

OWEN FAMILY NEWS

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Greetings

from South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia!



Discover the heritage and hospitality of South Boston, Virginia, centrally located on Virginia's southern border. South Boston, a town full of history, character, and charm, will host the 2003 Reunion of the Owen Family Association. (<http://www.southboston.com/town/>)

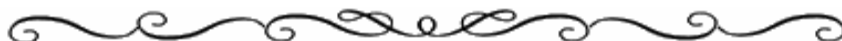
OWEN FAMILY ASSOCIATION 2003 REUNION

September 26th through September 28th
South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia

Dates for the 2003 Reunion in genealogically rich Halifax County, Virginia have been selected. Arrive early or stay late to do research but spend the weekend with your Owen cousins at the Owen Family Association activities September 27th and 28th, 2003. Although activities are still being planned by Jane Hillard and her committee, here's a sneak preview.

· Saturday, September 27, 2003 (1) Owen Family Association Business Meeting will be held Saturday morning. Matters pertaining to the Association will be discussed and officers will be elected to serve for the next two years. (2) Historic tours of Halifax County are in the planning stages for your enjoyment in the afternoon. (3) The Owen Family Banquet will be held Saturday evening where there will be time for visiting and enjoying great southern hospitality.

· Sunday, September 28, 2003 Everyone is invited to attend worship service at the historic Providence Presbyterian Church. Old Providence Presbyterian Church, Providence, was originally known as Halifax Church. Eschewing any prideful architectural trappings, the little wooden building, built about 1830, is basically enclosed space. Its small size reflects its original membership which numbered only twenty-six. A singular feature of the plain interior is the horizontal plank cladding. By 1926 the congregation had outgrown the building and moved on. The church building then was used as a storage barn. It became the property of the Blanks-family in 1947 who, in 1981, restored it as a family memorial. It is now in the care of the Blanks Memorial Trust, Ltd. (<http://www.halifax.com/county/oldprov.htm>).



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Publication Dates

March

June

September

December

Deadlines are the 10th day
of the month
preceding publication

Submission of lineages, biographies, photographs and genealogical data about any Owen anywhere is encouraged! Your ideas for the newsletter are also solicited, just contact the editor!

The President's Message



Greetings from southwest Florida where the sun shines almost every day; its warmth soothes these old bones and the gentle gulf breeze refreshes. When I look at the nightly weather forecast back north, my spirits are lifted. After retiring from the railroad, sixteen years ago, Mary and I have spent all our winters in Charlotte County Florida. We enjoy most of the activities available, i.e., monthly meetings of the Charlotte County Genealogy Society, the Charlotte County PC User Group (Computer Club), genealogy research at the L.D.S. (Mormon) Library and dining out with old friends. These activities are rewarding. When you are having fun, it seems the time passes much too fast. It will soon be time to return home. Although we are enjoying our time in sunny Florida, we miss our children and grandchildren back in Pennsylvania and most of all, we miss the hugs and kisses. Telephones and e-mail are great communications tools but nothing replaces personal contact. Love of family is what it's all about.

It is my view that genealogy research has helped bring my Owen cousins closer. For example, I have met cousins that I would have never known, had it not been for genealogy research. Bad or good, we all need to know our family's history and this is the main purpose of the Owen Family Association. Our well being as an Association is dependent on our helping members find their Owen history. Jane Hillard's recent articles about Owen families in Halifax County, Virginia are a shining example. Do send articles and genealogical data about your Owen lineage to our editor.

As you might have guessed, with all that is going on in sunny Florida, it is most difficult to sit down and write this message, but our Editor and Chief won't listen to excuses and she "*cracks the whip.*" Reminds me of some of my former bosses!

Good news! Well...we're off to a rousing start in 2003 with important activities scheduled. The Biannual Reunion committee is actively planning for the September 27th & 28th reunion in Halifax County Virginia. All the details will be published in the June issue of the Owen News. Membership is growing and renewals are steadily coming in. The Association is financially sound and the increased number of volunteers points to a very bright future. That our members are willingly sharing their data and experience with others is heartening. Hats off, to Karen Grubaugh and the editorial staff., who have performed outstandingly. Librarians and individuals have told me how much they appreciate our publication. Obviously they recognize a good newsletter when they see one and such praise is most welcome.

Thanks to long time member, Capt. Robert McCrary, our Owen Family Web Site ... <http://www.geocities.com/~owenfamily>, has been updated. An overwhelming number of our members already use computers for genealogy research and communications. Much more needs to be done in this area to make more information and services available online. We need someone to take over as *Owen Family Association Webmaster* to manage our site and collect data for posting. Several members have already volunteered to abstract records, assemble cemetery data and record census records, etc. Those of you with web-site expertise, please volunteer!

Annie

Feature Article

ALL THOSE UNRELATED OWEN FAMILIES OF HALIFAX COUNTY, VA - Part IV

By Jane Owen Hillard

When a group of Owen cousins got together in 1984 and 1985 to start a genealogical society dedicated to research of family lines, they very wisely decided not to limit membership to their own far-flung relatives. They decided that the Owen Family Association should be open to others who were pursuing lines in which the Owen name appears. That proved to be a successful formula, and the organization has grown in size and scope. So a little group of people with names like Johnson, Baxter, Middour and Grigsby, all seeking an elusive William Owen in Halifax County, has opened the doors for many of us tracing back to our Colonial roots—and not just in Virginia.

I proudly proclaim that the information which I received through the newsletter and from Owen Johnson's *Source Book* has helped my research immensely. In gratitude, I set myself to find that one particular William Owen — one among so many who bear that name. Have I succeeded? I don't know. If there were six families in that time and place who could have "harbored" our quarry and we have eliminated (we think) four of those families, then we must look to the remaining unexamined families for our answers: The Cane Creek family or the Terrible Creek family (out of Prince Edward County). Each time I believed with certainty that we had isolated the correct grouping, my theory was crushed by some of those pesky, sneaky little devils called "facts." With two families "to go," we'll take the Cane Creek Owen family first. What follows contains incontrovertible fact and some conjecture. Where it is conjecture, it is labeled as such.

THE CANE CREEK OWEN FAMILY The Owen Echols Connection?

Everyone who has delved into the records of Halifax County has come upon a line saying, "John Owen appointed vestryman" in 1750—and there the matter drops. We hear no more. But when one starts dredging through the land records (perhaps "drudging" is more apt), one comes upon two men named Owen who are busy acquiring lands on Cane Creek, either by "entering" for them at Williamsburg or buying them (deeds). These are the properties where they farmed and the locations where they lived. I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE CANE CREEK OWENS MENTIONED IN ANY ARTICLES, INQUIRIES, OR OTHER GENEALOGICAL MATERIALS. In fact, they first caught our attention because of the inconclusion of someone called John the Least. Doesn't the name grab you?

In starting with John Owen, presumably the vestryman, we now become acquainted with his son John the Least. Why the appendage "the Least" (or sometimes "the Less" or "the Lesser")? Well, for one thing, every time they went to the courthouse on business, they would be confronted by the names of another John and John, Jr., but also by a "Little John" and even a Little John, Jr. Perhaps it was used to differentiate between the families and perhaps it held an element of humor within the family. At any rate by the time Halifax County came into existence, this early John Owen, whoever his antecedents, was already acquiring land in the area, north of the Carolina line, and still called Lunenburg County. The early land acquisitions were through "patents" (grants) obtained from English officials in Williamsburg; they were recorded in Entry Records Books, now housed in the various county courthouses.

As stated, we know that John Owen (we'll designate him as John¹) had already settled in with his family and was taking part in community affairs while steadily acquiring more land on or near Cane Creek.

By the early 1760s, a William Owen, possibly John's brother, was also acquiring lands on Cane Creek. As early as February 9, 1762, William Owen records 400 acres on Cane Creek. On March 13, 1763, John Owen, the Lesser, enters for 400 acres at the head of the fork of the Sandy River at a red oak, and it becomes apparent that location of their lands will differentiate these three (William, John¹ and John, the Least) from all the other families. Cane Creek and environs takes up a small area in that vast county, and those two (plus John the Least) appear to be the only ones bearing the Owen name.

In the early records, one might assume that William was another son of John¹; while John¹ did give the name William to his second son, the boy was still a child in the early 1760s. In 1767, Pittsylvania split off from Halifax County, and we may find answers in the tax lists. In a Halifax County tythe list (Church of England), we found John Owen among his near neighbors in the vicinity of Cane Creek:

John Owen	1 poll
John Owen	1 poll

The indentation indicates, of course, that the second John is at least 16 years of age, thus subject to tax, but living on the property of the elder John, who is responsible for both taxes. On the next tax list found, it is now Pittsylvania County (1767), we find one name added:

John Owen	1 poll
John Owen	1 poll
William Owen	1 poll

William²'s age may be charted by implication. On that date, 1767, he was at least 16 years old but could have been several years older. He could not have been acquiring lands from the Crown in the early 1760s, but the adult William Owen could—and did. Let's continue with a few of the Owen acquisitions on Cane Creek and environs:

William Owen records 126 acres on Cane Creek February 9, 1762, and, in 1763, he enters for 400 acres on the draughts of Cane Creek, beginning at his corner red oak. On the same day, David Haley takes 400 acres on the side of Tom's Fork of Cane Creek, adjoining John Owen's. Also on that day, William Owen acquires 400 acres on "the horseing tree branch and thence up and down the Spring branch." On page 365 of the Entry Book, we find John Owen (apparently John¹) enters another 400 acres on the lower end of Samuel Pruitt, etc., etc., while John the Lesser acquires with another 400 acres in 1782.

All of the entries noted above were on Cane Creek; however, there are other Owen Prewitt-Echols records which locate them on Sandy Creek, Dan River, *et al.* They are all in close proximity, forming that tight little enclave of kith and kin. In Footprints From the Old Survey Books, Roger C. Dodson notes that Sandy Creek is often called Lower Sandy Creek or "Sandy Creek on the Dan" and notes that Cane Creek runs from the N.C. line into the Dan River in Virginia.

Indeed, we would be remiss if we did not at least suspect that the two adult Owens were related. I believe that both were married and already were raising families. We have noted two sons for John¹ and, in a few short years--we notice William has a 16+-age son included in his tax assessment. The ages within the families compute, and they certainly were close neighbors.

The locations have been pinpointed, but has the relationship been proven? Was this William Owen the husband of Drucilla Echols? We turn now to the Echols family, often referred to as the County Line Owen family. The Echols name has been synonymous with the early Baptist movement in Virginia, and

they have been credited with helping to organize the churches along the county line corridor. After all, “county line” stretches from the North Carolina line to the northern boundary of Halifax County; a look at the map indicates that Cane Creek, from its headwaters until it empties into the Dan River, extends only a short distance, so the Owens locations are pinpointed but the Echols are not. That the Echols family had plantations in many communities is quickly proven by a few of the land records extracted from the voluminous records of the time. [This researcher has copied literally hundreds of Echols entries and deeds.] They had lands all over the county, including some which lay in areas which would later be incorporated in Pittsylvania County. All of which certainly shows that the two families, Owen and Echols, could have been neighbors, perhaps close friends, and possibly could have migrated into Halifax County together. William Owen, of course, would have been married before they relocated. Alas, no marriage record has been found in either county, nor, indeed, in any other colony.

If we fail to connect the two families as I have tentatively outlined, it would be sad to think that our Cane River stalwarts came upon the stage for as little a while and then—vanished? Have we proven anything beyond reasonable doubt? [I admit that I have not searched the records of Pittsylvania County as assiduously as I have those in Halifax, but have ordered several new source books.] I will present certain facts. Readers who are interested in the line may come to their own conclusions.

- I. Let's start with John¹ Owen. We have seen that, in 1767, an addition to the tything list has been added. We wonder if other sons were approaching the age when they'll be added to the tax list.
 - ☞ Harken back to “the Dan River Line.” (See part II of this study; Vol. 17, Issue 3.) We note that several researchers have stated Robertson Owen served in the Revolutionary War and have proposed a circa date of 1753-1755 as his date of birth. That indicates that he would be too young (about 14) to be included in the 1767 Pittsylvania tax list.
 - ☞ Where was Robertson Owen when all those patriots were signing the Oath of Loyalty (1777)? Could he (about 24 years old) be serving in the revolutionary forces? Perhaps it was his FATHER who signified his loyalty with an oath.
 - ☞ We note that when Robertson Owen purchased land, probably his first, it was (where else?) on Cane Creek.
Have we stumbled onto something?

CONJECTURE ONE: It is possible that John¹ of Cane Creek could have been the progenitor of the Robertson Owen line. (You decide.)

CONJECTURE TWO: It is possible, if not proven, that John Owen of Cane Creek and William Owen of Cane Creek could have been brothers.

- II. William Owen: Having raised questions about John Owen of Cane Creek's continuing line, we must raise a question about William Owen of Cane Creek. Was he, indeed, the William Owen who married Drucilla? While we're on the subject, let us remember that Samuel Prewitt (an Owen-Echols connection) bought land on Cane Creek. And in a paper by Owen Johnson, Owen noted that his William Owen had a sister named Sally, who married Samuel Prewitt, Jr. And in Deed Book 7, p. 210, when Benjamin Echols sells land to James Coleman in the same area, neighbor William Owen, Sr., signs as a witness. Have we found our man?

Will we take that leap of faith? Our evidence has been circumstantial, but circumstantial evidence can be powerful when trying to get at truth. At this point, we can only urge those most involved in researching this line to backtrack on the records we've presented and come to their own conclusions.

Watch for more Jane Owen Hillard articles in future issues. Ed.



The Owens and The Town of Virso, Virginia

By Kimberly Ayn Owen

While researching the Henry Thweatt Owen archived papers [see Kim's article in Vol. 17 Issue 1, March 2002 for more information about this Owen family member.] at the Virginia State Library of Richmond, Virginia, and the Virginia Historical Society library I discovered maps of land owned by Owens in Prince Edward County, Virginia. I also found maps of the town of Virso, Virginia. At one time, Henry Thweatt Owen lived in Green Bay, Virginia, near the community of Virso, Virginia. My curiosity about the Owen connection to Virso grew into an article requesting information published in *The Farmville Herald*. I have received several informative responses to this article.

Paul Moring of Evansville, Indiana, responded to *The Farmville Herald* article about this curious little town:

My mother's side of the family (Havens) settled at Green Bay and Meherrin, Virginia in the mid 1850's from Cumberland County, Virginia. I spent many wonderful summers at Green Bay on my grandparents' dairy farm. My grandfather, Henry Havens, was somewhat of a local historian as well as a great storyteller. He hunted on his land with my great uncles. I was probably about eight or nine years old when he told me about Virso.

My grandfather told me that a group of investors, with ties to the railroads, came up with the idea of totally planning a town that would revolve around the Pulpwood business. The area that was to be developed as Virso was chosen because of its close proximity to the Richmond & Danville Railway, the Virginia Railway and the Southern & Virginia Railway. It was also chosen because of plentiful stands of pines in that area.

The first phase of the town was to be built for employees of the pulpwood business. (There were many wood related businesses in that area which included: Dean's Sawmill, Reames Planing Mill, Ward's Sawmill, George Owen's Sawmill, Lash's Sawmill, Heises' Sawmill, Sparkman's Stave Mill and Winston's Sawmill.) Eventually, with growth, they hoped a railroad yard and passenger terminal would become feasible. (In the book, *Memories of Meherrin*, by Redmond and Waller, it mentions that around 1852, the Richmond & Danville Railway established a depot at Moore's Ordinary in Meherrin, Virginia. There is no mention of a depot at Virso, Virginia.) Residences for the railroad employees would comprise a large part of the town, also. This would initiate the town, so the developers thought, and attract other businesses and settlers.

The land was purchased and improved. (It seems A. J. Britton, Mary G. Whiteside and E. O. Whiteside were involved. Rosa Owen owned some land. George M. Owen owned ten acres of land.) Naturally, the timber cleared was sold for pulpwood. Roads were cut. Granddad said every street had a sign laid out at the corners to be placed on poles. (One map in the Henry T. Owen papers, shows land of The Virso Development Company for sale by A. J. Britton and is dated May 20, 1915. The map shows there were 761 acres. Virso is mapped out with the following streets or avenues: State, North, Lee, Jackson Boardwalk, Oak, Broad, Peake, Maple, Park, Kenton and Woods. The map had nineteen large lots with numerous smaller lots plotted. Another map has a date of October, 1915. Other maps have a date of 1922. It seems the town was partly in what was then Lunenburg County and partly in Prince Edward County. It was near the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the Virginian Railroad and the Virginia and Southern Railroad.)

The dream never came to fruition. According to my grandfather, not a single lot was sold in the town nor were any structures built. The investors were stuck with land that no one purchased. The pulpwood businesses cleared all the pines and let it all go to rot. They either went bankrupt or sold the land for less than they paid for it. Years later, the pines returned and he said one would never know that a town was ever there, except for the mysterious street signs laying about in the woods.

Henry T. and Betty T. Hubbard, who live in Keysville, Virginia, wrote a two page letter with the following information in it.

" was born and spent my early life near Virso. After I retired, I moved back to the area. I was told that Virso is (an acronym) for the first three letters of Virginia Railroad and the first two letters of Southern Railroad. The Norfolk and Western Railroad is an alternate route with a better grade than the main line through Farmville, Virginia. A spur track allowed cars to be shifted between the Virginian and Southern. The place may have been called Franksburg before it was called Virso.

I was told that promoters had a big party with a stew and sold lots. A small sized map with the lots is in a book called *Memories of Meherrin*. There was a brickyard, a cannery, a stave mill, a soft drink bottling company, a general store, gas stations and a thirty foot rotating beacon for air navigation. The rotating beacon was part of a light line, the beginning of airline navigation. There were beacons between airports that flashed their location in Morse Cod. The pilots flew from beacon to beacon. A peach orchard was near by. Everything is gone now and you cannot tell where they were. It was said Virso never made it as a town because it had no water source.

There was a white house that was built on a lot. It had a Delco 32v generator to furnish power (electricity). A brick house was built a few years ago. Behind the white house is a saw mill. It is a thriving business. All of this is located on the Bruceville Road. It is the old [Hwy] 360 before it was improved about 1935. There is a gas station, mini-mart and motel on the new, improved Highway 360. Part is in Lunenburg County and part is in Prince Edward County.

I do not remember any Owens at Virso. My memory would not be before 1930. I went to school with a John Owen. The old Owen place went to the Ewings and then to some Watkins. There is a picture of a place called Colerain in the *Memories of Meherrin*, page 190. It says 'John Owen and his wife Phoebe moved to Prince Edward County in 1740. Their son Jesse Owen was in the Revolutionary War and owned a large tract of land in Prince Edward County. (Colerain is gone.) Ann Owen, granddaughter of Captain Jesse Owen, married Thomas Ewing. Their home was built near Colerain and was occupied by members of the family of W. H. Ewing. Harvey J. and Nannie Ewing Winston and their family lived at Colerain.'

Virso is about two to three miles west of Green Bay, Virginia. I believe some Owens live near Green Bay. I do not remember Virso being a village. It was just a place that could have been a village or town with a little luck. The maximum number of homes was no more than three and they were not close together."

Memories of Meherrin by Redmond and Waller has several interesting references to Virso. A Christo Cola Plant in Virso is mentioned. A picture of the cola bottle depicts it as tear drop shaped. The following Owens are listed in connection with Virso: Pompey Owen, E. H. Owen, Ann Jane Owen Alexander, John J. Owen, Ann I. Owen, Helen Mercer Owen, George M. Owen, Herbert and Adelia Owen Vaughn, Ann Owen Ewing, John and Phoebe Owen, and Jesse Owen. There is mention of what I believe to be an Owen homeplace named "Colerain."

A woman who lives in Virso, Virginia, a small community located just off of highway 360, on route 633, between Meherrin and Keysville, Virginia wrote that Virso used to be a train stop. Virso is 1.5 miles west of Meherrin. The town has no post office but has Duffey's General Store, Smith's Tire Center and a motel. There is an ramshackled old school building, some homes and two train tracks, one on each side of 360.

It is interesting to me that Owens were possibly involved in the planning and attempting to initiate a planned town that never became a reality. It is also interesting to me that there is a community called Virso in existence today.



John Owen of Chester County, South Carolina

By Mary Lee Barnes

John Owen was a large land owner in Chester County, South Carolina. He had land grant on Fishing Creek in 1774 which he sold to Jeremiah Kingsley in 1799. He is probably the John Owen of Fishing Creek in a proclamation by Governor Matthews "lately elected Rebel Governor of Charleston, South Carolina" who had the estates of a number of men amerced 12 percent by the Assembly at Jacksonburgh. Many of the men, it was said, retained a secret attachment to the cause of the rebellion, though they readily became subjects of Britain when their interest was to be affected by "remaining firm to the good cause." "Amerced," according to Webster's, is to punish by fine, the amount fixed by court.

Owen was probably from Halifax County, Virginia and might have come to the area about 1771. He still owned land deeded to him in Halifax the 16th March 1763 by Edward Owen. John kept this land until June 1799 when he sold it to his son, Robert Owen, for five shillings. The land was described as "beginning to Solomon Owen's line on N. fork of Little Polecat Creek, being same tract of land conveyed to me by Edward Owen." The deed was recorded both in Chester County and Halifax County, Virginia.

Owen was very active in the early courts of Chester County both as a plaintiff and defendant. In the October of 1786, held at the house of John Walker: John Owen vs. Ralph Griffin. Attachment Daniel Brown for Owen and Langley. Griffin was probably related, for in 1799, two of the children of John Owen, Priscilla and David were witnesses to the will of Samuel Griffin, the father of Ralph Griffin. And in Halifax County, Virginia, Solomon Owen witnessed a deed for land bought by Samuel Griffin in 1762.

