

JOHN MOORE, 1790-1867
SON OF CALEB

A Genealogical Narrative

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Table of Contents

North Carolina roots	4
Carolina farm life in the 1790's.....	11
The family leaves North Carolina	13
John's brothers and sisters.....	19
John begins his own adventure	28
Putting down permanent roots.....	31
John and Nancy's children.....	38
Postscript.....	49

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This narrative attempts to bring together all currently available information on John Moore, 1790-1867, son of Caleb and Eunicy Brierly Moore. It also includes a substantial amount of information on his close kin.

Much of this information can be found in the several volumes of "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia" and periodic publications of the Huxford Genealogical Society. My own research adds significantly to the previously-published material.

There were a few instances where the previously-published information was at odds with that found in original documents that I examined. In such cases, the information contained in the original documents was used.

As any family researcher knows, the information being sought, such as the kinship of one individual to another, does not always present itself in clear enough form to draw a firm conclusion. When this occurs, the researcher is faced with the dilemma of either providing the reader with no conclusion at all, or offering his judgment on the matter.

In this paper, I have opted for the latter. Whenever an opinion is given, it is clearly identifiable and an attempt is made to provide the rationale for the conclusion reached. Source documents are referenced so readers have the option of going to the source and reaching their own conclusion.

In spite of the research efforts devoted to John Moore, son of Caleb, and his ancestors over the years by a considerable number of individuals, there is much that remains unknown. It is my hope that the distribution of this document will lead to a response from a reader or readers who have in their possession documented information not included here. Corrective information, supported by documents, would also be welcomed.

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1

NORTH CAROLINA ROOTS

The Tar River runs a southeasterly course from the Virginia-Carolina border down to about the mid-point of North Carolina's Atlantic coastline, where it empties into the Pamlico River and Sound. Near the city of Rocky Mount, which is roughly half-way through its 200-mile journey, the river leaves the hilly piedmont and enters the coastal plain where the water becomes navigable.

The most inland port on the river is the city of Tarboro. Both river and town were named after one of the first commodities to be exported from Colonial America: pine tar. The tar was used in the construction and maintenance of wooden ships, its role being the sealing or caulking of joints between the ships' planks. During the early days of America, the tar was derived primarily from the gum of the longleaf pine, and North Carolina was its foremost producer.

Some 20 miles before the Tar River empties into the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Pamlico River and Sound, it begins its transition from freshwater to saltwater, and the water level rises and falls with the ocean tides. Near the spot where this transition begins, the river is straddled by the City of Greenville, a city that dates back to Colonial days.¹ It was on a farm near Greenville, in the County of Pitt, that Caleb and Eunicy² Brierly³ Moore gave birth to a son they named John. The date was August 23, 1790.⁴

Just two years prior to John's birth, the Constitution of the United States became the law of the land. One year before his birth, George Washington became the first President of the United States, and North Carolina became the 12th state to be admitted to the Union. The year that he was born, the location of the new nation's capitol was decided, and the first federal census counted fewer than 4 million citizens in the entire nation, fewer than are currently found in the metropolitan area of Atlanta. On the other hand, there were already 470 Moores living in Pitt County alone!⁵

¹ Founded in 1771 and first named Martinsborough, the city was re-named Greenville in 1786.

² Eunicy, being unable to write, was at the mercy of the courthouse clerks when it came to spelling her name. Her first name was spelled "Unicy" on legal documents in Georgia, but on an earlier legal document in Pitt County where she was probably better known, it was spelled "Eunicy." See 1802 Pitt County Deed, Book P, p. 74.

³ Eunicy's last name was spelled "Briley" on Georgia documents. However, in the 1800 Pitt County census, there were several families whose last name was "Brierly" including her mother, and none with the last name of "Briley."

⁴ The 1955 application of Eloise Moore Thigpen for membership in the John Floyd Chapter of the DAR included certain information certified by her as being transcribed from the Bible of John Moore, son of Caleb. John's date and place of birth was included in this sworn statement. The Bible itself was destroyed in a house fire.

⁵ State census of North Carolina, 1784-1787.



A current county map of North Carolina.

Although the places of birth of John's parents, Caleb and Eunicy Brierly Moore, have not been determined with certainty, there is no reason to believe that they were born any place other than Pitt County (Pitt County was formed from the western half of Beaufort County in 1760); Caleb's father, also named John, lived there at least during the latter part of his life and died there.⁶ So did Eunicy's mother, Bethea Brierly.⁷

In his "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia," (Vol. 2, p. 208) Folks Huxford estimated Caleb's birth year to be about 1760. Huxford offers no estimate as to when Eunicy was born. The birth year of their daughter Elizabeth, their oldest child, was 1786,⁸ and on the assumption that Eunicy was about 18 years old when she gave birth to Elizabeth, we estimate Eunicy's year of birth to be about 1768.

We turn now to the father of Caleb, whom we shall hereinafter refer to as the elder John Moore. When deemed necessary, John, son of Caleb, will be referred to as the younger John. In the younger John's Bible (see footnote 4, p. 4) there appeared the following statement: "John Moore, the elder, died in the year 1815 in Pitt County, N.C., age about 60 years. My Grandfather."

⁶ The senior John Moore left an estate in Pitt County, North Carolina. See Wayne County, Georgia Deed Book C, p. 92, and "old Deed Book B," p. 268.

⁷ Bethea Brierly's name is given in Wayne County Deed Book C, p. 93, and "old Deed Book B," p. 270.

⁸ Based on Elizabeth's age of 64, as listed in the 1850 census of Columbia County, Florida.

Either the younger John was considerably off the mark in his estimate of the elder John's age at time of death or Huxford was considerably off in his estimate of Caleb's birth year (1760), or both. Or, an error was made in transcribing the information about the elder John from the younger John's Bible to the certified statement (see footnote 4, p. 4).

Huxford may have been a little low in his estimate of Caleb's birth year but could not have been off by much, because Caleb served in the Revolutionary War,⁹ which began in 1776 and ended in 1783. We know that many Revolutionary soldiers were very young; in fact, one out of every four was under the age of 16. But raising Caleb's estimated year of birth to 1765 or even a year or two later would not put enough years between the birth of these two men for them to be father and son, or at least it would have been an extraordinary occurrence.

At least some of the error has to be in the younger John's estimated age of the elder John at time of death as recorded on the certified statement. I estimated his birth year to be about 1745, 10 years earlier than that based on the younger John's Bible entry. That would put his age at time of death at 70, not an unreasonable age.

I also raised Huxford's estimated year of birth of 1760 for Caleb to 1765. Using this estimate, he would have been 22 the year Elizabeth, his and Eunicy's first child, was born. That, too, seems reasonable.

The Pitt County Census report of 1790, the first federal census to be taken, was reviewed to see if the elder John Moore could be identified among the six John Moores listed as heads of households in that report. None of the John Moores was listed near Caleb's name, so the correct John Moore was not readily apparent.

The 1800 census seems to solve that problem in that there was only one John Moore listed in the entire county of Pitt (although there was now a John Moore, Jr. with a young family). The other John Moores apparently had moved away or died. In all probability, this one remaining John Moore was the father of Caleb, as we know he died there in 1815. The 1800 census shows him living by himself and as being in the 45-and-over age category, the oldest category listed.

We then looked back at the 1790 census report and identified this particular John Moore by comparing the neighbors around him in the 1790 census report with those around him in the 1800 report. As was the case in 1800, he was the only male in the household, but there were four females in the household with him (no ages given).

In the next (1810) census report, three John Moores were listed, two with wives and young children and one living by himself. We verified that the John Moore living by himself was the same as the one living by himself in 1800 by comparing neighbors in the two reports.

In the following (1820) census report for Pitt County, there was no listing of a John Moore living by himself. This was as we expected, as the elder John died in 1815. So we feel confident that we have identified the elder John Moore on the 1790, 1800 and 1810 census reports for Pitt County.

⁹ North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, Vol. IX, p. 86, folio 1.

But the wife of the elder John remains unknown. An intriguing listing in the 1800 census report for Pitt County is an Elizabeth Moore who was shown as head of a household. A Moses Moore, Jr. was living right next to her on one side and Jesse Barnhill on the other. Just two years prior to the 1800 census, Jesse Barnhill bought property from Caleb Moore who was then living next to Moses Moore.

There were four females, including Elizabeth, living in this household, one of whom was over the age of 45 (Elizabeth, in all probability). Were these the same four females that were living in the household with the elder John in 1790? Could this Elizabeth have been the elder John's wife? It would seem a possibility except for one thing: the elder John was still alive in 1800 and the head of a household himself. It's not likely that his wife would also have been the head of a household that same year.

Elizabeth's name did not appear in the census reports of 1810 or 1820, but reappeared in 1830, again as the head of a household. In that report she was listed as being between the ages of 90 and 99. The age ranges given for the Elizabeth Moore in the 1800 and 1830 reports are compatible, so all indications are that this is the same Elizabeth. She was born between 1740 and 1750, meaning that she was roughly the same age as the elder John. Not being his wife, she very likely was the wife of a deceased brother (no brother of the elder John has been identified).

So we were unable to identify the wife of the elder John, as well as his father and mother. We are also left wondering who were the four females were living in the household with the elder John in 1790. In all likelihood one of them was his wife, who probably died before 1800.

Now we turn to the question of whether the elder John's son, Caleb, had a brother named Moses. A Wayne County, Georgia power-of-attorney document executed in 1822 informs us that the elder John Moore's estate in Pitt County, North Carolina was "now in the hands of Moses Moore" (see footnote 6, p. 5). That statement has led to frequent speculation that this Moses Moore was Caleb's brother.

Supporting that hypothesis is the fact that a Moses Moore served as a witness to the sale of property by Caleb Moore in 1798. Further, a Moses Moore was listed on the 1790 Pitt County census report right next to Caleb. We examined this and other census reports to see if we could find other information that would add weight to this supposition.

There were two Moses Moores in the 1790 Pitt County census report. As previously mentioned, one of them was listed next to Caleb Moore; the other was in a different polling community. We first attempted to see if we could definitely rule out the Moses Moore that lived in the different community. Fortunately, we found a Pitt County deed that allowed us to do just that.¹⁰

The deed revealed that Moses Moore (the one who lived in a community other than Caleb's) had died by 1808 and had left his estate to his children, so we know that he could not have been the Moses in whose hands was the estate of the elder John Moore.

¹⁰ Pitt County Deed Book R, p. 295, dated March 10, 1807. In this transaction, the heirs of Moses Moore, deceased, deeded part of their inherited land to Moses Moore, Jr., also an heir.

However, one of the heirs of this Moses was a Moses Moore, Jr. We were also able to rule him out as the administrator of the elder John's estate through another deed.¹¹ The deed revealed that this Moses, Jr. had also died by 1815. Since the deaths of both the senior and junior Moses Moore occurred well before 1822, neither could have been the individual who was the administrator of the elder John Moore's estate in 1822. We then were able to concentrate on the other Moses, the one that lived next to Caleb.

At the time of the 1790 census, living in the household with the Moses Moore whose name appeared next to Caleb in that census were two males under the age of 16 and three females (no age categories given for the females). In the 1800 census, instead of a Moses Moore, we found a Moses Moore, Jr. listed among the same neighbors as Moses Moore had been ten years earlier. In this household was one male 9 to 15 years old, one male 16 to 25 and one male 26 to 44. On the female side there was one under 10, one 10 to 15, one 16 to 25, one 26 to 44, and one 45 or older.

At first glance, it appeared that the Moses Moore in the 1790 census had died and his son, Moses Moore, Jr. was now living where his father had lived. However, by comparing the number and ages of the individuals in Moses Moore's household in 1790 with the number and ages of those living in the household with Moses Moore, Jr. in 1800, it appears that this is the same family. Whether this Moses Moore in the 1800 report was, or was not, a junior is critical, because if he were in fact a Moses, Jr., he could not have been Caleb's brother.

The only differences in occupants between the 1790 household and the 1800 household were two additional females in the 1800 household: one under the age of 10, which is accounted for by her being born since the last census and the female 45 or older. The older female could have been the mother of Moses or the mother of his wife, who had come to live with them in her old age.

We then reviewed the 1810 census report where we found one Moses Moore listed in the entire county, but no Moses Moore, Jr. In this household were one male 45 or older, two females 16 to 25, and one female 45 or older. If we assume that all grown children had left the household, and that the older female in the 1800 household had died, the number and ages of those in the 1810 household matches the number and ages of individuals found in the 1790 and 1800 households.

Next we looked at the 1820 census report where, again, only one Moses Moore was listed in the entire county. In the household were one male 45 years old or older, one female 25 to 44 and one female 45 or older. The occupants matched the three living in the 1810 household, and there can be little doubt that the 1810 and 1820 listings deal with the same Moses Moore.

Since it appears that the Moses Moore who was listed as a junior in 1800 is the same as the Moses Moore listed in the 1790, 1810 and 1820 census reports, it is my opinion that the listing of Moses Moore in the 1800 report as a junior was an error. Based on the age ranges given for him in the various reports, he was born between 1756 and 1765, very close to the time that Caleb was born (about 1765).

¹¹ Deed Book T, p. 294, dated November 11, 1815. In this transaction, the heirs of Moses Moore, Jr., deceased, deeded the deceased's land to James Buck, Jr.

With there being only one Moses Moore in Pitt County at the time of the elder John Moore's death, there's little doubt that this was the Moses who served as the administrator of the elder John's estate.

Whether he was Caleb Moore's brother is not quite as clear. However, based on what we know about this Moses (living next door to Caleb in 1790, signing Caleb's deed as witness in 1798, being the administrator of the elder John's estate in 1822, and being roughly the same age as Caleb), there is good reason to believe that they were brothers.

We now turn to Eunicy Brierly's mother. From information contained in a power-of-attorney document executed in Wayne County, Georgia in 1822 (see footnote 7, p. 5), we learned her name. In that document, Eunicy authorized Reddick Knox to seek all that was due her from the estate of "my mother, Bethea Briley, deceased of North Carolina, Pitt County." There is a Bethea Brierly listed as the head of a household in the 1800 Pitt County census report, and there can be little doubt that this is Eunicy's mother.

Bethea was listed as age 45 or older, the oldest category listed. Living in the household with her were one male between 10 and 15 years old, one female under 10, and two females 16 to 25. No adult male was listed. Based on her age bracket in which she was listed in the census, Bethea's year of birth would have been 1755 or earlier. On the assumption that she was about 18 years old when she gave birth to Eunicy, we estimate Bethea's birth year to be about 1750.

Lacking information to the contrary, we can only assume that all of the individuals in Bethea's household were her children. She was about 50 years old when the 1800 census was taken.

In his Volume 2 (p. 208), Huxford states that Caleb Moore "married Unity, daughter of Solomon Braley of Pitt County." However, as previously pointed out, the wife of Caleb was Eunicy Brierly (see footnotes 2 and 3, p. 4). There was a Solomon Braley listed in the Pitt County census of 1790, but it is almost certain that it is a misspelling of the name Brierly because there was no Solomon Braley listed in the following (1800) report but there was a Solomon Brierly.

Further, the name Braley did not appear again in any Pitt County census report from 1790 through at least 1850, whereas there were several families with the surname of Brierly or Bryerly listed in these reports.

There is a problem, however, with this Solomon Brierly being the husband of Bethea Brierly, because they both were listed as heads of households in the 1800 census report. With this Solomon Brierly ruled out, I was unable to identify Bethea's husband.

