

OWENS FAMILY HISTORY

The Owens Family Reunion brings together the descendents of Ladd Owens and Jeannie Pope Owens.

Our earliest known roots date back to the early 1800's during slavery with the parents of Ladd—Benjamin and Ann Owens. Eight children were born to this union: James, Edward, Thomas, Anna, Mary, Nancy, Ladd (1883), and Lila. Little is known about Jeannie, but as far as we have been able to determine, Jeannie's mother was a Tompson or Thompson and her father was a Pope. She was raised by the Pope family in Winnsboro, South Carolina. According to the 1920 Census she was 25 years old at that time.

The Ladd Owens & Jeannie Pope family began forming in the late 1800's in Fairfield County, South Carolina in the community of Jackson Creek (Township 12) near Salem Crossroads. To this union twelve children—six boys and six girls were born: Willie (01/25/1910), Edna Earl, Tommy, James Elbert (Buster), Jessie (05/15/1916), David (11/10/1917), L. A.(02/07/1919), Mattie (12/24/1920), Hazel (12/12/1922), John (08/08/1924), Ruby Mae and Hattie. The family worked as sharecroppers/farmers in the area.

During the mid 1920's Jeannie left home twice but never returned the second time for reasons unknown. Her whereabouts have not been determined thus far. Around 1926 or 1927 the family moved to Chester, South Carolina and made their residence at the Frazer Place on Beltline Road where they worked as sharecroppers/farmers. The land, where the newly erected branch of York Technical College is located, was donated by the Frazer family and is part of the Frazer farm where the family lived and worked.

While in Chester Willie, the oldest sibling, assumed the role of caregiver for the younger siblings along with help from her paternal aunts. The family joined the Friendship Baptist Church on Columbia Road which was down the hill from Lila Watkins' house (Ladd's sister).

As time went on, the Owens siblings married and started their own families.

--Willie married John (Jack) Wilmore and to this union seven children were born: L. B. (Hamp), Nellie, Wade Lee, Annie Mae, Elizabeth, Bob and George. Willie died November 9, 1982.

--Edna died at the age of 18.

--Tommy died in early childhood.

--James Elbert (Buster) never married and his last known residence was in Baltimore, Maryland.

--Jessie married George Wilmore and to this union two daughters were born: Georgia Mae and Martha. She later married Clifford Lynch.

--David married Virginia Gordon and to this union five children were born: Fannie Ann, Gloria Jean, Brenda Carol, David Lee and Robert Allen. David died January 7, 1982.

--L. A. married Elizabeth Dixon and to this union five children were born: Floree, Betty Joyce, Mary Elizabeth, Joanne and Cynthia Ann. L. A. died December 20, 1987.

--Mattie married Rev. Marion Clowney and to this union ten children were born: Mary Magalene, Roy, Marion Jr. (Skip), James Albert, Billy Ray, Mattie Ruth, Marvin Tyrone, Gloria, Terry and Charles Jeffery. Mattie died October 8, 1998.

--Hazel married Janie Mae Douglas and to this union three children were born: Hazel Jr., Marilyn and June. Hazel died July 15, 1979.

--John Albert married Pearla Mae Hooper. Together they had two daughters and two sons: Bertha, James Elbert, John Albert and Sarah Ann. John died October 3, 1997.

--Ruby Mae died at four months of age.

--Hattie—the youngest child born—is also deceased.

Ladd became ill and was hospitalized in January, 1948 for two weeks at the Pryor Hospital in Chester, suffering from hypertension and cardio-vascular disease. When he was released, unable to care for himself, he went to live with L. A. and Elizabeth Owens and their family for several months until his death. He died April 11, 1948 of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 65 years of age. He is buried in Benson Cemetery on York Road in Chester. No records have been found to date concerning the birth, death, etc. of Jeannie Pope Owens.

As far as we have been able to determine, all the children of Ladd and Jeannie Pope Owens are deceased except for one sole survivor, Jessie Owens Wilmore Lynch, who is 93 years old. However, the death of Buster is still questionable.

This is our legacy and we should embrace it, be proud of it and continue to search for our roots as the journey continues...

Information compiled and recorded by Gloria Owens Crank with historical inserts given by Georgia Mae Foster and Floree Addison on this the 26th day of June, 2009.