Biography of Owen Foley

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Foley, Owen: Savannah grocer. Mr. Foley was a native of Leitrim County, Ireland, and was born between 1811 and 1815. After immigrating to the United States on October 5th or 5th, 1834, he took up residence in Savannah on October 24th or 25th, 1834. Several pieces of property were owned by Mr. Foley: Lots #4 & #5 Moore Tything, Percival Ward; Lot #5 Holland Tything, Percival Ward; Lot #5 Carpenter's Tything, Dockery Ward; Lot #15 Crawford Ward; and Lot #47 West Farm Street. Owen Foley married Honoria Kirby on January 12, 1851, and they had two children, Catherine and Francis C., who were both born before Owen's death on May 30, 1855.
The logical starting point to begin discussing the life of Owen Foley should be in Leitrim County, Ireland, his place of birth; but, I shall begin with the earliest available account on Owen in the United States — his alien declaration. According to this statement, sworn to by Owen on September 1, 1842 when he was 31 years old, he was born in Ireland, embarked at Liverpool on August 30, 1834 for the United States on the ship St. Andrew, arrived in New York on October 5th or 6th, 1834, and took up residence in Savannah on October 24th or 25th, 1834.

In 1836 and 1837, Owen began paying poll tax. Very little information is available on Owen from 1838 to 1842; he did make a trip back to Liverpool on the ship Alfred on May 10th, 1839. He was accompanied on this voyage by a Mr. B. Foley; on July 25, 1818, a Bryan Foley from Ireland arrived in the United States and later came to Savannah in January of 1820. Perhaps, this is the Foley that accompanied Owen to Liverpool. In November of 1839, another Bryan Foley of Ireland came to the United States and according to his alien declaration, would be approximately the right age of a Brian Foley who resided with Owen in 1850. It is possible that Owen stayed in Ireland for a long duration since there is no mention of him in the tax.
digests, census, or newspapers during this period of time, or he could have accompanied the younger Bryan Peley to the United States in November of 1839. A definite answer has not been found, nor the relationship, if any, of this younger Bryan to Owen.

Owen resumed paying poll tax from 1844 to 1849, when he began to pay tax on his stock in trade. On December 26, 1849, Thomas H. Theus made an indenture with Owen because he owed Owen $171.80; Theus was to sell one of his slaves, Celia, in order to pay Owen by April of 1850, which he did. On January 25, 1850, Owen purchased a slave named Julia for $475 in a marriage settlement where various slaves were being sold. This is the slave he paid tax on in 1850; the tax digest also mentions that he owned two other slaves, but there is no record of their purchase in the deed books. On May 20, 1850, the Savannah Morning News ran an article on a three-story brick building that Owen had built on Broughton Street to be rented as a dry goods store and two other stores that he was in the process of building on Barnard Street, across from the Planter's Hotel. The Broughton Street building was and is located on Lot #5 Moore Tything, Percival Ward. The Barnard Street stores were located on Lot #6 Carpenter's Tything, Decker Ward. Owen paid taxes on several other pieces of property after 1850: Lot #5 Holland Tything, Percival Ward (1851-1855), ...
Lot #4 Moore Tything, Percival Ward (1853-1855), Lot #15 Crawford Ward (1853-1855), and Lot #47 West Farm Street (1853-1855); he also paid tax on his three slaves from 1850 to 1855. After selling a piece of property belonging to the estate of the elder Bryan Foley in February of 1851, Owen, on May 22, 1851, sold Lot #8 Carpenter’s Row to John Haupt for $1200, but there is no earlier mention of Owen owning this property. On June 29, 1851, there was a fire in a store owned by Owen on the corner of Broughton and Whitaker streets which resulted in considerable damage.

Perhaps the most important event in Owen’s life was his marriage to Honoria Kirby on January 12, 1851 by John F. Kirby of St. John’s Cathedral. Very little is known about Honoria Kirby’s early life; she was born in Ireland, and was 29 years old, residing with Margaret Prendergrast in Savannah in 1850. Owen and Honoria had two children, Catherine and Francis O., which were born between 1851 and 1855. There is no other mention of their children until after Owen died in 1855.

Owen was on the Board of Health in Savannah in the summer of 1852. He was listed among the registered voters in Savannah on April 7, 1853. His possible business associate, Bryan Foley, died in October of 1854; Owen took over as administrator of his estate in 1855. Not too long afterwards, on May 30, 1855, Owen died of cholera morbus. There is some discrepancy
about the year of Owen's birth, but from the alien declaration, the 1850 census, and the death certificate, the year of his birth can be placed between 1811 and 1815. Owen died at a fairly young age, between 40 and 44 years old; his most active years were the five years preceding his death, when he began investing in property and during which period he married. Owen's life was just beginning in a sense -- business and two small children -- when he died.

