

III. POSSIBLE MIGRATION ROUTES OF ABEL EDWARDS AND DESCENDANTS

Abel Edwards and his wife Polly Potts first documented location was in Henry County Virginia in 1779 when their son Owen Edwards was born. There is a possibility that Abel Edwards was previously in Loudoun County Virginia in 1771, which there was an Abel Edwards mentioned in a Tithable.

NOTE: Refer to Abel Edwards timeline dated 1771. There is mention of an Abel Edwards marrying a Polly Potts in Loudoun County in 1771. This has always been an assumption and unproven.

There was a span of seven years from the first documentation of Abel Edwards and family in Virginia to when Abel Edwards in 1786 (Virginia) sold his land for what was probably their move to Sullivan County North Carolina.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HENRY/FRANKLIN COUNTY VIRGINIA

Henry County Virginia was formed from Pittsylvania County Virginia in 1776 and was named after Patrick Henry.

The first mention of Abel Edwards and Polly Potts was a mention in a Tax listing of Henry County Virginia which listed an Abel Edwards.

Franklin County Virginia was formed from Henry County Virginia in 1785.

NOTE: The last known mentioning of Abel Edwards was in a deed in 1807 when he sold 160 acres of land in Sullivan County Tennessee to his son in law Littleberry Sams. At this time Abel Edwards was living in Washington County Tennessee.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SULLIVAN COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA/TENNESSEE

The Sullivan County that is known today is not the Sullivan County of old.

Sullivan County was derived originally from the North Carolinian County of Washington in the year of 1779, and was known as Sullivan County North Carolina

From the year span of 1784-1788 Sullivan County was in the area of the little known state of Franklin/Frankland. Our Edwards Ancestors purchased land in this area of the state of Franklin and most likely they were a part of the limited history of this state.

In 1796 Sullivan County North Carolina became Sullivan County of the volunteer state of Tennessee.

It is difficult to find the original land of Abel Edwards and Polly Potts. All that is known of the original land is that it was located north of the Holston River in Sullivan County.

Around 1836 the county of Sullivan was divided into districts of which there were many Edwards related families living in the district of #3 which lay north and south of the Holston River. In this area is where it is believed the land of Abel Edwards and Polly Potts is today.{refer to pg.173}

The children of Abel Edwards and Polly Potts started migrating to other states between 1840 and 1850 when new opportunities for land came available.

All together there were seven known children that were born to Abel Edwards and Polly Potts. By using the 1850 census we can find four out of the seven children, or their descendants.

John Edwards was born in 1772 and can be found in Logan County Illinois in 1850 with wife Lucinda Sams. Enumerated with them is their daughter (Polly) Mary Edwards Barnett and her daughter Ora/Alma Barnett.{refer to pg.182}

Thomas Edwards was born in 1774. He can't be found in the 1850 federal census. He more that likely died before 1850. Thomas Edwards descendants can be found migrating to Washington County Tennessee, and Madison County North Carolina.

Nancy Edwards was born in 1777 and married Littleberry Sams and the last mention of this family was in 1838 when Littleberry Sams bought land in Sullivan County Tennessee.

Owen Edwards was born in 1779 and was in Edgar County Illinois in 1850 with wife Martha Sams.{refer to

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
EDGAR COUNTY ILLINOIS

Illinois became a state in 1818 and Edgar County was formed in the year of 1823. There were two children of Abel Edwards and Polly Potts which migrated to Illinois.

Abel Edwards born 1783 came to Edgar County around 1838, and his brother Owen Edwards born in 1779 came to Illinois around the same year as his brother Abel Edwards.

It is probable that the two brothers left Tennessee around the year of 1838 and came to the county of Edgar to settle in the relatively newly established county of Edgar.

Joshua Edwards was born in 1781 and can be found with family in Sullivan County Tennessee from 1830-1859. Joshua Edwards descendants can be found migrating to Davis County Iowa, Clark County Iowa, and Edgar County Illinois.{refer to pg.175}

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
DAVIS COUNTY IOWA

The first account of related Edwards families coming to the Iowa area was Arthur Edwards(son to Abel Edwards and Polly Potts) and many of his children. It is believed through family history that Arthur Edwards came to Iowa, specifically Davis County sometime in 1849. Along with Arthur Edwards and children which can be found in Davis County in {7}1850, Abel Edwards which is the son of Joshua Edwards, brother to the above mentioned Arthur Edwards.

The early Edwards families which came to Iowa cleared the path for the families which later followed their footsteps and came to Iowa and farther west. With out these early pioneers from Tennessee it is probable that our families would have either stayed in or around Tennessee.

It is believed that Arthur Edwards and his family possibly {1}traveled by way of a flatboat from Hancock and Clairborne Counties Tennessee. They most likely drifted down this stream in to the Clinch River and on into the Tennessee River until they reached Paducah,