OFA News Is A Valuable Research Tool
by Barbara Ann Pilgrim

Uriah Owen: Official Revolutionary War Patriot - DAR

In October 2003 I was inducted into membership of the William McIntosh Chapter NSDAR, Jackson, GA where I live, through an ancestor of my mother’s line. I was just beginning my family research in late 2002 when I was invited to join. The research bug had bitten me! I was anxious to know all I could about the families of my four grandparents. And after documenting a Rev. War Soldier on my maternal side of the family, I wanted to do the same for my paternal side.

On the internet I found an Owen website in Texas and discovered Uriah Owen; he is an ancestor of my paternal grandmother. At the Georgia Archives, I found the Owen Family Association News file and much of the information I needed in Vol. 1 No 1. In the News I found a portion of A Short Bio of A. W. Owen which helped me to establish my line from 2nd Great Grandfather William R. Owen 1815-1898 to his father, one of Uriah’s sons, Benjamin Owen 1788-aft. 1870.

My difficulty came when I could not get a copy of the marriage record of Benjamin Owen and his wife Ruth Riley from the Oglethorpe County Probate Office, nor could I find it on the microfilm at the Georgia Archives. I wrote to Mr. C. Owen Johnson to ask of his source for this marriage mentioned in the Vol. 2. No. 1 Newsletter. He sent me the address of Carolyn Middour, who descends from Benjamin and Ruth. She was very frail when I spoke with her but she sent me a copy of the original title page of the Short Biography of A. W. Owen written by Himself, Atlanta 1853, and a copy of the page stating his father was Benjamin Owen and early in life married Ruthy Riley. He then went on to name his brothers and their wives including my William R. Owen. I needed this to prove the relationship from William R. Owen to his father Benjamin. I could not find a will from Benjamin naming his children. I included all this in my documentation to the DAR, which they accepted and my supplemental paper for Uriah Owen as my ancestor was approved in May 2006. Later I did find a written marriage record for Benjamin and Ruth. In this search for information I discovered William R. Owen was one of the first Post Masters in Dallas, Georgia, and at the time appointments were made from the President of the U.S.

Sometimes the DAR is reluctant to accept family histories, but they did not question any of my Owen Family Association material. I am happy I found this respected organization, and I shall always be grateful to Mr. C. Owen Johnson.
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Submission of lineages, biographies, photographs, historical and genealogical
data about any Owen anywhere is encour-
aged! Your ideas for the newsletter are
also solicited, just contact the editor.

Reunion - Webster defines the word “reunion” as “1. the process or an instance of reuniting. 2. a social
gathering of people who have not seen each other for some time.”

The Owen Family Association’s 11th Biannual Reunion is only a year away and it is time to start planning for this special event the last weekend in September 2007. The place for next year’s biannual reunion is yet to be determined, but places like Atlanta, Georgia, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Memphis, Tennessee, St. Louis, Missouri, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia have been mentioned as possible sites. All these places have excellent hotel and meeting rooms space but we need to act soon to reserve a place for our meeting. This is a high priority. We are interested in your preference a location to hold the next reunion. Where would you like to go? Let us know your preference. You can e-mail arnieowen@comcast.net, write the Owen Family Association at P.O. Box 692, Westtown, PA 19395 or call (610) 399-0146.

Our reunion is primarily a social gathering of people interested in Owen family genealogy. This includes surnames of Owen, Owens, Owings and others, regardless of the spelling. The tradition is to hold a genealogy session Saturday morning and a banquet that evening. Of course no banquet would be complete without a guest speaker. Volunteers are urgently needed to commence planning next year’s reunion activities.

Like any other organization, the Owen Family Association sets aside time for conducting business, deciding matters affecting the Association’s future and electing officers to serve the next two years. As mandated by the bylaws, these matters are all handled at the Biannual Reunion where new ideas and programs are presented for approval. Considerations of such matters are important to the organization’s survival and growth. Our membership is filled with talented people who have much to offer. Don’t be afraid to step forward and volunteer your ideas and services. It’s your Association and you should decide what you want out of it.