As mentioned earlier, Owen and Honoria had two children, Francis O. and Catherine. By 1877, both children were of proper age for Owen's estate to be divided among them equally -- Honoria, Francis, and Catherine would each get one-third of the estate. Francis sold his share of the estate to his mother and sister, and Catherine, in turn, sold one-sixth of her share to her mother. This gave Honoria two-thirds and Catherine one-third of Owen's estate, which included railroad stock and four different pieces of property. Francis O. Foley married Susan T. Gestringer on December 2, 1876; they had a daughter, Susan H. Foley, who is the latest descendant of Francis known at this time.

Several direct descendants of Owen Foley can be traced down to the present through his daughter Catherine; some reside in Savannah, others in Atlanta and Birmingham, Alabama. [See family tree tree chart] On November 21, 1877, Catherine
Foley married James W. McIntire. They had four children: Ethel Foley, James W., Jr., Catherine Honoraria, and Francis Percival. Ethel Foley McIntire, born on October 18, 1884, never married, but died at age 34 in Japan. The only information found on James W., Jr. is the date of his death — May 29, 1910, the cause of death — a gunshot wound, and the fact that he had been married once, but was a widower when he died. Catherine Honoraria and Francis Percival are the two children through which descendants can be traced. On June 29, 1911, Catherine H. McIntire married Walter Charlton Hartridge, a lawyer; they had one child, Walter Charlton, Jr., born on February 9, 1914. Walter C. Hartridge, Jr. became an historical researcher, married Susan L'Eagle of Jacksonville, Florida, and had one child, Walter C., III, born on February 21, 1958. This branch of the Hartridge family provides a direct descendant from Owen Foley through his daughter Catherine.

The James William McIntire family provides the second link of Owen Foley to the present. Catherine Foley and James W. McIntire's son, Francis Percival, is the starting point. On November 24, 1909, Francis Percival married Lucy Hopson Lumpkin Barrow. He was a veteran of World War I and an attorney in Savannah. They had six children: William, Cornelia Jackson, Lucy Barrow, Ella Patience, Francis
Percival, Jr., and Pope Barrow. Pope Barrow, the youngest child, was born on October 7, 1924; he is a lawyer, married, has three children, and is living in Atlanta. Francis Percival, Jr., born on July 19, 1921, died in a plane crash on July 23, 1949 on the way to a funeral. Ella Patience was born on April 14, 1919; she married a Mr. Eller and had one daughter, Catherine McIntire Eller (who later married Gordon Varnadoe). Her second marriage was to a Mr. Newcomb. Lucy Barrow, born on November 26, 1912, married Dean Smith on July 15, 1939. They had two children: Dean (who was killed in war) and Lucy (who presently lives in Savannah). Cornelia Jackson, who was born on November 25, 1911, married Paul Walter Rivers on February 9, 1938, and resided in Birmingham, Alabama; she is no longer living. The eldest child, James W. McIntire, was born on October 10, 1910; he married Elizabeth Malone Smart on September 30, 1939. He was general manager of Southern State Iron and Roofing. They had four children: Cornelia Jackson, Elizabeth Malone, James William, Jr., and Lucy Barrow. Cornelia Jackson was born on October 7, 1941. She married Walter Charlton Hartridge on June 29, 1963. They had two children: Elizabeth McIntire (born on March 24, 1965) and Emma Hopkins (born on June 19, 1967). Elizabeth Malone was born on May 12, 1943; there is no record that she got married
in Chatham County. James W. McIntire, Jr., born on September 22, 1946, married Irene Miliades on September 19, 1956. Both were nineteen years old when they got married. On May 31, 1950, Lucy Barrow was born. There is no marriage record for her in Chatham County either. As seen here, the James W. McIntire family reveals quite a few descendants of Owen Foley.

