

DRURY OWEN AND MARY ABBOTT and FAMILY
of Halifax County, Virginia

Research Report by Joan Horsley
Based on research as of Sept 2013
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See notes at the end of the report

Drury Owen - Son of Hatcher Owen and Mary Abbott
Born: Abt. 1788, Halifax County, VA - Died: Bet. 1850-1860, De Soto County, MS
Marriage: 13 Jan 1823, Halifax County, VA to Nancy Vaughan Jordan, Daughter of James Vaughan and Sarah Legrand
Born: Abt. 1801, Halifax County, VA - 1st married: 9 Oct 1816, Halifax County to Samuel Jordan
Died: Bet. 1840-1850 Lawrence County, AL or De Soto County, MS

Children of Drury Owen and Nancy Vaughan:

Mary E. Owen (m. Henry Bailey), Addison Owen (m. Martha A. Powell), Nash L. Owen (m. Ann R. Allen), William Owen (m. Sarah Ann Morris), Margaret Owen, Charles Owen, A. W. Owen

Drury Owen was the eldest of the seven known children of Hatcher Owen and Mary Abbott, who married in Halifax Co, VA 16 Oct 1787. [*Halifax Marriage Bond Register*] Hatcher was a son of William Owen (d. 1806, Halifax) and wife Lucy Wootton. [*HWB7:263*] Mary Abbott was a daughter of Joseph Abbott (d. c1788, Halifax) and wife Frances. [*HWB2:298*] Drury Owen is first enumerated as a "white tithe" (ie, a white male age 16 and over) in his father Hatcher Owen's yearly personal property tax list dated 25 Mar 1805. Thus, Drury Owen was born in Halifax Co, VA in later 1788 or early 1789.

Drury remains enumerated in Hatcher's tax lists through 1810 then appears for the first time in his own name in 1813, when he returned his list of taxable property the same day as Hatcher. Drury and Hatcher continued to be listed next to each other and to turn in their lists the same day, as would be expected since the 1820 census indicates Drury was still part of his father's household. There is only one Drury Owen in the relevant tax lists, which were collected from all adult male county residents, and Halifax tax lists of all relevant Owen households confirm that only Hatcher could be Drury's father.

Drury's sister Rebecca Owen married Edwin Vaughan in Nov 1819. Her "father Hatcher Owen" gave consent, and Drury Owen was the bondsman. [*Halifax Marriage Bond Register*] Just over three years later, Drury married Edwin Vaughan's sister.

Drury Owen married in Halifax Co, VA by bond dated 3 Jan 1823 to Nancy Vaughan (b. c1801), daughter of James Vaughan and Sarah Legrand. Nancy was then the widow of Samuel Jordan and thus named as Nancy Jordan on Drury's marriage bond. When Nancy Vaughan married Samuel Jordan 9 Oct 1816, her "father James Vaughan" signed his consent. When Nancy (Vaughan) Jordan married Drury Owen in 1823, the bondsman was her "father James Vaughan." [*Halifax Marriage Bond Register*] (The marriage bond register lists him as "Drury H. Owen." Except for one personal property tax list in 1821 where he is

listed as Drury P. Owen, no other records found for Drury list him with a middle initial, including when he and wife Nancy signed an 1833 deed by signature. *[HDB41:25]*

The 1820 census shows that Nancy Vaughan and her first husband had a daughter and a son born between their marriage in Oct 1816 and the 1820 census:

1820 - Halifax Co, VA - Meadsville Dist.

Samuel Jordan - Males: 1(under 10), 1(26-44); Females: 1(under 10), 1(16-25) - 6 slaves

The 1830 census for Drury and Nancy Owen's family (below) indicates that at least the eldest son (age 10-14) and probably one of the daughters were Nancy's children with Samuel Jordan and Drury's step-children. (Census ages are not always exact or accurate.)

Drury's widowed father, Hatcher Owen, died intestate in Halifax County, VA shortly before 10 Apr 1829. Drury Owen signed the inventory and appraisal of Hatcher's estate along with the three court-appointed appraisers. *[HWB15:132]* Presumably Drury signed as the estate administrator, even though his signature does not include the title. Administrators frequently signed with the appraisers, and any relevant information given by other family members was stated separately in the appraisal.