John Owen bought land on the Sandy River in 1785 from William Killen of 350 acres, and in 1790, he received a grant of 530 acres on the head waters of the Sandy River. In 1796, he sold or deeded much of his land, over 1, 150 acres. At some time he deeded land to his son, Robert, who in his will, bequeathed it to his father and mother. A grist mill called Owens Mill was on the Owen land and is shown on the 1825 map of Mills Atlas. In the Chester County Minutes of the Court order, it is ordered, "a traveling road be laid and cleared from Thomas Wallace to Robert Owen's Grist mill to be laid out at the direction of Thomas Wallace and William Nanashon....."

John was appointed administrator of the estate of Daniel Croft of York County in 1791. When the appraisers appeared at Croft's former house they "could not find nor see any property now was shown anything by John Owen, Administrator. Certified by us this day 2 April 1791. Samuel Bratton Thomas Bratton and William Dawson, appraiser....." Later, it is found Robert bought the land from Samuel Croft He willed it to his youngest son, Robert. It was known as Croft's place. A deed dated march 1842 York County District, South Carolina Deed Bk. N, p.90 shows Robert Owen, Jr. sold land originally granted to Daniel Croft 6 April 1765 205 acres more or less for \$1200. Mary Croft and John Owen had been named executors of Daniel Croft's estate, but she refused.

John Owen, Dempsey Winborne and Robert Walker were appraisers to the estate of Joseph Lyon in York County, South Carolina in 1794.

John made his will 28 June 1817, and it was probated March 1819. The executors were his son, David Owen, son-in-law, William Foreman and son-in-law, Dempsey Winborne. The witnesses were Jesse T. Wallis, John Partlow and James M. Griffin. He names his "beloved wife," Rachel, and the following children and grandchildren: son, Robert who predeceased him, son, David, daughter, Priscilla Winborne, Elizabeth Foreman, Rachel Donald, grandson: John T. And Cook Donald and granddaughter, Rachel

Winborne.

The children of John and Rachel Owen:

i. Robert Owen married Kitty Leake, daughter of Elisha Leake (Mr. Felicity) in 1796 in Goochland County, Virginia. Robert was named as one of the Road Commissioners in Chester county in 1798. He died ca. 1801, leaving a will. Kitty went back to Virginia and married John Power. Later went to Alabama.

Children named in will:

a. John Leake Owen went to Alabama where Priscilla Owen Winborne gave him POA after she was a widow. But he evidently went back to S.C. after 1830

as his name is on a record in York Co. in 1838 .

b. Robert Owen, Jr. who remained in York County , S.C. and sold the Croft property March 8, 1842. He also brought suit against the estate of John Owen in 1832.

ii. David Owen born ca. 1770 was deputy under Samuel Lacey in 1795. His father John put up bond for Samuel Lacy as sheriff . David Owen, Samuel Lacey and Henry Hardin rode to Fairfield County, S.C. to testify in a trial for a John Owen, Jr. (Not a brother) Unfortunately David was called to court for fathering an illegitimate child with Jane Travers (Travis) in 1793 and ordered to pay for the child's keep . His wife's name was Mary Owen. He and his father, John, sold land jointly in 1817 with their wives releasing their Dower as Rachel and Mary Owen. He owned property that he gave to a Baptist Church called Cold Spring Church with condition that land revert to him when the church disbanded. He sold this land in 1825 from Jefferson County, Alabama. In 1828 when Robert Owen, Jr. sued the John Owen estate, David was said to be living out of state. In 1858 J.H. Foreman refers to him in letter as "Uncle David " stating he was indigent when he visited him, but had been dead several years. David is my ancestor on my paternal side. MLB

iii. Rachel Owen married Hezekiah Donald, his second marriage. John Owen deeded Hezekiah land in 1797 in Chester County, S.C. She must have been widowed by 1816 as she is mentioned as being in the Broughton/Couliette party that arrived in Claiborne, Alabama January or February 1817. Rachel Donald of Jefferson County, Alabama gave power of attorney to West C (OOKE?). Donald of Monroe County, Alabama 26 May 1823. Rachel married John Adams in Jefferson County 3 Jan 1827. In 1850 she is on Leake County, Mississippi census p. 42, HH 533/616 John Adams 80 farmer 640 S.C, Rachel 65 SC. In next HH is YC?T Donle 33 m SC , Margaret 21 , Martha 6 f Ms , Mary E 6 f Caroline 5f, John 7/12m, Owen Sanders and wife, Rachel are in HH 560/ 623, p. 43.

Children of Rachel and Hezekiah.

a. Cooke Donald left a slave after his mother's death.

b. John Terry Donald left same as above; was security in Jefferson County, Alabama of William Sanders and Jane Owen.

c. Rachel Donald married 1835 Owen Sanders in Jefferson County, Al. In Leake County, Ms. by 1850.

iv. Elizabeth (Betsy) Owen married William Foreman, son of Samuel Foreman of York County, South Carolina. A marriage bond exists for this marriage. The Foreman remained in Chester County until after 1832 when they went to St. Claire County, Alabama. In 1829 Rachel Owen gave William Foreman

Welcome New Members

Connie Owens Caldwell (#314)

2801 Oak Run Dr., Wimberley, TX 78676-6116; (512) 847-9677
cwcdoc@wimberley-tx.com

Ancestors:

Clyde Lafayette Owens b. 1898 Ellis Co., TX, m. Katharyn E. Brown; Stanford Quincey Owens b. 1870 MI, m. Elizabeth F. Blan; Joseph William Owens b. abt. 1829 MI or KY, m. Martha Smith; William Peter Owen b. abt. 1791 Rockridge Co., VA m Tabitha Leech

Richard Javalanta Freeman (#315)

3605 Chippendale Trl, Greensboro, NC 27406-9098;
(330) 692-9386 javalanta@aol.com

Ancestors:

Beulan Mae Owen b. 1912 d. 1983 Moore Co. NC m. Sheldon Freeman; Angus Owen b. 1868 d. 1938 Moore Co. NC m. Mendy Frances Dunn; Telitha Owen b. 1844 Moore Co. NC; Bennett Owen b. 1812 Montgomery Co., NC m. Elizabeth Deaton; William B. Owen b. abt. 1800; John Owen b. before 1765

If you have information about these Owen(s) lines, please contact the member.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For information or an application for membership, please e-mail Arnie-Owen@AOL.com or write to: Owen Family Association c/o Arnold Owen P O BOX 692 Westown, PA 19395-0692

Mystery Census

Township of St. Aubert, County of Callaway, MO census taken 30 & 31 August 1870

OWEN, Aford J. 27 b. PA Blacksmith
, Luencia 27 b. OH Keeps House
, Emma S. 02 b. MO
, William L. 3/12th b. MO

Can you identify this Owen family? From what line does he descend? What variations could his given name have? Write the editor with your answers and see them published below.

Census Online

For a subscription fee you can now access all US census records [images] from 1790 to 1930 online, some are indexed. Ancestry.com publishes all US census images with the 1790-1850, 1920-30 indexed. Genealogy.com publishes all US census images with the 1790-1810, 1870, 1890-1910 indexed. At Familysearch.com you can search the 1880 US Census and the 1881 British and Canadian census without cost. You can find many US county census on Rootsweb and USGenweb, at no cost, by searching year, county and state plus the word "census" on your favorite search engine.



UNCLE OFA Needs You!!!!

At our biannual Owen Family Association meeting we elect new officers for the Owen Family Association. The officers are volunteer members of the OFA who serve for two year terms. We need your participation. We need those of you with fresh ideas to serve. Contact Bill Owen and volunteer now!

Basic Duties of the Officers, per the by-laws, are as follows:

- ? The **President** shall preside over the biannual meetings of the Association and all Executive Board meetings.
- ? The **Vice President** shall assist the President in organizational duties and perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve.
- ? The **Secretary** shall be responsible for recording and maintaining Association membership records and keep minutes of all meetings of the Association.
- ? The **Treasurer** shall receive and record all dues and funds received by the Association; pay bills; and give a financial report at the Biannual Meeting.
- ? The **Genealogist-Editor** shall review and approve applications for membership. This officer is responsible for compiling the Newsletter.
- ? The **Publisher** is responsible for assembly and distribution of all Association publications.
- ? The **Historian** shall maintain a scrapbook of the Association's activities and a written history on the Owen Family Association activities.

Contact Bill E. Owen, Nominating Chairman, 6365 Glory Ave., Milton, FL 32583; (850) 983-2749; Biedowen@aol.com.

Owen Family News

1st class
postage

“Owen, a name worth knowing”

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C. Owen Johnson

Owen Family Association

The Owen Family Association was organized in 1981.

The objectives of the association are:

- ? To establish and document as complete a list of descendants of Owen and allied families as possible.
- ? To collect a narrative history of individual family lines of descent .
- ? To compile and maintain a listing of cemeteries, homes and other buildings and sites associated with Owen and allied families.
- ? To publish and distribute a periodic newsletter.
- ? To bring members of the family association together for periodic reunions.
- ? To aid association members to establish their family line and assist them in joining hereditary and patriotic societies, if they so desire.
- ? To ultimately produce a volume documenting the verified family histories.
- ? To provide publications to Genealogy Libraries in order to assist Owen researchers.

Annual dues of \$10.00 is payable January 1st . The Owen Newsletter is published quarterly and is subject to copyright.

OWEN FAMILY NEWS

Volume 18, Number 2

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NINTH ANNUAL REUNION

**One Wonderful Weekend in Halifax County, Virginia
September 26th through September 28th, 2003**



Plans for the 9th Annual Reunion of the Owen Family Association in South Boston, VA are in full throttle. Make your reservations soon (see page 15.). The reunion committee, composed of Jane Owen Hillard, a part-time Virginian, and Kim Owen (no kin), a full-time, dyed-in-the-wool Virginian, have been hard at work to ensure that your mini-vacation will be worth the trip and one that you'll remember for years! Here's the agenda.

September 26, 2003 –

Friday evening: As usual, we will have a very informal reception at the *Holiday Inn Express*, South Boston, VA. You may be tired after your trip; however, after you register and freshen a bit, we'll meet to get acquainted, or reacquainted, with our fellow members. The reception will be nothing serious, just smiles and hellos.

September 27, 2003 –

Saturday morning, we'll gather in a meeting room for our Genealogical Workshop. It will be fun and profitable – profitable in the sense that we may meet a relative or two we didn't know we had, and profitable in that you may fill in some of the blanks in your genealogy. And, no doubt, some tall tales will be told. Best of all, we have great new ideas presented by some of our very creative association members.

Lunch is on your own, but don't be surprised if you're joined by folks named *Owen*.

Saturday afternoon will be free to do your own exploring. You will have a well-marked county map to follow your bliss, and you'll receive a packet about the interesting things to see and do. Lots of choices!

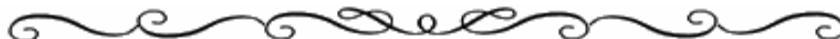
Saturday evening we'll foregather at *Four Oaks Restaurant* for our traditional banquet, hear a good speaker, and conduct a brief business meeting to elect and install new officers. But the weekend is not over!

September 28, 2003

Sunday morning, as is our custom, we'll foregather at an historic church for Sunday morning services. You'll be meeting at the Providence Presbyterian (Noland Community) Church. The tiny little church mentioned in the March issue of the newsletter was the original meeting place, of course, but we will be meeting at the "new" church (built 1924) next door. The congregation will greet us graciously. Many of them are descendants of the colonists who met in the original edifice. The little church will be opened for us to peek into so we can experience firsthand what our forefathers – in whatever colony they landed – knew as their world. But wait! There's more!

Following the service, the restored Providence Village will be opened especially for us; it usually welcomes visitors only on one May weekend. Mrs. Nannie Blanks invited us to stroll through, saying it would only require a turning of a key to let us into the homes and historic tavern. [See accompanying article on page 15.]

Jane Owen Hillard



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Publication Dates

March
June
September
December
Deadlines are the 10th day
of the month
preceding publication

Submission of lineages, biographies, photographs and genealogical data about any Owen anywhere is encouraged! Your ideas for the newsletter are also solicited, just contact the editor!

The President's Message



Reunion is defined by Webster as “(1) the process or an instance of reuniting and as (2) a social gathering of people who have not seen each other for some time.” It has been a tradition in my Owen clan to hold an annual reunion where we all gather to honor our ancestors and visit with those whom we have not seen for some time. Cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, etc. from various parts of America and as far away as the British Isles come together. This special event is a tradition that has been handed down from several generations and, hopefully, will continue indefinitely. Has your family reunion or homecoming notice arrived? Such a notice might arrive in your mailbox or via electronic media in the form of E-mail. Don't throw it away or delete it before considering attending. Are you planning to attend your family reunion this year?

The Owen Family Association's Biannual Reunion is always a special event. This year's biannual reunion will be held in Halifax County Virginia, the ancestral birthplace for many Owen families. Our reunion is primarily a social gathering of people interested in Owen family genealogy, which includes surnames of Owen, Owens, Owings and others, regardless of the spelling. This reunion promises to be fun filled as well as educational. In some cases it will be a renewal of old acquaintances and in others it will be an opportunity to meet and make new friends. Jane Hilliard, genealogist and historian who can trace her Owen ancestors back to this county, has spared no effort to make this reunion a memorable event and we owe her a great debt of gratitude. Even if you cannot trace your family to Halifax County Virginia, we promise you it will still be well worthwhile to attend. Remember we all share a common interest in Owen genealogy which is reason enough to attend. Please extend an invitation to other Owen researchers you know and tell them that they are welcome to attend, even though they are not members.

Like any other organization, the Owen Family sets aside time for conducting business, deciding matters affecting the Association's future and electing officers to serve the next two years. As mandated by the bylaws, these matters are all handled at the Biannual Reunion where new ideas and programs are presented for approval. Considerations of such matters are important to the organization's survival and growth. Our membership is filled with talented people who have much to offer. Don't be afraid to step forward and volunteer your ideas and services. It's your Association and you should decide what you want out of it. For example, what is your opinion about participating in a DNA genealogy program? Family Tree DNA has invited our Association to participate in an Owen DNA testing program. Find out more by attending the meeting. Your input is important.

Now, to the matter of leadership for the next two years: our nominating committee chairman, Bill Owen, took on the thankless task of assembling a slate of officers and I can tell you that his appeal for candidates was not met with a flood of responses. “Deafening silence” is the word I am thinking! . I, too, am guilty of a silent response, because I felt that change would be good for the Association. It has been a most rewarding and enjoyable experience since becoming your President in September of 1997. I am most grateful for having had that opportunity, but I simply believe that others should have the same opportunity as I have had to serve this wonderful organization. In any event, I know Bill Owen as a persistent, dedicated, outstanding officer and can assure you that he will present a full slate of candidates at the September meeting.

Have a safe, joyful summer and plan to join us in beautiful Halifax County, Virginia in September.

Annie

ALL ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE OWEN FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia ? September 26 through 28, 2003
We will be staying at the *HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS* in South Boston, Virginia.

Rate per room per night: \$75.00 plus tax

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS and mention you are with the Owen Family Association.

Telephone (434) 575-4000 or go to <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ex/home> online.

Checkout time on Sunday is noon. Check out early so that you can join us at Providence for the services and the village tour [see article below]. You can be homeward bound by 1 p.m.!

Reminder: Motels in South Boston fill up quickly. RESERVE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2003.



Owen Family Association to Enjoy Private Tour of Historic Noland Village, Providence, Virginia

Providence, also known as Noland Village, is a restored village near South Boston. Halifax County native and successful Washington D.C. designer, Roy Blanks, turned his attention to Halifax County to restore Noland Village. Mr. Blanks worked for years with the DuPont family to restore and furnish magnificent "Winterthur" in Delaware. He combed Europe for the DuPonts, locating and buying suitable antiques for that famous mansion. After completing *Winterthur*, in later years, he devoted his time and talent to Halifax County, where he grew up and his ancestors lived.

With today's *Noland Village* in mind, Roy Blanks bought and restored old houses, some of which he moved in some from other locations. The old, unused Presbyterian one-room Colonial church building of Providence was one of his projects.

When Jane Hillard told an Owen friend that a Presbyterian congregation regularly meets in the "new" Presbyterian church next to it, he responded: "Jane, we should have a reunion in Halifax County and end it with a visit in that church!" Now, thanks to Mr. Blanks' sister-in-law, we have the opportunity to explore history. Blanks holds open house every spring, usually the second weekend of May, and it is always well-attended. He charges a fee, and the money goes into a foundation named for his parents. All those funds are used to buy more buildings and further restorations. We'll visit as non-paying guests.

Southern Hospitality

to Be Extended to Owen Researchers at The Halifax County Courthouse

Southern hospitality? Jane Hillard reports that the ladies in the "co't house" will be glad to help you find your way about the 250-years-plus records! The Circuit Court Clerk's Office houses all extant records, which date from the county's formation in 1753, for Halifax County. In addition to the bound will, deed, order and guardian books, marriage, birth and death registers, there are general index volumes available for wills and deeds. Another valuable resource is the General Index to Wills which, in addition to the name of the testator, gives the names of all legatees named in the instrument.

Research may be conducted in person between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except state holidays. The phone number is (804) 476-6211.

Source: "A Guide to the Counties of Virginia, Halifax County", The Virginia Genealogist, John Frederick Dorman, Editor, Volume 12, Number 4, 1968.) [<http://www.tlc-gen.com/halifax/halfac.htm>]

THINGS TO DO IN OR NEAR SOUTH BOSTON

by Jane Owen Hillard

- **Halifax County Museum:** September is too late in the year to go to an archaeological site and watch the university students uncover ancient Indian campsites, but you will be able to see some of the artifacts at the museum in their permanent collection, "The Paleolithic to the Woodlands Period." The Halifax County Museum, 1540 Wilborn Avenue, is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sundays, 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **Battlefield on the Staunton River** (8 miles or so from the hotel). Uniformed officials are on hand to tell about the battle. (Amateur historians tell even more interesting tidbits about the *derring-do* that took place there.) Staunton River battlefield State Park. Your packet will include a map.
- **Green's Folly Golf Course:** Golfers among us will be welcome at the Green's Folly course. Formerly called Oakland, the mansion was built by Berryman Green (George Washington's quartermaster at Valley Forge) for early Halifax County court meetings, 1797-1818. This mansion is the clubhouse for the public golf course. You can drive around the circular drive to get a better view of the house.
- **The Southern Heritage Harvest Festival** will be in full swing all day in South Boston, Saturday, September 27, on downtown streets, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. It shifts to Constitution Square from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. No, they're not putting it on just for us, but you'll be able to mingle with the natives, hear several street bands, eat barbecue (if that's your thing), and stroll the old streets. (The antique shops will be open.)
- **Owen Homestead Sites:** The general home sites of *All Those Unrelated Owen Families of Halifax County*, along the aptly named creeks, will be marked on your maps. Remind me to tell you why Difficult Creek, Troublesome Creek, and Terrible Creek got their names.
- **A driving tour along historic River Road** is all mapped out for you (maps distributed at our morning meeting). If you see only Berry Hill (close in) you will be enamored by that marvelous mansion (ca. 1772 with additions 1842). Considered "the most perfect classic architecture in the South," it is now a conference center and a very expensive (gulp) bed-and-breakfast. They urged that we hold our reunion there: \$255 per day, one person, or \$166 each for two persons per day. I told them that would be okay for many of you, but that it is way too expensive for me.
- ? **Richmond, Virginia:** If you want to catch other wonders further afield, head northeast to Richmond. Of course, the State Library and Archives (really great!) and, a personal favorite, *The Virginia Art Museum*, is vastly superior to many others I've toured. (See the Fabergé eggs). Also in Richmond, is Colonial Williamsburg an amazing step into Colonial America. Archaeologists are constantly working to uncover the original Jamestown.

If you are traveling south on US 501, do stop at Hillsborough, county seat in Orange County, once the capital of North Carolina. It's like Williamsburg, without John D. Rockefeller Jr., an intact Colonial city! Take a walking tour and, with reservations, dine at the Colonial Inn. (If General Cornwallis took his meals there, why not you?) More about that historic, heart-stopping city in September. You'll also be near Alamance Courthouse, North Carolina, where the Revolutionary War really began!

Just want to place to relax and put your feet up? We have that, too!

Feature Article

Descendants of William Owen and Drucilla Echols

Researched, written and edited by C. Owen Johnson

In 1777 all free born males above the age of sixteen had to take an Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to renounce allegiance to King George III. On Charles Kennon's List living in his district was one Uriah Owen, Uriah's father William Owen (who married Drucilla Echols), Uriah's father-in-law Daniel Everett (see Daniel's Administration 1805-1810 Halifax County, Virginia), Richard Echols (Uriah's grandfather), Uriah's uncle Joseph Echols, Samuel Pruitt Jr. (who married William Owen's probable sister Lucy Owen and who sold the land to William Owen which he later sold to Uriah Owen), Samuel Pruitt's sons Zachariah Pruitt and Philip Pruitt, Revolutionary soldiers, and persons related to these Pruitts and to Sarah Everett wife of Uriah Owen. Samuel Pruitt Jr. and his wife Lucy Owen were born in Frederick County, Maryland, ca 1736. I believe William Owen who was the husband of Drucilla Echols was born there ca 1730. He later lived in Wilkes County, Georgia and owned land in Franklin County, Georgia in the 1780s as did some of the Pruitts. Drucilla Echols' father Richard Echols was married to Catharine Evans. Richard Echols' parents were John Echols and Mary Cave. In *Sixteen Hundred Lines to Pilgrims Lineage Book III*, published by the National Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims in 1982, on page 157, it is shown that John Echols was born ca 1650 and died in 1712; that he married Mary Cave born ca 1665 and died after 1712. Their son Richard Echols was born ca 1706. He married Catharine Evans ca 1728.

