

William and Harriett Bennett Moore

excerpt taken from Chronological History of William and Harriett Moore; their relatives and descendants; together with an account of their travels from the time they left England, with their parents until their death; also a sketch of the lives of their children.

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Submitted by RICIGS member Diane Lovell

Harriett Bennett Moore and William Moore are great-great-great-grandparents of Diane's husband, Russell Lovell. Ulysses Sherman Moore is the youngest son of William and Harriett Bennett Moore

Harriett Bennett was born in Suffolk County, England. On the 11th. of December. 1819. Harriett was eleven years old when she left England with her parents for “ America. They drove from home to London -sixty miles- in a waggon. Then had to wait three days for a ship to sail.

While waiting there, some people wanted to get Harriett, to keep They offered a large sum of money for her, but her parents would not part with her.

They went on board the ship, the 14 th, day of May. 1830. And was six- weeks and three days crossing the ocean, the first three days were fine weather. There were two bad storms during the voyage across the ocean.

They landed at Quebec, June, 28. And the Cholera, was raging there, and the ship was not allowed to land for three days. When it did land, they took a boat and went to Montreal], and cholera was also raging there. They tried to rent an empty house there was there, but was told that three families had died in that house from cholera.

So they bought cloth and male a tent, and lived in it six weeks, on the bank of a canal. During which time as many as five hundred had died from cholera in one day.

This was in June and July, and it was so hot that the girls necks and arms blistered in the sun. They wore low-neck, and short sleeve dresses then.

On August, 17 th, 1830. They left Montreall, by boat for Hamilton, Wentworth County Ontario. While on the way, their little son Win. Henry, died. Age, about

two years. The boat stopped at Kingston. long enough for them to carry him on shore, and get some one to bury him.

On arriving at Hamilton, they, with several other families, rented a large barn and staid there all together, till they could find a place to live.

While they were staying in the barn, a man by the name of Flocks, a german. Came and hired Harriett, to go and take care of their baby. And while she was there, her parents moved away, and she did not know anything about them for eight months, when her father came after her, and she walked home with him, twenty miles away, to a place in Canada, about five miles from Hamilton. After a time she went back to Flocks and worked for them one year.

Harriett then went with her parents to Chatham, Bothwell County, Ontario. Where she was working when an incident happened that she has often related.

There were a great many Indians there, and one day a squaw came to the house, with her papoose hanging on her back, tied to a board. She sat it down outside, and came in the house^ and while she was talking, an old sow came and got the papoose, and draged it under an old house. The squaw ran screaming back to the Innian village and told the other Indians. And they came and shot the old sow with their bows till she was full of arrows.

Harriett next moved with her parents, to Sandwich, Essex County, Ontario. Where she worked at a hotel, for some time.

From there her parents moved around from place to place, until they came to Dearborn, Wayne Cuntly, Michigan. Where her father worked for Captain Howard. And lived in one of his houses and boarded some of the men who worked in the saw-mil). Harriett being at home at this time, she became acquainted with William Moore, whom she favored until he was encouraged to ask her to be his wife. And as their love was mutual, she granted his request. Though there were others who sought earnestly to win her. She is very happy now, and we will leave her now, to prepare for the wedding, while we go back to England, and trace her parents.

Her father, JOHN BENNETT, was born at Uppinghal, England, March, 14th, _____ and was christened there in the Methodist Church.

He had three brothers, Charles, James, and Samuel. Charles died in London, before John came to America. James died about the time John settled in Michigan. And

Samuel lived a few years more. He had a son Samuel, who corresponded with his Uncle John, for several years.

John Bennett's parents died before he came to America. John Bennett, and Mary Ann Brown, was married in 1813. She was born at Ipswich, England, on Easter Sunday, 1795. And was christened there at the Baptist Church.

The writer was told that she was one of twenty brother and sisters? Who all grew up and were married. But of the history of the others we know nothing. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett lived at Ipswich, for a time. Mrs. Bennett taught school there one year.

They were the parents of nine children, as follows. Eliza, Mary Ann, Isabell, Harriett, Keziah, Elijah, James, Elizabeth, and William Henry.