Owen's life was just beginning to blossom when he died; he had several pieces of property, some stores, and two small children. There are many years of Owen's life on which information has not been found as of yet -- his childhood and youth in Ireland, and the years between 1838 and 1843. Owen seems to have been an ambitious man, getting himself established in business in Savannah before getting married, and providing well for his family in his will. His line can be traced to the present in two well-known Savannah families -- the Walter Hartridge and the James W. McIntire families. Thus, the legacy of Owen Foley lives on.
Enénotes

1 According to Owen Foley's tombstone, Laitrim County, Ireland is his birthplace.

2 Alien Declarations, Book D, declaration #45. Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.


4 Georgian, May 10, 1839, p. 3, column 1.

5 Alien Declarations, Book B, declaration #144.

6 Alien Declarations, Book B, declaration #57.

7 Georgia Census 1850, Chatham County, household #381; Alien Declarations, Book D, declaration #57.

8 Tax Digest Books, Volumes 1840-1843 have no record of Owen Foley and Georgia Historical Society doesn't have volumes 1838 and 1839; no Owen Foley is mentioned in the 1840 census for Chatham County or in the Savannah Morning News from 1840 to 1843.

9 Tax Digest Books, Vol. 1844, p. 34; Vol. 1845, p. 31; Vol. 1846, p. 26; Vol. 1847, p. 27; Vol. 1848, p. 27; Vol. 1849, p. 27.


13 Tax Digest Book, Vol. 1850, p. 26 (There is no earlier account of Owen's slaves in the tax digests or in index to Deeds 1785-1910 for Chatham County.)
Savannah Morning News, May 26, 1850, p. 2, column 3. In the 1850 Georgia census, household #381, Owen owned $50,000 worth of real estate.

There is no deed showing that Owen purchased this lot, but one can safely assume that he owned it because he gave it away in his will and paid taxes on it from 1851 to 1855. Tax Digest Books, Vol. 1851, p. 29; Vol. 1852, p. 36; Vol. 1853, p. 16; Vol. 1854, p. 35; Vol. 1855, p. 33. Last Will and Testament of Owen Foley (Pike #729, Chatham County Court of Ordinary); Final Receipt of Catherine Foley to Honoria Foley, Pike #1-129. In the Percival Ward Book, the information dealing with Lot #5 is mostly concerning the estate of Owen from 1854 to 1854. In Deed Book, 16, Folios 482-484, Bryan and Owen used Lot #5 Moore Tything, Percival Ward in a promissory note to Planter's Bank (November 1850). In Deed Book, Vol. 16, Folio #56, Honoria, Catherine and her husband, James W. McIntyre, were leasing part of Lot #5 (1856). In Deed Book, Vol. 16, Folio #225, Owen and Bryan were the nearest of kin to Francis Foley and were to be tenants-in-common on Francis Foley's property. This could include Lot #5 Moore Tything because Francis bought it in 1846 (Deed Book, Vol. 16, Folios #17-40).

There is no deed showing that Owen bought this lot, but he paid taxes on the western half of Lot #6 from 1851 to 1855. Tax Digest Books, Vol. 1851, p. 29; Vol. 1852, p. 36; Vol. 1853, p. 16; Vol. 1854, p. 35; Vol. 1855, p. 33. In Deed Book, Vol. 16, Folio #359, this part of the estate of Owen Foley was sold to Hannah Foley, widow of Bryan Foley (1856). In Deed Book, Vol. 16, Folio #212, Francis Foley bought this property in 1845. Maybe he left it to Owen, but there is no will for Francis in his #104 (1846). Owen was made administrator of Francis' estate though from documents in this file.

As with previous property, there is no deed showing that Owen purchased these pieces of property. He did pay taxes on them though. Tax Digest Books, Vol. 1851, p. 29; Vol. 1852, p. 36; Vol. 1853, p. 16; Vol. 1854, p. 35; Vol. 1855, p. 33. In the 1852 Tax Digest Book, p. 36, Bryan and Owen are listed jointly as paying taxes on these pieces of property and six slaves. Perhaps they were running the dry goods stores together. Bryan was living with Owen according to the 1850 Georgia census, household #381. In Deed Book, Vol. 16, Folio #359, the estate of Owen Foley included Lot #5 Holland Tything and was sold to Hannah Foley, widow of Bryan, on June 19, 1856. In Deed Book, 4A, Folio #153, the estate of Owen leased part of Lot #4 Moore Tything for five years. The Percival Ward Book primarily mentions the tax
assessmen for Lot #4 in the estate of Owen Foley from 1861 to 1891, after his death. In Deed Book, Vol. 71, Folio 119, Hororia and James V. McIntire sold Lot #16 Crawford Ward. (See also Deed Book, Vol. 71, Folio 119). These deeds suggest that Owen owned these pieces of property since he gave them away in his will.

18

Deed Book, Vol. 311, Folio #146-147.

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Deed Book, Vol. 311, Folio #392. As stated before, Owen had no deed for this property that can be found.

