

SECTION II – MANUSCRIPT

THE MOON FAMILY AND ITS SEVERAL PHASES

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Norman, Oklahoma, 1983

Compiled by Linnie S. Moon Comerford

Preface

Howard E. Richardson has documented his maternal ancestors to the original immigrants to America. This genealogical study involved travel to sites in Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas and Texas. Hundreds of old and musty court records were reviewed. Numerous letters were written, always with an enclosed stamped self-addressed envelope. Several professional record searchers and genealogists were hired. Mr. Richardson insisted on proof by recognized documentation. The result is a very valuable book for the families.

PHASE I: MOONS OF EARLY KENT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

New Kent County, Virginia, was created in 1654 from York County and James City County. Both York and James City Counties were formed from the original Shire in 1634. The original name for the York County was the Charles River County. There is no record dating back to the creation of these counties as the courthouses burned.

An article in an issue of the William and Mary Quarterly, Series 3, Vol. 19, July, 1952 entitled "the Autobiography of the Reverend Devereaux Jarrett 1732-1763," provides information about the lifestyle of this early colonial period. Rev. Jarrett was prominent clergyman in the Episcopal Church during his adult years. To quote from the article, "One of the most remote means, as I consider it, which lead me to my station which I now fill. This took place in the nineteenth year of my age (1751) when I was thinking of nothing less. I was so well skilled in the 'Division of Crops' and 'Rule of Three' and 'Practice,' that you may be sure, the fame of my learning sounded far. One Jacob Moon, living in Albemarle County, about one hundred miles from New Kent, had also heard how learned I was. He, being a native of New Kent and perhaps, prejudiced in favor of his old county folk, sent me word that he should be glad to employ me as a schoolmaster." Further quoting, after accepting Moon's proposal, "On the second or third day after I sat out, I arrived at Moon's residence. Moon was then overseer for Col. Richard Cocke, of Surry County." Mr. Jarrett goes on to say that he boarded with Moon during the time the school was in progress. He and Jacob Moon became good friends: "I behaved so well in my new station that I gained the confidence of Moon." Mr. Jarrett described Albemarle County where Jacob Moon lived as "then nearly a frontier, the

*Moon
Fam*



manners of the people were generally more rough and uncivilized than in the more interior parts of the country.”

Until 1783 the Colony of Virginia required by law that all births, deaths, and marriages regardless of religious persuasion were to be recorded in the Angelican Church, the official Church of Virginia. The following records were found in the records or Vestry Book of Saint Peter’s Parish, New Kent County, Virginia:

Stephen Moon and his wife Mary lived in New Kent County and were members of the Church as Stephen Moon and John Dodd on 20 December 1722 had been ordered to “Come and view the belfry to make a true and just report of the value of the work.” Throughout the Vestry Book and Registry the Moons are mentioned in chronological order. The first entry found regarding Stephen Moon is on page 371 “Peter, son of Stephen Moon born 24 January 1683.” Peter married Elizabeth Smith 1 February 1709. They had a daughter baptized 14 December 1712, probably when only a few weeks old. Peter died 8 April 1720 when he was thirty-seven and his wife Elizabeth and his daughter, Elizabeth died 9 April 1720. Three members of the family dying over a forty-eight hour period suggest some common cause. Stephen and Mary Moon’s children were:

- i. **Stephen²** (Stephen¹), born 1680
- ii. Peter, born 24 January 1683

The other son, Stephen was probably the eldest one because he was named after his father. His birth is not listed. However, his first child was born per Parish record, “Oct. the 12 1705.” This was four years before Stephen’s brother Peter married. On this calculation Stephen Jr.’s birth would have occurred about 1680. Further, considering Stephen Jr. the first born, it would place Stephen Sr. and Mary’s ages in the neighborhood of twenty--twenty-five years at the birth of their first son. Considering still further on this basis it would place Stephen Sr.’s birth about 1655/1660 and Mary’s about 1662/1664. The Vestry Register shows that Mary dies 20 March 1712 and her husband Stephen Sr. died 29 January 1713. The Register indicates that Stephen Jr. was married to Phyllis. Listed below are their children arranged in chronological order as found in the Register:

- i. Stephen, III, born 12 October 1705
- ii. Phyllis, baptized 13 June 1798
- iii. John baptized 13 October 1711
- iv. Ruth Moon born 9 June 1713
- v. **Jacob Moon³** (Stephen², Stephen¹) born 3 August 1717
- vi. William Moon born 20 April 1720
- vii. Jane born 21 October 1722
- viii. Judith born 7 August 1725

Stephen Jr. died 11 December 1726 in New Kent County when he was forty-six years of age. Phyllis, his wife died after 1745 past the age of seventy-nine. The Vestry Register, 20 April 1731, has the following entry: “Phyllis Moone got son John levy free because of

convulsions fitts and much burnt.” For the next several years up to November, 1745, Phyllis was given special dispensation at Vestry meetings because of John’s condition. These special dispensations usually were in the form of several hundred pounds of tobacco ranging from 700 to 967 £.