Eliza Bennett, was eighteen years old when she came with her parents to America. She ran away from home while they were living in a tent across from Montreal. She may have went back to England in a ship that sailed about that time with a young man with whom she became acquainted. She was born at Ipswich, England.

Mary Ann Bennett, was born at Ipswich, England. She came to America with her parents and was married to Edmond Kirkham. And settled at New Haven, Michigan.

Mary Ann Kirkham died August 28th, 1892, and her husband, Edmond Kirkham, died December 14th, 1893. They were the parents of nine children as follows, Emeline, Adaline, Ada, Almira, Miranda, Ardilla, Sally, Giles, and Malon.

Isabell Bennett, died in England. Keziah Bennett, was born at Bustles, England, August 13, 1822. She came with her parents to America, and was married June, 10, 1839 to William Love, at Marrion, Michigan, where they always lived. Her husband, Wm. Love, died Oct. 12, 1866. After that she resided on the old homestaed, now owned by her son Frank, until her death, Oct. 3, 1890. The following is an extract from a letter written at that time.

Howell, Mich. Oct. 6, 1899

Dear Aunt Harriett: - It is with sorrow that I write to let you know of my Dear kind mothers death. After one year of pain and suffering, six months of which was spent in bed, she died the 3rd of this month 2:20 o'clock A.M. Twenty-four years since my father died. She prayed to die, that she might be out of pain. Sunday she was

laid away to rest. Her text was Matt. 11.-28 29. Her death was caused by a malignant tumorous cancer.

Yours in sorrow. Good Bye, Charlott Love.

Elijah Bennett was born in England, He died soon after they landed in America, when quite young.

James Bennett was born and died in Canada.

Elizabeth Bennett was born in Canada. She came to Michigan with her parents and was married Aug. 15, 1851, to Henry Batram, who died April 10, 1887, age 63 years. Their two children are William and Mary. William was born July 20, 1852. He died June, 11, 1876 from the effects of measles. Mary Batram was born Nov. 1, 1857. She was married to Charles Marlow, Nov. 14, 1878. They live near Howell, Mich. Their only child, Louisa, was born June 27, 1882.

William Moore

William Moore, the subject of this chapter; was born in Northampton, Northampton County, England, July the 16th 1812.

His fathers names was Samuell, and his mothers names was Sarah (Beach) Moore, his grandfathers names was John Moore, his maternal grandparents were George and Mary Beach. He was next to the oldest of twelve children.

In 1830, when he was eighteen years old, he emigrated with his parents to America. They landed in New York after a long, tedious journey accross the ocean in a sailing vessel. They then traveled by boat up the Erie Canel to Utica, Oneida County, N. Y.

Arriving at Utica William soon found employment in the silk mills at that place where he worked for some time. But this kind of work did not long suit this strong, hardy young man, he longed to see more of this great country to which he had come for liberty, and to gain a home of his own. He wished to try his fortune farther west. Accordingly about two years after they settled in Utica, he determined to go as far west as Michigan and bidding his parents and brothers and sisters farewell, and taking an ax (which he carried all the way to Michigan), and a small bundle, started out on foot and alone, and walked to Dearborn, Wayne County, Michigan.

There he soon found work in a brick-yard, at eight dollars a month, which was considered good wages. But on account of his dexterity in moulding brick, and industrious habits, always doing as much as he could during working hours, and working to his employers interests, he was paid the highest wages and found it easy to hold a job, or obtain work at any time. He used to say "There is always plenty of work for those that are willing to work honestly, and to their employer's interest."

He worked in the brick-yard about one year, when he obtained work at better wages, logging and hauling logs to a saw-mill for Captain Howard, who owned and operated a large saw-mill in Dearborn.

He remained with Captain Howard for about two years working early and late, and in all kinds of weather. He hauled railroad ties from the saw-mill. He hauled the first load of ties for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern R.R. then being built across the state from Detroit to Lake Michigan.

During the three years he has been in Michigan he has saved enough money to buy three forty acre pieces of government land, near Pinkney, Livingston County, Michigan, where he afterward made a home.

