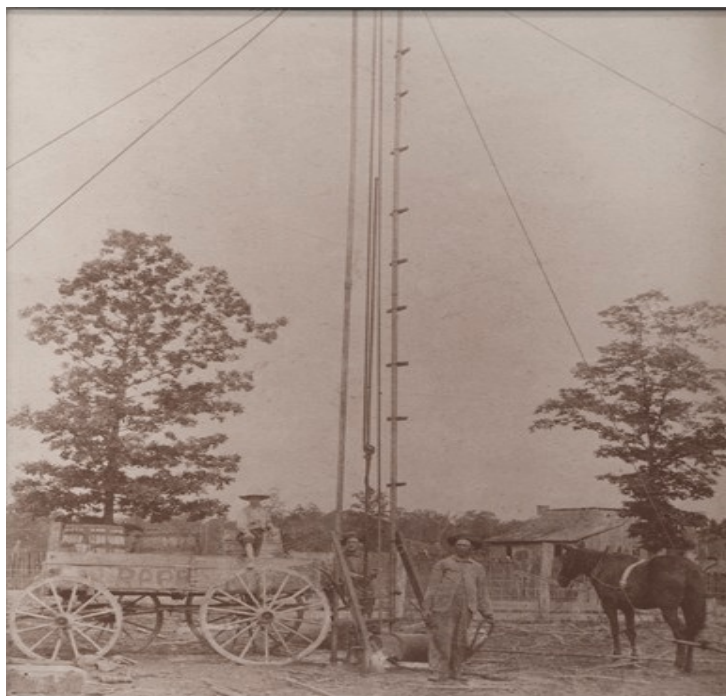


Descendants of Joseph Ables (Abel) Family



Picture of First J.H.Abel & Son Well Drilling Rig-believe it has Obediah Silas Abel Jr. in foreground, father of James Henry who followed in the business.

Lineage:

Joseph Abel (1755-1809)

William (b.1781-d.1839) and Mary Abel (b.1782-d.1844)

Obediah Silas Abel Sr. (b.Apr.1,1821 Alabama-d.Unk) and Rachael (b.1824-d.Unk)

Obediah Silas Abel Jr. (b.3-29-1849 Miss-d.11-11-1910 Palestine,Ark.)

Buried Bell Cemetery, St.Francis Co. Arkansas

Tombstone:CSA Co.E-7th Mississippi Infantry



Married: Permelia Johnson (b.4-11-1853 Miss-d.8-4-1929 Phillips Co, Ark.)

Married Grenada, Mississippi Dec.8,1870

Picture of Permelia with James Henry Abel Jr.:



Widow Pension Granted for Confederate Veteran Benefits:

Dated January 23, 1929-Phillips Co.Board

STATE OF ARKANSAS,
COUNTY OF Phillips ss.

We, the undersigned, sitting as a Pension Board for Phillips County,
do certify that we have examined the application of the within named
Mrs. O. S. Abel for pension, under Act of the General Assembly of the
State of Arkansas, as approved March 11, 1903, and subsequent amendatory Acts, and the proof in support of
same, and find that said applicant is the widow of a Confederate soldier, in indigent
circumstances, and that her claim is just, and that she should
be allowed \$ pension.

James H. Abel Jr. [SEAL]
William C. Abel
A. D. Whitehead [SEAL]

ATTESTATION OF
29702
Mrs. O. S. Abel
WIDOW
Abel, O. S.
Grenada, Miss.
Phillips Co.
Ark.

Examined and
allowed and Author-
ized to draw warrant for same.
J. H. Abel Jr.
Jan 23rd 1929
Phillips Co. Ark.

Children of Obediah and Permelia:

1. Eli Ross Abel (b.2-14-1872 Miss.-d.7-28-1934 Hughes, St.Francis, Ark.)

Buried Forrest Park Cemetery, St.Francis Co., Arkansas

Occupation Blacksmith on 1900 Census

Picture of Eli Ross Abel:



Married:Jan.9,1895, Palestine, Ark., to:

Mary Mills Turner (b.8-27-1878 Corinth, Alcorn Co, Miss-d.5-29-1951 Helena, Phillips Co., Ark.) Buried Maple Hill Cemetery, Helena, Phillips Co., Arkansas

2. Georgia A. Abel (b.4-16-1873 Miss.-d.9-19-1873)

3. Levi L. Abel (b.7-9-1874 Ark.d.-8-4-1875)

4. George G. Abel (b.1-29-1876 Ark.-d.7-1-1928 Newport, Jackson Co., Ark.)

BuriedWalnut Grove Cemetery, Jackson Co., Ark.

