

**JOHN OWEN OF  
CHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

John Owen was the father of Priscilla Owen who married Dempsey Winborne, Jr. and the grandfather of Rachel Winborne who married: First, Robert Walker (?), second Edward Thomas Broughton, Sr.

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

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

John Owen was very active in the early courts of Chester County both as a plaintiff and defendant. In the October Court of 1786, held at the house of John Walker: John Owen vs. Ralph Griffin. Attachment Daniel Brown for Owen and defendant, failing to appear, effects in the hands of James Langley. Griffin was probably related. In 1799 Priscilla, David and Robert Owen were witness and executor to Samuel Griffin's will. He was the father of Ralph Griffin. And in Halifax, Virginia, Solomon Owen witnessed a deed for land bought by Samuel Griffin in 1762.

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

John was appointed administrator of the estate of Daniel Croft of York County in 1791. When the appraisers appeared at Croft's former house they "could not find nor see any property nor was shown anything by John Owen, Administrator. Certified by us this day 2 April 1791. Samuel, Thomas Bratton, and William Dawson, Appraiser . . ." Later, it is found Robert Owen bought the land from Samuel Croft. He willed it to his youngest son. It was known as Croft's Place.

The property of John Owen was near the present town of Lowry. Two old homes in the area are mentioned as being on property purchased from the heirs of Isaac Smith, being part of land granted to John Owen March 1, 1790. These are the homes of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Andrews and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Cassels mentioned in an article on "Old Homes of the Lowry Area."

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

The children of John and Rachel Owen:

- i. Robert Owen married Kitty Leake, daughter of Elisha Leake (Mr. Felicity) in 1796 in Goochland County, Virginia. Robert died ca. 1801, leaving a will. Kitty went back to Virginia and married John Power; later went to Alabama. Robert was also named as one of the Commissioners of Road in Chester County in 1798. He and Kitty had two sons:
  - a. John Leake Owen who went to Morgan County, Alabama ca. 1830.
  - b. Robert Owen who stayed in York County and sold the Croft property March 8, 1842. He also brought suit against the estate of John Owen in 1832.
- ii. David Owen born ca. 1770, was deputy under Samuel Lacey. Married Mary Smith. Owned property that he gave to a Baptist church called Cold Spring Church with

condition that the land revert to him when church disbanded. He sold this land in Alabama 1825. One source states that David G. Owen, Thomas and William in St. Claire County, Al were brothers. Were they sons of David?

These were on the 1860 St. Claire County, Alabama Census.

iii. Rachel Owen married Hezikiah Donald, his second marriage.

- a. Cooke Donald
- b. John Terry Donald

iv. Elizabeth (Betsy) Owen married William Foreman, son of Samuel Foreman of York County, South Carolina. A marriage bond exists for this marriage. The Foremans remained in Chester County until after 1832 when they went to St. Claire County, Alabama. In 1829 Rachel gave William Foreman release to all the personal and real estate left in her possession. He was bound to her \$1000; and the document states that he was obligated "to well and truly support the said Rachel Owen during her natural life in all the necessaries of life which she now enjoys or cause same to be done..."

Children of Betsy and William Foreman:

- a. John Owen Foreman (Dr) born 12 October 1802, South Carolina, married December 17, 1826 to Nancy Joiner. John Owen Foreman was in Chester County and tended Rachel Owen and her slaves in 1832. Went to Attala County, Mississippi; died 1880.
- b. Rachel Owen Foreman born ca. 1804, married Robert Donald.
- c. Mary Foreman born 1806, married 8 February 1838 in St. Claire County, Alabama to Robert George; had 12 children.

