

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

Summary Narrative

Libby (Elizabeth/Libbie) was born to Agnes Moodie and Charles Bates in Green Co., Wisconsin, in 1895.

I believe that she moved with her mother sometime between 1905 and 1909 to South Dakota (Haynes, Perkins Co., SD), where she attended school. I have followed her up to 1915 in this vicinity. [Her father, Charles, died of a brain tumor in WI in 1900.]

My mother has said that she thought that Libby worked for a newspaper in ND, and now I can say that this indeed makes sense based on other things that I have found.

In 1919 Libby marries John L. Owens in Richland Co., MT. Tracing John's past reveals that he was born in La Porte City, IA, in 1875. His first wife was Bertha Sparrow, from MN. They appear to have had one son, named Cromwell Lewis, in Bowdle, SD, in about 1897. At some point Bertha disappears from the scene, however. I believe that this is due to the fact that she is committed to the SD state mental institution in Yankton. She appears there in the 1920 census. She is buried there as well (after death in Cook Co., IL, in 1925). [There is an inherited neurological disease involved since she, her son, and one of his offspring suffered from it (Huntingtons?).]

John took up newspaper editing and publishing in an assortment of small town/county papers, including ones in Bowdle, SD, McIntosh, SD, Hazen, ND, and elsewhere. I suspect that Libby met him as a part of the work that she must have done in a paper in the vicinity of Haynes, SD. (This would fit with my mother's recollection.) They appear in Sidney, MT, in the 1920 Federal census.

In the 1925 ND census, John appears in ND in two locations. Libby shares one of the locations (in Hazen, ND).

In 1930, John is still in ND and Libby is living not too far from her brother, Frank, in the city of Tacoma in Washington state. She is a Linotype operator. So, sometime between 1925 and 1930, Libby and John have divorced.

John dies in 1931 and is buried near Mandan, ND. The death certificate shows his marital status as "divorced."

Libby dies on 4/4/1936 of cancer in Tacoma. Her body was cremated there and her ashes were buried on 8/13/1936 in the Eastlawn Cemetery in Beloit, WI. Her remains are now in the same plot as those of her sister, May, and May's husband Olaf Lund.

All in all, this is a story with many twists and turns, some that have yet to be discovered.

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

References

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"United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MM2H-R47> : accessed 8 November 2017), Libby Bates in household of Charles J Bates, Spring Valley town, Rock, Wisconsin, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 193, sheet 8B, family 170, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,815.

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"South Dakota, School Records, 1879-1970," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK73-BCJN> : accessed 8 November 2017), Libbie Bates, 1909; citing School enrollment, Perkins, South Dakota, United States, State Historical Society, Pierre; FHL microfilm .

"South Dakota, School Records, 1879-1970," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK73-BCKQ> : accessed 8 November 2017), Libby Bates, 1913; citing School enrollment, Haynes, Perkins, South Dakota, United States, State Historical Society, Pierre; FHL microfilm .

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"United States Census, 1910," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MPXC-GV3> : accessed 8 November 2017), Harry C Bates, Humphrey, Perkins, South Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 132, sheet 23B, family 116, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1487; FHL microfilm 1,375,500.

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The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

"Montana, County Marriages, 1865-1950," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F3WM-SHW> : 21 September 2017), John Lewis Owens and Elizabeth Bates, 30 Aug 1919; citing Marriage, Sidney, Richland, Montana, county courthouses, Montana; FHL microfilm 1,905,314.

"United States Census, 1920," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8Q9-RTH> : accessed 8 November 2017), Elizabeth I Owens in household of John L Owens, Sidney, Richland, Montana, United States; citing ED 175, sheet 7A, line 41, family 126, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 974; FHL microfilm 1,820,974.

"United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XC3Y-ZV5> : accessed 14 November 2017), Elizabeth Owens in household of Bessie E Davis, Tacoma, Pierce, Washington, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 116, sheet 2A, line 6, family 52, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 2511; FHL microfilm 2,342,245.

"Washington Death Certificates, 1907-1960," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N35Y-D8S> : 5 December 2014), Elizabeth Owen, 04 Apr 1936; citing Tacoma, Pierce, Washington, reference 481, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Olympia; FHL microfilm 2,023,362.

"Find A Grave Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVG-YGPT> : 13 December 2015), Elizabeth Owens, ; Burial, Beloit, Rock, Wisconsin, United States of America, East Lawn Cemetery; citing record ID 6704724, Find a Grave, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

Entries in a family Bible in the possession of Shirlee Aide. This Bible shows the birth and death dates of many Bates/Moodie family members.