Occupation: 1920 Census-Carpenter, Building

Note:Lived in Goodwin, St.Francis Co, Ark. In 1900 and 1910 Census

5. Carrie Abel (b.7-26-1877 Ark.-d.4-20-1882)

6. James Henry Abel Sr. (b.12-11-1878 Old Towne Landing, Phillips Co., Ark.-d.4-16-1972

Forrest City, St.Francis Co., Ark.)

Buried:Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas

Occupation:Water Well Drilling Contractor

Picture James Henry Abel Sr.:



Biography from 1954 History Of St.Francis Co.-Times Herald Publishing-With Permission:

James H. Abel Sr., son of O. S. Abel, was born in 1878 in Old Town, Phillips Co., Arkansas, and moved to Palestine with his father in 1886, attended the Palestine Public Schools and then served as foreman of several large saw mills in the area before entering into the well-drilling business when his father died in 1910. Mr. Abel has seven children, five by a previous marriage to Mrs. Lucy (Proctor) Wilkerson, who died in 1920, and two by his present wife, Miss Jesse W. Cooper of Palestine. For relaxation he loves to fish.

Marriage 1:

Mrs.Lucy (Proctor) Wilkderson (b.Abt.1879 Old Towne Landing, Phillips Co.,Ark.-d.1920 Forrest City, Arkansas) Married about 1902-Widow Wilkerson at time of marriage, two kids by previous husband.

Five Children with Mr.Abel:

1. Anna Belle Abel (b.1902-d.1998) Buried Bluefield, W.Va.

Married to George Gerald Greenacre Oct.6,1920 Forrest City, Arkansas

2.William Wright Abel (b.10-5-1907 Forrest City, Ark.-d.12-4-1980 Palm Beach, Fla.)

Lived in Palestine in 1930 Census

Buried Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Ark.

Picture William Wright Abel:



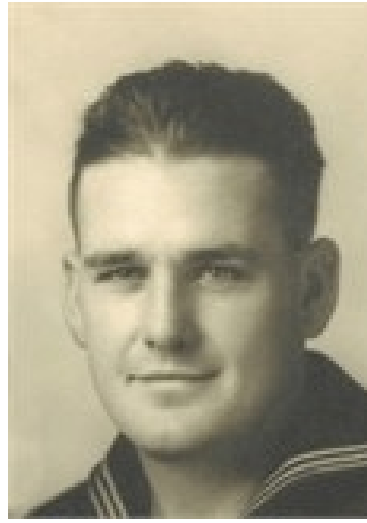
Married to Helen Bryan abt.1927 (b.9-24-1909 Forrest City, Ark.- d.10-3-1966 Palm Beach,

Florida) Buried Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas-Three Children living 2008

3. Lucie Mae Abel (b.11-16-1910 Forrest City, Ark.-d.8-31-1960 Kingsport, Tenn.)

4. Curtis Elton Abel (b.5-17-1913 Forrest City, Ark.--d.12-7-1951 Jackson, Tenn.)

Picture Curtis Elton Abel:



5. Richard Eugene Abel (b.2-23-1914 Forrest City, Ark.-d.11-26-1988 Kingsport, Tenn.)

Picture Richard Eugene Abel:



Marriage 2:

Jessie Ward Cooper: Married March 29, 1921 Palestine, Ark.

(b.8-22-1902 Selmer, McNairy Co., Tenn.-d.8-29-1994 Jonesboro, Arkansas

Buried Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas

Picture Jessie Ward (Cooper) Abel:



Daughter of Martin Granvel Cooper (b.2-9-1876 Miss.-d.11-18-1924 Palestine, Ark.)

