

John Moore



No Picture Available

Born: 22 Aug 1790 Pitt, NC

Married: 20 Nov 1811 to Nancy O'Steen, Georgia

Died: 1867 Lowndes, GA

Parents: Caleb Moore & Unicy Briley

JOHN AND NANCY O'STEEN MOORE

Pioneer Wiregrass settlers John (b. 22 August 1790) and Nancy O'Steen Moore (b. 7 Dec 1796) came into Lowndes County in 1829, and by 1834 had permanently settled on a large tract of land between present-day Knights Academy Road and GA Highway 31, where they were to raise 18 children. Their seventeenth child, Jesse (born 12 June 1839) was in possession of this land in 1893, and it subsequently passed to Jesse's second son Haley Gardner Moore (b. 7 July 1868 d. 1942) Both John's father Caleb (b. 1760) and his grandfather John had been born in Pitt County, North Carolina had served in the Revolutionary War, John as a Patriot and Caleb as a Private in the North Carolina Militia and his wife Unicy Braily (b. 1765) and their five children migrated to Wayne County, Georgia from North Carolina between 1805 and 1810.

Like his father and grandfather before him, John Moore was a patriot ready to serve his country. He was a private in the Militia of Wayne County, 74th Battalion, 1813-14 in the War of 1812, and also served in the Indian War in 1836-1839. It was here he earned the sobriquet "Indian John." Family anecdotes abound of his prowess against the Indians. He died in 1867, and Nancy in 1875. They are buried in a

small cemetery plot on land they once farmed, in the Grand Bay area. Family members in the 1950's placed permanent markers to delineate the grave sites of "Gentleman John and Miss Nancy" as they were known in their later years of community and family esteem.

The eighteen children of John and Nancy were: Phoebe b. 1812, Leonard b. 1814; Allen b. 1815; Ransom b. 1817; Westberry b. 1819; Linnie b. 1822; Ester b. 1823; Nancy b. 1825; Levi b. 1827; David b. 1828; Sidney b. 1829; Cassie b. 1830; John b. 1832; Stephen b. 1834; Rachel b. 1835; Warren b. 1837; Jesse b. 1839; and Irvin b. 1842. The five youngest sons John, Stephen, Irvin, Warren and Jesse served in the War Between the States in Company H, 26th Georgia Regiment CSA in the Northern Virginia under the Command of General John B. Gordon and Stonewall Jackson under the Command of General Robert E. Lee.

All five brothers fought in the Battles around Richmond and in the 2nd Battle of Manassas. Four of the brothers died in that battle, as a result of instant death or from injuries or conditions. Only Jesse, wounded in the head and hand survived and was later captured in the Battle of Petersburg His last months of the war were spent in Point Lookout, Maryland as a prisoner of War. When he was paroled he returned to Georgia on a barge to Savannah from where he walked home to Lowndes County with only a cup of corn for food until he reached home.

MOORE, JOHN.

1790-1867

LOWNDES

John Moore was born in Pitt County, N. C., August 22, 1790, a son of Caleb Moore (Vol. II). He came with his parents to Wayne County, Georgia, in his youth, and was married there Nov. 28, 1811, to Miss Nancy O'Steen, born Dec. 7, 1796, in Pitt County, N. C. To them were born eighteen children, viz:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. Phoebe | b. Nov. 19, 1812, m. _____. |
| 2. Leonard | b. Aug. 1, 1814, m. _____. |
| 3. Allen | b. Dec. 30, 1815, m. 1st. Margaret Davis; 2nd. MaryAnn Newman. |
| 4. Ransom | b. Sept. 27, 1817, died in youth. |
| 5. Westberry | b. Oct. 27, 1819, m. _____. |
| 6. Linnie | b. Jan. 3, 1822, m. _____. |
| 7. Easter | b. Oct. 23, 1823, m. _____. |
| 8. Nancy | b. May. 21, 1825, m. _____. |
| 9. Levi | b. Apr. 28, 1827, m. 1st. Sarah Rentz,, dau. of Samuel; 2nd. Mrs. Susan Carter, dau. of Samuel Lightsey. |
| 10. David | b. Aug. 11, 1828, m. _____. |
| 11. Sidney | b. Mrch 6, 1829, m. Isham H. Peters. |
| 12. Cassie | b. Apr. 12, 1830, m. Joseph L. Lancaster. |
| 13. John | b. Nov. 15, 1832, m. Narcissus Copeland, dau. of Lott. |
| 14. Stephen | b. May 9, 1834, m. Mary Sellars, dau. of Darley. |
| 15. Rachel | b. Dec. 11, 1835, m. 1st. Barzilla Allen; 2nd. F. M. Shaw. |
| 16. Warren | b. July 8, 1837, m. Caroline Sellers, dau. of Darley. |
| 17. Jesse | b. June 12, 1839, m. Matilda Shaw, dau. of Jeremiah, Jr. |
| 18. Irwin | b. June 24, 1842, never m. Killed in Conf. Army. |