The biannual reunion is a time to learn more about your family’s genealogy. Also, it is the time for renewal of old acquaintances and the opportunity to meet and make new friends. In recent years we are learning more about our family ties through DNA. Some of us are discovering that we are related to other members which we were unaware of prior to the DNA program. It’s a wonderful time to share our genealogy, so mark your calendars for September 22 & 23, 2007 as “Owen Family Reunion” and plan to attend.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed their part to this organization’s success.
Perhaps We Can Settle An Owen Genealogy Discrepancy
by Tyler Owen

Internal family records traced by lineage to a Littleton Owen [b.1800] and Nancy Ellen Bennett in Kentucky via Littleton’s sons, James Littleton, Fred, Edward and my father Robert Owen. I believe Littleton Owen is a sibling of Brackett, John, Lydia, Sarah, Elizabeth and William Owen. Littleton and his brother John lived in Livingston Co., KY. The following document dated January 26th day 1828 has caused me to make this connection.

Know all men these Presents that we Brackett Owen & his wife of the State of Indiana and County of Jennings and John Anderson & Elizabeth his wife, late Elizabeth Owen of the County of Oldham & State of Ky., John Owen of Livingston County and State of Ky., Littleton Owen of the county and state aforesaid, Thomas (Thos.) Threlkield & Lydia his wife, late Lydia Owen; Peyton Lodge and Sarah his wife, late Sarah Owen of the County of Livingston in the state aforesaid, children and heirs of David Owen, have this day and do by these Presents constitute nominate and appoint William Owen, Our Brother of the County & State aforesaid, our true and lawful attorney in fact for us and in our names . . . [word not clear] and ‘stead for the purpose Calling upon John.

Wilson Esq. of the county of Miami and State of Ohio as administrator of all and singular the goods and Chattles rights and credits of John Wilson Senr. dece’d, for the special purpose of Receiving from said Wilson that part of said decedents Estate which we are entitled to.

I William Owen the attorney named in the foregoing power of attorney of Brackett Owen, John G. Anderson & Elizabeth his wife, John Owen, Littleton Owen, Thomas Threlkeld and Lydia his wife, Peyton Hodge [/ - Lodge] and Sarah, his wife, do hereby to have Rec’d from John Wilson of Miami County Ohio, administrator of the goods and Chattles of John Wilson Senr. Deceased late of said County the sun of Sixty one Dollars and six cents paid to me for Said Brackett, Anderson & wife, John, Littleton, Threlkeld and wife, Hodge [Lodge] & wife of the personal Estate of their Grand father said John Wilson Senr. Deceased.

I have since found more information about David Owen, specifically outlining his marriage to a Mary Wilson, and his birth and death dates are 1771 and 1832, respectively. It is also my understanding that one of David’s 12 siblings was Abraham Owen, the well-known soldier for whom Owensboro is named. From there I found that David and Abraham’s father and mother are Brackett Owen [b. ca. 1733] and Elizabeth McGehee. This generation moved the family from Virginia to Kentucky.

The discrepancy comes in determining the parents of Brackett Owen [b. ca 1733]. Virginians.com, John W. Pritchett’s genealogy site shows that Brackett Owen is the son of John and Sarah Brackett Owen while several other contacts and sites [http://kinnexions.com/smlawson/owens.htm#top] show that Thomas Owen [1671-1744] and Elizabeth Brookes are the parents of Brackett Owen [b.ca.1733]. Interestingly, the Virginians web site shows that the aforementioned John Owen’s father is Thomas Owen, whose parents were unknown father and Joane, mother. The Kinnexions web site shows that the Thomas that is listed as Brackett’s father is the child of Bartholomew Owen and Joanna Jennings. Perhaps Joane is Joanna and somehow Virginians.com stuck in an extra generation.

Exactly who were the parents of Brackett Owen [b. ca. 1733]? I suggest that David Owen [b. 1771] is the son of Brackett Owen [b.1733] is the son of John Owen [b.~1700] is the son of Thomas Owen [born approximately 1680.] I further suggest that Bartholomew Owen is Thomas Owen’s father.
John Owen and His Mad Stone

By Karen Grubaugh

OFA member, Jim Owens of Louisville, KY contributed the following article which was originally published in *The Kentucky Explorer*, July-August 2006, page 51. It was provided to that publication by Martha P. Harrison of Fountain Run, KY.

