

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Moorhead  
family

*"There are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays, and every single one of them is right." -- Kipling. This is offered as an example of one way to write up an ancestor. I wanted something that my kids would be willing to read, while at the same time providing information for anyone who wished to verify or extend the research. The solution seemed to be a narrative text, with the sources and genealogical argument confined to the endnotes. Thus any reader may judge the quality of a work, and spot the errors or omissions. I consider it imperative that all information be attributed to a source, both for my own future use and others'. The chief source for Samuel was the printed Pennsylvania Archives, and this is offered as an example of the sort of information the Archives contain. Other sources have also been cited, and readers with no great interest in Samuel might find the perusal of sources suggestive for their own further research. Samuel was (probably) the immigrant ancestor of my mother's surname line. I have not finished with him. Land records are the most obvious source for further investigation.*

## SAMUEL MOORHEAD, FOR EXAMPLE

by AL LEWIS

The first Moorhead to whom our lineage can definitely be traced is Samuel Moorhead. He may have been born in County Antrim in what is now Northern Ireland in 1708, and his father's name may have been John<sup>1</sup>. There is an unconfirmed date for a marriage in Antrim, Ireland, in 1730<sup>2</sup> and the birth of a daughter in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in 1731<sup>3</sup>.

The first confirmed date in the life of Samuel Moorhead is March 24, 1735, when he is recorded as having land of 200 acres surveyed in Lancaster County<sup>4</sup>. On August 25, 1738, another 300 acres was granted in Hopewell Township, Lancaster County, in what was then a frontier region<sup>5</sup>. The land became part of Cumberland County, when that county was formed in 1750, and then Franklin County, when Franklin was formed in 1784. That land is now in Hamilton township, within the town of Chambersburg.<sup>6</sup>

Samuel added more land over the years. Surveys of 300 acres each are recorded for 1762<sup>7</sup> and 1768<sup>8</sup>. Tax rolls for the land give somewhat contradictory information. In 1778 Samuel is listed as having 248 acres, 2 horses, 2 head of cattle, and paying a tax of 20 pounds, 14 shillings<sup>9</sup>. In 1779 he is recorded as owning 600 acres, 2 horses, and 4 head of cattle<sup>10</sup>. The 1780 listing shows 1200 acres, 2 horses, and 6 head of cattle<sup>11</sup>. 1781 sees a listing of 600 acres again, but four sons, Fergus, Alexander, Joseph, and Thomas, have 200 acres each<sup>12</sup>. In 1782 all five sons, including Samuel Jr., are listed with 200 acres each, but so is Samuel, Sr.<sup>13</sup>.

Samuel's land purchases also involved him in litigation.

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**Calaveras** (County, River) - Skulls. Capt. Moraga, who led the first expedition up the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, found quantities of skulls, relics of battles fought between Indian tribes for possession of salmon in the San Joaquin.

**Chico** (City, Butte County) - Little. Derived from Rancho del Arroyo Chico (Ranch of the Little Creek), purchased by Gen. John Bidwell.

**Colusa** (County Seat, Colusa County) - A corruption of Ko-ru-si (also spelled Co-lu-si and Co-lu-se). Said to mean "scratcher," because it was the privilege of tribal brides to begin the honeymoon by scratching the faces of their braves.

**Concord** (City, Contra Costa County) - First named Todos Santos (All Saints) in 1862 by Salvio Pacheco, owner of Rancho del Diablo. Later the name was changed to that of Concord, Mass.

**Contra Costa** (County) - Opposite coast. Originally, this name was applied to the entire shore of San Francisco opposite the Peninsula.

**Death Valley** (Inyo County) - "Tomesha," meaning "Ground Afire," was the Indian name for this valley, a large part of which is below sea level, and whose sands were whitened by skeletons of gold-seekers who lost their way. In his "Death Valley in '49," William Lewis Manly, who was a member of a party which had run the gamut of thirst and starvation, wrote: "As we were leaving, we took off our hats and said: 'Good-bye, Death Valley!'"

**Diablo** (Mountain, Contra Costa County) - Devil. The Spanish name was "Monte del Diablo" (Mountain of the Devil). An Indian tribe of Bolgones, fighting Spanish soldiers from San Francisco, had a medicine man called Puy or Pui (Evil Spirit) who appeared from the mountain caves to inspire them to victory. Mount Diablo is used as "base and meridian" for surveys from Oregon to the Tehachapi Mountains and from the Pacific Ocean to the Nevada-Utah line.

**Dinuba** (City, Tulare County) - Name coined from the surnames of two teamsters, Dinsmore and Uballis, who hauled grain to the Southern Pacific station at this point, originally called Sibleyville.

