

AUTHORS NOTE

In forty nine years of collecting, researching and compiling information and data for the Moore's in my line I have been frequently baffled by certain Moore information that did not seem to be of the same category as the descendants of Rodeham Moore. With this in mind, I have decided to place each family into one of three family categories, that is:

Rodeham Moore descendants (The Handsome Moore's)
John Moore of Albemarle Co. VA descendants (The Fancy Moore's)
Henry Moore descendants, formerly a Colonial Maryland English Planter who settled on the east side of the Potomac river near Alexandria, VA (The Berryville Moore's).

These designations have nothing to do with their looks or position in life. It is only used to keep them separated.

There is some intermarriage between the Handsome Moore's and the Fancy Moore's known at present. A case in point is William Alfred Moore, (Handsome Moore's) who built the beautiful standing Moore house in Mt. Airy, NC who married Rachel Martin Moore, gr-granddaughter of Matthew Moore (**The Ironmaster**), (Fancy Moore's) and Letitia (Dalton) Moore. The Berryville Moore's produced legislators like E. Blackburn Moore, some doctors, lawyers, and businessmen. The "Old Heads" (Handsome Moore's) said repeatedly there was no known connection between the two in my conversations with them. Incidentally, the term Fancy Moore's did not originate with me. I picked it up in communications with the late Dr. Fleming Moore with whom I was conversant "Early On."

At this point I would like to touch upon why the Fancy Moore's, the Handsome Moore's, William's, Kings, Daltons, Gaines and other families moved westward and southward from Stokes and Surry counties in North Carolina, and Patrick, Henry and other counties in Virginia. Several things attracted these people away from their homes in Virginia and North Carolina. They are; availability of good arable land, timber, and mineral deposits known of in eastern Tennessee. The greatest attractant was the Iron Industry.

I say this without qualifications. I know where I am "Coming from." In 1996 I released to the general researching public my recently completed book, "Iron Furnace, The Magnet." Over three years of intensive research, expensive travel, and on site research was completed before writing the book. I know what I am talking about. I have done my "Homework". At peak operation nearly 250 *skilled* people were employed to run each Iron Furnace. If you can find someone who has more expertise than my wife and I on the Colonial iron industry in particular, listen to them.

There were iron works being built at Orebank, TN near Kingsport, TN and Mooresburg, TN to the west in the latter part of the 1700's; this carried forward into the next century.

These were only two of a number of other ironworks. In addition substantial amounts of Marble was discovered just east of Mooresburg, TN. The quarries are easy to see today.

Has the reader considered why John Strother Gaines who married Letitia Dalton Moore, granddaughter of Matthew Moore the Ironmaster, built "Exchange Place" on the Western Stage Road in Orebank, TN? See the John Moore Newsletter, Number 6, April 1992 for further particulars. I shall go into greater detail about the iron industry in a future writing. Consider it, 250 skilled employees to keep an iron industry at peak operation. This does not take into consideration the families involved, nor does it consider the farmers producing food and fiber and associated industries like cobblers, doctors, merchants and public officials who added to the 250 before mentioned. Without question, the Iron Furnace was the Magnet. Adding to this incentive to move was the other industries mentioned, and the \$9.00 per month wage for skilled employees at the Iron Furnace.

In 1805 Hugh Moore & John Moore are found in the Hawkins County Deed Book #3 page 420. We know they were in the vicinity of the present Mooresburg, TN on that date. This was about six years before the death of Rodeham Moore (4 June 1811) who died in the vicinity of Providence Furnace perhaps. This furnace was owned by Matthew Moore, the Ironmaster. Matthew Moore migrated to Stokes Co. NC in 1773. Was he knowledgeable about iron production in Albemarle county, VA? Did he work for, or own, or was he associated with the iron industry there? These questions need deep scrutiny. If it is found that he knew and worked with iron while he lived in Albemarle county VA, Dr. Fleming Moore would turn over in his grave with excitement. Matthew Moore, the Iron Master, built the presently standing home about 1786.