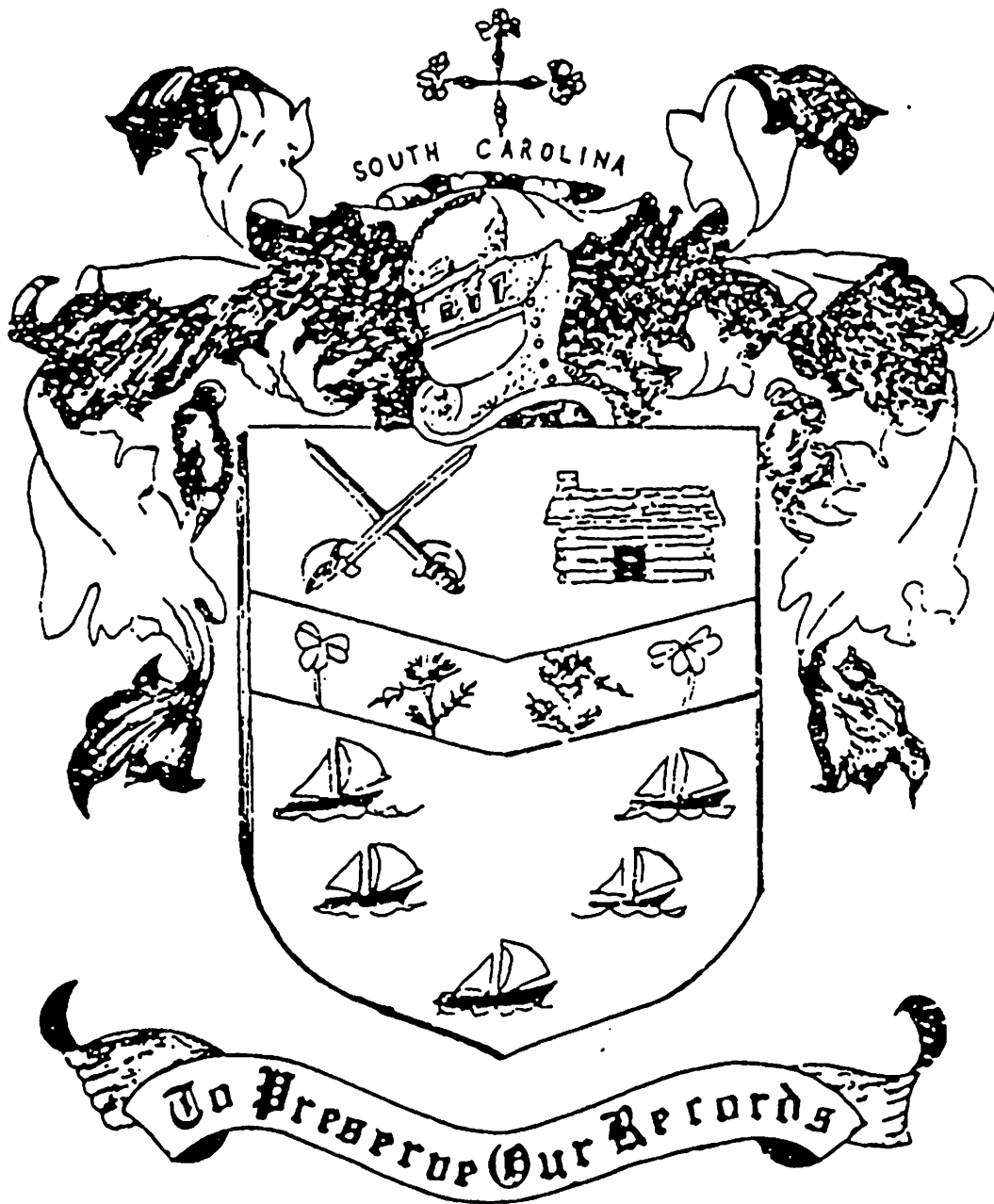
- d. David Foreman born 17 March 1808 in South Carolina; married first to Martha Strange and second to Sarah Phillips 22 December 1857 in St. Claire, Alabama.
- e. James H. Foreman born 1810 in South Carolina, married 21 January 1845 in St. Claire County, Alabama to Parthena Dean.
- v. Priscilla Owen married Dempsey Winborne, Jr. They lived in Chester County, South Carolina until 1817 when they went to Monroe County, Alabama where Dempsey was a Primitive Baptist preacher. He died ca. 1823, and Priscilla lived with her son-in-law, Edward Thomas Broughton, Sr. She was born ca. 1778, married ca. 1800, and died ca. 1864 in Smith County, Texas. They had one known daughter.
  - a. Rachel Winborne born ca. 1800, married first to Robert Walker, and second to E. T. Broughton, Sr. in 1823 in Monroe County, Alabama. Moved from Alabama to Ouachita County, Arkansas ca. 1842; were in Cherokee County, Texas by 1850.

In estate appraisal made 14 May 1819, John Owens' estate was \$5,086.

On November 14 1831 another estate appraisal was made of the estate of John Owen, dec'd remaining in the hands of his widow at time of his decease. John G. Smith, John B. Davis, Henry Y. Turner and James Griffin made the appraisal of \$181.11. Rachel Owen was still living at this time for in a note by William Foreman dated November 1832: "Price of cow kept by old Mrs. Owen 15.00 Interest \$12.00."

Rachel probably died the latter part of 1832 as a bill for medicine for Mrs. Rachel Owen from (included in estate records) McClure and Henry DR. and sworn before the court 31st January 1833 by Wm. McClure that it was just and true debt, and a receipt reads "Rec'd of Wm. Foreman, Executor, One dollar and 93 3/4 cents paid in full of the within acct. McClure & Henry. Dr. John Owen Foreman billed the estate \$39.19 and signed a receipt he was paid in full 23 January 1832.

# THE BULLETIN



**CHESTER DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

SERVING CHESTER, FAIRFIELD, LANCASTER, UNION AND YORK COUNTIES

P.O. BOX 336 RICHBURG, S.C. 29729

VOLUME XVIII

SEPTEMBER, 1994

NUMBER 3