

THE SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Po Box 4817

March 4, 1978

Dear Mrs. Franklin,

I am the corresponding secretary for the San Joaquin Genealogical Society and your letter of inquiry on B. W. Owens was read at our board meeting. The name rang a bell in my mind and upon looking through my family genealogical history, I find the following:

Benjamin Wiley Owens

Born - 7 Sept 1818 - Fairfield, South Carolina
Died - 14 Oct 1884 - Alameda, Alameda Co., Calif.
Married - 23 Nov 1847 in Independence Col, Arkansas to
Jane Moore (my great grandmother's sister)
Born-21 Aug 1823 on a plantation near Batesville, Ark.
Died - July 10 1884 in Alameda, Calif.
Children - Four (However, I only have three listed)

1. Leonora Owens -

Born - 23 Sept 1848 - Batesville, Ark.
Married - Andrus Raynor
Died 24 Aug. 1875
Children - Several. All died in infancy except Harry

2. Caroline Owens

Born 13 Nov.-----Stockton, Ca.(after 1853)
Married - Jay Gus Burt
Died - 24 Aug 1919
Children - Mabel, William and Walter

3. Mary Owens

Born 15 Oct -----Stockton, Ca(after 1853)
Married - 23 Feb. 1871 - to Edward Haus Clarke
in San Francisco
Died -
Children - Hattie, Fred H. and Estelle

Benjamin Wiley Owens, his wife Jane (Moore) Owens and his oldest child came to Stockton, Calif via the Sonora Pass through the Sierra Nevadas from Batesville, Arkansas in Oct. 1853 in what is known as the Moore Wagon Train. There were about 75 people in the train.

I am assuming that you are not a direct line descendant of B. W. Owens, but you are related to Martha E. Owens who, I assume is his sister. However, if you are in direct line from B. W. Owens, I have wonderful genealogical material on his wife's family and would like to have it Eanan Xerox it for you. If you are not in direct line, the material would not be of any use to you.

If you are looking for more information on B. W. Owens, you might write to the Public Library in Alameda, Calif. and find out if they might have an obituary on him in one of the old newspapers dated around 24 Aug. 1875.

I do not know what newspaper was being published in 1875 in Alameda. However, as Alameda is right next to Oakland, Calif., I think that the paper now serving that area is called the Oakland Tribune. You might try the Alameda County Hall of Records (include a check for \$3.00) and a stamped self-addressed envelope and if you are lucky, you might get a good hearted clerk that will check the records for a death record. If they won't take the time to look, they should return your check to you.

As long as I am writing to you about the Owens family, I might mention that a very close friend of mine (now deceased) named Joy (Morrill) Beauchemin has relatives living on a ranch just outside of Farmington, Cal. She had a sister named Harriet and three brothers Bill, Douglas and Homer. Homer passed away about 10 years ago and one of her brothers died a few years ago. I don't know whether it was Bill or Douglas, but if you addressed a letter to the Morrill Family, Farmington, Calif., it should be delivered to their ranch. Farmington is a very small town and everyone knows everyone else. I am sorry that I cannot be more specific on this line.

I hope that the information that I have sent to you will be of some help in your research and I wish you lots of luck.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thomas I. Dixon

Mrs. Thomas I. Dixon,
5906 Claremont Ave.,
Stockton, Calif. 95207

P. S. Our president Mrs. Bonta instructed me to tell you that we would be most appreciative if you would be willing to send what you have on the Ephriam Morrill line. Our organization is down pretty low financially and could not pay you, but if you wish to donate it to us, we would certainly like to have it. Meanwhile, I will see what I can get on the Morrills here in Farmington.