The presence of Eunicy Brierly's name on an 1802 Pitt County deed¹² gives rise to a host of interesting questions. The grantors of the 150-acre tract of land described in this deed were Josiah Knox, Isaac Knox, George Knox, Patton Knox, Bethea Knox and Eunicy Brierly. Although the document made no reference to the grantors as being heirs to the property, the fact that five of the six had the same surname makes it almost a certainty that that was the case.

¹² Pitt County, North Carolina Deed Book P, pp. 73-74.

Had two Eunicy Brierlys lived in Pitt County at the same time? Not very likely. What was Eunicy Brierly's relationship to the other grantors? And what was her relationship to the deceased owner of the estate, who in all probability was a Knox? Why was Eunicy's last name given here as Brierly when she had been married to Caleb Moore (we assume) for at least 17 years?

Also catching my eye was that the name of one of the Knox grantors was Bethea Knox. Was it mere coincidence that the names "Eunicy Brierly" and "Bethea" appeared here on the same document? In any event, it is not likely that Bethea Knox and Bethea Brierly were one and the same, because a Bethea Knox was listed in the 1830 census report for Pitt County whereas Bethea Brierly died in or before 1822.

What was Eunicy Brierly's name doing on this document while all the other grantors were Knox's? One possibility is that Eunicy's mother, Bethea, and the deceased Knox had been married at some point, or at least had a child together, the child being Eunicy. In this way, Eunicy would be a direct descendant of the deceased, which would explain why she was one of the heirs of the Knox estate.

It is interesting to note that Eunicy, in executing a Wayne County, Georgia power-of-attorney document in 1822 (see footnote 7, p. 5), referred to her attorney as "my trusty friend Redic Nox." Reddick Knox (1790-1858) was a previous Pitt County resident. He moved to Wayne County at roughly the same time as Caleb and Eunicy.¹³ But Reddick Knox was not one of the signatories to the sale of the Knox estate mentioned above.

¹³ Huxford's "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia," Vol. 1, pp. 161- 162.

2

CAROLINA FARM LIFE IN THE 1790's

By 1798, when young John was eight years old, his father, Caleb, had accumulated at least 220 acres of farmland in Pitt County, North Carolina.¹⁴ A farm that size suggests the family was moderately well off by the standards of the time.

According to the 1790 and 1800 censuses, Caleb had no slaves, so it is safe to assume that all members of this family stayed very busy indeed. While we have no direct knowledge of what their farming and household operations consisted of, we can come up with a reasonably good idea by knowing the time period and where the farm was located.

At that time, 90 percent of the American population was engaged in farming, meaning farmers basically had only each other for customers. With every farm producing most everything the family needed to survive, farmers had no domestic outlet for their goods. Farmers could only look to the export market if they wished to produce goods surplus to their family's needs.

As previously mentioned, there was a strong export demand for pine tar in early America, that North Carolina was a major producer of the product, and that the Tar River was a major conduit for moving the tar from the interior of the state to an Atlantic port. No doubt Pitt County produced its share of the tar. Being so close to a seaport, farmers there were in an advantageous position for marketing the product to exporters. It is likely that longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*) occupied a portion of Caleb's farm, and that he was engaged in the process of harvesting the gum from them.

There was also a strong export demand in early America for cattle and deer hides, and it seems logical that Caleb would have taken advantage of his proximity to a seaport to market one or both of these products as well. Tobacco was another farm commodity with a high export demand. In fact, after the Jamestown colonists arrived in 1607, tobacco quickly became the most profitable crop grown in the Colonies, and practically all of its production was exported.

At first the tobacco was grown exclusively in Virginia, but as demand increased, its production gradually spread across the border into North Carolina. In fact, Pitt County eventually became the leading county in the entire nation in both production and marketing of tobacco. However, I have found no evidence that the commercial production of that crop had reached as far south as Pitt County by the 1790's.

Nor is it likely that cotton was commercially produced there in the 1790's, since the cotton gin was not invented until 1794, and removing seed from the lint by hand was so slow as to make it unprofitable for the typical farmer.

¹⁴ In 1798, Caleb Moore sold two tracts of land, one in July and the other in October. The July sale is mentioned in a subsequent sale of the property (Pitt County Deed Book O, p. 293). The October sale is recorded in Pitt County Deed Book O, p. 340.

Like all the farmers around him, Caleb would have raised everything the family needed to survive, except for the very few items that could not be produced on Pitt County soil, such as salt, coffee and tea. He would have raised cattle whether he was selling hides to the export market or not, so that the family would have meat, milk and butter, and tallow for making candles.

Chickens would have been raised for both meat and eggs, and hogs raised for meat, cooking oil and soap (of which hog fat was the major component). A few sheep may have been kept for their wool and meat, and perhaps even a small patch of cotton for home consumption, with the entire family (most likely while sitting around the fireplace at night) separating the seeds from the fiber by hand, and the women spinning and weaving the fiber into cloth for clothing, bed sheets, blankets and quilts.

Caleb may have grown a small patch of sugar cane, from which syrup and homemade (brown) sugar would be made. There may have been beehives from which honey and beeswax (for candle-making) was harvested. Horses, mules or oxen would have been kept for plowing the crops and for transporting goods and family members by wagon or cart. Corn would have been grown to feed the livestock; also for grinding some of it into grits and corn meal for family consumption.

Fodder (dried corn leaves) would have been stripped from the corn stalks to be fed to the livestock during the winter months. Pasturage would have been needed for grazing the animals throughout the spring, summer and fall; it most likely was provided by native grass growing beneath the longleaf pines, which naturally spaced themselves far enough apart to give the grass the sunlight it needed.

Also, fencing would have been needed around the fields to keep Caleb's and other's animals out and, since there was an abundance of trees but few stones, split-rail fencing would have been used. (An uncle once told me that splitting rails was his father's preferred method of punishment for his boys whenever they acted up.)

There would have been a vegetable garden large enough to grow all the vegetables the family needed, including Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes. Most likely, there were a few fruit trees such as peach, pear or plum near the house, and perhaps some kind of a nut-producing tree such as pecan.

It probably took every waking hour of every member of this family to run the farm and household.¹⁵ So we can safely assume that young John, even in his childhood years, was kept very busy.

¹⁵ Apparently the five children of Caleb and Eunicy spent no time in school, because they were unable to sign their names (they signed with an "x") to legal documents executed in Wayne County, Georgia in later years.

3

THE FAMILY LEAVES NORTH CAROLINA

It is widely assumed among Caleb and Eunicy Brierly Moore researchers that sometime between 1798 and 1800, they and their children moved away from Pitt County. This assumption is based on (1) the sale of two tracts of land by Caleb in 1798 (see footnote 14, p. 11), with no records having been found to indicate that he later bought or already had other land holdings in Pitt County; and (2) Caleb's name does not appear in the 1800 census report for Pitt County.

The family probably moved away in 1798, the year the property was sold. All five children had been born by then. Caleb was about 33 years old, Eunicy about 30. Young John was 8.

Why would Caleb and Eunicy have decided to move away from Pitt County after putting down roots in a well-established farming community? It all probability, it had everything to do with land. The population all along the east coast was exploding (the 1790 census revealed that half the population was 16 or younger), putting farmland at a premium and thereby making it difficult for individuals to either start farming or expand their holdings once they had a toehold.

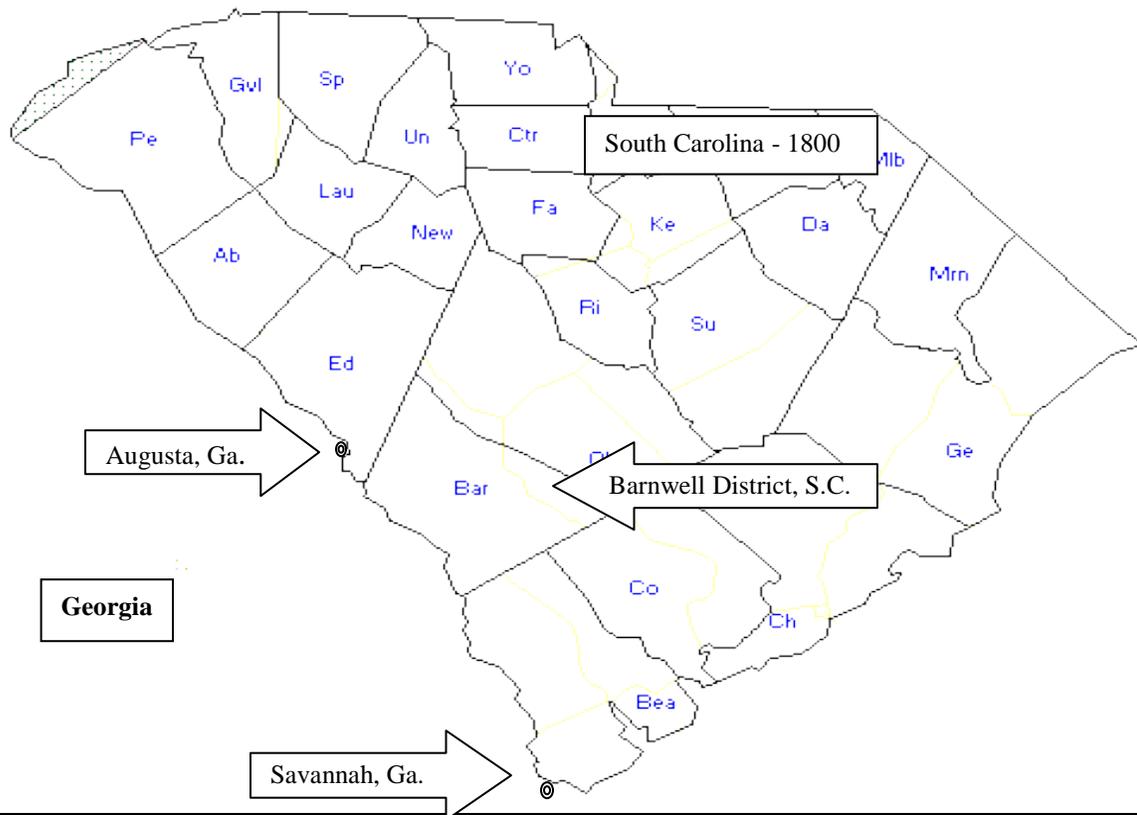
Also, early American farmers knew little about protecting their land from erosion, mineral depletion and disease, so they were constantly "wearing out" their soil and looking for virgin farmland on which to grow their crops.

But even more importantly, the acquisition of vast acreages of land from Native Americans had the country in a fever pitch over the prospect of becoming individual owners of some of that land. Thousands upon thousands of Americans, including Caleb and Eunicy apparently, seemed perfectly willing to exchange the relative comfort and security of living in a settled community amidst kin and long-time friends and associates, for an isolated, hard-scrabble and dangerous existence on the outer fringes of the civilized world.

If Caleb and family did in fact leave Pitt County around 1798, they could not have moved directly to Wayne County, Georgia where they eventually settled, because Wayne County at the time did not exist, it being part of the Creek Indian Nation. The area that was to become Wayne County was ceded by the Creeks to the State of Georgia under the 1803 Treaty of Fort Wilkinson, and it was another two years before the land was surveyed and settlement authorized.

So just where did they move? There was a "Calop More" listed in the 1800 census of the Barnwell District of South Carolina. (It is worth noting that Caleb's name was likewise spelled "Calop More" in an affidavit signed by his wife Eunicy and their five children in Wayne County, Georgia in 1822 (see footnote 6, p. 5)

The Barnwell District was just across the Savannah River from southeastern Georgia, and large numbers of pioneers who moved into Georgia once that state opened up its lands for settlement had previously made the Barnwell District their home, if only temporarily. So it would not have been out of the ordinary for Caleb and family to make it their home for a while.



1800 map of South Carolina. Caleb and family were probably living in the Barnwell District during the 1800 census.

Listed in “Calop More’s” household in the 1800 census for the Barnwell District were four males and three females, plus “Calop” and his wife, both of whom were in the age category of 26 to 45. The years of birth for the known male children of Caleb and Eunicy - John, Benjamin and William - fell within the age ranges expected, but there was one “extra” male under 10.

As for the females, one was listed as being 11 to 16 years old and the other two under the age of 10. The one 11 to 16 year-old would fit either of Caleb and Eunicy’s two daughters, Elizabeth and Levicy, but one or the other was missing. The two “extra” females were under the age of 10.

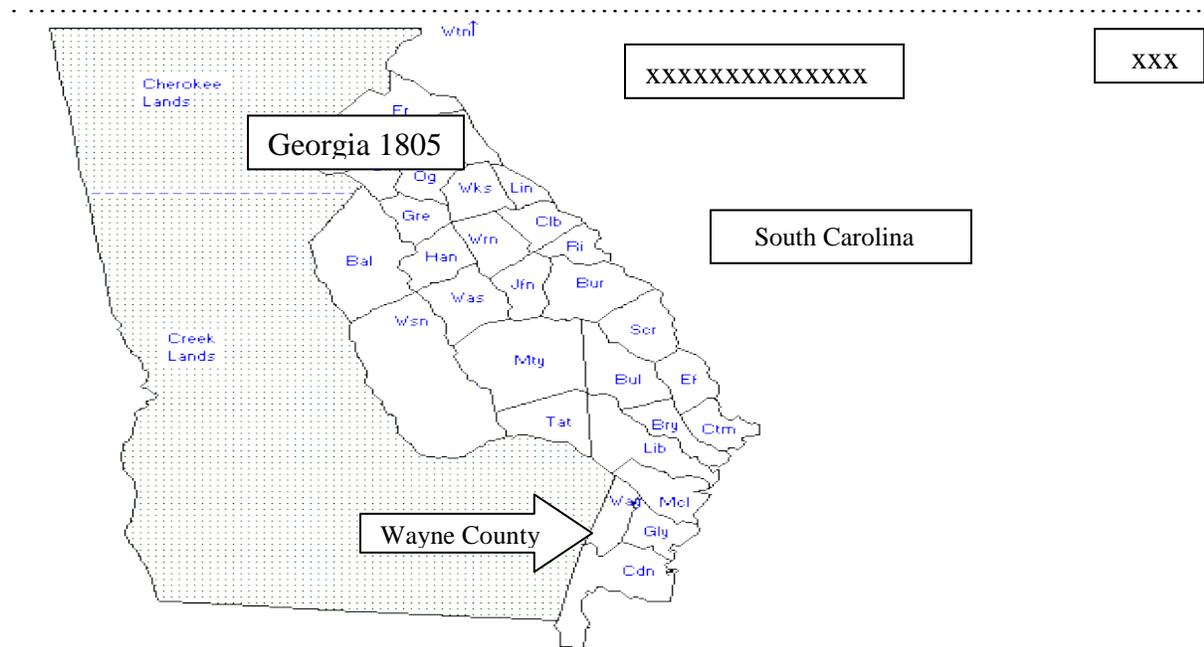
It is possible that the three, “extra” children, all under the age of 10, were Caleb’s and Eunicy’s but if so, something happened to them before 1822, when Caleb’s heirs were named in a Wayne County, Georgia power of attorney document. In that document, only the five children whom we are familiar with were named. But Caleb and Eunicy could have temporarily taken in someone else’s children, a common practice in those days.

A review of courthouse records in Barnwell County, South Carolina did not turn up any land deeds or other documents pertaining to “Calop More” or Caleb Moore, nor could anything about him be found in a cursory review of historical documents at the Barnwell public library. Even so, it is my opinion that this “Calop More” and Caleb Moore, son of the elder John from Pitt County, North Carolina, were one and the same.

