

MR. SAMPSON W. OWENS

In Freedom, Cattaraugus County, N. Y. on February 23, 1884, Mr. Sampson W. Owens died, 75 years, 7 months, and 15 days old. Mr. Owens was born in Glandwr, Pembrokeshire, S. W., July 8th, 1808. He moved to Merthyr Tydfil to live when he was comparatively young, and he followed his calling as a clothier for ten years. He was in Merthyr at the time of the Chartists, and very interesting it was to hear him speak about the agitated state of events in those days.

He emigrated with his family to this country in the year 1842, and they settled in Utica, N. Y. and lived there for about five years. While in the above-mentioned place, he joined the church of the Welsh Baptists on Broadway street. He was baptized by the late Rev. Robert Williams, South Trenton. During his religious life, he held Mr. Williams in very high esteem as a preacher. Around the year 1847, our brother and his family moved to Freedom, N. Y. and he followed his calling for years with great acceptability and general contentment in Sandusky. He was considered an exact and honest man in his business.

He had several characteristics as a religious person which are worthy of mention and imitation. He was notable when he was praying. He was always brief, comprehensive, and effective. He was not verbose and frequently wordy—circling around sea and land, as some others usually are, and without a single point in the world to speak about. It could be understood at all times, because of his melting entreaties, that he yearned for a better land.

He was noted for his faithfulness. A great exception, and not the rule, it was for him to be absent from the religious congregations. He would come a long distance through the bitter weather to the house of God. For the last five years of his life he was the sexton of the church, and he was notably faithful in the fulfillment of the duties of his office. Whatever he took on to do, he did it with all his energy. He spent much of his time in the chapel, and without doubt he had much sweet society with his heavenly Father in it. He was faithful until death.

He was exceptional for his forgiving spirit. If he became angry, he would not need much time before he forgave thoroughly. He kept this command, "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath." I do not think that he had a single enemy in the world.

He was noted for his kindness and generosity. His house was always open, with a hearty greeting to all who visited with him to partake from his set table. He and his dear wife were noted for their hospitality. O! how much pleasure he had welcoming the ministers of the word to his house. He was very fond of the society of preachers of good reputation, whatever their preaching talents might be. He was a thorough friend to his minister; he would speak respectfully of him behind his back. He was in no way two-faced. Some have a face for every occasion; they are able to smile in the presence of all, and just as easily as that, they are able to stab just as well in the back; but Sampson Owens was too much of a hero [giant] to degrade himself to treacherous servitude. There was no deceit in his heart. I have great longing for him, my pure and guileless brother.

Our brother was not weak in his health for a very long time; that is, about a week. He caught a strong cold and the infection affected the lungs, and death ended its work in a short time. He was in the chapel on the Sabbath morning before his death; but he was forced to return home before the service because of weakness; and on the following Saturday his soul soared to the "cymanfa and congregation of the first born."

On the following Monday, a large group gathered together to pay the last respects to him. The chapel was totally full. The writer ministered on the occasion. Our brother left an aged widow and seven children; five girls and two sons, to mourn for a tender and caring mate and loving father. May the support of God and his gracious protection be on our old dear sister and all the family.

W. M. Evans