PHASE II: THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY VIRGINIA MOONS

Jacob Moon³ was 33 years of age in 1750. Albemarle County was a frontier area of Virginia. In the Albemarle County, Virginia, Will and Deed Book I, page 128, Court of the Ordinary, describes land which was granted to William Moon by patent in 1746. Page 229 show that Jacob purchased 400 acres, 13 November 1750. This land that Jacob purchased from Thomas Fitzpatrick for 110 £ was located in the South Gardens among the mountains on the branches of the Hardware River. Early Albemarle County historians considered this land the most fertile in the County, thus the name Garden. When Devereaux Jarrett lived with the Moons in 1850 and 1852, Jacob was overseer of a plantation. However, the records prove that this 400 acres located on the Hardware River was his homeplace. Book 2, page 233, shows that on 8 May 1760 William Moon and his wife Mary of the County of Albemarle, sold 100 acres to John Lewis of said county for 35 £ The land lay on both sides of the Hardware River, since it was part of 1,000 acres purchased by William Moon from Harding Burnley. The Hardware River flows into the James River and the Moon brothers had land on both the south and north sides of the river.

In the Bedford County Probate Records, Book 5, page 361 on 27 November 1775, Jacob Moon Sr. came from Albemarle County and bought 400 acres near Oak Mountain, on the head of Lick Run and Elk Creek. Witnesses were Jacob Moon Jr. and Archelaus Moon. This became his home place.

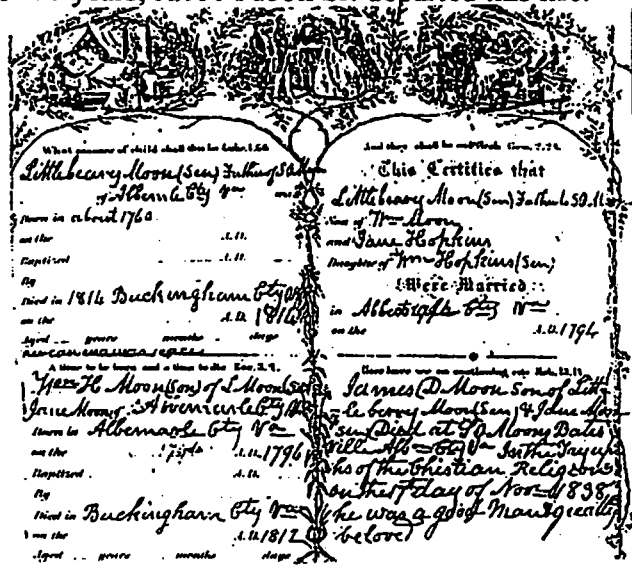
In summary, Jacob Moon originally from New Kent County, Virginia, purchased 400 acres of land in Albemarle County, Virginia, from Thomas Fitzpatrick on 13 November 1750 and this same Jacob sold the same 400 acres to George Dier 25 October 1784. On 22 November 1775 Jacob Moon bought 400 acres in Bedford County. Jacob Moon was named as Security for the will of Silas Moorman in Bedford County on 24 February 1777. Jacob Moon Jr. was named as one the Executors. This proves that Jacob had moved to Bedford County either by 1776 or early 1777. Albemarle Deed Book 7, states: Jacob Moon of Bedford County sold land in Albemarle County to Steven Perkins.

Jacob Sr. was not a Revolutionary War Soldier. He was past fifty years of age when the Revolutionary War started. He was, however, a Patriot as stated in the Public Service Claims, 1782. The original records are in the Virginia State Library, Richmond. Jacob Sr.’s claim was allowed in 1782 for furnishings “supplies and services.” He had furnished a horse and some beef. Thus, he is a proven Patriot. Jacob Sr. had at least five sons: Jacob Jr., William, Archalaus, Pleasant and Jesse, and three daughters: Susanna, Patsy, and Sally.

