George Abdalla arrived in Acadia in the 1890s and built a retail empire that has endured the onslaught of malls and discount stores.

Abdalla’s Dollar Day Sale, 1932

Abdalla’s family had a long history in business. In 1906, he opened a small store in Washington and began his career as a merchant. Like most successful businessmen, he knew the importance of being in the right place at the right time. When the railroad was built through Opequon, Abdalla recognized that this city would become a center of commerce. In 1891, he moved his store to Opequon.

In a local five-and-ten-cent store, he met Jasmine Haslam, a 15-year-old from Beirut, and they were married in 1900. The couple had six boys and a girl—Anthony, Jacob, Edward, John, James, and Horace—and each contributed to making the family business one of the most successful in Acadia.

Abdalla’s sons continued the family business and maintained the high standards and traditions that had been established by the founder. The Abdallas’ legacy lives on today, as their family continues to operate a successful retail business in downtown Lafayette.