Contents

Introduction
Acknowledgements
John Owens I Family Chart

John Owens I Indian Trader 1
John Owens I Wives and family 12

Children of John Owens I

David Owens Sr. 16
David Owens Children 29
Agnes Owens 37
Susannah Owens 40
Captain George Owens 44
George Jr. and Thomas Owens 50

The Children of John Owens II 55
John Owens III 70
David Owens 75
Hannah Owens 78
Sarah Owens 82
Vincent Owens 85
George Owens 86
Mary Owens 89
James D. Owens 91
Children of James D. Owens

Josias Owens or Josiah 102
John D. Owens 107
Julia Ann Owens 109
William F. Owens 112
David V. Owens 151
Hannah Owens 155

Possible Children of James D. Owens?
Robert S. Owens and George W. Owens 159

Children of William F. Owens
James Harvey Owens 119
John W. Owens 127
Mary E. Owens 133
Francis Isabelle Owens 140
George F. Owens 143
Josephine Owens 146

Booths Creek Owens family 167
Owens Family Harrison and Monongalia West Virginia 170
Owens DNA Testing 180

Appendix
More David Owens Information A-1
Survey Maps A-7
Introduction

The Owens family history begins with John Owens I the Indian Trader. He stated that in about 1744 he had witnessed the exchange between Paul Pearce, and a Chief of the Five Nations, of wampum for Indian land. We don't know where he was born or exactly when. The only thing we know is he was in Pennsylvania from the 1740's. DNA testing, along with a statement by a contemporary, suggests he was Scots Irish. A man with the surname McEwen is a match for John Owens' descendants who have taken the Y DNA test. The surname Owens, in our family line, may have derived from the Scottish name McEwen. All of the current matches in the Owens Y DNA study suggest Scots Irish origins. This could change as more men test. ¹

The Owens family was part of a group of settlers that preferred living on the edge of white settlement. This group was constituted of people like those who first settled Western Pennsylvania. Trading with the Native Americans helped these settlers provide for their families. John Owens I pursued the Indian Trade as an occupation. Some settlers traded with the Natives in a casual way trading what they produced. Traders like John Owens I traded commercially produced goods from merchants like Bayton, Wharton, and Morgan of Philadelphia. The Indian Traders ventured well beyond white settlement. John Owen I traded in the Ohio Valley which was beyond the 1763 Proclamation line for white settlement. Indian Traders like John I ventured as many as 500 miles passed the line of settlement. Their familiarity with areas like the Ohio Valley meant that they, and their families, were the first permanent white settlers of areas in Ohio, and Indiana.

¹ John Owens, "Deposition," (Book, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 1769), Darlington Autograph Collection; University of Pittsburgh, ULS Digital Collections.
The European traders were trading merchandise like blankets, and sometimes rum and guns, for fur pelts. The fur trade began in earnest in the 1740’s when the market for fur was increasing as was the price. We first find our John Owens I Indian Trader in the records in the 1740’s when the fur trade became something comparable to the later Gold Rushes. “Britain's blockade of French ports in the 1740’s (during King George’s War, between the French and English, part of the War of Austrian Succession) made the few French trade goods reaching Ohio Country prohibitively expensive; this resulted in a bonanza for the Pennsylvania British traders...” ² The Colonial American fur traders were in competition with the French for the Indian Trade. Ever changing alliances with the Indians meant fluctuations in trade.

The freewheeling fur trade began to change after the French and Indian Wars. The 1763 Proclamation set limits on the traders. Regulations would now be placed on the them. In order to trade with the Indians the traders now had to put up security. They would likely put up their land as security. If they didn’t abide by regulations they would forfeit their security.

The Proclamation read as follow:

"And we do, by the Advice of our Privy Council, declare and enjoin, that the Trade with the said Indians shall be free and open to all our Subjects whatever, provided that every Person who may incline to Trade with the said Indians do take out a Licence for carrying on such Trade from the Governor or Commander in Chief of any of our Colonies respectively where such Person shall reside, and also give Security to observe such Regulations as We shall at any Time think fit, by ourselves or by our Commissaries to be appointed for this Purpose, to direct and appoint for the Benefit of the said Trade:

The Continental Congress of 1775 placed more restrictions on the Indian Trade: “And we do hereby authorize, enjoin, and require the Governors and Commanders in Chief of all our Colonies respectively, as well those under Our immediate Government as those under the Government and Direction of Proprietaries, to grant such Licences without Fee or Reward, taking especial Care to insert therein a Condition, that such Licence shall be void, and the Security forfeited in case the Person to whom the same is granted

shall refuse or neglect to observe such Regulations as We shall think proper to prescribe as aforesaid."

“The year 1775 saw the first beginning of the slow evolution of a government system for trade with the Indians, when a committee of congress was appointed to devise a plan of operation. In the next year the purchase of goods for the trade was ordered and all unlicensed trade was prohibited. At this point we find the Owens family settling down in Western Pennsylvania, and putting down roots there. John Owens I had traded items such as guns, and rum for fur pelts. The US government wanted to control the trade and end the trade in banned goods. This spelled the end of the trade for the Owens family.

Looking at John Owens I and his family we see that the Indian Trade dictated where the family lived. Unlike the majority of Americans in the colonial era who farmed and settled in one place, John I and his family moved around with the trade, living near tribal villages. We see the family on lists with other traders and their families. John Owen I and II both apply for land warrants for land in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in the 1760’s. There is no mention of the family in land records before then. The family makes claims for land in the Aughwick area of Cumberland County because there are trading paths cutting through there. For this reason traders and merchants made their bases there.

Here we see John Owens name listed on a survey map with land next to the trader George Croghan.


Farming families in colonial America would journey when they migrated, when they transacted business, or took their produce to market. They did not make these journeys on a frequent basis like the Owens family. In 1769 John Owens I made the journey from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania to Philadelphia where he signed the Paul Pearce affidavit.⁵

We see these trading families migrating west over time, and settling near one another.

The 1763 Proclamation also prohibited the purchasing of land from the Native Americans beyond the Proclamation Line. It is unknown how John Owens I the received

---

⁵ John Owens, "Deposition," (Book, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 1769), Darlington Autograph Collection; University of Pittsburgh, ULS Digital Collections.
title to his early land purchases. He, like George Croghan, may have purchased land from the tribes. Below we see a deed from the Chiefs of the Six Nations. I have not found a deed from the Six Tribes to John Owens? He may have received land from the tribes too?

Here we see Chiefs of the Six Nations signing the deeds with their marks. One Chief used a pipe as his mark.

The fact that the Owens family had relationships with Native Americans is unusual. I assume many white Americans were afraid of them? Few Americans had any ties to the Native American communities at all, as we can see in DNA test results. Latin Americans have a high percentage of Native American admixture, whereas most Americans have either trace amounts of Native admixture, or none at all.

---

The unusual occupation of Indian Trader shaped this family for generations as you will notice when reviewing their history.
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all of the awesome Owens researchers who have contributed to our knowledge of the Owens family. I would like to especially thank Karen De Groote, David Negus, Pamela Owens, Cheryl Yates (she also provided tombstone photos) Patti Gordon, Justin Owens, Sophia Preston, and Jonathan Loppnow (just to name a few) who have provided documentation for our Owens lines. A genealogy without documentation is just a work of fiction.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken a DNA test investing their time and money to help prove family relationships.

The “We’re Descendants of John Owens Indian Trader” Facebook group has been a great resource for sharing and preserving information. I would like to thank everyone in that group for collaborating on the Owens genealogy. Even if I haven’t mentioned you by name I really appreciate your contributions.

The following genealogy is my interpretation of the evidence found for these Owens’ family lines. Others have different theories regarding relationships. Practically all pre 1796 records for Monongalia County, Virginia were lost in a fire that year. Because of that loss we cannot prove some lines using documentation, and have to infer relationships. More documentary evidence may surface in the future and this genealogy will need to be updated.
We don't know exactly when John Owens's children were born. It appears that most of his children were born around the decade of the 1740s.

If you have additional information,
Please Contact: annettekapple@gmail.com
John Owens I the Indian Trader first appears on our stage in 1748 as an unlicensed trader. 1

He was in western Pennsylvania in 1751, in Logstown (near present day Pittsburgh), when he is present at a treaty making involving the Six Nations (Iroquois), Delawares, Shawnee, Owendatts, and Twightwees. This treaty was made in May 1751. George Croghan gave a speech. Here is a snippet from that speech.

“Friends and Brethren I am sent here by your Brother the Governor of Pennsylvania with this Present of Goods to renew the Friendship so long subsisting between Us and I present you these four strings of Wampum to clear your Minds and open your Eyes and Ears that you may see the Sun clear and hear what your Brother is going to say to you.”

George Croghan was a major player in the Indian Trade and became an Indian Agent for the Ohio Country. John Owens appears mostly to have operated independently, and there is no evidence he had any traders working under him. George Croghan operated a large concession with a number of traders working under him including John Owens from time to time.

George Croghan stated that he witnessed John Owens signing many documents and was able to verify his signature in an affidavit. John Owens also stated that George Croghan gave him permission to settle on a tract of land in Aughwick. So John Owens

and George Croghan were well acquainted with one another.

George Croghan’s large investment in this trading enterprise, which included Scottish and Scots-Irish backers, necessitated keeping the lines of trade open with the Native population and keeping the peace. This network of traders stuck together. In spite of the competitive nature of the trade business the traders banded together for protection in the frontier areas. The reputable traders tried to police the frontier areas. George Croghan was said to have brought some lawbreaking traders to trial at his own expense. A fort was built in Pickawillany (in present day Ohio) where the Miami Indian base was located. The traders dug a well to supply the fort. John Owens was said to have traded among the Miami. He also traded at Lower Shawneetown.

To set the stage further disreputable traders could incite the Natives to anger as could the encroaching white population looking for farm land. The Ohio company was a land and trading company which was given land by the King of England, which was claimed by a perceived right to the land from sea to sea; the Colonies officially laid claim to the area after the Beaver Wars (1638-1684). The Ohio Company was obligated to bring in white settlers to receive the title to the entire area. Since the French had been trading in this area long before the British, the French felt they were entitled to this land. The French incited their Native allies to fight their adversary the British; and the British did likewise, inciting their own Native Allies. This dispute over entitlement to the Ohio Country led to continuous skirmishes which placed traders like John Owens in danger. Several traders were killed by the Natives and others were taken captive, as in 1744 when some traders were held captive. When the British officials cutback on the practice of gift giving to the Native American attacks also increased.

From a speech encouraging the Natives to trade with the British:

“Two Years ago made to you His Speech was That their Father the Governor of Canada desired his Children on Ohio to turn away the English Traders from amongst them and discharge them from ever coming to trade there again or on any of the Branches on Pain of incurring his Displeasure and to enforce that Speech he gave them a very large Belt of Wampum.”

The gist of the rest of the speech was an appeal to the Natives to trade with the British. The Natives actually preferred trading with the British because they offered higher quality trade goods.

These are the conditions which John Owens had to contend with during his career as an Indian Trader. As a trader he would have spent a good deal of time traveling through the Ohio Country with pack horses. In 1761 he is a resident at Fort Pitt, from that base presumably, he could safely continue trading during the French and Indian War. He lived in a household that included himself, and another man, and one
woman according to a 1761 Census. His stock for trade would have consisted of “firearms, gunpowder, lead ball, knives, flints, hatchets, rings, rum, medals, blades, leather, cooking utensils, shirts, and other articles of wearing apparel; tobacco, pipes, paint, etc. In return for these the Indians gave skins of various animals, which were made into valuable furs by Eastern merchants.”

“Some of the traders would run regular "caravans" of fifteen or twenty horses, making several trips during the year. It is impossible to give any definite account of the extent of this traffic, but it must have amounted to great value. Thousands of skins were doubtless furnished by the Indians at Pickawillany and their other Ohio towns.”

John Owens I also maintained a trading post at Tenmile Creek in Western PA. In 1757 John Owens sold a tract of land to Abraham Teagarden. It’s unknown who gave John title to that land since legally it wasn't available for colonial settlement at the time.

How John Owens came to become an Indian Trader is unknown. This line of work took capital to buy goods for trading. It also required certain level of sophistication. A man like William Trent, who came from a wealthy family, had no problem coming up with cash to buy trade goods. William partnered with George Croghan providing him with capital needed to expand his trading operation. It's possible that John Owens either came from a family with enough wealth to set him up in the trading business; or, most likely, he worked under another trader and gained the trust of merchants who would later grant him the credit needed to work as an independent agent. John I must have had a persuasive personality. He would have had to haggle with the Natives, and keep the merchants who provided him with goods happy.

There were many ways trade goods could be lost. They could be seized by force from the trader (which often happened because of the long running disputes with the French and Indians), they could be burned. They could be accidentally destroyed on the voyage to the Native villages. If the merchandise wasn't paid for the Trader would have to find another way to settle the debt. It would have taken a great deal of skill to navigate the frontier areas with a caravan of horses without mishaps, which could bring ruin.

John I lost smithing tools as can be seen in the accounting of his losses during the French and Indian Wars. He may have been a skilled gunsmith, or at least adept at repairing guns he used for trade. When the British outlawed the trade of guns with the Natives the animosity they felt towards the British increased. The Natives could use the guns as weapons, which was the reason for the ban on trade. The Natives also relied on the guns to hunt game, which created a hardship when the trade was halted.

---

2 The Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography, v. 6 (1882), “Pittsburgh in 1761” page 344
John Owens was one of the “Suffering Traders”. This group consisted of a group of traders who were looking for reimbursement for their losses during the French and Indian Wars. Losing his smithing tools and horses would have been serious losses, which would have handicapped his ability to carry on his trade. Here is a partial list of John’s losses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 horses taken at Monongahela</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sorrel Mare &amp; 3 Colts at Do</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Roan Mare at Ditto</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Paceing Mare at Do</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Paceing Stallions at Do</td>
<td>36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Young horse at Do</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Young Mare at Do</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Large Canoe at Do</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mares taken at Logstown</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Horses at Do</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mare &amp; 3 Colts at Do</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Canoe taken at Do</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A black pacing Mare at Do</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 horse taken at the Murdering Town</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Steel &amp; Smith Tools</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Owens lost around 25 horses during the French and Indian War. That would have been a terrible loss considering how much he would have relied on them to haul his goods. William Trent appealed to Benjamin Franklin in order to help recover losses suffered during the French and Indian War. William Trent shared a property line with John Owens in Aughwick. He kept a wonderful Journal which is a great source of information for this time period. The notorious incident, recounted in many histories of the time, regarding Fort Pitt personnel giving smallpox blankets to the Natives comes from his account. In 1749 the Ohio Company was given the Ohio Country concession in hopes of bringing in settlers to claim the area. Settlement of this frontier area required a great deal of preparation. Expeditions were sent to the area. John Owens and his possible son David were enlisted to help guide representatives from the colonies through the area and provide language interpretation. They met, or came to the attention of, some of the well known political figures, explorers, and colonial military personnel of that era including Benjamin Franklin, Colonel Bouquet, Sir William Johnson, George Rogers Clark etc.. The Owens family may have met George Washington?

Gen. Braddock built a military road from Maryland to Western PA before his defeat in 1755. George Washington and Christopher Gist had been working on this road previously as part of the Ohio Company settlement scheme. This road was originally an Indian path called Nemacolin's Path.
The French and Indian War ended the attempt at settlement. After the War the Colonial boundaries were redrawn. The Proclamation line created in 1763 moved the border separating Indian territory from the colonies far to the east until the 1768 treaty of Stanwix resulted in the border being redrawn extending the settlement line far to the west. Southwest Pennsylvania officially became part of colonial Pennsylvania as a result of this treaty. John Owens I being an intelligent and pragmatic man cut his losses and left Southwest Pennsylvania fleeing eastward after Braddock's defeat. Those foolish enough to remain were generally either killed or taken captive. John abandoned a settlement he made on Turkey Foot Creek where he built two cabins and planted Indian Corn. During the Indian War John Owens frantically tried to manage his affairs from Cumberland County. You can get a sense of what John Owen's state of mind would have been like during these difficult years when you read a power of attorney he granted in 1769. You do get a sense that the pressure and the uncertainty regarding the future was getting to him.3

An incident in 1764 resulted in John Owens I being physically attacked. According to a letter written by James McAllister, in Shippensburg, dated 26 March 1764 John Owens I was attacked by Indians. This letter stated "suddenly awakened by the Enemy beginning to Tomahawk says he saw an Indian strike old John Owens heard a great uproar but as was at the remotest part of their Encampment he made his Escape."

---

Violence surrounded the lives of John Owens I and his family. This 1760 letter, written in Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, outlines the murder of two Native Americans who were killed with an ax or tomahawk. An old trader is also mentioned in the letter because he knew the young man. A summary of what the letter said is “The Man was a Delaware & commonly known by the name of Doctor John, -- I have been told by an Old Trader he never was lik'd by his Nation, being by Some of them accounted a Wizard-- he generally lived among the white people until the Indian irruptions [sic] happened... amongst the White people he always had the Character of a Sassy insolent fellow...various Conjectures arise -- Some imagine the Squaw in a Drunken fit might do it... Others are of the Opinion that some of Our people... done the deed.”.

John I spent part of the time during French and Indian War years living in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania where he and his sons, John and David, purchased land. One of the sales deeds drawn up when some of his land was sold stated he and his son John made improvements to his land located on both sides of the Aughwick river. John Owens II later refers to his own Aughwick holdings in his will.
It appears that after the French and Indian War ended the Owens family returned to the Tenmile Creek area. A place of refuge for John Owens I during the French and Indian War was Fort Pitt. The British abandoned Fort Pitt in 1772. The British no longer wanted to pay for the defense of the American frontiers. The Americans were becoming increasingly dissatisfied with British rule and were unwilling to submit to taxation without representation, so would not contribute to the cost of defense. The abandonment of the Fort left a power vacuum in the area. Lord Dunmore of Virginia claimed the area as did the Pennsylvania Colony. Fort Pitt was later renamed Fort Dunmore and was a prison and court facility for the Virginia Colonial government. The rival court upholding the laws of Pennsylvania was located at Hannastown. David Owens appears in records for these courts.

The last British Major, to command the fort, Major Edmonstone, had this to say to someone upon leaving:

“The Major appears displeased with the manners of the people of this country In conversation on the parade he told me he had traveled through England Ireland France Germany and Holland but never knew what mankind were till he came to that station.”

John I staked settlements near trading route paths throughout central and southwest PA. It’s interesting to note that when he applied for a preemption warrant for one of these settlements, on White Lick Creek (before 1754), he stated he settled there before Washington’s defeat. When he sold his Turkey Foot land he stated he fled this settlement after Braddock’s defeat. On the frontier keeping track of dates would have been difficult. It seems dramatic events were easier for John I to mark time by.
John Owens I sold some of his land to an Episcopal Reverend named William Smith.

