

FULTON COUNTY.

Memoirs of Georgia, Fulton County Sketches (1895)

HON. BENJAMIN F. ABBOTT, of Atlanta, who has long been recognized as one of the leading members of the bar of the state, is a native Georgian. He was born in Cherokee county on July 3, 1839. His early life was spent on the farm, and having received a good academic education he removed to Atlanta in 1860 and began the study of www.georgiapioneers.com direction of the late Green B. Haygood, Esq. He was admitted to the bar in October, 1860. He immediately opened an office and practiced law until June, 1861, when he enlisted as a volunteer in Company F, Twentieth regiment, Georgia volunteers, army of northern Virginia. That company was commanded by Capt. E. M. Seage, and it was perhaps the only company in the Confederate service which marched on foot more than 125 miles to take the cars for the seat of war in Virginia. The company was not wholly made up in Atlanta and in order to recruit and fill the ranks they marched from Atlanta to Roswell, thence to Hickory Flat and Orange, in Cherokee county; Frog Town in Forsyth county, Jasper in Pickens, Ellijay in Gilmer county, Spring Place in Murray county and on to Dalton, Ga. The company had a wagon for the transportation of the baggage, etc. At the various points named a halt was made and recruits procured, and when the command reached its destination it was nearly one hundred strong. Mr. Abbott remained with his regiment until 1863, when ill health forced his retirement. In the meantime he saw much hard service

He was with ~~Memiors of Georgia~~ ^{Memiors of Georgia} ~~Fulton County Sketches (1895)~~ Hill, Sharpsburg, Fredricksburg, Thoroughfare Gap and a number of smaller engagements. After leaving active service he was assigned duty in the quartermaster's department. At the close of the war Mr. Abbott was engaged for a short time in successful mercantile pursuits, and then resumed the practice of the law. In this, his chosen profession, his success was almost phenomenal. In a very few years his clientage embraced many of the leading business firms and corporations of the country, and his practice was quite as remunerative as that of many of the oldest and ablest practitioners, notwithstanding the Atlanta bar was then the equal of any in the state. On the retirement of the Hon. H. K. McCay from the supreme bench Mr. Abbott formed a partnership with him, which continued until dissolved by the appointment of Judge McCay to the Federal bench for the northern district of Georgia. At successive periods he practiced law in partnership with Mr. J. R. Gray and Mr. Alexander W. Smith, respectively. At present he is practicing with his son, Mr. Charles A. Abbott. Though strictly wedded to his profession and having but little desire to mingle with politics, he consented to make the race for the general assembly and was accordingly elected as one of the representatives of the county of Fulton in that body in the session of 1884-5. He was one of the leading members of the house, serving on many of its most important committees. As a member of the finance committee he gave special attention to the bill for raising funds to build the new capitol and was chairman of the committee on part of the house to arrange ^{www.georgiapioneers.com} the ceremonies at the laying of the corner-stone. It is not invidious to say that Mr. Abbott did more than any one man in procuring the appropriation for the erection of the capitol. In 1874 Mr. Abbott was one of the committee of seventy to prepare a new charter for the city of Atlanta, and was one of the sub-committee of seven to draft and submit the bill to the general assembly for that purpose. On behalf of the sub-committee he prepared the bill which became a law and was the author of many of its best provisions. He was a member of the executive committee of the international cotton exposition held in Atlanta, Ga., in 1881, and was its legal adviser. As a lawyer he does a general practice and represents various corporations and monetary institutions, besides individuals. He has been for many years the attorney of the Atlanta National bank. In 1893 Mr. Abbott was urged by the leading members of the bar to accept the appointment as judge of the superior court of the Atlanta circuit, which he declined, and in 1893 he was similarly presented to the governor for appointment, which he likewise declined. He is a man of liberal culture, a forceful, eloquent and humorous speaker. He has been a frequent contributor to the public press on political and other subjects, all of which have been widely read and copied. He is a loyal and consistent member and deacon of the Baptist church. For many years he has been a delegate to the State Baptist convention and the Southern Baptist convention, and is a member of the Home Mission board of the latter body. Mr. Abbott has been twice married, first to Miss Isabella Kendrick, the accomplished daughter of ^{late} Mr. S. S. Kendrick, of Atlanta, Ga., with whom he lived in perfect domestic happiness for more than a quarter of a century and until her death; and second to Mrs. Josephine A. Richards, of Atlanta, his present wife, and who presides with grace and elegance over his home.

GEORGE W. ADAIR, the foremost real estate dealer of Atlanta, is the son of John F. Adair and Mary Slavin, and was born in Morgan county, Ga., March 1, 1823. His father followed the trade of a wheelwright, and settled in De Kalb county, five miles south of Decatur. He resided here until the death