Since it takes about five years from inception to completion of an Iron Furnace before the liquid metal flowed, he must have started his Furnace building about 1774. This auger's well with the Colonial need of iron to release the strangle hold the British had on the iron item import. There was no trade of musket, cannon and ball with the British. The Colonist had to go against British rule and create their own iron industry. At this same time Iron Furnaces were operating in Pennsylvania and Virginia and some other scattered locations. Many furnaces were being built in VA, PA, WV, and NC in this time frame.

Matthew Moore (The Ironmaster) signs his last will and testament on 10 October 1801. See WB 1, pp. 9 1/2, Stokes Co. NC. The iron furnace "Providence" is mentioned there is some detail. Providence Furnace and peripheral properties and installations eventually fell into the hands of Johnson Clement who married Elizabeth Moore, daughter of the Ironmaster. The economic slump, before and during 1805, probably closed the Providence Furnace down temporarily. Over two hundred people were out of work. The Ironmaster had huge acreage in eastern Tennessee, among other places, which gave great promise of employment. Hugh G. Moore and John Moore his younger brother most probably worked at, or for, Providence Furnace.

They soon went west to eastern Tennessee to Sullivan and Hawkins counties seeking their fortune. Many other skilled workers now out of a job accompanied them.

Consider this. Rodeham Moore is always found living near an Iron Furnace. His greatest distance, five or six miles from an Iron Furnace *or peripheral industries associated therewith*, was when he lived immediately back of Ms Georgia Puckett's present home in a large log house built upon "Huge Stones." This fact was related to me by Ms Georgia Puckett. She stated the elderly late Sid Smith had related the fact to her. Close by Joe Moore later operated a store.

What was Rodeham Moore's job in support of an iron furnace? Speculation is the present approach. His sons, grandsons, and great grandsons, I have knowledge of, knew and plied the following trades; saw milling, grain milling, distilling, blacksmithing, metal forming work and animal husbandry. This was in addition to farming, merchandising, horse racing, and real estate dealing. "Rodey" may have been a Collier, a Founder or a Blacksmith at Providence Furnace. Possibly he may have been in the employ of other nearby iron furnaces. *He could have been distilling for the citizenry and industries associated with an iron furnace. By the above speculation I am not saying Rodeham Moore worked at an iron furnace but it would be hardly avoidable to work in an area where there were over time 15 documented iron furnaces without doing something that aided and abetted the dominant prime mover in the now Patrick, Surry, Stokes, and Rockingham counties in Virginia and North Carolina.*

I am of the opinion the reason **no one has ever found out anything about Rodeham Moore** before his appearance in VA is, WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE. *That statement is quite apparently correct as nothing has been found. Has anyone examined Maryland's iron furnace records closely, (I have not. I am advised they are very poor and sketchy) or the Pennsylvania iron furnace records (yes I have and at some depth) where the infant iron industry was located. Skilled Iron Furnace employees by the hundreds left Burke and Chester counties in Pennsylvania to avoid the British onslaught and to avoid conscription. From these two counties and the Valley Forge area is where the vast majority of trained iron workers came before Great Britain tried legislating against the importation of skilled people into the Colonies. I at no point want to imply or insinuate that Rodeham Moore came to the Patrick county and other areas nearby from Pennsylvania. There were very few locals, Indians or Caucasians, who knew anything about iron smelting in NC or southwestern VA. Some of these workers came from the Pennsylvania iron industry locality. These workers yes, but this does not give any space for the known thousands that were brought to the Colonies from Ireland, Scotland, England and even Germany between 1750 and 1800, and beyond to work in the Iron Industries in the back country of the Colonies.*

Changes in italics have been made to bring this document more in line with the insisted changes from another researcher, a descendant of Rodeham Moore, not bearing the Moore name.