

ABELL EDWARDS IN GREASY COVE
ESSAY WRITTEN BY
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Abell Edwards is traditionally believed to have been born in ca.1739/ca.1755, like his date of birth his date of death is equally shrouded in mystery for a couple of understandable reasons.

1. The time in which Abell lived pre-1860, records were destroyed in a fire during a little known Civil War battle in Blountville Tennessee the county seat.

2. There was at least two Abel Edwards in the area at the time of Abell Edwards who married Polly Potts death. One of which being Abell Edwards of question, and the other being his son Abel Edwards b.1783.

Some of the Edwards researchers out there of this specific Edwards Line believe that Abell Edwards can not be found because of the above stated reasons, and some other researcher have their own reasons. I for one have derived a new theory that I personally believe warrants our attention as descendants of Abell Edwards and Polly Potts.

I mentioned in my book, "The Descendants of Abel Edwards and Polly Potts, Volume II" of my belief that I had found Abell Edwards, husband to Polly Potts alive in ca.1837 in the Holston Baptist Church Minutes of Bluff City Tennessee. I can now say that I feel that this is indeed the Abell Edwards husband to Polly Potts.

In a book by the name of "Greasy Cove in Unicoi", written in a portion of this book was a 1792 tax list of Greasy Cove(current day Unicoi Co., Tennessee). This new source sates that the original tax list of 1792 of Greasy Cove was taken by a man named Richard Love. There was no mention in this tax list of any related families of the Edwards line. In a tax list taken by a man named Captain Longmire in 1799 there was a mention of the following:

--"Abell" Edwards, John Edwards, Thomas Edwards

Through out my years of research on this Edwards line I have not found any other "Abel Edwards" mentioned in North Carolina pre-1796 to 1800 Tennessee except "our" Abell Edwards, husband to Polly Potts.

I believe the Abell Edwards mentioned in the 1799 tax rolls of Greasy Cove to be the Abell which married Polly Potts. The only other Abel/Abell Edwards in the area is Abell and Polly's son Abel Edwards born in 1783, obviously to young at this time. In support of my belief that this Abell Edwards is "our" Abell, the other mentioned Edwards in the 1799 tax rolls, John and Thomas would be Abell and Polly's two oldest sons, both in their twenties at this time.

Taking into consideration of the 1799 Abell, there was no other Abell Edwards in the area at this time, and lastly understanding that the mention of Abell Edwards in the Church Minutes in ca.1837 is not entirely just a coincidence. The reader will be reminded that Abell Edwards and Polly Pott's son Joshua Edwards b.1781 was the pastor of this church in which Abell Edwards was listed in ca.1837, and other that Joshua and his son Samuel b.1803 they were the only male Edwards that stayed in the area past the 1840's until death. It makes perfect sense to me that Abell Edwards and Polly Potts, if they lived a long life would have stayed near family in Tennessee which would place them with their son Joshua Edwards b.1781, Pastor of the Holston Baptist Church.

In closing. I now believe that Abell Edwards, husband to Polly Potts spelled his given name Abel as Abell. I also now believe that the Abell mentioned in the 1799 tax rolls of Greasy Cove and the Abell mentioned in the Church Minutes ca.1837 to be one and the same.

Lastly. Written so lightly and for the most part illegible is an entry in the Edwards Bible under the deaths section of the family area is what appears to be an account of an "Abel Edwards" departing this life, age 64+/-, in what appears to be in the "1840's".

Could this be our Abell Edwards who married Polly Potts?

The photographs of the Edwards Bible which I have are not the clearest, a closer examination of the page and entry is needed for clarity before I can reach a conclusion. In 2002 I am planning on taking a trip to North Carolina and Virginia on a Genealogical Trip just for this reason with hopes of getting a clearer account of this specific entry of the bible, which I believe is priceless. This "ABELL EDWARDS" is very likely our ABELL.

Written by,
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5th Great Grandson to
Abell Edwards and
Polly Potts.
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