When the ceded land that was to become Wayne County, Georgia had been surveyed and divided into lots (490 acres each), a lottery was held by the State of Georgia to determine who the owners of the land would be (two other Georgia counties, Baldwin and Wilkinson, were organized shortly after Wayne, and a lottery was held for all three in 1805).

Only those who had lived in the State of Georgia for at least one year prior to May 3, 1803 were eligible to participate. A state-wide list of eligibles was drawn up, with about 24,000 individuals on the list; Caleb's name was not among them.

However, it is possible that Caleb and family illegally entered the freshly ceded area during the two years between the signing of the treaty in 1803 and legitimate settlement in 1805, and became squatters (those who settle on property without title). In support of this possibility is the fact that no deeds for the purchase or sale of property by Caleb in Wayne County has been found throughout the period of time that he lived there.



1805 map of Georgia, around the time that Caleb's family probably moved to Wayne County. At the time, all of Georgia to the west of Wayne County was part of the Creek Nation.

Further, since many of the lottery winners chose not to settle on their Wayne County property due to its lack of fertile soil, squatters there were probably ignored and may have even been welcomed by state and county officials. It is almost certain that later on, Caleb's son, John, would also become a squatter in another area of Georgia. The idea very well could have been planted by his father.

Wayne County was located in a region of the state called the "pine barrens," because nothing much would grow in the sandy soil except pine trees and, as previously mentioned, the lack of fertile soil attracted few settlers. In 1810, five years after the area was authorized for settlement and the lottery winners selected, the population of the county was only 676. It was 24 years after

the lottery before a site was selected for the county seat, and even after 38 years it still did not have a schoolhouse or jail. In 1850, forty-five years after settlement was authorized, the county had grown to only 1500, including 406 slaves.

In his book, "Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends," Vol. 1, published in 1913, Lucian Lemar Knight said that the settlers in Wayne County "were in the main very poor. They lived at long distances apart, raised cattle and sheep in a small way, and lived chiefly by means of the fishing tackle and shotgun."

Were Caleb and Eunicy aware of the inferior nature of the soil before settling there? Did they avoid other areas of the state because the farmland was too expensive? With Caleb having sold 220 acres of land in 1798 (see footnote 14), and with Eunicy probably receiving an equal share of the proceeds from the sale of the 150-acre Knox estate in Pitt County in 1802 (see footnote 12), one would think that they had the financial resources to purchase more productive land if they wished.

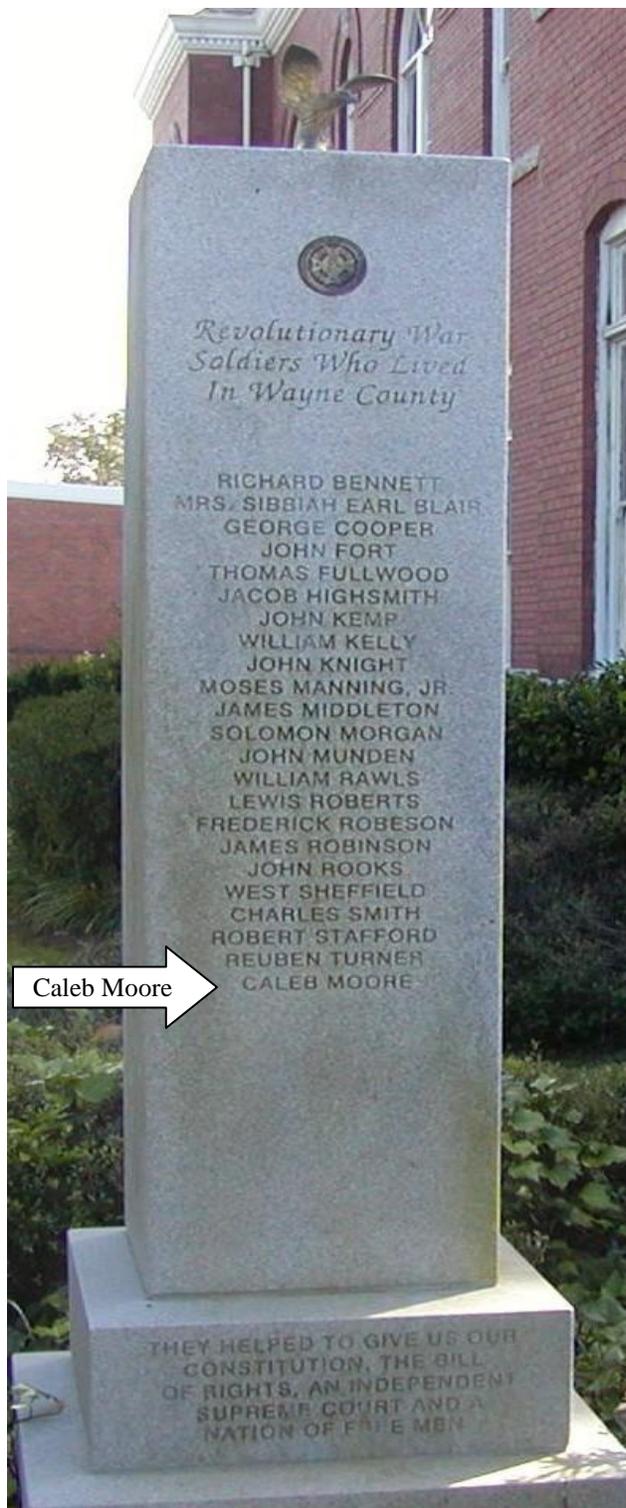
Wayne County may not have had an abundance of land suitable for row crop production, but covering the entire county was a longleaf pine forest with a carpet of nutritious grass growing underneath. So the area was ideally suited for the production of cattle; also for the production of hogs that easily fattened on acorns and roots to be found in the woods in great abundance.

In fact, the very first white men to set foot in parts of south Georgia, even while it was still a part of the Creek Nation, were nomadic-like herdsmen, taking advantage of an unlimited supply of open-range grass for cattle grazing. They patterned their operations after the Native Americans of the region, owning no land and just following their cattle wherever they chose to graze.

In late summer or early fall, when the animals had fattened and that year's crop of grass had grown tough, they drove their herds to cattle markets in the populated areas along the Georgia coast, or down into Spanish territory in Florida, one such market being located at St. Augustine.

In all probability, the primary means by which the Caleb Moore family made its living in Wayne County was through the production of beef cattle. With unlimited grazing for the cattle at no cost, all labor most likely furnished by family members and with cattle markets within droving distance, such an enterprise could have afforded Caleb and his family the means for making a living, perhaps even a comfortable one.

That is, as comfortable as one could be in a sparsely settled wilderness with agitated Native Americans as neighbors; neighbors who had just been pushed off the land now occupied by the white settlers, and who knew, no doubt, that it was just a matter of time before they would be pushed back even farther. Their rising anger would be taken out on the settlers periodically until 1845, when the last Native American holdouts in southern Georgia and Alabama and north Florida were finally removed to Oklahoma or took refuge in the Florida Everglades.



In any event, Wayne County is where Caleb and Eunicy finished raising their children and where Caleb died on April 3, 1821. This date of death, which came from young John's Bible, conflicts with the 1820 census report for Wayne County, in that the report listed Eunicy as the head of the household and noted that she was a widow (her occupation was given as "farming.") But the information is not necessarily inconsistent, in view of census-taking practices at the time.

In the early days, when census takers were few in number, pioneering families lived long distances apart, and their homes difficult to find or to get to, the census-taking often extended well into the next year. Whenever that happened, the census takers often reported the facts as they existed at the time of visit. That is apparently what happened here, with the census visit coming after Caleb's death in April of 1821.

In the household with Eunicy when the 1820 census was taken were a male between the ages of 26 and 44 and a female between the ages of 16 and 25. We will have more to say about these two individuals later on.

Eunicy continued to live in Wayne County until at least August 21, 1837, at which time she was probably close to 70 years old. On that date she and her children authorized an attorney to seek all that was due them, as heirs of Caleb Moore, from the estate of "Cloe and Hannah Moore" of Pitt County, North Carolina.¹⁶ Eunicy's whereabouts after that date, and the time and place of her death, are not known.

On Wayne County's Courthouse square in Jesup, Georgia, there is a monument (left)

honoring those Revolutionary War Patriots who ultimately made Wayne County their home. Caleb Moore is one of 23 Patriots whose names are chiseled on the marble monument.

¹⁶ Wayne County Deed Book C, pp. 188-189.

Who were Cloe (probably a misspelling of Chloe) and Hannah Moore? They obviously were closely related to Caleb, but how? Were they his sister and the sister's daughter? Were both of them his sisters? His aunts? His sister in-laws?

Whoever they were, the power-of-attorney document suggests that both of them died within a short period of time. Also, they must have held property in common, because the power-of-attorney document mentions the "estate," not "estates," of Chloe and Hannah Moore. This suggests a mother-daughter relationship, but they also could have been sisters who were heirs to an undivided estate.

A "Clowe" Moore was listed as the head of a household in the 1820 census report for Pitt County. (This also is probably a misspelling of Chloe, so hereinafter, we will spell her name "Chloe"). She was living next door to Cason Moore, who was a witness to the sale of Caleb's property, and not far away was Jesse Barnhill, who bought Caleb's property. In the household with Chloe was one other female. Both were between the ages of 26 and 44.

In this same (1820) report, there was also a Hannah Moore listed as the head of a household, but living in a different community than Chloe. She also was between the ages of 26 and 44. In the household with her were several children, three of them under the age of 10.

In the following (1830) census report, there were two Hannah Moores listed as heads of households but no Chloe Moore. For one of the Hannahs, the age bracket into which she fell and the number and ages of children in the household clearly identified her as the Hannah listed in the previous (1820) report.

In the household with the second Hannah was one other female. This household was in the same community where Caleb once lived and is probably the Hannah referred to in the power-of-attorney document. One of the females was between the ages of 50 and 59, and the other between the ages of 60 and 69. Could the unnamed female in this household have been Chloe?

These two individuals could have been mother and daughter if one was at the high end of the age range given for her in the 1830 census report and the other at the low end. On the other hand, the age ranges were such that they could have been sisters.

Whether Chloe and Hannah were sisters of Caleb, or one was a sister and the other the child of that sister, it seems that they had never married because their surname was Moore.

The bottom line is that the kinship of Caleb to Chloe and Hannah remains a mystery.

4

JOHN'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Before we delve into the adult life of John, son of Caleb and Eunicy, let us first cover what we know about his siblings. As already noted, he had two sisters, Elizabeth and Levicey, and two brothers, Benjamin and William.

Elizabeth Moore. Born in 1786 (see footnote 8, p. 5), Elizabeth was the oldest child of Caleb and Eunicy Moore. She married William Raulerson, who was born in 1788.¹⁷ William was the son of John Raulerson, Revolutionary Soldier, who was born in Richland County, South Carolina, near present-day Columbia.

By 1789, John Raulerson had moved his family to Effingham County, Georgia, a county just north of Savannah. By January, 1801, the Raulerson family had moved on down to Glynn County, Georgia, a coastal county not far from the Georgia-Florida line. The area of Glynn County where the Raulersons settled was split off in 1803 and made a part of newly-formed Wayne County.¹⁸ In all probability, William and Elizabeth met after Caleb moved his family to Wayne County in 1803 or later.

There are indications that William was of mixed heritage. In 1814, a Captain William Cone signed an affidavit to obtain the right for William to vote. Captain Cone certified that he had known the mother of William “since she had nursed” him, and that she was a “fair, white-skinned woman.” The Captain went on to certify that he also knew John “Rollison” to be William’s father (see footnote 18 above).

The affidavit suggests that it was William’s complexion that raised doubts about his eligibility to vote, and that it was William’s mother, not his father, whose heritage was at issue. It leaves one wondering why Captain Cone did not identify the mother by name, as he did with William’s father, rather than describe her complexion.

Some of William’s descendants believe that Elizabeth was also of mixed heritage. This belief, I was told, is based on a statement contained in a publication of the Charlton County, Georgia, Historical Commission entitled “Charlton County Georgia Historical Notes, 1972.” This publication includes a write-up on the history of the Raulerson family. The opening paragraph of the Raulerson write-up reads as follows:

“The history of the Raulerson family in Charlton County, Georgia and Baker County, Florida, goes back to William Raulerson, “Uncle Billy,” who was born in 1779. He married Battie Moore, a half Indian, and came to this section about 1814. He had two daughters: Fannie, who married an Albritton, and Isabel, who married Jesse Johns. He had a son, Westberry Raulerson,

¹⁷ William Raulerson’s age was listed as 62 in the 1850 census report for Columbia County, Florida.

¹⁸ See Huxford, Vol. 9, pp. 357- 358.

who settled just across the river, and from the marriage of Westberry and Elizabeth Canaday descended the numerous Raulersons since that early date.”

If this “Battie Moore” and Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Caleb and Eunicy Brierly Moore, were one and the same, and if “Battie” were in fact “half Indian,” it would be interesting to know where her Native American ancestry came from.

DNA testing can be used as an aid in determining one’s heritage. By having his ydna tested, a male’s direct heritage (that is, the heritage of his father, his father’s father, and so on) can be traced back for thousands of years. A female can determine her direct female heritage (her mother, her mother’s mother, and so on) in the same manner through the testing of her mitochondrial DNA (mtdna for short).

My ydna was tested in 2008 and the results show that my genetic makeup contains a mutated gene that originated with a direct male ancestor of mine who was born about 10,000 years ago, and that this ancestor was, in all likelihood, an inhabitant of Western Europe. This mutated gene, which was handed down to me unchanged over all that time, has been designated by geneticists as R1b1b2 on the family tree of humanity.

Since it was handed down to me through Caleb Moore, my great, great, great grandfather, his ydna would be identical to mine, meaning that his direct male ancestry is Western European, not Native American. That doesn’t mean that Caleb had no Native American ancestry; it only means that it was not passed down to him by his father or by his father’s father, etc.

It will require an mtdna test from a direct female descendant of Elizabeth Moore Raulerson to look back at Elizabeth’s direct female ancestry, which would be identical to that of her mother, Eunicy Brierly and her grandmother, Bethea Brierly. Hopefully, there is at least one direct female descendant of Elizabeth living today who would be willing to be mtdna-tested and to share the results.

Some Raulerson family researchers have reported a child being born to William and Elizabeth Moore Raulerson in 1799. According to their ages (64 and 62) at the time of the 1850 census for Columbia County, Florida, Elizabeth would have been 13 years old and William 11 in 1799. At these ages, it is highly unlikely that a child born in 1799 could be considered theirs. Census takers do make errors, but it is unlikely that they erred twice in recording the birth dates of individuals in the same household.

It is also unlikely that William and Elizabeth met before 1803, the earliest that Caleb and family could have moved to Wayne County (William’s family had moved into neighboring Glynn County in 1801). From Raulerson family sheets that I have seen, it appears to me that their first child was Elizabeth, who was born in 1812, and that their second child was William, born 1815. Supporting my conclusion that these were their first two children is the fact that this female child was given the same name as her mother (Elizabeth), and the male the same name as his father (William).