John Echols was probably not the first of his line to live in Virginia. Charles Grimes got a 960 acre grant of land in Lancaster County on the north side of the Rappahannock River for transportation of 19 persons including Richard Eccles in 1653. Nell Nugent's *Cavaliers and Pioneers* (1963) page 254. This Richard is probably the father of John and grandfather of his namesake Richard Echols. Son John got land in 1685 in New Kent County and with Samuel Craddock, John Cave, and William Glover got 1620 acres in King and Queens and Essex Counties. How is John Cave related to Mary Cave, wife of John Echols? In a petition ca 1688 urging a new Vestry election in St. Stephen's Parish of the Church of England in King and Queen County are signatories like David Cave. What is his relation to John Cave and Mary Cave? Another signatory is William Holcomb. How is he related to Betsy Holcomb who married Walter Evans and was the mother of Catharine Evans, wife of Richard Echols? The Evans were said to live in Caroline County by Milnor Echols. In 1850 Milnor Echols wrote a *History of the Echols Family* from whom he descended. It has been much printed. He notes that the Drucilla Echols who married William Owen was the second daughter of Richard Echols. They had a large family which "went west". By name he mentioned only Rhoda Owen, who married Richard Malachi Reeves, pastor of the Sardis Baptist Church of which Uriah Owen and his wife, Sarah Everett, were members. Another daughter of Walter Evans was Kitty Evans who married Daniel Terry. From them descend the Colquit family said Milner Echols and presumably Walter Terry Colquitt born in Halifax County, Virginia on 27 December 1799. He served in the United States House of Representatives and the Senate. His son Major General Alfred Holt Colquitt served as Governor of Georgia 1876-1880 and in the United States Senate.

Also signing the 1683 petition was Jacob Lumkin. Could he be an ancestor of Wilson Lumkin who was born on January 4, 1783, near the Dan River in Pittsylvania County, Virginia and moved with his parents in 1784 to Oglethorpe (then part of Wilkes) County Georgia? He lived in Lexington, Georgia, and served in the United States House of Representatives and Senate. From 1831 to 1835 he was Governor of Georgia. His nephew Henry Lumkin served many years in the United States Congress. His grandson Middleton Pope Barrow served in the United States Senate.

Richard Echols was a member of the Vestry of Antrim Parish of the Church of England in 1752-1754 in Halifax County, Virginia. He was the first Sheriff of Amelia County, Virginia. We do not know the names of the parents of William Owen who married Drucilla Echols. He was born, I believe, ca 1730 in Frederick

County, Maryland. His sister was named Lucy Owen who married Samuel Pruitt Jr. They were born in Frederick County, Maryland ca 1736. Samuel's father Samuel Pruitt Sr. was born 4 April 1700. He bought land and a tobacco house he called "Pruitt's Purchase" from Nathaniel Beale on 22 November 1737. It was in the northernmost edge of the present District of Columbia or a little towards Bladensburg on a branch of the Anacostia River, the northernmost branch of the Potomac. He married Elizabeth Hawker born 14 December 1701. Two other of their children were Priscilla Pruitt born 1721 who married William Duvall of Duvall Forest, Maryland on 20 October 1743 and Sarah Pruitt who married David Boydston (Boylston) in Frederick County, Maryland in 1752. Samuel Pruitt Sr. died 1760 and his will was probated in Frederick County. Shortly after the middle of the eighteenth century these Samuel Pruitt Jr. – Lucy Owen children went to what is today Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

They left a familiar and settled area to move to an unsettled and forested area, today called Pittsylvania County, just above Caswell County, North Carolina. These early pioneers made a trip every bit as frightening as their ancestors had when they crossed the Atlantic in boats little larger than the lifeboats on the QEII and they used the wind and sails instead of engines. These pioneers remembered the Indian massacres of 1622 and 1644 which almost wiped out the small Virginia colony. The Indians of Southside Virginia were little more friendly to white settlers who would take away their hunting grounds. They settled an area with their kin by blood and marriage and lived around them. There was a definite "circle the wagons" mentality. They wore out the land. There was no crop rotation. It was cheaper to buy penny an acre land—and move they did. They lived in the Halifax-Pittsylvania area from perhaps 30 to 50 years and moved, as a family group, largely to Wilkes and adjoining counties of Georgia. Remember there were no airplanes, no buses, no automobiles, no trains, no steamboats. Many said that when they heard their neighbors' dogs barking it was time to move on. Almost half of the children of William Owen and Drucilla Echols left Georgia to which they had moved with their parents from southside Virginia. This group included: 1) Reuben Owen who married a great niece of Daniel Boone. Their son Reuben Pickett Owen was a lawyer and judge who was born near Madisonville, Kentucky on August 26, 1814. In 1795 the senior Reuben Owens had moved to present-day Hopkins County, Kentucky. See *History of Southeast Missouri* page 1046. 2) Major Ezra Owen born Halifax County, Virginia 17 March 1770. As a young man he went with Daniel Boone to Kentucky. On 16 July 1793 he married 13-year-old Lydia Vance. By 1795 he was in what is present day Hopkins County, Kentucky. He had these brothers living there: Reuben Owen, Franklin Owen and William Owen. The brothers moved to Randolph County, Illinois where Ezra became a major in the militia, a justice, sheriff, tax collector and delegate to the Assembly for Statehood of Illinois. By 1825 these Ezra Owens had moved to Pulaski County, Arkansas Territory where Ezra was elected Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, and Delegate to the Assembly making Arkansas a state. About 1845 the Ezra Owen family moved to Lavaca County, Republic of Texas where Ezra died 11 November 1859. His first child was Drucilla Owen. His last child was Lydia Echols Owen who married Andrew M. Dodd. Their son David

Owen Dodd was the "boy hero of the Confederacy" about whom Dallas T. Herndon of the Arkansas Historical Commission wrote an article for their journal. The only son of Ezra Owen to stay in Illinois was Thomas Jefferson Vance Owen about whom James Ryan Haydon wrote a book for the Owen Memorial Fund "Chicago's First Founder – Thomas JV Owen". In it is a sketch of Ezra Owen noting he had a brother Franklin E. Owen who came into Illinois and their father was believed to be named William Owen. This is in agreement with the sketch of Judge Reuben Pickett Owen in *History of Southeast Missouri* that he was "a grandson of William Owen who had two sons in the Revolutionary War. He died in Georgia." Thomas JV Owen served in the Illinois legislature with Abraham Lincoln and was the first mayor of Chicago. Elaine Baxter, former president of the Owen Family Association, got much of the information on her ancestor Ezra Owen from the *Arkansas Gazette* which had his obituary. 3) An apparent sister of Uriah Owen named Tabitha Owen married a brother named Sydnor Everett of Uriah's wife Sarah Everett. Their marriage on 13 June 1801 is in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Elaine Baxter is my authority for saying they moved to Kentucky. [To be continued in the September 2003, issue]

5th Owen Generation in America & Texas

by Wanda [Tracy] Harbert

My first known Owen(s) ancestor was William Owen(s). It is said he and two brothers came from Wales to America and landed in one of the Carolinas. One brother's given name was said to be Robert Dale while the name of the other brother remains unknown. From the Carolinas, William later moved to "West Tennessee" on the Kentucky state line and raised tobacco. I have no dates or ages nor do I know when William arrived in West Tennessee, however I do believe it was before Henry, Weakley and Obion Counties were formed in 1821 and 1823 respectively. William's first son, Smallwood, was born in 1813 and I think a daughter, Polly, was born before Smallwood, possibly in 1811. I believe William's wife was Elizabeth, surname unknown. All of their children were born in Tennessee, however I have been unable to locate any Tennessee or Wales data regarding the family.

William, his wife and their 11 children moved to Texas; some of the family arrived in Texas in the early spring of 1837 in a wagon train of thirty families. William, as head of household, was granted a Second Class Land Grant of 1280 acres by Sam Houston, Governor of Texas. The Certificate number 1135 was issued by Harrisburg County Land Commissioners. Texas Land Grant Certificate Number 200 was issued to Elizabeth Owen, Adm. of William Owen deceased, dated May 19, 1851, by Robertson County Land Commissioners consisting of 640 Acres in Johnson County and 640 acres in Robertson County, Texas. The land appears to have originally been in Ellis County, Texas in the Cross Timbers on the Headwaters of Nolan's River.

William's oldest son, Smallwood, as family head received a 1280 acre Second Class Land Grant in Robertson County, Texas where he and his family resided for some years. I do not have his Certificate Number. Son, Pinckney Winfield Owens married Zillah A. Crawford before the October 1, 1837 deadline for Second Class Land Grants. He & Zillah received 1280 acres via Texas Land Grant Certificate Number 1211, Harrisburg County, Texas. The document is dated December 6, 1841 in Montgomery County, Texas. He sold this land to Benjamin C. Franklin in September 1846. Son William Owens, Jr. and his wife, Elizabeth, also went to Texas in early Spring 1837 and his Land Grant was located on Duck Creek, Robertson County, Texas. The Board of Land Commissioners, Robertson County, Texas issue Certificate Number 421. As headright, William Owens, Jr. received 1280 Acres. Son, Sterling B. Owens, as a single man, received 320 acres. He arrived in Texas before 1840. I do not have his Certificate Number. His Land Grant may have been in Montgomery County, Texas.

There are several family stories but as I have not located the facts, I hesitate to mention them. However, my grandfather said some of his Owen family helped to survey Texas after it was won from Mexico and that some of the older Owen males fought in the Texas war with Mexico. If anyone can shed any light on this, I would be forever grateful.

The William Owen(s) descendency, as I know it is:

Husband: William Owen(s) b. Wales, date unknown, died before 1850 census, Robertson County, TX

Wife: Elizabeth, b. GA, date unknown, died before 1870 census, Robertson County, TX.

Marriage date unknown.

Children:

1. Polly Owen b. TN, married Jefferson Lewis.

2. Smallwood b. 1813, TN died before 1860 census, probably Robertson County, TX.

Married Jane, no data known.

2.a. Mary Ann Owen b. abt. 1833 TN.

2.b. William Owen b. abt. 1835 TN

2.c. Oliver J. Owen b. ca August 1838 TN. married F.M., b. abt. 1841 in AR, had twin sons

2.d. Sterlin B. Owen b. abt. 1839 in TX.

2.e. Turner B. Owen b. abt. 1845 TX.

2.f. James Sherley Owen b. abt. 1850 in TX, died abt. 1888 TX, married Laurusa "Laura" White b. June 26, 1851, TX and they had a daughter, Mary Jane Owen, b. 1869 in TX who married Henry Hiram Taylor in 1884, and had children Eva Taylor b. April 1885, Monroe Taylor b. Dec 1886 and Ida Lee Taylor b. February 1888.

3. James Jefferson "Jeff" Owen b. ca 1815, TN, married Polly Ann, last name unknown, (born ca 1826) probably in TN.

3.a James Henry Owen (1850 Limestone County, TX census-age 6) b. ca. 1844

3.b. Andrew J.

3.c. Sarah Jane

4. William "Bill" Owen (Jr) b. ca 1816/1817 in TN, married Elizabeth, born abt. 1820 probably in TN.

3.a. Eli Owen b. abt. 1848 TX

3.b. James Owen b. abt. 1850 TX

3.c. Mary E. Owen b. abt. 1852 TX

3.d. Franklin Owen b. abt. 1856

Note: William, Elizabeth & Eli lived in Limestone County, TX during 1850 census.

5. Pinckney Winfield Owen b. 1818 TN died abt. 1869 in Limestone Co, married Zillah (Zilley/Zealla) Crawford Oct 1, 1837 in Harrisburg, TX. Zilley was born December 22, 1822 in AL or TN, she died 1877 in Limestone County, TX.

Note. I will expand on this family in the next issue of the *Owen Family News* as this is my direct line.

6. Sterling B. Owen b. abt. 1820 TN, married Sarah C. (last name unknown) and they had daughters

6.a O.A. b. abt. 1853 in TX

6.b M.N. b. abt. 1859 in TX. Information derived from 1860 Texas census.

7. Mary Elizabeth Owen b. TN married John Lee and is known to have lived in Alabama for a time.

8. Caroline Owen b. abt. 1829 in TN, died unknown, married David Melton December 18, 1845 in Robertson County, Texas. David Melton was born abt. 1824 in Mississippi.

8.a George W. Melton b. abt. 1847 in TX

8.b. Josiah Melton b. abt. 1848, Texas

8.c. Mary E. Melton b. ca 1849/1850, Texas

8.d. Gale Melton (male) b. abt. 1853, Texas

8.e. John T. Melton b. abt. 1859, Texas

8.f. William Melton b. abt. 1865, Texas

8.g. Phemia Melton b. abt. 1866, Texas

8.h. Adeline Melton b. abt. 1867, Texas

Note: Robertson County census 1870 does not include David Melton or Josiah Melton. Were they deceased?

9. Samuel Francis "Frank" Owen b. 1831 in TN, died September 25, 1855 in Robertson County, TX. He was not married.

10. John B. Owen b. abt. 1834 in TN. No information on John has been located. Any help anyone?

11. Sarah Ann Owen b. abt. 1836 TN married/1 (Nathan) Walker Busby January 11, 1853 in Robertson County, TX.. Robertson County, TX 1860 census indicates Nathan W. Walker, age 24 b. abt. 1835 in AL.

11.a Gomer, age 2, born in TX

11.b Sylvester, age 1, born in TX..

Note: In 1860, this family was living in the household of Thomas Stoop. Sarah is listed as house keeper and Nathan W. as a laborer. Sarah married/2 J.H. (possibly John Henry) Hudspeth July 1862, Robertson County, TX.

Grandpa Owen's Gas Station

by Kimberly Ayn Owen

Sometime in the early 1930's, my grandfather, Hampton C. Owen, went into business with Ben Davenport in two Texaco gas stations in Altavista, Virginia. I am sure grandpa did not realize he would be in that business the rest of his life. According to Bill Burgess of Altavista, Russell Martin bought out Ben Davenport's interest in the gas station(s) around 1931. Sam Davenport ran the station at the north end of town; grandpa and Mr. Martin ran the other station at the south end of town. At some point during the 1930's, grandpa bought out Russell Martin and moved his business to the corner of Main Street and Bedford Avenue, right before the bridge crosses over to Hurt, Virginia. This is the gas station I remember as a child. It was during this transition, that grandpa switched vendors from Texaco to Esso and much later to Exxon.

Many young men worked for grandpa in their teens. Bill Burgess said he worked a little for Sam Davenport in the thirties when he was about thirteen years old. Wallace C. Haynes, of Darlington, SC, wrote to me in response to a letter to the Editor I ran in the Altavista Journal. Mr. Haynes said he was born in Hurt, VA. "During my high school years, I had the pleasure to work for Hamp on Saturdays and Sundays. Hamp was a natural comic. He could make people laugh without actually trying to be funny. I remember his son, Harold, a hard working young man. Jesse was a man who worked the grease pit for as long as I can remember. Hamp was good to everyone that did business with him. I have known people to owe him for years and he never went to legal means to collect a bill."

Margaret Bralley Burton recalls that my grandpa and her father, Stephen P. Bralley were competitors, but good friends. Margaret went by the station one day and grandpa was chatting with her while he pumped gas into her car. She says "He always required men to wear long-sleeved shirts because he did not think the ladies liked to see hairs on a man's arm. About the same time, one of the men walked by with his shirttail out. I said that I was more offended by the shirttail hanging out than hairs on men's arms. I never saw that man with his shirttail out again! I loved to hear your granddad laugh. He had a deep, raspy voice and laugh."

There was an old Coca-Cola machine of interest to Charles Edwards at grandpa's gas station. Charles says "...you deposited the money and then slid the soda through a maze until it reached the 'exit' point. When I was a sophomore in high school, I used to cut Monday afternoon classes and go to 'Hamp's'. Eventually, my teachers or Hamp, who knew my parents well, figured out my ploy and I was remanded to school. Hamp...was practically consumed with his mission of operating the service station. One morning it was very foggy and as Hamp headed down Bedford Avenue to open the station, he side-swiped a parked car or two. He continued on to the station. A few hours later, a local policeman had sorted out the situation and went to the station to ask Hamp about the misdeed. Hamp immediately confessed, but maintained he needed to get to the station. He said everyone knew him and knew he would have gone back once things settled down at the station."

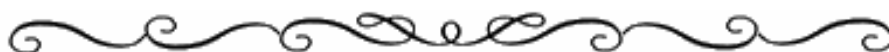
"Yes, indeed, I remember your grandpa. As a policeman in Altavista from the late fifties for several years, I went by the station often. Hamp would give me a bag of peanuts to put in my Coke. He always opened his station very early in the morning." wrote D. A. "Dyke" Moore.

Charles Anthony of Stevensville, VA, wrote to me to let me know his father took him by the station a lot. Charles, also, knew Uncle Harold in high school. He wrote, "I remember your grandfather and Harold as being very friendly, nice, outgoing people and having 'the gift of gab.' Back in the sixties, I would stop into the station for a break. I would get a big oatmeal cookie (10 cents) and a Coke (6 cents). One day, Hamp had gone up to a dime for the Coke, so I just drank water. Hamp was not too pleased with that. Another time, dad left his pick up truck for Hamp to wash. When Hamp backed it out of the garage, he hit the wall, destroying the side of the truck. He told me to tell dad to get it fixed and he would pay. Finally, a man left his car to be washed and to have \$2.00 worth of gas put in it. When he returned, Hamp told him he forgot about the \$2.00 and filled the tank instead. A stalemate ensued as the man did not want to pay for the full tank of gas until Hamp got a hose and was going to siphon the gas out of the tank." Richard Burnett has very fond memories of my grandpa and uncle.

Phil Popek says "...as kids we would walk down the hill through the woods and cross the road, walk across the bridge from Hurt and at the end was the Esso station. When our Studebaker battery died, Hamp brought another one to replace it. Hamp accidentally dropped the new battery. What a mess. He never lost his temper, just smiled and said he would be back. He returned shortly and installed a new battery. I remember a picnic table under a pine tree where I would sit while I drank my Dr. Pepper. Lots of people used to wait for rides at that picnic table."

"I remember Hamp Owen's Esso. It is where the Gateway Minute Market is now. Most of my memories of your grandfather are of him playing the card game Rook with my father, Fred Tucker, and Carl West at our house and Russell Mayhew's house every Saturday night. I remember his jolly laugh," says Patricia A. Tucker.

As the reader can see, my grandpa and uncle were well liked and their gas station holds forty or forty-five years of many good memories for many people. They owned a gas station when the person who put the gas in your car, checked under the hood and washed the windshield for you. When grandpa retired and Uncle Harold passed away, a piece of Altavista history went with them. I am proud to have known and dearly loved them both.



Queries, Queries, We Want Queries!

Let's Communicate! Your query, in addition to generating it's answer, may help someone else in their research.

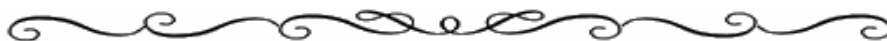
Seeking information on yet another WILLIAM OWEN, this one in Kentucky and Tennessee. His will, probated August 1817, in Hawkins County, TN, mentions "my wife" but doesn't name her. Children: Farr Owen b. ca. 1783, m. 9/27 1808 Nancy Farr in Grainger Co., TN; son James b. ca. 1785; dau. _____ m. George. CONWAY, dau. Sara CRAWFORD, b. ca. 1790; son David b. ca. 1790, m. Elizabeth BLAIR in Grainger County; son William b. ca. 1793 m. Elizabeth Creed HARMON; dau. Elizabeth Owen, b. 1797. Will exchange data. Lewis M. Owen, 2824 Dan Patch Drive, Lexington, KY 40511-9013; phone 859-233-0376.

Would like information on Nancy OWEN, who married Joseph STRAYHORN in Pennsylvania, early 19th century. Settled in Eastern Kentucky (via Ohio?) by 1815. They had children Elizabeth (Betsy) b. 1815, Thomas Strayhorn and Starling (Sterling) Strayhorn. Would appreciate hearing from anyone encountering these names or researching Nancy Owen's line. Karen Cunningham; send e-mail to kdc502@yahoo.com

Seeking information about Bird and Gracy Griffin Owen, birth dates and places unknown. Resided in SC ca. 1782 when eldest son, William, was born. Other children may include: Wilmouth [b. abt 1787], Charles, David Franklin [b. 17 July 1791], Hannah, Nathan [Nat], and Sarah Griffin [b. 23 Nov 1796]. The family resided in SC [possibly Fairfield District through 1800] until tax records in Hardin Co., KY indicate William resided there in 1806, Bird in 1809, and Charles in 1810. Bird and Gracy remained in Hardin Co. KY until Bird's death. Gracy died in Barren Co., KY. William and Wilmouth, who married Theophilus Norwood, resided in Morgan Co., AL until their deaths in 1850 and abt. 1862 respectively. David Franklin ventured to Texas in 1831 where he died in 1873. Sarah married Edward Burleson and resided in Texas for the remainder of her life. Hannah married William Spencer Burd and Charles married Mary Brooks. For more information go to <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=kgrubaugh&id=I14136> Karen Grubaugh, 111 Stonegate North, Boerne TX 78006; phone 830-249-3487; klee-grubaugh@yahoo.com.

Let's Communicate face-to-face!

Join us at our 9th OFA Reunion, South Boston, Virginia, September 26-28, 2003.



Welcome New Members

Carolyn Owen Thomas (#316) of 841 Jennifer Lane, Driftwood, TX 78619 is the daughter of John Richard Neville and Pauline Dickson Owen. Her earliest known ancestor is Henry "Buck" Owen, 1816/1886, VA.

Michael Harold Owen (#317) of 217 Summit St. French Lick, IN 47432 is the son of member Harold C. Owen and the late Jessie Wilson Owen. Michael's earliest known Owen ancestor is William Owen, b.1793 VA, d. 1855 TN

Jack K. Owens (#318) of 62 Ems C24D Ln., Warsaw IN 46582, is the son of John Henry and Bertha Ann Griffin Owens. His earliest known Owen ancestor is John Robert Owens, b. 1805.

If you have information about these Owen(s) lines, please contact the member.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For information or an application for membership, please email Arnie-Owen@AOL.com or write to: Owen Family Association c/o Arnold Owen P O BOX 692, Westtown, PA 19395-0692

Mystery Census: E.C. River (Part 2), Bibb Co., AL Roll M432-2, p. 73
Reuben Owen, age 52, b. SC and wife, Lydia, 44, b. GA have 10 children born in AL, as follows: Elmina age 23, Marg W. age 20, William age 21, Ann age 16, John age 15, Thomas age 14, Jane W. age 12, Reuben age 11, Sarah age 6 and Francis age 4. Can you identify this Owen family? From what line does he descend? Write the editor with your answers!