There was another man in Captain Howard's employ by the name of John Bennett, who lives in one of his houses near by and boards some of his working men. Mr. Bennett has some lovely daughters, one especially, Miss Hattie, whom William learns to love, and is loved by her in return, for when he asks her to be his wife he meets with no opposition from the maiden herself, or her parents, and the happy day is named. We will leave him now, - in this blissful state, - until his wedding day. And we will go back and see what has become of his parents and the rest of the family.

His parents, after living in Utica about four years moved to Syracuse, N.Y. one Spring and the next Autumn they moved from there to Wayne County, Michigan where his father worked for Captain Howard for awhile and then made a home on one of the forty acre pieces of land William had bought and built a log house there on for him. Where he lived until he died in 1862.

He (William's father) was a small man, and always walked with a cane. William's mother was a large woman, dark complected, and rather loud spoken, she died in 1860.

Of his brothers and sisters, Mary was the oldest. She was married in England, to a man by the name of Lake. They came to America about twenty years after her parents did and settled at Utica, N.Y. They had some children, one girl was born in 1825. That is about all the information we have been able to gain of them. Lydia; (the sister next younger than William,) died in Utica, about six months after they came there.

Another sister, Martha was married in Utica to Jacob S. Roe, a widower, who had a family of four children, two boys of them are now living in California. She came to Michigan with her husband, before her parents and after a time they moved to Wisconsin. Where they lived about twelve years. Then in 1849, they went by waggen train, overland, to California and settled in Stanislaw County, on a farm. He died in 1860, and Martha died in 1866. One child, a girl, was born to them in Utica, N.Y. she now lives in California.

Hannah, the youngest sister, was married in Michigan to John Fowler, two children were born to them. Hannah died in Livingston County, Michigan, when about thirty years old.

John married a Miss. Doratha VanBlarican, one boy and one girl were born to them. The boy died in July 1857. The girl, Lydia Ann, married a man in N.Y. John died in Michigan. Doratha afterward lived in An Arbor, Mich.

Thomas Moore, was married in N.,Y. He went from there to Iowa, and from there to Minnesota. Where he lived for a time, and moved to California, and from there to Yakima, Yakima County, Washington, where he died. They had three sons and three daughters, Charles, George, and William. Mary, who married Charles Sherwood, in Minnesota. Hulda, who married a Mr. Copps, and lives at North Yakima, Washington. The other daughter's name we do not know.

Samuell Moore, died in Michigan, when about eighteen years old. After about three days of sickness.

George Moore, was born in 1825, He traveled from Michigan, to Colusa County California, in the spring of 1850, by overland wagon train. Came back to Michigan, in fall of '56 remained there until spring of '59, when he went back to California. Then in 1882, he came to Illinois, and stoped with his brothers William and Beach for awhile, then went on to Michigan, and back to California in the spring of '83. and returned to Illinois in the spring of '96. And in the fall of 1899, he bought a little place near Augusta, Des Moines County, Iowa, where he now

lives. He has never married. Beach Moore, was born July 8th, 1828. He came from Michigan to Henderson County, Illinois, in March 1853. In 1859, he was married to Mrs. Amelia Crane, a daughter of John and Temperance Curts. She died Dec. 28th, 1876. No Children being born to them. Since then he has married Miss. Alice Trainer. They live on his old homestead, two miles South of Carman, Illinois. In 1860 he was in the Rocky Mountains engaged in mining and logging. He made the trip with an Ox team along with a train of emigrants. He spent one year in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. In the pinery. Joseph Moore, the youngest that was born in England, died while crossing the Ocean, and was buried at sea about three weeks sailing from New York.

Another child was born to them after they settled in Michigan, a boy, whom they also named Joseph. He started from Wayne Indiana, for California, in 1849, with an emigrant train, across the plains. And although the train was heard from several times, it is not known whether he ever reached California or not. He never was heard from after he started.

U.S. Moore was a farmer and printed his little books on a hand press in the evenings having never been inside a print shop. I have left most of spelling and punctuation his but in some places removed some of the commas.

