

James Life of Evan Owen

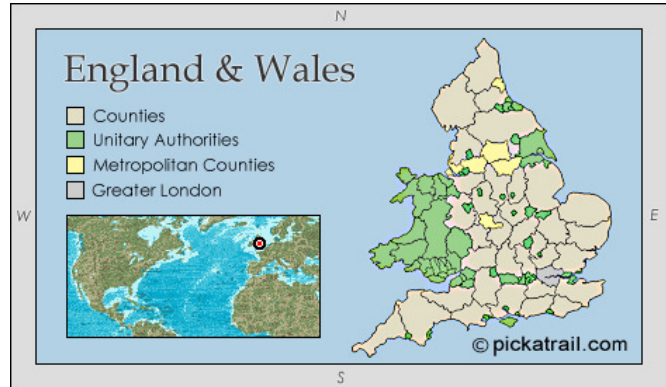
(Evan Richard Owen was the father of John Walters, who was father to Elizabeth Geneva Owen, Mother of Arlene Beth Sorenson/Saldivar)

By Mabel Maughan Nelson (original grammar)

Evan Owen, my grandfather, was born in Tyno Farm, near Towyn, Merioneth, North Wales, 15 August, 1833. He was the youngest of three brothers. His brother Richard stayed in St. Louis, but John came to Utah with Evan in 1852. They had one sister, but little is known of her as she never came to this country. He



crossed the Atlantic in a ship called the "Ellen Maria" and he came to Utah with a company that was going to California.



The parents died when Evan was four years old. He was reared by a Mrs. Hughes, who was also called "Grandma Fail". Mrs. Hughes' first husband and her second husband was much younger than herself. It was very interesting to know how Mrs. Hughes became guardian of Evan Owen.

After the death of the parents, the property was all sold. At the time of the sale, Evan was on one of the horses; the horse was sold and he would not get off. Mrs. Hughes bought the horse so Evan went with the sale into the Hughes' home. He seems to have had very determined characteristics.



At one time his supper was placed on a stool by the door. He wanted it brought to him. Grandma Fail told him that he would come to it before it would come to him. He saw a piece of wire nearby which he used to hook the stool and thereby brought the supper to him.

He was moody but at times very kind and tenderhearted and could be won by affection, while at other times was very stubborn. He could not stand to see a person suffer yet in a business deal was as hard as flint.



He never did any manual work but was interested in horses, cattle and sheep and was a great trader. He would always tell the bad traits of a horse. He raised stock in Cedar City, Utah. In 1882 the weather conditions were terrible and Grandfather's stock died by the hundreds. He was a very well-to-

do man while in Cedar City, and for some years in Cache Valley, but doe to misfortune lost almost everything.



It seemed that every investment went under. He relied on insurance with some company in Denver, Colorado, but just before his insurance matured, the company went broke.

While in Cedar City, he was out in the White Mountain Mission exploring for the saints when Johnson's Army came in.

One day Evan and John were out gathering rocks, he asked "What's the matter with this rock, we've been going around it all day." When he moved the rock, there was a rattlesnake by the side of it. The snake bit his finger, whereas his arm became swollen and black. An old squaw appeared and gave him whiskey saying that whiskey would counteract the poison, but the finger was useless forever afterward.



He drank a little bit during his life but liquor seldom got the better of him. He never used tobacco. He was interested in religion and for many years was councilor to Bishop Maughan of the Wellsville Ward. He never went into polygamy.

He was practically an invalid from asthma for 15 years before he died. His death occurred on 18 April, 1906 and interment was in the Wellsville Cemetery.

Roscoe M. Nelson, M.D.
1480 Locust Lane
Provo, Utah
8 September 19?5



Report Summary of the Arrival of the Ellen Maria

July 1, 1851

Arrival of the *Ellen Maria* at New Orleans.-- By letter from Elder G. [George] D. Watt, dated St. Louis, April 17th, we learn that the *Ellen Maria* arrived at New Orleans on the 6th of April, having made the voyage in 63 days.



She experienced a strong gale of wind on the fifth of February, but it abated on the sixth, and in a few days afterwards the Saints had become accustomed to sea life, and were free from sickness. On the 11th she cleared the Irish Sea, where it is not uncommon for vessels to be detained twenty or thirty days. The remainder of the voyage was pleasant as sea voyages generally.

Meetings were held every Sabbath, and also during the week; at which Elder Pratt addressed the Saints and others present, on the glories of our holy religion, "treating of the dealings of God with mankind in former times, and upon what he will do in the latter times, quoting from the prophets in the written word, and opening the future to view, until the Saints felt like leaping for joy, and shouting aloud, because of their privilege to live in these days, when the power and majesty of God are, and shall be, displayed in so many marvelous ways."

On the 9th of April, most of the company left New Orleans for St. Louis, on the "Alex. Scott," one of the largest boats on the river, and arrived there on the 16th.

A sorrowful circumstance transpired in going up the river. Sister Shelley, aged 55 years, wife of James Shelley, from Worcester Conference, in attempting to draw a bucket of water from the stream, while the boat was running ten miles an hour, was suddenly plucked into the water by the force of that mighty current. She floated for a moment, and then sank to rise no more. The engines were stopped immediately, and a boat manned and sent in search of her, but it was unsuccessful in obtaining the [p.200] body. We sympathize with the bereaved husband and family. This is not the first accident of the kind. The Star not long ago contained a similar report, and the brethren and sisters were then cautioned against this unwise action. When will the Saints be advised and learn wisdom from what experience teaches? It is the work of the strongest man to reach water from the mighty current of the Mississippi, especially when running against the stream at so rapid a rate; and no female should on any pretense attempt it. We hope this sad occurrence will prove a warning hereafter.

BIB: "Arrival of the 'Ellen Maria' at New Orleans [report summary],". *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*. 13:13 (July 1, 1851) pp. 200-201. (CHL)