GEDmark™?

"How many times have you considered sharing your family history research with others, but were hesitant to do so because your authorship might be lost? GEDmark™, a new family tree tool created by Progeny Software, solves this problem by giving you the satisfaction of knowing your work has been safely marked with your author information. Plus, GEDmark makes it very easy to record source information before you import a GEDCOM file that you may have received from someone or somewhere else.

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Cost? Free! Go to the Progeny site for a free download. <http://www.progenysoftware.com/gedmark.html>



UNCLE OFA Needs You!!!!

We particularly have need of a secretary! Volunteer, please.

At our biannual Owen Family Association meeting we elect new officers for the Owen Family Association. The officers are volunteer members of the OFA who serve for two year terms. We need your participation. We need those of you with fresh ideas to serve. Contact Bill Owen and volunteer now!

Basic Duties of the Officers, per the by-laws, are as follows:

- ? The **President** shall preside over the biannual meetings of the Association and all Executive Board meetings.
- ? The **Vice President** shall assist the President in organizational duties and perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve.
- ? The **Secretary** shall be responsible for recording and maintaining Association membership records and keep minutes of all meetings of the Association.
- ? The **Treasurer** shall receive and record all dues and funds received by the Association; pay bills; and give a financial report at the Biannual Meeting.
- ? The **Genealogist-Editor** shall review and approve applications for membership. This officer is responsible for compiling the Newsletter.
- ? The **Publisher** is responsible for assembly and distribution of all Association publications.
- ? The **Historian** shall maintain a scrapbook of the Association's activities and a written history on the Owen Family Association activities.

Contact Bill E. Owen, Nominating Chairman, 6365 Glory Ave., Milton, FL 32583; (850) 983-2749; Biedowen@aol.com.

Owen Family News

1st class
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“Owen, a name worth knowing”

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George Shirley
C. Owen Johnson

Owen Family Association

The Owen Family Association was organized in 1981.

The objectives of the association are:

- ? To establish and document as complete a list of descendants of Owen and allied families as possible.
- ? To collect a narrative history of individual family lines of descent .
- ? To compile and maintain a listing of cemeteries, homes and other buildings and sites associated with Owen and allied families.
- ? To publish and distribute a periodic newsletter.
- ? To bring members of the family association together for periodic reunions.
- ? To aid association members to establish their family line and assist them in joining hereditary and patriotic societies, if they so desire.
- ? To ultimately produce a volume documenting the verified family histories.
- ? To provide publications to Genealogy Libraries in order to assist Owen researchers.

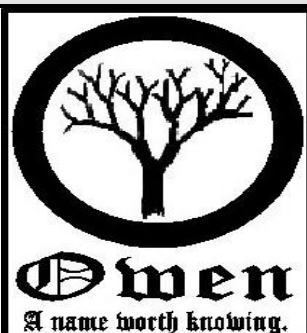
Annual dues of \$10.00 is payable January 1st . The Owen Newsletter is published quarterly and is subject to copyright.

OWEN FAMILY NEWS

Volume 18, Number 3

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<http://www.geocities.com/~owenfamily>

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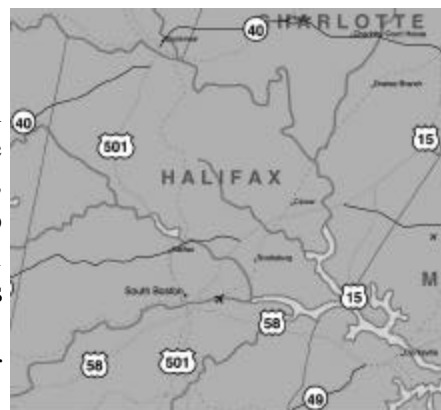
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Extra! Extra! Read All About It! *Owen Family Association Reunion* In Beautiful Halifax County, Virginia September 26th -September 28th, 2003

Believe it, you are reading an *EXTRA* issue of the *Owen Family News*. Jane Hillard and Kim Owen have made such extraordinary plans for the 9th Bi-Annual Reunion of the Owen Family Association in South Boston, VA that a special edition was called for by the OFA Executive Board. The reunion committee has worked enthusiastically and diligently to ensure that your mini-vacation will be well worth the trip. The OFA Reunion promises to be one that you'll remember for years! Below is a repeat of the agenda. For dinner and lodging reservations see page 35.



Owen Family Association Reunion Agenda

September 26, 2003 –

Friday evening: Informal get acquainted or reacquainted reception at the *Holiday Inn Express*, South Boston, VA. Casual attire.

September 27, 2003 –

Saturday morning: Geneology Workshop. It will be fun and profitable – fun in the sense that you will meet a relative or two and profitable in that you may fill in some of the blanks in your genealogy. Best of all, we have great new ideas presented by some of our very creative association members.

Saturday lunch and afternoon: Free time.

Saturday evening: *Owen Family Association Banquet* at the *Four Oaks Restaurant*. *The evening will include* a good speaker, a brief business meeting to elect and install new officers, and great conversation! Casual attire such as sport coat without tie for the men and dress or slacks for the ladies.

September 28, 2003

Sunday morning: Providence Presbyterian (Noland Community) Church Service. The congregation will greet us graciously. Following the service, Mrs. Nannie Blanks invited us for a private tour of the restored Providence Village which will not be open to the public at that time. Casual attire such as sport coat without tie for the men and dress or slacks for the ladies.

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Publication Dates

March
June
September
December
Deadlines are the 10th day
of the month
preceding publication

Submission of lineages, biographies, photographs and genealogical data about any Owen anywhere is encouraged! Your ideas for the newsletter are also solicited, just contact the editor!

The President's Message



The 9th Biannual Owen Family Association Reunion promises to be a memorable and educational event. If you have not already done so, I urge you make your room reservations as soon as possible. While accommodations are still available at the *Holiday Inn Express*, because of other scheduled events you will need to search in nearby towns if you wait much longer.

If you have any ancestors from Virginia or North Carolina, perhaps you will want to consider combining genealogical research with your South Boston journey. I plan to! With the help of MS Streets & Trips software our trip plans are almost complete.. Mary and I have selected a scenic route between Westtown and South Boston via Harrisburg, PA, down Interstate 81 through the great Shenandoah Valley which should be beautiful in September. Historically, some of our ancestors used basically the same route during their migration from Philadelphia to the Southwest. I plan to stop off at Amherst, VA, the birth place of my Clements and Coleman ancestors. Then, if we have enough time, I would like to visit Fincastle, VA. to continue my genealogical research. In Colonial times, this was the gateway to the unknown Indian territory that lay beyond. The Fincastle Library has a wealth of historical information.

Have a safe wonderful summer and please join us in South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia in September. Remember, success of the Owen Family Association, depends on membership participation.

Arnie

A note from the Editor:



Dear Cousins, It has been a delight to edit the *Owen Family News* and I appreciate your kindness and encouragement as I learn how to publish on my desk top. Last issue, I *buried* an important coupon prepared by Jane Hillard under another article [see page 35.]. I e-mailed Arnie in horror when Jane told me the coupon was not there; I admit to not missing it when I proofed the issue. Arnie said I could indeed actually lose whole articles! Consequently, the Executive Board voted to publish this *Extra Edition* not only to publish the coupon, but to also encourage everyone to attend the reunion. Jane and Kim have done yeoman's work on what will undoubtedly be the genealogical event of the year. Won't you join the Owens in beautiful Virginia this fall? **Karen**

Halifax County Virginia



Map reprinted courtesy of www.e-pages.com.
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About Halifax County

Halifax County, located in Southside Virginia, was created in 1752 from Lunenburg County and named for the British statesmen George Montagu Dunk, Earl of Halifax. At the time of its creation, its territory included what is today Pittsylvania, Patrick and Henry counties and parts of Franklin and Floyd counties. Its present-day boundaries were established in 1766 when Pittsylvania County was created from the western portion of the county. In addition to the Virginia counties of Pittsylvania, Charlotte, Campbell and Mecklenburg, Halifax County is also bordered by the North Carolina counties of Caswell, Person and Granville.^{1,2}

Numbers of Halifax County families joined the great western migration out of Virginia in the period after the Revolutionary War. The destination of many were the Middle Tennessee counties of Davidson, Sumner, Smith, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, Overton and Maury.³

Present-day Halifax County covers an area of 800.41 square miles with a population of over 37,000. The county is mostly rural with the towns of Clover, Halifax, Scottsburg, South Boston and Virginila within its borders.² The once-independent city of South Boston, with a population of over 7,000, reverted to town status in July 1995.⁴

Sources:

1. "A Guide to the Counties of Virginia, Halifax County," *The Virginia Genealogist*, John Frederick Dorman, Editor, Volume 12, Number 4, 1968.
2. Halifax County General Highway Map, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation, 1989.
3. Traffic Jams on I-81: *Migrations from Virginia to Tennessee!*, Mary McCampbell Bell, 1996 NGS Conference in the States.
4. Halifax.Com website information on South Boston.

Reprinted from Rootsweb, VAGenWebs Halifax County Project, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~vahalifa/halhist.htm#AHC>

Larkin Owen, Who was your Daddy?

Or How To Prepare For Owen Family Research in Virginia

By Karen Becker Grubaugh

The biggest, highest, most rugged stone wall in my family tree was built by my 3rd Great Grandfather, Larkin Owen and the second biggest by another 3rd Great Grandfather of mine, William Owen! Having searched many court houses across their migration west, I am still looking for Larkin's Daddy. Normally, I would begin preparation for a research trip by determining what research facilities are available in the area, their hours of operation and location. On this Virginia Owen Journey, the first stop is the Halifax County Courthouse where the diligent Jane Hillard has prepared the way.

The Halifax County Courthouse is expecting Jane's Owen(s) cousins and the clerks are ready to assist you in perusing the 250 years of records. The Court house is located at 8 South Main St., Halifax, VA. Research may be conducted in person between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The phone number is (434) 476-6211.

For those reunion attendees who want to visit the Virginia Archives at the Library of Virginia, please note that the library is closed on Mondays. The reading rooms are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, except holidays. Located in Richmond, VA at 800 East Broad St., you can call the library at 804-692-3500. For questions about collections, resources, availability of materials or other general inquiries by e-mail go to <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/archemailform.asp>.

For both these depositories, begin your research preparation by printing or copying the Family Group Sheets [FGS] about whom you wish to search. Mark the missing information with a highlight marker and sort by the type of document which will supply the data. Sorting categories might include deeds, wills, or marriage records. Make several copies of a single FGS if there are several different types of missing information. Organize these sheets by the same sorting categories in a three ring binder with dividers so named. Once you have organized each type of research, make research notes on the back of each FGS. Behind each divider place all family group sheets requiring information from the designated document. On the divider, note the type of document needed, the location of the depository, phone number and other pertinent data. Having the family group sheet handy will provide you with concise, easy to carry, auxiliary information which might aid your research. Place an adequate supply of blank notebook paper in your binder for note taking. Lastly, determine what type of document is most important to you and begin looking for those once at the court house. Or you could just take your lap-top computer loaded with your genealogy database.

Take with you a still camera and a video camera [see the December 2002 (Vol. 17.4) issue for Tammy Owen's article *Using The Camcorder In Document Research*.] Taking pictures of valuable records, particularly those that cannot be copied on a copy machine, makes your research time very productive. Remember that digital pictures taken in poor light conditions, can be lightened by the computer later. For those great Owen stories told at the reception, take along a small tape recorder.

Once in that wonderful court house surrounded by those Owen ancestors' papers, document your findings and cite your sources! For more information regarding citations see Carla Ridenour [http://www.genealogy.com/19_carla.html] who, in her web article, *Citing Your Sources* suggests Richard Lackey's booklet. His booklet, *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records*, sells for approximately \$10 at most book stores. Also recommended is *Silicon Valley PAF Users Group: PAF Documentation Guidelines* which sells for \$3.00 by the users group. You can reach them at 4417 Pitch Pine Court, San Jose, CA 94136 or by phone (408-578-4619). For those of you with internet service, a good article can be found online at http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/19_wylie.html

The finest article I have read about courthouse research was written by Linda Haas Davenport and is entitled *Courthouse Research: Satisfaction or Frustration?* It is available online at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~haas/learningcenter/courthouseresearch.html>. Ms Davenport says, "A much shorter version of this Essay appeared in the Sept/Oct 1998 issue of Everton's *Genealogical Helper* and in the June 1999 issue of *Heritage Quest Magazine*." Both of these magazines should be available at your local genealogical library. Be sure to read other research articles about census, land and military records by Linda Haas Davenport and published on the web site, <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~haas/learningcenter.html>.



Court House Records

Records found in most court houses include:

Adoption	Execution
Appeals	Guardianship
Bankruptcy	Insolvent
Civil	Land Deeds
Chancery	Lunacy
Citizenship	Military
Claims	Name Change
Criminal	Naturalization
Death	Orphans
Divorce	Probate
Equity	Wills

Land Records, (deeds) are found in original deed index books which list the grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer). Consult both grantor and grantee indices for your ancestor's transactions then go to the deed book indicated for the recorded information. Within the record is a description of the property's boundaries often including the names of your ancestor's neighbors. And sometimes this is the only document on which you find the wife's name listed. If the wife's dowry was involved in the sale, often the witnesses are her relations. The previous owner, who may be a relative, is usually listed in the property description. Additionally, before the Civil War, the transfer of the ownership of slaves was recorded in deed books. Deed books also reflect land splits between heirs, security deeds reflecting indebtedness, power of attorneys, leases, partnerships and bond. Remember to inquire as to where you can obtain a map of your ancestor's property. Such maps often show the names of neighbors, some of whom may be relatives.

Probate Records include wills and estate documents of great interest to the genealogist. They also include inventories of an ancestor's estate which provides a glimpse into their lives. In some cases, family members who have moved to other states are listed along with their new residence. Citizenship records are sometimes found in probate court record books.

Orphan and Guardianship Records are particularly helpful if your ancestor left minor children. In the case of the death of a father, a guardian was named even if the children continued to live with their mother. This is sometimes a clue to ancestors about whom we have little information. Citizenship records are sometimes found in Orphans court.

Court records can be fascinating! In the case of murdered ancestors, a great deal of information can be found if the criminal was brought to trial. Additionally, information about your own "closet skeletons" often make the most interesting stories!

Additional Information can be found at Linda Haas Davenport's *Learning Center* at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~haas/learningcenter.html> . For where to find and how to use vital resources, consult *The Source A Guidebook of American Genealogy* from Ancestry.com. Can be found in the stacks of most libraries.

Feature Article

Descendants of William Owen and Drucilla Echols

Part 2—Continued from Vol. 18 No. 2

Researched, written and edited by C. Owen Johnson

The following information was sent by Mr. Sherman Jumper on 14 June 1995 from his residence 405 Canadaville Loop, Eads, Tennessee 38028-3701 to Mrs. Elaine Baxter 8318 Glenalta, Houston, Texas 77061. Mr. Jumper is the son of Colonel Ed Jumper and Rachel Bernice Dacus and a direct descendant of Sydnor Everett and Tabitha Owen. Tabitha Owen was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, ca 1776. She died ca 1845 in Trigg County, Kentucky. She married Sydnor Everett on 13 June 1801 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Her husband was a sister of Uriah Owen's wife Sarah Everett. He was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia ca 1775 and died in Trigg County, Kentucky, ca 1845. He had two draws in the 1803 Georgia Land Lottery.

In the 1820 census the Sydnor Everetts were in Hopkins County, Kentucky. In the 1830 and 1840 census they were in Trigg County, Kentucky. Tax records show Sydnor Everett was in Trigg County, Kentucky from 1833 through 1841. His son Eppy Everett was there in 1842 and 1843 and in Christian County, Kentucky, in later census records. Tabitha Owen Everett was a member of Sardis Baptist Church of which Uriah and Sarah Everett Owen were members as well as the Reverend Richard Mallachi Reeves and his wife Rhoda Owen were members. Mr. Reeves was pastor of that church a number of years. The Sydnor Everetts lived in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Oglethorpe County, Georgia by 1800, Ohio in various counties near the Cumberland in Kentucky and in northern Tennessee.

Sydnor Everett and Tabitha Owen had these children:

- 1) Lucinda Everett, born in Oglethorpe County, Georgia ca 1802. She married a Mr. Stunson ca 1820 in Stewart County, Tennessee. She died in Monroe County, Arkansas ca 1855.
- 2) Elizabeth Everett was born in Oglethorpe County, Georgia ca 1805. Calloway County, Kentucky Deed Book M page 91 shows she was the widow of Richard Miles.
- 3) Susannah Everett, born Oglethorpe County, Georgia ca 1806. Married Boze Ford 25 September 1823 in Calloway County, Kentucky. Died before 1850.
- 4) Lydia Eccles Everett, born 29 May 1808.
- 5) Emily Everett, born Oglethorpe County, Georgia ca 1810. Married Nathan Rushing ca 1830 in Stewart County, Tennessee ca 1830. Died ca 1860 in Monroe County, Arkansas.
- 6) Eppes Everett, born in Ohio ca 1815. Married Rebecca (?) ca 1832 Stewart County, Tennessee. Died ca 1859 in Monroe County, Arkansas. Probably named for his uncle Eppa (Eppy) Everett who married Catharine Everett on 8 April 1793 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.
- 7) Sydnor Everett Jr., born in Ohio ca 1818. Married Mary Evelyn Miles on 1 September 1838 in Stewart County, Tennessee. She died in Monroe County, Arkansas in 1849. Mr. Everett married secondly to Nancy J. Rushing in December 1850 in Monroe County, Arkansas where he died ca 1859.
- 8) Reuben O. Everett, born Calloway County, Kentucky ca 1826. Married Mary Taylor 23 May 1851 in Monroe County, Arkansas. He died after 1860 in Monroe County. Lydia Eccles Everett, a daughter of Sydnor and Tabitha Owen Everett, was born in Oglethorpe County, Georgia on 29 May 1808. She married Ervin Barrow, son of James S. and Mary (-) Barrow in Stewart County, Tennessee ca 1825. He died there on 15 October 1861 at age 58. She died there 8 September 1885 at age 77. Both were buried in that county. They were members of the Rushing Creek Baptist Church. Mr. Barrow was a cobbler by trade. He also worked in the iron works and had a 150 acre farm. They lived in a four room log house. Ervin Barrow is in the 1830 and 1840 census of Obion County, Tennessee, and in the 1850 and 1860 census of Stewart County, Tennessee.

Their children were:

- 1) Lucinda Barrow, born in Stewart County, Tennessee 1829. Married there on 28 December 1850 to Joshua Morgan.

- 2) James Sydney Barrow, born in Stewart County, Tennessee on 23 July 1831. Married there on 16 January 1862 to Mary Ann Dilday. Died there on 14 August 1924. Buried with his wife in Downs Cemetery in Trigg County, Kentucky.
- 3) William K. Barrow, born in Stewart County, Tennessee on 11 March 1834. Married Blanche E. Rushing there on 29 March 1861. She was the daughter of James Lawrence Rushing and Parthenia Ann Downs. Mr. Barrow died 21 September 1879 at age 45 and is buried with his wife in the Dilday Cemetery in Stewart County.
- 4) Isabella A. Barrow, born in Stewart County, Tennessee on 19 December 1839. Married Jacob S. Williams on 15 July 1854 in Dover, Stewart County, Tennessee. Died in Stewart County on 11 February 1925 age 85. Buried with her husband in the Williams Cemetery, Stewart County.
- 5) Emily Barrow, born in Stewart County, Tennessee in February 1841. Married first on 29 May 1861 in Stewart County to Robert Garner. Second she married on 20 January 1865 to Daniel H. Johnson.
- 6) George Washington Barrow, born in Model, Stewart County, Tennessee, 22 February 1842. Married there on 9 January 1867 to Mary Jane Futrell. George died on 14 January 1929 in Stewart County at age 86. A Civil War veteran, he fought in many battles including Raymond and Jackson, Mississippi.
- 7) Abel Ervin Barrow, born in September 1845 in Stewart County, Tennessee. Married Sarah Catharine Dilday 3 December 1868. He married secondly to Martha Hester Downs on 14 May 1874 in Stewart County. Abel died 19 May 1928 at age 82. He and both wives are buried in Downs Cemetery, Trigg County, Kentucky.
- 8) Abigail Barrow was born in Model, Stewart County, Tennessee ca 1845.
- 9) William Morris Carroll Barrow was born on 27 October 1849 in Stewart County, Tennessee. He married there on 28 November 1869 Louiza Jane McDougall. He died in Stewart County, Tennessee on 21 January 1936 at age 86 and is buried with his wife in Henry Hendon Cemetery. **(to be continued in Sep. 2003 issue)**

Goodspeeds Histories As Genealogy Source Material

In the 1880s, Goodspeeds' Publishing Company sent out traveling salesmen-interviewers into communities for the purpose of selling local "histories" that included biographies of local individuals and their families. The **Goodspeeds' Histories** are often called vanity books because the salesmen-interviewers would pre-sell the books to the individuals whom they had interviewed with the promise of including their biographies. Unfortunately, some interviewees exaggerated, hid and/or neglected to mention some facets of their ancestry. Some named only still-living members of their family, whereas others named sons-in-law, but not daughters. Added to that are errors made by the interviewers and the typesetters -- all of which tends to place the facts garnered from these histories more in the category of family lore than documentation. Nevertheless, the **Goodspeeds' Histories** are a valuable tool for Southern researchers and historians, particularly since so many Southern courthouses were burned during the Civil War, but also because they contain histories of the counties and communities in addition to the individual biographies." Author unknown; article reprinted from <http://members.aol.com/arhistory/bios/madarbios/>

Owen Obituaries: *courtesy of Mrs. Peggy H. Gregory, member #30*

Houston, Texas, *Houston Chronicle*: 31 Jan 2003; Nelious (Neil) Isaac Owens, b. 1 Feb 1911, Monticello, AR to Clinton W & Myrtle Macy Owens, went to the with his Lord and Savior on 29 Jan 2003 in Tomball, TX. He is survived by his children, Bob and June Owens, Ada OK; Ron and Sandy Owens, Chugiak, AK; Sharon and Bob Swallow, Spring, TX; grandchildren Rebecca and Keven Lee, Ada OK; Evangeline and Tim Clark, Tyler, TX; Glen Owens, Waco, TX; Mark and Sherri Owens, Skamania, WA; MeLisa and Shawn Gates, Salem, OR; David and Dana Owens, Chugiak, AK; LAWana and Monte Gates, eagle River, AK; Charmayne and Wade Barnes, Houston, TX; David and Maricel Swallow, Spring, TX; 14 great-grandchildren; sisters Viola Hild, Lake City, FL and Tommie Bechtole, Texarkana, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews. His wife of 68 years, Jessie Rochelle Owens and granddaughter, Keeta Owens, his parents, 2 brothers and 3 sisters preceded him in death. Bur: Klein Memorial Park, 1 Feb 2003.

