

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of The Juniata Valley, comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata and Perry, Pennsylvania. 1897, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers, Chambersburg, PA

The Owen Family.

Griffith Owen, a native of Wales, came to America about the same time as William Penn, and settled in the vicinity of Philadelphia. He was one of the members of Governor Penn's council, his name appearing in the minutes of a meeting of that body held October 28, 1701. These minutes, which are recorded in Pat. Book A, Vol. 2, P. 125, are signed by Joseph Crowden, speaker.

Griffith Owen, Jr., married **Margaret Thomas**.

Levi Owen, son of **Griffith Owen, Jr.**, was born February 24, 1744, and was married to **Ann Smith**, of English descent, March 10, 1767. They moved to Perry County about 1770, and entered a large tract of land between Duncannon and New Bloomfield. This was when the Onez and Owendot Indians roamed over the Juniata valley. He helped convey these Indians over the Allegheny Mountains, when they were removed farther west. He was appointed a justice of the peace and held the office until incapacitated by old age. He was the father of four children: **Griffith; Benjamin; John; and Margaret**.

Griffith Owen (3), son of **Levi and Ann (Smith) Owen**, married **Nancy Shortis**, and had children: **Levi; Susan; Polly; Nancy; Joseph; and Phoebe**.

Levi Owen, son of **Griffith Owen** (3), married **Catherine**, daughter of **Rev. John Snyder**, and sister of **Mrs. Mary Numsen**, of Baltimore, Md. Their children were: **Mary Ann; John Snyder; Catherine; Susan Rebecca; Sarah; Isaiah**. The mother died in 1844 or 1845, and **Levi** married as his second wife the **widow of John Smith**. Her maiden name was **Elizabeth Leppard**. They had one son, **George Dickson**, named partly for Bishop Dickson, then a young United Brethren preacher on the Perry circuit. **Mary Ann**, eldest child of **Levi and Catherine (Snyder) Owen**, married **Eleazer Owen**, and had children: **Ezra**, who married **Mary Harnish; Catherine A.**, unmarried; **John L.; Sophia**, widow of a **Mr. Rose; Ira Benjamin. John Snyder Owen**, deceased, second child of **Levi and Catherine (Snyder) Owen**, married **Esther Kirkpatrick**, maiden name, **Esther Owen**. Their children were: **Francis; Josephine; John Wesley; Elmira. Catherine Owen**, deceased, third child of **Levi and Catherine (Snyder) Owen**, was married twice. Her first husband was **Griffith Owen**, a cousin. Their children were: **Erastus G. and Mary Isabel. Erastus G.** moved to White City, Kan., where he married **Miss Shilling** and died, leaving one child, **Nellie. Mary Isabel** married **Isaac Miller**, of Wheatfield Township. Their children are: **Erastus Walter; Elsie Louisa; Cora May; Olive P.; Clayton; and Ernest**. The second husband of **Catherine Owen** was **Samuel Wallace**, who survives. Their children are: **Rebecca; Ira; John; Emma. Rebecca** is the wife of Charles **Zigler**, of Wheatfield Township. **Ira**, who married a daughter of **Andrew Loy**, resides in Wheatfield Township. **John**, who married a **Miss Speas**, resides in Carroll Township. **Emma** is the wife of **Harry Liddick**, of Wheatfield Township. **Susan Rebecca**, fourth child, of **Levi and Catherine (Snyder) Owen**, removed to near Waterman, Ill., and married a widower named **Dickson**. He died and she is now

keeping house for her two step-sons. **Sarah**, fifth child of **Levi** and **Catherine (Snyder) Owen**, resides in Baltimore, Md., and is married. **George Dickson Owen**, son of **Levi Owen**, by his second wife, was a school teacher. He married **Sadie McFarland**, of Mansfield, Ohio, who survives him. He died in December, 1882. His children were: **John L.**; **Jesse Milton**, deceased; **Noble Victor**; **George Dickson**.

Susan Owen, second child of **Griffith Owen** (3) married **Thomas Shortis**, and raised a large family. They removed to Richland County, Ohio, where her husband died at an advanced age. She died in Mansfield, Ohio, a few years ago, aged ninety-two.