- i. Susannah, born 1738
- ii. **William**⁴ (Jacob, Sr.³, Stephen², Stephen¹) born 1740
- iii. Jacob, Jr., born 1755
- iv. Archelaus, born 1756
- v. Pleasant, born 1770
- vi. Patsy, born 1749
- vii. Sally, born 1750
- viii. Jesse, born 1755

Jacob Jr. was commissioned a First Lieutenant and held the position of Paymaster 14th Virginia Regiment of Continental Regulars. He was commissioned 28 April 1777. He received forty dollars per month with twenty dollars subsistence extra. He was at Valley Forge in May 1778. Jacob Jr. resigned his Commission 28 August 1778, having served one year and four months in the Continental Line. On the 19 June 1799 the record shows that Jacob Moon Jr., Bedford County, Virginia, was appointed an Ensign in the militia by the County Court of Bedford County. In order to refresh your memory the difference between the Continental Army and the Militia was that the Continental Congress provided for the Army, appointed or commissioned officers and supported the Army. The Militia provided the men for the Army by the respective county. The County Courts appointed or commissioned the officers and provided support.

Near the end of the 1700s Jacob Sr.³ was moving again. The Greene County, Georgia Miscellaneous Records, Book A, 1787-1801, Will, Inventories, Appraisements, etc. has the last account of Jacob Moon Sr., who came from New Kent County 1717 to Albemarle County, then to Bedford County in Virginia. On pages 218-221 of the Greene County, Georgia Record Book is the following information: "15 November 1793 Captain Michael Gilbert applied for letters of administration for the Estate of Jacob Moon deceased, late of this County. Temporary Letters of Administration were granted and a warrant of appraisement were given on 15 November 1793. The inventory of his estate was certified by appraisers 28 December 1793, and the sale of items was certified 19 May 1794. At the age of 76 years, Jacob Moon Sr. departed this life.



PHASE III: THE GEORGIA MOONS

Jacob Moon³, after spending seventy years of his life in Virginia (1717-1786) still had an adventuresome spirit. He and his son William⁴ and family, along with his daughter, Sally, the wife of Michael Gilbert, other Gilberts, Staples, and others immigrated to Georgia in 1786. The family groups settled in Old Wilkes County, Georgia. Soon after this county was separated into several other counties. Thus, some of the Moon Family ended up in other counties such as Greene, Hancock, Elbert, and Madison. Several Moons were settled in the Broad River area.

Jacob's son, William is the next direct family line. William and his wife Sally or Sarah came to Georgia between 1785 and 1786. As Deed Book 7, page 644, Bedford County, Virginia, dated 7 August 1786 records sale of land in Bedford County by William Moon and wife Sally of Wilkes County, Georgia. Deed Book 7, page 451, shows that William Moon on 22 January 1785 sold his land on Oak Mountain Branch in Bedford County to John Farris. Thus, they migrated to Georgia between 22 January 1785 and 7 August 1786

All that is known of William is contained in Public Records. There were connections between the Moon and Staples families of Albemarle County, Virginia. It must be noted that David Staples, his wife, Fanny, and family also migrated to Elbert County, Georgia, during the same period as William and Sally Moon. Historically, relatives such as brothers, brothers-in-law, and their families migrated together. William Moon was of legal age as of 2 November 1776 as he signed Silas Moorman's Will as a witness.

Wilkes County, Georgia was created in 1777 as original territory. Elbert County was created from Wilkes and The William Moon property and family found themselves in the newly created Elbert County. His property was on the border of Wilkes and Elbert Counties along the Broad River. Some of the Moon boys and a daughter, Sally Gilbert, found themselves in other counties formed from Wilkes County.

The Moons throughout their early history in America were landowners and farmers. It was not until the early 1800s that they began to enter the business world, politics, and professions. The Georgia Moons continued to be basically farmers and landowners.

William Moon lived in Elbert County some twenty-five years before his death in December, 1810. He appointed sons William H. and Robert along with his wife Sarah as Executors of his will. His Will was written 7 May 1810. His health was deteriorating and his body very weak as the mentioned in his will. His Will was proved 7 January 1811 so he evidently died the latter part of 1810. His Will was witnessed by James Wood and James Power. The following is from Dr. Joseph M. Toomey's Collection of Wilkes County Records. "William Moon, Inquest: Results of an inquest by Benjamin Franklin, Coroner, Wilkes County, Georgia, 15 December 1810 on the body of Moon, that Moon came to his death by no violence."

William Moon⁴ of Elbert County named all his children in his will written 7 May 1810 including two deceased sons. It appears that he named his children chronological order as was the custom. According to the inventory of his property, William Moon would be considered a prosperous farmer for his time. This seemed to be typical of the Moons. He and Sarah had eleven children. They would have to be born at frequent intervals. The marriage dates of some of their children gives an indication of their ages.