William Moore, and Harriett Bennett were married on the eight day of May, 1838, at the brides parents, near Dearborn, Michigan, by a Justice of the Peace.

About a week after they were married, they moved into their new home: a double log house 12 x 24 feet, divided into two rooms, with a large chimney in the center and a fireplace on each side, making one in each room.

William had built this house before they were married on the land he had previously bought, about two miles from Pinkney, Livingston County, Michigan.

He made most of their furniture in a rude way, for it had taken most of his money to pay for his land, and build a home, and furnish it.

They did not have things very grand, did not dress very stylish, or set a very expensive table. For at that time flour cost them eight dollars a barrel. Calico twenty-five to fifty cents a yard, and a spool of thread cost eighteen cents and other things in proportion, wages and price of grain and stock, was very low. So they must be contented with the plain necessities of life. And it will be seen that their progress to fortune must be very slow.

But William spent no idle time, he began to till the ground, set stock on the place, and improve his farm and home, often working during the day for wages and doing a great deal of work at home mornings and evenings.

On March 30, 1840, their first child was born, they are now comfortably fixed in their new home and William is preparing to build a large barn, there was a large Tamrac swamp on his land, in which stood the most beautiful trees for hewing into square timber, or for sawing into lumber, and there he could have been found working early and late getting out timbers and logs.

One night he had worked later than usual and on his way home, he met a black bear in the path, which did not want to tum aside for him, he had no weapons with him except a heavy four tines fork, this he presented, tines foremost, and the bear, not liking such effrontery, turned and skulked off into the woods. William then proceded on his way home.

The barn when completed was 40 x 60 feet with a very heavy stone foundation, and a large underground stable. The barn had large mows in either end in which he placed his wheat, and threshed it with a flail on the barn floor. Often in the long winter evenings, after doing a hard days work, he would go out into the barn and pound out wheat.

He also built two large cattle sheds 12 x 50 feet each. They then purchased another piece of land containing eighty acres. This was timber land in what was called white oak openings and was not hard to clear up. All the land there was more less stony, so that the stone had to be gathered up and hauled off the farming land.

William is now making preparations for building a new house, and we will again find him among the Tamrac trees, chopping, hewing, or hauling logs to the saw mill to be cut into lumber for the new house. He had raved and shaved enough shingles from red oak, to shingle the house and had laid them away to season, and when he came to use them they were so hard he had to bore a tiny home for each nail.

He cut one tarmac tree that made one plate for the house 30 feet long. 6 x 6. one studing 20 feet long 4 x 4, and one rafter 14 feet long 2 x 4 making 70 feet from one tree.

The size of the house was 24 x 36 feet. He got out all the timbers, framed the building, and completed the house, all with his own hands.

They worked a farm one year for Stansbury, who lived at Pinkney. William used to do lots of work for him, also for Dr. Stansbury. He also worked a great deal for Mr. Kirtland, who owned and operated a flouring mill in Pinkney, doing carpenter work about the mill.

Grandfather and grandmother Moore, and grandfather and grandmother Bennett, lived not many miles apart, and the older children used to go often to see them where they lived in their log houses, on their little farms.

About the spring of 1849 they moved into their house, and lived there that summer, and the next winter they sold the farm

And in the spring of 1850, they packed their household goods into two heavy wagons, and with the family of five children, started for the "far west".

They traveled west to Chicago, and from there across the state of Illinois, and crossed the Mississippi river at Keokeok, into the Territory of Iowa, and traveled as far as Iowa City, and came back and recrossed the Mississippi at Davenport and Rock Island, and traveled South East into Henry Co. Illinois and bought a piece of Government land lying about 12 miles North of Wethersfield.

Here they built a small log house, and had lived in it but a few days when it caught fire and burned down, together with most of the household goods and some money. A few days before they moved into the house a girl - Sarah J. - was born, and the mother and child being so exposed in taking them from the burning house caused the death of the child a few days after. They went to work and built another house and moved into it before winter set in.

Late in the Autumn of 1852, they with four of the children went by wagon back to the old home in Michigan, to visit their parents and relatives, getting back to Henry Co. sometime in the following Winter.