Following are the names of all seven children that appear to have been born to Elizabeth and William, along with their years of birth as taken from various census reports, and their marital status: Elizabeth, born 1812, never married; William, born 1815, marital status unknown; Emily, born 1816, married Stephen Hull; Westberry or “Wes,” born 1819, married Elizabeth Canady; Frances “Fannie,” born 1820, married James Albritton; Jacob, born 1823, married Dora Ann _____; and Isabel, born 1824, married Jesse Johns.¹⁹

William and Elizabeth Moore Raulerson were members of High Bluff Baptist Church (in Wayne County, later to become Brantley County). Elizabeth’s brother, John, was also a member there. In 1825, soon after their last child was born, Elizabeth and William ended their membership in this church.²⁰

William served as a Georgia militiaman during the War of 1812; he and two of Caleb’s sons, John and Benjamin, were members of the same militia unit, the 74th Battalion, which was headquartered in Wayne County. Some militia records show William serving as a mounted spy.²¹

In 1828 or 1829, many years before Florida became a state, Elizabeth and William moved into the Florida territory and set up residence in Alachua County, which adjoined the Georgia state line at the time. Two of Elizabeth’s brothers, Benjamin and William Moore, also moved their families to Florida prior to 1830, for they - as well as the Raulersons - are listed in the 1830 census report for Alachua County. In fact, one of the brothers, William, lived practically next door to his sister Elizabeth. We will have more to say later about Benjamin and William later on.

The Raulersons settled on the “north prong” of the St. Mary’s River²² (see map on page 23). Elizabeth’s brother, William Moore, settled there too. The St. Mary’s River serves as the boundary line between Georgia and Florida in this area. The left side of the “U,” formed by the river as it comes out of the southeastern side of the Okefenokee Swamp before curving back north, is referred to as the north prong. Here they would live in ever-present danger of attack by Seminole Indians.

A little background on the Seminoles.²³ Around the early 1700’s, splinter groups from a number of Native American tribes began drifting into southern Georgia and northern Florida. Without much in common but geography, they began to hunt, fish, farm and herd livestock.

By 1750 a number of small villages had arisen, especially along the Suwannee River, all linked by well-traveled paths and by intermarriage. Their numbers were greatly expanded in the late 1700’s and early 1800’s by other Native Americans, mostly Creeks, who had ceded their lands in Georgia and Alabama.

¹⁹ In the 1840 census report for Columbia County, Florida, an Elizabeth Raulerson was listed as being 28 years old. In that same report, a William Raulerson was listed as being age 25 and a Fannie Raulerson as age 20. In the Columbia County, Florida 1850 census report, a Westberry Raulerson was listed as being 31, an Isabel Johns, as 26, and a Jacob Raulerson, 27. In the 1860 Hillsborough County, Florida census report, an Emily Hull was listed as 44.

²⁰ See Huxford, Vol. 5, pp. 356-357.

²¹ Georgia Military Records, Vol. 1, 1779-1839, Georgia Department of Archives and History.

²² The Baker County Press, November 9, 1978.

²³ The New Georgia Encyclopedia. Internet-based, it is sponsored by the State of Georgia, Univ. of Ga., and others.

Somewhere along the way the Spanish, who claimed the territory of Florida at the time, began referring to all Native Americans who had settled there as “Seminoles” (actually, the original word was “cimarrone,” the Spanish word for “rebel,” or “outlaw.”) These “illegal immigrants” were tolerated by the Spanish, who looked upon the Seminoles as a shield against the more aggressive white man who definitely had his eye on the Spanish territory of Florida.

Inevitably, in the early 1800’s, a few white settlers began pushing their way across the border into Florida, and the relationship between the Seminoles and settlers went from uneasy to hostile. A splinter group of Seminoles sought revenge against the settlers’ encroachment by periodically attacking them, usually one settler’s family and home at a time. The group would often hide out in the Okefenokee Swamp after the attack (see map on page 23).

The U.S. Government built a series of small forts around the huge swamp, each one manned with just a handful of soldiers, in an effort to help protect the white settlers. One of these forts, Fort Moniac, was built on the Florida side of the north prong of the St. Mary’s River. Elizabeth and William built their home on the north prong within a mile of the fort.

On August 19, 1839, “between sunset and dark,” the homes of settlers living near Fort Moniac were attacked by about 65 Indians. Several homes were burned to the ground and several of the occupants killed. One of those killed was Sarah Dukes Raulerson, wife of Nimrod Raulerson. Nimrod was William Raulerson’s brother.²⁴

Sarah and all their children were home at the time of the attack, but the children were spared. After killing Mrs. Raulerson, the attackers either left or put her body in the house and set the house on fire. Nimrod, who had been over playing cards with the soldiers at Fort Moniac when the attack came, dashed home to find his wife’s charred remains in the ashes. Sarah had predicted to her husband a number of times that “one day you will come home to find me dead at the hands of Indians.”²⁵

On February 2, 1843, two years before Florida became a state, William Raulerson received authorization to operate a ferry across the north prong of the St. Mary’s river near his and Elizabeth’s home. The landing area and the community of homes that developed around it became known far and wide as Raulerson’s Landing. Years later, Raulerson’s Landing was renamed Baxter, which still exists today.

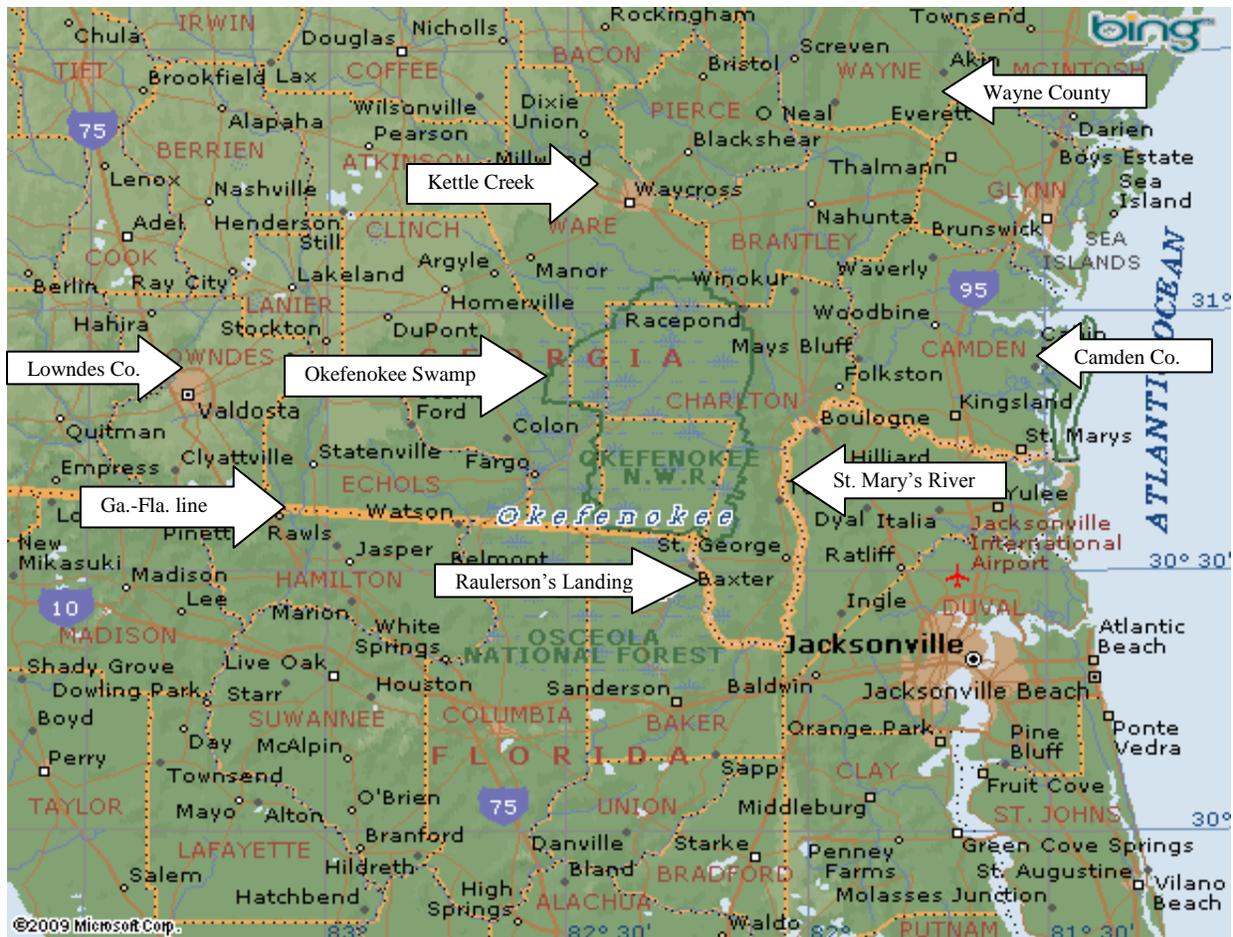
Where there once was a ferry crossing, there is now a bridge, a part of Florida Highway 2. Baxter anchors the west end of the bridge on the Florida side and the small community of Moniac anchors the east end on the Georgia side. The Moniac community was not established on the site of old Fort Moniac, which was on the Florida side of the River.²⁶

The 1850 census found William and Elizabeth still living there in what had become Columbia County, later to be designated New River County and, finally, Baker County. Living next door to

²⁴ “Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia,” Vol. 9, p. 362.

²⁵ Historical features in The Baker County (Florida) Press, November 9, 1978 and August 3, 1980.

²⁶ Baker County Press, September 1, 1977.



Current map of southeast Georgia and northeast Florida where Caleb Moore's children settled.

William and Elizabeth was their oldest child, Elizabeth. William died there in 1858 at the age of 70, and was buried close by in North Prong Cemetery.

Elizabeth Moore Raulerson was still living in that area at the time of the 1860 census. Sometime after that she moved in with her daughter, Emily Raulerson Hull, who was then living in Lakeland, Florida. Elizabeth died there on October 6, 1867 at the age of 81. (Her brother John, then a resident of Lowndes County, Georgia, would die 75 days later.) She was buried at Gapeway Cemetery in Lakeland, Florida, the burial grounds of the Hull family.

Levicy Moore. (Also known as "Lovey," and whose given name was probably Levina or Lovina, as explained later.) The earliest document on Levicy that has been found is the 1822 Wayne County affidavit signed by Eunicy and all five children (see footnote 6, p. 5). Levicy was referred to in the document as Levicy Nobles. Signing the document on Levicy's behalf was Thomas Nobles, obviously her husband.

With that information in hand, we then backtracked to the 1820 census for Wayne County, where we found a Thomas Nobles listed as the head of a household. His age was given as 45 or older, which would place his year of birth as being 1775 or before. In the household with him were four males and five females. Two of the males were under the age of 10 and two 10 to 15 years old.

Four of the females were under the age of 10 and the fifth was between the ages of 26 and 44, the oldest one, no doubt, being Levicy.

As to Levicy's year of birth, we know from the 1790 census report for Pitt County that she born before that census took place. We also know from the 1820 census report for Wayne County that Levicy and Thomas's oldest child was born no earlier than 1805 and no later than 1810. On the basis of this information, I have estimated Levicy's birth year to be around 1788.

The Thomas Nobles household was not found in the following (1830) census report for Wayne County, or in any of the reports for surrounding counties. Thomas would have been at least 55 years old in 1830, possibly much older, and may very well have died by then.

We did, however, find a Thomas Nobles in both the 1830 and 1840 censuses for Camden County, living alone both times. He was listed as being between the ages of 30 and 40 in the 1830 census and between the ages of 40 and 50 in the 1840 census. These age ranges do not match up with the age range listed for the Thomas Nobles in the 1820 Wayne County report, so he obviously was not Levicy's husband. And he appears to be too old to be Thomas and Levicy's son.

The next time Levicy's name appeared on a document was in 1837 when she, along with her mother and her siblings, signed an affidavit certifying that they were the legal heirs of Caleb Moore (see footnote 16, p. 17). This time, Levicy signed the document herself (or, more accurately, placed her "x") as Levicy Rutledge.²⁷ Obviously, Levicy had remarried. Lacking a first name for Mr. Rutledge, we were unable to trace him any further.

It appears that Levicy married a third time. Huxford (Vol. 1, p. 186) reports that Lovey Nobles married Noah Mizell, son of Jesse Mizell, on February 5, 1846. It gives Noah's birth year as 1800 but lists no birth year for Lovey Nobles. Huxford later reports (Vol. 2, p. 312) that Lovey Nobles was the daughter of Thomas and Lovey Moore Nobles of Wayne County.

However, in the 1850 census report for Camden County, Georgia, there is a listing for Noah Mizell, age 50, and right under his name is the name Lovina Mizell, age 60. It gives her place of birth as North Carolina. There was no one else in the household. The age of 50 listed in the census report for this Noah Mizell matches the birth year (1800) of Noah Mizell, son of Jesse, reported by Huxford (Vol. 1, p. 186).

The age of 60 listed on the report for Lovina Mizell places her year of birth at 1790. This is extremely close to the birth year (1788) that I had earlier estimated for Levicy, daughter of Caleb and Eunicy Brierly Moore. Consequently, there can be little doubt that "Lovina" Mizell and Levicy, daughter of Caleb and Eunicy, are one and the same. As previously mentioned, her given name was probably Lovina or Levinia, but was known as both "Levicy" and "Lovey."

So, instead of Noah Mizell marrying Caleb and Eunicy's granddaughter as reported by Huxford, he married Caleb and Eunicy's daughter.

²⁷ Caleb and Eunicy and all their children were unable to write. Their documents were signed with an "x" mark.

Were Levicy and John Moore twins? According to the age she gave the census taker, they were. On the other hand, maybe she was fudging on her age just a bit. Assuming that she gave her correct age to the census taker in 1850, she would have been 56 when she married Noah Mizell.

It appears that one of Thomas and Levicy Moore Nobles' four sons was named Nathaniel (an old Nobles family name) because in the 1850 census report for Alachua County, Florida there is a Nathaniel Nobles listed with a child named "Levinia." No doubt this child was named after her grandmother Levinia or Lovina Moore Nobles.

In any event, this Nathaniel Nobles was listed as age 40 and born in Georgia. This places his year of birth at 1810. According to the 1820 census for Wayne County, Georgia, Thomas and Levicy Moore Nobles had two sons born between 1805 and 1810, and two between 1810 and 1820, so this Nathaniel would fit well within the age ranges given for the Noble sons. There was a female named Celia Nobles, age 36, listed on this census report next to Nathaniel, obviously Nathaniel's wife, and there were seven children in the household.

Benjamin Moore. The earliest document found bearing Benjamin's name regarded his duty as a militiaman during the War of 1812.²⁸ He was a member of the 74th Battalion, Georgia Militia. This battalion was headquartered in Wayne County. His name appears on a roster of soldiers in the 74th Battalion who were called up for duty during the month of December 1813. Listed on the duty roster next to Benjamin was his brother, John.

Benjamin's name was next found on "A compilation of marriages in Camden County, Georgia through 1865" by Nancy Gay Crawford. In this compilation, Benjamin Moore was listed as marrying Rebecca Sparkman on March 8, 1814 (a later census report shows that Rebecca was a native of North Carolina).

On October 7, 1822, Benjamin, along with his siblings and mother, signed the Wayne County, Georgia affidavit dated October 7, 1822, certifying to be a lawful heir of Caleb Moore (see footnote 6, p. 5).

In 1830, we found Benjamin, Rebecca and their children living in Alachua County, Florida, the same county in which Benjamin's brother, William, and his sister, Elizabeth, were living. Apparently Benjamin and his family did not live in the same area of the county as his siblings, because when the northern half of the county was later split off to become Columbia County, the two siblings became residents of Columbia County whereas Benjamin and his family continued to reside in Alachua County.

In the 1830 census, both Benjamin and Rebecca were listed as being between the ages of 30 and 39, meaning that they were born between 1791 and 1800. In the household with them were six children: one male and one female age 5 or younger, one male 6 to 10, two males 11 to 15 and one female 11 to 15.

