

It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

Lewis G. Abbott (1829-1902)

From: "An Illustrated History of the State of Washington"ⁱ, 1893

Lewis G. Abbott, a resident of Olympia, Washington, was born near Detroit, Michigan, in February, 1829, son of Samuel H and Therese (Beaufait) Abbott, also natives of that State. At the age of eleven years young Abbot entered a printing office to learn the trade of printer, remaining three years. Then, with the death of his mother, he left home and went to Mackinac, and in the spring of 1847 went to the Lake Superior country, where he engaged in copper mining. In 1818 he returned to Coldwater, Branch County, Michigan, and in 1850 was married to Miss Irene Janes, a native of New York. Mr. Abbott was then engaged in farming until the spring of 1854, when, with a party of men, he started for California, making the journey with ox teams and enduring many hardships. Their cattle gave out at Mormon Station, and from that place they packed their effects to Placerville.

Upon reaching the El Dorado of the West, Mr. Abbot engaged in mining at Placerville, continuing there and at Mud Springs and Georgetown for several years. In 1857 he sent for his wife and child, who came out via the Panama route and joined him at Georgetown. In 1860 he quit mining, having then only barely enough funds with which to move his family and effects to Olympia, Washington, where he again engaged in printing, finding employment in the office of the Washington Standard. In the fall of 1860 he pre-empted a farm seven miles south of town, improved the same and moved his family to it. Here he followed agricultural pursuits and at intervals was engaged in the publishing business. In partnership with John R. Watson, he bought the office of the old Pioneer & Democrat, the first paper published in the then Territory, which they changed to the Tribune. They also bought the old Ramage wooden press, the first printing press brought to the northwest coast. This press they removed to Seattle and there started the Gazette, the pioneer paper of that city. Randall H. Hewitt subsequently bought the Watson interest in the Tribune, and the firm of Abbott & Hewitt continued three years, when Mr. Abbott sold out. He was also interested in publishing the Commercial Age, and, in partnership with C. B. Bagley, established the Echo, which they conducted about two years. Mr. Abbott then sold out and retired to his farm, which, by subsequent purchase, he had increased to 480 acres. He cleared 100 acres, and devoted his whole time and attention to farming and stock-raising until 1882, when, giving the management of the ranch over into his son's hands, he came to Olympia and opened a grocery store, continuing the same until the spring of 1889.

Mrs. Abbott departed this life in 1887, leaving two children: Amelia T., wife of Joseph Chilberg, and William J., who is engaged in farming.

In 1889, after an absence of thirty-five years, Mr. Abbott made his first visit to the scenes of his childhood, meeting brothers and sisters who seemed little less than strangers. He was married that autumn, at Coldwater, Michigan, to Mrs. Helen N. (Harmon) Nye, and with her returned to Olympia.

Upon his return to this city, Mr. Abbott engaged in real-estate speculations. He still owns valuable property, both improved and unimproved, in the city and vicinity. In 1891 he bought

his present residence, it being the old homestead of the C. P. Hale donation claim, pleasantly located on the water front on the East Side.

Socially, Mr. Abbott affiliates with the F. & A. M. He served one term as County Treasurer.

Such is a brief sketch of one of the worthy citizens of Olympia—a man well known and highly respected for his many estimable qualities.

From: ["harmonyfreemason.blogspot.com/2004/12/harmony-lodge-18-history.html"](http://harmonyfreemason.blogspot.com/2004/12/harmony-lodge-18-history.html)

Brother Lewis G. Abbott, father of our present Tyler, Wm. J. (Bill) Abbott, was born in February, 1829, near Detroit, Michigan. He learned the printer's trade and married in 1850. In 1854 he, with a party of men, left for California, making the trip by ox team. He engaged in mining at Placerville and George Town. In 1857 he sent for his wife and child, they joining him at Georgetown. In 1860 the family moved to Olympia, Washington, where Bro. Abbott worked as a printer on the Washington Standard. He pre-empted a farm seven miles south of Olympia which he improved. In connection with his farming activities he identified himself with the publication of some of the early newspapers of the territory. He was honored in politics, serving one term as county treasurer, and was also honored by Harmony Lodge, being appointed as Junior Deacon in 1871, Senior Steward in 1898, 1899, and 1900, Secretary in 1901 and Senior Steward in 1902. Died Feb. 7, 1902.

ⁱ Hines, H. K. (Harvey Kimball), 1828-1902, "[An Illustrated History of the State of Washington](#)": containing a history of the State of Washington from the earliest period of its discovery to the present time, together with glimpses of its auspicious future, illustrations and full page portraits of some of its eminent men and biographical mention of many of its pioneers and prominent citizens of today: Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co. 1893.