An unknown author reported: John Owen was supposed to have had a mad stone that was found on the Mad River in South Carolina. The family story is that he cut it into two pieces with one of them being passed down to his grandson, and the other going to John Boatman, who may have been a son-in-law. Boatman, let it pass out of family hands.

John Boatman traded it to old Mr. Ed Edmunds for a cow. It wasn’t supposed to go out of the Doyle, Gardner, or Boatman families, but it did.

The stone was kind of like a honey comb. You soaked it in sweet milk, then put it on the wound, and if the animal was mad it would stick there, and it it was not it would fall off. Sometimes it would stick awhile and fall off, and you would have to soak it in milk again and continue doing this until the milk quit turning green. This meant all the poison was out.

[photo: Robert Boutelle]

In March 1907, it was reported that nearly 500 persons, 497 to be exact, had the famous Edmunds mad stone applied to bites by rabid dogs. The report that the stone had been taken to Louisville was incorrect, as Mrs. June Pierce [widow of E. A. Edmunds] at the old E. A. Edmunds homeplace still had it in her possession.

In 1912, it was reported that Edmunds’ mad stone had been applied to 542 persons.

Today the whereabouts of the mad stone are not known.”

Mad stones used to cure rabies [and other infections including bee stings] and snake stones used to draw poison from snake bites dates to ancient history. Historians trace mad stones and snake stones to ancient China, Egypt, the Roman Empire, to Shakespeare’s England, the Middle East and to the homeland of many Owen families, Wales. The Carmarthenshire County Museum, Wales, displays a “healing stone and bag from Gilfach Wen, Llandysul.” According to the museum, “a small amount of this stone, which is gypsum, was scraped off and mixed with milk as a cure for hydrophobia [a fear of water] one of the symptoms of rabies.” [http://www.gtj.org.uk/item.php?lang=en&id=17693&t=1, Aug, 2006]
Description of mad stones abound: a small, porous, chalk like stone, a light, pumice tan and grey stone, one that feels like a puffball mushroom, a small petrified black sponge and a small porous, chalk like stone. According to most owners of mad stones, they are formed from hair balls in the stomach of white deer. However, mad stones have also come from frogn’s heads, the meaty part of a deer and as tumors in large, hooved animals. Ronald Boutelle’s web site “All About Mad Stones” defines them as “stony concretions such as a hair ball taken from the stomach of a deer . . . used to counteract the poisonous effects of the bite of an animal [as one affected with rabies].” Per Mr. Boutelle’s website [http://www.cedarpost.com/Mad_Stone.htm] “one of the earliest descriptions of such a thing (mad stone) is attributed to Abbé Grosier, in his Description of the Chinese. He there gives an account of the use of a stone called the serpent-stone or Tang-King. ‘This [stone] was applied, stuck fast, absorbed the poison, dropped off, and the patient was freed. The stone was washed in lime-water, dried and could then be used again.’”

However, American folklore varies from Chinese folklore a bit. The stone was first cleaned by boiling it in water. It was then applied to the bite, the stone would jump to the wound and adhere itself. The stone would fill its porous cavities by drawing the poison from the wound, adhering for as long as 72 hours in one case, but usually about six hours. When the stone fell off the wound, it was placed in sweet milk which turned green as the stone was cleansed. This process was repeated until the stone would no longer adhere to the wound and the patient was cured.

There are many stories affirming the effects of this cure but the most famous involves Abraham Lincoln and his son, Robert. [Mark McCormick, Tribune-Star Online/columns/historical/March 24, 2002.] Young Robert was bitten by a rabid dog and taken to Terre Haute, IN where the mad stone known as the Terre Haute Mad Stone was owned by Mary I. Taylor. Tradition holds that the young Robert Lincoln was cured of rabies by the mad stone. Although no historian has been able to document the event and Mrs. Taylor does not publicly claim to have treated Robert Lincoln, Charles Earle-Funk, editor-in-chief of Funk & Wagnall’s Standard Dictionary, cited Lincoln’s Terre Haute visit in their definition of mad stone. Lincoln scholar, Louis A. Warren, former director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation acknowledged the tradition but offered no substantiation of the event.

Tradition holds that many were cured of rabies by mad stones until 1885 when Louis Pasteur discovered a vaccine for the dreaded disease. Before the vaccine, the mad stone was one’s only hope. Like John Owen’s mad stone, the origin of most mad stones is attributed to an ancestor who passed the stone down, sometimes by cutting it in half for two sons or daughters. Another tradition, is that mad stones are never to be sold and no owner is to charge for it’s use.