In the Summer of 1852 they sold out again and loaded all they had into one wagon and started in search of a more suitable location for a home.

They traveled Southwest and crossed the Mississippi river at Burlington, Iowa and went across the corner of Iowa, down into Missouri about fifty miles, then turned and traveled Northwest to Charidon, Iowa. Not liking the country there they turned back East and crossed the Mississippi again at Fort Madison, Iowa and traveled up

the river to McQueen's Mill, Henderson County, Illinois. Arriving there August the 9th, 1852.

On the 31st of March, 1853, William and his brother, Beach, walked to Quincy, Illinois, a distance of 67 miles, William making the trip in one day and was at the Land Office the next morning and bought a tract of land that lay under Military Land Warrant, No. 22418, in the name of William Garner, and located in section six, in Township eight north, of range five west, Henderson County, Illinois.

William had just money enough to pay for the land and buy a cow and barrel of flour, then he had to hustle to make a living for a large family, which made it very difficult to get the farm in cultivation and improved.

He had to work for very low wages, the first two years he only received fifty cents a day, except in harvest time, when he was paid seventy-five cents a day, he being an excellent hand at swinging the cradle and scythe. William was very expert at hewing timbers, and was employed at this work two winters in the Wisconsin pine regions, bringing a raft of logs and timbers each Spring down the Mississippi river to Shokokon, for Horatio Curts, who owned a Lumber yard there. He done considerable work for Fred Curts, who lived one mile north of home and Joe Kirby one mile south. Also for John Cooper, who lived three miles away. He built several buildings for them.

Meantime, he and the boys improved the farm as fast as they could, until the Civil War broke out, when the three older boys enlisted in the service of the Union and he was compelled to be at home more closely until the close of the war, then some of the boys worked the farm on shares.

In 1866 he made a trip overland by wagon down across Missouri and Arkansas and out in Texas coming back across Indian Territory, and Missouri.

In 1874 he bought a small farm of fifty-five acres, then owned by Oliver Lyons, giving a mortgage on both farms to secure the debt and a few years after he sold forty acres off the east side of the home place to G. W. Chandler.

The house they had been living in for many years was getting very old and shakey and it became necessary to have a new house. So in the Summer of 1882, he built a two story house, 28 x 30 feet square which cost considerable and together with the other debts and expenses left a large indebtedness on the farm, which would take many years to pay.

He was then getting old, and after so many years of hardships, and hard labor, he could not stand exposure like he used to and while working on the farm one day the weather became suddenly cold and stormy, and he took a severe cold which resulted in inflammation of the bladder, from which he suffered greatly. So much so that toward the last he prayed earnestly for death to come and relieve him of his pain.

Doctors were employed but none of them could do him any permanent good and so June the 3rd 1886 he was relieved of his suffering by death. He was laid to rest on the old homestead where he had labored so many years, by his own request , on a beautiful spot selected by himself, which is now nicely fenced and well cared for, and the flowers he loved blooming profusely there. A large monument stands by his grave with his profile deeply cut in the marble on one side and a Bible, his guide through life, lying on top. Below his profile, is inscribed, a verse of his own selection as follows:

*It is pain and suffering, I did endure,
I tried physicians, could receive no cure,
At last on Jesus name I call,
He came and put an end to all,
My earthly sufferings here below,
I said dear Lord I am ready to go.
He took me in his arms of love,
To swell with him in heaven above.*

A Tribute to Father

William Moore: was a man small of stature and had a very strong constitution, and worked very hard all his life. He was honest and honorable, in all his dealings with his fellow-man. His schooling was very limited, but he had a good store of common sense, and reasoning facilities.

He was a fair singer, and loved to play the harp. He used to sing a great deal when at work. The Psalms, and Watt's hymns was his favorite sacred music.

He did not believe in monopolies, trusts, unions, lodges, or sects. Politically, he was always a republican. A naturalized citizen. Was very fond of hunting with the rifle.