Eastlawn Cemetery (Beloit) documents describing the plot where Elizabeth's remains were buried.

Image of Libby's death certificate follows. (The informant named in the document might actually be W. A. Wilsie, a Lutheran minister.)

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

481

1. PLACE OF DEATH **Washington State Board of Health**
 County of Pierce
 City or Town of Tacoma **BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS**
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 Registration Dist. No. m-1 No. Tacoma General Hospital St. _____ Ward _____
 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 9 yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.

1a. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: State Washington County Pierce
 (If not same as place of death)
 CITY OR TOWN Tacoma No. Cambridge Apartments Street _____

2. FULL NAME Elizabeth Owen No. 500 Street _____

| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS | | | | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
|---|--|---|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| 3. SEX <u>Female</u> | 4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u> | 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>Widow</u> | 21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>4--4--</u> , 19 <u>36</u> | | | |
| 5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of <u>John Owen</u> | | | 22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Feb 27</u> to <u>April 4</u> , 19 <u>36</u> I last saw her alive on <u>4-3-36</u> death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>1:50 A. M.</u> <u>482</u> The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: <u>Carcinoma of cervix</u> Date of onset <u>Feb 27/35</u> | | | |
| 6. DATE of BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>Mar. 10- 1896</u> | | | | | | |
| 7. AGE Years <u>40</u> Months <u>0</u> Days <u>24</u> If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min. | | | | | | |
| OCCUPATION | 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Linotype Operator</u> | | | | | |
| | 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. <u>Newspaper Publisher</u> | | | | | |
| 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) _____ | | 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation <u>20</u> | | | | |
| 12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Unobtainable</u> <u>Wis.</u> | | | Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause: | | | |
| FATHER | 13. NAME <u>John Bates</u> | | Name of operation _____ Date of _____ | | | |
| | 14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Unobtainable</u> | | What test confirmed diagnosis <u>Biopsy</u> Was there an autopsy? <u>no</u> | | | |
| MOTHER | 15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Agnes</u> | | 23. If death was due to external cause (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____, 19____ Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and state) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. | | | |
| | 16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Unobtainable</u> | | Manner of injury _____ Nature of injury _____ | | | |
| 17. INFORMANT <u>Mr. W. A. Wills</u> (Address) <u>Tacoma, Wash</u> | | | 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? <u>no</u> If so, specify _____ (Signed) <u>William B. Wernery</u> D. (Address) <u>Tacoma Wash</u> | | | |
| 18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <u>View Cremation</u> Date <u>April 5, 1936</u> | | | | | | |
| 19. UNDERTAKER (Address) _____ | | | | | | |
| 20. FILED _____ 19____ Registrar _____ | | | | | | |

S. F. No. 825—1935. 5409.

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

"Minnesota State Census, 1885," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MQFH-ZJG> : 4 August 2017), John Owens in household of O W Owens, Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota; citing p. 23, volume Hennepin, State Library and Records Service, St.Paul; FHL microfilm 565,742.

"United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV5Y-T6WG> : 4 September 2015), Owen Owens, 1922; citing Passport Application, Minnesota, United States, source certificate #183155, Passport Applications, January 2, 1906 - March 31, 1925, 2004, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,705,454.

Two documents describing the Welsh ancestors of John Lewis Owens. Provided by John Owens, a descendant of John Lewis Owens.

URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127238383/Owen-William-Owens>

Citation: Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 15 November 2017), memorial page for Owen William Owens (5 Apr 1843–Sep 1932), Find A Grave Memorial no. 127238383, citing Oak Hill Cemetery, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, USA ; Maintained by Rachel Keller (contributor 46608704) .

"United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZM1-FGL> : 26 August 2017), Bertha W Sparrow in household of William Sparrow, Watab, Benton, Minnesota, United States; citing enumeration district ED 73, sheet 186C, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0615; FHL microfilm 1,254,615.

"United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMRQ-9KC> : accessed 15 November 2017), John Owens, Cottonwood Lake Township, Edmunds, South Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 147, sheet 13A, family 224, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,549.

"United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLGR-VJ6> : accessed 15 November 2017), John L Owens, Linton, Emmons, North Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 46, sheet 1B, family 14, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1141; FHL microfilm 1,375,154.

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

"South Dakota State Census, 1915," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMHV-C3T> : 5 August 2017), Bertha Owens; citing State Historical Society, Pierre; FHL microfilm 2,283,722.

"United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8Q6-HVC> : 12 December 2014), John Lewis Owens, 1917-1918; citing Hill County, Montana, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,684,040.

"United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8QD-5ZP> : 12 December 2014), Cromwell Lewis Owens, 1917-1918; citing Flathead County, Montana, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,684,038.