Tales of the stone’s curative powers abound still today. However, the only documented application of the stone accompanies the Grimes Mad Stone owned by Joe and Viola Davenport of Hutchinson KS. They came to own the mad stone and it’s treasured ledger of patients treated through an auction of the estate of Mrs. Fred Blake of Hutchinson in 1974.

Mad stones are treated with curiosity today but in their time they were treasured commonalities. Modern medicine has made them historical artifacts. Nevertheless, an interesting part of our Owen history.
An Owen-Montgomery Tragedy
By Arvan D. Reese II

(Continued from the June 2006 issue) Although Reuben and Hattie had another child early in 1903, it was to be a year of professional disappointment and profound personal loss. Reuben had been appointed County Commissioner of Public Schools and decided to run for this elective office ["In the proper column will be found the announcement of R. P. O. Montgomery for County Commissioner of Public Schools. He is the present Commissioner filling out the unexpired term of the late H. M. Ramsey, by appointment of the governor, and has shown himself to be efficient and thoroughly acquainted with the duties of the office. He is a native of Stoddard County and is well known to the people and, therefore, needs no introduction from us, as the public knows his qualifications and fitness for the position to which he is aspiring. He is thoroughly conversant with school work and the needs of the public schools of the county, having been a successful teacher in the county for a number of years and, if elected, will make a good commissioner.” (Vindicator, February 6, 1903)]. Although he lost the election ["The School Election. ...according to returns sent to the county clerk, results are as follows in the commissioner race: Rose Compton 960 votes; R. P. Montgomery received 914 votes and John Winters received 731 votes, which elects Compton over Montgomery by a plurality of 46 votes. The total vote cast in the county ... was only 2,603 which is not more than half of the full county vote.” (Vindicator, April 17, 1903)], his teaching career continued ["Professors (sic) Isaac H. Hughes and R. P. Montgomery, who are members of the examining board of teachers, are in Dexter for the purpose of conducting examinations.” (Vindicator, June 26, 1903)].