The deed to Smith stated, “I do hereby declare that before Braddocks Defeat I had built two good log houses & lived at a Place called Turkey Foot or 3 Forks of Yohisgeny & that I had cleared considerably and had several acres of Indian Corn in the ground at Braddocks Defeat when I was driven away from the said place...” George Croghan swore to the authenticity of John I’s signature stating that “he was well acquainted with the handwriting of John Owens...” This deed also signed in April of 1769 was likely signed when he was in Philadelphia for the deposition. It was recorded many years later in 1783 in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

George Croghan's statement on the deed, “John Owens who formerly lived at the forks of Yoghisgny late in service of the deponent as an Indian Trader having often seen the said John Owens write...” This statement verifies the fact John Owens worked for Croghan as a trader.
John Owens I was in court several times in Cumberland County for debts he owed in the 1750’s (these Circuit Court records were collected and copied by David Negus).

Here George Croghan makes a statement to the court regarding John Owens skipping out on a debt to Richard Hockley & Company. He owed them 40 shillings. Later his in life George Croghan had also skipped out on some debts he owed.
Despite the rough frontier living conditions John Owens I did have a sense of humor. It was common for the traders to give their Indian customers funny nicknames. Here John Owens I is particularly irreverent listing his customers debts to him to demonstrate his losses during the French and Indian War.\(^4\)

He also mentions the Half King and his son.

We do know that John Owens I was still alive in 1769 when he claimed damages and gave a deposition. In 1772 he signed a deed for land in Washington County, Pennsylvania. This land transaction actually occurred in December of 1757 when he was living at Fort Pitt. He signed

\(^4\) Ohio Company (1747-1779)., Bailey, K. P. (1947). The Ohio company papers, 1753-1817: being primarily papers of the "Suffering traders" of Pennsylvania. Arcata, Calif..
this land transfer to Abraham Teagarden with an X instead of the signature George Croghan was familiar with. He may have been in failing health? His son John Owens Jr. and William Teagarden were present at the signing. I haven't found him in any records after this October 1772 deed.

There is no record of John Owens I’s death. His probate record was probably destroyed in a 1796 fire at the Monongalia County, Virginia courthouse.
John Owens I Wives and family

One wife we have evidence for is John's Native American wife who is said to be the daughter of Tanacharison (aka the Half King). That has been surmised, anyway, through some contemporary reports. Her exact name and details of her birth and death are unknown.

We do know John Owens I was well acquainted with this Half King. John I is often listed with him at treaty makings and negotiations. He was with the Half King in Logstown in 1751 and 1754 when his name is recorded in journals recounting the meetings. The Half King also appears in John Owens account books, along with his son Johnny.

A bit of biographical background for the Half King. ¹ From Wikipedia

“TANAGHRISON (Deanaghrison, Johonerissa, Tanacharison, Tanahisson, Thanayieson, and, as a title, the Half King), a Seneca, a leading person among the Iroquois settled on the upper Ohio River from about 1748; d. 4 Oct. 1754 at Harris’s Ferry (Harrisburg, Pa.).”

Tanacharison was a fascinating Native American leader. A skilled diplomat, and military tactician, he was enlisted by the British as an ally in their fight to control the Ohio Country. His partnership with George Washington brought him enduring fame.

Tanacharison wasn't impressed with the very young inexperienced George Washington, according to Christopher Gist.

Here are some of the contemporary accounts mentioning the Daughter of the Half King. James Young’s letter written in Carlisle, 22nd of July, 1756:

“...he informs me that last Monday two Indian Squas that were at Fort Sherley went off with one of our men, a fellow that had formerly been an Indian trader; the Squas are the Daughters of the Indian half king that was kill’d last winter. I fear that fellow may be of bad Consequence to us. As he knows our Situation well. I have Endeavoured to put this Large Fort in the Best poster of Defence I can, but am sorry to say the People of this town cannot be prevailed on to do any thing for their own safety.

The 1756 Pennsylvania Gazette article worded the account differently even though they were supposed to be extracting from the letter above.

“The Indian Wife of John Owen and another Indian Woman have left Fort Shirley, and it is imagined are gone to Ohio with one McLure, a soldier, who has deser’d.

Piecing together the information from both accounts we can surmise John Owens I was indeed married to the Half King’s daughter. John was not named in James Young’s letter, but is named in the Gazette account. Plus Mclure was indeed involved in the Indian Trade before the war, so his description is correct.

Some have given John’s Indian wife the name Maths, which likely isn’t her name. This error may have come from the fact she was called a Metis Indian? Others have given her the name Seneca Hannah. We do find a Hannah Owens mentioned in a Cumberland County, PA deed. Her husband is named as a John Owens in the same deed. I believe this Hannah also petitioned the colonial government at one point?

A Judith Owens appears to be a relative of the Tenmile Creek Owens family. Judith appears on tax lists in Morgan Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania from 1781 to 1785. She owns 200 acres of land; until, 1785 when she is taxed on only 50 acres. We know John Owens I had at least two wives due to the fact his sons George and David were described as half brothers (according to David’s son).

Hannah Owens Broshear’s had a daughter named Judith. I’m not sure whether the older Judith was another wife of John I? John Owens II mentioned his aged mother in his 1781 will, but didn’t give her name.

Another wife we have evidence for is Hannah Owens, as mentioned above. Hannah is named as a wife of John Owens in a deed dated 4 July 1757 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and a 1763 mortgage for the same land.


2 The Pennsylvania Gazette, 29 Jul 1756, Thu, Page 3

3 Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 2-A: 85, Hannah Owens wife of John; FHL microfilm 21069.

4 Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, 2-A: 169, Hannah Owens wife of John; FHL microfilm 21069.
We have no further information for the wives of John Owens I.
Extract of a Letter from Carlisle, dated July 22, 1756.

On the 20th Instant two Soldiers, belonging to Capt. Steel's Company, who were guarding some Reapers near MDowell's Mill, happening to go a little Distance from them, one of them was killed and scalped, and the other is supposed to be carried off. And another Soldier, going to guard two Girls to a Spring, was taken Prisoner, but the Girls escaped. About the same time a Dutchman and his Wife were scalped near Philip Davie's, on the Maryland Side of the Line.

Yesterday, within ten Miles of this Town, near McClure's Gap, some Indians (the Number uncertain) came to the House of Jacob People, about 7 in the Morning, and killed and scalped his Wife, and carried off two of his Children; one a Boy, about 11 Years of Age; the other a Girl, about 2 Years old. One Salmon, a Shoemaker, is missing; but as he was old, I imagine, they have only carried him off to get Intelligence, and then will murder him. The Distress and Confusion of the People flying to the Forts, with the most valuable of their Effects, is not to be expressed. I went, with some others, to the Place where the Murder was committed, but the Woman was buried before we got there. The Indian Wife of John Owen, and another Indian Woman, have left Fort Shirley, and it is imagined are gone to the Ohio with one McClure, a Soldier, who has deserted.

A Letter from Antigua, dated the 6th Instant, says, "On Sunday the Blandford Man of War brought in a large Bourdeaux Man."

And from Barbados there is Advice that Capt. Falkingham, in one of our Ships of War, has taken a Snow from the same Place, bound to Martinico.

Arrived at Antigua from this Port, The Captains Allison and Rolland.
David Owens Sr.

David Owens is a bit of a mystery. According to Sir William Johnson Superintendent of Indian Affairs a David Owens was a soldier who deserted several times, and was the man who killed and scalped a group of Indians in April of 1764; he had taken refuge with them after his desertion. In this same letter he states David was the son of a long time Indian Trader among the Delaware and Shawnee.

Sir William Johnson's statement would suggest that David Owens Sr. could be the son of John Owens Indian Trader. There are some discrepancies in this identification. The fact that the David Owens, notorious for having killed his family, was a soldier described as a Regular and a Corporal doesn't seem to match David son of John who was a Captain in the Militia of Washington County, PA in the 1770's. Also the notorious David was attached to a Company of Highlanders who were at one point based in New York. Adding to the confusion another David Owens was attached to Colonel Thomas Dunbar's 48th Irish Regiment and was Court Martialed for desertion. This Regiment was also based out of New York and made an appearance in Western Pennsylvania with Braddock's expedition. This David was sentenced to death, but it's unknown whether that sentence was carried out or he was reprieved? He was supposedly executed in May 1756\(^1\); therefore, he was not the same David who killed the Indians in 1764. Or he was the same person, but was reprieved?

---

1 Philadelphia, PennsylvnaThe Pennsylvania Gazette
Thu, Jun 03, 1756 · Page 2
A contemporary source described the David who deserted to live with the Indians as an Irishman. According to Robert Kirkwood the David he became acquainted with, during the Forbes campaign, was born near Conococheague Creek, Pennsylvania.

According to a memoir by Robert Kirkwood, "Through So Many Dangers", a David Owens was held captive in 1758 by Shawnee at Fort Duquesne, just before it was abandoned and burned. They were supposedly taken captive during Forbes campaign to take the French fort. According to some accounts all of those who had been captured were executed before the British arrived to take the fort. If the story about being held prisoner is fiction does that mean David Owens was a fictional character in this story? It sounds like Kirkwood probably did know a David Owens. According to Sir William Johnson, David Owens was a soldier in Capt. Mclean's company. Robert Kirkwood and Capt. Mclean were attached to the 62nd Highlanders. That battalion came to America in 1756 to defend the borders during the French and Indian War. Capt. Allan Mclean constructed Fort Dewart in what today is Somerset, Pennsylvania. David's father owned land in that area of Pennsylvania, at Turkey Foot.

Pennsylvania being founded by Penn as a Quaker Colony didn't have a militia system. The western frontier settlers had to arrange for their own defense. After Braddock's defeat Pennsylvania organized its own regularly enlisted army. David Owens probably became a regular in the provincial forces and may have earned a spot with the British regulars? Most of the more than nine thousand men who joined the regular army in North America before 1758, many serving in the Ohio Valley campaigns of 1758-1764, came from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Also “...a battalion of Gaelic-speaking Scottish Highlanders were joined by four companies of the Royal American Regiment...” This is probably the same battalion Capt. Mclean belonged to, because he was said to have fought with the Royal Americans. The Royal Americans were made up of many American Colonial soldiers who fought with the British regulars (regulars are paid soldiers). David was likely a soldier in the Royal Americans.

Apparently when David was living with his Indian family he purchased items from the Trader David Franks. He appears with some Delawares in an accounting of Franks' losses. Actually the entry only says John Owens, Son. This loss occurred in 1763 according to these records3.

According to some accounts David Owens deserted in 1761 from Capt. Mclain's Independent Company and resurfaces a few years later in April 1764, in Northampton County, PA with scalps of Indians and a child captive with him. Benjamin Franklin sends a letter to Peter Collison describing the details of this incident. He doesn't say anything about David killing his own family. Sir William Johnson stated some Indians told him David Owens killed his wife and some of her relations when they were out hunting.


3 Sir William Johnson's papers page 355 Volume 5
David Owens wasn't punished for his actions because a bounty had been offered for Indian scalps as a means of retribution during Pontiac's rebellion. He wasn't imprisoned for desertion either. Instead he was appointed to be Colonel Henry Bouquet's Interpreter for his 1764 expedition into the Ohio Country that fall. The expedition was a planned invasion designed to end Pontiac's rebellion.

David Owens received a pass from Gov. John Penn to travel to join Colonel Henry Bouquet on April 26, 1764. The pass said “he behaving as becometh to all his majesty's Liege Subjects.” Once the Natives were subdued by the invasion of 500 troops a conference was held in which Bouquet asked for the return of captives being held by the Natives. David Owens is listed as an interpreter at this conference. It was said the Indians captured David briefly while he was in the Ohio Country in order to get justice for the murders he had committed. He was released quickly however.

After the fall conference David Owens was appointed interpreter at Fort Pitt. Col. Henry Bouquet made the request to Sir William Johnson that he should be appointed to this post; he states, “Owens speaks the Delaware perfectly I would be glad you would appoint him Interpreter to remain there (Nov. 1764).” This appointment didn't seem to work out. He was not behaving as befits his majesty's subject at this point. Samuel Wharton stated in a letter to to Benjamin Franklin dated December 19, 1764, “That Colonel Bouquet sent some Canada Indians, with one Owens, (The Person, Who appeared before the Commissioners and claimed the Reward for scalping so many Indians) to invite the Hostages to return to Fort Pitt; When unfortunately some Difference arose between One of Them (an Indian) and this Owens, Who immediately took up his Riffle and shot Him dead, upon the Spott.” This from Thomas Gage to Sir William Johnson dated April 25, 1765 “but it’s said from Fort-Pitt, that they went home, having been terrified by Owens the Interpreter, who is now with you. This Fellow it seems in a drunken Frolick, acquainted the Hostages that we intended to Murther them.” Based on these reports it’s hard to say how long David Owens remained at his Fort Pitt post?

On April 29, 1765 David Owens was present at Johnson Hall, with Sir William Johnson, at a Six Nations conference (as confirmed in General Thomas Gage's letter. I don't think they wanted him back at Fort Pitt). David acted as interpreter. This is the last mention I’ve found where David Owens is acting as an interpreter for Sir William Johnson.

We find David Owens living near his brother John Owens II in Dublin Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania in 1767; they appear this year on a taxlist. The David with John Jr. in 1767 is likely John Owens I's son.

The John Owens I family returned to the Tenmile Creek area after the Seven Years War and

---


Illustration 1: Colonel Bouquet
Pontiac's rebellion. David Owens received land grants for land located on Tenmile Creek in Washington County, Pennsylvania. Apparently the Owens family returned to the Tenmile Creek area in late 1769. In September of that year David Owens brought a white man who killed some Indians from the "Cheet" River (Cheat River) to Fort Pitt.

David was a private with the militia in Washington County, Pennsylvania from 1777 to 1781. He also participated in Dunmore's War in 1774. Simon Girty being returned from Wheeling to Pittsburgh gives the following information the 11th August 1774. That he met David Owens and twelve men upon Captina on their return from attacking the upper Shawnees Towns where they had been with Major McDonald who told him that the day before the pilots Owens being one had reached Wackitomika they came across an Indian coming towards them at whom Owens fired but missed him then the guides found a horse with some baggage on him."

James Hook purchased 400 acres from David Owens on Tenmile Creek for 2000 pounds on March 1, 1780. A witness to this deed named William English was killed, like David's brother John II, in the spring of 1781.

The author of the book "Indian Blood" felt that the David Owens named in a 1774 writ from Hanna's court, was the same David as John I's son. This writ directed the sale of the personal property of David Owens. Hanna's court enforced Pennsylvania law in Southwest Pennsylvania, and the court at Fort Dunmore (previously Fort Pitt) enforced Virginia law in the same area. David signed he petition below which was filed with Dunmore's court minutes.

April 18, 1776

Augusta County
On the petition of James Mitchell & others setting forth that a road is established from Conrad Walter, by Wm. Teagarden's ferry, to the Mouth of Wheeling, which is very inconvenient to your Petrs, & praying that a review of the s'd road be made, it is ord that Ebenezer Zane, James McMahnon, David Owens, Henry Vanmatre, Dav'd Evans, Geo. Cox, James McCoy, & John McClalan, or any 6 of them, being first sworn, view if the old road estab is conv, if not make a report of the most conv way and the inconv and conv there of to the next court; that the surveyors desist from working on the road until the report is returned. (David Owens had a claim on Graves Creek in West Virginia. This land was surveyed by George Roger Clark)

In 1772 David Owens and Rev. David Jones (said to be his Brother-in-law) went on an exploratory expedition to what is today West Virginia. They traveled 300 miles south of Fort Pitt with the Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark. In 1782 David Owens joined his...

6 Documentary history of Dunmore's war, 1774 by Thwaites, Reuben Gold, 1853-1913; State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Sons of the American Revolution. Wisconsin Society; Kellogg, Louise Phelps Published 1905

brother George, and George Rogers Clark in Kentucky Territory.

According to David Owens Sr.’s son, David Jr., he and his family migrated to Louisville, Kentucky in April 1782 where they joined David Sr.’s half brother Capt. George Owens. David acted as a Shawnee language translator in the Ohio Country. Records for this area mention David Owens as an interpreter. “Major George Walls at Fort Nelson issued a rifle, sword, belt, lead and flints to interpreter David Owens for a friendly Shawnee Indian. Names: Martin Carney. Fort Nelson issued 15 day rations of corn and beef to indian interpreter David Owens for Shawnee indians. Names: Major George Walls, William Clark.”

In April of 1783 a Mr. Owens is arrested for damning Fort Nelson. Considering David Owens character that may have been him?

David Owens, and his children, were early settlers of what would become Clarksville, Indiana. Settling the area in the 1780’s they were granted land based on their early settlement. David died in 1803 in Clark County, Indiana.

Spouses
Maria (Delaware Indian) sister-in-law of Teedyuscung
Lettice Jones 1739-1833
Children
John Owens 1768-1834
David Owens 1775-1850
James Owens 1775/1780-aft. 1830

Some David Owens documents:

From the Pennsylvania Gazette June of 1756

Illustration 2: George Rogers Clark
"BURNETS-FIELD, June 18th, 1764.

"Sir:

"I have just received your favour of the 9th Inst., on my way to Niagara, which deprives me of the pleasure of writing to you as fully as I would.

"I am heartily sorry for the losses sustained about Fort Loudon, and on the Frontiers of Virginia, all which will, I hope, be shortly put a stop to. In the mean time, I cannot but approve of your
gratifying the desire of the people in your Province, by a bounty on Scalps, and I heartily wish success to the design, & to guard as much as in my power against the ill consequence of their killing any of the Friend Indians. I shall make them all acquainted therewith, & caution them by no means to appear on your Frontiers till affairs are settled.

"David Owens was a Corporal in Capt. McClean's Comp'y and lay once in Garrison at my house. He deserted several times, as I am informed, & went to live among the Delawares & Shawanese, with whose Language he was acquainted, His Father having been long a Trader amongst them.

"The Circumstances relating to his leaving the Indians have been told me by several Indians. That he went out a hunting with his Indian Wife and several of her relations, most of whom, with his Wife, he killed and scalped as they slept. As he was always much attached to Indians, I fancy he began to fear he was unsafe amongst them, and killed them, rather to make his peace with the English, than from any dislike either to them or their Principles.

"I hope to be at Niagara within 10 or 12 days, when I shall do every thing in my power for obtaining an advantageous peace with the Indians, who desire it for the benefit of the Colonies. Tho' the slender efforts hitherto made use of, and our great backwardness, will increase the confidence of the Indians to such a Pitch as must in a little time occasion another Rupture, unless by friendship and favours we secure them in our Interest.

"I am with great esteem, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble Servant,

"Wm. JOHNSON"
INDIANS TO GOV. HAMILTON, 1761.

Dear Brother:

I have acquainted you when I am know at Mowhewamick, and from that I take my Journey to go to Eastown, where we Kindled the fir, therfor Brother, I Desire that you would meet me there or where you shall appoint, for I Supose that you have wated so Long that you are in readyness to meet us Brother. I Desire you to met your Brothers to gave me an answer at Bethelhan.

A Six Road Belt: We Desire you, Brother, to Stop all Strong Drink, & to Send me Some Wagons and Provisons, a Sum Paint for my young People; that is all, at present, from your Brother, King of the Six Nations.

Ritten by David Owens.

Directed.
To His Honom the Governor, James Hamblton.
Justis Horsfieled your Desiered to Send this Post Hast to the Gov-
erner.

PASSPORT TO DAVID OWENS, 1764.

Whereas, I have directed the Bearer, David Owens, to proceed immediately to Lancaster and Carlisle, with a Letter to Col. Bou-quet, on his Majesty's Service; I do, therefore, require all Persons within this Province to permit the said Owens to pass unmolested on his way to those Places, he behaving as becometh to all his Ma-
esty's Liege Subjects.