Polly Owen, third child of **Griffith Owen** (3), married **John McCaskey**. Their children were: **Amos**; **Rachel Jane**; and **Frederick**, who was killed in battle during the war of the Rebellion. The parents and the other children removed to near Waterman, Ill., **Mrs. McCaskey** died and he married the widow **Kirkpatrick**, a former resident of Perry County. **Amos**, son of the first marriage, married a daughter of widow **Kirkpatrick** by her first husband. The wife is deceased. **Rachel Jane** remained single.

Nancy Owen, fourth child of **Griffith Owen** (3), married **Joseph McBride**, of Wheatfield Township, who later removed to Iowa. He was a farmer and lumberman. Both are deceased. Their children were: **John**; **Mary Ann**; **Jesse**; **Israel**; **Ezekiel**; **Gideon**.

Jesse L. Owen, youngest son of **Griffith Owen** (3), learned blacksmithing with Capt. Samuel McKenzie, of Duncannon, and moved to Ohio. He married a Miss **Rathbun**, and had one son, **Eleazer Owen**, who went to Texas. The mother died, and **Jesse L.**, married as his second wife **Susan Snyder**, a daughter of **Rev. John Snyder**. They became the parents of several children.

Phoebe, youngest child of **Griffith Owen** (3), died single.

Benjamin Owen, second son of **Levi Owen**, and brother of **Griffith Owen** (3), married **Mary McBride**, a sister of **Joseph McBride**. They were the parents of twelve children:

I. **Lemuel**, married **Emily Shortis**. They moved west, reared a large family, and died at an advanced age.

II. **Wesley**, moved to Ohio and later to Iowa, where he married, reared a family and died well advanced in years.

III. **Mary**, remained single.

IV. **Peggy**, married **Rev. John G. Snyder**, a United Brethren minister. Their children were: **Mary Catherine**, burned to death in infancy; **George S.**, married and removed to Iowa, where he held a position in the Western College of the United Brethren church; **John Wesley**, graduated in medicine and surgery in New York, after the Rebellion, and moved from Iowa to Pueblo, Col., where he married and died, leaving a widow and these children; **Almira J.**, who married a **Mr. Thatcher**, of Perry county, afterwards one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Colorado; **Sarah**; **George W.**; **Simon D.**, a United Brethren minister; and **Daniel**.

V. **John Fletcher**, married **Sarah McKinney**, and had several children.

VI. **Jane Ann**, married **Jacob Bruner**. She died, leaving one son, **Owen Bruner**.

VII. **Esther** married **John Kirkpatrick**, a carpenter. They had one child, who died young. Mr. Kirkpatrick was accidentally killed at Barnett's Mill. The widow married **John S. Owen**.

VIII. **Jesse Smith**, a plasterer, removed to Schuylkill County, Pa., where he married and died, leaving a small family.

IX. **Seth**, removed to Burlington, Ia., where he died about 1842.

X. **Reuben**, became a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and located in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

XL **Benjamin**.

XII. **Josiah**.

Margaret Owen, third child and only daughter of **Levi Owen**, married **Alexander Shortis**, of Carroll Township. She died and is buried in Wheatfield Township. He lives near Shermansdale. Their children were: **Thomas**, who married **Susan Owen**; **Wesley**, a tanner, who married **Miss Diven**, who with her two children died in 1832, and were all buried at the same time in Smith's graveyard, Wheatfield Township; **Mary Ann**, married **Robert Milligan**, of Milligan Station, near Pittsburg, Pa., and died at an advanced age, leaving a large family; **Emily**, married **Lemuel Owen**, and moved west; **John**, married a **Miss McCaskey**. They moved west.

John Owen, youngest child of **Levi Owen**, married **Amelia Owen**, a second cousin, and a daughter of **Abel** and **Isabella Owen**. Their children are: **Eleazer**; **Samuel**; **Ann**; **Griffith**; **Tirza**; **John Thomas**; **Abel Davis**; **Esther E.**; **Rachel Jane**; **Isabella**; **Joel B.**

Eleazer Owen, eldest child of **John Owen**, married **Mary Ann Owen**, daughter of **Levi Owen** (2), already noted. **Eleazer Owen** was a member of the State legislature in 1845, and a justice of the peace for many years.