Unfortunately, his wife's health continued to deteriorate and she took the baby to visit her father. ["Mrs. R. P. O. Montgomery left for Arkansas Sunday where she will visit for some time with her father.” (Vindicatior, October 2, 1903)]. Reuben followed a few days later ["R. P. O. Montgomery left Friday for Monette, Ark., where he was called by telegram to the bedside of his baby which was reported to be dying. His wife and baby had gone to visit J. H. Haydock, Mrs. Montgomery's father, only two weeks ago seeking health”]. (Vindicator, October 16, 1903), but returned shortly ["R. P. O. Montgomery returned from Monette, Ark. the first of the week after he had been called by the serious illness of his baby. The little one was much improved when he left.” (Vindicator, October 23, 1903)]. Hattie's condition worsened and she returned to Bloomfield ["Mrs. R. P. O. Montgomery accompanied by her brother, Thomas Haydock, returned home yesterday evening after spending a few weeks with her father in Arkansas.” (Vindicator, November 6, 1903); ["Owing to the serious sickness of Mrs. R. P. O. Montgomery, the school room in which Prof. Montgomery has charge was dismissed Monday.” (Vindicator, November 20, 1903)]. Her sisters followed a week later ["The Misses Clara and Luna Haydock of Monette, Ark. are here visiting relatives and friends at their old home.” (Vindicator, November 27, 1903)] and the family was with her when she died ["Died in the city, on November 30, 1903 at 10:30 p.m., Mrs. Hattie B. Montgomery, age 28 years, 11 months and one day. Mrs. Montgomery was the beloved wife of Prof. R. P. O. Montgomery. She had been a long and patient sufferer from consumption, and only a short time ago returned from a visit to her father at Monette, Ark where she had hoped to be benefited by the change. Doomed to disappointment, she returned home to her affectionate husband, well knowing her fate was sealed, yet patient and loving to the end. She was a devoted wife and loving mother. The grief stricken husband and little baby, father, brothers and sisters have the sympathy of their many friends and acquaintances. Funeral services will be held at the Baptist church by Rev. T. B. Turnbaugh on the 2nd Inst. and the remains consigned to the grave at the Bloomfield cemetery in the presence of numerous friends.” (Vindicator, Obit, December 4, 1903)]. ["Owing to the death of Mrs. R. P. O. Montgomery school was dismissed in high school Tuesday and Wednesday.” (Vindicator, December 4, 1903)].
1904 was another chaotic year. The fate of the baby is unknown but it is presumed the child died shortly thereafter, there being no further reference in Reuben's chronicled life. This would have been his fourth child not to survive childhood. In February he settled an insurance claim on Hattie's life ["The friends of R. P. O. Montgomery will be pleased to learn that the Macabees have made settlement with him on the insurance policy carried on the life of Mrs. Montgomery. The policy was for $1000." (Vindicator, February 12, 1904)], and in May he accepted employment with Frisco railroad company ["R. P. Montgomery left Sunday for Cape Girardeau where he will remain for a short time and will then go to Kansas City in the employ of the Frisco railroad company. Pick is one of our most successful teachers, having resigned the position of teacher in one of the departments of the high school. He goes to his new duties carrying with him the best wishes of all his numerous friends." (Vindicator, May 20, 1904)]. This employment was short lived and by September he had returned to Bloomfield [“Prof. R. P. Montgomery has gone to Essex where he will teach a term of school.” (Vindicator, September 2, 1904)]. This teaching post was similarly short lived as he took employment with an attorney to study law, thereby invoking the ire of the Vindicator [“The Bloomfield schools started off Tuesday in a very satisfactory manner with much interest manifested by all concerned. With this beginning we are promised a highly successful term. It is morally wrong for a teacher to contract to teach a school and then at the time it is expected that the school should begin refuse to teach because a better offer has been made from some other source. The contract should be equally binding on all parties and the law should be so amended. We hear of such complaints often.” (Vindicator, September 9, 1904)]. In March, 1905, he was admitted to the bar ["R. P. Montgomery was admitted to the bar to practice law this week after a satisfactory examination. Pick is one of our brightest young men and is possessed of the ability to make a first class lawyer. We are pleased to see his determination to go forward.” (Vindicator, March 24, 1905) and “During the March term of the circuit court license to practice law have been granted to ... (amongst others) Reuben P. Montgomery. There are others who have desires to be disciples of Blackstone who may get to be brought into the fold ere the new law takes effect. There is good material in this bunch.” (Vindicator, March 28, 1905)]. In April he visited Bloomfield [“R. P. Montgomery of Essex visiting with friends on our street Thursday.” (Vindicator, April 28, 1905)].

The previous year while in Kansas City he had met and become engaged to Miss Lucille Beatrice Brown, a young woman of stunning beauty from Des Moines, Iowa. They were married in Bloomfield on January 28, 1905. She had been the impetus of his returning to Bloomfield and pursuing a career as an attorney and their arrangement was such that she would remain employed in Kansas City until such time as his practice provided sufficient means for her to join him. In an October 19, 1905 letter he wrote: “Darling, just as soon as I possibly can I am coming up to see you. I am corresponding for a R.R. pass and if I get it I will come every week... if you are in good health we must endure our separation for a while till we can get started and get a home of our own...” His practice developed slowly. Lucille joined him in Essex in early 1906 shortly before the birth of their first daughter, Miriam, on July 3, 1906, but their separation continued with his employment at the state hospital. He wrote: “...and yet with all these discouraging environments I am blessed as I do most sincerely believe and trust, with a most loving, devoted, cultured, attractive and industrious wife, it does seem that a man of 30 with even my limited ability and means aided by such a companion should be able to accomplish something good, something worthy of notice ere he shall have passed down the hill of time... I can and I shall, aided by your love, confidence and advice and God’s will and blessings...” Slowly matters improved and by 1907 he had returned to Essex and they were relying upon his local practice. [“R. P. Montgomery of Essex was here Tuesday attending to law matters.” (Vindicator, May 24, 1907)] and [“R. P. Montgomery, attorney of Essex, was attending legal matters here on Wednesday.” (Vindicator, August 16, 1907)]. (to be continued in the December 2006 issue)
The Owens of Texas

By Hugh Goodman

(continued from June 2006 issue)  David Owen was an educated man for his times as he could both read and write, and although listed alternately as a farmer or wheelwright on census reports, I don’t think his heart was into farming the land. He appeared to speculate on land, but not accumulate great acreage.