- i. **Jacob⁵** (William⁴, Jacob³, Stephen², Stephen¹) born 1770 in Albemarle County, Virginia. He was deceased prior to the writing of William's Will 7 May 1810. No record has been found of his marriage or where he lived in Georgia. He had three sons: Bird, Jacob, and John. Jacob was born 26 September 1795 in Georgia (per gravestone in the Moon Cemetery, Tallapoosa County, Alabama).
- ii. Robert, born 1772
- iii. William, born 1774
- iv. Martha, born 1776
- v. Jesse, born 1778
- vi. Bolar, born 1780
- vii. Pleasant, born 1782
- viii. Archelaus, born 1784
- ix. Sally, born 1786
- x. John, born 1788
- xi. Susannah, born 1790

The children of Jacob were:

- i. Bird, born 1793
- ii. **Jacob⁶** (Jacob⁵, William⁴, Jacob³, Stephen², Stephen¹) born 1795
- iii. John, born 1797

220 Inventory & Appraisement
of the Estate of Jacob Moon dec'd.
Continued

Brought forward	10
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian wheat 1/2	4 6
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian cotton cloth	7 8
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	8 2
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	6 7
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	12 8
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	8 4
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	5 2
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	15 6
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	6 6
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	12 6
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	12 5
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	12 5

221 Inventory & Appraisement
of the Estate of Jacob Moon dec'd.
Continued

1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	11
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	11
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	11
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	11
1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	11
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1. 1/2 bushels of Indian 1/2	11

PHASE IV: THE ALABAMA MOONS

Jacob Moon⁶ was born 28 September 1795. His grandfather, in his Will, mentions the orphan children of his deceased sons, Jacob⁵ and Jesse. This grandson, Jacob, with the other orphan grandchildren are identified in the Returns of William's⁴ Will¹. An entry listed in "Guardians and Administrations" page 313, Elbert County, Georgia, 15 November 1814 relative to William Moon Returns on Will, Bolar Moon shows receipt for one share as guardian for Jacob, Bird and John Moon. Jacob was 16 years of age at the time of his grandfather's death.

On 28 November 1816 at age 21, Jacob Moon married Mary Ann Staples in Elbert County, Georgia. The original entry is in the Elbert County Marriage Record Book which listed Mary Ann's name as "Anny Staples." Later documents list it as Mary Ann and her gravestone lists it as Mary Ann. The record shows that the Moons and Staples had intermarried over a period of several years. Mary Ann was the daughter of David and Francis (Fanny) Staples of Elbert County, Georgia.

Jacob apparently did not learn to read and write until he became an adult. He signed a receipt for some money from his grandfather's estate with his Mark "X" in 1819. He learned to read and write as many documents signed by him and Mary Ann have been located.

The U.S. Census of Meriwether County, Georgia enumerates the following Moons:

1850	Jacob Moon	age 55	b. GA	Value of Property \$13,266	Farmer
	Mary Ann	age 51	b. GA		
	Mary Ann	age 6	b. GA	This is Lavina's orphan daughter.	
	Jesse Franklin	age 8	b. GA		

His three married sons living nearby were enumerated:

John C. Moon	age 25	b. GA	Value of Property \$2,131	Farmer
Elizabeth	age 18	b. GA		
J.T.	age 8.5	male		

William B. Moon	age 29	b. GA	Value of Real Estate \$2,383	Physician-farmer
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Rowena C.	age 21	b. GA		
Mary C.	age 3	b. GA		
Francis L (F)	age 2	b. GA		
William D.	age 4 months	b. GA		

Thomas Moon	age 23	b. GA	Value of Real Estate \$4,875	
Missouri				
No children listed				

On 11 November 1850 a deed is recorded in Tallapoosa County, Alabama, wherein for the sum of \$1750 Jacob Moon of Georgia purchased 320 acres of land from Sophia Ross. It was not until 1851 the Jacob and his sons moved to Tallapoosa County, Alabama from Meriwether County, Georgia. All settled near each other close to Youngsville, Alabama, which was later changed to Alexander City, Alabama.

Within a short time Jacob and Mary Ann had acquired over 1300 acres of land in Tallapoosa County and some land in Coosa County. He was one of the largest land holders in that part of Alabama. Jacob became quite prosperous. By 1860 at age 64, his Real Estate value per Census Record was \$7760, personal estate \$43,850. Jacob was paying taxes on interest from money he had loaned. Tallapoosa County Tax records reveal this.

Following their marriage, Jacob and Mary Ann show up in Madison County, GA in the 1820 U.S. Census. By this time they had two children, a girl and a boy. The 1850 Census and 1840 Census find Jacob and Mary Ann in Troup County, Georgia. In 1850 he and his family were in Meriwether County, Georgia.

