George and Christopher, in Illinois. George and Ella must have lived there for awhile because their first children were born in Illinois.

Ella May Abbott ..... born in Illinois ..... in 1854

John Abbott ..... born in Illinois ..... in 1856

William Abbott ..... born in Minnesota ..... in 1858

Christopher Abbott ... born in Minnesota ..... in 1861

## BATTLE OF NASHVILLE

During the month of December the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and 10th Regiments did good service before Nashville. Colonel L.F. Hubbard of the Fifth, commanding a brigade after he had been knocked off his horse by a ball, rose and on foot led his command over the enemy's works. Colonel W.R. Marshall of the Seventh, in command of a brigade, made a gallant charge and Lt. Col. S.P. Jennison of the Tenth, one of the first on the evening's parapet, received a severe wound. ---Taken from "The History of the Minnesota Valley"