Reuben Pickett Owen and His Descendants, son of William and Drucilla Echols Owen

Submitted by Josephine F. Moeller

Researched and compiled by Lee Gentemenn and Josephine Moeller

Written and edited by Karen Becker Grubaugh

One of the delights of the *Owen Family Association*, is finding a new cousin but in this instance my husband's McKenziecousin and I found a shared Owen ancestry. Amazingly, Jody not only researched my husband's McKenzies but also my Owen ancestors. As editor, I quickly asked for her to provide me with fodder for the *News*. Jody was quick to agree but with the proviso that I wait for C. Owen Johnson's series in order to be certain their work did not overlap. C. Owen Johnson's first article, *Descendants of William Owen and Drucilla Echols*, was published last month as our *feature article*. In it he wrote about Reuben Pickett Owen, son of William and Drucilla Echols Owen. Where Owen left off, Jody picks up the Reuben Pickett Owen lineage.

In addition to Jody's fine research skills, she also insists on credit where credit is due. The information in this descendancy includes a great deal of collaboration with Lee Gentemann of Salem, Oregon. Jody insists that Mr. Gentemann receive most of the credit for the fine research done. Between these two descendants of Reuben Pickett Owen, they have accumulated much detail! Contact Jody Moeller for additional generations at 401 South 14th St., Saint Charles, IL 60174-3604 or jmoeller@inil.com

The story of Reuben Owen is outlined, as follows, in the Biography of R. P. Owen published in *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, 1888, page 1046. "Reuben Owen was a native of Virginia and his wife a native of South Carolina. Her mother was a niece of Daniel Boone. Reuben was reared in Georgia and in 1795 immigrated to Kentucky, and in company with one young man went down the river to New Orleans, when that territory was under the Spanish government. He remained there a short time and came back up the river on a barge commanded by a Spanish officer. They stopped at Memphis where they built a fort, and Mr. Owen cut the first stick of timber where Memphis now stands. He came up the river to Kaskaskia Illinois, stopped there a short time and then went to Kentucky where he was married in Henderson county. After moving around in different counties of Kentucky he finally moved to Stoddard Co., MO where he lived until October 1843. His wife died about 1850. Of their eight children, five are now living: Adrian B., Reuben P., Given, Eliza B. and Martha E. Those deceased are William, Emily and one who died in infancy."

Additionally, it is known from land records that Reuben and his sons, William and Adrian, owned land in Hickman Co., KY. In early issues of the *Owen Family News* it was reported that Reuben Owen was recommended to be a justice [of the peace] to replace Joseph Berry in 1808 Hopkins Co., KY. In the same county in 1817, Reuben was licensed as a Baptist Minister of the Gospel. Reuben held a commission as a Major in the 76th Kentucky Militia.

The Reuben Pickett Owen, Sr. descendancy as compiled by Lee Gentemenn and Jody Moeller:

Husband: Reuben Pickett Owen b. VA abt. 1773, d. October 1843, Stoddard Co. MO; s/o William and Drucilla Echols Owen

Wife: Martha (Patsy) Wells b. SC abt. 1783 d. abt. 1850, Stoddard Co., MO; d/o William and Hannah Boone Wells;

Married abt. 1799 in Henderson Co., KY

Children:

1. William W. Owen, b. 20 Jan 1801, Hopkins Co., KY, d. abt. 1863, Bloomfield, Stoddard Co., MO; m. Matilda Bourland Dec. 22 1822 in Hopkins Co., KY; m. 2nd Mary C., bet. 1850-1860. William was a blacksmith.
2. Francine Ann Owen, b. 1803, Hopkins Co., KY, d. 18 Jun 1803, Hopkins Co., KY.
3. Adrian Boone Owen, b. 16 Jul 1805 near Lexington, KY, d. 7 Apr 1888, Colfax, Whitman Co., WA; m. Judith L. Thompson, 10 Feb. 1835, Johnson Co., AR.
4. Eliza B. Owen b. 11 Apr 1809 in KY, d. 16 Dec 1889, Chariton Co., MO, b. Prairie Valley Cem.; m. William Bartlett Jackson, 7 Sep 1829, Hickman Co., KY.
5. Reuben Pickett Owen, Jr. b. 26 Aug 1814, Madisonville, Hopkins Co., KY, d. 13 Oct 1891, Dexter, Stoddard Co., MO bur. Bloomfield Cemetery, Bloomfield, MO; m. Mary Harriet Lewis 7 Jan 1835, Hickman Co., KY; m. 2nd Callie Clubb, Nov 1885, Stoddard Co., MO. More details about Reuben Pickett Owen, Jr. will be in future issues.
6. Given Owen, b. 9 May 1818, Hopkins Co., KY, d. 5 Dec 1889 Four Mile, Dunklin Co., MO, bur. Four Mile Cemetery, near Campbell, MO; m. Amanda Sullenger 14 Apr 1840, Cape Girardeau Co., MO; m. 2nd Louisiana "Lucy" Lacy, 2 Aug 1852, Dunkin Co., MO.
7. Martha E. Owen, b. abt. 1823, Hopkins Co., KY; m. Daniel Sanford, abt. 1841, Stoddard Co., MO; m. 2nd Unknown Walker, abt. 1850.
8. Emily Owen, b. abt. 1824. (See future issues for more information about Reuben Pickett Owen's descendants)

A History of Thomas J. Owen, My Grandfather

Submitted by Annzanetta Owen

Thomas J. Owen belongs to an honored and prominent pioneer family of Texas and made a creditable record in his business career and in his work for the improvement of this part of the state, his efforts contributing to the great work of transformation that has been carried steadily forward here. He was born in Wataga county, Alabama, November 16, 1833, but when only two years old was brought to Texas by his parents, Jesse and Carolina (Mitchell) Owen, the former a native of Prince Edward County, Virginia, and the latter of South Carolina. Their marriage, however, was celebrated in Alabama. The paternal grandparents were Jesse and Susan (Caldwell) Owen likewise natives of the Old Dominion while Robert Owen, the founder of the family in America, was a native of Wales and became an early resident of Virginia. Jesse Owen was a representative farmer in his home locality in Virginia and subsequent to his removal to Alabama he purchased large tracts of land and became an extensive planter. Prosperity attended his efforts and he acquired a large estate, which he left to his descendants. His political allegiance was given to the Democracy and he was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. He died about 1843 at the ripe old age of seventy-seven years and his wife died in 1844. Their children were: Thomas, who was a district judge in Alabama and died in Texas; Jack, who died in Arkansas; Jesse, father of our subject; Tabitha; Elizabeth; and Polly.

Jessie Owen was reared in Alabama and remained under the parental roof up to the time of his marriage when he began farming on his own account in that state. He managed his business affairs with success but in 1835 sought a home in Texas, settling in Nacogdoches county, where he bought land and improved a good farm. He took his slaves with him from Alabama and remained at his first location in Texas until 1851 when he removed to Lamar county, where he opened up a second farm, making it his home until his death in 1875. He was a strong Democrat and staunchly [*sic*] favored the secession movement. Although he lost heavily through the exigencies of war, as did the great majority of southern citizens he afterward largely recuperated his losses and obtained a competency for old age. He carried on farming and cattle-raising in his later years and his able management and keen discernment brought him prosperity. He held membership in the Primitive Baptist Church. His wife died in Lamar county in 1873. She as a daughter of Reiley and Nancy (Wells) Mitchell, natives of Ireland, who for many years resided in Alabama, where the father conducted a good plantation with the aid of his slaves. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war and was a patriotic American. In his family were six children: James and Wilson, who were farmers of Alabama, Mrs. Carolina Owen, Margaret, Martha and Nancy. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Owen had two sons and a daughter; William C., who died while serving in the Confederate army; Susan, the wife of A. J. Hager; and Thomas J.

As before stated, Thomas J. Owen was but two years old when brought by his parents to Texas. He attended the subscription schools to a limited extent but his educational privileges were quite meager. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage in Lamar county in January, 1859, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine House, who was born in Arkansas, in February, 1833, a daughter of Joseph House of Tennessee, one of the early settlers of Arkansas and a pioneer of Texas. He took up his abode in Lamar county, where he owned and operated a grist and saw mill which was conducted by water power. He was also a large land owner and had extensive stock interests and was recognized throughout the community as a capable financier. All of his business interests were well managed and showed his keen discernment and sagacity. He died in 1859 at the age of sixty-two years and his wife survived him until 1860. She was a member of the Methodist church. They were the parents of three daughters and two sons: Mrs. Catherine Owen Eliza, the wife of T. Pass; Marzee, the wife of J. Green; James, who served in the war; and Joseph, of Panhandle, Texas.

It was their eldest daughter who became the wife of Thomas J. Owen, of this review, who at the time of his marriage began operating the old homestead farm, on which he remained until after the outbreak of the Civil War. In the spring of 1861, he enlisted for service in the Confederate army as a member of Company C, Colonel Good's Battalion, which was assigned to the Trans-Mississippi Department and did duty in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and the Indian Territory. A part of the time, Mr. Owen was with General Price and other commanders and he received but two furloughs during his entire military service. He knew what it was to go hungry, to suffer from cold and exposure to the weather and yet he was a loyal and valorous soldier, never faltering in the performance of his duty. When General Lee surrendered, the regiment, which was then at Crockett, Texas, broke ranks and the men returned home.

Mr. Owen found most of his slaves yet upon his place. The following year he resumed farming, got a bunch of cattle together and continued the business until 1866 when he sold out and removed his stock to Cooke county. There he purchased land and opened a farm, his stock running on the free range. In his business he continued until 1872 when he disposed of his farm and removed to Montague county locating on Mountain Creek, three miles northeast of Saint Jo. He there bought three or four surveys, opened up a farm and run [*sic*] his cattle on the free grass, continuing the business successfully until 1892 when having started the cattle interests in western Texas he sold his farm lands but retained a small ranch which he yet owns. He now handles stock, mostly making a specialty of beef cattle. He was placed under cultivation over one hundred acres of land and raises feed for his stock. When he came here to cattle business was a success and farming was considered an experiment. His money was invested in stock. He loss of his slaves proved a heavy burden, but his stock-raising interests with the free grass helped him to recuperate from his losses and he gained a new start. In 1892 his sons, anxious for a larger and better range for the stock, removed to western Texas and Mr. Owen therefore abandoned the business here and established his sons in Panhandle, where they are now running cattle, while he largely confines his operations to beef cattle. It was in the same year that he retired from the farm and took up his abode at Saint Jo, where he is now living quietly, [continued on next page]

Welcome New Members

Martha Penick Lamkin (#319) of 5305 Blevins Gap Road, Louisville, KY 40272, (502) 935-2083, mplamkin@aol.com Martha's earliest known ancestor is James Owen b. bet. 1765-1773 in VA whose wife was Rhoda Gray.

Marie D. Vayer (#320) of 5615 Reardon Lane, Dale City, VA 22193, (703) 680-3541, mvayer@comcast.net. Marie's earliest known ancestor is James B. Owen 1770-1820 who married Polly Whitton b. 1774.

William (Bill) Owen, Sr. (#321) of 517 W. Commerce STE A, Brownwood, TX 76801. (915) 646-7255, bdowen@bwoodtx.com. Bill's earliest known ancestor is Ransom W. Owen who died 12 Dec 1864 and was married to Louisa Covington 25 Jan 1825.

Correction to the June 2003 issue entry for Jack Owens:

Jack K. Owens (#318) of 68 Ems C24D Ln., Warsaw IN 46582, is the son of Basil K. and Esther J. Carpenter Owens. His earliest known Owen ancestor is John Robert Owens, b. 1805.

If you have information about these Owen(s) lines, please contact the member.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For information or an application for membership, please e-mail Arnie-Owen@AOL.com or write to: Owen Family Association c/o Arnold Owen P O BOX 692, Westtown, PA 19395-0692

Thomas J. Owen, continued.

advising his sons as to the management of the business, but leaving to them the more active duties.

Unto Mr. And Mrs. Owen were born five children; George, on the cattle ranch in Panhandle; Cora, who became the wife of T. W. Jones and died leaving six children; Susan, who died at the age of twenty-four years; and Jack and T. J. who are living in Panhandle. The wife and mother died at Saint Jo in January, 1803. Mr. Owen has witnessed the establishment of Saint Jo and the development of the surrounding district, watching its transformation into a prosperous farming country. In politics he is a Democrat and he labors earnestly to secure good men for local office. His interest in community affairs is that of a public spirited citizen, whose efforts for the general welfare have been far reaching and beneficial.

Originally printed in *A Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of North and West Texas, Vol. II*, ed. Capt. B.B. Paddock, The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago: 1906.



UNCLE OFA Needs You!!!!

We need a Web Master for <http://www.geocities.com/~owenfamily/>
Please volunteer right away for this position.

At our biannual Owen Family Association meeting we elect new officers for the Owen Family Association. The officers are volunteer members of the OFA who serve for two year terms. We need your participation. We need those of you with fresh ideas to serve. Contact Bill

Owen and volunteer now!

Basic Duties of the Officers, per the by-laws, are as follows:

- ? The **President** shall preside over the biannual meetings of the Association and all Executive Board meetings.
- ? The **Vice President** shall assist the President in organizational duties and perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to serve.
- ? The **Secretary** shall be responsible for recording Of and maintaining Association membership records and keep minutes of all meetings of the Association.
- ? The **Treasurer** shall receive and record all dues and funds received by the Association; pay bills; and give a financial report at the Biannual Meeting.
- ? The **Genealogist-Editor** shall review and approve applications for membership. This officer is responsible for compiling the Newsletter.
- ? The **Publisher** is responsible for assembly and distribution of all Association publications.
- ? The **Historian** shall maintain a scrapbook of the Association's activities and a written history on the Owen Family Association activities.

Contact Bill E. Owen, Nominating Chairman, 6365 Glory Ave., Milton, FL 32583; (850) 983-2749; Biedowen@aol.com.

MAKING PLANS?

For most, it's a long way to Ol' Virginny, but we believe it's worth the trip! Halifax Virginia in the last weekend of September: a perfect place in which and time to spend a vacation. There is so much to see as you travel to and in the Old Dominion. Make a decision now . . . and then make those reservations!

Most of you will drive; but, if you plan to fly, you'll probably take a flight to Richmond, Virginia, or to Durham, North Carolina. If you do, get in touch with the Reunion Committee, and they'll arrange to have someone pick you up for the last leg of your journey.

The Hillards will be in Halifax County in August and September. If you have any difficulties in making your arrangements, call Jane. She and Jack will be glad to help. The telephone number is 434-454-6670 (Clover, Virginia).

ALL ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE OWEN FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia ? September 26 through 28, 2003

We will be staying at the *HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS* in South Boston, Virginia.

Rate per room per night: \$75.00 plus tax

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS

and mention you are with the *Owen Family Association*.

Telephone (434) 575-4000 or go to <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ex/home> online.

Checkout time on Sunday is noon. Check out early so that you can join us at Providence, Noland Community Church, for the services and the Historic Noland Village tour. You can be homeward bound by 1 PM. Reminder: As of publication, there was still room at the Inn, but motels in South Boston fill up quickly.

RESERVE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2003.

Will We See You in South Boston?

Yes!

I am attending the Owen Family Association Reunion, September 26-28, 2003, South Boston, VA

Enclosed check covers each diner in my party: (circle one)

\$19.95 for one person

\$39.90 for two persons

\$59.85 for three persons

Please clip this coupon, fill in the blanks below and send with your dinner reservation check to:

Mr. Bill E. Owen, Treasurer

6365 Glory Avenue

Milton, Florida 32583

By the way, Bill, my earliest identified Owen ancestor is: _____

and his/her known residence and/or pertinent dates are: _____

My Name is: _____

Members of my party are: _____

My Address is : _____

Owen Family News

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George Shirley
C. Owen Johnson

Owen Family Association

The Owen Family Association was organized in 1981.

The objectives of the association are:

- ? To establish and document as complete a list of descendants of Owen and allied families as possible.
- ? To collect a narrative history of individual family lines of descent .
- ? To compile and maintain a listing of cemeteries, homes and other buildings and sites associated with Owen and allied families.
- ? To publish and distribute a periodic newsletter.
- ? To bring members of the family association together for periodic reunions.
- ? To aid association members to establish their family line and assist them in joining hereditary and patriotic societies, if they so desire.
- ? To ultimately produce a volume documenting the verified family histories.
- ? To provide publications to Genealogy Libraries in order to assist Owen researchers.

Annual dues of \$10.00 is payable January 1st . The Owen Newsletter is published quarterly and is subject to copyright.

OWEN FAMILY NEWS

Volume 18, Number 4

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The Internet: Genealogy's Friend or Foe?

by Karen Grubaugh

Many genealogists believe that research done on the internet is inherently suspect. Believing that the many errors perpetuated online are detrimental to serious family history, some shun it completely. Many more genealogists, however, have learned to use the internet's strengths and avoid its pitfalls. In general, careful internet research enrolls the same techniques used with all secondary sources. If you haven't tried internet research, go to your local library and get online. The library staff will assist you



to become computer and World Wide Web literate. You can have an online email account through most, if not all, library computers. Using that email account, you can access the Owen Email List, post queries and meet other Owen researchers.

Some libraries have subscribed to sites, such as Ancestry.com or Genealogy.com. Using the library's online access and their subscription, you can, for example, access every census record from 1790 to 1930. Because most decades have been indexed, some decades have every name indices, accessing census records online is infinitely faster and easier than on microfilm. A copy of the page on which your ancestor appears can be printed for your records. At these web sites many primary source records are available. If your library provides printing options, you can download and print primary source documents like military records, deeds, marriage records and obituaries.

Worth checking is the collection of genealogy data located on the Rootsweb website. Rootsweb, sponsored by Ancestry.com, is free to access and promises to always be free. In addition to the very popular mailing lists, Rootsweb and Ancestry.com host *Worldconnect*, a collection of family lines submitted by folks like you and me. For example, Owen Johnson refers to Samuel and Lucy Owen Pruitt in part 3 of his series. At *Worldconnect*, I found 25 databases which included Samuel and Lucy. Finding the best information by checking the codes for "sources" and "notes," I accessed the database of Stark Brumley Martin entitled *Bennett, Brumley, Corbitt, Heist, Robinson, Stark among others*. In addition to the information provided by Owen Johnson, I discovered that Samuel Pruitt "was too old for active duty during the American Revolution. His name appears on a list of Pittsylvania Co., VA. Patriots, *List of Charles Kennon*, who took the oath of Allegiance - 1777.

(continued on page 39)

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Publication Dates

March

June

September

December

Deadlines are the 10th day
of the month
preceding publication

Submission of lineages, biographies, photographs and genealogical data about any Owen anywhere is encouraged! Your ideas for the newsletter are also solicited, just contact the editor!

The President's Message



Over the past decade the Owen Family Association has grown from 106 members to more than 324. While, not all these members are still active, the number of active members has steadily increased over the years. However, I am concerned why some members fail to pay their annual ten dollar fee and thus become inactive. Surely it's not the money! Could it be because we are not meeting their expectations? I don't know the answer to this problem, but think we must seek out the reasons for the betterment of the Association. I am convinced that here is a vast membership waiting to be discovered. Membership growth depends on reaching prospective members and convincing them that they can benefit by belonging. A membership committee could review the Association's current procedures and recommend changes. Do we have any volunteers?

When I took office in 1997, the Association had not yet entered the computer age, but thanks to Capt. Bob McCrary, a website <http://www.geocities.com/~owenfamily> was created. This site contains much valuable information about the Association. About the same time, Bob created the Owen-Rootsweb List. It is another genealogy tool we provide free. Many people who have posted their queries have located other researchers with the same Owen line and have shared information.. Thanks to Wanda Herbert and others, this site is always active with Owen postings and information. If you have not subscribe to this list, I recommend that you do so at once. It's free and all you have to do is E-mail OWEN-L@rootsweb.com and in the body of your message type in the word "subscribe" without the quotes. This is a great way for posting information and connecting other Owen researchers..

With the firm belief that we must preserve and improve our internet access, I propose that a Web site improvement project be given a high priority. This service benefits the majority of the membership and informs the public of the existence of the Owen Family Association. Within the last two years, it is estimated that 99.09% of our new members, found out about the Owen Association through the internet. Therefore, I have solicited the help of certain members to participate in an internet committee to suggest improvements to our sites and select a candidate for Webmaster. All members are welcome to make suggestions and become involved in the project. Our current Webmaster has stated that he will not serve beyond September 2003 and I feel that it is critical that position not be left vacant. I see this as a great opportunity to improve service to our membership and the public. Hopefully we can meet the challenge. For example, one possible improvement might be to provide an application form that could be download directly from our Web Site. I am sure there will be many excellent suggestions forthcoming.

