

From "Builders of Early Millard," pp. 544, 545:

LUCRETIA PROCTER ROBISON OWENS

Lucretia Proctor Robison Owens was born May 18, 1841, at Schroepfe, Oswego County, New York, the daughter of Joseph Robison Jr., and Lucretia Hancock Robison. Her parents had become members of the LDS Church, sacrificed their home in New York and started for Nauvoo when Lucretia was three years old. Upon reaching Illinois, they were told of the death of Joseph Smith. This tragedy changed their plans, and they made a home near Chicago, where they lived for several years.

In 1854, the Robison family started their trek westward, members of the Perrigrine Sessions Company, arriving in Salt Lake City Aug. 5, 1854. Upon the advice of Brigham Young, they went south, and settled in Fillmore, Utah.

On January 16, 1856, before her fifteenth birthday, Lucretia was married to James Clark Owens, Jr., by Brigham Young, in the State House in Fillmore. On March 30, 1857, accompanied by their tiny new baby, the young couple started by ox team for Salt Lake City, where James had been called to cut stone for the Temple. It took two weeks to reach Salt Lake City. Upon their arrival, Lucretia and James received their first Endowments. They also attended Conference and then journeyed up Cottonwood Canyon, to the stone quarry, James and Lucretia lived at the quarry, in a tent and then a slab house, for eight months, along with eleven other stone cutters and their families. At the end of this Mission, they returned to Fillmore.

During the next twenty years, Lucretia carried the burdens of an ever-increasing family, as James was called to cut stone for the new temples being built by the Church. These calls made it impossible for the family to receive much support from the husband and father.

In 1878, the Owens family was called to Arizona. Arriving in Shiloh in December, with her tenth baby only six months old, Lucretia made a home in a wagon-box through the cold winter months, while James built a house in Bush Valley. They moved into the house in the spring, and planted crops. They were destroyed by frost. Indians stole their horses, and made much trouble. In December 1879, James was called to go to Woodruff, Arizona, to help build a dam on the Little Colorado River, for irrigation. In Woodruff, there were only five or six families, living at the fort, and it was the stopping place for all travelers going through. Through the years of heart-breaking toil on the dam, crop failures, Indian troubles, constant deprivation required of the family to make it possible for them to feed the constant stream Church officials, who stopped there, Lucretia and James faithfully performed their tasks.

Lucretia was President and teacher in the Relief Society, Primary and Religion Class. She enjoyed her work and was considered the leader of the growing community. She welcomed every opportunity to serve the Church, and performed her tasks faithfully, in helping to pioneer this country.

On February 1, 1901, James C. Owens died, leaving Lucretia alone, as by then all their children were married. She remained in her home in Woodruff as long as she was able to care for herself. During the last two or three years, she lived in Snowflake, Arizona. Lucretia died May 24, 1929, and was buried in Woodruff. She was the mother of twelve children.