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"North Dakota Census, 1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK9C-ZCWH> : 18 July 2016), John Owens in household of Peter Christiansen, Milnor, Sargent, North Dakota, United States; citing sheet number 3, family number 4, State Historical Society of North Dakota; FHL microfilm 1,731,404.

"North Dakota Census, 1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR9-984Q> : 18 July 2016), John Owens, Hazen, Mercer, North Dakota, United States; citing sheet number 3, family number 25, State Historical Society of North Dakota; FHL microfilm 1,731,401.

"Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVG-KCND> : 13 December 2015), Bertha Owens, ; Burial, Yankton, Yankton, South Dakota, United States of America, State Hospital Cemetery; citing record ID 22402771, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22402771/bertha-owens>

Citation: Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 15 November 2017), memorial page for Bertha Owens (1 Mar 1876–1 Feb 1925), Find A Grave Memorial no. 22402771, citing State Hospital Cemetery, Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota, USA ; Maintained by USA Grannie (contributor 27729480) .

"United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XKVC-WSY> : accessed 15 November 2017), Johns L Owens in household of Anna K Baumann, New Salem, Morton, North Dakota, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 26, sheet 7B, line 70, family 179, NARA microfilm publication T626

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

(Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1739; FHL microfilm 2,341,473.

URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74140722>

Citation: Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 15 November 2017), memorial page for John Louis Owens (26 Jan 1875–3 Sep 1931), Find A Grave Memorial no. 74140722, citing Mandan Union Cemetery, Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota, USA ; Maintained by ProgBase (contributor 47278889) .

"California Death Index, 1940-1997," database, *FamilySearch*

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VGY1-BMQ> : 26 November 2014), Cromwell Owens, 15 Dec 1946; Department of Public Health Services, Sacramento.

URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180233778>

Citation: Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 15 November 2017), memorial page for Louis Cromwell Owens (10 Apr 1898–15 Dec 1946), Find A Grave Memorial no. 180233778, citing Stockton State Hospital Cemetery, Stockton, San Joaquin County, California, USA ; Maintained by John Owens (contributor 48276811) .

Image of Death Certificate for John L. Owens follows.

The Life of Libby Bates (1895-1936)

North Dakota Department of Health

Bismarck, North Dakota

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. PLACE OF DEATH | | CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA | |
| County of <u>Morton</u> | | <u>2756</u> | State File No. <u>29</u> |
| Township of _____ | | | Registered No. <u>29</u> |
| Village of _____ | | | |
| City of <u>Mandan</u> | No. <u>Mandan Hospital</u> | | |
| (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number) | | | |
| Length of residence in city or town where death occurred... yrs... mos... ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? ... yrs... mos... ds. | | | |
| 2. FULL NAME <u>John. Owens</u> | | | |
| (a) Residence: No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____ (If nonresident give city or town and State) | | | |
| PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS | | MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH | |
| 3. SEX <u>Male</u> | 4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u> | 5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>Divorced</u> | 21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Sept 3, 1931</u> |
| 5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of _____ | | | 22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Aug 18, 1931</u> to <u>Sept 3, 1931</u> |
| 6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, year) <u>Jan 26, 1875</u> | | | I last saw h. <u>alive</u> on <u>Sept 3, 1931</u> , death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>10:40 a.m.</u> |
| 7. AGE | Years <u>56</u> | Months <u>7</u> | Days <u>7</u> |
| | | | If LESS than 1 day, ... hrs. or ... min. |
| OCCUPATION | 8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Printer</u> | | |
| | 9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. | | |
| | 10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) <u>June 1931</u> | | |
| | 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation <u>30</u> | | |
| 12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Sauw.</u> | | | |
| FATHER | 13. NAME <u>W. W. Owens</u> | | |
| | 14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Wales.</u> | | |
| MOTHER | 15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Eleanth Not Known</u> | | |
| | 16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Wales.</u> | | |
| 17. INFORMANT <u>Cronwell Owens</u> | | | |
| (Address) <u>Fargo, N-Dak.</u> | | | |
| 18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL | | | |
| Place <u>Mandan</u> Date <u>Sept 5, 1931</u> | | | |
| 19. UNDERTAKER <u>T. G. L. Kermelley</u> | | | |
| (Address) <u>Mandan, N. Dak.</u> | | | |
| 20. FILED <u>9/11/31</u> , 19 <u>31</u> Registrar. | | | |
| 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? If so, specify _____ | | | |
| (Signed) <u>F. E. Quinter</u> , M. D. | | | |
| (Address) <u>Mandan, N. D.</u> | | | |