John Moore and family lived in Wayne County until 1817 when they moved to Kettle Creek in present Ware County (but at the time this territory had not been made into counties). In 1822, they moved to Florida for a two year sojourn, moving back in 1824 to Kettle Creek. In 1829, they moved to Lowndes County and lived near the source of Cherry Creek. In 1834, he settled the place which in 1893 was occupied by his son, Jesse, and lived there until his death in 1867. Levi Moore and Isham H. Peters were administrators on his estate.

Mr. Moore was baptized May 20, 1820, into High Bluff Baptist Church (now a Primitive Baptist Church in Brantley County). In 1822, he was a delegate from that church to the Piedmont Association. On Nov. 8, 1823, he was granted a letter of dismissal to enter into the organization of Kettle Creek Church. His subsequent church membership has not been traced. He was a private in the militia of Wayne County, 74th Battalion, 1813-1814, in the War of 1812, and also served in the Indian War in 1836-39.

CENSUS REFERENCES: 1820, Wayne; 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, Lowndes.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in _____ in the County of Lowndes State
of Georgia enumerated by me, on the 11th day of Oct. 1850. Adam Graham Ass't Marshal.

Dwellings numbered in the order of visitation.	Parties numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place or Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year, or at any time within the year, or at any time within the year, or at any time within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.					
		<u>St. H. Martin, Continued</u>								
		<u>Henry Touchstone</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>543</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>James S. Martin</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Farmer</u>		<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>" " " " " "</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>Stephen</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
<u>544</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>James Davis</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>Mary</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>Nancy</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>John</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Mary</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Sarah</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Ferry</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Emily</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Martha</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>John</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
<u>545</u>	<u>545</u>	<u>John Moore</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>2500</u>	<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>Nancy</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>Wesley</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>John</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Labourer</u>		<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Stephen</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Labourer</u>		<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Rachel</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Marion</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>James</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Erwin</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
<u>546</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>William G. Knight</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>2500</u>	<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Rachel</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>John</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Labourer</u>		<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>William</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Labourer</u>		<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>James</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Labourer</u>		<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Rachel</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Nancy</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Thomas</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Rebecca</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Lucinda</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Mary</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Walter</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Samuel</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
<u>547</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>Wm. Touchstone</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>M</u>		<u>Farmer</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>Rebecca</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>F</u>				<u>S.C.</u>	<u>1</u>	
		<u>John</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>William</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		
		<u>Abraham</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>M</u>				<u>Geo</u>		

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

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.

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!

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

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.

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 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 ([see page 18](#)) "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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 -

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

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.

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.

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

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."

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

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.

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.

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:

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

Above information from:

JOHN MOORE, 1790-1867

SON OF CALEB: A Genealogical Narrative

By Jesse Felma Moore



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.

Information from Jesse Moore from Ancestry.com

PROGRAM

JOHN AND NANCY O'STEEN MOORE

FAMILY REUNION
AND
MARKER DEDICATION

CAT CREEK Fellowship Hall AND CEMETERY
LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009

- 9:45-10:30 Registration and Fellowship - Fellowship Hall
(Nancy Burns Moore, LaVerne Moore Huda, Maureen Poole Collins)
- 10:30-11:45 MORNING SESSION - Fellowship Hall
- 10:30-10:45 Music of Faith, Family and Country
- 10:45-11:00 Welcome - Introduction of attendees by family lines
(Anne Moore Gunter, presiding)
- 11:00-11:15 Tribute to "Gentleman John" - Jesse Moore
- 11:15-11:30 Tribute to "Miss Nancy" - Bryan Shaw
- 11:30-11:45 Group Photo(s)
- 11:45-12:30 CEMETERY
- 11:55-12:15 Dedication and Prayer
Colonel R.G. Moore, Chaplain, U.S. Army
Taps - Kevin Hempe
- 12:15-12:30 Additional Photos, Time to walk about cemetery
- 12:30-1:15 LUNCH - Fellowship Hall
- 1:15-3:15 AFTERNOON SESSION - Fellowship Hall
(Laura Moore Hutcheson, presiding)
Family Trees and Stories, Pictures
- 3:15-3:30 CLOSING SESSION
Final Remarks
Closing Prayer - Stephen Hutcheson
Closing Hymn - *Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

John Moore (1790-1867) was born in Pitt County, NC, a son of Caleb Moore (1760-1821) and Eunice (Unicy) Briley Moore. As a young man, John moved with his parents to Wayne County, Georgia, where he met and later married Nancy O'Steen, (1796-1875) daughter of John and Ada Weeks O'Steen. John O'Steen served as the Postmaster of Waresboro, Georgia. Ada Weeks was a direct descendant of Isaac Robinson, a Pilgrim father who sailed to the new world on the second voyage of the Mayflower. John Moore's father Caleb and his grandfather John had both served in the Revolutionary War. John became a militiaman, serving in the War of 1812 and in the Indian wars of the early 1800's.

