

Mitchell McCracken Owen

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com/

Mitchell McCracken Owen

b. May 1822 TN

d. 10 Jan 1915 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Rock Creek Cemetery, Canby, Clackamas Co, OR

s/o Rev. Andrew Mitchell Owen and Jane McCracken

m1. 07 Jan 1844 Macoupin Co, IL

Lucinda Penn

b. 05 Jan 1828 Lebanon, St. Clair Co, IL

d. 17 May 1847 Shaws Point, Macoupin Co, IL

d/o Joseph Roscoe Penn Jr and Candis Barton

m2. 07 Mar 1850 Carlinville, Macoupin Co, IL

Sarah Jane Moreland

b. 1827

d. 27 Sep 1916 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

buried Rock Creek Cemetery, Canby, Clackamas Co, OR

d/o Jesse Moreland and Susan Robertson

ODLC: #2990 Clackamas Co, Mitchell M. Owen, b. 1820 Maury Co, TN; arr OR 04 Oct 1852; sc 01 Jan 1853; m'd Sarah Jane 07 Mar 1850 Macoupin Co, IL. Signed Oath of Allegiance 07 Jun 1865. Aff: Frances W. Robinson, Jesse Moreland

1850: Macoupin Co, IL, November 1, 1850; Mitchell M. Owen, 29, farmer, \$150, TN; Sarah J., 22, TN; Nancy L. (child of 1st wife), 2, IL; Ephraim L. Owen, 22, farmer, TN; Benjamin Penn, 11, IL

1860: Molalla, Clackamas Co, OR, August 24, 1860; Mitchell Owen, 38, farmer, \$550 \$600, TN; Sarah J., 33, TN; Andrew J., 6, OR; Susan K., 5, OR; Frank, 2, OR

1870: Lower Molalla, Clackamas Co, OR, June 28, 1870; M.M. Owen, 48, farmer, \$1500 \$300, TN; Sarah, 42, keeping house, TN; Jessee, 16, at home, OR; Susan, 14, at home, OR; Frank, 12, at home, OR; Emma, 9, at home, OR; Effie, 6, at home, OR; Willie, 3, at home, OR; Ava, 1, at home, OR

1880: Grant, Multnomah Co, OR, June 5, 1880; M. L. (sic) Owen, carpenter, TN US US; S.J., 52, wife, keeping house, TN KY TN; E.M., 19, dau, at home, OR; Effie, 16, dau, at school, OR; Willie, 14, son, at school, OR; Eva, 11, dau, at school, OR; S.G. Shirley, 25, dau, keeping house, OR; Floy, 1 (Apr), grand dau, OR IL OR

1900: Mt. Tabor, Multnomah Co, OR, June 4, 1900; M.M. Owen, head, May 1822, 78, m-50yrs, TN NC NC, capitalist; S.J., wife, Jul 1827, 72, m-50yrs, 8-6, TN NC TN; S. Long, dau, Sep 1860, 39, m-15yrs, 2-2, OR TN TN; H. Long, (grand) dau, Apr 1891, 9, s, OR TN TN, at school; M. Long, (grand) son, Feb 1894, 6, s, OR TN TN

1910: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR, April 16th-18th, 1910; M.M. Owen, head, 89, m2-60yrs, TN NC NC; Sarah, wife, 82, m-60yrs, 8-6, TN NC TN

"M. M. OWEN, an Oregon pioneer of 1852, now living retired in Portland, is a native of Henry county, Tennessee, born in April, 1822. His parents, A. M. and Jane (McCracken) Owen, were natives of North Carolina. They lived in Tennessee for some years, where Mr. Owen was employed as carpenter and cabinetmaker, and from there moved in 1838 to Macoupin county, Illinois. In Illinois he continued work at his trade until his death, which occurred at the advanced age of ninety-six years. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, all of whom lived to maturity, the subject of our sketch being the third born.

M. M. Owen was educated in the common schools of Tennessee, and early in life began work at the carpenters' trade. Indeed, he was so young when he began working at that trade, that his father had to build a platform for him to stand on while working at the bench. He continued with his father until 1845. That year he was united in marriage, in Macoupin county, to Miss Lucinda Penn. After four brief years of married life she died, leaving an only child. This child, Nancy, died and was buried on the plains in 1852. In 1850 Mr. Owen married his second wife, Miss Sarah Jane Moreland, sister of Judge J. C. Moreland, whose biography appears in this history.

In 1845 Mr. Owen began farming, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until the spring of 1852, when with his family snugly arranged in a " prairie schooner, " drawn by four yoke of oxen, he started across the plains for Oregon. The pleasure of this otherwise uneventful trip was marred by the sickness and death of the little child above referred to. After six months of travel they landed at Foster's, in the Willamette Valley, October 4, 1852, having crossed the mountains by the Barlow route. He then located in Clackamas county, on 320 acres of land, and was engaged in farming and work at his trade until 1878. That year he moved to East Portland, where he continued work at his trade and also engaged in contracting until 1890. Since then he has been retired from active life.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen have had eight children, six of whom are living, namely: Andrew J., Susan, wife of Lafayette Shirley of Washington; Emma, wife of E.E. Long, Portland; Effie, wife of L.P. Hosford; William M., a merchant of East Portland and Ava.

