



TARRANT COUNTY

TXGENWEB

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Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County

Charles Lilburn Owen

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Charles Lilburn Owen, a native Tennessean, lived at Grapevine during the War and served in a local Confederate frontier regiment. A least one of his brothers served the Union as an officer in a Tennessee cavalry regiment. By 1870, Charles Owen and his family left the area and moved to Missouri, where he died in 1908.

Charles Lilburn Owen was born in Monroe County, Tennessee on July 5, 1829. He was a son of Charles Owen (1793-1873), a native of Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, and his wife, Louise(a) Berry (1793-1862), both of whom died in Monroe County, Tennessee. William Ballard Lenoir (b. 1847), in his History of Sweetwater Valley printed in 1916, wrote a great deal about this family: *"...The Owen residence [where Charles L. Owen grew up in Monroe County] was in a low place near a large green pond and not far from the bank of the creek... there was a green pond of considerable size in one corner of the yard at Mr. Owens' on whose margin grew a large weeping willow tree with long drooping branches. In the depths of the pond lived a colony of water moccasins that on sunny days lazily stretched themselves out on the rocks with which the pond was lined. These things gave the landscape a dreary appearance and taken together had a depressing effect on the spirits."* Descendants of Charles Owen, Sr. should examine this excellent source of interesting information on his life, written by a man who knew him.

Charles L. Owen married Mary A. Patton in McMinn County, Tennessee on February 24, 1853. She was born about 1834 in Tennessee. Her headstone in Mount Zion East Cemetery in Gentry County, Missouri shows her death date as August 31, 1872. Her headstone says she was aged 36 years and 8 months, thus yielding a birth date about the beginning of the year 1836. Mr. Lenoir wrote: *"...He married Mary Patton, daughter of Francis Patton...This Frank [Francis] Patton resided near County Line [in Monroe County, Tennessee]...C. L. Owen and wife went to Gentry County, Mo., where so many sought homes from this valley..."* Mr. Lenoir records Francis Patton's death in Gentry County, Missouri in 1845.

C. L. Owen settled in northeast Tarrant County, Texas about 1860. In that year, he owned four hundred seventy-nine acres of the Jefferson Estill survey, worth three thousand one hundred dollars, and one slave; the next year he had gained a second slave worth an additional seven hundred dollars. He appears in the tax lists of 1860 through 1868 only. He never appears with either of his given names spelled out...simply as "C. L. Owen."

In 1862 he owned four hundred seventy-seven acres of the A. F. Leonard survey, worth one thousand four hundred and thirty dollars. He also had seven horses worth three hundred fifty dollars, fifteen cows worth one hundred seventy-five dollars, and one slave, worth seven hundred dollars. By the time the 1865 tax list was made he had sold a few acres of the Leonard survey, and had purchased one hundred forty-one acres of the R. Burnett survey. In that year he had six horses, twenty cows, and fifty-two sheep. By 1868 his one hundred forty-one acres were shown to belong to the A. A. Freeman survey. This property is in the Southlake-Grapevine area of northeast Tarrant County.

Mr. Owen served the Confederacy in two Companies, H and K, of Bourland's Border Regiment Texas Cavalry. He was detailed by order of General McCulloch to work as a tanner, as shown on a list dated July 1864. A special order, No. 239, specified his duty was to be performed in Tarrant County, Texas, and he was still in that service in January, 1865 when his last surviving records are found.

Much has been written about Bourland's Cavalry Regiment. It was organized during the spring of 1863 and served in the Trans-Mississippi Department. The purpose of this unit was to guard the northern border of Texas and at times, therefore, it was called the Border Regiment. It confronted the Federals in the Indian Territory and Texas, and saw duty on the Texas frontier working to keep the Comanches and Kiowas out of the settlements. On October 13, 1864 it took part in the Battle of Elm Creek in Young County, Texas, one of the most dramatic and stirring clashes of Texans and Southern Plains Indians ever. Several accounts of the battle, from both Texan and Kiowa participants, have been recorded. On January 1, 1865, Bourland's Regiment reported four officers and five hundred sixty-four men fit for duty. The regiment surrendered in June.

C. L. Owen registered to vote in Precinct 2 of Tarrant County on August 1, 1867. He said he had lived in the state, county, and precinct for six years, and that he was a native of Tennessee.

Charles L. Owen and his family are shown in the census in 1870 in Miller Township, Gentry County, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Owen had seven children living with them: Rosanna B. (born about 1853 in Tennessee), Horace F. (born about 1856 in Tennessee), Ada V. (born about 1858 in Tennessee), Louisa H. (born about 1863 in Texas), Charles B. (born about 1864 in Texas), James P. (born about 1867 in Texas), and Eliza H. Owen (born in May 1870 in Missouri). In that year, Mr. Owen owned real estate worth two thousand six hundred dollars and personal property worth seven hundred twenty-five dollars.

Luckily for the purposes of this project, Mr. Owen waited a few years after he returned to Missouri to sell some of his property here. In 1877, C. L. Owens and his second wife, Charlotte, *of Gentry County, Missouri*, transferred some of their property to the Dunn family in Grapevine. Thus we were able to prove the Missouri man and the Grapevine man to be one and the same.

C. L. Owen was married about 1873 to his second wife; her name was Charlotte, and she was born about 1828 in Indiana to a Virginian father and a Kentuckian mother.

Mr. Owen and his family appear in Township 62 Range 30 in Gentry County, Missouri in 1880. They had children with them: Addie V., Louisa H., Charles B., James P., Eliza W., and Mary H. Owen.

The Owens are found in the 1900 census in Miller Township, Gentry County, Missouri. Charlotte Owen said she was born in September 1828 and had never given birth to any children. She and Charles lived alone.

Charles L. Owen died February 13, 1908, and lies buried beside his wife in Mount Zion East Cemetery. Missouri did not begin granting Confederate pensions until 1911. We have discovered the names of nine of his children; short accounts of their lives follow.

Rosanna B. Owen was born about 1853. She was still alive in her father's family in 1870.

Horace Frank Owen was born May 4, 1856. He married Susan Rebecca Trimm (1861-1948) about 1888. He died October 18, 1928 in Ventura, California.

Ada V. Owen was born about 1858. She was still alive in her father's family in 1880.

Louisa H. Owen was born about 1863 in Texas. She was still alive in his father's family in 1880.

Charles B. Owen was born about 1864 in Texas. He was still alive in his father's family in 1880.

James Patton Owen was born in Texas September 1, 1867. He married Grace N. Wilson (1867-1940). Descendants say he died in Los Angeles, California on November 13, 1945. Family source at Ancestry.com say he lived in several locations in South Dakota, Nebraska, and California.

Eliza H. Owen was born in May 1870 in Gentry County, Missouri. She was still alive in her father's family in 1880.

Mary H. Owen was born about 1872. She was still alive in her father's family in 1880.