

Ivy Owens, Former Slave, Dies; Was at Least 109 Years Old

Ivy Ivory Owens, a former slave whose age was between 109 and 118 years, died today at 10:35 a.m. in St. Peter's General Hospital.

The man, who had more than the average centenarian's claim, passed away after a fight to return to good health and the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lundy of 33 Schureman St. The couple had been caring for him since the death of his wife in 1951.

Mr. Owens entered the hospital July 31 with a heart condition. His death was attributed to a hardening of the arteries around the heart, according to a hospital spokesman.

Born in Georgia

The former slave—he was born on a Georgia farm—weathered an earlier stay in St. Peter's. In 1949 he had a lung condition and doctors held little hope of his recovery, but the old man managed to pull through.

At that time Mr. Owens was well enough to talk with a reporter from this paper and told him that he was 102 years old. That would have made him 109 at the time of his death.

However, the Lundys say that Mr. Owens is actually 118 years old. Birth records were often not kept at the time Mr. Owens was born.

Asked in 1949 to what he attributed his long years, the old man replied:

"Never drank and never smoked."

Mr. Owens, who gained his freedom after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, said he had never seen the Civil War president.

But he conceded:



IVY OWENS

"I sure did hear an awful lot about him."

Before he moved in with the Lundys, Mr. Owens was a North Brunswick resident. He left that township after the death of his third wife, Sarah, who died at the age of 82 in 1951.

Mr. Owens said when interviewed in 1949 that his previous wives were dead but that he did have children by those marriages who were living in the South.

Talking with a reporter in 1949, Mr. Owens declared that he had most of his teeth and did not need eye glasses. Then he quipped:

"Can't read but I wouldn't need them if I could."

As in 1949 when he was successful in his bid to return home, Mr. Owens had been looking forward to getting back to the Lundys.

OBI

MRS. ALICE SOUTH
Mrs. Helen St. was held Memorial Church.

The Rev. celebrant of requiem, Anthony Kra Rev. Martin con.

Interment Cemetery.

COUNTY DEATHS

Two deaths during the midnight pus ty's toll since and placed the Hudson Coun the state.

A 10-year-old boy, who die the latest vict from this cit

Last year a Middlesex w with 37 traffi

Somerset C had a fatal as has eight fata county is far of the list of for 17th place

Atty. Gen. Jr. said today days without a Jersey helped to nine.

This was no 13 lives over t of 1955 but a for any single said.

The 1956 tota night was 431 lives compar