The next Owen to serve was David’s oldest son, Robert. On February 2, 1836, 20 year old Robert enlisted in Captain Tumlinson’s Rangers and served until March 17 for the princely sum of $1.25/day. Tumlinson had skirmished with the Comanche Indians in January, but it appears that the only duty for Robert was to build a blockhouse on the headwaters of Brushy Creek.

Robert next enlisted in Company D of Capt. William Eastland’s Rangers with his brother William and brother-in-law Addison Litton (husband of Mary Owen) on February 2, 1837. In mid-March, Company D was posted at the old Coleman Camp later call Fort Colorado. The fort was on high ground above the north bank of the Colorado River just west of Walnut Creek and six miles southeast of Austin in present-day Travis County.

In October, 1837 Captain Eastland led an expedition to penetrate the Indian country between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers. According to Noah Smithwick in his RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD TEXAS DAY, “The precise object of the expedition, if there was any, I know not, but my impression is, that during the temporary lull in the Indian wars, the rangers at the fort became restless; and, partly to give them exercise and employment, and partly to take advantage of the cessation of hostilities to explore the unknown territory with perhaps a view to future operations against its wild inhabitants”.

About 66 men participated as they lived off the land, “without even salt to use”. No Indians were encountered and Eastland gave the order to return to the Colorado River. However between 18 and 20 men with the company and headed north. These men under the command of Captain Bowyer killed an innocent Delaware Indian. These men and Eastland’s returning party of men were attacked by a large number of Indians. A battle commenced and 24 men fought with what was estimated to be 200 Indians. The site of the battle was on Ruan Bayou, and the fight lasted for two hours. None of the Texans were killed. I like to think that the Owen brothers were not only educated but wise and did not split with the Eastland company, but there is no way to know this. The campaign was finished by mid-November, 1837. Addison Litton’s discharge papers were signed on November 20 by Capt. Eastland and pay of $271.70 was approved.

In early January, 1838, Capt. William Eastland assumed control of Fort Houston on the Colorado River and “tried to assume a more military approach to running the fort”. After the prior commander’s laid back style, the men were not pleased with the change. One of the Rangers wrote, “Captain Eastland was disgusted with the want of military discipline among the men and the easy familiarity with which they treat their commander”. Eastland decided to enact strong military discipline which resulted in the troops marching to the parade grounds and stacking their weapons. They declared to Eastland, “go to hell and we will go home.” Eastland had no choice but the relent. Robert and William Owen completed their service on February 2, 1838. As a side note, William Eastland would be one of the unfortunate Mier Expedition black bean recipients and was executed by the Mexicans in 1843.

In January, 1842, the Methodist minister, Rev. Josiah Whipple, wrote in his diary, “Went to Cedar Creek, some fourteen miles on the San Antonio Road, out in the Indian range. A. M. Taylor accompanied me on this lovely ride. Preached at D. Owens's house; it was more than full...” This portrays Texas as a beautiful paradise without care or want. The truth is that Indian depredations were common and the life span of the pioneers was short by today’s standards.

Independence from Mexico allowed an unsettled peace resulting from Mexico’s refusal to recognize the treaty of Velasco. Finally, on September 11, 1842, a French soldier of fortune named General Adrian Woll captured San Antonio with a force of 1,200 men which was the high point in the campaign for him. David’s oldest sons, William, Robert, & Nelson quickly enlisted in Capt. Billingsley’s Company. Also present and accounted for was son-in-law Michael Sessom & neighbor John Jenkins.
The brothers were almost certainly present at the Battle of Salado Creek. The events leading up to this battle were almost like a comic opera. Approximately 200 Texas volunteers marched to the east bank of Salado Creek. Capt. Mathew Caldwell in command decided that the best strategy for his vastly out-numbered forces was to lure the Mexican forces into the open prairie where they could have a good “turkey shoot” from their defensive positions along Salado Creek. One problem: there were only 38 horses in the camp fit for duty. You have to work with what is available so on the morning of September 18, 38 men lead by Capt. John Hays traveled to within half a mile of San Antonio, dismounted, and prepared an ambush. Eight men continued to within a half mile of the Alamo and began to taut the Mexican cavalry. They were hoping to be pursued by 40-50 cavalymen. Timing is everything and the small force had arrived just as Woll’s cavalry was ready to move against Caldwell’s men. Instead of a smaller force, the men were pursued by 400-500 Mexicans. The Texans had a half mile lead and were okay for the first four miles. However, the Mexicans had fresh mounts causing the Texans to discard blankets, hat, raincoats; everything but saddles in an attempt to outdistance their foes. 100-200 shots were fired by the Mexicans without a hit.