Samuel Owen, second child of **John Owen**, married **Tirza Casner**. Their children were: **Edward**, married **Susan Mickey**, whose children were **Ida**, who married **George Leppard**; **William**, married and lives in Ohio; **Elmer**; and **Minnie**, single; **Mary Ann**, married **James Martin**, an engineer, has one daughter, **Tirza**; **Esther**, married **John Craig**, superintendent of railway signal service, Harrisburg, and has children; **Lizzie**, married to **Mr. Trostle**; **James**, drowned near Middletown, leaving a widow; **Jessie**, at home; and **Charles**, who married **Miss Toomy**, and has one child; **Elizabeth**, deceased, married **Jacob Berkstresser**, of Duncannon, who had seven sons in the Union army, all of whom came home.

Ann Owen, third child of **John Owen**, married **Samuel Gross**, a gunsmith and silversmith. They settled near Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, about 1830, where they died, leaving three daughters: **Martha Ann**; **Amelia Jane**; **Mary E.**

Griffith Owen (4), fourth child of **John Owen**, married **Catherine Owen**.

Tirza Owen, fifth child of **John Owen**, died single.

John Thomas, sixth child of **John Owen**, married **Margaret Searer** and had two children: **Alfred**, a merchant at Chicago Junction; and **Mary Amelia** (Mrs. Meyers), who lives in Ohio.

Mrs. Owens died and he married **Sarah Newman**, and had three children: **David**; **Margaret**; and **Esther M.**

Abel Davis Owen, seventh child of **John Owen**, is deceased. He married **Margaret Finley**. Their children were: **James Thompson**; **Martha Ann**; **Rebecca Jane**; **Mary Isabel**, and several that died young. **James Thompson** lives near Duncannon. His first wife was **Miss Ellenberger**, whose children were: **Charlie** and **Elmer**. His second wife, **widow** of a **Mr. Sheaffer**. **Martha Ann**, deceased, was the wife of **Abram Freese**. **Rebecca Jane** married **Abraham J. Ellenberger**, of Marysville, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. **Mary Isabel** is the wife of **William Reamer**, of Harrisburg. They have two children: **Harry** and **Ernest**. **William Davis**, married **Martha Mitchner**. He is a restaurant keeper in Duncannon.

Esther E. Owen married **Joseph Young**, son of **Rev. Henry Young**. They were the parents of these children: **Margaret Ann**; **Levi**; **John Henry**; **Fanny E.**; **Enos Franklin**. **Mary Ann** married **Andrew Layman**. They reside in Iowa and have four children. **Levi** was a Union soldier and was killed near Fort Steadman. **John Henry** married **Sarah Jane Leppard**; they live in Wheatfield Township. **Fannie A.** married **Jacob Ayle**. They moved to Iowa. **Enos Franklin** is married and lives in Missouri.

Joel Benjamin Owen, youngest son of **John Owen**, was born in Wheatfield Township, August 6, 1825. He received a common school education and was raised on the farm. During his young manhood he taught school four terms in Penn Township and two in Wheatfield Township. His life has been devoted to lumbering and farming. On June 24, 1847, **Mr. Owen** married **Sarah Ann McCoy**, and has ten children: **John**; **David**; **William**; **George W.**; **Mary A.**; **Eleazer**; **Annie**; **Lizzie C.**; **Thomas J.**; **Benjamin F.**; **John**, a machinist, resides in Carroll Township. He married **Catherine Ayle**. Their children were: **Gertrude F.**; **Harry G.**; **Jennie May**, deceased; **Clarence B.**; **John Thomas**; **Oscar Milton**, deceased; **Lucy Kate**, deceased; **Sarah Ann**; **Mary Amelia**; **Edna Emily**; **Susie Naomi**. **David** married **Susan Harnish**. They reside in Harrisburg, and have children: **Christian B.**, married to **Luella Johnson**, live in Harrisburg, and have one child, **Robert Ray**; **Bertha May**, married June 3, 1897, to **Jesse Stephens**, of Harrisburg; **Charles**; **William** died in infancy. **George W.** married **Anna Rathfon**, resides in Carroll Township, and has children: **Joel B.**; **Laura Emma**; **Ella**; and **John**. **Mary A.** is the wife of **John E. Bruner**. **Eleazer** resides in Harrisburg, and is married to **Sarah C. Wallace**. Their children are: **Robert**; **Sarah Myrtle**; **Anna Grace**; **Nellie Florence**; **Edna**, deceased; **Wilmot A.**; **Annie** married **Austin J. Rathfon**, a produce and commission merchant in Chicago. **Lizzie C.** is the wife of **Franklin P. Leppard**, of Wheatfield Township. **Thomas J.** and **Perry F.** are at home.