²⁸ Georgia Dept. of Archives and History, Georgia Military Records, Vol. 1, 1779-1839.

Benjamin's name was next found in an 1834 Wayne County "Land Court" document dated December 2, 1834.²⁹ On that date the "Land Court" met in the Wayne County, Georgia courthouse and "preceded to business," granting 1000 acres each to 40 individuals or couples. Benjamin Moore was one of the recipients. The court met several other times and granted land to other individuals. Its recorded actions gave absolutely no other information, such as the legal basis for the land grants, how the grantees were selected, a description of the property, or its location.

I found nothing to indicate that Benjamin and his family returned to Wayne County from Alachua County, Florida. But there would have been good cause for them to leave Florida around 1835, when the Seminoles dramatically escalated their attacks on white settlers living along the Georgia-Florida line. If Benjamin and family did leave Florida, they were back in Alachua County, Florida in time to be included in the 1840 census.

On August 21, 1837, Benjamin signed the second Wayne County, Georgia, affidavit certifying that he was a lawful heir of Caleb Moore (see footnote 16, p. 17).

Benjamin's household in the 1840 census report for Alachua County Florida matches up with the 1830 report for this family in numbers and ages, except the female who was between the ages of 11 and 15 in 1830 was missing in the 1840 report. It is reasonable to assume that she was out on her own by 1840.

Living right next door to Benjamin and family was a Z. Sparkman, male, age 60 to 70 years old. Mr. Sparkman was most likely the father of Rebecca Sparkman, Benjamin's wife. There were others in the household with Mr. Sparkman, all of them 20 or more years younger than he. He was apparently living with one of his children and living next to another (Benjamin's wife). Close by were two other Sparkman families, probably other children of his and their families.

On January 29, 1848, Benjamin and Rebecca's daughter, Elizabeth, married Stephen Dampier, who was born in Chatham County, Georgia.³⁰ Stephen and Elizabeth were listed in the 1850 census report for Alachua County, Florida. Stephen was listed as a farmer and his age was given as 26. Elizabeth was listed as age 21 and from South Carolina. Three children were in the household (there would eventually be 11 children). Residing in the household with this family was Benjamin's wife, Rebecca Moore, apparently now a widow. Her age was listed as 58.

As to Benjamin's year of birth, we know from the 1830 and 1840 census reports for Alachua County, Florida that he was born between 1791 and 1800. We also know from the 1850 census for Alachua County that Rebecca was born in 1792. On the basis of this information, I have estimated Benjamin's year of birth to be 1792, the same as his wife's. If that birth year is correct, Benjamin died at age 58 or younger (Benjamin's father, Caleb, died when he was about 56).

²⁹ Old Record Book D, p. 324.

³⁰ See Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, Vol. 8, p. 77.

William Moore. The earliest information that we have on William is contained in an affidavit executed on October 7, 1822 in Wayne County, Georgia (see footnote 6, p. 5). In that document, William, his siblings and their mother, Eunicy, all certified to being the lawful heirs of Caleb Moore.

In the 1830 census report for Alachua County, Florida, we found William living practically next door to his sister Elizabeth. He is listed as being between the ages of 20 and 30. We know that he was age 53 at the time of the 1850 census, which would put his age at 33 in 1830; therefore the report obviously placed him in the wrong age category. William's wife was also listed as between the ages of 20 and 30. In the household with William and his wife were one male 6 to 10 years old, one female 5 or under and one female 6 to 10.

In 1837, William's name appears on another Wayne County, Georgia affidavit (see footnote 16, p. 17). In this document, William and all his siblings and Eunicy again certified to being the lawful heirs of Caleb.

William and his family's whereabouts at the time of the 1840 census are not known; they did not appear in the Columbia County, Florida census report for that year. It is likely that the sharp escalation of Seminole attacks along the Georgia-Florida border that began in 1835 was the reason for their leaving.

The next information found on William was in the 1850 census report of Camden County, Georgia (see map on p. 23), a county that adjoined Wayne County at the time. William was listed as being 53 years old with his occupation being "Farmer." This places his year of birth as 1797. In the household with him were three males: Calab, 6, (no doubt Caleb misspelled by the census taker), Jasper, 4, and Stephen, 2. There were also two females: Betsy, 25, and Luda, 10.

William's wife had probably died by then. Betsy, the 25 year old female in the household, was probably William's daughter, as there was a female in an age bracket in his 1830 household that would match up with Betsy's age of 25 in 1850. The young children in the household were, in all probability, Betsy's.

After finding William in the 1830 census, we looked back to the 1820 Wayne County census report to see if William and his wife could have been the couple living in the household at that time with William's mother, Eunicy. We know it could not have been any of the other four children of Caleb and Eunicy, because they all were married and had children by then, whereas William had not.

The age range listed for the male in Eunicy's household in the 1820 census report was 26 to 44; William was 23 that year, so he fits. The age range listed for the female in Eunicy's household was 16 to 25; William's wife was listed in the 1830 census as being between the ages of 20 and 30 so she would fit, too. Since there is a matchup in ages, it appears reasonable to conclude that it was William and his wife who were living in the household with Eunicy in 1820.

5

JOHN BEGINS HIS OWN ADVENTURE

John Moore could be called an adventurer as readily as he could be called a pioneer. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Caleb, who had moved the family from a well-established community in North Carolina to the very fringes of civilization in Georgia. John, now a family man himself, was about to begin his own adventure.

First, he moved his family from the frontier county of Wayne some 50 miles deep into no-man's land. Then, before the family hardly had time to catch its breath, it was off to the territory of Florida, which had been purchased by the United States from Spain just three years prior, and would not become a state for another 23 years. Two years after moving into Florida, John and family were back in their previous settlement. Five years later, they ventured another 50 miles or so farther westward, this time into recently-formed Lowndes County.

All these locations were subject to attack by Native Americans who, having successfully avoided efforts by the white man to move them off their lands thus far, were in no mood to welcome white neighbors. But we are getting ahead of our story.

On November 28, 1811, John married Nancy Osteen.³¹ Nancy was the daughter of John and Ada Weeks Osteen. John Osteen, Revolutionary Soldier, was born about 1760. He and Ada Weeks, born about 1765, grew up together in Carteret County, North Carolina, married there around 1787, and moved to the Beaufort District of South Carolina around 1795 where daughter Nancy was born the following year.³²

Sometime between 1805 and 1810, the Osteen family moved to Wayne County, Georgia. It was here where John Moore and Nancy Osteen were married and had their first three of 18 children: Phoebe in 1812, Leonard in 1814, and Allen in 1815.

John joined the Georgia Militia, 74th Battalion, which was headquartered in Wayne County and was called up for military service during the war of 1812. His name appears on a roster of those in the 74th Battalion called up to duty during the month of December 1813. Listed on the duty roster next to him was his brother, Benjamin. They were in a unit of mounted scouts, commanded by a Captain Walker.³³

The document shows that each man under Captain Walker, including John and Benjamin Moore, had performed services for five days, beginning on December 10, 1813. The document also shows that each man had drawn five rations for himself and five for his horse. The place where

³¹ As recorded in the family Bible of John Moore, son of Caleb.

³² *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia* Vol. 11, pp. 515- 516.

³³ *Georgia Military Records, Vol. 1, 1779-1839, Georgia Department of Archives and History.*

this unit conducted its scouting activities was not given, although in all probability it was right there in Wayne County which shared its western boundary with the Creek Indian Nation. Given its close proximity to the Creeks, the militia there was far more likely to be on guard against the Creeks who were being courted with some success by the British to join their side, rather than on guard against the British themselves.

John's name also appears on a roll of militiamen detached for duty at Camp Wayne, Georgia "on the frontier of Wayne County" for the period December 7, 1814 to Jan. 15, 1815. On this document, he held the rank of corporal. Appearing on this same document was his brother-in-law, William Raulerson, who was listed as one of nine "mounted spies."

In 1817, John and Nancy and their children moved westward, 50 miles deep into an area that had been ceded by the Creeks only three years earlier. They settled by a stream to become known as Kettle Creek (see map on p. 23). A place of worship, given the name Kettle Creek Baptist Church, would eventually be erected by the settlers of the area, and a small community would slowly develop around it.

Less than miles to the northwest, a larger community called Waresboro would soon develop and, later on, a railroad town called Waycross would spring up about five miles to the southeast (the western boundary of the present-day city limits of Waycross rests approximately on Kettle Creek). The northwestern edge of the Okefenokee Swamp was about 15 miles to the south of Kettle Creek.

The Kettle Creek area would not be surveyed and divided into land lots by the State of Georgia until 1820, three years after John and family had moved there. The only conclusion that one can draw from this is that John and family came to the Kettle Creek area as squatters, a fairly common practice during that stage of our country's development.

Apparently there were other squatters that settled there more or less at the same time as John. Laura Singleton Walker, in her "History of Ware County," published in 1934, said: "Among the first settlers may be included: William Smith, William Dryden, James Fulwood, John Williams, James Sweat, John Moor, ..." (more than a dozen additional names were listed). Mrs. Walker goes on to say:

"Few of them were people of large means, but they were industrious, pious, and thrifty. Life in this primitive settlement was very simple. The farmer raised about all that was needed in the way of provision for family use, such as rice, corn, potatoes, sugar cane, cows and hogs.

"Many of the first families lived on large land lots, remote from one another, and made no other effort than to live comfortably, and in an independent way. For years they only raised family supplies, spun and wove their clothing, handling but little currency. In those days it was difficult to go to market, on account of bad roads, and not daring to leave their families unprotected at home for fear of an Indian raid.

"They went once a year to Trader's Hill, Center Village, or Coleraine [all three were trading posts on the St. Mary's River; see map on p. 23], finding little trouble in securing all needful

clothing, some salt, calico, cotton and woolen cards, and nails. This was about the extent of their purchases.

“They always had something to sell. The hides, beeswax, tallow, syrup, chickens, bacon and eggs kept them from ever discussing hard times. They sold at the trading posts fat hens for \$1.50 per dozen [yes, per dozen], eggs for 10 cents and 12 ½ cents a dozen, fine beef was furnished at 3 cents a pound, and fresh pork and bacon at 6 cents per pound. The houses were of logs, built by the home seekers themselves; while not very attractive, they were comfortable.”

The year that the John Moore family moved to Kettle Creek, Nancy gave birth to their fourth child, Ransom. Their fifth child, Westberry, was born there in 1819. It is interesting to note that John’s sister Elizabeth and her husband William Raulerson also named one of their sons Westberry, and that both Westberrys were born the same year.

In 1820, John was baptized and became a member of the High Bluff Baptist Church, which was the church he had attended while living in Wayne County and quite a distance (about 50 miles) from his new home. He was a delegate from that church to the Piedmont Association in 1822.³⁴ Malinda, John and Nancy’s sixth child, was born that same year.

Also in 1822, John and Nancy and their six children, all under the age of 10, moved into the Florida territory, the exact area unknown. It is most likely that John moved there for the same reason that he made his previous move: looking for better land; like Wayne County, Ware County was not particularly noted for its fertile soil. But I imagine an adventurous spirit had something to do with it, too.

It had only been four years since General Andrew Jackson had attempted to clear the Seminole Indians from the Georgia–Florida–Alabama borders and, without explicit orders, had also occupied the Florida Territory which was then a Spanish possession. But unauthorized or not, Jackson’s occupation strengthened the U.S. Government’s hand in negotiations with Spain, who ceded Florida to the U.S. shortly thereafter, in 1819. It was held as a territory by the United States until 1845, when it became the 27th state to join the Union.

The family did not stay long in Florida, however, moving back to Kettle Creek in less than two years.³⁵ The short stay was probably due to the increased risk of attack by the Seminoles. General Jackson had been only partially successful in driving them out of the area along the Georgia-Florida line.

But moving back to Kettle Creek did not improve their safety all that much, for the Seminoles were conducting raids on all four sides of the Okefenokee Swamp, not just the southern side, which was right on the Georgia-Florida line. The last attack on the northern side did not come until 1838, and it was within 3 miles of Kettle Creek.³⁶

³⁴ Huxford, Vol. 3, pp. 217-218.

³⁵ Memoir of Allen Moore by Joseph L. Lancaster, Valdosta Times, July 29, 1893.

³⁶ Georgia State Archives. Letter dated July 25, 1838 to Governor George R. Gilmer from Colonel Thomas Hilliard, in which the attack was described.

As an indication of just how dangerous it was to live in Kettle Creek, one of the government's small forts that encircled the Okefenokee to offer the settlers some degree of protection was located right in the Kettle Creek settlement.

According to family lore, John became quite good at "out-Indianing the Indians." One of the family stories handed down through the generations is that John was out in the woods by himself one day when he happened upon a small party of hostile Seminoles. The Seminoles gave chase but John's swift running left them so far behind that they became discouraged and turned around. Once the news of this episode got around, the teasing started and John soon acquired the nickname of "Indian John."

By 1823, Kettle Creek Baptist Church had been built and John and Nancy became founding members.³⁷ Their seventh child, Easter, was born that year. In 1824, Kettle Creek became part of Ware County. In 1825, John and Nancy's eighth child, Nancy, was born.

The Ware County courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1854, so some of John's land transactions in that county may never be known, including whether he was able to obtain deeds to any land he had apparently settled as a squatter before the territory was surveyed. However, two of his deed transactions were re-recorded after the fire.

The first deed was dated December 4, 1826, when he purchased from William Lord of Wilkinson County for \$10, lot 154 of the 8th District, consisting of 490 acres.³⁸ Kettle Creek ran through this property. John kept the land for less than a year, selling it on September 23, 1827 to Absalom Cossy (Causey) for \$50,³⁹ a 500% profit in less than one year. The year that John sold this property - 1827 - Levi was born. David was born in 1828 and Sidney in 1829.

6

PUTTING DOWN PERMANENT ROOTS

John Moore, son of Caleb, and family moved again in 1829, this time to Lowndes County, Georgia⁴⁰ (see map on p. 23). John and Nancy now had 11 children, ranging in age from just-born to 17. Yet, Nancy was only 33 and John 39, and there were seven children yet to be born.

About the time that John was moving to Lowndes County, three of his siblings, Elizabeth, Benjamin and William, were moving across the state line into the Florida territory.

It is not known exactly where John and family lived in Lowndes County during their first three or four years, except that it was "near the head of Cherry Creek."⁴¹ The head of Cherry Creek is

³⁷ Huxford, Vol. 3, pp. 217-218.

³⁸ Ware County re-recorded deeds, book G, p. 729.

³⁹ Ware County re-recorded deeds, book G, p. 730.

⁴⁰ Huxford, Vol. 3, pp. 217-218.

⁴¹ Huxford, Vol 3, pp. 217-218.

very close to where the family finally settled, and the two spots might be one and the same, with John possibly renting the land (and maybe the house too) until he bought it in 1833.

In 1830, the year after they moved to Lowndes County, Ransom, their fourth child, died. He was only 13. That same year, Cassie was born, followed by John, Jr. in 1832.

In 1833 John bought his first tract of land: Lot 239, consisting of 495 acres.⁴² The intersection of present day Knights Academy Road and U.S. Highway 221/Georgia Highway 31 roughly marks the northeastern corner of this tract. (In the office of the Clerk of Court at the Lowndes County Courthouse, there is a county map with an overlay of the location of the originally surveyed land lots. By looking at this map, one can tell exactly where each lot is relative to the roads in existence today).⁴³

Even though John arrived just four years after Lowndes County was founded, he was not the first to own Lot 239, or any of the other lots he would later own. Whether he moved into an existing house or whether he built it himself is not known. At the least, he must have added a wing to accommodate his large family. In any event, the log house into which he and his family moved became his and Nancy's residence for the remainder of their lives.