Given under my Hand & Seal at Arms, &c.
April 26, 1764.
At a Conference with the Six Nations and Delawares at Johnson Hall

April 29, 1765.

Present

Sir William Johnson Bar, Capt. Johnston
Daniel Claus Esq. Deputy Lieut. Horn. Wamp
Gay Johnson Esq. Agent
Capt. Hend. Fry
John Butler Esq. Interpreter

Henry Montour
M. Parthius

David Owens for the Delaware.

Thomas King stood up and went to the ceremony of condolence with the Six Nations in the name of Sir William Johnson with 9 strings of Wampum, which ended, Sir William addressed the Indians.

Brotheren
(April 26, 1764)

GOV. JOHN PENN TO COL. HENRY BOUQUET


Philadelphia April 26th 1764

Of Sir,

This is only to introduce Mr Owen to you. I did not choose to trust him with the other letter, for fear he should never deliver it, as I believe he is not to be too much confided in from his general Character.

I am with great Regard

Sir,

586 Sir William Johnson Papers

I have already received upwards of 200 Captives including the Children Born from White Women married to Savages, which I have obliged them to give up.

M"""" M""""Kee Incloses you all the Speeches and Messages received & delivered during the whole Transactions Therefore I shall not trouble you with particulars.

T""""e Deputies will proceed from Fort Pitt through the Woods to Your House, w"""" Captain Artell & 19 Cocknavage Indians who have joined me from the Lakes, and have behaved very well, I beg leave to recommend You M"""" Artell, who might be usefully employed amongst the Indians, & who appears to be disposed to forward our Interest w"""" them. Then I shall send an Interpreter with them and as Owen"""" speaks the Delaware perfectly, I would be glad You would appoint him Interpreter to remain at Fort Pitt.

I must not omit to mention to you the absolute Necessity of making the Six Nations recall those of their People, who under the general Name of Mingoes infest the Country. They are the most Infamous and Corrupted of all the Savages, living altogether by Robberies, & always spreading false Reports to embroil Matters, w"""", a View to have a more favourable Opportunity of plundering Friends & Foes; They have stolen from us at this Camp upwards of Fifty Horses, which distress me greatly. If the Six Nations chuse to have some of their People to live this Way, They should send them under the Direction of a Chief, who could keep them in Order.

H. B.
Excerpt of a Letter from Fort Pitt, September 9, 1769.

"Last Sunday, in the Afternoon, a Council was held in the Governor's House, between the Commanding Officer and sundry Chiefs of different Nations of Indians, on the late Murder of an Indian in Pittsburgh by Cornelius Doherty. As there had been, some Time before, a white Man killed by an Indian, there was but little said on either Side, only advising each other to keep fast Hold of the Chain of Friendship, and giving some Tobacco and Provisions, which the Indians very readily accepted of.---This Afternoon one David Owens brought a white Man from Cheat River, who was one of a Party that murdered an Indian, and two Children, in the Indian's Hunting Cabin, in the Forks of Cheat River. This Murder, so immediately after the Council was held, will, no Doubt, create Uneasiness in the Minds of the Indians, the Delaware Nation in particular, as the Persons murdered were of that Tribe: The Man is now confined in our Guard-house."
No. 23.

Jones vs. Tomlinson.—Orator is David Jones. In 1772 David Jones made a settlement on Grave Creek, in Ohio County. Joseph Tomlinson obtained a settlement certificate for himself and Charles McLean. In 1770 David Owings made settlement near Jones, which was confirmed by law of 1799. Settlement made in 1771 on land of Joseph Coving, land claimed by Jones, by Nathaniel Tomlinson, who transferred to Joseph. In 1772 Nathaniel sold to Campbell and Talin. Benjamin Biggs was a justice of Ohio County, and Silas Hedges was sheriff in 1785. The Commissioners to settle unpatented lands in 1781 were: James Neal, Charles Martin, and William Haymond (Hayward); William McClung was chairman. Charles McClean deposes, in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, 1804: He first went to Grave Creek Flats in 1772, where he saw George R. Clarke, who surveyed the Flats into various tracts. Plaintiff acted under the Indiana Company. Charles McClean moved with his family to Grave Creek Flats in December, 1773, and settled at McClain's Spring. He left in May, 1774, in consequence of the breaking out of Dunmore's war. Morgan Jones deposes, in Juniata County, Pennsylvania: He first visited the Flats in 1772. Plaintiff had employed George Rogers Clark to survey the Flats into tracts. The first tract was laid off for Morgan Jones. Second for Joseph Tomlinson. Third for David Jones, plaintiff. The line passed over one of the little graves. Charles McDonald was also one of the settlers.
Mr. David Owens

You are hereby in consequence of your appointment as Indian Interpreter, to proceed in Company with the Shawanese messengers, taking in your care the Speeches I find to the Shawanese + Wyndots you are to deliver these speecches to Mr. James Sherlock and give him all the assistance in your power to render essential Service to your Country. You are to advise with Mr. Sherlock what is, or may be expedient for the public Good, having in View that you Return to this place as quick as may be done without injuring the public welfare; + that in case Mr. Sherlock should not be immediately ready to accompany you, that you use your Best endeavours to bring home under your Escort all the prisoners which may be ready for your taking in charge from Mr. Sherlock.

Given under my hand at Fort Nelson (Falls of Ohio)

This 13th April 1784

Signed Geo. Walls
Maj. Comdr.
David Owens Children

Could be son of John Owens I
We learn the names of some of David Owens' children from an attempt by his children to claim their late father's land in Pennsylvania. Their names are John, David, James, Susannah, and Hannah.¹

![Image of old document]

All of the names of David's children are the same as John II and Susannah's children. There is definitely a naming pattern.

David's son James was married to Sarah (nicknamed Sally) Broshears. She was the daughter of Thomas Broshears and Hannah Owens. Her mother Hannah was a daughter of John Owens II and Susannah.² I haven't confirmed that Sarah was actually Hannah's daughter. It's possible she was her stepmother? James Owens and his brother David marry one day apart in Bracken County Kentucky in 1803, where they too joined their other Owens cousins who had migrated there from Pennsylvania.²

---

¹ Jefferson County, Indiana Library, Owens Family Papers

² Lyman Draper, Draper Manuscripts: Kentucky Collection, book page 51 (N.p.: Draper, n.d.), FHL Film 889117, Vol. 16 60-61; 1803, Marriage of Owens family members.
James Owens and Sally Broshears owned land in Bracken County, Kentucky and in Jefferson County, Indiana. Sally's parents deeded land to the couple in Bracken County.

The couple sold land in Clark County, Indiana in 1803. As the deed below states they were then living in Bracken County, Kentucky. Both the Broshears, or Brashears, had ties to Louisville and Clarksville, Indiana. This couple could have met in any of several locations.

James Owens and Sally Broshears only have one confirmed son named David R. Owens.
David Owens Sr.'s son David Jr. was married to Polly Miranda as I stated before. They married in 1803. Their children were David R. Owens, Jemima Owens Weddle; Sarah Owens Hubbard, James Harvey Owens, Harvey H. Owens, and Joseph Owens. The family migrated to Washington County, Indiana.

James Owens Sr. kept a tavern in his father-in-law's Bracken County, KY home.³

James and Sarah joined family living in Washington County, Indiana. James Owens and Sally Broshears sold some of their land to their son David R. Owens in 1831 in Washington County, Indiana.⁴

James Owens wrote his will in August 1831. He names his wife Sary (Sarah). Sarah's brother Owens Brashears was a witness to the will. Apparently James was sick at the time, and thought he was going to die. He ended up living a few more years.

---

³ Bracken County Court Orders, Kentucky. County Court (Bracken County) (Main Author) Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962, 1993, Book A, page 169. Online
⁴ Washington County, Indiana, Deed Book G: 96, Jame Owens and David Owens; FHL microfilm 1306019.
Another son of David Owens was John Owens. His grandson John A. H. Owens biography in Baird's History of Indiana contains some information about his grandfather. He stated David Sr.'s son John was born in 1768 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and married Sarah Jackson in Spring Hill Station, Jefferson County, Kentucky on 5 April 1787.

The children of John Owens and Sarah Jackson were:

1. David Owens b. 1788 in Clarksville, Illinois Country
2. John Owens b. 1790
3. Elizabeth Owens b. 1792
4. George Owens b. 1795
5. Harvey Owens b. 1797
6. James Owens b. 1798
7. William J. Owens b. 1799 born Ill
8. George Clark Owens b. 1802
9. Charles Owens b. 1804
10. Rebecca Owens b. 1806
11. Charles Owens b. 1808

John Owens was appointed Militia Lieutenant in 1790 in Clarksville. This supports his date of birth as 1768, which his son gave in his biographical sketch in Baird's History of Clark County, Indiana.

John Owens died 28 February 1834 in Clark County, Indiana.

---

5 John Owens Appointment from the Indiana Memory Website.
Governor and Commander in Chief of the Territory of the United States North-West of the River Ohio.

To the Inhabitants of the Territory of the United States North-West of the River Ohio.

Greeting.

YOU being appointed

By Virtue of the Power vested in me, I do by these Presents (reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and good Conduct) commission you accordingly. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a Militia in leading, ordering and executing all Military in Arms, both inferior Officers and Soldiers; and to keep them in good Order and Discipline; And they are hereby commanded to obey you as their Commander, and you are yourself to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions as you shall from Time to Time receive from me or your superior Officers.

GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the said Territory of the United States, the

IVth Day of January, in the Year of our LORD 1800, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the

RAIRD S HISTORY OF CLARK CO., IND. 779


"in 1766 and his wife was born in 1767. - They emigrated to Indians, coming down the Ohio river in boats. John Owens and Sarah Jackson, the subject's grandparents, married in Spring Station, Jefferson county, Kentucky, April 5, 1787. The Owens and Jacksons reached the Falls of the Ohio, or Bear Grass, as it was then known, about 1788. Here the grandparents of the subject were married. The maternal great-grandparents of the subject, John and Elizabeth Jackson, who were natives of Scotland, moved from Pennsylvania to Bear Grass, Kentucky, where they lived for many years, and in 1809 settled in Clark county, Indiana, where they died. They were buried in an old family grave yard, four miles east of Charlestown. John and Sarah Jackson Owens were the parents of the following children: David, born in Clarksville, Indiana, in 1788; John, born in 1789; Elizabeth, born in 1790; George, born in 1798; Harvey, born in 1797; James, born in 1798; William J., born in 1799; George Clark, born in 1802; Charles was born in 1804; Rebecca was born in 1806; Charles was born in 1808.
Honorable discharged of John A. H. Owens at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

6 Jefferson County, Indiana Library, Owens Family Papers
The Daughters of John Owens I

Agnes Owens
Daughter of John Owens I
Agnes Owens married to Sebastian Sroufe is likely a daughter of John Owens I. Agnes was likely born about 1748 in Pennsylvania. Sebastian, her husband, served in the Revolutionary War as a member of James Archer's Militia Company in Washington County, Pennsylvania. We find that John Owens II owns land near Sebastian Sroufe. This survey map of Franklin Township Washington/Greene County, Pennsylvania illustrates how close the families lived to one another (later owners John Dripps and Samuel Hill's names on the map are where John Owens II's and Susanah's land was).

We also know that there was a close relationship between John Owen II's family and the Sroufes, because Sebastian was co-executor of John II's will, with Susannah his wife.²

---


² Washington County, Kentucky, Vol. 1: 51, John Owens Will; FHL microfilm 863624.
Sebastian Srouf and Agnes Owens' children (From trees at Ancestry.com)

1. Adam Sroufe born 12 April 1770
2. John Sroufe born 13 November 1771
3. Lewis Sroufe born 16 September 1773
4. Cathren Sroufe born 13 October 1773?
5. Thomas Sroufe born 14 May 1775
6. Christopher Sroufe born 17 January 1777
7. Sebastian Sroufe born 17 November 1779
8. Susannah Sroufe born about 1783
9. David Sroufe born 26 September 1786
10. Mary Sroufe about 1787
11. Andrew Sroufe 1794

Mary Sroufe was blind, and was given special consideration in her father Sebastian's 1829 will. Mary's brother David was sued for not fulfilling his obligation to care for her.

Sebastian Sroufe and wife Agnes owned a tract of land called Hopewell, on the South Fork of Ten Mile Creek, in Washington County, Pennsylvania. They sold their land in July 1792 to Cornelius Vansdale. ³ The deed wasn't recorded until 1808 when their attorney Absolem Vanmatre appeared before the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace to acknowledge that the deed reflected their true intent. Agnes' name is recorded as Ann which can be a nickname for Agnes. We see the Widow Owens land mentioned in that deed. That would be the land of John Owens II's wife Susannah.

About the same time they sold their land they migrated to Mason County, Kentucky. The first appearance of Sebastian Sroufe was on the 1792 tax list for Mason County, Kentucky. They owned 161 acres on the waters of Bracken and Lee's creek in Mason County.

³ Greene County, Pennsylvania, 2: 367, Sebastian Sroufe; FHL microfilm 857245.
In 1817 the Sroufes appear in Mason County, Kentucky to sell their 161 acre tract to Henry Smith. They are now living in Greene County, Ohio as recorded on this deed.⁴

The Sroufe family is first found in Ohio on the 1810 Census.

Sebastian and wife Agnes deed land to Lewis in 1817. The land is located on the waters of the Little Miami in Greene County, Ohio. Again Agnes uses the letter N as her mark, and this time Sebastian uses a B.⁵

The Sroufes buy government land in Ohio. By 1818 the Sroufes are listed as living in Clark County, Ohio. This time they likely didn't move again but instead part of Greene County was ceded to the new County of Clark. Sebastian and Agnes lived in the township of Mad River. The Owens family of Booths Creek, Harrison County, Virginia also settled around the same area of Ohio.

Agnes Sroufe nee Owens died in the early to mid 1820s.

⁴ Mason County, Kentucky, Deed Book R: 266, Sebastian Sroufe; FHL microfilm 281791.

⁵ Greene County, Ohio, Deed Book 6 F: 20, Sebastian Srouf; FHL microfilm 464855.
Susannah Owens
Daughter of John Owens I
Another likely daughter of John Owens I is Susannah Owens. She was likely born in about 1750 in Pennsylvania. She married James Meranda about 1768, most likely in the Aughwick area of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. We can safely assume this because James Meranada appears on a 1768 Tax list for Dublin, Cumberland, Pennsylvania. John Owens I and his son John II are also on the Dublin 1768 tax list.

James Meranda was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The family was primarily of Jewish and Native American heritage. They were Indian Traders just like John Owens I.

James Miranda and Susanna's children:

1. Samuel Meranda born about 1768 in Pennsylvania; died 14 August 1849, Clark County, Ohio
2. James Meranda born 12 July 1770 in Pennsylvania; died 5 August 1836, Morrow County, Warren, Ohio
3. Isaac Meranda born about 1772; died 4 December 1806 Bracken County, Kentucky
4. Thomas Meranda born about 1781 in Pennsylvania; died about 1839 in Scott County, Indiana
5. John Owens Meranda born about 1782 in Pennsylvania; died 21 February 1847 in Scott County Indiana
6. Jonathan Meranda born 29 May 1784 in Washington County, Pennsylvania; died 22 November 1861 North Hampton, Ohio
7. Elizabeth Meranda born about 1787 in Pennsylvania; died about 1823

---

6 James Merandy, Dublin Township, page 45, 1768-1770 Tax Lists Cumberland County: Book, Tax Lists, 1750-1850; Board of County Commissioners, ; Cumberland County Courthouse in Carlisle, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
Jamers Meranda helped appraise John Owens II's Estate. He assigned the appraisal below.

James Meranda died in 1817 and left a will. He named his wife and children in the will. He refers to his wife as his beloved wife as many men, but not all men, did in their wills. He left his wife Susannah everything she would need for the years after his death. Since husbands had the ownership of all property in a marriage, other than the wives dower portion, he had to will his wife what she would need after his death, which often included her clothing. We see an example of that in James' will. She receives household and kitchen furniture.

We also learn something personal about Susannah in her husband's will. She apparently had a favorite horse, a gray mare. James willed her the gray mare and saddle "commonly used by her."

On the 3rd of December 1827 James Meranda Jr., of Warren County, Ohio, son of James Meranda Sr. and Susannah Owens, executed a deed to settle his father's estate. In the deed he states his mother Susannah has departed this life. He sold the land that was given to her,

---

7 James Meranda Will (1818), Bracken County, Kentucky Wills Book B: 109; Bracken County Court, , Kentucky.
for use during her lifetime, in his father's will to John Payne.  

8 Bracken County, Kentucky, Deed Book H: page 228, James Meranda; FHL microfilm 344075.
Captain George Owens appears to be another son of John Owens I. Some have conjectured he might be his brother instead. Age wise son looks to be the most likely relationship to John I. We first see a George Owen listed with men selling furs at Fort Pitt in 1763. He may have been following in his father's footsteps (if this is indeed John Owens I's son?) at this time working as an Indian trader, along with his service in the Militia. Nothing more can be found for him in Pennsylvania. After leaving Pennsylvania he devotes himself to the Militia full-time.

We find Captain George Owens living in Kentucky, at Fort Jefferson, for a time in the 1780's where he is stationed in his capacity as a Militia Officer. In 1785 George Owens was appointed as an assistant to William Clark. A summary of the appointment letter states, "George Rogers Clark and Richard Butler, acting as Commissioners of Indian Affairs, appoint William Clark to serve as the Principal Messenger for the Western District. George Owens is appointed as William Clark's assistant."

---

Fort Jefferson was located at what was later called the Iron Banks in Kentucky.

A receipt the Owens family had saved belonging to Capt. George from John Montgomery attests to the sense of humor of these frontier people. The receipt states, “This is to Certify that George Owens and me have settled acumpts and have received full satisfaction of all demands from the beginning of the world....24 March 1787.”

Captain George was in command at Fort Jefferson when it was besieged by Indians. The fort had been erected in ordered to keep the area under US control, and to control the Mississippi. The Choctaws and Cherokees disputed this claim and raised forces to destroy the US forces. During the fight to protect the fort from destruction Capt. George wounded a leader of the Indian forces; a Scotsman named Colbert. The siege went on for weeks with heavy losses on the US side. Weakened by illness and malnutrition the forces held onto the fort. They were reduced to eating unripe pumpkins. Capt. George Owens was said to have saved the day with armaments he had hidden, which caused heavy casualties among the Natives who slowly retreated. Full defeat of the Natives only occurred when Capt. George Rogers Clark returned with reinforcements, and a resupply of provisions.

Much of what we know about the Captain comes from an application for Revolutionary War bounty land filed by his descendants. Capt. George’s nephew, son of his half brother David, gave a detailed account of what he knew about his uncle, his uncle’s family, and military service. He swore to this information in open court in Charleston, Indiana on the 13th of February 1840.²

David Owens stated he first met his uncle Captain George Owens in April of 1782. He stated that is when his father “removed to Louisville.” At the time his uncle was in command of his company at Fort Louisville.

David stated he lived at the fort on the Falls from April 1782 to autumn 1783. He remembered that the Captain was always at the fort unless he was pursuing Indians on the other side of the Ohio River. He remembered Captain George returning with his company with prisoners

---

and scalps.

