



JOHN WILLIAM ABBOTT

1866-1950

John William Abbott was born 10 Feb 1866 at Pike County, Missouri. His parents were Fleming (Flemmon, Flemm) Garrett (Garry) Abbott and Sarah Elizabeth Parsons. His father went by "Garey." John was probably born in Hartford, Bowling Green, Pike County, Missouri, since we find the family there in 1870. He had one known sister, Cynthia (Annie) who married a Mr. Rhone.

His paternal grandparents were Samuel Abbott and Mary Elizabeth Hagood. His maternal grandparents were Benjamin W. Parsons and Cynthia or Cynthia Craig.

A marriage certificate for his father Flemmen G. Abbott and Martha F. Lovelace was found in the Pike County, Missouri marriage records--dated 29 May 1873. From this it looks like his parents were either divorced or his mother died between 1870-1873.

Margaret Abbott, John's daughter-in-law, said that John was an orphan. In the 1880 Census, John was living with his great-uncle and aunt (his grandmother's sister), Harris and Francis Hagood Murphy, in Hurricane, Lincoln, Missouri. In the 1880 Census, Annie Abbott, age 11, was living with Sanford (age 67, born in Kentucky) and Margaret (age 60, born in Virginia) Jewell in Cuivre, Pike County, Missouri. I don't know if this is John's sister or not.

John married Elizabeth Frances Murphy, known as Fannie, 22 April 1885, at Montgomery City, Montgomery County, Missouri. They supposedly were 2nd cousins. Elizabeth's parents were John Adams Murphy and Sarah L. Murphy.

John William and Elizabeth had 10 children:

Velma (1 June 1887)
Everett William (22 Oct. 1888)
Audrey E. (9 or 18 Jan 1890)
Gordon Otto (26 July 1891)
Rolly (28 Feb 1893)
John Carlisle (24 Sept 1895)
Olney (24 Sept 1895)
Grover C. (24 Sept. 1895)
Eula Irene (22 Sept 1897)
Vera Lucille (9 Jan 1899)
Opal Virginia (22 Aug 1901)

The family moved from Missouri to Arkansas City, Kansas, in 1892 for the opening of the Oklahoma Strip. They stayed six months in Kansas before the Cherokee Strip was opened and participated with the thousands of other settlers in the Cherokee Strip Run.

John stated in an interview in 1938 that he and another man “*made the run together by hitching our two horses to the hind wheels of a wagon in which we had placed a tongue and bolted a box on to the outfit so it couldn’t bounce off, in which we had food for ourselves and feed for our horses. We drove to a point due west of the present site of Ponca City and not far from the Chikaskia River, but we failed to get any claim as we couldn’t drive fast enough to keep up with the swift moving men on horseback. We camped that night at a spring on Cattle Creek and next day returned to our homes.*”

In April of 1894, John and his family moved to Newkirk, Oklahoma, where he opened a cash produce house. For many years, he collected the farmers’ produce and furs, and drove this produce to Kansas where he sold it.

This is what he said:

I had my own wagon and team and did my own hauling, mostly, for a number of years. It was said that the farmers along the route I traveled to and from market could tell the time of day when they saw me coming or going because I traveled with such regularity of time in going and coming. I bought great quantities of eggs, butter and poultry and also bought hides, furs, and, in fact, everything in the produce line. I have bought many cases of eggs for \$2.10 a case and butter for 6 and 7 cents a pound. I hauled all my produce to Winfield, Kansas, where I sold it. I have hauled as much as 4000 pounds of butter on one wagon. The distance to Winfield was about twenty-eight miles.

I have bought as many as 300 turkeys from one man at a time. On one occasion a man came to my place from New York and said he wanted a full [railroad] carload of chickens and that he would pay 10 cents a pound for them, which was two cents above the regular market at that time. We announced that on a certain day we would pay this increased price for chickens and when the day came, we loaded the car to capacity, and the additional chickens that were brought in that day were placed in buildings that I obtained for a day or two until we could get cars to load them into. We had two additional carloads of chickens, making three carloads that were bought in one day.

The hide market was subject to fluctuations in price that caused me lots of grief at times and made enemies out of my friends. I have paid as high as 50 cents a pound for green hides from cattle and \$10.00 to \$15.00 for horse hides, and at other times I have paid as low as one cent a pound for cattle hides and good horse hides were worth less than \$1.00.

There were several fur bearing animals through the country such as skunks, civet cats, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, and coyotes. I paid as high as \$5.00 each for skunk furs, \$1.50 for opossum and \$5.00 for muskrat; these were extremely high prices and very much above the average.