Buried Bell Cemetery, Palestine, St.Francis Co., Arkansas

and

Dosha (Bridges) Cooper (b.8-1881 Miss.-d.8-23-1902 Corinth, Alcorn Co., Miss.)

Buried: Box Chapel Cemetery, Corinth, Alcorn Co., Miss.

Picture:Martin Granvel Cooper



Children of James Henry and Jessie Ward Cooper:

1. James Henry Abel Jr. (b.5-25-1925 Grenada, Grenada Co., Miss.-d.3-16-2007

Jonesboro, Craighead Co., Arkansas)

Buried: Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas

Picture James Henry Abel Jr.:



Biography from 1954 History Of St.Francis Co.-Times Herald Publishing-With Permission:

James H. Abel Jr. was born in Grenada, Miss, and came to St. Francis county in 1925 with his parents when he was only six months old. He graduated from Forrest City High School and attended the James Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. On July 26, 1943, he entered World War II as a private in the Army Air Corps, and was assigned to the 8th Air Force and was discharged with the commissioned rank of First Lieutenant on Oct. 17, 1947. He is married to the former Miss Virgimai Porter, of Forrest City, and they have two children. He is active in the First Baptist Church as a Deacon and Superintendent of Adult No. 1 Department.

Obituary for James Henry Abel Jr.

Mr. James Henry (Jim) Abel, age 81, long time resident of Forrest City, Arkansas, went to be with his Lord on Friday, March 16, 2007 at his home in Jonesboro. Jim was born May 25, 1925 in Grenada, Mississippi to James Henry Abel and Jessie Ward (Cooper) Abel. At 6 months of age, the family moved back to St. Francis County where Jim's ancestors had lived since the beginning of the 1870's. He was a 1943 graduate of Forrest City High School and attended James Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. In July of 1943, he entered WWII where he served as 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. On February 19, 1945, he married Virgimai Porter, daughter of Forrest City Mayor, Jack Rosamond Porter and his wife Virgie Belle (Moore) Porter. They settled in Forrest City where Jim became actively involved in multiple businesses in the area. They included; J. H. Abel & Son Wells and Irrigation Systems, Abel Hardware, A & T Stores, Inc. of Forrest City, West Helena, and Marianna, and Best Western Motels. He was active in supporting the Forrest City Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Committee. Although he was a very busy businessman, the most important thing in Jim's life was service to his church and his Lord. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Forrest City where he began serving as a deacon at the age of 21. He served as various officers in the deacon body, which included Chairman many different times. He served on the Finance Committee of the church, Pulpit Committee, was a Sunday School Superintendent, and an active member of the church choir and men's quartet. He also served the area as a lay preacher. Outside of his community, he served as President of the Arkansas Baptist Brotherhood and

was honored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since moving to Jonesboro about 9 years ago, he has been an active member of Central Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his father, James Henry Abel, Sr. and mother, Jessie Ward (Cooper) Abel; four brothers, Charles Edward Abel, William Wright Abel, Curtis Elton Abel, and Richard Eugene Abel; and two sisters; Anna Bell Greenacre and Lucy Mae Howard. He is survived by his wife, Virgimai Porter Abel of the home, two daughters; Living (Abel) Shoemaker and her husband Living Shoemaker, and Living (Abel) Crawley and her husband Dr. Living Crawley; one son, Living Abel, and his wife Living all of Jonesboro. He also leaves five grandsons; two Crawleys, two Abels, all of Jonesboro and one Crawley of Ocean Springs, Mississippi; and five great-grandchildren; five Crawleys.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 2 o'clock at Forrest Park Cemetery in Forrest City, Arkansas. Visitation will be held at Steven's Funeral Home in Forrest City from 12 noon until 2 p.m., prior to the graveside service. Brother Kerry Powell of Newport, Tennessee, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Forrest City, will officiate the service. Pallbearers will include Michael Crawley, Craig Crawley, Brad Crawley, Christopher Abel, Carter Abel, Samuel Lucus, Ron Shoemaker, Dr. Michael Crawley, Emmett Slayton, and Bryan Collins. Honorary pallbearers will include the Wisdom Seekers class of Central Baptist Church, nephews Harry Chism, Pat Chism, and Jack Lofton, and caregivers Patricia McDaniel, Angela Allen and Crystal Jones.