**Dolores** (Mission, San Francisco) - Sorrows. The site of the Mission San Francisco de Asis, popularly known as Mission Dolores, was chosen by Juan Bautista de Anza. The name derives from that of a creek, no longer existent, which Capt. Anza called "Arroyo de los Dolores" because he first saw it on the "Friday of Sorrows," the reference being to "Nuestra Senora de los Dolores" (Our Lady of Sorrows).

To be continued

Land Office, July the 3d, 1762

Samuel Moorhead enters a caveat against the acceptance of a survey made for William Rankin on a tract of Land Situate on the West Side of Conegochege Creek, in Hamilton Township, in the County of Cumberland, the said Moorhead alledging that he has a prior warrant for part of said Land.

By order of the Secretary,

RICHARD TEA

To John Lukens, Surveyor Gen'l<sup>14</sup>

Eleven years later, Samuel was still concerned about the same property:

Land Office, 8th July, 1773

Whereas Samuel Moorehead entered a caveat against on the 3d of July, 1762, against the acceptance of a survey for Wm. Rankin of a tract of land in Hamilton Township, in Cumberland County, which was sold to said Rankin to one Alcorn who sold to one Stedman whose Right is now said to be in Geo. Campbell of Philad'a, now the said Moorehead desires the said Caveat may be extended against the said Campbell or any Others.

DAVID KENNEDY for

JAMES TILGHMAN, Sec'y

To John Lukens, Esq'r, S.G.<sup>15</sup>

Another venture to the courts had a less favorable outcome:

Land Office, 12th June, 1764

Samuel Moorehead enters a Caveat agt. ye acceptance of any Survey for a Patent being granted to Adam Hoopes for a Tract of Land on Conegochege Creek, now in Hamilton Township, Cumberland County, joining the Lands formerly of Wm. Nugent (now of the said Samuel Morehead) and for which first mentioned Tract now Claimed by the said Adam Hoopes a Proprietary Warrant dated 4th of Octob'r, 1775 was granted to David Black for 200 as. and the Right under the said Warrant (being prior to that under which the said Adam Hoops Claims) is now vested in the said Sam'l Morehead as he alledges.

WM. PETERS, Sec'ry

To John Lukens, Surveyor General<sup>16</sup>

Samuel Moorehead

agt on Caveat

Adam Hoops

On hearing the partys it appeared that Hoops claims under an Improvement made by one William Craig which was allowed by Matthew Black the person under whom Mr Moorehead claims, the Governor therefore orders Mr Hoops Warrant to be first surveyed so as to include Mr. Craigs old Improvement and to be made as agreeable as may be to any consentable lines made between Craig and Matthew Black so far as the same can be discovered and that Mooreheads Caveat be dismissed.<sup>17</sup>

Samuel Moorhead married Euphemia, maiden name unknown. Their first child appears to have been Martha, who married Thomas Espey about 1757.<sup>18</sup> There followed six boys and another girl: Samuel, Jr., Fergus (b.1742), Thomas, Joseph (b. c.1748), William (b.1761), Alexander, and Jane.<sup>19</sup>

In 1769 daughter Jane married Alexander Mitchell, and subsequently moved away to Kentucky.<sup>19</sup> Martha Espey with her family moved to Mecklenberg, North Carolina in 1770.<sup>18</sup> and Fergus left for then Westmoreland County in 1772, to be followed by Samuel, Jr. Other details of Samuel's life have to be inferred. History does not record Samuel's opinions of the Revolution, but his children were active in the patriot cause. 1777 saw Fergus's return to his father's house from eleven months captivity by Indians and by the British. When Fergus returned to Westmoreland County in 1780, all of his brothers accompanied him. Only Joseph returned to reside and finally die in Franklin County.<sup>19</sup>

The actual date of Samuel's death is unknown. He made a will in 1777 which was proved in 1787. An abstract follows:

location, lying between aforesaid place where Wm. Craig formerly lived running up creek as far as the fish dam where there is a mill sitte; dau. Jane Mitchell - 20 pounds; son Fergus - 5 pounds. Exr. Yuphian [Euphemia], his wife. Writ 4 Mar. 1777. Pr. 11 Feb. 1787. Wit; Wm. Rannels, Jas MOORHEAD, Sam'l, Hamilton Twp., Cumberland Co. Mentions son-in-law and dau., Thos. & Martha Espey; son Alex'r - 200 A. Land where he formerly lived being part of the testator's plantation in Hamilton Twp. Son Sam'l - 200 A., same Hill and A. Holliday.<sup>20</sup>

Two possible reasons that Fergus was cut off with so little; firstly, that his portion of the family money had been used to establish him in Westmoreland County, and secondly, that he was still missing and presumed dead since he had been kidnapped by Indians the previous year.