In politics Mr. Owen began as a Whig, but has since been a Republican since the organization of that party, though never entering political life except during his service as Justice of the Peace in Clackamas county. His life has been devoted to his business and his family, and he is now in the enjoyment of a pleasant home, with his dear ones settled conveniently near him." [An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon by H.K. Hines p.

Two Oregon Pioneers of 1852 Celebrate Sixtieth Anniversary of Their Wedding



MR. AND MRS. M. M. OWEN celebrated the 60th anniversary of their wedding last Monday evening, at the home of their daughter, Mrs. W. B. Starr, 17 East Seventeenth street. They were married in Carlinville, Ill., in 1850, and two years later, on March 29, with three other families, including that of Rev. Jesse Moreland, Mrs. Owen's father, packed their necessary belongings and turned their faces toward the West, arriving in Oregon October 4. They settled on a donation claim in Clackamas County and in that part of the state they continued to reside until 1873, when they moved to Portland, and in this city they have made their home since that date.

Mr. Owen's father was Rev. Andrew Owen, of Carlinville. Mr. and Mrs. Owen have six living children: Mrs. L. F. Shirley, Mrs. H. R. Patterson, Mrs. W. B. Starr and W. M. Owen, of Portland; Mrs. L. P. Hosford, of Washougal, and A. J. Owen, of Pendleton. They have 15

grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Judge J. C. Moreland, a brother of Mrs. Owen, and the only person living who was present at the wedding 60 years ago, talked entertainingly of the early days and of that journey across the plains "which tried the souls of men," paying tribute to this aged couple.

Mrs. Mark Gill and Miss Lorene Sails entertained with music.

Those present were: Messrs. and Mesdames L. F. Shirley, H. R. Patterson, L. P. Hosford, W. B. Starr, H. L. Moreland, Eldon Moreland, Mark Gill and D. H. Stearns, W. M. Owen, J. C. Moreland, Mrs. Belle Woodard, Mrs. William Frazier, Mrs. S. J. Perry, Mrs. Jennie Sails, Miss Sails, Misses Ruth and Mabel Owen, Dorris Shirley, Frances Patterson, Eugene Owen, Master William Moreland Starr, little Sarah Owen Starr, J. L. Calvert, of Hubbard; Mrs. Jane Moreland, of Oregon City, and Mrs. L. H. Shirley, of Salem.

NONAGENARIAN AT REST

**MITCHELL M. OWEN, PIONEER OF
'52, AGED 93, IS BURIED.**

**Widow and Six Children Survive Builder
and Contractor, Who Was Active in
Business Here for 40 Years.**

The funeral of Mitchell M. Owen, an Oregon pioneer of 1852, who died Saturday at the age of 93 years, was held yesterday at the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. T. W. Lane conducting the services. Private services were held at the family residence and at the grave in Riverview Cemetery.

Born in Tennessee in 1821, Mr. Owen grew to manhood in Illinois. Nearly 65 years ago he was married to Sarah J. Morland, who survives him. Of eight children, six were present at the bedside of their father when death

came, the other two children having been dead many years. Those living are: A. J. Owen, of Pendleton; William M. Owen, of Cloverdale; Mrs. L. F. Shirley, Mrs. Henry Patterson, Mrs. L. P. Hosford and Mrs. W. B. Starr, all of Portland.

In 1852, with his family, Mr. Owen crossed the plains by ox team, leaving Carlinville, Ill., March 29, and arriving at Fosters, just this side of the Cascade Mountains, October 6, after a trip of the usual frontier hardships.

He settled in the southern part of Clackamas County, and engaged in farming and clearing his land for a number of years, following his trade of carpenter as opportunity offered. He assisted in building the old flouring mill of Love & Tibbets at the head of the gulch which runs through Inman & Poulson's mill yard, and in erecting the old standard mill at Milwaukie. Removing to Portland 40 years ago, he



**Mitchell M. Owen, Pioneer of
1852, Who Died Saturday at
Age of 93, and Who Was Buried
Yesterday.**

engaged in contracting and building, and until 80 years old he was hale and remarkably strong. For the last 10 years his failing strength caused him to remain closely at home except to attend the Centenary Church, which he joined in 1882. Dr. Lane, the pastor, said yesterday that only two now living joined his church before Mr. Owen.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Wednesday, January 13, 1915 p.5]

**WOMAN PIONEER OF 1852
DIES AT 89 YEARS OF AGE.**



Mrs. Sarah Jane Moreland Owen.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Moreland Owen.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Moreland Owen, a pioneer Oregon woman, and daughter of a pioneer preacher, died at her home yesterday morning, 173 East Seventeenth street, at the age of 89. The funeral services will be held tomorrow at 1 o'clock at Centenary Methodist Church, with Dr. T. W. Lane, pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. E. Olin Eldridge, of Mount Tabor Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Owen came to Oregon from Illinois in 1852 accompanied by her husband and her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Moreland. Mr. and Mrs. Owen settled on a farm in Clackamas County. They moved to Portland in 1878.

