

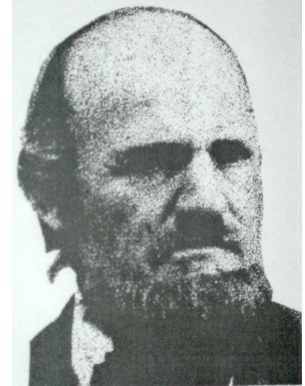
James Clark Owens 2nd

Snowflake, Navajo County Arizona, March 29, 1920

A short sketch of James Clark Owens 2nd

He was the son of James Clark Owens 1st, and Abigail Cordelia Burr. He was born July 7, 1832 in Independence, Kaw Township, Jackson County Missouri. His father was born the 7th of July 1797. Died February 1847. He came from Canada to New York when a boy. He never knew any more of his people.

His mother Abigail C. Burr was the daughter of Horrace Burr and Concurrence Hungerford of Bloomington, Ohio. The 5th generation from Benj Burr the founder of the Hartford branch.



James Clark Owens II

James was baptized in 1843 by Abram Hansaker in Hancock Co. Illinois. He knew the Prophet Joseph Smith and loved him. He saw him play ball and wrestle with the boys. He also went to the jail with his mother to see Joseph and his brethren. She talked to them thru the bars of the prison. He was present at the Conference held in Nauvoo Aug 8th, 1844, when Sidney Rigdon claimed to be the leader of the Church. When Brigham Young arose to speak the mantle of Joseph fell upon him. He appeared like the Prophet in gesture and spirit. He spoke with great power to the people.

James tho a boy said he knew Brother Brigham was the chosen one to lead the Church. He always defended the servants of God. In those days of mobbing, he saw hard times and knew what it was to go hungry. His father escaped several times form the mob. On one occasion where the mob was driving the saints they said to his father, "Owens we don't want you to go. We want you to work for us." As he was a mason by trade. When James was 14 years old, his father started from Mt. Pisgah to Missouri in the winter 1846. He lost his way in a heavy snow storm, also lost his horse and froze. When found by some ranchers, he told them his name and where his family were and died.

James worked hard and for low wages to support his mother and sisters whit tow children who was a widow. He saved a little, got a outfit and in the spring of '52 they started for Utah in Capt. Hodges Company.

Several of the company died of cholera. James and Frank Hodges were generally called upon to prepare the dead for burial. See to digging the graves. When he arrived in Utah he went to Provo and wintered. Provisions were hard and very little work, and the Indians bad. He was one of the minute men in Indian trouble. He was on guard with Wm. Maxwells company. When the Indians came upon them, they got in the Kane, none of them were shot. But Henry Tindell was out in the open. The Indians killed him and took his clothes. Then they fled. James was the first one to find Br. Tindell. He took off his under clothes and put on the dead man. Then they took him home to his family.

In the spring of 1853 James went to Fillmore. He went to quarrying rock for the State house there. he was called as a teacher in the ward.

James was one of the leading men to build up Fillmore City. As he was a mason and stone cutter by trade. His work can be seen on all sides of town. He served in the Walker and Black Hawk War a minute man always ready when called upon by those over him. He was Captain of Police. He held the office of Sheriff for years. He was also Captain of the Militia, also sexton.

He helped to build the first school house, also tannery, court house and State House. On January 14, 1856 he was called to Salt Lake to cut stone for the Temple. We started march 30 a distance of 150 miles with ox team in camp any with others. we arrived in Salt Lake the first of April, rented a room, was re-baptized to Conference and received our Endowments.

He then reported ready for work. He and others were sent out 12 miles to Big Cottonwood Canyon to cut stone. we all lived in tents till we had slab house put up by Wm. Calhoun and Henry Nisbit. They also built a Tithing Office, kept by Jacob Hutchins when the garden stuff grew. Bro Holliday brought in tithing so we fared better. In October 1859 he was released to go home. He was also called to work on the St George and Manti Temples. He joined the united order and worked at Black Smithing. In 1870 he was called again to cut stone for Salt Lake Temple. Also in 1877 he cut stone for Temple till President Young died. He did some of the west work, there in those arches over the doors and windows. He also attended the Dedication of the St George Temple and received blessings there in. By consent of President Taylor and a recommend from him. He moved his family to Arizona 1878. We camped at Show Low till spring then went to Bush Valley.

In September 1879 he and his sone J. C. Owens 3rd came to Conference at Snowflake. President Woodruff called James to go to Woodruff on the Little Colorado, Apostle Erastus Snow set him apart as Bishop of Woodruff Ward. We arrived in Woodruff in December 3, 1879.

James and sons and others worked on the Dam for 4 years before the water came out to rise a spear of anything. High water would take out the dam. 7 times it went out before it was completed. Men working summer and winter only when they had to go and earn something to eat. In September 1893 James and family still unmarried (children) went to Utah, remained 4 years sending children to school. He working at Black Smithing. In October 1879 we went to Salt Lake Temple and done some work. In November he and family returned to his home in Arizona. When the railroad was being made he and sons labored on it. He always desired to do his duty. He was a kind husband and father. He died in full faith in the gospel. He died of heart failure Feb 1, 1901, at his home in Woodruff. Loved and respected by all who knew him. He was the father of 12 children.

Lucretia P. Robinson Owens, scribe
James C. Owens my husband