I also handled coal and feed stuffs. I have sold what bran for as little as 40 cents per hundred pounds. I bought lots of corn, oats and hay in the early years; much more corn and oats were raised in the early period after settlement than has been raised in recent years. There was also lots of prairie hay sold on the markets and shipped out to other points.

In 1896 two of the triplets--Grover and John—died at only a year old. They are both buried in Newkirk..

While living in Newkirk, John worked at various jobs. When he first arrived in Newkirk, he hauled groceries from Winfield to Newkirk, as above, and produce from Newkirk to Winfield. At that time there was no bridge and he forded the Arkansas River, south of Arkansas City.

Later, he was in the coal and ice business in Newkirk. At one time he owned a gas station and another time, a small grocery store, just a couple of blocks from his home. He was in the feed business in Blackwell for two years around 1925.

From about 1900 to 1905, he was the night marshal. According to his obituary, he became the night marshal in order to clean up the gambling joints. He was also a poultry dealer (at age 34) and a horse breeder. He owned a 90-acre farm on the Arkansas River. After he moved into town, he rented the farm land out each year.

In 1935, he opened Abbott's store, which he was still operating at the time of his death. Abbott's was a clothing store. He ran the men's side, and his daughter Vera ran the women's side. For 57 years, until his death, he lived at 419 W. 9th Street in Newkirk.

He was a member of the city council and was president of the school board when the high school was constructed. He was a member of the Odd Fellow Lodge and the Christian Church.

Margaret Abbott said that around 1905, Elizabeth and two of her sons (one was Everett) tried to homestead land in Tucumcari, Quay, New Mexico, but when the mud soddy caved in because of too much rain, Elizabeth went back to Oklahoma. Everett stayed on alone for a while. He lived there about 3 years and fenced over 300 acres. After Everett married, John sold the New Mexico homestead.

Four of John's sons served in World War I. Gordon Otto was the first soldier from Newkirk killed during this war, and the VFW Post is named after him. He was a corporal in Company A. 26th Infantry and was an expert rifleman in the Sniper Platoon. He entered service in March of 1913 at Lincoln, Nebraska. He went across with General Pershing.

Otto Abbott



Rolly was a sergeant in Battalion D, 4th Field Artillery. He entered service 5 January 1916 at Texas City, Texas. He served on the Mexican Border.

Rolly Abbott

Olney was a private in Company D, 142nd Infantry. He entered service 6 October 1916 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and was discharged 6 June 1919 at Camp Bowie, Texas. He served

12 months overseas and then was hospitalized at Fort Sill with influenza.



And Everett served in Germany where he was wounded and left for dead and also gassed. He entered service 5 April 1918 at Camp Travis, Texas and was discharged in 1919. He was a member of the 360th Infantry, Company M, 90th Division. He served overseas for 13 months, 91 days on the front.

Everett Abbott

John's oldest daughter was married to Charles "Jack" Frost for 16 years and then they divorced. The second daughter, Audrey, became a nurse and married one of the doctors at the hospital where she nursed. She and Dr. Kessler eventually owned their own hospital.



John's wife, Elizabeth Francis, died 4 December 1948 at their home. She was a Christian Scientist and refused treatment from the doctors.

On 29 Jan 1950, at 2:55 p.m. John died of arteriosclerosis at his home in Newkirk. He had been in failing health for about a year. His funeral was held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, 30 January 1950 at the Hill Funeral Home with Reverend Wendell Tull, pastor of the First Christian church, officiating. He was buried in the Newkirk Cemetery in the Abbott family plot on 31 Jan 1950.

After John died, Vera lived in the family home until she died in 1959. At that time, no one seemed interested in the home. It was sold "as is" with all of the furnishings going to the new owner. The new owner, the next-door neighbor, decided to tear the house down, so the Newkirk Historical Society was called in to see if there was anything of historical importance. They took all of the pictures and those pictures are in the Newkirk Museum.

Sources:

Margaret Abbott (daughter-in-law)

Bob White (son-in-law)

Betty Frost (granddaughter)

1870 Census, Pike Co., MO

1880 Census, Lincoln Co., MO

Index to marriage licenses, Montgomery City, Missouri (Marriage books burned)

1900 Census of Newkirk, Kay, Oklahoma;

1910 Census, Newkirk, Kay, OK

THE LAST RUN, A HISTORY OF KAY COUNTY, OKLAHOMA (Salt Lake Genealogical Library);

CHEROKEE STRIP LAND RUN (Surnames Starting with "A-B ")

www.harvestcomm.net/personal/bjsbytes/chkstrip.htm

Death Certificate of John W. Abbott

Funeral Record

Obituary

KAY COUNTY HONOR ROLL AND SERVICE RECORD, Blackwell, Oklahoma, Blackwell Job Printing Company, 1920.