John had the property resurveyed in 1844.⁴⁴ The survey plat shows a road running diagonally through the very center of the property, from the southwestern to the northeastern corner, and carried the surveyor's notation, "Stage Road, Brunswick" (a Georgia town on the Atlantic coast).

Stage Road ran eastward from Thomasville, Georgia which was about 50 miles to the west, through Troupville, Lowndes County's seat of government at the time, continuing on in a northeasterly direction toward the present town of Lakeland where it crossed the Alapaha River and on to Waresboro (near Kettle Creek in Ware County). There it connected with other roads that led to settlements on the Atlantic Coast, including Brunswick, Georgia.

Stage Road was not on an 1830 map of Lowndes County, but it was there on one made in 1834, so it was apparently constructed during the interim period. This road, the first one to cut right through the center of Lowndes County and the first one to service the county seat, ran right through the middle of John and Nancy's property. It appears that John and Nancy had picked a spot in that sparsely settled wilderness that offered them the best opportunity for staying in touch with others in the area, and with the outside world.

Their house sat right beside Stage Road, later to become a part of Old State Road. As was the case for practically all, if not all, early American roads, this one probably followed a trail beaten out over hundreds of years by Native Americans, and south Georgia settlers probably widened it just enough, where necessary, for a horse and wagon to pass through.

⁴² This Lowndes County deed was re-recorded January 14, 1859.

⁴³ A miniature version of the map can be seen in the front of the book, "History of Lowndes County Georgia, 1825-1941," also inside the back cover of Jane Twitty Shelton's "Pines and Pioneers, a history of Lowndes County, Georgia, 1825-1900."

⁴⁴ See surveyor Jeremiah Wilson's book of original surveys, stored at Brooks County, Georgia's Old Court House.



John and Nancy Moore's log house, built in 1833 or earlier. Five generations of Moores lived there. It was destroyed by fire around 1963. Date of photo unknown.

In the 1930's, parts of the road, including the part that ran through John and Nancy's property, became the roadbed for Georgia Highway 31, and even later, U.S. Highway 221.

In 1834, John and Nancy's 14th child, Stephen, was born; he was followed by Rachel in 1835.

John and family did not leave behind their vulnerability to Native American attack when they left Ware County. There were few Native Americans living in south Georgia after 1824; the Creeks had officially ceded all their lands in Georgia before then, and all but a few holdouts had resettled across the Chattahoochee River in Alabama. But in 1834, when the U.S. Government reached yet another agreement with the Creeks, this time to resettle them west of the Mississippi, elements of the Creek Nation decided, in effect, that enough was enough and refused to go.

Those refusing to move decided to cast their lot with the Seminoles in Florida, and many of them attempted to make their way to Florida (or to the Okefenokee Swamp) through south Georgia. The primary corridor they used passed through parts of Lowndes County. As they moved through this corridor, they took out their revenge for all the wrongs heaped upon them by pillaging the property of the settlers along the way, and in a few instances, committing murder.⁴⁵

In response, a group of Lowndes County volunteers sprang into action. On July 10, 1836, the volunteers and a group of Creeks collided on the banks of the Little River in the northwestern part of the county. It became known as the Battle of Brushy Creek.

⁴⁵ See "History of Lowndes County Georgia, 1825-1941;" also, Jane Twitty Shelton's "Pines and Pioneers, a history of Lowndes County, Georgia, 1825-1900."

On August 5, 1836, the citizens of Lowndes County petitioned the Governor of Georgia for relief, stating that “the citizens are being forced to desirt (sic) the county.” Signing the petition were 100 residents of Lowndes County, including John Moore, son of Caleb, and one of his oldest sons, Allen. John was 46 years old and Allen was 21. The Governor was extremely slow to act (a little over two years, in fact) and in the meantime the Lowndes Countians were left to fend for themselves.

On August 24, 1836, a battle between local settlers and Native Americans was fought in the southeastern part of Lowndes County, near the Ware County line. This became known as the Battle of Cow Creek.

Four Lowndes County companies made up of volunteers were finally authorized by the Governor in August 1838. John’s son, Allen was a member of one of these units (Captain Jesse Carter’s Independent Company). He was listed as a private, a higher ranking than most of the volunteers in his unit.⁴⁶ John’s name did not appear on any of these lists, probably due to his age. By 1840, the crisis was over for the Lowndes Countians.

In 1837, John and Nancy had their 16th child, Warren. In 1839, Jesse, my great grandfather, was born. In 1842 John and Nancy’s 18th and last child, Irwin, was born. John was 52 and Nancy 46. Their children’s births spanned 30 years.

In 1840, John bought his second tract of land.⁴⁷ It too consisted of an entire lot (Lot 240, 495 acres) and adjoined the southern side of the tract he already owned.

In 1844, John bought his third tract (Lot 291, 463 acres).⁴⁸ This tract was about four miles southeast of the other two tracts that John owned, a considerable distance in those days when the fastest means of transportation was a horse. It was located about a mile west of the small community of Blanton. Howell Road now serves as the southern boundary of the property.

The Old Naylor Road runs east and west through the property, about one quarter of the way down from its northern boundary. Also, Otter Road runs north and south through the property near its western boundary, connecting the Old Naylor Road to the Howell Road. Otter Creek, which flows in a southeasterly direction, touches the southwestern corner of the lot on its way to Grand Bay Creek a couple of miles to the southeast.

Six years later, in 1850, John bought his fourth tract (Lot 238, 495 acres).⁴⁹ This tract adjoined the northern side of the first tract he purchased. Knights Academy Road now serves as the dividing line between these two tracts. Grand Bay runs east and west just a short distance to the north of the property, and just on the other side of the bay is the southern boundary of present day Moody Air Force Base.

⁴⁶ Military records of the State of Georgia, 1779-1839, I, 254.

⁴⁷ This Lowndes County deed was re-recorded on January 14, 1859. See book of re-recorded deeds, pp. 228-229.

⁴⁸ This Lowndes County deed was re-recorded September 17, 1860. See book of re-recorded deeds.

⁴⁹ Recorded in the Lowndes County courthouse, but the date it was recorded and in which deed book is unknown.

Lot 238 was the most fertile tract of land that John owned, according to my father, Staten Felma Moore, who rented it around 1941 or 1942 and planted it to corn. As a 10 or 11-year old, I recall helping “pick up” a number of two-horse wagon loads of the ripened corn that had been “broken” (hand-harvested) and piled every 30 feet or so along the rows of corn, and hauling it to our farm about four miles away. By that time, the land had passed into the hands of Haley Gardner Moore, my grandfather (the son of Jesse and the grandson of John).

John, now 60 years old, began to pass some of the land on to his sons. On September 14, 1850 he sold Lot 291, his third land purchase, to sons Allen, 35 and Levi, 23, for \$300.⁵⁰ Allen and Levi were John and Nancy’s second and fifth oldest sons. This would become a pattern of John’s: deeding one undivided lot of land to two sons. It is unclear how the sons divided the land between themselves. (This was the only time that he did not grant the land to his sons as a gift.)

Although he had begun disposing of some of his land, John had not ceased buying (he would ultimately acquire a total of 2600 acres). He bought his fifth tract in 1853 (Lot 306, 514 acres).⁵¹ It lay about a mile south and slightly east of his third land purchase (Lot 291).

Grand Bay Creek ran through the southeastern section of that property and Otter Creek touched the southwestern corner before emptying into Grand Bay Creek about a half mile below. Lake Park Road now cuts through the property, entering at about the half-way point on its northern boundary and exiting near its southwestern corner about where Otter Creek Road dead-ends.

Just three months after purchasing this property, John deeded it to sons Warren and Jesse, his and Nancy’s 9th and 10th sons, “in consideration of the natural love and affection which he has for them.” Warren was 15 and Jesse only 13.

On June 4, 1853, less than a month after he deeded land to Warren and Jesse, John deeded Lot 240, his second land purchase, to sons Stephen, 18, and Irwin, 11, the 14th and 18th children to be born into the family. This is the tract of land on which John and Nancy were later buried.

There were no further land transactions for approximately 10 years. Then on October 24, 1863, John deeded Lot 238, the fourth tract of land he purchased, to James Burton Moore and Delemo Jackson Moore, his grandsons and the sons of John Moore, Jr. These grandsons were only 6 and 7 years old. At the time, their father, John, Jr., was a Civil War soldier fighting in Virginia alongside his brothers.

Somewhere along the way, John bought another 100 acres of land. The date he purchased it is unknown, but he sold it on January 31, 1866. This land transaction was different in two respects: (1) it was the only land he bought that did not consist of an entire land lot; and (2) it was the only transaction found where John had deeded land to anyone other than his sons or, in one case, his grandsons.

⁵⁰ This Lowndes County deed was re-recorded on September 18, 1860. See book of re-recorded deeds, p. 583.

⁵¹ This Lowndes County deed was recorded on February 8, 1853. Deed book and page number is unknown.

He sold it to John Dozier for \$500. The property was located about three miles due east of his home place, on the east side of Lot 314, just east and north of where Bergman and Marshall Roads intersect.

Five months later, on June 21, 1866, John deeded all remaining land to son Jesse, “in consideration of the natural love and affection which he has and bears to his son.” The property consisted of Lot 239, the first tract of land John had purchased and on which the log house sat, plus the northern half of Lot 240. Lot 240 was the lot that John had deeded earlier to Stephen and Irwin. Both lost their lives in the Civil War, and John had apparently decided to regain title to the half he had given Irwin since Irwin was unmarried and had no heirs.

John also passed on to Jesse “thirty six head of stock cattle marked with a crop, split and upper bit in each year [sic] and half flower de luce in each year [sic]. Also three head of horses, a bay mare quarter [?] years old and a bay colt five months old, and one stallion three years old, dark color and all the present growing crops on the aforesaid described premises.” There probably was an understanding that, in return, Jesse and his wife, Matilda, would move in with John and Nancy, and look after them for the remainder of their lives, as that is what occurred.

Over the years John had deeded land to six of his sons – Allen, Levi, Warren, Stephen, Jesse and Irwin – and to the sons of a seventh son, John, Jr. It leaves one wondering why he deeded no land to sons Leonard, Westberry and David. Had they, like Ransom, died young? It appears that no mention of their deaths was noted in John’s family Bible, whereas Ransom’s death was recorded there. Nothing is known of the lives of these three men; neither is anything known of the lives of three of John and Nancy’s daughters - Phoebe, Easter and Nancy.

John died on December 20, 1867, at the age of 77. His sister, Elizabeth Moore Raulerson, had died 65 days earlier at the age of 81. Nancy lived another eight years, dying in 1875 at age 79.

John and Nancy were buried on lot 240, the second tract of land that John purchased and later deeded to Stephen and Irwin. Only John and Nancy are buried there, on a spot that was either just inside or just outside one of their fields at the time of their burial. There is a very nice marble headstone, put there in the mid-nineteen hundreds by some of John and Nancy’s descendants, and the small site is chained off.

There is a private woods lane that connects the gravesite to a county road (CCC Road), which is about a half-mile to the west. There is a locked gate across the lane where it connects to the CCC road. The land belongs to Mrs. Stephen (Kay Blanton) Coleman of Valdosta, Georgia, a descendant of Allen and Benjamin Moore, son and grandson of John and Nancy Moore. Descendants of John and Nancy desiring to visit the gravesite should contact Mrs. Coleman.



John and Nancy's burial site. They were buried near the edge of one of their fields about a mile from their home. The gravesite is now surrounded by large live oak trees. Descendants of John and Nancy erected the marble headstone shown here in the mid-nineteen hundreds. Photo taken about 2006.

For reasons unknown, some 21 years after John had deeded all his remaining land to Jesse and after Nancy had died, the heirs of John Moore again deeded part of lot 239 (John's first land purchase) to Jesse. John and Nancy's son, Levi, and son-in-law, Isham H. Peters, were the administrators, and on November 20, 1877, they and all other heirs of John deeded one-half of Lot 239 to Jesse.⁵² Signing the deed were:

(1) Levi Moore, signing for himself and as guardian of Jane, Hansell, and Rachael, minors of Warren Moore, deceased; (2) Allen Moore; (3) Joseph Lancaster for himself and wife Cassie [Cassandra] and children; (4) Marion Shaw and wife Rachael Shaw, for themselves and children, and for the minors of Barzilla Allen [Rachael's first husband]; (5) D. Jackson Moore; (6) James Burton Moore [D. Jackson and James Burton Moore were adult sons of John Moore, Jr.]; and (7) Narcissa Moore, wife of John Moore, Jr., deceased, for herself and minor children.

Also signing were (8) Mary Moore, wife of Richard Moore, deceased [relationship to the deceased John Moore unknown], for herself and for the minors of "said Rachael Moore;" (9) Phoebe Moore [this Phoebe could have been John and Nancy's oldest child, born in 1812, or it could have been the second child of Stephen and Mary Elizabeth Sellers Moore, born in 1858. It was probably the latter]; and (10) Isham H. Peters [husband of Sidney], for himself and as guardian for his children Stoney, Mandesso and Rachael.

This document was "signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:" William J. Knight and A.M. Knight and recorded on November 30, 1877 by R. T. Myadellum, Clerk.

⁵² Lowndes County Georgia Court House deed records, p. 215 of unnoted deed book..

7

JOHN AND NANCY'S CHILDREN

The amount of information I have concerning the children of John and Nancy varies from only date and place of birth to a reasonably good accounting. That variation is reflected below in what and how much is said about each.

Phoebe Moore. Born November 19, 1812 in Wayne County, Georgia.

Leonard Moore. Born August 4, 1814 in Wayne County, Georgia.

Allen Moore. Born December 30, 1815 in Wayne County, Georgia; died January 16, 1892 in Lowndes County. Following is a newspaper article about Allen that was submitted by his brother-in-law, Joseph L. Lancaster: The article appeared in the *Valdosta Daily Times* on July 29, 1893:

Memoir of Allen Moore
By Joseph L. Lancaster

“DuPont, GA. July 26, 1893: Allen Moore was born in Wayne County Ga., Dec 30, 1815, John and Nancy Moore being his parents. They moved to Ware County on Kettle Creek in 1817, staying there five years. From there they went to Florida in 1822. Not being satisfied after a year or two, they moved back to the old home place on Kettle Creek.

“Leaving there when Allen was 12 years old they moved to Lowndes County near the source of Cherry Creek in 1829 and remained there five years when they moved in 1834 to the place where his (Allen's) brother, Jesse now lives. Allen was first married to Miss Peggy Davis July 4, 1836. He was married three times.

"Sometimes after he was married, he moved and settled a place six miles south of Milltown [now Lakeland] where he lived for more than half a century. In 1889, he concluded he would be better satisfied to change his home, so he broke up and went to spend his few remaining days with his brother-in-law, Joseph L. Lancaster, four miles south of DuPont. But alas, only two short years were allotted him and on the 16th day of January, 1892, he passed quietly away with heart disease. His remains were interred at his request on his old home place near Milltown; this exemplifies one of the peculiarities with which we are endowed.”

"J.L.L."

Allen and his first wife, Margaret Davis, daughter of John Davis (Revolutionary Soldier) of South Carolina, had three sons: John, born 1837, married Penelope Sellers; Benjamin born 1839, married Rebecca J. Sellers; George (twin to Benjamin), born 1839, married Caroline Sellers. All three sons were Confederate soldiers, and two were killed. Margaret died in 1855 and Allen then married Mary Ann Newmans.