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Index to Marriages 1806-1951, Chatham County, pp. 73-74. Marriage Record Book for 1851, #3373 -- no marriage license at the Chatham County Court of Ordinary. John Kirby is listed in the Directory of the City of Savannah, 1850 (by David Galloway, 1849), and Census of the City of Savannah and a Commercial Directory for 1848 (by Joseph Bancroft, 1848) as pastor of the Catholic Church on Drayton Street -- St. John's (p. 23 in the 1848 census and pp. 23 & 50 in the 1850 directory). In Historical Research Project (Georgia) -- Marriage Records, Abstracts, etc., Chatham County, Georgia, 1805-1851, Vol. 1, p. 29, there is a record of Owen marrying a Mary Cross on July 27, 1855. This is evidently a mistake since Owen died in May of 1855.

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Georgia Census 1850, household #1152.

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There is no birth or death certificate for Francis O. Foley at the Health Center, but in the file on Francis O. Foley (File #253) and in Index to Estates 1753-1912 (p. 265) Susan T. Martin (Francis' wife) and Susan H. Foley, their daughter, are mentioned. Susan T. had married Clinton Martin after Francis died around 1884 (this is when the estate begins). Owen listed Francis as his son and gave him one-third of his estate in his will (File #T-129). There is no birth certificate on Catherine Foley at the Health Center, but her death is recorded in File #789 on Catherine F. McIntire as September 20,
1887 (from Index to Estates 1755-1912, p. 525) in her husband's application for temporary letters of administration. Catholic Cemetery Burial Records, Vol. I, lists Catherine F. McIntire as dying on September 25, 1887 (age 34, from Savannah, but residing in St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada). These two sources present a two year difference in the date of death. This would place her birth around 1853. By 1877, both of the children were of proper age to divide Owen's estate (according to Application of Administratrix to be Discharged, February 10, 1877, File #7-129).

Savannah Morning News, June 10, 1852, p. 2, column 4;
June 17, 1852, p. 2, column 4; June 24, 1852, p. 2, column 5;
July 22, 1852, p. 2, column 5.

Savannah Morning News, April 7, 1853, p. 2, column 7.

Savannah Morning News, October 10, 1854, p. 2, column 4; Estate file on Bryan Foley #125 (1855).

The death of Owen Foley is recorded on the 1855 death file cards as May 30, 1855 -- the cause of death was cholera morbus. His age was listed as 40. Chatham County Health Center, Savannah Morning News, May 30, 1855; announcement of Owen's funeral (p. 2, column 4).

Owen's death certificate states that he died at age 40, placing his birth in 1815. The 1850 census listed him as 38, indicating that he was born around 1812. Owen's alien declaration (#45) states that in 1842 he was 31 years old, placing his birth in 1811. From these three records, one can deduce that he was born between 1811 and 1815.

Owen owned burial lots at two cemeteries. He owned a family vault at Colonial Cemetery in which four relatives were buried -- relation to Owen unknown. (p. 21 in Colonial Park "Old Burial Ground", done by W. P. A. of Georgia and supervised by Mrs. Lucy B. McIntire, Owen's grandson's wife). Lot C-66. (See also pp. 392-393 in Colonial Danish Georgia Society, Some Early Epitaphs in Georgia, compiled by the Georgia Society of the Colonial Danes of America. See also Annals of Georgia Mor- tuary Records by Caroline Price Wilson, Vol. III, Braid & Sutton, Inc., 1936, p. 344.). Owen also owned burial lots in the Catholic Cemetery. Catholic Cemetery Burial Records.
project #665-34-3-218), vol. II, 1939 — Owen owned Section 9, Lots 9 & 11.

31. There are no birth certificates for either Catherine or Francis O. — the records at the Health Center don't go back this far (1851-1855). The first mention of their children is in Owen's will (file #F-129).

32. Last Will and Testament of Owen Foley, filed on June 4, 1855 (file #F-129). See also Application of Administratrix to be Discharged, file #F-129.

33. Deed Book, Vol. 4P, Folio #41-42; Vol. 4T, Folio #546. Agreement and Division between Honoria and Catherine Foley, filed March 15, 1877 (file #F-129). Final Receipt of Catherine Foley to Honoria Foley (file #F-129), and Final Receipt of Honoria Foley to Honoria Foley (file #F-129). Honoria and Catherine divided shares of stock in Central, Southwestern, and Atlantic and Gulf Railroads, and also four lots: Lots #4 and #5 Moore Tything, Percival Ward; Lot #16 Crawford Ward; Lot #47 Middle Oglesby Ward.

