

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON SAMUEL MOORE

TRADING POST LOCATION: When Samuel Moore started his trading post in 1822, it was a log cabin previously used by the blacksmith, Charles Vertrees. The structure was situated on the brow of the hill (approximately where today's V.F.W. Post 1111 now stands on South Indiana Street). In 1823, Samuel Moore built himself a log cabin home just east of the trading post, on land he owned that is south of today's South Street. In the historical record, the trading post has been described as being situated near White Lick Creek, a few hundred feet (some sources say yards) north of the railroad bridge. There was some speculation that the trading post stood where today's Kroger stands, but this was probably storage facilities used in Samuel Moore's mills that were nearby along White Lick Creek.

MERCHANT'S LICENSE: Samuel Moore received his merchant's license from George Beeler, Morgan County Clerk, in Martinsville, on April 3, 1824.

SURVEYOR DECLINED LAND AS PAYMENT: William Hadley was the surveyor who prepared the original plat of Mooresville for Samuel Moore. When Moore offered Hadley a lot in the new town as payment for his services, Hadley declined, preferring instead \$4.50 in merchandise from Moore's general store.

EARLY STREET NAMES: On the original town plat of Mooresville (recorded February 21, 1825, in the Morgan County Recorder's Office), some street names differed from their modern counterparts. Harrison Street was called York Street; Clay Street was called Hendricks Street; Jefferson Street was called Adams Street. Washington, Indiana, and Main Streets remained the same. The other streets were probably renamed during the 1840s.

OLD TOWN PARK DONATION: Samuel Moore donated Old Town Park to the citizens of Mooresville at the Town Board of Trustees meeting on October 8, 1877. He concluded his donation "with my very best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the citizens of the Town, I remain truly your friend, Samuel Moore." He also requested that no baseball playing, horse racing, gambling, or alcohol should be carried out on the premises, as it would be objectionable to women and children. The annual Old Settlers picnic was also to be held there.

NEWSPAPER DESCRIPTION OF SAMUEL MOORE (SEPTEMBER 1871): "The founder and proprietor of Mooresville, was born near Albemarle Sound, Perquimons¹ [sic] county in the State of North Carolina, on the 21st day of January, 1799, and was the son of Joseph Moore,

¹ Correct spelling is Perquimans County, North Carolina.

who was a farmer and also had a fishery where Shad and Herring were caught in large numbers, and afforded fine sport for Samuel in his boyish days.

“In the year 1818, Joseph Moore, the father of Samuel, with his family, emigrated to the west, and settled near Salem in Washington county, Indiana. The father being a weakly man, his son Samuel remained with him until 1822, and performed labor on the farm, having been raised to that kind of employment. In August, 1822, he determined to seek a new home and start in the business of life on his own hook. Bidding his parents and relatives farewell, he set out and soon found himself settled on the lands where Mooresville now stands [. . .], and since that time has continued a resident of the place [. . .]

“Mr. Moore was married to Miss Eliza Worthington of Madison Indiana, on the 15th of April 1828, and the two have lived a long and happy life together and still live [in 1871, when this account was written] to enjoy the fruits of their honest toil. All their children have departed this life except Maggie [Margaret W. Fogleman], who was recently [1869] married to David Fogleman, but who still remains at the old homestead to console and care for her venerable parents in their declining years.²

“Mr. Moore was engaged in the goods trade in Mooresville forty-four years [1823-1867]. He bought his first stock of goods [in 1823] in Louisville, then bought in Louisville and Cincinnati up to the year 1833, and from thence bought his general stocks in Philadelphia and New York. He sold the first bill of goods that were retailed at Danville, Indiana, to William Hinton and Samuel Wick, and the first bill of goods that were retailed at Kokomo, Indiana, to David Foster.

“When Mr. Moore first commenced business at Mooresville, the principal currency was silver, deer skins, coon skins, ginsang³ [*sic*], bees wax, and some times buck horns; and among the prominent articles of merchandise [he sold] were pewter plates, pewter spoons, iron skillets, etc.

“Mr. Moore, since his retirement from the mercantile business, has turned his attention to Agriculture, and throughout his entire business life, public and private, has been recognized as a benefactor, always ready to administer to the wants of the poor, and in the erection of

² In 1871, Samuel & Eliza Moore lived in the house at 35 West High Street, which still stands today. The house was constructed by the Moore's son-in-law, Washington Conduitt, in 1852-1853. When Conduitt's wife, Mary, who was Samuel & Eliza Moore's daughter, died in October, 1853, Washington decided he did not wish to live there, as he had built the home for his wife. Instead, Samuel & Eliza Moore moved into the house in 1853, moving from their previous home on Madison Street (just south of High Street), which was demolished in 1968, and which was situated where Pioneer Pointe shopping plaza now stands. After Samuel's death in 1889, the High Street house passed to Samuel & Eliza's daughter, Margaret W. Fogleman, and, after her death in 1907, to Samuel & Eliza's granddaughter, Mary Ida Fogleman. Ida Fogleman (as she was known) lived there until August, 1950, when the property was sold due to her failing health. Ida died in 1953.

³ Correct spelling is *ginseng*.

churches and school houses; and but a year ago [1870] appropriated, for a term of ten years, a beautiful grove of sixteen acres to be used by the Mooresville District Agricultural Society and for picnics and other public gatherings,⁴ and to his credit be it spoken, that during his stay of near fifty years in the community where he now resides [i.e., 1822-1871, when this article was written], and having business transactions of some character with almost every person in the community, he is without an enemy.

“In personal appearance Mr. Moore is of medium height, well proportioned figure, handsome features and a countenance at once expressive of intelligence and generous benevolence. His whole life has been so identified with the history of [Morgan] county, that few men are more generally known, and no man has ever lived that has enjoyed the confidence of the people to a greater extent. Liberal and charitable to all, still he has been through life a man of positive principles, both in politics and morals; in the former he always supported the candidates of the old whig party; more recently he has been an ardent Republican; in the latter, with his family, he has adhered to the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, worshipping in its congregations, contributing freely of his means and influence to the support of its ministers and institutions.”⁵

SOURCES:

- “Mooresville: Its Past, Present and Future; Historical, Descriptive and Personal—Samuel Moore.” Unnamed newspaper clippings, most likely from *Morgan County Republican*, September, 1871, reprinted in Likely, Indiana E. (Parker) (1973). *Mooresville, Morgan County, Indiana Scrapbook: Clippings from the Mooresville Enterprise and other papers of the 1870s and Later*, pp. 75/93-76/92. Dayton, OH: Harmon House.
- Original Plat of Mooresville, Indiana (1824, recorded February 21, 1825, Morgan County Recorder’s Office), MPL Indiana Room display.
- Samuel Moore vertical files, MPL Indiana Room.



⁴ This land became Old Town Park on South Street, which Samuel Moore donated to the Town of Mooresville on October 8, 1877. It was used from 1870 onwards for agricultural fairs and the annual Old Settlers picnic, which began in 1870. Between 1870-1877, it was commonly known as the Mooresville District Agricultural Society’s fairgrounds, but the name was formally changed to Town Park (now called Old Town Park) in 1877.

⁵ When Eliza Moore first established the Mooresville Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church (*circa* 1828), Samuel was not a member. He had been raised a Quaker but left the Friends Church after his marriage. It was noted in contributors’ records in 1839 that Samuel Moore donated \$200 toward construction of the M.E. Church on West Washington Street but was “not a member.” Sometime thereafter, however, he became an active participant in the Mooresville M.E. Church.