In 1829, John and Nancy moved, with their ten children, to the eastern side of Lowndes County, Georgia. In 1833, they bought their first 490 acre lot of land near the present day intersection of Knight's Academy Road and Highway 31/221, and built the log house which they would occupy to the end of their days. Over the next several years, they added to their family and to their land holdings. By 1853, their land holdings were roughly 2500 acres ". . . from Bemiss to Blanton Station. . ." and 18 children had been born to them.

John and Nancy eventually sold, or gave all their land to their children. The last 750 acres was deeded to son Jesse for "love and affection" after he returned home from the Civil War. Jesse and his wife, Matilda Shaw Moore, agreed to care for John and Nancy the rest of their lives. John and Nancy continued to live in the log house until they died, John in 1867 and Nancy in 1875. At least four generations of Moores lived in the house at various times, and it was later occupied by tenants when it was destroyed by fire in the 1960's.

Many tales abound in the family. In one version, John was ambushed in the forest by a marauding band of Indians, and, being woods savvy and fleet of foot, made it to safety. As he bent down to enter his corral, an arrow thudded into the rail above his head. His friends and neighbors remarked admiringly that he was better than the Indians at traversing the forest. Others claim that it was his prowess in fighting the Indians in the Indian wars of the early 1800's that earned him the nickname of "Indian John." In his later years, he was noted for his stylish mode of dress, and one artifact still treasured somewhere in the family is his hatband with a feather. He considered himself a "Country Gentleman" and preferred the nickname, "Gentleman John."

Inside of Marker Dedication Bulletin

valdostadailytimes.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Moore family gathers for a family reunion and to dedicate a marker at the Cat Creek Fellowship Hall and Cemetery.

Moore family gathers, dedicates marker

VALDOSTA — Descendants of John and Nancy O'Steen Moore from as far away as Bloomington, Ind.; Alexandria, Va.; and Miami gathered at historic Cat Creek Cemetery Oct. 24 to dedicate a marker to the memory of their early South Georgia ancestors.

More than 100 people heard a great-great-grandson from the line of the Moores' son, Jesse, speak. U.S. Army Chaplain Col. R.G. "Dick" Moore paid tribute to the hardy, independent pioneer couple who, sustained by their faith and motivated by a strong work ethic, reared 18 children in a log house near Indian Territory in the early 19th Century.

Other speakers included another great-great-grandson, Jesse Moore,

author of "And One More Thing," who gave the origin of John's nickname, "Indian John." It seems that the Indian fighter escaped from an ambush by hostile Indians using Indian tactics to elude his pursuers. In later years, John garnered another nickname. As the couple's landholdings in South Georgia expanded to more than 2,500 acres, John, noted for his stylish mode of dress, became known as "Gentleman John."

A third speaker was also a great-great-grandson, descended from John and Nancy's daughter, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw. Bryan Shaw pointed out that Nancy O'Steen Moore was a direct descendant of Isaac Robinson, son of the founder of the first Pilgrim congregation, who