34. Marriage Record Book 1873-1877 (White), p. 75.

35. No birth certificate for Susan H. Foley is in Savannah, but in file #253 on the estate of Francis O. Foley, she is mentioned. No marriage or death certificate is available for Susan H. Foley. Perhaps she moved out of town. There are no newspaper articles on her either.

36. Marriage License #415 in Book B, p. 208 of Marriage Licenses for Chatham County. Also found in Index to Marriage Licenses, Book 4 (L-3), 1806-1957. Catholic Cemetery Burial Records, Vol. 1, lists her residence as St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. Perhaps this is why no birth certificates are available on three of her children.

37. File #789: Application for temporary letters of administration on the estate of Catherine Foley McIntire by James W. McIntire. This names these four children as heirs of her estate after her death on September 20, 1885. The death certificate on Francis P. McIntire lists his parents as Catherine Foley and James W. McIntire (vol. 123, 1951, pp. 751-1000). The Temporary Administrators Bond on the Estate of James W.
McIntire, Jr. lists these four children as being brothers and sisters (File #1052 or J. N. McIntire, Jr.).

38 Catholic Cemetery Burial Records, Vol. II, lists her as Miss Ethel Foley McIntire. The death certificate (Vol. 1918 -- 4) places her death on December 5, 1918 in Yokohama, Japan, at age 34. Her birth date is given as October 18, 1884. See also Catholic Cemetery Burial Records, Vol. I, under her name.


40 Marriage License #570 in Marriage License Book X, p. 30. Catherine died in St. Augustine, Florida, at age 68 in 1949 according to her death certificate (Vol. 1949, Transit Permit).

41 Birth certificate (Vol. 1914 -- I).

42 Birth certificate (Vol. 254, 1958, pp. 751-1000). He was 44 years of age at his son's birth. There is a Walter Charlton Hartridge Collection of books at Georgia Historical Society.

43 Marriage License #667 in Marriage License Book V, p. 325.

44 Death certificate (Vol. 125, 1951, pp. 751-1000). He died in August of 1851 at the age of 70 due to complications of an old war injury.

45 Birth certificate (Vol. 24, 1824, pp. 1175-1670). Other information was provided by Mrs. Craig Barrow of Worplee Plantation. Her husband is a relative of Lucy Barrow. Information also was received from Mr. Champion McAlpin, a friend of Pope Barrow McIntire.


47 Birth certificate (Vol. 1, 1919, pp. 1-500). Information was provided by Mrs. Craig Barrow concerning these two marriages.
Marriage License #523 in Marriage License Book 3A, p. 122. Birth certificate (Vol. 1912 -- 3). Mrs. Craig Barrow provided additional information on her marriage and children.

Marriage License #96 in Marriage License Book 2X, p. 12. Birth certificate (Vol. 1911 -- 3). Other information provided by Mrs. Craig Barrow.

Birth certificate (Vol. 1910 -- 3). He was unnamed at birth, but Mrs. Craig Barrow confirmed that the name and date of birth are correct.

Marriage License #704 in Marriage License Book 3A, p. 214.

Birth certificate (Vol. 93, 1941, pp. 1501-2000). This also mentions his occupation.


Marriage License #456 in Marriage License Book 15, p. 187.


Birth certificate (Vol. 130, 1964, pp. 2501-2750).

Marriage License #904 in Marriage License Book 20, p. 19.

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Catholic Cemetery Burial Records, General Index to Keeper's Record Book (1853-1933), Volumes I & II.

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Index to Estates, 1755-1912. Chatham County Court of Ordinary. Chatham County Courthouse. Savannah, Georgia.


Information from Mr. Champion McAlpin.

Information from Mrs. Craig Barrow.

Information from Mr. Walter C. Hartridge, Jr.

Marriage Licenses. Chatham County Court of Ordinary. Chatham County Courthouse. Savannah, Georgia.

Meldrim, Mrs. Peter W. Some Early Settlers in Georgia. Compiled by the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America.


Schrack Index. Chatham County Superior Court. Chatham County Courthouse. Savannah, Georgia.


Tombstone of Owen Foley.


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                    Bryan (File #129)
                    Daniel (File #30)
                    Elizabeth (File #35a)
                    Francis (File #104)
                    Hugh J. (File #355)
                    James (File #230)
                    James A. (File #139)
                    John (File #277)
                    John J. (File #231)
                    Joshua (File #79)
                    Kate (File #443)
                    Sarah (File #100)
                    Timothy (File #78)

City Ground Rent -- Lots, Chatham County Superior Court.
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Deeds: Foley, Bryan
        Daniel J.
        Francis
        Hannah
        Houssia
        James B.
        John
        John D. and Robert E.
        Kate
        Sarah E.