He was always very solicitous for the welfare of his children, helping them all he could, and more than he was able. Do not let us say, that father never helped us, he denied himself of many comforts to help us along, he worked very hard, much harder than any of us ever have, to provide a home for us;

*'Spite of hail and driving rain,
Storming on the window pain;
While the wind its fury lent,
Forth to duties call he went,
With the vision in his mind,
Of the home he leaves behind.*

*Noble is the common task,
Higher work need no man ask!
Whether skies were blue or gray,
He pursued his tranquil way,
With new hopes and cheerful tread,
In his quest for daily bread.*

Many times he would be up in the morning and gone before daylight, perhaps several miles away, to do a days work. And would often walk home again at night, to do some little chore to improve the home surroundings. He practiced a great deal of economy, and self-denial, in order to lay up something for "a rainy day". He had to struggle against the "draw-backs" of a new country. And, working under unfavorable conditions, and adverse circumstances, he succeeded well.

*Let us all think kindly of father,
For he was kind to us;
He sought to lead us safely
Our life's brief pathway through;
He cared for us and loved us,
He tried to save us pain,
He gave us kindly counsel-
I hope not all in vain.*

Mother

When mother was married, of course, she gave up her maiden name, and girlish pleasures, and entered at once upon the duties of life. She worked hard from the first, economizing and saveing in every way she could to help along in the struggle

for bread. She had none of the luxuries that goes to make life pleasant, she could never think of spending money for anything that was not a necessity. She often staid up late at night knitting or mending for some member of the family, or knitting for some one else for the few pennies there was to be made by it.

We cannot realize what our mother has done for us in the past; the hard labor, the self denial, the anxious watching, the good examples and advise given us. How she tried to keep us from going astray, and to keep us ever in the "straight and narrow way" that leads to heaven; and if any of us miss the pearly gats, it will not be from any lack of her duty.

Alas! How little did we appreciate our mothers love; How heedless were we in youth of all her anxious tenderness while living! But when she is dead and gone, how hard it is to find true sympathy, how few will befriend us in misfortune, then it is that we miss and think of the mother we have lost.

*If you have a gray-haired mother
In the old house far away,
Sit down and write the letter
You put off day by day.
Don't wait until her tired steps
Reach heaven's pearly gate
But show her that you think of her
Before it is too late.*

While father was suffering so much with that painful bladder trouble, mother had so much work to do, and anxious care and watching, until father died. Then her life was very lonely; She and father had been companions for forty-eight years, and although she had the same old home and enough to live comfortably, she felt lonely without him. Her children were all married but one with whom she lived till Sep. 12, 1892'. She went, with her son, (Ulysses) to Nebraska, where she visited among her children, at different places, for three months, arriving home on her seventy-third birthday.

About Dec. 20, 1894, she went to Marseilles, Illinois, to visit her son Frank, where she stayed about two months.

Then about the first of Oct. 1897, she went back to the old home in Michigan. Arriving there on the birthday of her only living sister, Elizabeth, who was greatly

surprised and pleased to see her. She had a very pleasant visit there among her relatives, and old acquaintances, arriving home on her seventy-eighth birthday.

In November 1900, she sent with her son, Charles, to Centerville, Iowa where she visited about two weeks. This was the last trip she made on the cars.

On the 23rd of December, 1900, everything was covered with ice, and she slipped and fell and sprained her ankle, from which she suffered much.

In April 1901, seven of her children made her a visit at one time. Those present were: Mary, Edward, Lizzie, Frank, Elcia, Charles, and Ulysses. Then again on Thanksgiving day, same years, was prepared for her a dinner at which there were several of her children and fifteen grandchildren and several, greatgrandchildren.

About the first on January she was taken with nervous chills, which weakened her so, that she failed very fast. Her eyesight failed too, til toward the last she could not see any of us to tell who we were. Then her lungs filled up so she could not speak. It was a very say when she tried to talk to us and we could not tell what she said. The last words she said plainly were "Raise my head up a little" and "can't you raise my head up a little" and when we did so, "There that's better". And she quietly passed away to a Better Home, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning of February the 2nd, 1902.

*When time is lost in endless day,
Dear mother;
When loved one's meet and
part no more-
In purest light on boundless shore,
God will thy love and life repay-
Dear mother.*