One of the great assets of the Association is its newsletter which reaches 149 subscribers and 13 libraries across the nation. In addition, several libraries have been supplied with our published newsletter books. We all can be proud of the Association's excellent editorial staff. They have developed a first class newsletter and the number of volunteer participants is growing with each new member. Our goal to record and publish an Owen family history looks much brighter today because of their efforts. However, there is much to be done and the key is membership participation.

I'll see you in Halifax County, Virginia on September 26, 27 & 28, 2003!

Arnie

Owen Offshoots: *family matters . . .*

The known heritage of an Owen Family Recipe for Lemon Cake Pie



Francis Marion Owen
Martha Marilda Owen
Owen
Pie Baker Generation I



Bertie Lee Owen
Martin
Generation II



Clara Lee Martin
Becker
Generation III



Karen Lee Becker
Grubaugh
Generation IV

Lemon Cake Pie

1 Cup Sugar Rind and juice of one lemon

Butter the size of an egg

2 Tablespoons of flour

Two eggs, separated

Salt to taste

1 Cup of milk

1 unbaked pastry shell

Beat egg whites until stiff. Mix other ingredients. Fold in stiff egg whites. Pour into pie crust and bake until firm. [Time and temperature are not provided.] According to Clara Lee Martin Becker, her mother made the crust almost like a shortbread. It was not until Clara Lee majored in Home Economics in college, that pastry was used in the recipe.

Editors note: If you enjoyed this article, send me your photos, recipes, anecdotes and stories. I will soon run out of Owen stories of my own. Got to run, my pie is done!

(Continued from page 36) *Internet: Genealogy's Friend or Foe?*

His name appears on a list of Pittsylvania Patriots for supplies furnished the Revolution. (DAR Magazine March, 1930) Several children's marriages and a land grant are recorded in Pittsylvania Co., VA. A Samuel Pruitt, Sr.'s Will is recorded in Book II., page 240, dated 11-13-1801, probated 12-21-1801, Pittsylvania Co.

By searching *Worldconnect*, Samuel's old bones were fleshed out a bit by information that appears well sourced. For those who cannot travel to their ancestor's states of residence, the internet makes primary sources available. It is incumbent upon every researcher to verify the information and to reference the database author as the secondary source. The same procedure should be incorporated when using information found in a secondary source book or newspaper article.

Is the internet a friend or foe to genealogists? For me it is a friend. My database is posted on *Worldconnect*, consequently, dozens of cousins have contacted me and shared information. That alone has knocked down more than one or two brick walls. A cousin in Germany found me through *Worldconnect* and provided generations of information dating into the 1500s complete with church records. But, don't expect anymore from the internet than from an old published genealogy . . . verify and source.

What will the internet be for you? Friend or foe? Sit down in front of a computer and find out for yourself.



Feature Article

Descendants of William Owen and Drucilla Echols

Part 3—Continued from Vol. 18 No. 3

Researched, written and edited by C. Owen Johnson

Uriah Owen the first and the last:

The first of the children of William Owen and Drucilla Echols and the last to be discussed in this article. He is my own ancestor of the known eleven children of the William Owens.

Much as my mother Laura Owen loved my Father Clifford Uriah Johnson, she hated his middle name. He was not born with it, but he was forced to take it when he was Tulane Medical School and was in the Naval Reserve stationed at Algiers, across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. He got the Uriah from his father and grandfather Johnson.

I believe I read that the "S" in the name of President Harry S. Truman does not stand for anything. He was forced to take it on when entering World War I service. When mother filled out her Daughter of the American Revolution lineage papers, she was happy her Revolutionary ancestor was Uriah, rather than say a John Owen, a Thomas Owen, a William Owen etc. A study of the first federal census records show most Owens in the nation lived in Virginia and not less than a third lived in the two counties of Halifax and Pittsylvania. Every cloud has a silver lining.

In 1774 Uriah Owen is living on 100 acres of land in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Camden Parish, on Sandy Creek, which was sold on 10 August 1767 by Samuel Pruitt to William Owen.(Pittsylvania Deed book 1, page 73)

This 1774 tithable list on which Uriah is shown as living with William Owen, is the first in which he is listed and proved he was born about 1758. As we will see later his wife Sarah Everett was born on 3 January 1761 in Richmond County, Virginia.(See page 61 of George H.S. King's, The Registrar of North Farnham Parish 1663-18 14 and Lunenburg Parish 1783-1800 Richmond County Virginia.) The Samuel Pruitt who sold the land to William Owen, married Lucy Owen, whom we believe is the sister of William Owen about 1754. She was born in 1736 in Frederick County, Maryland. (See page 550 of the DAR Patriot Index). The Pruitts had numerous children many were Revolutionary Soldiers or patriots or were the wives of such. They moved with them from Maryland to Southside, Virginia. (See "The Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Family and Friends of Samuel Pruitt, Jr., William Owen, and Uriah Owen" in various issues of the Owen Family Association Newsletters from 1986-1993; to be found in the libraries of both the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution.

The area where the 100 acre tract where William and Uriah Owen lived is in the southeastern most part of Pittsylvania County near Halifax County, Virginia, and just north of Caswell County, North Carolina.

On October 18, 1779, William Owen sold Uriah Owen the 100 acres on Sandy Creek, which was bought from Samuel Pruitt. Other Pittsylvania County, Virginia land transactions involving Uriah Owen are: On 19 February 1782, Uriah Owen and his wife Sarah of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, sold land (See Deed Book 6 page 235). On 17 April 1786, Peter Martin of Halifax County, Virginia sold Uriah Owen of Pittsylvania County 235 acres (See Deed Book 7 page 526). On 17 December 1787 there is a deed of Uriah Owen of Pittsylvania County (Deed Book 8 page 123), and then the most helpful deed of all: 16 November 1789, Uriah Owen of Wilkes County, Georgia, sold land in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, on which he formerly lived. This shows the move from Virginia to Georgia.

I engaged two professional genealogists to find the parents of Uriah Owen: Mrs. James S. Jones of Chatham, Virginia in 1947 and Mr. Elijah T. Sutherlin in 1966. Neither found a will or estate settlement showing the relationship. From the tithable list and from the other consideration not with the purchase price (mentioned in the deed from William to Uriah Owen), each believed that William was the father of Uriah Owen. William Owen disappeared from Virginia records. Each suggested looking in Georgia records for him.

Ruth Blair in 1926 wrote Some Early Tax Digests of Georgia. On page 313 we read that Wm Owins and Obediah Owins had land on Long Creek adjoining Joseph Echols. Malachi Reeves was on Long Creek adjoining Joseph Echols. On page 315 we read that Uriah Owens land adjoined that of Joseph Echols.

On 1 February 1790, Joseph Echols and Mary his wife sold Uriah Owens 240 acres on Long Creek Wilkes County, Georgia (Book KKpage 153). On 15 December 1804 Benjamin Echols of Oglethorpe County, Georgia and James Echols of Wilkes County, Georgia, sold William Owen land on Long Creek.

On Page 19 of Emma Barrett Reeves Reeves Review Book II is the record of Malachi Reeves Jr., born 1761 married 17 March 1792 to Rhoda Owens born 10 February 1763, daughter of William Owens of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, who moved to Georgia in 1782. The Reeves joined Sardis Baptist Church of which Uriah and Sarah Owen were members about 1800. Malachi was pastor of the church for many years. Rhoda Owen Reeves died in the home of their daughter Diantha Reeves, who was born 1792 and married on 20 November 1827 to Robert Toombs Barrett, the son of the Reverend Lewis Barrett and his wife Mary, daughter of Gabriel and Ann Toombs. On 17 June 1797 William Owen and Drucilla, his wife, sold land on Long Creek to Lewis Barrett. The land adjoined that of Joseph Echols and George Willis (who witnessed the 1820 will of Uriah Owen). Gabriel Toombs witnessed the deed of William and Drucilla to Lewis Barrett. From 1988 to 1992 the Owen Family Association published an article "The Ancestors of Drucilla (Echols) Owen" in its newsletter.

Uriah Owen left a will probated in Wilkes County, Georgia, 6 November 1820, it mentions:

Wife Sarah Owen

Son Obadiah Owen

Son Brice Owen

Son Garland Owen (" Heirs of son Garland")

Daughter Franky Owen

Daughter Rhoda Owen

Daughter Sally Owen

Daughter Lucy Owen

Son Wm Owen

Son Benj Owen

Grandson Coleman (Son of Brice Owen). The will was written 23 August 1820. Son Obadiah Owen and friend N4alachi Reeves were named executors. Witnesses proving the will were Geo.Willis, Samuel G. Moseley, and Malachi Reeves. The will is printed in Volume 11 on page 145 of Mrs. John Lee Davidson's Early Records of Georgia Wilkes County. On page 146 is his wife Sarah's will. This will was signed 27 July 1828 and probated 2 July 1832. The will names:

Grandson Coleman P. Owen

Daughter Rebecca Owen

Thos H Jefers (Jafes?)

The will was proved by witnesses Allen J. Arnold, Eunice Arnold, Hardeman Bullock. Her brother Travis Everet was named executor.

There is a photocopy given to this writer from "A Short Biography Containing a brief account of the Birth, Parentage, Raising, and Education of A.W. Owen written by himself, Atlanta 1853." A.W. Owen was born in Greene County, Georgia, a son of Benjamin Owen and Ruthy Riley on 8 March 1820. He married Martha Margaret Jones in De Kalb County, Georgia on 26 October 1852. He died in 1865. They had a daughter Emily Jane Owen, born 14 August 1853 and died 28 June 1854. They had an adopted daughter Eula Lee Owen.

Mr. A.W. Owen was a school teacher in Pike County, Georgia (Mt. Zion) in 1846 and 1847; in 1849 in Fayette County, Georgia (Salem Baptist Church); in 1850 and 1851 in Henry County, Georgia near

Tanner's Baptist Church; in 1853 and following he was in Atlanta. He was also a merchant in Griffin, Georgia, in partnership with David Swobe. In 1858 he was Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at 4 Mile Branch, South Carolina. In 1861 and 1862 he was pastor of the Christian Church in Atlanta. Letters he wrote Governor Brown are on file in the Georgia archives. In 1855 he ran for office on the Know Nothing Party. See Franklin Garrett's "Atlanta and It's Environs." The following is from his biography:

I was born in Green County, Georgia on the 8th day of March 1820. My father, Benjamin Owen, is a native of Georgia and was brought up in Wilkes Co. My grandfather, Uriah Owen was a native of Virginia and emigrated to this State, I believe, shortly after the Revolutionary War. He was then young with only a small family, a wife and one or two children. His family subsequently consisted often children, five boys and five girls all of whom are now dead except my father and two of his sisters.

Of my grandfather Owen I have no recollection, having never seen him. He died, I think, during the month of September 1820 of bilious fever. He was a member of the Baptist Church and from all accounts was a just and honorable man. His literary acquirements were small and to make his sons excellent wagoners and good hostlers was of more importance than to give them classic attainments. He left ten children no other legacy than the force of his example.

My grandmother Owen survived my grandfather about twelve years. She continued to live on my grandfather's farm in Wilkes Co. until her death and was, I presume, buried by the side of my grandfather. Of my uncles and aunts I know but little, they having become scattered over Georgia before my recollection. There was none of them remarkable for any peculiar trait but were to use their own language "old fashioned people."

My father was the youngest of grandfather's sons and early in life married Ruthy Riley, daughter of William Riley, who, I think, was of Irish descent and a native of North Carolina.

The rest of the Reverend Mr. Owen's writing deals with Benjamin's descendants and the Reverend Mr. Owen's religious and philosophical beliefs.

William Owen and his wife Drucilla sold land in Wilkes County in 1797 (Book RR page 44). Glover Crane was dead on 23 May 1799 when Tabitha Crane and John Rowden were appointed executors, Mrs. Davidson, Early Records of Wilkes County, Volume II page 134. On 24 February 1801, William Owen was appointed Guardian of Sarah, Joshua, Martha and Mary, orphans of Glover Crane. Joseph Echols and Hopkins Daniel were securities..

In the 1782 State Census of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, there were 3 persons in Uriah Owen's family. In the 1785 State Census there were 4.

Milner Echols in the History of the Echols Family said that Joseph Echols on Long Creek in Wilkes County, Georgia was a Methodist minister. The Athens Georgia Gazette issue of 14 April 1814 said he had died in Jones County on 2 April 1814. It identifies him as "of Wilkes County aged 58" Ruth Echols Terry Echols Notes, Volume Two page 120. On 27 January 1807, Joseph Echols was appointed guardian of Sarah, Joshua, Martha and Mary, orphans of Glover Crane's deceased. From 24 April 1801 William Owen had been their guardian. Perhaps, he had died. Milner Echols wrote his History of the Echols Family for John Glover Crane, a merchant from Charleston, South Carolina. John Glover Crane was the son of Glover Crane and Tabitha Rowden, who was the daughter of John Rowden and Sarah Echols, and the granddaughter of Abraham Echols, whose brother Richard Echols, was the father of Drucilla Echols, wife of William Owen

and mother of Uriah Owen. There is an instrument in Wilkes County, Georgia, (Book DDD page 121) 26 June 1818 in which Mary Echols appointed Royland Beasley her attorney to recover her part of the estate of her father James Stamps, Sr., of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. One of the witnesses of this instrument was Mary's son Simeon Echols, who married Caroline van Allen, whose father Patrick van Allen was killed in a duel with William H. Crawford, United States Senator from Georgia, Secretary of the United States Treasury, Secretary of War and unsuccessful candidate for President of the United States in 1824. The other witness was Allen J Arnold J.P., who in 1832 witnessed the Wilkes County Georgia will of Sarah Everett Owen, widow of Uriah Owen. Allen Jennings Arnold on 21 December 1801 married in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Jane Owen whose sister Elizabeth Owen married in Oglethorpe County, Georgia on 21 December 1803 Reuben Echols, son of Joseph Echols and Nancy Stamps.

Jane Owen Arnold and Elizabeth Owen Echols had a sister, Susannah Owen, who on 2 November 1809 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia married John Wynne, a grandson of Thomas Wynne and Mary Echols, a sister of Joseph Echols. Reverend Joseph Echols was an uncle of Uriah Owen. His wife Mary (or Molly) Stamps was a first cousin once removed of Uriah's wife Sarah Everett Owen. See Mrs. Sherman Williams and the Reverend Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr. The Dodson (Dotson) Family of North Farnham Parish, Richmond County, Virginia, Volume One and Two, Registers of North Farnham Parish 1663-1814 and Lunenburg Parish, Richmond County Virginia, compiled by George Harrison Sanford King; Clayton Torrence, Virginia Wills and Administration 1632-1800; "The ancestry of Sarah (Everett) Owen" published by the Owen Family Association in its Newsletters 1989-1990. "Autobiography of the Reverend Obadiah Echols of Winona, Mississippi," printed in Volume 11 of Rebecca Echols Teny's Echols Notes; "The ancestry of Drucilla (Echols) Owen" published by the Owen Family Association in its Newsletters 1988-1992.

Reverend A.W. Owen, a grandson of Uriah Owen and Sarah Everett Owen, who lived in Atlanta, Georgia, across from the Georgia State Capital Building in 1853 wrote in his diary that his grandparents had only one or two children when they moved from Virginia to Georgia. Virginia State Census Records confirm this.

Garland Owen is probably the oldest of the children of Uriah Owen and Sarah Everett. The will of Uriah probated 6 November 1820 speaks of "heirs of son Garland." A page in the estate of Garland Owen deceased speaks of his orphans Sinthy, Delila, Cordelia, John, and Jacob J. Owen. Jacob Woolbright was their guardian. Garland Owen had married Sally Woolbright on 24 December 1806. Two draws in the land lottery of 1819 were given Jacob Woolbright Sr. as "next friend to orphans of Garland Owen old sol dec'd." Mrs. John Lee Davidson Early Record of Wilkes County, Volume 1 page 341 and Volume 2 pages 145, 218, 269, and 349. Garland Owen paid poll tax in 1817, but not in 1818, in Wilkes County, Georgia. It would appear that he died sometime in 1818. We will not discuss these Garland Owen orphans until we first discuss descendants of Sally Woolbright Owens's sister Nancy Woolbright Dyer.

Nancy married in 1799 and is probably older than her sister Sally who married in 1806. Nancy was born 7 October 1780 and her husband Wiley Dyer was born 25 April 1775. For this writer's descent from Garland Owen and Sally Woolbright, see page 13 of First Families of Georgia 1733-1797 Lineage Book Volume 1(2002).

The material on Nancy Woolbright descendants came from a book James Dyer written by Elizabeth Ann Wright whom this writer saw every year when she came from her home at 5443 Vickery Boulevard in Dallas Texas to attend the D.A.R. Congress in Washington. The records on Nancy Woolbright came from the Reverend Edwin Dyer's sheepskin-bound Bible, owned by Mrs. R. S. Kennard of Rome, Georgia. The Bible was printed in 1827 in Cooperstown, New York. [to be continued, December, 2003]

Let's Communicate face-to-face!

Join us at our 9th OFA Reunion, South Boston, Virginia, September 26-28, 2003

Reuben Pickett Owen and His Descendants, son of William and Drucilla Echols Owen

Researched and compiled by Lee Gentemenn and Josephine Moeller
Written and edited by Karen Becker Grubaugh

Reuben Pickett and Martha Wells Owen's eldest son, William, was born Jan 20, 1801 in Hopkins County, KY. Early tax records that include the name William W. Owen are the Hickman County, KY tax lists and Court Order book as well as the Calloway County KY tax lists. In addition to some Jackson town lots, William owned land in Hickman County, KY with his father Reuben and his brother, Adrian. William married Matilda Bourland on Dec. 22, 1822 in Hopkins County, KY. In 1830, William is the 20-29 year old male in his father's household but by 1834, William had moved to Missouri. He is listed in Stoddard County, MO on the 1840 census. In 1850 he is living in Castor Township, Stoddard County, MO. His occupation is reported as blacksmith in both the 1850 and 1860 census. While her 8 year old son is listed on the 1850 census, Matilda is not. Therefore, Matilda died between 1842 and 1850. William remarried before 1860 when his wife is listed as Mary C.; nothing more is known about Mary's lineage. William W. Owen must have died in late 1863 or early 1864; his estate was probated on 23 Feb 1864 in Stoddard County, MO. As part of the estate, his blacksmith tools were valued at \$46.25.

The Reuben Pickett Owen, Sr. descendancy as compiled by Lee Gentemenn and Jody Moeller:

Husband: William W. Owen b. Hopkins Co., KY Jan. 20, 1801, d. abt. 1863, Stoddard Co. MO; s/o Reuben Pickett Owen and Martha Wells Owen.

Wife: Matilda Bourland b. NC abt. 1804 d. bet. 1842 & 1850, Stoddard Co., MO; d/o Rev. John and Mary Loving Bourland.

Married Dec. 22, 1822 in Hopkins Co., KY

Children:

1. Nancy J. Owen; married McNiel
2. Emily Jane Owen, b. abt. 1825, KY, d. Dec. 1881, Texas Co., MO; m. (1) William Archibald Spiva, Sr. Oct. 25, 1843 in Stoddard Co., MO and (2) Kimbrel W. Powers, Sep 7 1868 in Rolla, Phelps Co., MO.
3. Amanda T. Owen, b. 1827, KY, m. Benjamin F. Johnson bef. 1848 probably in Stoddard Co., MO.
4. Benjamin Franklin [Frank] Owen b. 24 Nov 1828 in Paducah, Calloway Co., KY; d. 13 Jan 1917 Riverview, Lane Co., OR; m. Jane Curry McClure, 1 Sep 1859 in Irving, Lane Co., OR
5. Reuben Owen, Jr. b. abt. 1830, KY d. bef 1870, MO; m. Mary Jane White bef. 1850.
6. Martha Owen, b. abt. 1832, KY, d. 3 Mar 1876, Wright Co., MO, bur. Retherford Cemetery, Norwood, MO; m. Ellison Mitchell Davis abt. 1848, Stoddard Co., MO.
7. Matilda A. Owen, b. abt. 1835, MO; m. unk. Davis
8. Eusebia Myrtilia Owen, b. 21 Jan 1837, MO; d. 30 Nov 1914, Yoncalla, Douglas Co., bur. Yoncalla P. Cemetery, Yoncalla, OR; m. Daniel Walter Bridges abt. 1854
9. William Owen, b. abt. 1838, MO; d. Mar. 1850, MO
10. Hannah B. Owen, b. abt. 1840, MO
11. George W. Owen b. Sep 1842, MO; d. 14 Feb 1905 Wren, Benton Co., OR bur. Kings Valley Cemetery, Kings Valley, OR.

Reuben Pickett and Martha Wells Owen's eldest daughter, Francine Ann Owen, is listed as an unnamed child who died in infancy, p. 1046 of *Goodspeed's History of Southeast, Missouri*. Her name was provided by Aird Sher, descendant of Eliza B. Owen Jackson in 1979. (to be continued in future issues)



Welcome New Members

Alan D. Smith (#322) of 1302 Okanogan St., Ellensburg, WA 98926, (509) 925-1317; asmith@ellenburg.com. Alan's earliest known ancestor is Joseph B. Owen b1806 9m NC whose wife was Nancy Overby.

John Henry Owen, Jr. (#323) of 730 McKinley Ln., Hinsdale, IL 60521, (630) 323-6692; dunes97@aol.com. John's earliest known ancestor is Richard Owen, b. abt. 1595 In Oswestry, Suffolk, whose wife was Joanna Pitt.

David Owen Hale (#324) of 3139 Rivanna Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192-3373, (701) 491-6438; Biedowen@aol.com David's earliest known ancestor is Thomas Owen (Owin) b. In England/Wales d. in VA whose wives were (1) Elizabeth Brooks and (2) Anne Fontain.

Elwood Leo Owen (#325) of 9148 Craney Island Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23116, (804) 746-8016; carol60@mindspring.com. Elwood's earliest known ancestor is Joseph Owen [dates unknown] whose wife was Martha/Patsy.

If you have information about these Owen(s) lines, please contact the member.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For information or an application for membership, please e-mail ArnieOwen@AOL.com or write to: Owen Family Association c/o Arnold Owen P O BOX 692, Westtown, PA 19395-0692

Let's Communicate: Queries, Queries, We Want Queries!