Other depositions were also filed in regards to the application for land benefits. Jacob Wheat stated Captain George engaged in battles with Indians twice, and he distinguished himself as an able leader in these battles. After the battles the Captain stayed for a time at Fort Nelson, which was located on the Ohio River in Kentucky.

According to James Wheat, who served with Capt. George, General George Rogers Clark promised him land in return for his service. Jacob also confirmed David's information about the Captain's wife. Her name being Charity. He described Charity as a large woman.

Details of Captain George Owens death at the hands of Indians are detailed in the depositions also. According to one account, which is likely exaggerated, the Captain was burned at the stake for seven days after which a William Wells shot him to put him out of his misery. The Captain was killed near the Vermillion river in present day Indiana. According to the book “Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio, 1778-1783: And Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark”\(^3\), Capt. George was killed near Wea Towns (Ouitanon).

His nephew David stated that the Captain was burned by a slow fire for several days. He also stated he was taken prisoner while out hunting. He was held prisoner with a man named Hart and William Wells. Mrs. Hart and William Wells provided David with the information about his uncle's death. At the time of this application, in 1840, Charity Owens had been dead over thirty years, according to one deposition. Not sure if that is correct?

The commission of Captain George Owens was included with the paperwork submitted for the bounty land application. His commission was granted in the 4th year of the Virginia Commonwealth.
Unfortunately the proof provided wasn't sufficient to prove the Captain served in the Regular military, so the claim made by descendants was denied. Members of the Militia were not entitled to benefits.

Charity Owens' maiden appears to have been Casteel. According nephew David's account Charity and Captain George Owens had 3 children he knew of. He gave their sons' names as Thomas and George C. (C for Casteel). He also stated they had one daughter he was aware of, and she was dead in 1840. This leads us to a part of Mason country Kentucky that later becomes Bracken County, Kentucky when that county was formed in 1796. The Capt. George Owens family relocates to that area, along with some of David Owens children, after his death. We see a Davy Owens appearing on a 1790 tax list for that county. We later find George C. Owens and Thomas listed on Bracken County tax lists.

The fact we find members of Capt. George's family living in this area leads me to believe two marriage records relate to this family. A Rebecca Owings married in Mason County, Kentucky before Bracken County was formed. We also find a Charity Owings marrying in Mason County before the formation of Bracken County. Charity Owings marries Matthew Smock in 1793. Could this be a remarriage of the Captain's widow? We know Charity and Rebecca are related based on the fact Matthew Smock, Charity's husband, was Rebecca's bondman. This information may suggest Rebecca was a daughter of Captain George and Charity, and the widow Charity was married to Matthew Smock and is her stepfather? Or Charity is another daughter?4

4 Loose Marriage Bonds Bracken County Courthouse
Charity signed her son's marriage record in Bracken County as Charrita Owens suggesting maybe she didn't remarry or perhaps her second husband died and she reverted back to Owens?  

George C. Owens had a daughter by the name of Rebecca, which he and wife Nancy Seales may have named after his sister.  

Charity gave a power of attorney to her friend William Elms of Jefferson County, Indiana to receive all that is due her there.  

This is about the time when she relocates with her children to Mason County (a part of which becomes Bracken County). She joins Owens family who recently migrated there from Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Charity Owens of Jefferson Co., being about to remove, appoints her friend William Elms of same county her lawful attorney to receive all that is due her in Jefferson County and in town of Clarksville. November 25, 1789.
Witnesses: W. Clark, John Owens. Recorded April 8, 1790.

[B1, p93.]

---

5 Loose marriage bonds Bracken County, Kentucky
George Jr. and Thomas Owens
Sons of Capt. George Owens and Charity Casteel
We first find the brothers Thomas and George Owens on Tax Lists for Bracken County, Kentucky. In the 1804 Tax list below we see two Georges and Thomases. One Thomas is likely the son of David Owens, and the other the son of his brother Capt. George.⁷

George C. Owens was born about 1779 in Kentucky according to Census records. He married Nancy Seales on the 22nd of February 1804 in Bracken County, Kentucky.⁸

George C. Owens signed this 1809 Bracken County, Kentucky marriage bond with his full name George Casteel Owens.

Illustration 3: George C. Owens and Nancy Seales marriage bond Bracken County

---

⁷ Bracken County tax list. Bracken County (Kentucky). Tax Assessor (Main Author) Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film Frankfort, Kentucky : Kentucky State Historical Society, 1952-1953 Online Family Search

⁸ Loose marriage bonds, Brooksville Courthouse, Bracken County, Kentucky
George C. Owens died in 1870 in Jefferson County, Indiana. Captain George and his half brother David's family had returned Indiana. According to his obituary in the New Albany Daily Ledger, dated 10 October 1870, he was killed in an accident. A log fell on him when he was working on a stable. He was said to be 104 years old. Actually he was in his early 90's. The obituary reiterated the circumstances of his father's death stating his father was taken captive by Indians and burnt at the stake.

George C.'s brother Thomas Owens also married in Bracken County Kentucky. This area being safer than the frontier areas where they were born and raised, and probably a better place to meet a wife.

Children of George C. Owens and Nancy Seals

1. John Owens
2. Meschach Owens
3. Willis Callaway Owens
4. James Owens
5. George W. Owens
6. Joseph Owens
7. Rebecca Owens

---

Thomas Owens married Priscilla Worthington. They married in July of 1801. Thomas signed with a X unlike his brother George who was able to write his name.

Children of Thomas Owens and Priscilla:

1. Cassandra Owens
2. Martin Owens
3. Abednego Casteel Owens
4. Susannah A. Owens
5. Lucy Ann Owens
6. John A. Owens
7. Thomas H. Owens
8. Sarah Minerva Owens
9. Belinda Owens
10. Mary Owens
According to the book “Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio, 1778-1783” the Owens family was thought to have some Indian Blood. This book also states that Thomas and George Jr. had a vehement hatred of Indians and had to be restrained from attacking two Indians when they were living in Scott County, Indiana. Thomas died in Scott County, Indiana sometime in the mid to late 1840's. His son Thomas H. Owens Jr. migrated to Texas, where he died 12 September 1858 in Jefferson, Marion County, Texas. Descendants of the George Owens family are in the Owens Y DNA project.

---

Unlike Captain George and David Owens, we don’t have first-hand written accounts of the life of the more elusive John Owens II. His death was better documented than his life. The fact that he died after being injured in an Indian attack meant the details of his death were remembered and recorded by Harrod Newland in his 1833 pension application.

John Owen II does appear on tax lists and in the deed records. Based on deed records and tax lists, he was likely born about 1740, where he was born isn’t known. In 1768 his father stated he made improvements to his Aughwick property in the sales deed of this land to Rev. William Smith DD. He clearly states, “Improvements made by my son John Owens.”

John Owens II wrote his will on the 6th of April 1781. He was living in what is today Greene County, Pennsylvania (at the time of the writing this area was in Monongalia County, Virginia). Leaving a young family, John Owen II’s will is a testament to his concern over the wellbeing of his family even after his death. He expressed his belief in God, and expressed that he hoped the Lord would graciously accept his soul (maybe he was a little concerned about some past indiscretions?). He states, “I most humbly bequeath my soul to God my maker who give it me beseeching his “gracious” acceptance of it.” He used standardized language for his will but I’m sure he chose the wording to express his own feelings.

He describes his wife as his “Dear Wife and executor” who he feels will manage his estate with “requisite prudence.” He makes yet another reference to God and the estate that it “pleased God” to bless him with. The use of the word “prudence” probably

---

1 Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book A: 379, John Owens; FHL microfilm 331370.
explains John II’s less adventurous lifestyle. He seems to have put down roots in the Tenmile Creek area, and didn’t lead the nomadic life his father did.

The fact John II includes his mother in his will I believe attests to a more rooted family life as compared to his father and brothers. He described his mother as “eaged”. He stated she should have a maintenance off his estate if that is possible.

He again refers to his wife in the will in praiseworthy terms. He states she is “my loving and affectionate wife.” If she remained a widow “she shall have the prerogative of all.” If she remarried, which she did, she would get one third of everything.

John Owens referred to his land in Aughwick in his will (misspelled as Aishick). By doing so he confirmed his descent from the Indian Trader. Like his father John Owens II he owned land in the Aughwick area (a path along Aughwick Creek was used by traders and Indians for many years).

John II gives his land to his two eldest sons. He gave his son John III “the plantation I now labor on.” David received his lower plantation “which lies in the Forks of” Tenmile Creek, in Washington County, Pennsylvania (now Greene County, Pennsylvania).

Another aspect of John II’s personality that comes through in his will is his attempt to be fair in the distribution of his estate. He gives his eldest sons the land with the stipulation that they reimburse their siblings for their equal interests in the movables of the estate (a stipulation that later led the siblings of John Owens III to sue him). John II doesn’t name the younger children in his will, but does state that there were additional children.

Some additional information that can be gleaned from the will regards John Owens father. The fact that John II is referring to arrangements for the support of his mother in his will suggests his father John I is dead. Also John Owens refers to himself as John senior, also implying his father is dead. The estate records also include references to outstanding debts that both he and his father owed. Sounds like he needed to settle his father’s debts because his father is no longer around?
The co executor of the will is Sebastian Srouf likely brother in-law of John Owens. He was married to Agnes Owens. Another in-law James Miranda witnessed the will.

John Owens II’s will provides an insight into the geographic history of the area he lived in. He states he lives in Monongalia County, Virginia. We know for a fact that he was living on the South Fork of Tenmile creek as he also states in his will; which is in now in Pennsylvania. Virginia had laid claim to this area hence the statement that he was a resident of that state. He also refers to Monongalia a county to the south of today’s Greene County, Pennsylvania. Virginia had extended the borders of this county to include a portion of today’s Greene County, Pennsylvania. The remainder of the area in Pennsylvania claimed by Virginia was called Yohogania County and Ohio County. Ohio County, Virginia extended into a sliver of what is now Western Pennsylvania. One of the reasons for claiming land extending into Pennsylvania was the strategic location of the area which is today’s Pittsburgh where Fort Pitt was located. The Ohio River Valley was claimed by the British Colonial government and the French leading to frequent clashes until the rights to the area were settled. Forts were built in that frontier area in order to protect established Colonial settlements from attacks by the French and Indians. Virginia felt it was in their interest to control that corner of South West Pennsylvania for protection of their province, and to extend their influence into Ohio Country. Even after these dangers had been mitigated Virginia authorities wanted to retain control over this area of Southwest Pennsylvania. They encouraged settlers of this area to make claims under Virginia rights. John II’s brother David made a claim to land in this area under a Virginia certificate. As did John I.
It wasn’t until the treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768 that Pennsylvania began granting land in that area to settlers. That is when we see permanent settlement beginning to take hold and grow after years of bloodshed which kept the population small. The dispute over the border in Southwest Pennsylvania was finally settled in 1781. On 28 March 1781 Washington County, Pennsylvania was formed. The Owens land was now in Washington County, Pennsylvania. This large county was later broken up into smaller counties. In 1796 Greene County, Pennsylvania bordering on Virginia was formed, and is where the former Owens land is currently situated.

John Owens will was dated 6 April 1781. He was probably unaware he was now living in the newly formed Washington County, Pennsylvania. News was slow to be spread in early America due to slow travel, especially in frontier areas. It could take months for news of a legislated border change to reach the frontier. The new Washington County, Pennsylvania was officially formed on March 28th of 1781 only a few days before John II made his will on April 6th.

Below we see the appointment of a Registrar of Wills for Washington County, Pennsylvania on the 4th of April 1781. This person didn’t begin recording wills until August of that year.
John II’s will also confirms the narrative regarding the circumstances, month, and year of his death recorded in Harrod Newland’s Revolutionary War Pension file are correct.\(^3\) According to his account, John Owens, William Brown and two others were killed by Indians while removing their kettles at their Sugar Camp. William Harrod Jr. stated they were removing goods on sleds when they were killed. William added the name Simon Rhinehart as another of the 4 killed. A Rhinehart family was a neighbor of the John Owens II family (according to Leckey’s book Ten Mile Country). We know John Owens II didn’t die immediately of his wounds as he lived long enough to make a will.

That in the month of March, in the year 1779, in what is then Washington County, Pennsylvania, he volonuted into a company of militia which he, John Fyman, a métier, captein for the purpose of pursuing a party of Indians that made an attack upon one Samuel Engager in sugar making on the喜hete Creek, about 8 or
We learn even more about the John Owens II family from court records generated as his estate was settled. During the settlement process Susannah Owens/McMullen requests money for support of her children from the estate. Her children are only referred to by age in these documents. We learn that two of her children are twins. I’m not sure why she is claiming money for maintenance of the children from April 3rd 1781 when her husband’s will was dated April 6th? One of her children was just 5 months old in April of 1781.

---

An inventory suggests the Owens family practiced subsistence farming, only keeping a few animals for the support of their own family. The mention of 3 half pints of Rum suggests John Owen II was likely trading like his father since Rum was a favored trading item with the Indians. Patterned deer skins were also mentioned.
The following is a contract between Henry Hunnicut, holder of the sum of $200, of Kentucky currency, and the estate of John Doe, deceased. The contract is dated October 1790.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 head of cattle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 sheep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 hogs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 horses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 bushels of corn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 barrels of flour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 bushels of oats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 bushels of potatoes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total amount due is $200.00. Henry Hunnicut

[Signatures]

John Doe

[Signature]

[Date]
Expenses Susannah was asking to be reimbursed for provide some of the most interesting details about the life of this family. The family owned a servant boy who Susannah sold for 10 pounds to buy bread for the family. A mare was given to George Church to pay a debt regarding a John Owens Sr. and Jr. contract. She sold pork for salt for 3 pounds to pay for forting her family. The families of Western Pennsylvania spent certain seasons of the year living in forts, when the threat of attack by Indians was highest. Another expense was for an old mare which was sent over the mountain for salt.
John Owens owed a debt to his neighbor Thomas Kent according to the record below. Kent is recorded as living adjacent to the Owens family on a land map.
Old 1777 account with money due to John Ankrom.

When all expenses were paid 41 pounds were remaining in the estate.

In 1787 widow Susannah was in court making a report that there was still 41 pounds 8 shillings and 3 pence left in the estate.
Mrs. Owens is mentioned in a 1784 deed between William Brown and John Seals, two likely relatives of Susannah, or the Owens family. There were two Mrs. Owens living in Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1784. I’m not sure when Susannah remarried? If she was remarried before the deed was recorded this reference may not relate to her? It may refer to Judith Owens?

---

5 Washington County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book 2: page 61, William Brown to John Seals; FHL microfilm 862504.
John II’s wife Susannah Owens remarried and was referred to as Susannah McMullen in her 1790 will. She apparently died from complications of childbirth, or so her reference to a baby in her will might lead us to infer. We get a better idea of the ages of her children by looking at Orphan’s Court records after her death. The two eldest sons, John and David, were over 14 and allowed to appoint their own guardians by 1790. We can assume they were between the ages of 14 and 21. The other children still appear to be under 14, or didn’t wish to exercise their right to appoint their guardians.

I would suspect John and David’s guardians were relatives.

We first find the names of most of the children in orphans’ court records in 1790 Washington County, Pennsylvania.

---

6 Washington County, Pennsylvania, 1: page 111 Susannah Owens Will; Washington County Courthouse.
The Children of John Owens II

The Children of John II were as follows (I’m not including Susannah because the older daughters may not be hers?)

1. John Owens Jr. born between 1770-1775 in Pennsylvania
2. David Owens born between 1770-1775 based
3. Hannah Owens born about 1765 (year based on 1810 US Census) in Pennsylvania
4. Sarah Owens abt. 1768 in Pennsylvania
5. Vincent Owens between 1776 and 1780 in Pennsylvania
6. George Owens born between 1776 and 1781 in Pennsylvania
7. Mary Owens abt. 1770? in Pennsylvania
8. James D. Owen born about 1780 in Pennsylvania (Mary and James may be twins based on the way the names are listed in the probate
John Owens III.
Son of John Owens II and Susannah
John Owens III was over 14 when his mother died in 1790 so he was likely born between 1770 and 1775 in what is now Washington County, Pennsylvania (it would have been Monongalia County, Virginia when he was born. We believe that this is the John Owens III who lived most of his adult life in what is today West Virginia. Descendants of the John Owens family of Tyler County, West Virginia have taken both the Y DNA test and the autosomal DNA test, which proves the family is related to the Owens family of Pennsylvania, and descended from John Owens I the Indian Trader.

John Owens was married to Sarah Caldwell.

Children of John and Sarah:
1. Vincent Owens born about 1811 married Elizabeth Davis
2. Elizabeth Owens
3. Joseph H. Owens born 20 July 1816 in (West) Virginia married Joanna Davis
4. Polly Owens married Richard Ankrom in 1825
5. Ruth Owens born about 1796, married Joseph Ankrom in 1826
6. Thomas Owen born about 1809, married Sarah Ankrom in 1828

Several of the Owens children appear to have married into the Ankrom family, which also points to a relationship between Tyler County's John Owens, and the Owens family in Western Pennsylvania. The Ankroms lived not far from the Owens family in Washington County, now Greene County, Pennsylvania. We know they interacted based on a receipt included in John Owens II's estate file for a debt owed to John Ankrom in 1777.

John III's father left him half of his plantation, the plantation John II was then laboring on, in what is now Greene County, Pennsylvania. He may have rented out this land or sold it? The Owens never completed the process needed to get a land grant so they were never really fully vested in the land they lived on. They had a claim to the land, but didn't have a grant.

For a short time after John Owens III's mother Susannah’s death his affairs were managed by a guardian of his choosing. John III didn't come into possession of the land until he turned 21 years old, as stated in his father's will. His guardian was David Gray. He may have been an in-law of the Owens’ family? He also may be the David Gray living on the Cheat River farther south of the Owens property? If so that maybe why John III headed south a few years later?
He may be the John Owens on the United States Direct Tax List of 1798 for Greene County Pennsylvania. According to the tax list document he was renting a house from Martin Hardin. The house measured 20ftx18ft. It was valued at $20. The property included a stable and was adjacent to the properties of John Douglas and Samuel Hyde.

John Owens Jr. appears to have migrated to what is today West Virginia around 1800. He may be the John Owens listed on the 1810 Census in Elizabeth, Virginia (now West Virginia).

In the fall of 1846 John Owens sued executors of the testament of what looks to be one of his Caldwell in-laws named James Caldwell. 

---

7 United States direct tax of 1798, tax lists for the state of Pennsylvania v. 703-716 Green, Washington, and Allegheny counties v. 717 Summary abstracts (NARA Series M372, Roll 24) Familysearch.org

8 Chancery order books Ohio County Virginia, v. 3 page 443, 1831-1852. Online Microfilme Familysearch.org.
John Owens III owned land on McKim’s Fork in Tyler County, West Virginia. Below we see a record of he and his family’s land purchases in that area.⁹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owens, Isaac et al</th>
<th>68</th>
<th>Big Run</th>
<th>1853</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>459</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owens, John</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>McKim’s Fork</td>
<td>1837</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owens, John et al</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Long Run</td>
<td>1838</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owens, John Jr.</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Big Run</td>
<td>1835</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owens, Joseph</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>McKim’s Run</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owens, Joseph H.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>McKim’s Fork</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owens, Thomas</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>I. D. Well’s Run</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to John III’s will he also owned land in Doddridge County, West Virginia in partnership with Joseph McCoy.