Euphemia appears to have died in 1785, and whatever the reason for a late probate of Samuel's will (perhaps it had been found among her effects), it would appear that Samuel had predeceased her:

MEMORANDUM THAT LETTERS of Administration in common form were granted unto Joseph Moorhead & William Moorhead of the Estate of Euphemia Moorhead, late of Franklin County, yeoman deceased inventory to be exhibited into the Registers Office at Chambersburg, the first day of October next and an account of reckoning of his Administration on or before the 16th day of August in the year of Our Lord 1786. Given under my hand and seal of Office at Chambersburg, the 11th day of August 1785.<sup>21</sup>

## NOTES

1. The dates in this paragraph are from the International Genealogical Index which in turn is based on submissions by Mrs. Eileen Bartanen of Vacaville, California. Mrs. Bartanen cites as her source the first of the Espy family histories cited in footnote <sup>18</sup> below. Those dates are not, in fact, contained therein, and must be considered unproven until a correct source can be located. They are, however, consistent with those dates that are confirmed. The birthdate is from batch 8511605, page 74, Salt Lake City microfilm number

1395997. The father's name of John is from the IGI computer printout which is supposed to be based on the cited submission. That name, however, is not in Mrs. Bartanen's submission.

2. Ibid, page 80. A birthdate for Mrs. Samuel Moorhead is given as 1710 on page 75.

3. Batch 8500805 page 5. SLC microfilm number

4. Land Warranties, Lancaster County, 1733-1896. In *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Vol. XXIV, p.467.

5. Ibid, p.470. Also: Bates, Samuel P. and others, *History of Franklin County* (Chicago: Warner, Beers and Co., 1887) p. 152. This book missed the earlier grant.

6. "...at the present site of the Chambersburg disposal plant..." Stephenson, Clarence *Indiana County: 175th Anniversary History* (Indiana, Pa: Haldin Pub. Co. 1983) IV, 163

7. Land warranties, Cumberland County. In *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Vol. XXIV, p.716.

8. Ibid, p.720.

9. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Vol. XX, p.55.

10. Ibid, p.178.

11. Ibid, p.314.

12. Ibid, p.440.

13. Ibid, p.584.

14. Caveat Book, *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Vol.II, p.264.

15. Ibid, p.539.

16. Ibid, p.289.

17. Minutes of the Board of Property, meeting of Monday, 27 April 1767 in *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Vol. I, p. 173.

18. Espy, Florence Mercy, *History and Genealogy of the Espy Family in America* (Fort Madison, Iowa, 1905) p.15. SLC microfilm number 1033721. Kuhbander, Rita Espy and William G. Espy *The Espy-Espey Genealogy Book* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1987)3 vols; vol 1 pp 4-6 has 2 pages on Samuel's son-in-law but does not solve the Moorhead date problem above.

19. Moorhead/Nunes, Susan, *Tree Top Baby: A Family Tree of Moorhead (Morehead/Micrehead/Muirhead) and Strong as well as Bennet, Anderson, Reade/Reed, Gordon, Earhart/Earheart, Hahn, Longwill, Brown, Howard, Edwards, Miller, and Emenheiser/Imenhausen*. Vol. 1, (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1984) p.272ff.

20. The complete text is in *Franklin County Will Book*, Vol. A, p.17 (Salt Lake City microfilm # 323,864). The extract comes from *Your Family Tree* Vol. III, No. 5 (Nov-Dec 1950) p.82.

21. *Franklin County Willbook*, Vol. A, p. 45.

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## French Canadian Corner

by Doug Miller and Ann Leblanc

### OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Thanks to the 30 or so members that showed up to research at our last workshop on November 16. We featured a special showing of Quintin Publications books. As most of you know we receive a 20% commission for the books we sell. This money goes toward buying additional French-Canadian material. We earned \$98.00 commission on sales at the workshop. This brings the total for the year to \$448.00. Not bad. Workshop participants contributed another \$153.00. Thank to all of you for your generosity and continued support in our efforts to make the French Canadian collection at the SCGS the Best in the West.

New acquisitions included about 30 additional volumes of marriage and funeral home records from the Northeast states published by the American French Genealogical Society in Pawtucket, RI. We also continue to receive additions to our microfiche collection of marriage records. We must have the marriage records for more than 1,000 parishes now. If you are looking for the records of a particular parish and would like to know if we have them on microfiche contact Doug at 805-296-8740. He will check the database for you. This is a special service to thank you for your support.

### Coming events

Be sure to attend the next meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Our featured speaker will be Richard LeMaire. His topic will be The New England Captives. These were English people taken captive by the French and Indians in New England and taken to Quebec

where some were ransomed back by the French, some married into French or Indian families, some became priests and nuns, etc. I know that the priest and nuns might not be your ancestors, but some of the others might. Richard will also touch on L'immigration Meconnu, a Quintin Publication reprint that covers Soldiers from the American Revolution, refugees from the French Revolution, Napoleonic refugees, and soldiers from the War of 1812. We hope you can