Your query, in addition to generating it's answer, helps others in their research.

Seeking info on **Joseph Owen** who appears on 1790-1802 Mecklenburg Co., VA tax list. Joseph m. Martha(Patsy), Halifax Co. VA James Owen who married Rada Gray, 10-15-1794, may be brother. Joseph sold land on Great Buffalo Creek, Mecklenburg Co., VA in 1811 to pay doctor. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Carol Owen, 9148 Craney Island Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23116, (804) 746-8016;

carol60@mindspring.com. My line is

- (1) Joseph Owen (earliest records I have is tax record-1790-Mecklenburg Co., VA) & Martha
- (2) Joseph Owen (b-1815-d-1870)& Mary Ann Talley, d/o Abraham Talley & Elizabeth Chandler
- (3) James Bennett (b-1839-Mecklenburg Co., VA lived in Lunenburg Co., VA) & Mary E.Waddill-d/o William J. Waddill & Mary E. James Bennett was a civil war vet with pension
- (4) Rufus L. Owen (b-1869-Mecklenburg Co., VA, d.1945, Lunenburg Co., VA)& Ann Elizabeth Satterfield d/o James W. Satterfield
- (5) Milton Bennie Owen & Annie Grace Walker

New member, Alan Smith, wants to know Edward Owins' relationship to **Joseph Branch Owins** of Person Co., NC; 1825. Who are Joseph Branch Owin's parents? Joseph Branch Owins was b. 1806, NC, d. 6 June 1868, m. Nancy Overby, 1825, Person Co., NC; she was b. 1808, NC, d. bef. 1867, Webster Co., KY.

How is Joshua Owens related? Joshua was the bondsman for Joseph Branch Owens' marriage. Joshua Owins is found in 1830 Hopkins Co., KY census. Joseph B. Owens/Owins is nearby in Henderson Co., KY between 1843 and 1845. Later residence was Webster Co., KY due to the formation of the county.

Joseph and Nancy Owens/Owins children are: Sarah Ann, Rebecca, Nancy, Patsy, Martha, Edward, Joshua, William D., and Leah Catherine Owens. Alan Smith descends through William D. Owens/Owins b. 1843, NC, d. 1885 KY. and his son Ewell Owen b. 7 Feb 1876, near Dixon, KY. Contact Alan at 1302 Okanogan St., Ellensburg, WA 98926, (509) 925-1317; asmith@ellenburg.com.

REUNION UPDATE

By Jane Owen Hillard

**Owen Family Association Reunion—New Boston, Halifax County, Virginia
September 26-28, 2003**

Well! What a short summer! Still, we can cap the season with our visit to still-warm Halifax County. The Reunion Committee assures us that plans are all in place. We'll foregather at the Holiday Inn Express on Friday evening, September 26th; we'll meet for a very informal get-acquainted reception at seven—or whenever you arrive.

Owen people are nice to know!

Rooms are still available at the Inn, and our contact at the hotel will hold a room for you at our rate of \$75 per night (no per-person charge for additional people in the room). Our telephone call of August 18th to the Holiday Inn Express informed us that except for a few rooms still held for our members, all other rooms are booked for the weekend of September 26-28th. If you call and are turned down, CALL JANE IN VIRGINIA immediately [1-434-454-6670] and she will arrange something. We don't want to miss our seeing you!

Our Saturday morning meeting promises to be a really productive one, with updates on what is going on in the field of genealogy, what is going on in OWEN research, and tips on how you can access others working on your line.

Saturday evening is given over to our banquet, a great speaker, and a brief business session, including election of new officers. We have a fine slate willing to take on official duties.

By the way! A number of people have asked about appropriate dress in the various functions. Women, particularly, want to know if they may, properly, wear slacks or pant suits to visit the Providence Church. "Of course!" said a member of the congregation, and a call to the minister got his approval. (He may have been surprised we asked.)

Men also have asked about the matter of dress. You'll have Saturday afternoon free to pursue your own interests, and, in this small town, that means CASUAL. So you may want to attend the Saturday morning session dressed for the afternoon.

Saturday Evening Banquet: A "banquet" generally implies jacket and tie for the men; the last Saturday evening in September will be cool enough. Women, of course, instinctively know what to wear when the men are dressed for the occasion.

Hopefully, everyone will take time for Sunday morning meeting at Providence Church and to tour the restored village. But that doesn't necessarily end your Halifax weekend. Read on about the added attraction of Berry "Hill."

The main attraction, of course, will be your presence. We hope our many friends and fellow members who are researching ancestors in the North and the West will turn out for this profitable weekend. You don't have to be a transplanted Virginian to love it!

Want To Dine At Berry Hill? The Chamber of Commerce puts out a Driving Tour guide which extols that magnificent mansion, "Berry Hill." The Chamber recommends a drive-by as worthy of your time. However, Berry Hill Center has just announced that they are now offering a spectacular brunch every Sunday. Several officers of OFA are chomping at the bit to go and partake. Reservations are required, so you are requested, if interested, to call now. The number is 1-434-517-7000.

Have you made your Saturday evening Association Banquet reservations with treasurer, Bill Owen? If not, cut out and complete the coupon on the next page and send it along with your check to our treasurer.

See you at the Holiday Inn express in South Boston, Virginia!

Jane

Owen Family Association Reunion Agenda

September 26, 2003—Friday evening, Informal Reception at the *Holiday Inn Express*. Casual attire.

September 27, 2003—Saturday morning, Genealogy Workshop.

Saturday lunch and afternoon: Free time.

Saturday evening: Banquet at *Four Oaks Restaurant* and brief business meeting.

September 28, 2003—Sunday morning—*Providence Presbyterian Church* Service followed by private tour of the restored *Providence Village*.

Sunday Brunch— If you wish, have brunch at *Berry Hill Mansion* with reservations.

See Jane's article on page 46 for details.

We hope to see you at the Ninth (!) Biennial Reunion.

ALL ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE OWEN FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia ? September 26 through 28, 2003

We will be staying at the ***HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS*** in South Boston, Virginia.

Rate per room per night: \$75.00 plus tax

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS

and mention you are with the *Owen Family Association*.

Telephone (434) 575-4000 or go to <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ex/home> online.

Checkout time on Sunday is noon. Check out early so that you can join us at Providence, Noland Community Church, for the services and the Historic Noland Village tour. You can be homeward bound by 1 PM.

Reminder: As of publication, there was still room at the Inn, but motels in South Boston fill up quickly.

RESERVE IMMEDIATELY—see Jane's article on the previous page for update.

Will We See You in South Boston?

Yes!

I am attending the Owen Family Association Reunion, September 26-28, 2003, South Boston, VA

Enclosed check covers each diner in my party: (circle one)

\$19.95 for one person

\$39.90 for two persons

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By the way, Bill, my earliest identified Owen ancestor is: _____

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Owen Family Association

The Owen Family Association was organized in 1981.

The objectives of the association are:

- ? To establish and document as complete a list of descendants of Owen and allied families as possible.
- ? To collect a narrative history of individual family lines of descent .
- ? To compile and maintain a listing of cemeteries, homes and other buildings and sites associated with Owen and allied families.
- ? To publish and distribute a periodic newsletter.
- ? To bring members of the family association together for periodic reunions.
- ? To aid association members to establish their family line and assist them in joining hereditary and patriotic societies, if they so desire.
- ? To ultimately produce a volume documenting the verified family histories.
- ? To provide publications to Genealogy Libraries in order to assist Owen researchers.

Annual dues of \$10.00 are payable January 1st . The Owen Newsletter is published quarterly and is subject to copyright.

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OWEN FAMILY JOINS DNA PROJECT

by George Shirley

The Owen Family Association is participating in DNA testing to help identify and to determine relationships among the many different Owen family lines. DNA testing can especially help when you can't find documents to prove your relationship. We view DNA testing as simply another tool that can be used to help in genealogy. It should not be considered a cure all for genealogy.

The science of DNA assists the genealogist because every male carries a Y chromosome that determines that he is a male. This Y chromosome is inherited from his father. The Y chromosome is passed from generation to generation with very few changes. Accordingly, males who descend from the same ancestor carry the same Y chromosome. So, if a male Owen who lives in California has the same Y chromosome as a male Owen who lives in Florida, we know that they descend from the same Owen ancestor at some point in time. This project is especially helpful to families who lived where courthouses have been destroyed and no record exists to prove their connection to a certain line. Also, it could help you identify which Owen family line you come from which would enable you to narrow your regular research to certain families/counties/states. The Owen Family Association DNA project will aid you in finding your DNA matches.

Fred Owen, our Vice President who resides in Houston, TX, will serve as our project administrator. He has made the necessary arrangements with FamilyTreeDNA to perform the testing. This company sends the DNA test kit, receives the samples back, has the tests performed, and notifies both you and Fred Owen of the results. In the event of a match, with your permission, FamilyTreeDNA will notify both of you so that you can work together to determine whom your common ancestor is. Fred will accumulate and publish the results by family line. More information can be found on the Internet about DNA testing at www.familytreedna.com.

The DNA test simply consists of two cheek scrapers and two collection tubes. You scrape the inside of your cheek and return the kit in the return envelope. Nothing could be simpler.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please email Fred Owen at fredowen@houston.rr.com. Or write to Fred Owen at 1103 Marbrook Ct., Houston, TX 77077-1951. The cost is approximately \$100 if you participate as part of a group project. Remember, the test is performed on OWEN males. If you are a female, you can use the DNA of your Owen father, Owen grandfather, Owen male uncle, Owen male cousin, etc. In general, it is better for older rather than younger generations to be tested since changes can occur over time. Please notify Fred Owen of your interest in this project. Fred will determine the interest level among our members.

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March, June, September

And December

Deadlines are the 10th day of the
month preceding publication

Submission of lineages, biographies, photographs, historical and genealogical data about any Owen anywhere is encouraged! Your ideas for the newsletter are also solicited, just contact the editor!



The President's Message by Arnie Owen

The future of the Association is promising. Thanks to the efforts of long time member, Bill Owen, our former Treasurer, the Association is financially sound. Bill has been a dedicated officer for over eighteen years and he, along with his lovely wife, Judy, who served as Secretary, will truly be missed. However, if needed, I know that we can still count on them for advice.

Credit for the Association's first class newsletter goes to Managing Editor, Karen Grubaugh, writers, Jane Hillard, Kim Owen, Owen Johnson and many more who have contributed to it's success. The Owen News circulation not only includes the membership, it is sent to more than thirteen libraries. The LDS library in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Fort Wayne, Indiana library are two important genealogical libraries that are on our distribution list. I only mention these two libraries because they are well known by most researchers. The others, such as state and local libraries, may not be as well known, but they are equally important to sharing our Owen family histories. I get many E-mails from coast to coast from people who have seen our publication.

Our Web Site is another source for getting the word out about our Owen Family Association. Almost 100% of the request for applications comes from people who have visited our site. Computer technology is a wonderful thing as long as we are careful not to disseminate false information. I would like to see our site improved and expanded to include applications for membership on line, more Owen family lineage information and links to other Owen family sites. At this point in time, it is my view that we now need to catch up. If each of us would share our genealogy by posting it on a Web Page with a link to the Owen Family Association Web Site, this could be of immense help in locating others who are researching the same family lines. It is another option to putting people in touch with other researchers of the same Owen line. The World Wide Web is here to stay and we must keep up with the technology if we are going to survive as an organization. Having recently enrolled in a computer course at our local college, I can't over express the importance this technology with young people. It just so happened I was the old greaser in the class and most were more versed on the subject than I, but I still managed to get a certificate. Our new Webmaster, Richard Owens has a big challenge ahead of him and I wish him success in his endeavors.

Two years will arrive before we know it and it will be reunion time again. So, it is now time to again start considering a site for the 10th Owen Biannual Reunion. Currently, we have two places in contention and they are Charleston, SC and San Antonio, TX. Perhaps there will be others. Please volunteer to serve on the 10th bi-annual reunion site selection committee. We will also be electing officers at this reunion, so volunteers for the nominating committee will also be needed. Please, contact me if you are willing to serve.

In closing, the Owen Family Association is a great organization and its future is in your hands. Make it even greater by becoming an active participant. Submit articles to the editor for publishing in the newsletter, serve on committees and recruit membership.

To all the Owen family researchers, I wish each of you **Happy Holidays**. ☺

Successful Reunion Heralded as Perfect Mix of Old and New

by Arnie Owen

The Ninth Owen Biannual Reunion of September 2003 was a tremendous success. The weather favored the Owen families who traveled from afar to attend this event. With clear sunny skies, comfortable fall temperatures, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves in South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia. It all started Friday evening with people getting acquainted in the hotel meeting room.

On Saturday, Jane Hillard, an experienced genealogist, gave an excellent genealogy lesson at the morning session. I counted about forty people in attendance at the morning genealogy session and most attended the evening banquet to hear an arousing presentation by our speaker Graham C. Owen. Graham Owen, our newly elected treasurer, has recorded his ancestors back to William Owen who migrated from Wales to Virginia in 1650. Graham attributes much of his genealogical research success to his great grandfather, Henry T. Owen, who kept the family history and passed it down to the next generation.

At our last meeting of the reunion, members, having heard George Shirley's presentation on DNA and genealogy, voted in favor of setting up a DNA project to further help our members with their research. This project was received with much enthusiasm. Fred Owen and George Shirley were instrumental in getting this project off the ground. All the males with the Owen(s) surname are encouraged to participate. This is a new research tool that can be helpful in proving lineage or pointing you in the right direction in your research. I am personally excited about this project and plan to order my DNA kit right away.

Owen Family Association Officers 2003-2005

President	Arnold Owen	Vice President	Fred Owen
Secretary	George Shirley	Treasurer	Graham C. Owen
Historian	Jim Owens	Publisher	Bill Grubaugh
	Editor		Karen Grubaugh

Biography of our Association President, Arnie Owen

First in a series of biographies about our OFA officers by Karen Grubaugh

Arnold Clements Owen is the youngest of eight children born to Clyde and Estie Clements Owen on March 6, 1927 in Paoli, IN. Arnie attended a one room school for grades one to eight, Springs Valley High School and evening classes at Indiana Central College now Indianapolis University. Arnie served in the United States Army, 's Company C 64th Infantry Battalion, Camp Walters, TX. He recalls returning from the camp beer garden one evening and hearing an announcement on a car radio of the surrender of Japan, ending World War II. Arnie has often wondered what would have happened to him if President Truman had not taken bold action to end the war. Following his military service, Arnie began his forty year railroad carrier in the field of labor relations with the Pennsylvania Railroad in Indianapolis, IN and ended it with Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) at its system headquarters in Philadelphia, PA.

Arnie first married Juanita Jane Kirchbaum who within six months of their marriage was taken ill and died. About two years later, thanks to Arnie's matchmaking sister, he met and married Mary Lou Burns on Mar 5, 1950. The couple have four children, Sharon Ann, Ronald Dale, Stephan Arnold and Karen Sue. After 53 years of marriage they now enjoy the privilege of spoiling their five grandchildren.

His interest in genealogy is attributed to his mother whose family history collection was passed on to him. Upon seeing his great grandfather's picture in full Union Army Blues, his curiosity was peaked and genealogy has become his labor of love. Arnie joined the Owen Family Association in 1994, attended the Fifth Biannual Reunion in Shelbyville, KY. He has been elected the Association's President four times. His goals for the Association are to increase membership, improve the current web site, promote the DNA project, encourage the sharing of genealogical data and promote research excellence. Arnie is also a member of the the America Legion, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Co. B 26th Pennsylvania Veterans Reserve as well as many historical and genealogical societies.

Arnie and Mary's home in Westtown PA sets on land that was settled by William Penn and once trod by Revolutionary soldiers at the Battle of Brandywine. The Owens are "snow birds" and spend the cold winter months at their place in sunny Port Charlotte, FL. [Read more officer biographies in coming issues of the *Owen Family News*.]

Feature Article

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM OWEN AND DRUCILLA ECHOLS**Part 4—Continued from Volume 18, No. 4****Researched, written and edited by C. Owen Johnson**

The youngest orphan child of Garland Owen and Sally Woolbright was John Owen. The author owns photostats of all family entries in the John Garland Owen Bible. The relevant entries are: (birth) Jno G. Owen was born Sept. 14th 1818 in Wilkes County, Georgia; (marriage) Jno G. Owen and Susan R. Frazer were married on Monday, January 23rd 1843 at 4 o'clock PM by the Rev. W.T. Brantley, Jr., in Augusta, Georgia; (death) Jno G. Owen departed this life on the 25th day of September 1867 aged 49 years and 3 days. The Bible owned by John Garland Owen's father-in law, William Milligan Frazer, adds as additional information, that John G. Owen died on board the steamboat *Mist* at Gardner's Island, Alabama River". These Bible records are published in *Be It Known and Remembered Bible Records*, Volume One, published in 1960 by the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society and in Charles Owen Johnson, *Genealogy of Several Allied Families* (New Orleans 1961).

Pasted in the back of the William Milligan Frazer Bible are three obituaries from newspapers. The first says Captain Owen's name was as "familiar as a household word" on the Alabama River between Mobile and Montgomery. It mentions his death at Selma on 25 September 1867 and says he was 49 years old. It speaks of "his many friends throughout Alabama and Georgia."

The second obituary adds little. The death of Capt. John Owen, first Clerk of the Steamer *Mist* and an old Steamboat man was reported by Captain Johnson of the Steamer *Mist*.

The third obituary mentions that Capt. Frank Johnson reported to Capt. Cox, President of the Trade Company the death of Capt. John G. Owen "one of the oldest, if not the best of our river clerks.... For a period of nearly thirty years the deceased has been identified with steamboats and steam-boating, sometimes Captain, but generally Clerk, standing among the latter confessedly at the top of the list.... He was, we should think, near fifty years of age, he spent a portion of the summer at the springs near Gadsden, resident of Mobile for over thirty years..."

On 8 December, 1891, Kate Lee Owen, a daughter of John Garland Owen and Susan Frazer, was married to Dr. Frederick Wespy, who was born in Gotha, Germany. From the University of Strasbourg in France he received, not only a Ph.D Degree, but also an M.D. Degree. In 1893 he was elected Professor of Greek and German at Newcomb College. He retired in 1918 and is buried with Kate Lee Owen in the John Garland Owen plot in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile. Helen A. Thompson *Magnolia Cemetery 1828-1971*, page 13; John P. Dyer *Tulane: The Biography of University 1834-1965*, page 98; *The Tulane News Bulletin*, Volume 9, October 1928, No. 1, pages 3-5; *The New Orleans Daily Picayune* 1 February 1913.

The same Episcopal priest who married them in 1891 buried Kate Lee Owen Wespy twenty-one years later. He was Dr. A. Gordon Bakewell, Rector of Trinity Chapel in New Orleans. Interestingly, his aunt, Lucy Bakewell, has been written about as the wife of the well-known artist and ornithologist, John James Audubon.

The railroad career of Charles Wheadon Owen is chronicled in *Biographical and Historical Memories of Northwest Louisiana* (1890), page 584, and in his obituary in the *Times Picayune* of June 10, 1934. He was agent for the Union Pacific and Texas Pacific Railroads in New Iberia, Louisiana, where his son, Chauncey Hall Owen (named after his uncle Chauncey, but always called "Chancey") was born in 1887. He was later freight agent in Opelousas, Louisiana. In 1905 he moved to New Orleans, becoming Assistant General Freight Agent and later General Freight Agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad. In 1920 he was made Assistant General Freight Traffic Manager of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Chancey Owen somewhat paralleled his father's career. In 1907 he began work with the Lake Charles and Northern Railroad. In 1908 he joined the local freight office of the Southern Pacific Lines in New Orleans, remaining in the City until 1937 when he moved to Houston as Assistant Freight Traffic Manager, the post from which his father retired.

On page 584 in the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana* (1890) is a sketch of the life of C. W. Owen. It notes he was the son of John Owen "... the father a native of Georgia but who resided in Mobile, Alabama the principal part of his life. He was a Steamboat man and the owner of several steamers".

On page 330 of *Way's Packet Directory* 1848-1983 by Frederick Way, Jr., is this item of interest"

"Montgomery. Side-wheel packet, wood hull built at New Albany, Indiana 1843. 407 tons. Went to Mobile, Alabama. Returned to New Orleans February 1850, Capt. J. H. Estes, Master and owned at Mobile by John G. Owen and F. M. Johnson. Ran New Orleans-Vicksburg. Burned at New Carthage, Mississippi 33 miles below Vicksburg, Nov. 7, 1851."

As we saw above, John G. Owen was married to Susan R. Frazer in Augusta, Georgia on January 23, 1843 by the Reverend W. T. Brantley, Jr. who was pastor of the Greene Street Baptist Church, founded in 1819 by his father, William Theophilus Brantley, Sr. At the time of the Owen marriage, the maternal uncle of Mr. Brantley, Jr., Honorable Charles J. McDonald, was the Governor of Georgia. The Reverend Mr. Brantley, Jr. was a graduate of Brown University. Later he was a professor at the University of Georgia, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Atlanta, pastor of a Baptist Church in Baltimore, editor of *The Christian Index* and associate editor of the *Religious Herald*.

When she died in 1850, the obituary of Maria Susannah Purdy (wife of William Milligan Frazer and mother of Susannah Rebecca (Frazer) Owen) noted she had been a resident of Mobile the last five years (thus, since 1845) and had been a member of the St. Francis Street Baptist Church there. Susannah's father, William Milligan Frazer, was one of seven men appointed in 1828 to translate the Huguenot Church's liturgy from French to English. Susannah's grandfather, John Milligan Frazer, is buried in the Churchyard of the Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Three children of John Garland Owen were baptized in Christ Episcopal Church in Mobile—Martina Harper Owen (born 1847); John Owen (born 1849); Chauncey Hall Owen (born 1851). These children were all baptized on 1 April 1853.