John Owens makes his will in 1846. He gives Elizabeth, then unmarried, household goods such as a gallon kettle and spinning wheel and one reel. He also gives her some livestock including 5 Geese. He’s keeping Elizabeth busy after his death. Also someone named Swann, with no first name is mentioned? He apparently owes John III money and Elizabeth was to ask for it back from him after his death. This is likely the same Swan listed on Elizabeth’s marriage record. He apparently owed John III seven dollars.

The land on McKim’s Fork was divided between his sons Vincent and Joseph as was the custom. Daughters wouldn’t generally receive land unless they were married or the only surviving family members.

Below we see the land tax list for 1851 in Tyler County, West Virginia. John Owens III’s “estate” is being taxed because he is now deceased.¹⁰

---


¹⁰ Land book, 1815-1900 Tyler County, West Virginia. Familysearch page 579. Land Book page 401
John Owens III’s land inheritance was occupied by Samuel Hill after John III left the area. John Owens III was given the upper plantation. John III’s siblings pursued him in 1806 to get their share of the John Owens II, their father’s, estate.

John Owens died between 1846 and 1850 in Tyler County, Virginia.
David Owens
Son of John Owens II and Susannah
Little is known of John Owens II and Susannah’s son David. He first appears in the records in his father's will. His father left him the lower plantation which was later occupied by John Dripps, as seen in the map below. We also find him in orphan’s court records for Washington County, Pennsylvania. Since David Owens was over 14 in 1790 he was able to appoint his own guardians. He appointed James Seals and Patrick McGuire to be his guardians. Based on his approximate age in 1790 he was likely born between 1770 and 1775 in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

We find him again in the records a few years later on the 1798 United States Direct tax list for Greene County, Pennsylvania. He owns a piece of property he is collecting rent on.

11 United States direct tax of 1798, tax lists for the state of Pennsylvania v. 703-716 Green, Washington, and Allegheny counties v. 717 Summary abstracts (NARA Series M372, Roll 24) Familysearch.org
The last mention of David Owens in the records for Greene County, Pennsylvania is a deed for the purchase of a lot in the town of Waynesborough. He purchased lot #53.

Map of town of Waynesborough with David’s town lot circled.
Hannah Owens
Daughter of John Owens II
Hannah Owens married Thomas Broshears. Thomas was a Revolutionary War Veteran serving in the Westmoreland County Militia. Hannah appears to be older than many of John Owens II’s other children, and it’s possible she is a daughter from a previous marriage? She isn’t mentioned as a minor child in the orphan’s court records that were generated after Susannah’s death. Based on the 1810 Census for Bracken County, Kentucky I would estimate that Hannah was born about 1765. Hannah’s last child appears to have been born around 1807, and a possible daughter Sarah was likely born in the mid 1780’s. This narrows the time span for Hannah’s birth to the mid 1760’s.

There is no marriage record for Hannah and Thomas so determining whether all of Thomas Broshears’ children are hers is difficult.

Thomas Broshears’ and Hannah Owens’ children (it isn’t known for certain whether Sarah is Hannah’s biological daughter?):

1. Sarah/Sally Broshears about 1785 in Pennsylvania?
2. William Broshears born 8 Oct 1797 in Bracken County, Kentucky
3. Elizabeth Broshears born about 1790
4. Judith Susan Broshears
5. Rosey Broshears
6. George Washington Broshears
7. Owen Broshears born 9 February 1804 in Bracken County, Kentucky
8. Nancy Broshears

The minor children of Thomas and Hannah are listed in an indenture between Thomas and his son-in-law. James Owens.

Thomas Broshears and Hannah ran a tavern in their home, according to Bracken County, Kentucky court records. Thomas Broshears was also a trustee for the town of Augusta.

---

12 Bracken County, Kentucky, Order books, 1797-1924 Court Order Book A, Thomas Broshears Tavern, September 1797, "License," page 7; digital images, FamilySearch, (viewed online, 2019).
Hannah Broshears appears on several deeds as wife of Thomas. An 1807 deed states that the couple had sold town lots to John Owens Senior, their son-in-law, and John Owens Junior, Hannah's brother or half brother. The couple sold town lots 109, 107, and 105.

In 1806 Hannah's husband Thomas gives his power of attorney to James D. Owens in order to recover what was due to his wife from the estate of John Owens II in Pennsylvania. When John II died he specified that John and David share the proceeds from the estate with their siblings, which apparently they failed to do. Children of John Owens II took possession of the real estate John Owens III and David Owens had abandoned. The family had an interest in the land which they sold in order to give clear title to those who were then living on that land, namely Samuel Hill and John Dripps.

---

13 Bracken County, Kentucky, Book B: 56, Thomas Broshears deed mentioning James Owens Sr. and James Jr.; FHL microfilm 344071.

14 Bracken County, Kentucky, C: 416, James D. Owens and Thomas Broshears Power of Attorney; FHL microfilm 344072.
Francis Wells was authorized to act as “attorney in fact” to recover what was due the children of John Owens II according to his wishes in his will. Francis Wells had paid the children of John Owen II $600.00 in order to buy out their interest in the estate, which consisted of two tracts of land, which would allow him to keep whatever he recovered. They gave him a release to sue in chancery to recover the property due them. They signed the indenture of release on 6th May 1811.\textsuperscript{15}

It appears that John Owens already paid Thomas Broshears $150 by 1811. Although the Broshears appear to have come to a separate settlement Thomas Broshears owed Francis Wells $70. I assume this was part of the same transaction because the record in the deed book was also recorded in 1811?

Hannah Broshears died in 1822.

\textsuperscript{15} Greene County, Pennsylvania, Deed book 2: page 570, Owens et al to Francis Wells release; FHL microfilm 857245.
Sarah Owens
Daughter of John Owens II
Sarah Owens is a daughter of John Owens II. She may have been a daughter with a first wife? She was likely born about 1768 in Pennsylvania.

Sarah Owens married Richard Gregston in July 1791 in Bracken County, Kentucky (see marriage bond below).  

![Marriage Bond Image]

Richard Gregston and wife Sarah Owens convey property to David Gragston in May of 1827.

![Conveyance Image]

---

16 Loose Marriage Bonds 1789 to 1805, Bracken County (Kentucky). Clerk of the County Court, Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962, 1987. Online page 33
When Richard Gregston died in 1849 men were commissioned by the court to convey his property to his heirs. This resulted in a number of deeds being issued to his heirs. I do not have documentation confirming the names of his children. I have seen a couple of trees stating Sarah Gragston married to Zadoc Watkins was one of Richard and Sarah’s children. Thomas B. Gregston is also named as being one of their children. The 1810 US Census for Bracken County, Ky lists 9 people in the Richard Gregston household. Here is a list of heirs. All may be children of Richard and Sarah, but I have not been able to verify it?

1. Richard Gregston  
2. James Gregston  
3. Mary Wilson  
4. John Gregston  
5. Thomas B. Gregston  
6. Sarah Gregston married to Zadoc Watkins

Vincent Owens
Son of John Owens II and Susannah

John Owens II and Susannah’s son Vincent disappears from the records after being named as a minor child in the 1790 orphan’s court record. Vincent is an uncommon name in early America. This name appears in several Owens families in Virginia and Pennsylvania, but so far I have not found any links to the John Owens I family.
George Owens
John II and Susannah’s son
George Owens is also listed in the 1790 Orphans court document. Next we find him living near his siblings and cousins in Bracken County, Kentucky. George appears on tax lists for Bracken County.

George Owens Jr. and Sr. also appear in the stray book for Bracken County, Kentucky. Stray books were used to report stray farm animals. One of these George’s is the son of Captain George Owens, the other is the son of John Owens I and Susannah.

“Taken up by George Owens Junr. appraised before Saml Meranda. One Bay mare four years Old 15 hands high two white feet & a blaze face has had the fistlowe & appraised to $35 by John C. Taliferro & George Owens Senr.”

George also was one of the children named in the final settlement of John Owens II.

George Owens was likely born between 1775 and 1780 in Pennsylvania.

---

19 Greene County, Pennsylvania, Deed book 2: page 570 1/2, Owens et al to Francis Wells release; FHL microfilm 857245.
Marriage Bond for George Owens to Nancy Lord

Know all men by these presents that we, George Owens, John Lord, decease, and John Lord, son of the last, are lawfully married and bound unto Christopher Green, former of Kentucky, and his successors or assigns, in the sum of five hundred pounds current money to the said John, his heirs and assigns. In consideration of the sum of ten shillings paid at the beginning of this bond, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators jointly and severally, for the above marriage to be solemnized between the said George Owens and John Lord, or if either be of legal age to obstruct the same, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force.

John Lord

John Lord
Mary Owens
Daughter of John Owens II and Susannah
Mary Owens, another child of John Owens II and Susannah, was also named as a minor child in the orphan’s court records. She must have been close to becoming of age because her mother Susannah appointed Mary as guardian of her baby. The will states “Mary is to get the child at the expiration of six months and raise it and take care of it was her own until such time the said child can take care of itself …”

Mary Owens migrated to Bracken County, Kentucky with her family. Mary Owens gave her power of attorney to her brother James D. Owens to settle the estate of her father John Owens II. Mary signed the power of attorney with an X. Her name is still Mary Owens so we know she had not been married previous to 1806, and no marriage record has been found for her. Evidently she was living in a family members household. ²⁰

---

²⁰ Washington County (Pennsylvania). Register of Wills (Main Author) Pennsylvania. County Court (Washington County) (Repository) Will Book 1, Book Page, 109, Online page, 64
James D. Owens
Son of John Owens II and Susannah
James D. Owens was another son of John Owen II and Susannah, and is also my ancestor. He was probably born in the late 1770’s, or 1780, in Washington County, Pennsylvania. He married Francis Watkins in Bracken County, Kentucky in 1805. Francis may not have been 18 years old yet because her mother Elizabeth Houk gave the couple permission to marry. Elizabeth states Francis is her daughter so we know that even if they had different surnames she was indeed her daughter.21

James Owens first appearance in Bracken County records is on tax lists. A James Owens Jr. and Sr. first appear on Bracken County tax lists in 1804. Before 1804 we only see one James Owens, and we know there were two, in the earlier lists. It could be one of them was out of the area during this time, or one was exempt from paying taxes that year. When two James Owens were listed on the tax lists they were sometimes differentiated by the use of Junior and Senior, or the use of a middle initial. Here are two examples (see tax lists below):22

---


22 Bracken County tax list. Bracken County (Kentucky). Tax Assessor (Main Author) Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film Frankfort, Kentucky : Kentucky State Historical Society, 1952-1953 Online Family Search
James Owens Jr. began using the initial D around 1811. In 1814 James D. Owens was bondsman for his sister-in-law Elizabeth Houke. He signed this bond with a D initial.23

Francis Watkins’ mother was now Elizabeth Hamilton, she married again in 1810. She signs the permission slip for her daughter’s marriage with an X. James again signs with his D. initial included.

---

James D. Owens also signs the release of interest in his father John Owens II’s property with the initial D in 1811.24

> IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF they have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year above written,

George Owens
Mary A. Owens
James D. Owens
Richard Grageon
Sarah Grageon

James D. was involved in some land transactions with his sister Hannah Owens and brother-in-law Thomas Broshears. They conveyed town lots to James D., or James Jr..

In 1806 James D. Owens collected powers of attorney from Thomas Broshears25, on his wife’s behalf, and Mary Owens in order to collect a final settlement on their father’s estate.26 James also receives a power of attorney from Rachael Moranda (Meranda) to collect anything due her.27

---

24 Greene County, Pennsylvania, Deed book 2: page 570 1/2, Owens et al to Francis Wells release; FHL microfilm 857245.
25 Bracken County, Kentucky, C: 416, James D. Owens and Thomas Broshears Power of Attorney; FHL microfilm 344072.
26 Bracken County, Kentucky, C: 488, James D. Owens and Mary Owens Power of Attorney; FHL microfilm 344072.
27 Bracken County, Kentucky, C: 487, James D. Owens and Rachael Moranda Power of Attorney; FHL microfilm 344072.
James D. and his wife conveyed town lot 108 to Francis Wells in 1807. Wells had purchased any rights in the estate of John Owens II from his heirs. Apparently Francis Wells was a money lender. I’ve seen a number of transactions where he loaned money to someone and held their property as security. The Owens family may have borrowed money from him and used the property as security?

Fanny is named as James Owens wife, in the 1807 deed, confirming this to be the correct James. With two James Owens in Bracken County, Kentucky it’s always necessary to confirm which one is being referred to.

In 1808 James D. Owens and Fanny his wife convey the other two town lots they received from the Broshears to Robert Davis. The lots were number 41 and 43.

---

28 Bracken County, Kentucky, Book B: page 30, James D. Owens and Francis; FHL microfilm 344071.
29 Bracken County, Kentucky, B: 30, James D. Owens to Robert Davis; FHL microfilm 344071.
James D. Owens appears in the book of Strays. He found a stray mare. “Bracken County Sct. Taken up By James D. Owins living on the Ohio River one mile below Augusta One Sorl mare 14 ½ hands high off hind foot white a star and Blase in her face about nine years old appraised before me to thirty five dollars by Thos. Nelson & David Hucherson. Oct 31st 1812. James Armstrong Peace [p 99]” This entry confirms they lived on the Ohio River.

James Owens died intestate on 28 March 1823. His wife Francis was appointed administrator of his estate at the 1824 session of the Bracken County Quarter Session Court.

The appraisal of James Owens estate was brought to court in March 1825.

---


31 Bracken County, Kentucky, Bracken County Order books, 1797-1924, Book B page 154, online page 374; Jame D. Owens estate appointment; Bracken County Courthouse, Online Family Search website; FHL microfilm Vols. A-E 1797-1856 1943537.

32 Bracken County, Kentucky, Bracken County Wills, 1797-1866, Book C, 37-38, James D. Owens appraisal; FHL microfilm 344089.
James D. Owens inventory is very extensive. Looking at his farm related articles and livestock it looks like he had a very thriving midsized farm. He owned town lots conveyed to him by the Broshears probably as an investment. The family may have lived in the town of Augusta off and on when they owned the lots, but farming appears to be their primary means of income. One of the farming tools James D. owned was a Bayshear plow. I have found a picture of one like it. As I've gleaned from a series about early farming plowing in a straight line is an art. I had always thought ploughing would be simple, but nothing is as easy as it looks.
James' inventory of livestock included 6 cows, 2 steers, 3 hogs, 1 sow, and 18 piglets. He also owned one bay horse, and had a stand of bees.

Items listed on James D. Owens inventory after his death included, two dutch ovens, old books, a cupboard, a quilt, half a boat, a teapot, a looking glass, fireplace trammel, chairs, a washtub, candle molds, a chest, a candlestick, a lantern, spinning-wheel, kitchen table, stone churn, coffee mill, and sidesaddle.

I had no idea what a trammel was until looking that up. You would attach your dutch oven to the trammel in your fireplace to cook. I had a vague idea of what a Trundle Bed was. The trundle bed was a small bed which could slide under a larger one; very handy in cramped living quarters. The Owens family lived on the Ohio River so they had both a boat and a small sciff. I guess someone in the family could read because they did have books. I wondered about the log chains. I noticed nearly everyone had those but I had no idea how they were used until now. Apparently they were wrapped around logs so you could more easily move them. Some of the items I couldn't make out or identify. I think I would have been lost regarding some of the items, and would have to have some schooling on how to use them.

James D.'s wife Fanny bought the two corn crops that were in the field after her husband's death. She purchased her own sidesaddle from the estate. Her
brother-in-law Thomas Broshear’s purchased a bell. William Boots, her brother-in-law, purchased a churn for Fanny. Zadoc Watkins also is listed as purchasing an item from the estate. Fanny’s maiden name appears to be Watkins so he is likely a relative.33

The final settlement of James D. Owens estate was filed with the court on 28 November 1826. The estate owed $210.74 to creditors which is a substantial amount of money for that time. The estate sale garnered $195.54. That left $32.14 to the family. The estate owed $15.75 to Commonwealth Bank that Francis was making payments on. Interesting one of the creditors was John McMillen. A John McMullen, sometimes written McMillen, was the stepfather of James D.34

James D. Owens’ name continued to be listed on Bracken County Tax lists for a couple years after his death. Fanny Owens replaces her husband on the tax lists in 1825. Her husband had been taxed on 100 acres of land on the Ohio river for a number

33 Bracken County, Kentucky, Bracken County Wills, 1797-1866, C, 38-39, James D. Owens appraisal; FHL microfilm 344089.

34 Bracken County, Kentucky, Bracken County Wills, 1797-1866, C, 110, James D. Owens settlement; FHL microfilm 344089.
of years. Before his death his acreage was down to 84 acres. Fanny was taxed on 75 acres in 1825.\textsuperscript{35}

Fanny Owens continues to appear on the Censuses and tax lists until her death. She didn’t remarry after the death of her husband.

Fanny’s household in 1850 included her children David V., Hannah, and her household also appeared to include grandchildren.\textsuperscript{36}

The 1860 US Census continued to include grandchildren, but her own children were now married and living elsewhere.\textsuperscript{37}

\textsuperscript{35} Fanny Owens, Bracken County, Online page, 704. Book page, 28, 1825; Book, Tax books, 1797-1878; Tax Assessor; Online, Family Search.
\textsuperscript{36} Year: 1860; Census Place: District 1, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M653_357; Page: 162; Family History Library Film: 803357
\textsuperscript{37} Year: 1860; Census Place: District 1, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M653_357; Page: 162; Family History Library Film: 803357
Francis was granted money by the court because some of her land was used to widen a road from the Ohio river to Rock Spring Mills. \(^{38}\)

Francis appears in the book of strays. “Bracken County Sct. Taken up by Frances Owens living about two miles below Augusta on the River bottom one Sorrel Mare as a Stray, about 14 hands and 3 inches high, the left fore foot and both hind feet white, a blaze in her forehead a white Mane and white Spots in her flanks, supposed to be three years old, appraised to thirty dollars by Zadok Watkins and John Hardy before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in Said County on 17th day of May 1834 J. T. McKibben J. P.” \(^{39}\) We find Zadoc Watkins mentioned again. Zadoc is likely a brother or nephew of Francis. A Zadoc Watkins was married to Sarah Gragston.

The bible record for James D. Owens and Fanny Watkins daughter, Hannah, records Fanny Owens death as 20 July 1869. \(^{40}\)

---

\(^{38}\) Bracken County, Kentucky, Order books, 1797-1924, Book E page 131; Francis Owens; County Courthouse, Brooksville, ; FHL microfilm 1943537.


\(^{40}\) Family data, Hicks Family Bible, *Holy Bible: Old and New Testament*, (Buffalo: Phinney & Co., 1853);
Josias Owens or Josiah

Son of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins
Josias H. Owen is the son of Fanny Owens according to an 1834 deed filed in Bracken County, Kentucky. We can infer that he is also the son of James D. Owens.\textsuperscript{41}

Children Amanda and James D. Owens are listed in his will, and are living in the household of Francis Owens, his mother, in 1850 and 1860 according to US Census. In 1840 he was living in Morral, Shelby, Indiana.\textsuperscript{42}

Josiah Owens approximate age was between 30 and 39 in 1840. He may have migrated to Indiana to be near his Owens cousins?

