

Owens Family

James and Mary Jolly Owens

Jonas Owens, who came to America before the Revolutionary War, was the father of Amos Owens. It is supposed that he lived near Kings Mountain at the time of the battle by that name, because it is said that he stood in his door and watched the battle rage.

Amos Owens, a man noted for his wit, sagacity, and endurance, served throughout the Civil War. He was with General Lee when he surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse, and saw the brave boys lay down their arms.

He was a live wire; he was always ready and willing to join in to put down carpet-baggers, and scalawags, and contributed his full share in the exciting and troublous reconstruction days.

By his foresight and industry he was able to buy and pay for the famous Cherry Mountain in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

It is said of him that he was a good neighbor, was free to give, and quick to respond to all calls.

Early in life he married Mary Wood Sweeney, the daughter of Rosa Burton Sweeney. She made a capable and sympathetic wife. Amos was away much and left to her the work of the home. The writer witnessed a meeting between them once when he carried Amos home after an absence of five years. His wife ran to meet him, took him in her arms and blessed him with a kiss. That night, she said:

“Now, Mr. Owens, I have a pan of good warm water. Come on and let me give you a nice cleaning.”

Amos answered, “I am glad of that. I have been away a long time. I am mightily glad to get back. I did my best to protect my home and the women from the scalawags and carpet-baggers. They caught me. And I have paid the penalty in Albany for five years. I am glad to get a good bath. But the Lord has been good to us; he has given us much to be thankful for. I feel now that we can live together for the rest of our days in peace.”

She replied, “Let us trust in the Lord, and He will bless us both in our old age.”

The writer has recounted this that the reader may see what sort of stuff the women of the sixties were made of when the womanhood of the South was laid in the balance.

The children are:

- Rosa Emmeline married Martin Elliott McIntyre; both now dead.
- Rachel Owens, never married.
- Dulcenia married Martin Jones; both dead.
- Mary Ann married George Davis; to them were born three children, Charlie, Grover and Essie.
- Lawson married Mattie Freeman; both dead. They left one child, Willie, who married Louisa Jones.
- Sophia Owens married George Bridges. They have several children.
- James Gadberry Owens married Mary Magadeline Jolly. They had the following children:

- Louisa married Wilburn H. Wall, a preacher.
- Bertie Jane married Benjamin Y. Allison of Old Fort, N. C.;
- Richard Himself Owens married Ila Hester, daughter of Pink Hester of Rutherfordton, R. F.D. No. 1, N. C.
- Maude married Henry Taylor of Caroleen, N. C.
- Grady married Martha Matthews, daughter of E. F. Matthews, Fulton, Missouri
- Ella married Edgar F. Howell, of High. Point, N. C.

Mary is the daughter of the writer, R. M. Jolly. Her husband, Jimmie, as he was known by his friends, lived a quiet life, endeared himself to his neighbors and friends. Early in life he joined the Baptist church at Grassy Pond in Cleveland County, from which place he later moved his membership to Caroleen where it remained to the time of his death, in 1917, age 56 years.

Mary was born July 22, 1867, near her father's old home place in South Carolina. She has struggled to raise her five children and to provide an education for them. She, therefore, has been a good mother. The children are all members of the Baptist church, and try to live the lives of Christians.

Wilburn H. and Louisa Wall have children as follows:

- Oliver Romeo is connected with hotels in the state of North Carolina.
- Henry Grady operates a hotel at Benson, N. C.
- Della is a student at Wingate Junior College.
- Jessie Pearl is a student at Wingate Junior College,
- W. H., Jr., is at home.
- Wilson is at home.
- Clyde Hunter is at home.
- Ernestine is at home.

Benjamin Y. and Bertie Jane Allison have the following children:

- Zella Mae, an A. B. graduate of North Carolina College for Women, is now teaching school.
- Emma is a student, sophomore, at North Carolina College for Women.
- Paul is at home, a student in the Old Fort High School.

Richard H. and Ila Owens have two children;

- Clifford, a student in Forest City public schools, is at home.
- R. H., Jr., a student in Forest City public schools, is at home.

Henry Grady and Martha Owens have one child.

James Henry, age two years.

Grady was educated at Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, N. C., Wake Forest College, and the University of North Carolina. He has been principal of high schools at Barnesville, N. C., and Linwood, N. C. He taught science in the Junior High School of Washington, N. C., and acted as

director of physical education there. For four years he has been head of the English Department and assistant principal of the High Point High School, High Point, N. C.

His wife Martha Matthews was educated at the high school, Louisiana, Mo., Hardin College, Mexico, Mo., and Williams Wood College, Fulton, Mo. She is an A.A. graduate of the last named institution.

Edgar and Ella Howell have no children. Ella was educated at Fruitland Institute, Hendersonville, N. C., and North Carolina College for Women. She taught school for six years before her marriage. Her husband was educated at high school in High Point, N. C., and at Buies Creek Academy.



Go Top