In 1855, John G. Owen and Susan R. Owen became parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church in Mobile. In 1856 William N. (should be M.) Frazer and Mrs. Ann Frazer became parishioners. The last named person is Mrs. Ann Hardy, Widow, whom William Milligan Frazer married in 1856.

The following Owen children were baptized in St. John's Episcopal Church:

Kate Lee Owen (born 1854, baptized 1855)
William Frazer Owen (1856)
Francis Stone Owen (1859)
Robert Otis Owen (1861)
(Charles) Wheadon Owen (born 1864, baptized 1865)

Several others of the John Garland Owen family had railroad careers. His namesake, John Garland Owen, Jr., worked in Houston in the 1880's for the Texas and New Orleans Railroad, of which his mother's first cousin, Josiah Crosby, was Vice President and General Manager. The Texas and New Orleans Railroad later formed that part of the Southern Pacific Railway System between New Orleans and Houston. On May 18, 1880, John Garland Owen, Jr. married Margaret Allen (known as "Maggie" Allen) in Houston. She was the daughter of Henry R. Allen, who served in the Texas Legislature and the niece of the two men who, in 1837, founded Houston, Texas—Major John Kirby Allen and Augustus C. Allen. These Owens are buried in the Henry R. Allen plot (Lot #134 and 135-1/2, Section E) Glenwood Cemetery, 2525 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX.

Robert Otis Owen, a son of Captain John Garland Owen, had a lifetime career with the New Orleans

and Northeastern Railroad Company, principally as a conductor between New Orleans and Meridian, Mississippi. As a result of receiving “tips” on wise investments from businessmen riding the railroad, Mr. Owen left, not only a beautiful home at 3606 Chestnut Street on his death, but a sizeable fortune, largely in bank stocks. His wife, Mary Ann Armstrong, was the daughter of William Armstrong, a native of Allegheny, Pennsylvania and “a builder and architect of high repute in New Orleans”, *Evening Picayune*, 31 October 1866; *Daily Picayune*, 31 October 1866.

Martina Harper Owen, a daughter of Captain John Garland Owen, married Frank Strong Vincent (a native of Erie City, Pennsylvania. See *Our Family of Vincents* (1924) by Boyd Vincent, in Mobile, Alabama. Their son, Frank Massey Vincent, was born in New Orleans on 2 February 1873. Frank Strong Vincent is shown by the New Orleans City Directories to have worked as a clerk and bookkeeper for the Southern Express Company, a cotton clerk with the Texas and Pacific Railroad and as a clerk in the Auditor’s Department of the Southern Pacific Railway. The Vincents are buried with an infant son, Garland Vincent, in the John Garland Owen plot in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile.

The life of William Frazer Owen is ably chronicled in *Who’s Who in America* every year from 1916 to the year of his death in 1943 and also in *Who’s Who in America*, Volume II, 1943-1950. For many years he served in various capacities—President of the New Orleans, Crowley and Western Railroad, Assistant to the President and General Manager of the Mobile, Jackson and Kansas City Railroad, Vice President, General Manager and President of the New Orleans, Mobile and Chicago Railroad and President and General Manager of the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad and of the Meridian and Memphis Railroad.

When great-uncle Will Owen visited my parents in October, 1941, not long before he died at 87, I asked him who the father of his father, John Garland Owen, was. He told me “Garland Owen”. Thinking he was confused, I repeated my question and he repeated his answer. Garland Owen was the father of John Garland Owen.

The Owen Bible says “John G. Owen was born September 14th, 1818 in Wilkes County, Georgia”. A letter from Judge Edgar L. Smith of Wilkes County, Georgia to Owen Johnson, dated 10 November 1941, states “I have examined the records in this office and found there was only one John Owen, of whom there is any record, mentioned as a minor about 1825, or only the one who could be your John Owen. The records do not name him as John U. Owen, or John Garland Owen. It is quite possible that this is your John Garland Owen, as the father of the John here was named Garland Owen... Since your John G. Owen also left Wilkes County, I am inclined to think this was your John G. (emphasis supplied).

On page 119 of *Wilkes County Papers 1773-1833*, Robert Scott Davis Jr., is a note of an 1830 tuition payment for Jacob Woolbright’s ward, John Owen, described as “orphan age 15”. This would make him born in 1815 presumably. The 1850 and 1860 censuses are equally imprecise. The 1850 census of the City of Mobile shows J. U. Owen was 31 years old, or born in 1819. The 1860 census of the City of Mobile, Ward No. 6, shows John G. Owen was 39 years old, or born in 1821.

On 1 January 1836, John G. Owen of the County of Wilkes and State of Georgia, sold his brother-in-law, Harris C. Jackson, his interest in land in Early County drawn by the orphans of Garland Owen, deceased. On 24 June 1836 there was an election for a Colonel to command the 18th Regiment of Georgia Militia, Wilkes County. Paul J. Semmes was elected Colonel. A member of Washington Precinct was Jno. G. Owen. From these records of 1836 until the birth of his first child, Jo Hunter Owen, on Christmas Day, 1845, in Mobile, the only record we had was of his 1843 marriage in Augusta, Georgia.

From pages 38 and 39 of *Selma: Her Institutions and Her Men*, by John Hardy, we find a record of 1840. The Whig, William Henry Harrison runs against Democrat Martin Van Buren for the Presidency. The Whigs organize a “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too” Club. John Tyler ran for Vice President on the Harrison ticket. The Treasurer of the Whig Club was John G. Owen. The President of the Whig Club was Josephus D. Echols, M.D., who had owned land in Wilkes County, Georgia adjoining the land of Uriah Owen. Rebecca Echols Terry, *Echols Notes*, volume Two, pages 67-69. While the principal part of the Alabama life of Captain John Garland Owen was spent in Mobile, it is ironical that the beginning and end of his Alabama life was in Selma. (to be continued).

Reuben Pickett Owen and His Descendants

Son of William and Drucilla Echols Owen

Researched and compiled by Lee Gentemenn and Josephine Moeller
Written and edited by Karen Grubaugh

Adrian Boone Owen, the third child of Reuben Pickett and Patsy Wells Owen, was born near Lexington, KY on 26 Jul 1805. Adrian's early years were spent in Hickman and Hopkins counties, KY. While Adrian's main occupation was farming, he was also a preacher of sorts with the Baptist denomination.

In 1835, he married Judith Thompson on 10 Feb 1835 in Johnson Co., AR. Although married in AR, Judith, born in 10 Mar 1818 in St. Genevieve, MO, was a native of Missouri and it was in MO where the young couple settled. They may have spent some time in KY as the 1850 census reports KY as the birthplace of their first child, Sophia Walton Owen, however, the 1860 census shows Sophia Owen Lewis as having been born in MO. Judith's father was a Scottish fur trader whose name is believed to have been George Thompson, a very common fur trader's name. Her mother's family, of French descent, was part of the Arcadian migration from Canada through the French territories to Louisiana. After her parents died, Judith was reared by her Uncle Burton. Upon his move to Texas, she remained in Arkansas with her older sister's Clayton family. While living with her sister, Judith met and married Adrian Owen.

Adrian and Judith Owen moved from Stoddard CO., MO to Fall Creek Township in Lane County, OR before 1870 as evidenced by the 1970 Federal Census. In 1880, they lived in Whitman Co., WA. Adrian died April 7, 1888 in Colfax, WA. His obituary, published in the Palouse Gazette, Colfax Co., WA states that he died in his home in Big Bend, WA. The body was brought to Almota, WA for burial while the funeral sermon, given at the Baptist Church, was delayed until the following Sunday. Adrian died the day before his grandson, Homer Ringer of Rebel Flat.

Note: Birth and death information for Judith Thompson Owen was supplied by Lulu R. Almen's research as handed down to Rose Marie Williams from Mary Auvil, from Ruth Eltzroth Hallowell.

The Reuben Pickett Owen, Sr. descendancy as compiled by Lee Gentemenn and Jody Moeller.

Husband: Adrian Boone Owen, b. near Lexington, KY, d. 7 April 1888 at Colfax, Whitman, WA; s/o Reuben Pickett Owen Martha Wells Owen.

Wife: Judith L. Thompson, b. 10 Mar 1818 St. Genevieve, MO, d. 20 Jul 1895, Almota, Whitman Co., WA d/o George Thompson.

Married 10 Feb 1835, Johnson Co. AR

Children:

1. Sophia Walton Owen, b. 9 Dec 1834, Hickman Co., KY; d. 20 Nov 1916, Spokane, Spokane Co., WA; m. Lewis Mathias Ringer 22 Sep, 1859 at Bloomfield, Stoddard Co., MO.
2. Margaret Clarissa Owen, b. Dec 1838, MO; d. 1013, Whitman Co., WA; m. James Virgil O'Dell 1859, Stoddard Co., MO.
3. Theresa K. "Babe" Owen, b. 13 Nov 1840, MO; d. 8 Oct 1901 Colfax, Whitman WA; m. John Thomas Ringer 17 Aug 1865, Stoddard Co., MO.
4. Sarah V. "Sally" Owen, b. 25 Mar 1843, MO; d. 14 Sep 1912, Colfax, Whitman Co., WA; m. Leonard T. Bragg, 14 Mar 1867, Stoddard Co., MO.
5. Elizabeth B. "Eliza" Owen, b. 1842, MO; d. 26 Oct 1926, Walla Walla, Walla Walla Co., WA; m. (1) George J. Buys 14 Dec. 1867, Bloomfield, Stoddard Co., MO; (2) Benjamin Brown Sanborn in 1891.
6. Judith Thompson "Dude" Owen, b. 19 Nov. 1847, Bloomfield, Stoddard Co., MO; d. 17 Nov 1883, Almota, Whitman Co., WA; m. M. Alfred Eltzroth, 2 May 1867, Bloomfield, Stoddard Co., MO.
7. Mary Owen, b. 1850, MO; d. young.
8. Reuben Pickett Owen, b. 5 April 1856, MO; d. 31 Jan, 1932, Portland, Multnomah, OR.

There were three more sons and two more daughters who died in infancy for whom there are no records.

Welcome New Members

Betty Jane Owen-Dingus (#326) of 1592 Dylan Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464, (757) 479-4840, VABJ@cox.net. Betty's earliest known Owen ancestor is Jacob Owens b. ca. 1784 who married Mary "Polly" Sharp.

Dorothy Elizabeth Owen Fritz (#327) of 227 Kinnger Hill Rd., Benton, PA 17814-9264, (570) 925-6723, todf@dfnow.com. Dorothy's earliest known Owen ancestor is George Owen, b. 1817 in New York whose wife was Eliza.

Beverly Widdle (#328) of 6150 Overlook, Clarkson, MI 48846, (248) 625-9063, BEVWEDD@AOL.com. Beverly's earliest known Owen ancestor is William Owen who was married to Drucilla Echols.

Chris Hanlin (#329) of 4522 Hector AV, Cincinnati, OH, 45227, (513) 271-6883, chanlin@earthlink.com. Chris's earliest known Owen ancestor is William Owen [1782-1850] whose wife was Elizabeth Norwood.

Edgar R. Owen (#330) of 149 Longview AV, Danville, VA 24541-6523, (434) 822-0691, 149longview@adelphia.net. Edgar's earliest known Owen ancestor is John Thomas Owen who married Elizabeth Conner. No dates available.

Jim Cantrell (#331) of P O Box 417, Bardstown, KY 40004, (502) 348-6488, bardart@bardstowncable.net. Jim's earliest known Owen ancestor is Samuel W. Owens b. 2 Feb 1853 and d. 1920 in AR whose wife was Senora McNich.

If you have information about these Owen(s) lines, please contact the member.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For information or an application for membership, please e-mail ArnieOwen@AOL.com or write to: Owen Family Association c/o Arnold Owen P O BOX 692, Westtown, PA 19395-0692 (winter address).

Let's Communicate: Queries, Queries, We Want Queries!

Send your queries to Karen Grubaugh, Editor.
111 Stonegate North, Boene TX 78006 or kleegrubaugh@yahoo.com

Ben Owens of 303 Harris Dr., Greenwood, MO 64034 would like information on **Abner and Thomas Owen** who lived in Brunswick County, VA in 1810. They are listed in the 1810 census of that county. Ben would like to know anything about them and their families.

Mildred Cuellar of 24904 Minnie Court, Hayward, CA 94541-69410 seeks ancestry information for **Philip Owen** b. bet. 1748-1750, m. Ursula Brooks, 25 April 1770 near Lynchburg, Bedford Co., VA. Daughter, **Mary Owen** b. 2 June 1788 near Lynchburg, Bedford Co., VA d, 5 March 1848 Harrisonville, Van Buren (Cass) Co., KY m. 13 March 1808, Lynch Brooks, M.D., b. 18 June 1785 near Abingdon, Washington Co., VA, d. 24 Jan 1847 Harrisonville, Van Buren Co., MO. Lynch Brooks' father served in Revolutionary War.

Richard Hart of 333 Mountain View Dr., #95, Talent, Oregon 97540 wants to solve the mystery surrounding the **Jeter/Owen** connection. Mr. Hart, author of *The Jeter Mosaic*, would like to know about your Jeter/Owen connection, if any. He is also looking for more information regarding the Feb., 1919 double murder of **Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Owen**, details were published in Vol. 15.2, July 2000 *Owen Family Newsletter*. **Miss Willie Jeter** was living with her aunt and uncle, **Mr. & Mrs. T.C. Owen** at the time of their murder. In addition to **Willie, Jeter**, Mr. Hart is seeking information about any **Laura Owen**. Can you help him?

Have you been helped by this query column? Tell your editor. She wants to know all the details.

Researching Kentucky Marriage Records

by Karen Grubaugh

Many of our Owen ancestors traveled from the original thirteen colonies to Kentucky. There we often look for records that will complete our research. Kentucky marriage records are particularly helpful. For those who search online, go to <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/usa/KY/misc.html>, to find many Kentucky e-mail lists and their archives. For example, on the list for South-Central KY, Sandy Gorin regularly contributes accurate transcriptions of records from Allen, Barren, Cumberland, Edmonson, Green, Hardin, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, and Warren counties, Kentucky. It was in one of Sandy Gorin's postings that I found the marriage record which proved a suspected Owen relationship. Searching the archives of the lists is helpful.

Other online Kentucky resources include <http://ukcc.uky.edu/~vitalrec/> where you can search the vital records of Kentucky which includes a marriage index. To order copies of the records, go to <http://www.vitalrec.com/ky.html>. At <http://www.vitalrec.com/kylinks.html> you will find links to other Kentucky resources. There you will find marriage record links: (1) *Northern Kentucky Marriages, 1795-1850* (2) *Kentucky Marriages to 1850* and (3) *Kentucky Marriages, 1851-1900*.

Once you have located your Kentucky marriage record the following definition of terms will be useful. The Marriage Bond bound the prospective groom and his surety [or bondsman] to pay a fine if the marriage did not take place. The surety was usually a family member or close friend. Do not overlook this important record as much genealogical information can be found in these bonds including parents name, place of birth, age, occupation and the line. The Permission Slip was required if the bride and/or groom were under age. It was necessary to prove to the County Clerk that their parent or guardian has no objection to the marriage. Permission could be given in person which would be noted on the bond or a written consent may be found to accompany the bond. The Marriage License certifies that the marriage took place. It usually includes the names of the bride and groom, the witnesses and clergy as well as the date of the marriage. The minister who performed the ceremony was required to return the certificate to the courthouse to be recorded. However, most ministers served several counties and it is not unusual to find the bond in one county and the returned license in another. You can see how important it is to ask for all of the documents pertaining to a marriage when ordering marriage information. [*Kentucky Kinfolk*]

Marriage records prior to 1911 from Kentucky can be ordered from the individual county clerk. Marriage records after 1911 can be ordered from the Office of Vital Statistics, 275 East Main Street 1E-A, Frankfort, KY 40621. You can call or fax at (502) 564-4212, Fax: (502) 227-0032. [<http://www.vitalrec.com/ky.html#State>]

A Farewell to Lew Owens

From OFA member Lewis Owen's widow, Marilyn, we received a note that read, "Lew died August 17, 2003 after a courageous battle with cancer. He enjoyed searching family history for many years." To Marilyn and the family we extend our deepest sympathy. The obituary, in part, in the Lexington KY *Herald Leader* on August 19, 2003, follows.

Lewis Marsden Owens, 74, of 2824 Dan Patch Dr., Lexington, KY died Sunday, August 17, 2003. The son of Clifford M. and Lola Pearl Robertson Owens, both deceased, he was born May 23, 1929 in Russell, KY. He is survived by Marilyn Ann Hammond Owens, his wife of 53 years, and three children Cathie Ann Liles (J.T.III), Germantown, TN, Judy Lynn Pelfrey, and L. Michael Owens (Jeanne) of Lexington, KY. He has five grandchildren, two great grandsons, a brother, two special nieces and many other family members in the Lexington area. Lewis was a member, elder and trustee of Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church. He worked in the radio communication engineering field for forty-four years ending his career by teaching at Central Kentucky Technical College. Throughout his life he never forgot his roots and after many years of research done with his wife, Marilyn, they published *My Kentucky Kinfolk*.

Lew rests in Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, KY.

The Owen Family Association salutes one of our own . . .

A Hero Comes Home

Pfc. Ewing Elmer Fidler June 1, 1925 – Dec. 16, 1944

On 14 December 1944, they were called *Battle Babies* by the war weary soldiers they relieved. But on 16 December 1944, it was the soldiers not the *Battle Babies* of the 2nd Battalion/394th Infantry Regiment [2/394],



USA, who awoke to the artillery barrage that began the *The Battle of the Bulge* [a.k.a. The Battle of the Ardennes and/or Battle at Bastogne]. Among these young soldiers was the great grandson of Samuel Tine Owen, Ewing Elmer Fidler. Pvt. Fidler was a rifleman with Company E of the 394th and a special duty runner for the 3rd platoon. This involved sprinting between foxholes and front lines with military orders and instructions. Pvt. Fidler died that day, in the service of his country, injured, perhaps, while running vital orders from fox hole to fox hole. He and his two buddies were injured, taken to the first aid station where they died on that cold December day. The first aid station became their grave as their bodies laid there for 56+ years, missing in action.



Ardennes, Belgium

ing in action.

On June 1, 2001 three members of the *MIA Project*, Jean Philippe, Marc Marique, and Jean-Louis Seel, *the diggers*, discovered the skeletal remains of Pvt. Ewing Fidler in what they believed to be the first-aid-station. Jean-Louis Seel, reports it [<http://www.99div.com/4digreport.html>] this way,



Foxhole at Ardennes

. . . after nine years of no success . . . now, 40 days after *88 Hill*, a fourth man was located. Yes, we had located the body of Sgt. Zimmerman about ten feet from his dog tag. Now it was time to exhume the remains. . . . in taking up the dirt around a snow boot, something harder was hit, a skull. Two men were buried in that hole, side by side but reversed. The surprise was not over. Mark working on the other side, finally located the skull but soon, found another next to it . . . three men in the hole. . . . On Sgt. Zimmerman's overcoat were found sargeant's stripes and in one of his pockets, was a comb with a name scratched-Goble [Raymond Goble was Fred Zimmerman's brother-in-law]. Stanley Larson's boot had a laundry number painted inside, L-6476. Nothing special was recovered with Ewing Fidler, except a few coins and an eight-round clip, but he was a very short man easily identifiable. Three days later, Marc found one of his dogtags a few feet away from the hole.

The US Army was notified of the discovery.



Church At Krinkelt, Belgium

On June 12th an Army mortuary team from Landstuhl, Germany worked the site, "sifting dirt from the hole and surface around. A few more small bones and teeth were collected. During these two days, we emptied the believed-to-be-[first aid]-station hole. . . . On June 28th, the three men were put in individual caskets draped with US flags. The three caskets were then put in the Krinkelt church and a wonderful ceremony took place the following day. Among the

guests were U.S. Ambassador Brauer and his wife. Three certificates of death were given to the Ambassador, official procedure before their move to Germany and then to the U.S.A. Yes, a job well done, only realizing it when the caskets were put in the hearses and departed the church. . . . strong emotions [came] in saying good-bye to them.

Ewing E. Fidler was born in Konawa, Oklahoma exactly 76 years before the discovery of his remains, June 1, 2001. Upon coming home, he was laid to rest with full military honors on 6 June 2002, at Rose



An Owen soldier comes home . . .



. . . laid to rest at Rosedale Cemetery, Ada, Oklahoma



Full military honors with 15 gun salute

dale Cemetery in Ada, Oklahoma , next to his parents, in the plot his family bought 56 years before. His parents predeceased his return, but his sister Thelma Fidler Ganc knew he was coming home before her death in 2002. His next of kin, Charles E. Fidler, was officially notified on 6 January 2002 by the U. S. Army that Pvt. Fidler's remains had been found, identified and would be shipped home. The young church going, Eagle Scout, trumpet playing army runner was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge posthumously.

We fellow Owen descendants who benefit from the freedom for which he fought, salute him and his family in deep gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice of Private Ewing Elmer Fidler.

Photo credit: Ardennes, Belgium, <http://www.drive-alive.co.uk/images/ardennes.jpg> <http://webpages.charter.net/lindacovington/ardennesphotos.htm> Foxhole <http://webpages.charter.net/lindacovington/ardennesphotos.htm> Krinkelt Church photo—Photographs Courtesy of Pierre Constant, Brussels, Belgium; Funeral Photos courtesy of Charles E. Fidler.

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The Owen Family Association was organized in 1981.

The objectives of the association are:

- ? To establish and document as complete a list of descendants of Owen and allied families as possible.
- ? To collect a narrative history of individual family lines of descent .
- ? To compile and maintain a listing of cemeteries, homes and other buildings and sites associated with Owen and allied families.
- ? To publish and distribute a periodic newsletter.
- ? To bring members of the family association together for periodic reunions.
- ? To aid association members to establish their family line and assist them in joining hereditary and patriotic societies, if they so desire.
- ? To ultimately produce a volume documenting the verified family histories.
- ? To provide publications to Genealogy Libraries in order to assist Owen researchers.

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