Josias left a will dated 27 February 1849 naming his children James D. Owens and Amanda Ann Owens, but not referring to his wife by name. He also mentioned land he owned in Shelby County, Indiana.\textsuperscript{43} Josias’ will was witnessed by George W. Owens

\textsuperscript{41} Bracken County, Kentucky, Deed Book I: Book I page 108, Deed Josiah Owens to Julia Ann Owens; FHL microfilm 344076.

\textsuperscript{42} Shelby County, Indiana, Deed Book I: page 227, Deed between John Hoop and Josias H. Owens; FHL microfilm 1403621.

\textsuperscript{43} Bracken County, Kentucky, Deed Book I: Book I page 307, Deed Josiah Owens to Julia Ann Owens; FHL microfilm 344076.
who is likely a relative.\textsuperscript{44} He may be a cousin because he states he was born in Ohio, not Kentucky so may not be his brother?

Josiah mentions a first wife in his will. The two named children were hers. He also had children with his second wife that weren’t named in his will.

Josiah’s first wife was Marillo Reese. They were married in 1830.\textsuperscript{45} There is a bit of a mystery here because a deed states his wife was Ruth? Maybe Marillo wasn’t her real name or Ruth was a nickname?\textsuperscript{46}


\textsuperscript{46} Bracken County, Kentucky, Book M: page 306, Deed Josias Owens and wife Ruth to Hamilton Monohon; FHL microfilm 344077.
In 1831 Josiah was still living in Bracken County, Kentucky. He was bondsman for the marriage of Horatio Thomas and Keseas Russ.47

Josiah returned to Bracken County, Kentucky before his death. His second wife was still alive and is listed in the settlement recorded in Bracken County, Kentucky will book G. Unfortunately her first name isn't given. She is listed as Mrs. J. H. Owens. 48


Josias Owens first appears on tax lists for Bracken County, Kentucky in 1829. He was born about 1808. He last appears on the 1848 tax list. In 1848 he owns two town lots worth $350.

A Susanna Owens showed up on the 1850 Tax List after the death of Josiah. She was taxed on 3 town lots. She also appears on the 1850 Census with children Angeline, Marlin, and Joan.49

John D. Owens
Possible son of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins
Another possible son of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins is John D. Owens. He first appears on Bracken County, Kentucky tax lists in 1831. This would place his birth year around 1810.50

John D. Owens married Darcy Tatman in 1835 in Bracken County, Kentucky (marriage bond below).51

I haven't been able to find anymore about him?

50 John D. Owens, Tax books, 1797-1878, 1831 Book page 25 online page 889; Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.
Julia Ann Owens
Daughter of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins
Julia Ann Owens is likely another daughter of James D. Owen and Francis Watkins. The fact that Josiah, Fanny’s confirmed son, sold her a town lot before she married supports that inference. James D Owens. and Fanny had two daughters according to the 1820 US Census. We know one was likely Hannah; the other is likely this Julia Ann or Julie Ann.

Julia Ann married Isaac Bartlow in Bracken County, Kentucky in 1841.  

![Image of handwritten document]

A Find A Grave memorial included this information about Julia’s husband: “Came to N Ky c1790 at age 12 with older brother James. Married 3x. Elizabeth Feagins, Elizabeth Mohn(bur Bartlow cem), Julia Ann Owens (bur Bartlow cem). 19 children. First 6 born Bracken Co, KY; Remainder born Clermont (Brown) Co, Oh. Bartlow cem on original Bartlow farm deeded to youngest son Francis Marion (Bur Bartlow cem).”

Isaac Bartlow died in 1850. His likely brother-in-law Josiah Owens witnessed the will. Josiah was himself deceased when the will was finally proven. 

---


Julia Ann was left $2,000 by her husband, a substantial amount of money in 1850.
William F. Owens
Son of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins
The first time we find William F. Owens, my ancestor, is on the 1841 tax list for Bracken County, Kentucky. He may actually first appear in 1839, but without the middle initial it’s impossible to say for certain. William F. is most likely the son of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins because in 1843, two years after William F. Owens appears, "William son of James" appears. The next year his name is again given as William F. Owens. He can be identified by the fact he had just come of age, which means over 21, for tax purposes. Unlike the other William Owenses listed at the same time he owns no land.

Here we see him listed with Francis/ Fanny Owens on the Bracken County tax list for 1841. Males over 21 years of age were subject to tax. There is a hash mark indicating William F. Owens was over 21 years old in 1841.

![Image of tax list entry](https://example.com/tax_list_image.png)

Here we see Wm. Owens of James under the entry for Francis Owens on the 1843 tax list for Bracken County, Kentucky. No William F. appeared this year.

![Image of tax list entry](https://example.com/tax_list_image.png)

William F. Owens was bondsman for his sister Hannah Owens when she married his brother-in-law Henry Hicks. Hannah wasn’t married when the US Census taker was recording household’s for the 1850 US Census and was still living in her mother's household.

William F. Owens married Nancy Hicks who lived across the river in Clermont, Ohio. They were married 21 July 1847 by a Justice of the Peace in Clermont County, Ohio. A year before the marriage he purchased a rural town lot in Clermont County.

---

The children of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks were:

1. Mary E. Owens b: 17 Dec 1852 in Clermont County, Ohio married Peter Mason
2. James H. Owens b: 1848 in Clermont County, Ohio John W. Owens b: 1850 in Clermont County, Ohio
3. Francis Isabelle Owens b: abt 1854 in Clermont County, Ohio
4. Joshua (George Owens) b: abt 1856 in Clermont County, Ohio married Cora
5. Nancy J. Owens b: 1858, in Effingham County, Illinois
7. Emma Owens b: abt 1862 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois

In 1846 William F. Owens bought rural town lots #14 and #15 from Lindsey Broadwell located in Clermont County, Ohio.

55 Clermont County, Ohio, 45: 328, William F. Owens deed; FHL microfilm 333159. Also online at FamilySearch.org
The William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks family first appears on the US Census in 1850. They have two boys James H. Owens, who is 2 years old, and John W. Owens, who is 6 months. They are living in Clermont County, Ohio.

By 1860 the family had migrated to Effingham County, Illinois. Four more children now live in the William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks household. We can infer when the family made the move to Illinois based on the birthplaces of their children. The last child born in Ohio was Joshua about 1856. Nancy was born in Illinois about 1858. So we can infer that the family migrated to Illinois around 1857.

Nancy Hicks died 25 January 1865 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois. She was buried at Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.


Widower William F. Owens married Lucinda Clark on 4 Oct 1865.\textsuperscript{58}

In 1870 we find William F. Owens living with his second wife and their children.\textsuperscript{59}


\textsuperscript{59} Year: 1870; Census Place: Mattoon, Coles, Illinois; Roll: M593_197; Page: 199A; Family History Library Film: 545696
William F. Owens died on 6 Oct 1873. He is also buried in Dodge Grove Cemetery in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois. The lot he purchased continued to be used by his 2nd wife for her family. William F. and Lucinda’s daughter Sidney Owens sadly died at age one.

Dear Ms. Capple:

As per our telephone conversation, our records show the following are buried in Section 3, Lot 66, owned by W. F. Owens:

- Nancy Owens  Age 33  D.D. 1-25-1865
- Martha E. Clark  8  6-16-1866
- Sidney Owens  1  2-09-1869
- William F. Owens  -  10-06-1873
- Chld. of R. H. Hunter  -  7-03-1877
- Gertrude Stein  31  1-29-1903
- Mrs. Lou Owens  66  6-28-1904

There is only one marker on the lot. It says, “Nancy, wife of Wm. F. Owens”.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

In 1880 two of William Owens and Nancy Hicks’ children are living in the household of their sister Mary E. Owens and their brother-in-law Peter Mason. Josie and Emma are in the Mason household in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, as listed on this census.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Value of Real Estate</th>
<th>Value of Personal Estate</th>
<th>Owner/Tenant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jane Doe</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7000</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Joe Doe</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1880 Census Coles County, Illinois
James Harvey Owens
Son of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks
James Harvey Hicks was the son of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks. He was born in June of 1848 in Clermont County, Ohio. He can be found in the 1850 and 1860 US Censuses living with his family in Clermont, Ohio and Effingham County, Illinois. After finding him in both of those censuses I wasn't able to track him anymore? I didn’t have enough information about him to find him in another location. I thought he had possibly died young. I then made contact with a researcher who was working on his line. She told me he had joined the Union Army during the Civil War using his mother’s maiden name. He was under age at the time he joined and wanted to conceal his identity. I never would have found him without her help.

James Harvey Hicks evidently ran away from home and joined the 182nd Ohio Infantry Company F. The regiment was formed in Oct 1864.


James married Christine Elizabeth Hartmann 25 October 1887. The family lived in Nebraska and Thomas County, Kansas.

James H. Owens and Christine Hartmann’s children:

2. Frank N. Owens Born 13 September 1891, Wanneta, Dundy County, Nebraska. Died 1964. Married Nellie R. Beeson
3. Edward J. Owens Born 21 September 1894, Max, Dundy, Nebraska Died 1983

61 US Park Service Civil War Battle Unit history https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=UOH0182RI
In 1890 James H. Owens appeared on the Veterans Schedule for the 1890 US Census. He was living in Dundy, Nebraska.\(^\text{62}\)

Below we see the family living in Thomas County, Kansas as listed in the 1900 Census in Hale and Kingery Township.\(^\text{63}\)

In 1894 James H. Owens filed for a pension as an invalid. He filed for his pension in Nebraska.\(^\text{64}\)

---

\(^{\text{62}}\) The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.: Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Series Number: M123; Record Group Title: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Record Group Number: 15; Census Year: 1890


The pension application contains a description of James H. Owens. He was 5 ft 6 inches tall, dark complexion, with auburn hair, and hazel eyes. His occupation is given as Fireman. The application also confirms he was born in Clermont County, Ohio (Clermont spelled wrong.)

We also see James H. Owens signature on the application.
His family members in 1894 are also listed on the application. These members included his wife Christina Wirth Hartmann. He later claimed he was a widower even though she was still alive. She also claimed she was a widow. Divorce being a taboo subject I guess claiming a spouse was dead was more easily accepted.

Sadly James H. Owens abandoned his family spending most of the last years of his life in and out of soldiers homes. His wife Christine divorced him.
Here we see his record from the soldiers' home in Johnson City, Tennessee. He lists his sister Josephine Durham, nee Owens, as his closest relative.\(^{65}\)

![Image of a military record]

James H. Owens was in and out of soldiers' Homes from 1907.

![Image of a home history record]

Here we see him in the soldiers' home in Dayton, Ohio. Again he listed his sister Josephine Durham, nee Owens, as his closest relative.\(^{66}\)

---


Here is his record from Danville, Illinois soldiers' Home. Here we see he was contracted 
to join the Union Army while he was living in Coles County, Illinois.67

---

James H. Owens died 22 January 1919, in East St. Louis Illinois. Evidently he had a close relationship with his sister Josephine Durham nee Owens, we know she was living there.
John W. Owens

Son of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks
John W. Owens is another son of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks. He was born in November about 1849, in Clermont County, Ohio. I was not able to locate John W. Owens after the 1860 Census when he last appeared with his family in Effingham County, Illinois. Like his brother James H. Owens he joined the Union Army during the Civil War. He was also underage when his joined. According to his Soldiers' Home record he enlisted 25 January 1865, which is the same day his mother Nancy Hicks died. Maybe she didn't want him the enlist and her death freed him to do so?

John W. Owens continued to serve in the US Army after the Civil War. He mustered out at Fort Randall in North Dakota. This is what Wikipedia says about Fort Randall: “The site for the fort was selected in 1856 by General William S. Harney. The fort served as a strategic site on the river to defend two lines of transportation; it operated for 36 years. It was named for Colonel Daniel Randall, a career Army officer who also served as Deputy Paymaster General of the Army.

Its strategic location along the Missouri River made it a key fort in two lines of western frontier defense. It was the last link in a chain of forts protecting the overland route along the Platte River. It was also the first fort in a chain of forts on the upper Missouri River. The most important mission assigned to the soldiers of Fort Randall was to mount expeditions to try to control the many Indian tribes on the Great Plains, primarily the Teton Sioux (Lakota people).

After serving as an important base in the Indian Wars, Fort Randall closed in 1892.”68

Wikipedia’s information about the 13th Infantry: “Following the Civil War, the army was reorganized by Congress in July 1866, and the 13th was divided into three regiments, each battalion receiving two additional companies and being organized along traditional lines. The 1st Battalion retained the designation of the 13th Infantry, while the 2nd Battalion became the 22nd Infantry and the 3rd Battalion the 31st Infantry. From 1867–71 the regiment fought in the Indian Wars in Montana and North Dakota.”69

“The companies of the First Battalion were assembled at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in April, 1866, preparatory to moving to Dakota and Montana; Companies A, C, G and H were embarked on the steamer "Jennie Lewis" and were designated to establish a post north of the Black Hills, D. T.,


but on arriving at Fort Sully they received orders to proceed and establish a post at or near Fort Benton…

John W. Owens claimed a pension as an invalid in 1898, in Missouri. His wife Elizabeth claimed a widow’s pension in 1927, in Illinois.

John W. like his brother spent time in Soldiers’ Homes. The record for his stay in Dayton, Ohio states he was taller than his brother at 5 ft 8 inches in height. His complexion was dark, from outdoor work most likely. His eyes were gray and his hair was dark. The record also states his closest relative was his wife Lizzie Owens who lived at 1504 Lawrence Avenue, in Chicago.

He apparently spent time from July 1917 to April 1918 in two different Soldiers' Homes. He began his stay at Dayton then transferred to Danville, Illinois to be with his brother James H. Owens who was there at the time. The Danville Home record repeats the same information as recorded for Dayton.


John W. Owens is listed with his wife Elizabeth and son George on the 1900 US Census.\(^{73}\)

His occupation is motorman according to the 1900 Census.

---

\(^{73}\) Year: 1900; Census Place: St Louis Ward 8, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri; Page: 1; Enumeration District: 0125; FHL microfilm: 1240892
In 1910 John W. Owens, wife Elizabeth, and children Mabel J. and George W were living in Chicago as listed on the US Census. John’s sister Mary E. was also living in Chicago at that time. He was working as a Janitor at an apartment building. His son George worked as a steel and copper engraver. They were living at 4428 Vincennes Avenue, in the 6th ward in Chicago.\textsuperscript{74}

In 1910 the John W. Owens family was still living on Lawrence Ave. in Chicago. The household included himself, his wife Elizabeth, and his daughter Mabel. They were now living at 1588 Lawrence Ave., in the 26th ward of Chicago.\textsuperscript{75}

According to the 1910 US Census his occupation was now police officer for the railroad.

\textsuperscript{74} Year: 1910; Census Place: Chicago Ward 6, Cook, Illinois; Roll: T624_246; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 0344; FHL microfilm: 1374259

\textsuperscript{75} Year: 1920; Census Place: Chicago Ward 26, Cook (Chicago), Illinois; Roll: T625_336; Page: 12A; Enumeration District: 1518
John W. Owens died on 30 April 1927 in Chicago. He is buried at Irving Park Blvd Cemetery in Chicago. According to his obituary he was a member of the Lincoln post of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of Union veterans of the Civil War.\(^\text{76}\)

\(^{76}\) Chicago, Cook, Illinois, United States of America Sun, May 01, 1927 · Page 12
Mary E. Owens

Daughter of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks
Mary E. Owens was born on 17 December 1852 in Clermont County, Ohio. She was a daughter of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks. We first see her listed with her family on the 1860 US Census when they were living in Effingham County, Illinois.

In 1868 Mary E. Owens had married Peter (Pierre) Mason (Masson). They married on 30 June 1868 in Coles County, Illinois. They married in the Christian Church even though Peter was Catholic. Mary’s brothers gave their religion as Protestant on their Soldiers’ Home admission forms. Mary was most likely raised Protestant.

Peter Mason had been married before to a Rose Guyette. They had four children Peter, Rosa, Julia, and Carrie (Peter Jr. died in 1895, and is also buried in Dodge Grove Cemetery as was Peter Jr.’s grandmother). Peter Mason was born Pierre Masson on 18 October 1833 in St-Leon-le-Grand, Maurice, Canada. He was a descendant of early settlers in Quebec, Canada. He was 19 years older than his wife Mary Owens.

Children of Mary E. OWENS and Peter MASON are:

  + 2 i. Fred Augustus MASON was born 29 June 1872 in Mattoon, Coles, Illinois, and died 9 Nov 1917 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Married Helen “Nellie” Mullen

  3 ii. Nancy Isabell MASON was born 9 July 1869 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, and died 31 Aug 1891 in Mattoon, Coles, Illinois.
iii. Ida MASON was born 11 February 1876 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, and died 9 Oct 1969 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

Aurelie Josephine MASON was born 28 February 1878 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, and died 23 Aug 1885 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

Edward Joseph MASON was born 16 November 1880 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

Ada Francis MASON was born 23 August 1883 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

Mary Cecelia MASON was born 24 June 1885 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

According to the 1880 Census Peter Mason was a carpenter. The 1870 US Census listed him as a Railroad laborer. He would have worked for the Illinois Central Railroad.

Peter and Mary’s son Edward first appears on the 1900 US Census in the Household of his Uncle George (Joshua) F. Owens in St. Louis, Missouri. George F. Owens is listed as a paper hanger and his nephew Edward is a painter. Edward was likely tutored in his occupation by George F. Owens since paperhangers would also paint. Edward’s brother

---

77 Year: 1880; Census Place: Mattoon, Coles, Illinois; Roll: 183; Page: 198D; Enumeration District: 055
78 Year: 1900; Census Place: St Louis Ward 7, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri; Page: 3; Enumeration District: 0102; FHL microfilm: 1240891
Frederick Mason (my ancestor) also followed in his Uncle George’s footsteps becoming a decorator himself. Decorators were painters and wallpaper hangers.

Peter Mason died 30 August 1899 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

The year following Peter’s death Mary E. Mason, nee Owens, appears as head of household on the 1900 US Census in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois. Her household includes her children, and grandchildren Vera F. and Claude Mason who are misidentified as her children.

In 1910 Mary E. is again named as head of household. A few years after the 1900 Census the family moved from Mattoon to Chicago, Illinois. Her daughter Mary and her husband Harvey M. Platt are enumerated in Mary’s household in 1910. Both Marys are working as seamstresses according to the census. Harvey Platt is a salesman at a drygoods store. The store might be where the items the Mason women are making are sold? Granddaughter Vera is working at the modern job of Telephone Operator.

---

79 Year: 1910; Census Place: Chicago Ward 7, Cook, Illinois; Roll: T624_247; Page: 15A; Enumeration District: 0400; FHL microfilm: 1374260
Mary and Peter Mason married in a Protestant Church. Their children weren’t immediately baptized into the Catholic Church, however, in the 1880’s they had a change of heart and had their children baptized in the Catholic Church. Here we see my great-grandfather Fred Mason’s baptism record.