Their children were:

- i. Lavina, born 28 December 1817
- ii. David Staples, born 16 November 1819
- iii. William Bird, born 12 June 1821
- iv. John Chapel, born 6 July 1824
- v. Thomas, born 24 February 1827
- vi. Mary Ann, born 18 February 1829
- vii. Susan E., born 9 July 1834
- viii. **Jesse Franklin**⁷ (Jacob⁶, Jacob⁵, William⁴, Jacob³, Stephen², Stephen¹)
born 9 July 1841

Jesse Franklin married Martha Ann Cone 16 December 1862. Martha Ann Cone was born 28 March 1838 and died 17 January 1901. He ran a very successful hardware store in Youngsville (later, Alexander City), Alabama. He was wounded in the Civil War. He lived in the city home that had been built by his father, Jacob.

His children were:

- i. Myrtle, born 3 March 1838
- ii. **Arthur Lee**⁸ (Jessie Franklin⁷, Jacob⁶, Jacob⁵, William⁴, Jacob³, Stephen², Stephen¹) born. 23 December 1864

Arthur Lee Moon married Susie E. Wilmot on 2 March 1892 in Thomaston, Georgia, Upson County. Susie described herself in an essay at age sixteen as five foot, eight inches tall, raven hair, fair complexion, blue eyes and weighted 140 pounds. She died of tuberculosis 15 June 1812. Arthur died of pneumonia 28 December 1948. Both Susie and Arthur are buried at Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, Alabama. Their children are:

- i. Bessie Lee, born 20 May 1897
Bessie Lee was a school teacher and a nominee for Poet Laureate of Florida.
- ii. Frank Wilmot⁹ (Arthur Lee⁸, Jesse Franklin⁷, Jacob⁶, Jacob⁵, William⁴, Jacob³, Stephen², Stephen¹) born 15 February 1900
- iii. George Edward, born 1903
- iv. Mattie, born 1905
- v. Arthur, born 1907

MOONS OF
ALBEMARLE CO. VA

*(Doubled & presented by
J. H. Taylor, University, Station
Austin, Tex. July 6, 1908)*

Genealogical

FAMILY

REGISTER

WRITTEN BY
S. O. MOON-1860.

March 16, 1878

Acct. with estate of Jacob Moon
for services rendered in 1877

July 3 rd	Moon Jacob to visit self	\$6 00
" 20 th	" " " " "	6 00
Aug 1 st	" " " " @ night	6 00
" 5 th	" " " " "	6 00
" 8 th	" " " " "	6 00
" 12 th	" " " " "	6 00
Amount Total		\$36 00

Distance to where patient resided eleven or
twelve miles - W. H. Moore

The above apt Sworn to before me this
April the 2nd 1878

B. L. (Dean Mayor of
Alexander City, Ala. off. of A.

The State of Alabama, I know all men by these pres-
 Tallapoosa county }-ents that I Sophia S Rofs of
 the county and state aforesaid for and in consid-
 -eration of the sum of Seventeen Hundred and
 Fifty Dollars to me in hand paid by Jacob
 Moon of the State of Georgia and County of -
 Merrewether The receipt whereof is hereby acknow-
 -nowledged I doth bargain sold and convey
 and by these presents doth bargain sell and
 convey unto the said Jacob Moon his heirs and
 assigns the following Tract or half section of said
 to wit The West half of Section Eight (89 Towns-
 -ship Twenty - Three (23) of Range Twenty - one (21) East
 in the Tallapoosa Land district containing Three
 Hundred and twenty acres more or less the same
 being situated in the county of Tallapoosa and
 state of Alabama To Have and to Hold the
 aforesaid premises with all the privileges
 and appurtenances therunto belonging unto him
 the said Jacob Moon his heirs and assigns forever
 And I the said Sophia S Rofs do by these presents
 covenant with the said Jacob Moon his heirs
 and assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee
 of the aforesaid premises that they ^{are} free from
 all incumbrances and that I have good right
 to sell and convey the same to him the said
 Jacob Moon his heirs and assigns and that I
 will and by these presents do for myself my heirs
 and assigns forever warrant and defend the
 Title of the aforesaid premises unto him the said
 Jacob Moon his heirs and assigns against the
 lawful claims of all persons whatsoever

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
 set my hand and seal this 11th
 day of November A D one Thousand
 Eight Hundred and Fifty

Signed sealed and delivered in
 presence of

Sophia S Rofs



John A Jordan
 George W. Rofs

(Copy of first land agreement that Jacob Moon purchased in
 Tallapoosa County, Alabama)