Allen and Mary Ann had seven children: Walter married Pearlie Rae, Berry married Essie Main, Allen “Coon” married Anna Allen, Ebb married Elizabeth “Lizzie” Newman, Cassandra “Cassie” married Alex Chancey, Mary married James Pinderson, and Diane married Thomas “Tom” Mullis.

Ransom Moore. Born September 17, 1817 in either Wayne County or what would eventually become Ware County, depending on what time of the year the family moved. Died in 1830 in Lowndes County when only 13 years old.

Westberry Moore. Born October 27, 1819 in Ware County.

Malinda Moore. Born January 3, 1822 in Ware County, Malinda “Linnie” married James J. Rhoden, born 1820 in Barnwell District, South Carolina, son of Jacob Rhoden. They had 9 children: Levi, born 1839, married Elizabeth Sweat; William, born 1840, married Keziah Drawdy; Avey, born 1843, married a Dowling; Rachel, born 1845, married Fleming Beasley; Tempy, born 1846; Bryant, born 1848, married Sarah Johns; Hansford, born 1848, married Nancy Johns; Virginia, born 1852; and Jane, born 1853.

Malinda’s husband James J. Rhoden enlisted in the Confederate Army on May 6, 1862. He was 40 years old when he joined and all his nine children had been born. He was a member of the 8th Florida Infantry Regiment, Company I. His service record gave his height at 5’10,” his eye color as grey, his hair color as auburn, and his complexion as dark.

His Confederate unit served as part of the Army of Northern Virginia, and fought in some of the earlier battles in which that army was engaged. James apparently was wounded because he received a disability discharge on March 25, 1863. By that time, James probably had participated in the following battles: the Seven Days Battle, Second Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

Easter Moore. Born October 23, 1823 in Ware County.

Nancy Moore. Born May 21, 1825 in Ware County.

Levi Moore. Born April 28, 1827 in Ware County, Levi moved with his parents to Lowndes County in 1829. He married Sara “Sallie” Rentz, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Rice Rentz of Barnwell District, South Carolina. Sara, born in 1828, moved with her parents to Lowndes County in 1833. She and Levi were married in 1848. Sara died in 1877.

Levi and Sara had ten children: Warren, born 1849, married Amanda McFadden; Samuel, born 1850, married Rowena Carter; Mary, born 1851; William Franklin, born 1852, first married Martha Roberts, then Belle Redding; Allen “Coon,” born 1855, married Rachel Skipper; Julia, born 1859, married George W. Chitty; Susan, born 1862, married Martin T. Carter, Jr.; Rachel, born 1864, married William H. Chitty; John, born 1868, married Elizabeth Morris; and Owen, born 1870, died young.



After Sara's death, Levi (shown at left) married Susan Lightsey Carter, widow of Jesse Carter. Susan, born 1831 in Colleton District, South Carolina, was the daughter of Samuel and Martha Mary Zeigler Lightsey. Levi and Susan had one child: Barney Levi, born May 20, 1880 who married Ida B. Howell.

On December 29, 1862, at the age of 35, Levi enlisted in the Confederate Army's 4th Georgia Calvary, Company H. The 4th Calvary fought the battles of Atlanta and Olustee, Florida, and patrolled the Altamaha River in Georgia. Levi left the command on sick furlough on August 21, 1864. On October 21 of that year (1864), he appeared on the register of the Floyd House and Ocmulgee Hospitals in Macon Georgia. He was home at the end of the war.⁵³

As previously mentioned, Levi was one of the two administrators of his father John's estate. He died March 4, 1917 and was buried beside his first wife, Sara, at Joe Howell Cemetery near Blanton Station in Lowndes County, close to where they had lived and farmed.

David Moore. Born August 11, 1828 in Ware County Georgia.

Sidney Moore. Born on March 6, 1829, Sidney was probably born in Ware County just before the family moved to Lowndes County. She married Isham H. Peters, son of William and Rachel Peters of Barnwell District, South Carolina. Isham was born in 1827 and moved with his parents to Lowndes County in 1828. Sidney apparently died before November 1877, for that year the heirs to John Moore's estate signed a deed transferring estate property to Jesse Moore and her name was not included among the heirs. Her husband Isham signed as guardian for their three minor children.

The three minor children were named Stoney, Mandesso and Rachael. No birth dates were given. As previously mentioned, Isham was one of the two administrators of John Moore's estate. He later married Isabelle Carter, daughter of Samuel Carter.

Cassandra "Cassie" Moore. Born April 12, 1830 in Lowndes County, Cassie married Joseph L. Lancaster, son of David and Catherine Giddens Lancaster of Craven and Beaufort Counties, North Carolina. Joseph moved with his parents to Lowndes County in 1835-36.

As previously mentioned, Joseph submitted an article about his brother-in-law, Allen Moore, to the Valdosta Times. According to that article, Cassie and Joseph lived four miles south of DuPont, Georgia. Cassie lived at least until November 30, 1877, for on that date she was one of John Moore's heirs who deeded the estate to Jesse Moore. She apparently died before 1893, because that was the year that her husband Joseph submitted his article to the Valdosta Times (see above) in which he stated that Allen "went to spend his few remaining days with his

⁵³ Photo and Civil War service information provided by Leland S. Moore, Jr., a descendant of Levi.

brother-in-law, Joseph L. Lancaster. If Cassie had still been alive, Joseph no doubt would have included her name in referring who Allen had gone to live with.

A listing of their children has not been found, but we know there were several because, in signing the deed transferring John's estate to Jesse, Joseph L. Lancaster signed "for himself, Cassie and their children."

John Moore, Jr. Born November 15, 1832, John, Jr. married Narcissa Copeland who was born June 15, 1831 in Barnwell District, South Carolina. Narcissa was the daughter of Lott and Susan Guess Copeland. Lott was born in Chatham County, North Carolina but his family moved to Barnwell District, South Carolina shortly after his birth. Susan Guess was born in Barnwell District.

John, Jr. and Narcissa were married in 1855. There were five children: Delemo Jackson, born 1857, married Grace Watson; James Burton,⁵⁴ born 1856, married Rachel Shaw; Fannie Susannah, born 1861, married William M. Turner; Laura Jane, born 1862, married Moses Thornton; and Elizabeth "Lizzie," born 1864, married Kit C. Smith.

John became a Confederate Soldier on April 23, 1862. He was 29 and the father of four children at the time. He joined Company H (previously designated Company G) of the 26th Georgia Infantry Regiment. It was the same unit that four of his brothers, Warren, Stephen, Jesse and Irwin joined. They went off to war together, becoming a part of the Army of Northern Virginia under the command of General Robert E. Lee. Upon arrival in Virginia, they were assigned to Stonewall Jackson's Corps, later to become General John B. Gordon's Corps. When the war was over, four of the five brothers, including John, Jr., were dead.

There is conflicting information as to how, when and where John, Jr. died. Confederate hospital records (in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) show that a John Moore of Company H, 26th Georgia died of pneumonia in Wayside Hospital at Lynchburg, Virginia on June 15, 1864. This John Moore was buried in the Confederate section of Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg.

I have visited this cemetery several times. On Lot 201, line 2, grave number 1, there is a tiny headstone, the standard at the time for Confederate soldiers, with the inscription 'J Moore, 26th Georgia.' I also obtained a copy of the burial record of the undertaker, George A. Diuguid, who apparently had a contract with the Confederacy to bury the Confederate dead at this cemetery.

Listed on the original record of the undertaker is the name John Moore, Company H, 26th Georgia Infantry, CSA. The record gives the place of death as Wayside Hospital [in Lynchburg]

⁵⁴ There appears to be a great deal of confusion among descendants about Burton Moore's first name. Many think it is John and refer to him as John Burton Moore, Jr. His correct first name can be found on two Lowndes County Deeds: (1) On October 24, 1863, John Moore, son of Caleb, deeded Lot # 238 of District 11 to James B. Moore and Delemo J. Moore (deed book unknown but see Lowndes County Court house deed records for 1863, p. 725). (2) On November 20, 1877, the heirs of the estate of John Moore, son of Caleb, deeded ½ of Lot 239 of District 11 to Jesse Moore. In the body of the deed, two heirs were listed as Jackson Moore and Burton Moore. The signatures of the heirs at the bottom of the deed included those of D.J. Moore and James B. Moore (deed book unknown but see Lowndes County Court house deed records for 1877, p. 215). These two documents, in combination, clearly establish Burton Moore's first name to be James, and Jackson Moore's first name to be Delemo.

and the date of death as June 15, 1864. There is also the notation, "Coffin/body length: 5'-9". The grave identification recorded on the record is grave 1, line 2, lot 201. The write-up on John Jr., son of John and Nancy Osteen Moore, in Folks Huxford's "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia," (Vol. 5, p. 295), basically cites the information contained in the undertaker's record.

On the other hand, the widow of John Moore, Jr., Narcissa, filed an application for a widow's pension on April 11, 1891, which includes the following statement in an affidavit signed by John's brother, Jesse, and two other veterans of Company H:

"On March 27, 1865, early in the morning, [General John B.] Gordon's Brigade [of which John Moore, Jr. and his brothers were a part] charged a fort in front of our lines at Petersburg [Virginia] and captured it. Enemy bombarded the fort and John Moore had his right leg shot off by cannon ball and died a few hours later."

The affidavit states that John was a member of Company H, 26th Georgia. There was no mention of where he was buried. Obviously, the affidavit of John's death at Petersburg, signed by three individuals who were present including his brother, has to be considered the correct version of the death of John, Jr., son of John and Nancy Osteen Moore.

According to several publications of all the names of Confederate Soldiers that I have reviewed, there was only one John Moore in Company H of the 26th Georgia. However, descendants of Allen Moore, son of John and Nancy, believe the John Moore buried in Lynchburg to be the oldest son of Allen. They cite the following story that has been handed down through the generations as evidence that there was a second John Moore in this same Company H, and that he, too, lost his life during the war:

John Moore, son of Allen Moore, being good friends with Stephen Wetherington, also a member of Company H, asked Stephen if he would look after his wife, Penelope Sellers Moore, in case he, John, lost his life. John did lose his life. Stephen, true to his word, went home after the war and not only looked after Penelope but married her as well! This same Stephen Moore was one of the three witnesses who certified that John Moore, Jr., son of John and Nancy, was killed at Petersburg.

In addition to the family story cited above, I have found evidence among Confederate records preserved by the National Archives in Washington, D.C. on this unit that there were, in fact two John Moores in this Company H.

In October, 1864, about four months after the John Moore of Company H who died of pneumonia was buried in Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia, clothing was issued to a "John Moore, Pvt., Company H, 26th Georgia Infantry." This according to a Confederate "Receipt Roll" on file in the National Archives. That's solid evidence that there were two John Moores that served in this company.

There is no record that specifies the battles in which John, Jr. participated. However, we do know the battles in which his unit, the 26th Georgia, participated. So assuming that John, Jr. was with

his unit at all times, here are the major battles in which he would have fought, in order of their occurrence:

Seven Day's battle (near Richmond), Second Manassas (also called Second Bull Run), the capture of a Union army at Harper's Ferry, Sharpsburg (also called Antietam), Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, The First [Shenandoah] Valley Campaign (numerous battles there), Monocacy, the March On Washington, The Second [Shenandoah] Valley Campaign (numerous battles again), and the Siege of Petersburg (where he was killed).

Most of the Confederate soldiers who were killed during the effort to break through the Federal lines at Petersburg were buried by local civilians long after that battle was over and both the armies had moved on. Most were buried in a huge common grave at a nearby church cemetery with no record kept as to who they were. No doubt, John Jr.'s remains lie there along with hundreds of other unidentified Confederate Soldiers.

Narcissa did not remarry. With the aid of her sons, she continued to run the farm as she had done during the war years. She died on August 16, 1902, near Naylor, Georgia and was buried in Cat Creek Cemetery in Lowndes County.

Stephen Moore. Born November 16, 1834, Stephen married Mary Elizabeth Sellers, born March 23, 1834 in Barnwell District, South Carolina. Mary was the daughter of Darley and Jane Copeland Sellers, both of whom were born in Barnwell District. Mary came with her parents to Lowndes County around 1841. Stephen and Mary were married around 1854.

On May 8, 1862, Stephen, at the age of 27, enlisted in the Confederate Army, in the same unit that four of his brothers had already joined or were about to join. Less than four months later, on August 28, 1862, Stephen was wounded in the ankle during the Battle of Second Manassas, the second major battle in which he and his brothers participated (in this same battle, one of Stephen's brothers, Irwin, was killed and another, Jesse, wounded).

Two days later, on August 30, Stephen was transported to Lynchburg, Virginia, a Confederate hospital center. This according to an affidavit signed April 11, 1891 by three comrades in arms, in support of an application for a pension by Stephen's widow. One of those signing the affidavit was Stephen's brother, Jesse. Mary Elizabeth Sellers Moore, Stephen's widow, stated in her application that Stephen "died of said wound a short while afterwards at Lynchburg." In an application for continuance of the pension in 1903, Mary Elizabeth certified that Stephen died in "November or December, 1862." Huxford's "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia" (Vo. 7, p. 275) gives the date of death as November 1, 1862.

Stephen's grave has never been found, in Lynchburg or elsewhere. According to a cemetery official at Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, every Confederate soldier who died in one of the several Lynchburg hospitals during the war was buried there in the Confederate section of Old City Cemetery. The official also told me that there was no record of a Stephen Moore being in any of the Lynchburg hospitals, nor of a Stephen Moore being buried at Old City Cemetery.

Merle Moore, wife of John B. Moore, a great grandson of Stephen, told me in a phone conversation on January 12, 1998 that Stephen died of gangrene in his wounded ankle. Merle obtained the information from Remie Moore Blanton, a granddaughter of Stephen's.

Stephen and Mary Elizabeth Sellers Moore had three children: Amanda Moore, born 1856, married Berry Blanton; Phoebe, born 1858; and D. Bryand Moore, born 1860. According to Huxford (Vol. 7, p. 275), Mary Elizabeth "reared the children to maturity and lived to be 87 years old, dying on December 3, 1921. She was buried at Good Hope Baptist Church near Naylor"



Rachel Moore. Born December 11, 1835 in Lowndes County, Rachel (at left) was the youngest of the females born to John and Nancy. She married John Barzilla Allen, born in 1837. Barzilla was the son of John and Elizabeth "Eliza" Wilkinson Allen, both of whom were born in Barnwell District, South Carolina but moved to Lowndes County sometime before Barzilla was born.

Rachel and Barzilla Allen had three children: William Barzilla, born 1857, married Rachel V. Futch; John Levi, born 1859, married Francis Minerva Futch; and Ann Eliza, born 1862.

Barzilla Allen enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862. Soon after arriving in Virginia with his unit, he became ill and died.

Then in 1866, Rachel married Frances Marion Shaw. Marion was born January 5, 1846. He was the son of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. and Rachel Horne, both raised in Liberty County, Georgia, now Long County. Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. later moved his family to Lowndes County, in an area that later became Berrien County.

On April 30, 1864, just shortly after he turned 18, Marion Shaw enlisted as a Confederate soldier in a Florida regiment. Soon thereafter, he fought in the Battle of Cedar Keys, where he lost his entire right arm, up to his shoulder.