Mary Mason died 17 June 1911 in Chicago, Illinois. She died of a strangulated hernia. Her death certificate contains some errors, for example her father’s name wasn’t George, and her mother’s name wasn’t Mary. A daughter apparently provided the information and didn’t know the names of her grandparents.
My ancestor Fred Mason was Mary E. Owens son. He died in 1917 when his daughter Dorothy, my grandmother, was only 8 years old.\textsuperscript{80}

\textsuperscript{80} Chicago Tribune, 10 Nov 1917, Sat, Page 19
Francis Isabelle Owens
Francis Isabelle Owens born 1 November 1853 in Clermont County, Ohio. She was a daughter of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks. Francis Owens married Theodore J. Wilke on 1 June 1870 in Mattoon County, Coles County, Illinois.

In 1870 the couple first appeared on the US Census. The newlyweds lived next door to the Mason family which included Mary E. Mason nee Owens, Francis’ sister, and her brother-in-law Peter Mason.

In 1880 the Wilke family lived in St. Louis, Missouri where Francis’ brothers George (alias Joshua) and John W. Owens lived. Their sons William J, Charles H., Edward J., and Joseph F. are now found in the household. Theodore Wilke’s occupation is given as salesman.\(^{81}\)

In the 1900 US Census Theodore Wilke and wife Francis Wilke, nee Owens, are now living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There are no children living with them. Theodore Wilke is now listed as a clothing salesman.\(^{82}\)

---

\(^{81}\) Year: 1870; Census Place: Mattoon, Coles, Illinois; Roll: M593_197; Page: 224B; Family History Library Film: 545696

\(^{82}\) Year: 1900; Census Place: Milwaukee Ward 3, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Page: 11; Enumeration District: 0025; FHL microfilm: 1241800
By the 1910 US Census the family had relocated again to Chicago, Illinois where they joined their children, and Francis’ siblings John W., Mary E., and George F. (alias Joshua). Theodore Wilke is now a clerk in a dry goods store. 83

Francis Isabelle Wilke died 14 December 1913 in Chicago of Kidney disease. According to the obituary she was Catholic. Carriages took mourners to Mount Carmel Cemetery where Francis was buried. 84

83 Year: 1910; Census Place: Chicago Ward 13, Cook, Illinois; Roll: T624_255; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 0652; FHL microfilm: 1374268
84 Chicago Tribune, 15 Dec 1913, Mon, Page 19
**CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. FULL NAME</th>
<th>George M. M.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. SEX</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. BRITHPLACE</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. AGE</td>
<td>60 YEARS 1 MONTH 13 DAYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. DIED ON</td>
<td>Dec 15, 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. OCCUPATION</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. FORMER OCCUPATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. PLACE OF DEATH</td>
<td>St. Clare's Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. PLACE OF BURIAL</td>
<td>St. Clare's Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. DATE OF DEATH</td>
<td>Dec 16, 1932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHYSICIAN</th>
<th>S. R. Shull</th>
<th>LICENSE No.</th>
<th>3297-204</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS</td>
<td>211 S. W. 381</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
George F. Owens
Son of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks
aka. Joshua Owens
George F. Owens was born 4 January 1856 in Ohio. He was a son of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks. George F. is a bit of a puzzle because he never appears with William and Nancy on census records. He should have appeared in William F. Owens household on the 1860, 1870, and 1880 US Censuses. A Joshua Owens appears on those records and was born about 1856. It’s likely that Joshua changed his name to George.

The first time we see George F. Owens in the records, going by that name Joshua instead, is in the 1900 Census.  

George F. Owens married to Cora in about 1894. George and Cora’s children were:

1. William Owens, born September 1897  
2. Laury Owens, born July 1899  

George’s profession as a wallpaper hanger probably contributed to his poor health. He has a stroke which resulted in an early death. He was confined in the Chicago Home For Incurables until he finally succumbed. Wallpaper contained some hazardous

substances as did paint, which could lead to early deaths of those in the decorating profession. He also worked as a Janitor when he moved to Chicago, Illinois. Working as a Janitor would also have increased his exposure to hazardous substances.
Josephine Owens
Josephine Owens is another daughter of William F. Owens and Nancy Hicks. She was born 26 July 1863 in Effingham County, Illinois. We first see her on the 1860 US Census for Effingham County, Illinois. I believe she is the Nancy J. Owens listed on the 1860 Census.

Josephine was living with her sister Mary E. Owen and brother-in-law Peter Mason in 1880 in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois.

She was married to William Guyette, an in-law of her brother-in-law Peter Mason in 1888. Even though she married in Mattoon, Illinois she had been living in St. Louis, Missouri before her marriage according to the 1888 marriage record. She joined her siblings George and John W. Owens in St. Louis sometime after the 1880 Census. William Guyette was a blacksmith from St. Johns, Canada according to the marriage record. By coincidence William’s grandmother’s surname was given as Houke at one point. Josephine’s paternal great-grandmother Elizabeth married a man with the surname Houke.

In 1899 she remarried. She married Benedict Durham 22 November 1899. Her nephew Edward Mason and niece Ida M. Mason were witnesses at this wedding in Mattoon, Illinois. Benedict’s occupation was given as carpenter. The marriage record confirms Josephine was born in Effingham County, Illinois.

---

We find Benedict Durham and Josephine living next to her sister Mary Mason in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois. The newlyweds are living next to the Mason family as shown on the 1900 US Census.\(^{88}\)

Between the 1900 US Census and 1910 the Durham family moves to East St. Louis, Illinois. The 1910 Census for East St. Louis, Illinois includes the names of Josephine’s children from her first marriage to William Guyette. The children are 20 year old Selma Guyette, who works as a stenographer for the Steam Railroad, and 17 year old Raymond Guyette who works as a clerk for the Steam Railroad.\(^{89}\)
Josephine is widowed again in 1918 when her husband Benedict dies. She is found living alone in the 1920 US Census for East St. Louis, Illinois. She states she owns the property she is living at. She apparently had taken in the family listed above her in the 1920 Census as boarders. If she indeed owns the property Burnett H. Jones and family are renting from her.90

Josephine was working in a candy factory as a packer in 1920.

Josephine Durham nee Owens died 9 February 1926.

---

90 Year: 1920; Census Place: East St Louis Ward 6, St Clair, Illinois; Roll: T625_404; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 164
Josephine’s St. Clair County, Illinois death certificate contained a couple mistakes. She is said to have died on 9 February 1926, but the doctor stated he last saw her a day after that, on the 10th?

Josephine’s son Raymond was the informant on the death certificate. He provided the wrong name for Josephine’s father. The certificate names James Owens as her father, but we know William F. Owens was her father based on Josephine’s marriage record. The birthplace for her father is correctly recorded as Kentucky. Her mother’s name is correctly recorded as Nancy Owens.
David V. Owens
Son of James D. Owens and Nancy Hicks
David V. Owens was a son of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins. He was born between 1818 and 1820 in Bracken County, Kentucky.

We first find David on a tax list for 1840 in Bracken County, Kentucky. He would have been over 21 in 1840 according to this tax list, because there is a 1 listed in the over 21 column.  

![Tax List](image1)

Beginning with the 1842 Bracken County Tax list he added a V. middle initial to his name.

![Tax List](image2)

In 1850 David V. Owens appears in the household with his mother Francis Owens on the US Census for that year for Bracken County, Kentucky.

![Census](image3)

---

91 David Owens, Bracken County, Kentucky, page 26, 1940: Film #7891, Tax books, 1797-1878; Tax Assessor, Online Digitized Familysearch; Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.
92 David Owens, Bracken County, Kentucky, page 23, 1940: Film #7892, Tax books, 1797-1878; Tax Assessor, Online Digitized Familysearch; Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.
93 Year: 1850; Census Place: Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M432_193; Page: 436B; Image: 111
By the 1860 US Census David V. Owens is married to a Sarah. Their children are listed as a daughter named Ordell age 6, a daughter named Ada F. age 4, and a son named John H. age 2. David is said to be a farmer.\textsuperscript{94}

The David V. Owens household has grown in size by the 1870 US Census for Bracken County, Kentucky. Ordell in the previous census is now Ardell, Ada F. is now Ida F.. Children new to the household are Anna B. age 8, Chat age 2, and Henry age 1. David’s occupation is now waggoner.\textsuperscript{95}

\textsuperscript{94} Year: 1860; Census Place: District 1, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M653_357; Page: 163; Family History Library Film: 803357
\textsuperscript{95} Year: 1870; Census Place: Augusta, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M593_449; Page: 263B; Family History Library Film: 545948
In 1880 David Owens is a widower living with a boarder, Joseph Chipman, according to the 1880 US Census for Bracken County, Kentucky. His occupation appears to be working around his own farm.

David V. Owens and his wife Sarah N. deeded property, inherited by David from his father James D. Owens’ estate, to his likely sister Julia Ann Bartlow, in 1854. The land they deeded was situated on the Ohio river and occupied by Francis the widow of James D. Owens.96

We don't have the date or place of death for David V. Owens.

---

96 Bracken County, Kentucky, Volume T: 56, David V. Owens and Sarah N. Deed; FHL microfilm 344081
Hannah Owens
Daughter of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins
Hannah Owens was another daughter of James D. Owens and Francis Watkins. She lived with her mother Francis Watkins at their home on the Ohio River until she married. She married Henry Melvin Hicks, son of Elijah Hicks and Nancy Melvin, in December 1850. He lived with his family just across the Ohio River in Clermont County, Ohio. Henry was the brother-in-law of my ancestor William F. Owens who was bondman for their marriage. They married in Bracken County, Kentucky. The couple lived in Clermont County, Kentucky during their entire married life, where they raised a family.

The Henry M. Hicks and Hannah Owens family kept a bible record where they recorded family vital events. According to the bible Henry M. Hicks was born 22 June 1826. Hannah Owens was said to have been born 5 December 1821.

Children of Henry Melvin Hicks were:

1. Orestes Daily Hicks Born 29 June 1851 • Bethel, Clermont County, Ohio. Died 15 November 1905 • Franklin, Clermont Co, Ohio. Married Hattie S. Stewart
2. Sarah Francis Hicks Born 5 December 1853 •, Clermont County, OH. Died February 1859 Clermont Co, Ohio
3. Elijah Franklin Hicks Born 18 December 1855, Clermont County, Ohio, Died 6 February 1935 • Felicity, Clermont County, Ohio. Married Addie Fenton
4. Lucy Ann Hicks Born 29 September 1857 • Felicity, Clermont County, Ohio. Died 3 July 1888 • Felicity, Clermont County, Ohio. Married Francis Marion Levi
5. Mary Elizabeth Hicks Born 25 April 1860 • Clermont County, Ohio. Death 9 June 1955 • New Richmond, Clermont County, Ohio. Married John D. Joslin

6. Harvey Henry Hicks Born 21 January 1862 • Clermont County, Ohio. Death 25 June 1950 • Norwood, Clermont County, Ohio. Married Margaret Sarah Wells

7. John James Hicks Born 18 October 1864 • Clermont County, Ohio. Died 30 January 1935 • Felicity, Clermont County, Ohio. Married Emma Georgia Anna Beeker

According to a letter written by Hannah Owens she was a weaver. From the same letter we learn Hannah’s family raised apples. She wrote there were enough apples on the trees to keep a few men busy.

---

97 BIBLE Records: Hicks Bible in possession of Elizabeth (Hicks) Joslin, Georgetown, Ohio August, 1998. [copy sent to me by Lyvera Jennings Seipelt, Georgetown OH]. "Hannah F. Hicks was born December 5, 1821. Hannah Francis Hicks died November 1907 Age 86 years."
Hannah Owens parents birthplaces in the 1880 Census are stated to be Pennsylvania for her father, and Maryland for her mother. The Pennsylvania birth place would confirm that James D Owens was indeed her father.

Hannah Owens died 3 November 1907 in Franklin Township. Clermont County, Ohio.
Robert S. Owens and George W. Owens

Possible sons of James D. Owen and Francis Watkins
I don’t know what the relationship of Robert S. Owens and George W. Owens is to the James D. Owens and Francis Watkins family? There does seem to be a relationship. These two men claim to have been born in Ohio according to US Census records. The Owens children with a stronger connection to the James D. Owens family all claim to have been born in Kentucky.

Robert S. Owens is first found on the 1839 Taxlist for Bracken County, Kentucky.

Robert S. Owens married Elizabeth Morrison in 1841 in Bracken County, Kentucky.

Robert Owens appears with wife Elizabeth and family on the 1850 US Census for Bracken County, Kentucky. His occupation is Blacksmith, and he states he was born in Ohio.98

He often is associated with George W. Owens in the local records. He is also associated with a William who appears to be the son of a Thomas Owens born in Virginia.

In 1852 Thomas B. Gragston, son of Richard Gragston, collected a debt owed to his late father through a sale of land. William Owens borrowed $24.28 from the late Richard and didn't pay it back fully. The administrator of Richard's estate sued William for the unpaid debt plus interest and the sheriff executed the judgment by selling some of William Owens land. Robert S. Owens purchased the land from the sheriff's sale.99

We also find R. S. Owens associated with David Owens. I'm not sure which David Owens is being referred to in this 1852 Bracken County, Kentucky deed? It could be

99 Bracken County, Kentucky, V: 351, Gregston, Owens deed; FHL microfilm 008192716.

Robert S. Owens and Elizabeth Morrison’s daughter Lucy A. Owens married David Wood in Bracken County, Kentucky in 1864.

---

100 Bracken County, Kentucky, V: 427, William Owen & wife Elizabeth deed; FHL microfilm 008192716.
George W. Owens first appears on Bracken County, Kentucky Tax lists in 1844. He may have been born around 1822? He might also be a son of James D. Owen and Francis Watkins?

George W. Owens married Eliza P. Teagarden on 13 September 1849 in Bracken County, Kentucky. Robert S. Owens was a bondsman.  

---


George W. Owens witnessed Josiah Owens’ will. This suggests a close relationship between George W. and the James D. Owens family.

The George W. Owens family listed in the 1850 US Census for Bracken County, Kentucky includes Rebecca Owens, who could be a sister of George, and Thomas P. Teagarden, likely George’s brother-in-law. George W. is a blacksmith just like Robert S. Owens.

Rebecca P. Owens married Reuben Hunter in 1857. George W. Owens was bondsman.

Wiatt Owens from Clermont County, Ohio owns some land in Bracken County, Kentucky and shows up in Bracken County records. Not sure if George W. Owens and Robert S. Owens are related? These men might also be sons of George Owens, son of John Owens II and Susannah?

---


104 Year: 1850; Census Place: Augusta, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M432_193; Page: 457B; Image: 153

In the 1870 US Census for Bracken County, Kentucky we find the Owens family living next to their relative Thomas Teagarden’s family. George and Eliza’s two children Molly (Mary) and Thomas Owens are now listed in the Owens household.\footnote{Year: 1870; Census Place: Fairview, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: M593_449; Page: 344B; Family History Library Film: 545948}

The 1880 US Census for Bracken County, Kentucky Owens’ household includes George and Eliza’s 5 year old grandson Charles Miller. George W. Owens again states he was born in Ohio.\footnote{Year: 1880; Census Place: Augusta, Bracken, Kentucky; Roll: 404; Page: 504D; Enumeration District: 011}
George W. Owens died 11 September 1897.
Booths Creek Owens family
Many believe that John Owens I, the Indian trader, was killed by Indians on his land located on Booths Creek in what is today Marion County, West Virginia. There isn’t any evidence to prove that particular John Owens was the man killed. There were in fact a number of men named John Owens living in Western Virginia at that time. It’s likely that the John Owens with ties to Frederick County, and Hampshire County, Virginia (now Hampshire County, West Virginia) was the man killed on Booths Creek. He had sons named James, John Jr., and Owen. John’s son James Owens was also killed by Indians. John Owens Jr. and Owen Owens remained in the Booths Creek area for many years after the death of their father and brother. They sold off much of their land on Booths Creek in the early 19th Century. This family could be related to the John Owens I family of Pennsylvania, but there is no evidence of a relationship so far.

The story of the killing of John Owens in about 1780 comes from the Revolutionary War Pension file of William Powers, and another account written by him appearing in the book “Chronicles of Border Warfare.” His account in that book reads as follows:

“In June 1780 John Owens, John Juggins and Owen Owens were attacked by some Indians as they were going to their cornfield)* on Booth’s Creek and the two former were killed and scalped. Owen Owens being some distance behind them made his escape to the fort. John Owens, the younger, who had been to the pasture field for the plough horses, heard the guns, but not suspecting any danger to he near, rode forward towards the corn field. As he was proceeding along the path by a fence side riding one and leading another horse he was fired at by several Indians, some of whom afterwards rushed forward and caught at the bridle reins, yet he escaped unhurt from them all.”108

108 Withers, A. Scott., Hacker, W., Draper, L. Copeland., Thwaites, R. Gold., Hacker, W., Powers, W.
William Powers’ 1833 Revolutionary War Pension application gives a briefer account of the death of John Owens on Booths Creek. It doesn’t mention John’s sons like the account in the “Chronicles of Border Warfare.”

John Owens Jr. of Booths Creek was born about 1755. He was married to a Mary Probst, and Mary Patrick. After he sold his land the John Owens Jr. family migrated to Champaign County, Ohio.

Owen Owens was also married to a Mary. He was married to Mary Thomas.

The children of Owen and Mary sold off the remaining family land on Booths Creek in Harrison County in 1828. Most of Owen Owens family had migrated to Ohio like his brother John’s family.

I’ve included documents relating to this family in case a relationship is someday found.

---

Owens Family Harrison and Monongalia West Virginia

Legislative petition 1776 from the Settlers of Tigers (Tygart) and West Fork. John Owens with ties to Prince William County has land on West Fork. From the Library of Virginia

John Owens is killed on Booths Creek, Harrison, WV in about 1778. A James Owens was also killed on Simpsons Creek.
Owens Land-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owens, John</th>
<th>Grant Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 April 1784</td>
<td>Monongalia County</td>
<td>400 acres on Boothes Creek adjoining lands claimed by John Owen including his Improvement made thereon in the year 1774.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 June 1786</td>
<td>Harrison County</td>
<td>400 acres on the West fork adjoining his Settlement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 December 1784</td>
<td>Harrison County</td>
<td>400 acres on Booths Creek adjoining lands claimed by the Heirs of David Edwards including his Settlement made in the year 1774.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Owens of Prince William County, Virginia gave his power of attorney to John Barkley on 26th January 1795 to sell his 800 acres on West Fork to Pierce Bayly of Loudoun County, Virginia. This land was patented in Oct 1786

Asal Owens witnessed the above mentioned deed. I haven't been able to find any more information about him?
From claims adjusting claims for unpatented lands a warrant for John Owens Junior son of John Owens Senior deceased. Warrant for 400 acres in Monongalia, Yohogania+ Ohio dated 18th of February 1782
Harrison County Court Records Hackers Creek website

Court held for Harrison County March 17, 1785.
Page 41 Description: John Owens 400 acres on the waters of Boothes Creek adjoining the land of John Thomas in Right of Residence including his Improvement made in 1774.

Court held in Harrison County Apr 2, 1785
Page 41—John Owens proved owner of land by right of settlement. Court ordered certification of law certificate.