1830 - Halifax Co, VA

Drury Owen - Males: 2(under 5), 2(5-9), 1(10-14), 1(40-49); Fem: 2(5-9), 1(20-29) - Slaves:8

Drury and Nancy Owen were still living in Halifax in 1833. By a deed dated 8 Aug 1828, Drury Owen purchased the share of land that Drury's cousin Thomas Abbott inherited from his deceased father, Joseph Abbott Jr., a brother of Drury's mother Mary Abbott Owen, *[HDB36:423]* On 18 Jan 1833, Drury Owen with his wife Nancy and two of Thomas Abbott's siblings sold their combined shares of Joseph Abbott Jr.'s former land. *[HDB41:25]* The 1828 and 1833 deeds together prove that Drury's wife Nancy was not a daughter of Joseph Abbott Jr., as some online files say. The second deed disproves online family files that say the Drury Owen who married Nancy Jordan was the same Drury Owen of adjacent Pittsylvania Co. who married Jane Mayhue 1 Jun 1832 in Pittsylvania, since Drury Owen and wife Nancy Vaughan Jordan were still married as of 18 Jan 1833.

Shortly after selling this land, Drury and Nancy moved their family from Halifax Co, VA to Lawrence Co, AL. Others from Halifax were migrating to this area, including Nancy's sister Mary Vaughan with husband Thomas Pointer. The Owens and Pointers apparently moved together. Drury and Nancy Owen had a daughter born c1835 in AL. Mary and Thomas Pointer had a son born c1834 in AL, and Mary Vaughan's husband "Tho's Pointer" is listed next to Drury Owen in Lawrence Co, AL in the 1840 census.

1840 - Lawrence Co, AL

Drury Owens[sic]

Males: 3(under 5), 2(5-9), 2(10-14), 1(15-19), 2(30-39), 1(50-59); Fem: 1(20-29) - 9 slaves

Note:

Neither Drury's wife Nancy (age 39) nor his two daughters (Mary, age 17, and Margaret, age 5) are included in this enumeration. Since Drury's sons are accounted for here, and since Mary and Margaret are in Drury's 1850 census, their omission in 1840 seems only to be a census error. The one female who is included is either Nancy's daughter from her first

marriage or a domestic or farm helper, as the two other adult men probably are. The 1850 census shows Nancy's last child was born c1840 in AL, so whether she died giving birth around age 39 or whether she died later in this decade is unknown. (Speculation: In 1840, the family of Nancy's sister Mary Pointer had two daughters listed in their household the ages of Nancy's two daughters. Neither was with Mary in 1850, still living in Lawrence Co, AL., and I found no online marriage record there for a Pointer daughter bet. 1840-1850. If Nancy had died in childbirth in 1840, it is possible Mary's two girls in 1840 were Nancy's daughters living temporarily with their aunt next door.)

Drury Owen moved his family bet. 1840-1848 to De Soto Co, Mississippi, just south of Memphis, TN. In the 1850 census, Drury is listed as "Drewry Owen" (b. c1788, VA) but correctly spelled as "Drury Owen" in the 1850 Slave Schedule for De Soto Co. His wife Nancy Vaughan Jordan Owen is deceased.

1850: De Soto County, Mississippi - Northern Division

Owen, Drewry - 62 - Farmer - VA [b. c1788]

Addison - 25 - Merchant - VA [b. c1825]

Mash[sic] - 22 - male - Teacher - VA [b. c1828 - should be Nash]

Wm - 19 - Farmer - VA [b. c1831]

Margaret - 15 - AL [b. c1835]

Charles - 14 - AL [b. c1836]

A W - 10 - male - AL [b. c1840]

Baily, Henry N - 32 - VA [b. c1818]

Mary - 27 - VA [b. c1823]

1850 Slave Schedule - De Soto Co. MS - Drury Owen: 10 slaves

Drury Owen died in De Soto Co, MS bet. 1850-1860. These marriages were found for his children:

"Mary E. Owen" married "Henry W. Bailey" 5 Jun 1848 in De Soto Co, MS

"Addison D. Owen" married "Martha A. Powell" 31 May 1854 in De Soto Co, MS

"William L. Owen" married "Sarah Ann Morris" 08 Apr 1855 in De Soto Co, MS

[Sources: "Mississippi, Marriages, 1800-1911," index, FamilySearch

(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/V2ZK-2W9>), citing film no. 895690]

Nash Owen as "N. L. Owen" married "Ann R Allen" 7 May 1855 in Fayette Co, TN

[Source: "Tennessee, Marriages, 1796-1950," index, FamilySearch

(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XD3B-VNG>), citing gs film number1003129]

Drury's son Charles could be the Charles W. Owen, born c1837, who served in the CSA 44th Regiment, Mississippi Infantry, Company H, beginning in 1863. (Those records have not yet been checked.) However, no Charles matching Drury's son's age and birth place was found in the 1860 or 1870 census. In fact, so far, only one of Drury and Nancy's children has been located in 1860 or later.

Drury's son Nash L. Owen married Ann R Allen 7 May 1855 in her residence of Fayette Co, TN, one county northeast of De Soto Co, MS. In 1870 Nash and Ann were living in White Co, AR, but were back in Fayette Co, TN by 1870, where Nash was again teaching school. (In 1860, the census lists him as "M. Owen", as the 1850 census listed him as "Mash

Owen," and in 1870, he is listed as Nathaniel Owen.) In 1880 (the only fully correct census), Nash L. Owen and wife Ann were still in Fayette Co, TN, where Nash was listed as a "Magistrate."

1860 - Jackson, White Co, Arkansas

Owen, M[sic, s/b N.] - 28 - Ala[sic, s/b VA] (occupation blank, ditto for "farmer" is crossed out)

Ann - 33 - Ala[sic, s/b NC]

Thomas - 2 - Ark

1870 - Fayette Co, TN - District 9 - PO Collierville

Owen, Nathaniel - 40 - School teacher - VA

Ann - 44 - NC

Thomas - 12 - TN[sic, s/b AR]

Virginia - 7 - TN

Luella - 7 - TN

1880: Fayette Co, TN - District 9

Owen, Nash L. - 53 - Magistrate - VA-VA-VA

Ann - 54 - NC-NC-NC

Thomas C. - 22 - son - Photographer - Ark-VA-NC [b. c1858]

Luella - 16 - daughter - works in firm - Ark-VA-NC [b. c1864]

Marlow, Martha - 20 - hired - works on farm [in firm?] - MS-MS-MS

Note:

Luella Owen died 4 Aug 1933 in Navarro Co, Texas. Her death record gives her birth date as 12 Sep 1863, her husband as P. A. Minter, her mother as Ann Allen, and her father as Nathaniel Owen.

[Image on FamilySearch.org at: <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1942-25238-45970-46?cc=1983324&wc=MMTK-S27:n1220121537>]

Nash L. Owen died 21 Oct 1898 in Shelby Co, TN (adjacent to Fayette Co.), per grave marker, Eads Cemetery, Shelby Co, TN. [FindAGrave Memorial # 8813512] The birthdate is illegible on the marker photo, but according to research by Jane Owen Eason, his birth date was 20 Sep 1828. [Jane also suggested I look for Drury Owen's family in Alabama when initially I could not find Drury in the 1840 census.]

Researched and written by Joan Horsley

Based on research as of Sept 2013

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This is a fairly complete report that Joan Horsley was working on when she died. There were no notes included in the text that indicated any facts or other lines of inquiry she wanted to pursue. Any correspondence that would have been directed to my late wife should be sent to JHGenResearch-Abbott@yahoo.com

If you use any information from this report, please include the documentation as given here and cite this paper as: Joan Horsley. *Drury Owen, Son of Hatcher Owen and Mary Abbott of Halifax County, Virginia* (Raleigh, NC: J. Horsley, 2013) Available online at www.joanhorsley.org. *This document may not be used in part or whole for commercial purposes or paid subscriber services. All personal use needs to reference the research report and author.*