But that must not have slowed Marion down because after he and Rachel were married, they cleared the land on the place that they settled, then turned around and did the same thing all over again after settling a second place. Marion also split rails to fence the fields, and cut and hewed the logs to build his house and barns. Their farm was about three miles from Ray City. About two years before Rachel died, they moved off the farm into the town of Ray City itself.

Rachel and Marion had six children: Frances Arthur, born 1866, first married Victoria Giddens Knight, then Gertrude Albritton; Ida Jane, born 1868, married W. Bartow Parrish; Jesse Shelbly "Doc," born 1869, married Susie Bullard; Effie C., born 1871, married William Clements; Lacy

Lester, born 1873, married Lula Albritton; and Chester D., born 1875, first married Luanne Webb, then Minnie Parrish.

Rachel died on November 8, 1877, and Marion on April 7, 1888. They were buried at Pleasant Cemetery in Berrien County.

Warren Moore. Born July 8, 1837, Warren married Caroline Sellers, born 1839. Caroline was the daughter of Darley and Jane Copeland Sellers, both of whom were born in Barnwell District, South Carolina, and the sister of Mary Elizabeth Sellers who married Warren's brother, Stephen (see above). Caroline was also born in Barnwell District, coming with her parents to Lowndes County around 1841. Warren and Caroline had three children: Jane, J. Hansell and Rachel (there possibly were two others).

Sometime prior to May 25, 1862 (the date his military unit left Savannah for Virginia), Warren enlisted in the same company of Confederate soldiers as his four brothers and fought alongside them in the Army of Northern Virginia. He was 24 years old. He fought in the Seven Days Battle around Richmond, in Second Manassas, and probably participated in the Battle of Antietam and the capture of a federal army at Harpers Ferry.

It was probably at Antietam where he was wounded (Confederate reports on individuals killed and wounded in that battle were lost), because on September 23, 1862, shortly after that battle, he was admitted to Camp Winder General Hospital, a Confederate hospital in Richmond, Virginia.

His medical records show that he was admitted for "Dysentaria," the Greek word for dysentery. Webster's dictionary defines the word as "a disease characterized by severe diarrhea, with passage of mucus and blood and usually caused by infection." He died on September 25, just two days after being admitted to the hospital. The cause of death was recorded as "abscessus," the Latin word for abscess, which Webster defines as "a localized collection of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue."

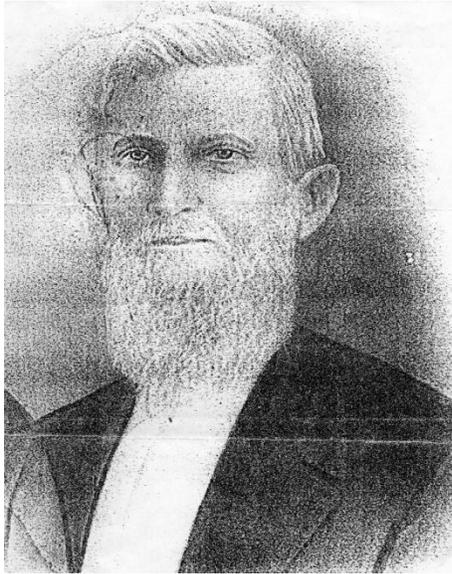
The quickness of Warren's death is similar to the lethal result of a condition that was common among the wounded during the Civil War. It was called "surgical fever." It was prevalent wherever men were treated for wounds because of the highly infectious surroundings, including doctors who often went for days without washing their hands or instruments. Four or five days after surgery, the patient would stop producing pus, which was looked upon as part of the healing process, and the wound would dry up. The patient would then run a high fever, and die.

Warren was buried at Hollywood Cemetery, which is located on the banks of the James River near downtown Richmond, Virginia. It is one of the major tourist attractions in Richmond, in that it is the final resting place of many notable individuals including U.S. Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Many famous Confederate Generals are also buried there.

Warren is buried in a section dedicated exclusively to Confederate soldiers. He lay there for 136 years in an unmarked grave, with no headstone or anything else to distinguish his grave from the

hundreds of other Confederate graves surrounding him (the cemetery has a record, however, of the exact spot where each soldier was buried). In 1998, descendants of John and Nancy Osteen Moore arranged to have a U.S. Government military marker placed at the head of his grave.

After the war, Warren's widow, Caroline, married John Dorminey.



Jesse Moore. Born June 12, 1839, Jesse (at left) married Matilda Shaw, born March 21, 1840. Matilda was the daughter of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. and Rachel Horne, both of whom were raised in Liberty County, Georgia, now Long County, moving to Lowndes, now Berrien County, in 1827 before Matilda was born. Matilda's brother, Frances Marion Shaw, married Jesse's sister, Rachel Moore (see Rachel).

Jesse enlisted in the Confederate Army September 21, 1861, the day his Lowndes County company (then Company G, later Company H) was organized. Four of Jesse's brothers and at least two nephews (both of them sons of Jesse's brother Allen) would join the same company before it was called to duty. Jesse was 23 years old and had two children - a two-year old and a newborn.

The company to which Jesse and his brothers and nephews belonged became one of ten companies that formed the 26th Georgia Voluntary Infantry, which in turn became a part of the Army of Northern Virginia under the command of Robert E. Lee. General Lee placed the 26th Georgia under the direct command of General Stonewall Jackson, one of Lee's corps commanders.

Jesse's first battle was the Seven Days Battle near Richmond, Virginia, which began on June 25, 1862, and ended on July 1, 1862. His next big battle was Second Manassas, August 28, 29 and 30, 1862, where he received a head wound, apparently not serious enough to be hospitalized, as there is no record of his entering a hospital at the time.

He was erroneously listed in the "After Battle Report of Killed and Wounded" for Second Manassas as being killed, along with his brothers Irwin and Stephen. Irwin was killed on the field of battle and Stephen received a serious leg wound from which he would later die from gangrene.

Somewhere along the way, Jesse also received a wound to one of his heels and to a finger. The dates and places where these wounds occurred are unknown. It may have been the reason why he was hospitalized on November 12, 1862, in Hospital # 23 in Richmond, Virginia. The last entry on Jesse's medical record for this hospitalization Jesse was dated January 3, 1863, so it is assumed that he was discharged from the hospital around that time. Since the Battle of Fredericksburg was fought in December, 1862, Jesse would have missed that battle.

On March 25, 1865 Jesse was captured during a before-dawn attack by the Confederates on the Union Army at Petersburg, Virginia. He was taken by boat to Point Lookout, a Union prison located at the intersection of the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, where he spent about three months. On June 29, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, he was released from prison.

His oath of allegiance record contains the following information: Complexion, light; Hair, brown; Eyes, hazel; Height, 5 ft. 10½ inches. Upon his release, he was transported by ship to Savannah, given a small sack of dried kernels of corn and turned loose to get back home the best way he could, which in his case was walking.

If there were one thing that Jesse was accustomed to doing, it was walking. Over the past three years, he had marched thousands of miles with a heavy musket over his shoulder and a satchel full of large lead bullets around his waist, plus all his worldly possessions bundled up on his back and often with no shoes on his feet.

In one six-month period, his unit marched 1,670 miles.⁵⁵ My own calculations show that in one 31-day period, the officially recorded movements of Jesse's unit by foot totaled 850 miles, an average of 27.4 miles a day. That's 27.4 miles every day, seven days a week, for an entire month! Because of the unusual amount of marching that soldiers did under the generalship of Stonewall Jackson and his successor, General John B. Gordon, they became known as the "foot cavalry."

And all that marching was just in preparation for the deadly task of fighting the enemy. Many battles of the Army of Northern Virginia began at or around sundown, after the soldiers had marched all day long to get to where they needed to be to engage the enemy; they often marched directly into battle without even breaking stride.

With three years of such strenuous marching under his belt, and all this just in preparation to enter battle, I am absolutely certain that Jesse thought his walk home from Savannah (a distance of about 185 miles) was akin to a stroll in the park.

Official military records show that the 26th Georgia was in every battle fought by the Army of Northern Virginia during the three years that Jesse was a member. I have therefore assumed that Jesse was in all the battles until he was captured, except for his hospital stay while the Battle of Fredericksburg was being fought.

So, in addition to the Seven Days Battle and Second Manassas (Bull Run), he was a participant in the capture of a Union army at Harper's Ferry, and in the major battles of Antietam (Sharpsburg), Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor, the First and Second (Shenandoah) Valley Campaigns, Monocacy, the March on Washington, and Petersburg.

⁵⁵ This observation made on November 16, 1864, by Captain Jed Hotchkiss, General Jubal Early's topographical engineer.

Soon after returning home from the war, Jesse was deeded all his father's remaining farmland. Moving in with John and Nancy and becoming their caretakers, Jesse and his wife, Matilda, went on to raise a family of ten in his parent's old log house. Matilda died in 1913 at the age of 73. Jesse died on November 27, 1925 at the age of 86. It would have been a ripe old age for anyone, but especially so for Jesse, who survived three years of the deadliest battles ever fought in the history of the nation. Jesse and Matilda are buried at Cat Creek Cemetery in Lowndes County.

Jesse and Matilda's children were: Jeremiah, born July 29, 1860, married Emma McDonald; Melissa, born January 27, 1862, married George Chitty; Polly Ann, born July 31, 1866, married Frank Crosby; Haley Gardner (my grandfather), born July 7, 1868, married Marietta Turner; Georgia Ann, born January 18, 1870, married John Martin; Rachel Letisha, born October 15, 1872, married Moses Maxwell Blanton; Mary Jane, born April 8, 1875, died as an infant; Rosa, born September 2, 1876, married Jesse R. Harris; William, born October 3, 1878; John F., born March 24, 1880, first married Eula Bass, then Mary "Minnie" Pennie.

Irwin Moore. Born June 24, 1842, Irwin "Bud" was the youngest child of John and Nancy. He and his four youngest brothers joined the same Confederate military unit and fought side-by-side in the Army of Northern Virginia. He was the only one of the five not married. The exact date that he became a Confederate soldier is not known, but it would have been before May 25, 1862, the date that his unit moved from Savannah to join the Army of Northern Virginia.

On August 28, 1862, during the first day of the three-day Battle of Second Manassas, Irwin was killed. It happened during a Confederate charge of the enemy's position. His brother Jesse, who survived the war, told of his being right next to Irwin when he fell, and when he, Jesse, stopped and kneeled to tend to his brother, the sergeant in charge of his company ordered him to get up and keep moving forward. Irwin pleaded for Jesse not to leave him, but the Sergeant's orders could not be disobeyed (without the likelihood of Jesse being charged with desertion and therefore subject to being shot by a firing squad).

After the fighting ended for the day, the Confederates maintained control of the ground where the battle took place, so they were able to immediately tend to their wounded and bury their dead. The dead, including Irwin, were buried close to where they fell. But a question that no one seems to be able to answer is whether the remains were later exhumed and moved to another burial site.

The fact that no one seems to know leads me to believe that the remains were not moved. Reinforcing this belief is that, many years after the war, the owner of the property, while plowing one of his fields, exposed the skeletal remains of several Confederate dead, obviously in a mass grave.

John Moore, son of Caleb, died in 1867, just two years after the Civil War ended. In all probability, his death was hastened by grieving over the loss of four of his five youngest sons and at least two grandsons in that war.

POSTSCRIPT

The increasing difficulty of locating John and Nancy's gravesite in the midst of a huge tract of remote forestland prompted a discussion among several descendants in 2007 about the possibility of moving their graves to a more accessible location. That idea was soon abandoned because of its impracticality. Instead, it was decided to establish a memorial marker in their honor.

Cat Creek Cemetery, just north of Valdosta, Georgia on Cat Creek Road, was selected as the best site. A large number of John and Nancy's descendants are buried there, making it the most likely spot for the marker to be seen by present and future generations.

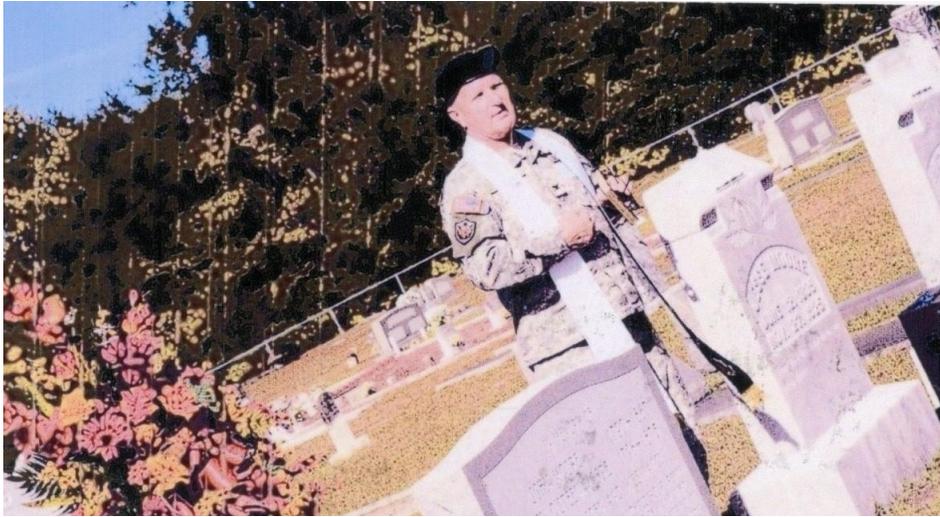
The plan was presented to all known descendants, along with an invitation to share in its cost. The response was enthusiastic and the necessary funds were quickly raised. The marker was installed early in 2009, near the graves of several of John and Nancy's descendants.

Then, on October 24, 2009, about 100 of John and Nancy's descendants, many unknown to each other, gathered at the facilities of Cat Creek Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery to dedicate the marker, share historical information, memories, old photographs and artifacts, and to simply enjoy each other's company. The participants represented six of John and Nancy's 18 children.

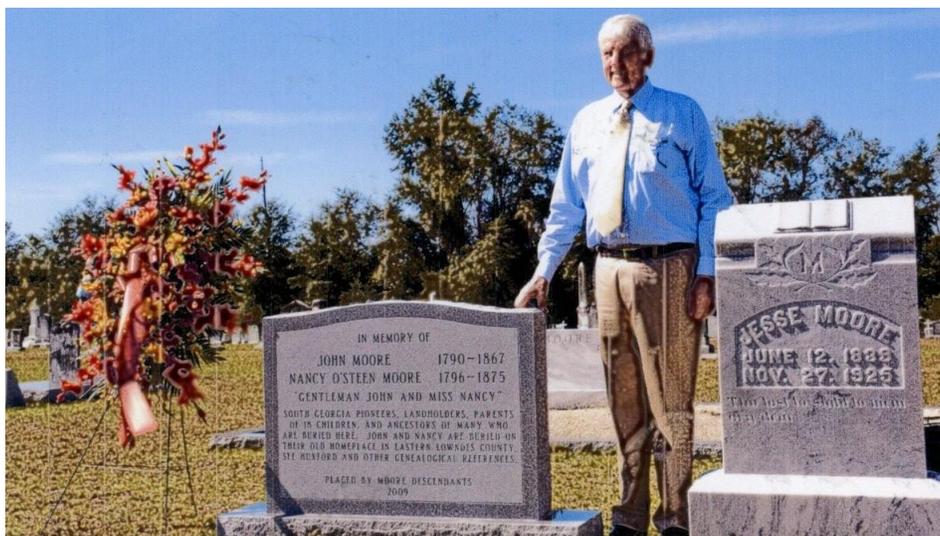




Participants of John and Nancy Osteen Moore's marker dedication.



Col. Richard G. Moore, Army Chaplain, performed the dedication ceremony.



Jesse Moore, author of this document.

THE END