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Moore, Alexander (ca. 1822/1823 - 1901)

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MOORE, ALEXANDER

FILE NO. B-922

Alexander Moore was born in the District of Columbia in 1822, a son of John Moore and Rachel (Evans) Moore. John Moore was for many years a school teacher in the District of Columbia, in Pennsylvania and in Michigan. His Grandfather was an officer in the army during the Revolutionary War and his father served his country in the war of 1812, participating under General Winder, in the defense of the City of Washington against the British forces, under General Ross in 1814.

When Alexander Moore was about seven years old the family moved to Pennsylvania, settling near Bedford, and nine years later to Monroe, Michigan. He received an education such as the common schools then afforded, and learned the trade of machinist, and during several years worked at his trade at Albion, Michigan, where he had a foundry, forming a partnership with Joseph Hall of Rochester, New York, for the manufacture of threshing machines.

In the year 1849 he went to California by the overland route, and among the incidents of this trip he often related to his friends the fact of his trading horses with Brigham Young at Salt Lake City. He was five months on the way, reaching California without a dollar. He at once went to work in the mines on his own account, and by energy and industry amassed considerable money. He returned to Michigan at the end of a year, and again went to California, this time as he had returned by the Panama Isthmus route.

Upon his second return in the summer of 1851, he removed his family to St. Anthony now a part of Minneapolis, built a home and

soon became largely interested in real estate. He owned at one time a large portion of north Minneapolis, and with other parties platted, "Bassett, Moore and Case's Addition" and "Case and Moore's Addition." to Minneapolis. He also acquired interests in many townsites throughout the state: Fair Haven, Clearwater, Little Falls and others, many of which are now thriving cities of the northwest, thus indicating the sound judgment, wisdom and business sagacity of the man. He was the second merchant in Minneapolis proper, traded there until the autumn of 1857, when he, like many other merchants, succumbed to the effects of the great financial panic and lost his all.

Alexander Moore, with John Jackins and Joseph Dean, constituted the first board of County Commissioners of Hennepin county, Mr. Moore being its chairman. The board held its first meeting on October 21, 1852 at the home of the late Col. John H. Stevens in Minneapolis and at an adjourned meeting held on October 28, 1852 the board established Minneapolis as the county seat of Hennepin county. At a subsequent meeting held soon thereafter, the board established school District No. 1, covering the entire county of Hennepin, and ordered a school house built "at or near Albion". Mr. Moore being from Albion, Mich. desired that the proposed new town should bear that name, and in fact it did for some little time.

Prior to 1857 Alexander Moore had made himself well acquainted throughout the state, and with its advantages and resources, had visited the Red River Country, and the territory lying south and west of where the City of Sauk Centre now stands was familiar to him, for in 1856 he had brought a gang of men from Minneapolis and during the winter built a dam across the Sauk River at this point, there being then no settlement nor a house within 35 miles.

Alexander Moore moved his family to Sauk Centre in 1863 and in the same year he laid out and platted the townsite. His aged mother, Rachel Moore, was at that time a member of his family, and lived with him until her death in 1869.

When the outbreak of the Sioux Indians took place in 1862, Alexander Moore was then in Minneapolis, and learning there of the trouble he immediately started in a buggy for Sauk Centre to warn the settlers whom he knew had no intimation of the danger and made the distance of 120 miles, in twenty-two hours. He reached Sauk Centre at early daylight and scouts were at once sent out to bring in the settlers and their families. They were all in town before dark and during the night several of the houses, vacated a few hours before, were fired and burned by the Indians. His promptness and expedition on this occasion saved the lives of about thirty families. He plead earnestly and successfully with Governor Ramsey to send a troop of soldiers to this point and as a result the stockade was built here and the foundation of Sauk Centre was laid.

Alexander Moore has ever since resided in Sauk Centre, was a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Stearns County, served two terms in the State Legislature, was made an alderman of the City, and otherwise honored by his fellow citizens. He was engaged in the real estate business with his son-in-law, George M. Bennett, from 1879 to 1885, and since the latter years has devoted his time to farming. He was the owner of considerable farming and timber lands in Stearns and adjoining counties.

Alexander Moore and Louvicy C. Perham were united in matrimony on May 21, 1844, at Monroe, Michigan. Louvicy C. Perham was born in Chautaugua County, New York on October 4, 1823. Mr. and Mrs. Moore

came to St. Anthony and a little later removed to the West side of the Mississippi where they built the third house in Minneapolis; John H. Stevens and Joel Bassett having built previously.

Eight children were born to Louvicy C. Perham and Alexander Moore, three of whom grew to adulthood.

Louvicy Moore died at Sauk Centre on February 3, 1901.

"In many respects Alexander Moore was a remarkable man, and while he was not perfect, he was possessed of many warm and generous impulses and the goodness of his nature shone forth on many occasions. He was kind and charitable, particularly to the early pioneers whome he knew and loved, and whose trials and hardships he knew and shared. His long life was one of unremitting toil, untiring energy, industry and perseverance, and in this respect worthy of immulation. He was made of that stern material that builds empires, yet among his neighbors he was gentle as a child.

Honorable Alexander Moore died at Sauk Centre, December 30, 1901.

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Copied from: "The Avalanche" December 26, 1901

Copied by: Dorothy Hansmann

Copied on: May 2, 1938

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FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FOR THE ALEXANDER MOORE BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1901 All Page 406

Alexander Moore, Born in District of Columbia, April 14, 1823

Son of John Moore and Rachel Evans

Died December 20, 1901

Age 78 years 8 months and 6 days

MOORE, ALEXANDER

File No. B-923

Alexander Moore, miller, born in the District of Columbia, April 14, 1823; died in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, December 20, 1901. He came to Minnesota in 1851, settling in Minneapolis, was one of the founders of Sauk Centre in 1857 to 1865, building its first sawmill and flouring mills.

Copied from: Minnesota Biographies Page 520
Date Copied: March 19, 1937
Copied by: Tresa Gruber

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE ALEXANDER MOORE BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK 1901 A 11 PAGE 406

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