CEMETERY MARKER, NEWKIRK CEMETERY, KAY, OK

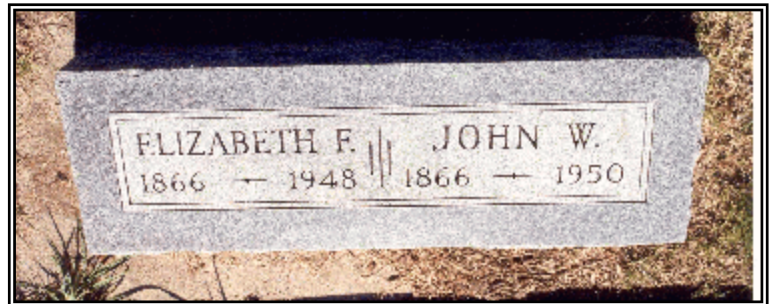
KAY COUNTY, OK, CEMETERIES (976.624, V3P) p. 215



PROBATE RECORDS, KAY COUNTY, OK. INDEX, 1909-1981 FILM #1311023.
(Compiled by Susan Beddes, 2005)



Abbott Cemetery Plot, Newkirk,
Oklahoma



OBITUARY

NEWKIRK PIONEER, JOHN ABBOTT, DIES

The Ponca City (Oklahoma) News, Monday, January 30, 1950

NEWKIRK—Services for John W. Abbott, 83, state pioneer, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Hill funeral home, Rev. Wendell Tull, pastor of the First Christian Church, officiating. Burial will be in Newkirk cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Mayor Harry Chope, R.E. Rader, Roy Phillips, Frank Midgley, Sam Stevens, and Ray Fisher.

Abbott made the run into the Cherokee Strip in a wagon, Sept. 16, 1893, but did not stake a claim. He opened a business in Newkirk, hauling produce from Newkirk to Winfield. He brought groceries back for the early-day residents. At that time, there was no bridge and he forded the Arkansas River, south of Arkansas City.

Later, he was in the coal and ice business in Newkirk. He operated a filling station and later, entered the grocery business. He was in the feed business in Blackwell for two years, about 25 years ago.

In 1935 he opened Abbott's store which he still operated at the time of his death. He sold men's clothing and women's ready-to-wear.

In the early days he was night marshal here, taking the job to clean up gambling joints. Later he was a member of the city council and was president of the school board when the high school was constructed. He was a member of the Odd Fellow lodge and the Christian church.

He was born in Pike County, Missouri, Feb. 10, 1866. He and his wife and four oldest children settled near Arkansas City a year before the Strip opening. Mrs. Abbott died in December 1948.

He is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Velma Frost, who lives on the Abbott farm east of Newkirk; Mrs. Audrey Kessler, Odessa, Texas; Mrs. Eula White, Odessa; and Mrs. Vera Abbott Aldrich, Newkirk, and Mrs. Opal Henninger, Pocatello, Idaho; two sons, Rolly Abbott of Newkirk and Olney Abbott of Watts, Oklahoma; six grandchildren, including Miss Betty Frost of Ponca City, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Abbott died at 2:55 p.m. Sunday at the home, 419 West Ninth Street. He had been in failing health for a year.

JOHN WILLIAM ABBOTT AND ELIZABETH FRANCES MURPHY MARRIED 22 APRIL 1885

CHILDREN:

VELMA ABBOTT.....1 JUNE 1887
EVERETT WILLIAM ABBOTT.....22 OCT 1888
AUDREY EILEEN ABBOTT.....9 JAN 1890
GORDON OTTO ABBOTT.....26 JULY 1891
ROLLY ABBOTT.....28 FEBRUARY 1893
JOHN CARLISLE ABBOTT.....24 SEPTEMBER 1895
OLNEY ABBOTT.....24 SEPTEMBER 1895
GROVER CLEVELAND ABBOTT.....24 SEPTEMBER 1895
EULA IRENE ABBOTT.....22 SEPTEMBER 1897
VERA LUCILLE ABBOTT.....9 JANUARY 1899
OPAL VIRGINIA ABBOTT.....22 AUGUST 1901



JOHN



ELIZABETH



EVERETT



AUDREY



EULA



VERA



OTTO



ROLLY