The men in camp had slaughtered a beef that morning and were busy cooking and eating the tasty morsels when Hays’ men dashed in. Without finishing their bountiful meal, the men rushed to their positions. Woll’s forces estimated at 1,500 men were no match for men ready to die and in fortified positions. I day of fighting cracked the Mexican troop’s resolve and they started a retreat back to Mexico.

Owen neighbor, John Jenkins recounted in his memoirs that there was indecisiveness among the Texan officers on the pursuit back to Mexico until, “Captain Billingsley understanding the situation and knowing the value of prompt action called out to the soldiers, ‘boys do you want to fight?’ A loud, ‘Yes’ was the instant reply. ‘Then follow me’ he called and marched on at the head of a considerable force. We were already approaching very near the Mexican infantry, and were drawn up in the line of battle. In two minutes the charge would have been made and the fight commenced. But at this juncture, superior authority interfered. Colonel Caldwell galloped up and called out to Billingsley, ‘Where are you going?’ ‘To fight’ was the answer. ‘Countermarch these men back to ranks’, Caldwell commanded”. Jenkins’ account given years later remained at odds with Caldwell’s decision, but General Woll was in full retreat by this time and retreated back into Mexico by September 22. Thus ended the last assault by Mexico upon Texas. For his efforts in the conflict, Robert Owen’s pay of $15.75 was approved in 1851, long after his death.

The early 1840’s were also precarious for Indian raids. An account written by S. H. Morgan in FRONTIER TIMES as told to him by his father, John Day Morgan, indicates that vigilance was a must.

“When my father was about 23 years old, he was in one of these forts (Bastrop County), in company with several other people. It was in the fall of the year. So one day he and a little boy about five years old went out a short distance from the fort to pick up some pecans. While they were gathering these pecans they saw several savage warriors approach them at a rapid gait. His first impulse was to run for the fort, which he did, but as he ran he thought of the little boy. Could he dare to enter the fort and meet his mother with the boy? He knew that he could not, and looking back he saw the little fellow coming as fast as his little legs could bring him, and my father turned back in the face of the savages, took the boy in his arms and made good their escape into the fort. This boy’s name was Dave Owens. He grew to be a man a spent many years of his life in California and I think he died there.”

The boy was likely David James Owen as the event could have happened anywhere from the mid-1830’s to early 1840’s.

(continued in the December 2006 issue)
Update: The Owen DNA Project
By Whit Athey

Four new participants joined the project since the last newsletter (Participant Nos. 64180, 65016, 70061, and N27895), bringing our total to 61. As mentioned in earlier issues, those with the “N” numbers came to us from the National Geographic Society’s Genographic Project. First-time results have been reported since the last newsletter for Participants N27895, 48214, 62722, 64180, and 65016; these are shown below in the table. Because the overall results table has grown so large, it will be published in the first issue of each year [March] of the Owen Family News with new participants listed in each issue. You can see all of the results right away at our web site: http://home.comcast.net/~whitathey/indexo.htm.

New Participant 64180 is a descendant of Capt Richard Owings II (b 1658 Wales) and he joins Owen Group 12. Participant 62722 is a descendant of Fletcher Owens (b mid-1800s in AL) and he joins Owen Group 14. Unfortunately, the other three participants with new results do not presently match with anyone else in the project.

First results for a few participants from Family Tree DNA’s (FTDNA’s) new panel of 30 markers, bringing the total for a few of our participants to 67 markers. These may be seen in the appendix or at the web site. It remains to be seen how valuable these new markers will be for our project, but in general, more markers allows more chances for mutations to occur, and this in turn allows a greater ability to sort out closely related lines. With 67 markers, there should be (on average) a mutation about every five generations in a lineage. With 25 markers, mutations occur only (on average) about every 10-12 generations, which is why we have some Owen clusters with no differences between participants, and also why clusters with multiple differences may not all be closely related.