Amelia Owen, mother of **Joel B. Owen**, was the oldest child of **Abel** and **Isabella (Davis) Owen**, whose other children were **Tirza**; **Joanna**; **Owen Owen**; **John**; **Zelophehad**. **Tirza** married **Isaac Glover**, of Rye Township. She died leaving one son, **John**, who moved west with his father. **Joanna** married **James Casner**. Their children were: **Tirza**; **Abel D.**, deceased; **Sarah**, deceased. The latter married **Martin Clay**, deceased, of Carroll Township. Their children were: **Henry**, who died in the army; **John Griffith**; **Samuel**, married to **Irene Donnally**, of Carroll township; **William**, who married Mrs. **Benjamin McIntyre, Jr.**, resides in Jersey City, N. J.; **Mary C**, the wife of **William Rathfon**, of Carroll Township; **Kate**, wife of **David**

Gussler, of New Bloomfield; **Jacob**, who married **Margaret McDonald**, of Wheatfield township. **Owen Owen**, deceased, married **Catherine Long**; **John** lives in Philadelphia, where he conducted an academy for many years. He was married twice. His oldest son, **John**, was an Indian agent in Bitter Root Valley, Washington Territory, during Buchanan's administration. **Zelophehad** married **Rebecca Casner**, moved to Marion County, Ohio. Their children were: **Edmund**; **Ira**; **Eleazer**; Owen Ohio; **Davis**; **Kate A.**; **May Isabel**. By his second marriage he had one son, **Zelophehad**.

Sarah Ann McCoy, wife of **Joel B. Owen**, was born February 11, 1826, in Penn Township, Perry County, Pa., and is a daughter of **David** and **Mary (McKinney) McCoy**. Her father was a contractor. Her brothers and sisters were: **William**; **David**; **Kate**; **Matthew P.**; **Hacket**; **Elizabeth**. **William** resides in Penn Township, married **Margaret Kirkpatrick**, whose children were: **Jesse K.**, who married **Emma Aughinbaugh**; **Mary**, single, employed in asylum in Harrisburg; **Matthew**, resides at Big Island, Dauphin County, Pa.; **William**, married **Miss Gamble**, and resides in Duncannon. **Isaac** married **Miss Green**, resides in Altoona. **Minnie**, married **Allen Thompson**, resides in Watts township. **David McCoy** married **Mary J. Gray**, both are deceased. Their children were: **Harry B.**, married **Tenie Dunkle**, of Duncannon; **Richard M.**, married **Carrie Moses**, railroad ticket agent at Lewistown, Pa.; **Jones**, married **Carrie Green**, is a telegraph operator at Altoona, Pa. **Catharine McCoy** married **Rev. John Kistler**, a Lutheran minister. They went to Africa. She died. Their son **Henry** is living in Denver, Col. **Mr. Kistler** married again, and resides in Carlisle. **Matthew P. McCoy**, a carpenter, went to Arkansas in 1861, and has not been heard from since. **Hacket McCoy** was a soldier in the Union army, is single. **Elizabeth McCoy** married **Robert Bothwell**, deceased. He was a soldier in the Bucktail regiment. Their children are: **Jennie May**, wife of **William Boyd**, a railroad employee at Sunbury, Pa.; **Ralph Samuel**; **Harvey F.**; **Francis W.**; **May**; **Mary**; **Elliott**; **Nellie McCoy**. **Joel B.** and **Mrs. Sarah Ann (McCoy) Owen** celebrated their golden wedding June 24, 1897, upon which occasion one hundred and seventeen guests were entertained at the family home in Wheatfield Township.