Mrs. Owen is survived by six children: E. J. Owen, Pendleton; Mrs. L. F. Shirley, Mrs. H. R. Patterson, Mrs. L. P. Hosford, W. M. Owen, and Mrs. W. B. Starr, all of Portland. Fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren also survive. Mrs. Owen was a sister of J. C. Moreland.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Thursday, September 28, 1916 p.9]

Children of Mitchell Owen and Lucinda Penn:

i. Nancy Owen

- b. c1845 IL
- d. 1852 on trail

Children of Mitchell Owen and Sarah Moreland:

- i. George W. Owen
 - b. 12 May 1851 IL
 - d. 06 Feb 1858 Clackamas Co, OR
 - buried Rock Creek Cemetery, Canby, Clackamas Co, OR

- ii. Andrew Jesse Owen
 - b. 1854 OR
 - d. 17 Jul 1942 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

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1870: Lower Molalla, Clackamas Co, OR, June 28, 1870; M.M. Owen, 48, farmer, \$1500 \$300, TN; Sarah, 42, keeping house, TN; Jessee, 16, at home, OR; Susan, 14, at home, OR; Frank, 12, at home, OR; Emma, 9, at home, OR; Effie, 6, at home, OR; Willie, 3, at home, OR; Ava, 1, at home, OR

1915: Pendleton, OR

- iii. Susan G. Owen
 - b. 1855 OR
 - d. 15 May 1921 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
 - buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR

m. 28 Nov 1877 Clackamas Co, OR
Lafayette "Lafe" F. Shirley
b. 31 Jul 1852 OR
d. 25 Mar 1940 Salem, Marion Co, OR
buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion Co, OR
s/o James Shirley and Lavina Marks

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1915: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

iv. Frank Owen

b. 1857

d. 1889

buried Rock Creek Cemetery, Canby, Clackamas Co, OR

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v. Mary "Emma" Owen

b. 1861 OR

d. 13 May 1957 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m.

Henry R. Patterson

b.

d. 16 Nov 1940 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

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1915: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

vi. Effie Owen

b. 1864 OR

d. 18 Nov 1946 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR (28 Mar 1923 Yamhill Co, OR Effie S. Hosford)

m.

L. P. Hosford

b.

d.

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1915: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

vii. William Moreland Owen

b. 1866 OR

d.

1870: Lower Molalla, Clackamas Co, OR, June 28, 1870; M.M. Owen, 48, farmer, \$1500 \$300, TN; Sarah, 42, keeping house, TN; Jessee, 16, at home, OR; Susan, 14, at home, OR; Frank, 12, at home, OR; Emma, 9, at home, OR; Effie, 6, at home, OR; Willie, 3, at home, OR; Ava, 1, at home, OR

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1915: Cloverdale, OR

viii. Ava Owen

b. Feb 1870 Clackamas Co, OR

d. 04 May 1965 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

m. 1893

William Burr Starr

b.

d. 01 Oct 1945 Portland, Multnomah Co, OR
buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

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OR IL OR

1915: Portland, Multnomah Co, OR

Rock Creek Revisited

On The Town

Last Fourth of July, the Oregonian ran pictures and comments on pioneer Lower Willamette Valley churches, which Professor C. Gilman Davis of Portland State College had researched.

One of the churches pictured, and Professor Davis' favorite, was the Rock Creek Methodist at Needy. The church now opens its doors once yearly in mid-July for a memorial service followed by a pot luck luncheon.

However last Saturday its doors opened for another ceremony, the wedding of Maren Starr Greeley and Stanley Patrick White.

The Rock Creek church, built circa 1858, was chosen for its connection with the bride's family history. The new Mrs. White's great - grandfather, Mitchell Owen, helped build the pews that are still in the church, and her great-great grandfather Rev. Jesse Moreland, along with several other family members, is buried in the church graveyard.

Rev. Moreland, who came to Oregon with his family in an 1832 wagon train, was one of the first "lay preachers" in the little church, established by homesteaders in that part of Clackamas County.

He was accompanied west from Illinois by his daughter Sarah Jane and her husband, the above Mitchell Owen. Last Saturday's bride wore the bridal dress her grandmother, Mrs. William B. (Ava Owen) Starr, had made for her own wedding in 1893. The hemstitching and point lace of the ivory silk dress were also made by Mrs. Starr, who was born and raised in Needy.

The new Mrs. White's wedding ring is the same gold band her grandfather placed on Mrs. Starr's finger in 1893. The bridal "something borrowed" was the diamond set in a gold star which her grandfather gave to his bride in lieu of an engagement ring.

Following last Saturday's service, an informal reception was held in the grove of oak trees beside the church, with friends playing guitars. The young couple will make their home in Eugene, where they'll attend the University of Oregon. The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Floyd M. Greeley; the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. White, all of Portland.

[Oregonian, Portland, OR, Tuesday, August 17, 1965 p. I-4]