There is some big news from our main testing company, FTDNA. FTDNA has bought the German company, DNAFingerprint (DNAFP). FTDNA is building a new state-of-the-art lab in Houston adjacent to their headquarters to house the DNAFP scientists and staff. The merger will be effective this month and the DNAFP principals will be on site in Houston by the end of this month (August). Several of our participants have been tested at DNAFP (those whose kit numbers start with a “D”), and these participants will soon be contacted and asked if their DNA samples, now in storage in Germany, should be transferred to FTDNA. I believe that those not transferred may be destroyed, but the communication from the company should make that clear. I would recommend that when asked, you give permission for the samples to be transferred because that will give DNAFP customers access to all of the FTDNA tests without submitting a new sample or paying for a new extraction. I have samples at both FTDNA and DNAFP, so it doesn’t make much difference in my case, but I will ask them to transfer my sample anyway, providing a backup just in case of problems. All samples transferred will have their own identification numbers and will be kept separate from any existing samples for the same person.

The merger between FTDNA and DNAFP will, unfortunately, reduce price competition somewhat, and take away one low-priced alternative—the batch orders at DNAFP, which took more time, but cost less. However, the merger will also bring FTDNA an important new research arm. DNAFP presently offers over a hundred markers for testing and most of these will eventually be offered through FTDNA. DNAFP has been the leader in the field in developing the tests for new markers and now this expertise will pass to FTDNA.

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<td>Robert Owen (b 1600s England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>48214</td>
<td>Edward Owen (b ca 1850 Lincolnshire, England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>62722</td>
<td>Fletcher Owens, b AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64180</td>
<td>Capt Richard Owings II (1658 England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>65016</td>
<td>Robert Owen, b. 1674 Wales</td>
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Welcome New Members

If you have information about these Owen(s) lines, please contact our new member(s).

Clifford Owen (#390) 70 Oak Valley Dr., Holland MI 49424-2754, 616-396-4596; cfowen140@sbcglobal.net and cowen@sirus.com. Earliest known Owen ancestor was William Owen, b. Wales, 15 May 1772 and d. 23 Aug. 1837, m. Dinah Davis.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
For information or an application for membership, please e-mail ArnieOwen@comcast.com or write to: Owen Family Association c/o Arnold Owen P.O. Box 692, Westtown, PA 19395.

Queries, We Want Queries!

“Dear Sir, Do you have info Mary Ann Owens 1775 VA m. Henry Hunt 1822 Pike Co Kentucky”

This query, sent to Arnie Owen, was from a young boy. Do any of you have a Mary Ann Owens, b. in 1775 in VA marrying Henry Hunt in Pike Co., KY in 1822? If you do, please encourage him to continue his search by responding to Hal Lewis, 218 East Avenue, Apt. 2, Northton, NY 14120

Lisa Talbott Lisson, rlisson1@yahoo.com, is seeking information about William Marsalis (Marcellus) Owen. He may have been Sarah Owen’s illegitimate child, b. 18 May 1848 d. 29 Mar 1936. He married Sarah Thomas O’Donley (1854) of Ballard Co., KY. Their children were Sarah E. (Betty), Oliver, Lee Bell, William Thomas, George Marcellus, John, Lucy, David Robertson Carley, Benjamin Franklin, Mattie and Samuel Curtis. William Marsalis Owen is buried in Wesley Cemetery in Hickman Co. KY. She is also interested in Sarah Owen Talbott and Robertson Owen who are who may be the grandparents of William Marsalis Owen. Please contact her by e-mail.

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Owen Family News

“Owen, a name worth knowing”

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Owen Family Association

The Owen Family Association was organized in 1981.

The objectives of the association are:

? To establish and document as complete a list of descendants of Owen and allied families as possible.

? To collect a narrative history of individual family lines of descent.

? To compile and maintain a listing of cemeteries, homes and other buildings and sites associated with Owen and allied families.

? To publish and distribute a periodic newsletter.

? To bring members of the family association together for periodic reunions.

? To aid association members to establish their family line and assist them in joining hereditary and patriotic societies, if they so desire.

? To ultimately produce a volume documenting the verified family histories.

? To provide publications to Genealogy Libraries in order to assist Owen researchers.

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