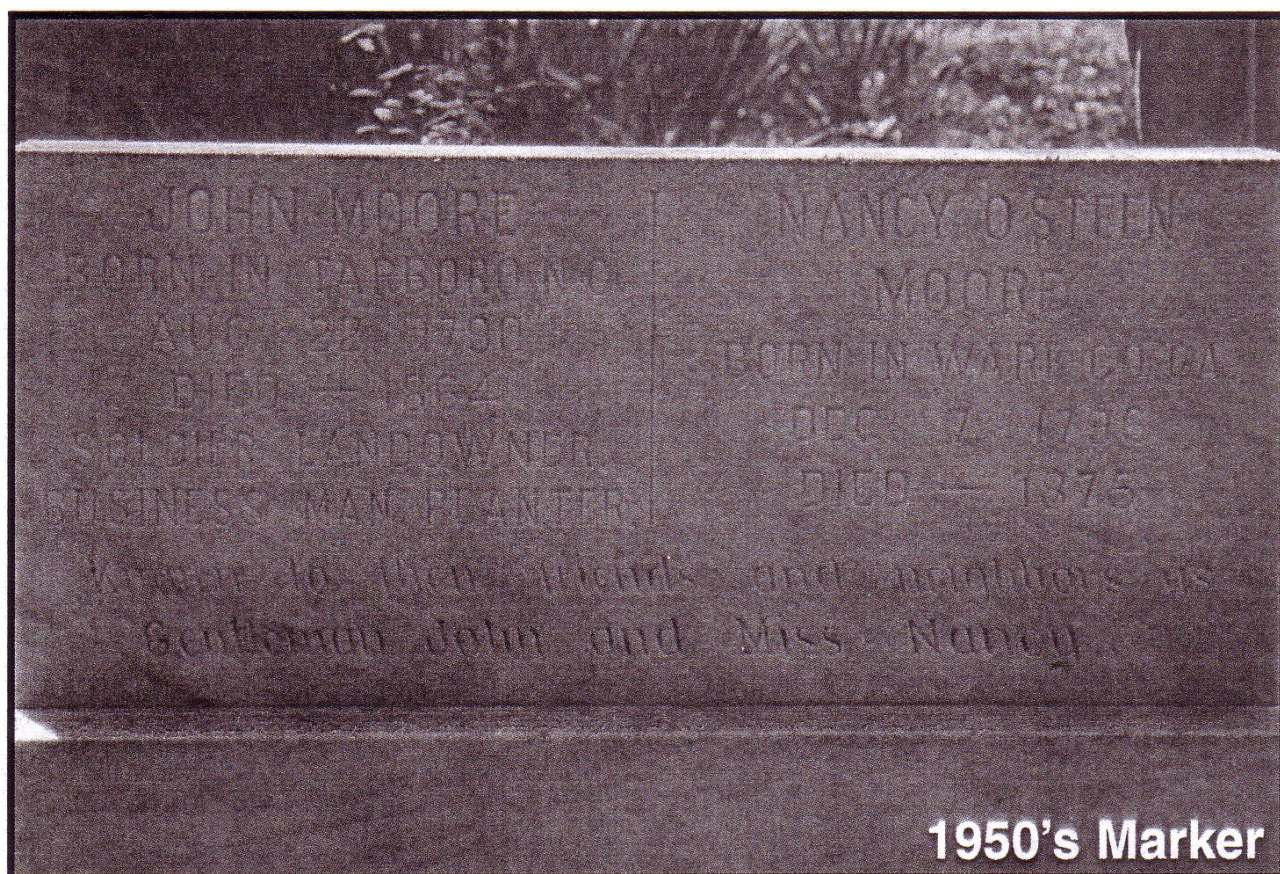
came to the New World on the second voyage of The Mayflower.

The afternoon session, conducted by Laurene Moore Hutcheson, was devoted to sharing family trees, stories and pictures. Trifold posters and photographs showed more than 700 known descendants of John and Nancy, including doctors, engineers, teachers and other professional people, merchants and other businessmen and women, farmers, military personnel and public servants.

Overall coordinator for the event was Anne Moore Gunter, assisted by her sisters, Laverne "Bunnie" Moore Huda and Iris Moore Poole and their families, and cousins, Jesse Moore and Kathryn Burgsteiner Stevens.

Newspaper article in Valdosta Daily Times

Information from Dedication service provided by Ann Moore Gunter of Valdosta, GA



Picture of Marker placed near the actual burial place of John and Nancy Moore in 1950's on land still owned by their descendents.

Picture of wall from Ft Wayne
as it looks today



Old map of Savannah, GA showing location of Ft Wayne



The SITE OF FORT WAYNE, NE. corner E. Bay and E. Broad Sts., Savannah, GA, is now occupied by the municipal gas plant. Though built in 1762, the fort was not of great military importance until the Revolutionary period, when it was named for the fiery patriot General "Mad Anthony" Wayne. The British strengthened it in 1779 after the city had fallen into their hands, and the Americans rebuilt it for defense during the War of 1812. Encircling a high bluff and overlooking what was once a marshy plain are the massive buttressed brick walls, built during the second alteration; they still appear redoubtable with their old black cannon, relics of the fort pointing seaward.

The fort was built on the original site of the Trustees' Gardens, which covered ten acres. In these gardens mulberry trees were planted and experiments conducted with various exotic plants in the days when it was hoped that the Georgia colony could produce silk, wine, and drugs. In 1735 eight pounds of silk was sent to England and woven into a dress for Queen Caroline. But the silk industry did not prosper for long, and soon more practicable products replaced the mulberry trees. ---Georgia, a Guide to its Towns and Countryside, 1940

Today the site looks much as it did in 1940, except that there are no longer any cannons here. There are still gas pipelines through the site and the Flint House still marks the southern boundary of the Fort.

John Moore, Corporal, was on duty at this fort from December 7, 1814- Jan 15, 1815