

crossed the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary fraternity. His stalwart support of Democracy is indicated in the fact that he was made a delegate to the national convention of the party in New York City in 1924 and in 1928 he was a presidential elector. Along professional lines his connection is with the Haywood County, Tennessee State and American Bar Associations and of the state organization he has been vice-president. He is a worthy representative of an honored family that has been represented in Tennessee for more than a century and that from the beginning has contributed to the growth, development and steady improvement of the state.

WILLIAM CLAYTON ABERNATHY

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NO RECORD in this publication proves more clearly what can be accomplished through determined individual effort, intelligently directed than the life history of William Clayton Abernathy, who started out to provide for his own support when but eleven years of age and is now an able and successful member of the Tennessee bar, practicing at Tracy City since 1911. Through an orderly progression he has reached his present position as a skilled and thoroughly reliable lawyer and who enjoys the full confidence and respect of his professional colleagues and contemporaries.

Mr. Abernathy was born at Tarlton, Tennessee, June 27, 1878, a son of Thomas C. Abernathy and a grandson of John Firth Abernathy, who removed from Mississippi to Scotts Hill, Henderson County, Tennessee, where he and his family lived until the Civil War. He had six sons who served in the Confederate Army and one was wounded in the Battle of Shiloh. While visiting him the grandfather caught pneumonia, which caused his death in April, 1862. After the close of the war Thomas C. Abernathy came to Grundy County, Tennessee. He was born in Ripley, Mississippi, and had been a soldier of the Southern Army. In Grundy County he began teaching school and for many years followed farming. He served as a trustee of the county from 1876 until 1882, and he continued farming operations until 1889 when he removed to Tracy City. In 1896 he suffered the loss of his sight and in 1902 he passed away. In early manhood he had wedded Mary Walker and they became parents of nine children: Sarah Ann, now the widow of J. C. Roberts; James Greenwood, now living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Della Elizabeth, widow of W. P. Roberts; Zedekiah Firth, living in Clearwater, Florida; Lelia Jane, who

married J. T. Bannan and is now deceased; Margaret Emma; Tennessee; Franklin, who teaches school; and Mary Bell, who became the wife of C. M. Charles and is deceased.

William C. Abernathy was a pupil in the public schools of Grundy County until eleven years of age when he began working in a coal mine of this county and since that time his education has been acquired through private reading and study, prompted by a laudable ambition. From 1889 until 1900 he continued to work in the mines and for four years thereafter was employed as clerk in a store. From 1904 until 1910 he filled the position of county court clerk and from 1914 to 1918 was postmaster of Tracy City. In the meantime he had decided to become a member of the bar and had qualified for law practice in which he engaged in Tracy City from 1918 until 1925. He had passed the required bar examination in 1911 and he was licensed to practice in Florida in 1925, spending that and the succeeding year in that state. Returning to Tennessee he has since devoted much time to public duties, having in 1928 been elected to the state senate in which he served for one term from the eleventh senatorial district, which embraces Warren, Grundy, Franklin and Marion Counties. In 1930 he was appointed clerk and master and still fills the position, his incumbency having covered a decade. In addition to faithfully performing the duties that thus devolve upon him he also practices law in the circuit court. All through the years he has given his support to the Democratic Party and is now chairman of the executive committee of Grundy County and has been instrumental in building up the large majorities now given the party in this section of the state. He has served as county chairman since 1934 and was also chairman for two other terms, making a total of sixteen years in this office—a fact indicative of the excellent service he has rendered the party. He attends all of the Democratic state conventions and his opinions often constitute a directing force in party affairs.

On the twentieth of October, 1904, Mr. Abernathy was married to Myrtle Lasater, a daughter of J. C. Lasater, who was born in Marion County, and became a farmer here. The children of this marriage are Oma Lee, now the wife of H. B. Garthwaite, an attorney of Tracy City, and Lela, wife of R. K. Adams. Mr. Abernathy is one of the landowners of Grundy County and he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and to the Methodist Church, in which he teaches the men's Bible class. His leisure hours are largely given to fishing. His life, however, has been an extremely busy and useful one and his example should serve as a stimulus to others, showing what can be accomplished when there is a will to dare and to do.