Court Held for Harrison County, June 21, 1785.
Page 47—John Owens asked that Owen Owens be exempted from paying personal taxes as he is under age

Court held for Harrison County September 19, 1786
Page 118—Owen Owens proved one day attendance as a witness in suit of Jonathan Powers vs Isaac Stackhous

Court held for Feb. 20, 1787.
Page 134,—

ON REP__VY BOND:
Jno. Wickwire Vs. Richard Merrifield and Jno. Owens.,
judgment for pltf.

Jno. Wickwire Vs. Richard Merrifield and Jno. Cobun,
judgment for plft.

Court held for May 21, 1787
Page 154,-- GRAND JURY OF IN__ EST PRESENTMENTS

Jno Owens for getting drunk
Thos Wilkinson for fighting with Thos Webb.

Page 162,-- NEW PETITION AND SUMMONS:
Lewis Duval Vs. Hezekiah Davisson, judgment for plft.

Court held for Harrison County July 16, 1787.
Ordered that on the motion of Cornelius Ward, on his
being charged with one taxable and one tithables and the same to
be returned as delinquent.

Thomas GriffVs. James Campbell, Judgment for plft.
Thos. H[?]arber Vs. Samuel McIntire, Judgment for plft.
Samuel Hanway Vs. John Owens, continued.
Peter Kincheloe Vs. Jacob Reaga, judgment for plft.
Hugh McNeeley Vs. Thomas Cheney, judgment for plft.
Daniel and Prudence Davison acknowledge deed of conveyance for land to Thomas Barkley but the same cannot be admitted
to record for reason of non payment of revenue tax.

Court held for Harrison Co. Aug 20, 1787.
A deed of conveyance to Robert Miness from Samuel Hanway
was reported Aug. 20, 1787.

OLD GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS:
Page 164,-- State Vs. John Owens, judgment and fine.
State Vs. Thomas Wilkinson verdict, not guilty

Court held for Harrison County Mar. 19, 1788
for Owens with no security.
Court met April 23, 1788.
Page 196,-- Janet Owens proved John Owens to be the rightful heir at law of John Owens, dec'd and patent granted to said John Owens for a tract of land laying in Frederick County. Recorded and Certified April 23, 1788.

Court held for Harrison County, Va., Feb 17, 1789.
Page 240,-- Thos. Harbert appointed surveyor of his way from Benjamin Robinson To John Owens. All tithables on west side of West Fork Between Tenmile and William Robinsons’ to aid and assist him in opening and keeping the road in good repair.

Court Held for May 20, 1789.
Page 256,-- Thomas Webb, John Thomas, Frances Patton and John Owens to view a way for a bridle road from Thomas Webb's Mill to the great road near Batton's old place and report conveniences and inconveniences to the court.

Page 257,-- Order of April Court directed to Wm. Ratcliff, John Heagle, John Brown Jr., and Lawrence McCann to be revived and that Daniel Cane and John Brown act in the room of William Ratcliff and John Brown Jr. and make report to court.
Page 257,--Order of November Court directed to Nicholas Carpenter Thomas Barkley, Joseph Heastings and Peter Johnson to be revived and that John Owens and Thomas Webb serve in the room of Thomas Barkley and Peter Johnson, and to report to court.

Court Held for Harrison County July 20, 1789.
Page 260,-- John Owens to survey highway from Thos. Webb's Mille to Batton's old field. Tithables on Booth's Creek to aid and assist in keeping the road in good repair.

Court held Sep 21, 1789.
Page 274,-- John Tucker's tithables, John Nixon and Samuel Noxon be added to John Owen's District to assist in opening the road of which said Owens is surveyor

Court met January 20, 1789
Court held for Harrison County June 6, 1790


Court met for Harrison County, August 21, 1792.

Page 435—John Goodwin, Robert Plumber, John Owins and Moses Hustage to view a way for a road from Clarksburg to the Monongalia River at Wigners ford.

1794 Hannah and John Owens testify in Pierpoint case. This is in Monongalia and not in Harrison county so I assume this John Owens of West Fork.

Monongalia County, (West) Virginia, records of the district, superior, and county courts

/compiled by Melba Pender Zinn

18 - 1794, District Court, Monongalia County. John Pierpoint summoned to answer Michael Henry in a plea of trespass damage 120 pounds, 20 May 1781. Complaint: Henry complained that "he lost a negro girl out of his house" and Pierpoint found her and kept her knowing full well she was the property of the said Henry. John Neely, Daniel Henry, Hannah Owens, Mary Cleland, John Owens, Nicholas Waddelort, Thomas Evans and Joseph Jenkins summoned to testify in behalf of Henry, 31 August 1792 and 14 March 1793. Joseph, John and Daniel Neely, material witnesses, were about to remove to Kentucky and their depositions were ordered to be heard, 8 June 1793.

Tax lists
John Owens Constable 1793 Tax List Monogalia WV. A John and Hannah Owens show up as witnesses in a Pierpoint lawsuit. This John appear to live in the same area. Hannah may be his wife of sister?

The deceased Owen Owen's family sell off land to Martin in 1828
Owen Owens Children from 1828 Deed Harrison County
Owens DNA Testing
DNA is a tool we are now using to confirm our Owens Family trees, and learn more about the origins of the Owens surname. Ethnic origins can also be deduced from these tests..

The Owens Y DNA Haplogroup is R1b, or R-M269. According to Michael Hammer of the University of Arizona, “Haplogroup R-M269 is the most common European Y chromosomal lineage, increasing in frequency from east to west, and carried by 110 million European men. Previous studies suggested a Paleolithic origin; however, two recent studies agree that this haplogroup has a more recent origin in Europe—yet they disagree on the timing of its spread.”

Below is a heatmap showing the distribution of the Owens Y Haplogroup R-M269 in Europe. The darker colors show where the highest concentrations of this Haplogroup can be found.

Direct line Owens males can take the Y DNA test at Family Tree DNA in order to join the Owens DNA project there.

When men match each other perfectly on the Y DNA test it confirms they are related. A small number of mismatches, when mutations occur, can be helpful however. A mutation shared by men descended from the same ancestor can help separate groups of distantly related men into more closely related branches of a family. John Owens’, son of David Sr.’s, descendants appear to have a branch marking mutation. If we find more that would be helpful in identifying branches.
Below you see the results of the Owens Y DNA project. All of the Owens testers are confirmed to be related, but exactly when they share a common ancestor is impossible to say. DNA alone can’t pinpoint exactly when two people share a common ancestor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name</th>
<th>Y DNA Profile</th>
<th>mtDNA Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alice Owens</td>
<td>R1b-M269</td>
<td>R1b-M269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Owens</td>
<td>R1b-M269</td>
<td>R1b-M269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Owens</td>
<td>R1b-M269</td>
<td>R1b-M269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A test available to everyone, not only males like the Y DNA test, is the Autosomal DNA test. We have Owens who have tested, or have uploaded raw data, at all of the testing companies including 23andMe, Ancestry.com, Family Tree DNA, and MyHeritage. These tests have helped support our paper trails. We haven’t found any breaks in the family lines through DNA testing, yet (breaks occur when there are secret adoptions, and non paternity events).

There are no female mtDNA testers through the direct Owens female lines. If a female Owens tested and could trace her line back to one of John Owens I’s wives they could prove whether that particular line was Native American, or not. Native Americans are part of distinctive mtDNA haplogroups, which is the best confirmation possible for Native American ancestry.

So far the autosomal ethnicity tests have not found substantial amounts of Native American admixture in the DNA samples of the Owens testers. At most trace amounts have been found. Because our possible Native American ancestry is from so far back in time it is difficult for the current autosomal tests to confirm that we do or don’t have that ancestry. mtDNA testing of direct line females would be the only way to confirm or refute that ancestry.

---

More David Owens Information
365. TO PETER COLLINSON

Dear Sir

We have just receiv'd the following Advice from Northampton County, viz. one David Owens, a Soldier belonging to the Regulars, but deserted some time since to the Indians, came in last Week to Capt. Carns's Post and deliver'd himself up. He brought with him a white Boy that had been taken Prisoner by the Indians last Fall, when they kill'd the People in the Flat upon Delaware; and also five fresh Indian Scalps. The Account given by him and the Boy is, that they were

---

Footnote: From the original in the possession of Mr. Frank T. Sabin. The following note is written upon the letter, in the handwriting of Peter Collinson: — "The above bloody scheme of D. Owen to atone for his Desertion is very shocking. What must the Five Indian Nations think of the White Men who vie with them in Cruelties?" — Ed.
with a Party of nine Indians, to wit, 5 men, 2 Women, and 2 Children, coming down Susquehanah to fetch Corn from their last Year’s Planting Place; that they went ashore and encamp’d at Night and made a Fire by which they slept: that in the Night Owens made the White Boy get up from among the Indians, and go to the other side of the Fire; and then taking up the Indians’ Guns, he shot two of the Men immediately, and with his Hatchet dispatch’d another Man together with the Women and Children. Two Men only made their Escape. Owens scalp’d the 5 grown Persons, and bid the White Boy scalp the Children; but he declin’d it, so they were left. He reports that the Indians were assembling in great Numbers when he left them.

I am Sir

Your most obedient Servant

B. Franklin
State of Indiana
County of Clark

David Brown of the State

Hereafter being duly sworn makes oath and says that his first acquaintance with Captain George Brown was commenced sometime in April 1782, at which time this affiant in company with his father removed to Louisville in the State of Kentucky. Captain George Brown was at that time in the fort at Louisville, he in command of his company. He was informed by Captain George Brown and others of his men that they had been stationed at the Iron banks at Fort Jefferson; at this time that Captain George Brown had been Col. Cole of Fort Jefferson while he Col. was in command of the Indians who were besieging the fort. This latter distance affiant does not know of, except his own knowledge, but only from hearsay at the time. This affiant lived in the fort at the fall; from the time of his arrival there in April 1782 till the commence July 1782 one thousand three hundred and eighty days. Captain George Brown remained at the fort in command of his company except at such times as he was absent in pursuit of Indians on the other side of the river. This affiant remembers to have frequently seen Captain George Brown return with his company from their deplorable expeditions bearing with them prisoners & scalps.

Affiant states that in the fall of one thousand three hundred and eighty days the company under the command of Captain Owens was disturbed such that up to that time Captain Owens retained the command of it. After his company was disturbed
seen as follows. Captain George Coppins, his Company with two Men one named Jerry Mays, and another the other had started on an expeditiion, and on their return, they were attacked by a party of Indians who killed Mays the first, and Captained Capt. Owen, and Captained Owen with them to the month of Vermillion river in Indiana, when they burned Captain George Coppins several days by a slow fire.

These latter facts this affiant learned from Mr. Hart, and William Wells who were prisoner near present at the time of the burning; he has also heard the same statement from Robt. Oliver above named, and has no doubt of their truth.

This affiant was acquainted with Charity Coppins the wife of Captain George Coppins for several years before the death of Captain Coppins; she has been about four or five years. Affiant further states that Captain George Coppins had two sons by his wife Charity, who were named George Coppins and Thomas Coppins, and who are both living at this time in Scott County in this State. These are the only heirs now living of whom this affiant has any knowledge. There was a daughter who is dead. This affiant is a nephew to Captain George Coppins. Captain Coppins and this affiant's father were half brothers. This affiant has no interest, direct or indirect, in the event of the application now making by the heirs of Captain Coppins for lands or other claims. Captain Coppins had the reputation
State of Indiana

Clark County, I, Henry Harrod, Clerk of the Probate Court for the county of Clark, in said State of Indiana, do hereby, being a court of record, do certify that on the 13 day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty, David Owen appeared in open court and made oath to the within affidavit and acknowledged the signature to the within affidavit and stated that the matters and things set forth in the within affidavit were true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name and thereto affixed the seal of the Probate Court at Charlestown, the 13 day of February AD 1840.

Henry Harrod

[Signature]

wife of Indiana

Clark County, I, I. W. M. Goodwin, the Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that Henry Harrod, Clerk of our said Court, duly commissioned and qualified as such, did that his name appears in a docket of Law, I further certify that I have been personally acquainted with David Owen, whose affidavit above appears, for a long space of time, that he is a man of respectability, and that his statements above...
Ft. Nelson 13th April 1784 (To James Sherlock)

This letter will acknowledge the receipt of by Mr. Coleman + the Indian messengers. I now find them back accompanied by Mr. David Owens who speaks the Tongue, and will inform you of everything more particularly than I can write. I expect you home this spring with all the Prisoners. The Governor from my recommendation of you has not been forgetful of you. For god's sake do not do my discredit. Your own Fortune in this great mission depends on your perfect conduct.

I sent a small talk to the Shawnee as well as the Wyandots: You are to interpret them, and if Mr. Owens can assist you. I am glad to find their disposition are for peace ________shall once more for ever hold the ___ chain of friendship together never to be broken.

I would have dispatched your messengers immediately, but I wished to have our Chiefs of this country to hear what I had to say in answer to the speeches I received, as well as to do honor to the messengers of our Brothers the Shawanese + Wyandots.

Your detention during this winter Jeffersonville be rather advantageous than detrimental; especially as I have hopes it paves the way for your bringing in the Prisoners without fail, and you have just reason not only to assist but be in a great measure assured of receiving to yourself a valuable consideration for any prisoners you bring in, from the Parents Guardians or friends of them respectively; exclusive of the views I have from Gov. in your favors. In short expect yourself on this occasion + there is next to a certainty of your being a man of consequence seen hereafter.

Genl. Clark is one of the comdrs. Appointed to threat with the Shawanese + others arrived. When he does I shall be enabled to find the necessary invitation for our meeting Shawanese but at any rate as the Wabashe tribes are expected in. I shall depend on your return to interpret for me. Your return is expected as quickly as possible.

I am highly displeased with Mr. Benjamin Pyatt for daring to tell such lies to our brothers. All the white people are exasperated at the news, but hope no regard will be paid to anything said by such a fool. Rest assured that agreeable to your present good conduct you have it in your power to do a great deal for yourself, in which you will always command the assistance and good office of ____Sir.

You friend + Humble Serv.
George Walls

Mr. David Owens
You are hereby in consequence of your appointment as Indian Interpreter, to proceed in Company with the Shawanese messengers, taking in your care the Speeches I send to the Shawanese + Wyndots you are to deliver these speeches to Mr. James Sherlock and give him all the assistance in your power to render essential Service to your Country. You are to advise with Mr. Sherlock what is, or may be expedient for the public Good, having in View that you Return to this place as quick as may be done without injuring the public welfare, + that in case Mr. Sherlock should not be immediately ready to accompany you, that you use your Best endeavours to bring home under your Escort all the prisoners which may be ready for your taking in charge from Mr. Sherlock.

Given under my hand at Fort Nelson (Falls of Ohio)
This 13th April 1784
Signed Geo. Walls
Maj. Comdr.

Copy of a Talk to the Shawnese Sent them by David Owens + two Shawanese Runners the 14 April 1784

Brothers,
Your messengers arrived in Saply? And we received them with Friendship as we would do our own flesh + Blood, which they can assure you of. We also received your good talk, and rejoice to find your Heart as good + inclined to Peace which is also our Desire as your Messengers will inform you.
Brothers
Will lose no time in finding your good talks to our great Chiefs and your Elder Brother the Governor of the Big Knife. In the mean time we will not believe any foolish Stories to your prejudice + Atho Some of our Blood has been lately spilled at limestone Creek on our Side of the Big River, yet we are willing to believe it was the Cherokees who did it without your Knowledge or consent, however we shall soon drive out the bad Spirit from among them which has caused them to be so long blind to their own good. We are sorry their misbehavior puts us to the necessity of Chastising them and are glad to hear your intention of putting a Stop to their Bad conduct this Spring.
Brothers,
Altho we cannot meet you immediately to treat, yet the Path is now open and cleared from the
Briars and thorns that might hurt your feet, so that any of you Peaceable men may come in
friendship and see us and Shake hands + Smoke and talk with us at any time until matters are
finally Settled to the Satisfaction of us all and when they Chiefs to leave us they may depart in
Peace and friendship.
Brothers We are sorry for the Death of your great chief wry-neck, + consoles with you for his ___
We wish he had lived to see us once more lay hold of the strong chain of friendship, never let go.
Brothers
We are glad to hear you desire no more Liquor to be sent into your Nation, as it always hinders both
you and us in good intentions. If you may be a friend that we will do all in our Power to put a Stop to
it; but Several of our Foolish People we hear have taken it among you without our knowledge or
consent, which we are very Sorry for. We hope will be as good as your Promise in delivering up our
flesh and blood this Spring which now taken prisoners in the time of War, as we long much to see
them again. We are glad to hear you have given our messenger a good reception, + expect he will
bring our flesh + Blood with him on his return.
Done at Fort Nelson of Ohio April 13th 1784.
Signed
Geo. Walls
Maj. Comd.

Speech to the Wyandots sent by the same messengers at s. Time
Brothers
We have received your good speech by the Shawanese Messengers with four Strings of white + Six
Strings of Black Wampum, which we accept as a Token of you friendship, + of the Sincerity of your
Hearts.
Brothers,
I have Sent your talk to your Elder Brother the Govr. and the great chiefs of the big Knife + as soon
as we receive an answer we will send to you and appoint a time and place of meeting in order finally
to confirm the Peace we are both so desirous should take------- among us, as well as to receive
from your hand our flesh + blood which were taken prisoners in the time of War, which we make no
doubt you will bring with you according to your promise.
Brothers. I hope you will not listen to ____foolish Stories, but believe that we are Sincere in wishing
to hold fast the chain of Friendship forever. In token of which I send three Strings of white wampum.
Done at the Falls of Ohio April 12 1784
Signed
Geor. Walls
Maj. Comdr.
Survey Maps

Pennsylvania
John Dwyer 

Applies for a Warrant or Order of Survey for 

Hundred and fifty acres of Land lying and being in the County 

of Auglaize, Creek and bounded by the said Creek, on the S 

David Owen's land of improvements on the North East by a Log 

on the South by William Turner Survey on the West 


Trued August 1, 1766 

To James Wilson Esqr. 

Secretary of the Land Office 

in Philadelphia
In pursuance of a Warrant dat'd the 20th day of Sept. 1768. Survey'd to John Owens the 26th day of October 1768 the above described Tract of Land Situate on Shoever Pom & Little Dun Inla - Joining Jacob Hiltzimer's land & others then Cumberland new Bedford County Containing Two hundred & thirty seven acres & a half & allowance of Six p. cent for Roads &c.

George Woods D.S.
Situate on the North Side of the Roystown Branch of the Juliatta River in Hopewell Township, Huntington County containing one hundred eleven acres 36 perches & allowance. Being part of a tract of land containing 271 acres & Allowance which was surveyed in pursuance of an Order of Survey granted to John Owens No. 332 & dated the 17th of August 1766 This part resurveyed & divided from the residue of said tract the 20th of April 1831.

Middle Creek, 324  Jacob Owen Junr. 300.

Creek, Adjoining James Ferguson's Land on the left of the Creek that make Kiskiskaulee by Valley and on West of that was parallel with the Gold Eagle and laying on the South side of the Summer Creek Near to 8 Springs.
Tenmile Creek Widow's land
IN TESTIMONY that the above is a copy of the original remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, made conformably to an act of Assembly approved the 10th day of February, 1833, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the seal of said Department to be affixed at Harrisburg, this twenty-fifth day of January, 1840.

[Signature]
Secretary of Internal Affairs.