Published: 2007-03-19 Forrest City Times Herald

Married: Virgimai Porter Feb. 23, 1943 in Decatur, Macon Co., Georgia

(Still Living b. Forrest City, Arkansas)

Daughter of John Rosamond Porter (b. 12-13-1902 Helena, Phillips Co., Ark.-d. 1-22-1963 Helena, Phillips Co., Ark.)

Buried: Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas

Married: 1-23-1925 Wynne, Cross Co., Arkansas (second marriage for widower John)

Virgie Belle Moore (b. 8-22-1905 St. Francis Co., Ark.-d. 5-16-1995 W. Helena, Phillips Co., Ark.)

Buried: Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas

Four Daughters: Still Living

Picture: John Rosamond Porter



Obituary for John Rosamond Porter

Added on 5 Apr 2008

JACK PORTER DIES THIS MORNING IN HELENA HOSPITAL:

Jack Rosamond Porter, well known West Helena resident, died this morning at 11 o'clock at the Helena Hospital after an illness of several months. He was 60. A former Mayor of Forrest City, he had a long and varied career in civic work, including Chairmanship of the State Police Commission and later as Director of the State Police.

A native of Helena, he moved to Forrest City in 1923, at the age of 31.

There he served with the Railway Express Agency for 32 years. He married Virgie B. Moore of Forrest City in January, 1925, who survives.

In 1927 Mr. Porter organized the Forrest City Young Business Men's Club, a group which served as the Chamber of commerce for that city until 1945. He served as Secretary of the organization during that period.

In 1929 he launched the first Crowley Ridge Peach Festival, which was Forrest City's largest annual event until World War II. The first Arkansas entrant in the Miss America Pageant at Atlantic City was the winner of the Peach Festival.

During 1936 he was chairman of the State Police Commission and in 1938 was State Parole Officer and also President of the Eastern Arkansas Young Men's Clubs, which he helped organize. Elected Mayor of Forrest City in 1944, he took a leave of absence to serve as Director of the State Police Department, and held the mayor's post until 1957 when he resigned to devote full time to private business as co-owner and manager of the J. H. Abel and Son Water Supply and Irrigation firm, of Forrest City and West Helena.

During his residence in Forrest City he served for a number of years as Secretary of the Forrest City and St. Francis County Chamber of Commerce and was also active in Boy Scout work.

In 1957, Mr. Porter moved back to West Helena to take over operation of the local office of Abel and Son. He helped reorganize the West Helena Business and Professional Club and was serving as president at the time of his death. Recently he had been appointed to the U. S. Advisory Commission on Civil Rights.

He was also a member of the Helena Rotary Club and had served as President of the Forrest City Rotary Club.

For many years he was a member of the First Baptist Church in Forrest City and had served as president of the Men's Brotherhood there. At the time of his death he was a member of the West Helena Baptist Church.

Mr. Porter had been in poor health since last September and had been seriously ill for the past month.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by four daughters, Mrs. J. H. Abel, Jr. of Forrest City, Mrs. W. N. Lofton of Hughes, Mrs. Millard Chism of Widener (St. Francis County) and Mrs. Robert Teeter of West Helena.

Funeral services will be held from the First Baptist Church of Forrest City Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Rev. Wilson Deese, pastor of the West Helena Baptist church, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Sam Gash, pastor of the Forrest City Church.

Burial will be in Forrest Park Cemetery in Forrest City with Stevens Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Picture:Virgie Moore Porter



Picture:Virgimae Porter Abel



Three Children: Living, two daughters and one son.

**2. Charles Edward Abel (b.1-9-1927 Palestine, Ark.-d.7-16-1977 Forrest City, Ark.)
Buried Forrest Park Cemetery, Forrest City, Arkansas**

Picture: Charles Edward Abel



Thanks To Rosamond Abel Crawley for allowing the use of this information and pictures from her personal files for this proud family presentation for posterity! She is a daughter of James Henry and Virgimai Abel Jr and has assembled this information over the years.

**Paul V. Isbell
January 4,2009**

