

Jackson County CHRONICLES

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JULY 1995

J.C.H.A. MEETING

SUNDAY

JULY 23, 1995

2:30

MOODY BRICK - KYLES COMMUNITY

Program Vice President John H. Graham takes pleasure in announcing that Ron and Diane Lee will host the July 23 meeting of the J.C.H.A. at the Moody Brick which they plan to occupy when they retire from their Saudi Arabia tour. Although the restoration is far from complete, most of the major outside work and some minor interior work has been accomplished. The brick have been repointed, the bottom floors replaced, and the windows have all been rebuilt. The Lees' architect, Harvie Jones of Huntsville, has rendered invaluable service, and Mr. Jones has been invited to share our meeting.

The house is not air conditioned so please wear casual, mid-July clothing and bring your own lawn chair, as no seating will be provided by the hosts or the Association. However, John Graham has promised cold lemonade for your refreshment.

To reach the Moody Brick from Highway 72, turn west at Hollywood on Jackson County Road 33 and travel west to Harmony Baptist Church. Turn right on County Road 32 beside the church and travel about .5 mile. Turn left on County Road 64 and the Moody Brick is only a short distance on the left or south side of County Road 64. You will not want to miss this rare treat! Mark your calendar for July 23, 2:30 p.m. and wear your walking shoes.

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOC.
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JACKSON COUNTY, THE SWITZERLAND OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

THE MOODY BRICK
(HARRIS-MOODY-LEE HOUSE)

edited by Ann B. Chambless

History does repeat itself! When Ron and Diane Lee purchased the Moody Brick in December 1990, not one window remained in the house. For many years the local teenagers taunted their peers with stories of ghosts which roamed the house and cemetery. Identical conditions existed 120 years ago when the Moody brothers purchased the property at an estate auction in 1873 for \$11,700. (Jackson County Deed Book 7, pages 477-478)

In the June 14, 1879, edition of THE CITIZEN, the Fackler correspondent wrote to the editor:

As I have just returned from a general ride over the "Moody Farm," I hope you will allow me space in your valuable paper to speak of what I saw and what I know about it, hoping that other large landowners may be stimulated to follow their example. And let me assure you here that this is not intended for a "puff" but a mere tribute to industry and fair dealing; and I hope Messrs. Moody will pardon the liberty I here assume. The farm contains about 2500 acres, more than 1000 of which are cleared and in a high state of cultivation. Originally it was an excellent body of land, and its owners prized it only for the number of bales of cotton it produced and cultivated it exclusively for that view. It is but reasonable to suppose the soil had become tired and worn. When purchased by Messrs. Moody five or six years ago, it was in woefully dilapidated condition - the fences all down, the land grown up in sedge grass and bushes - the hillsides all washed off - AND THE FINE BRICK BUILDING SO MUCH ABUSED AND NEGLECTED AS TO PRESENT AN INVITING RETREAT FOR GHOSTS AND HOB-GOBLINS GENERALLY. But money and industry can work wonders in the way of improvements.

The fences have been repaired and a great deal of substantial new plank fencing added; the sedge grass and bushes have all disappeared, the red hills have doffed their scarlet robes and donned a coat of living green while the dwelling has been so thoroughly renovated and beautified the most fastidious would be glad to occupy it. These improvements, however, develop themselves most clearly and satisfactorily in the present growing crops.

A large amount of wheat was sown last year, most of which has already been harvested. The stand was not first-rate, but the grain is large and full and of an excellent quality. The oat crop, at one time thought to be worthless, will make a fair yield, and is entirely free from rust. The corn crop is rather late but looks remarkably well; it is now growing rapidly and will make an abundant yield if no calamity befalls it. Cotton promises all the reasonable tenant could desire. In one large clover field I counted more than 20 head of colts and horses and saw quite a number of hogs and cattle, all in fine condition. One improvement I noticed which is more than worthy of mentioning here is the pains they have taken and the expense the owners have been at in providing for the comfort and the convenience of their numerous tenants.

THE MOODY BRICK edited by Ann B. Chambless (continued)

Nearly all of them are provided with neat cottages with two rooms, brick or stone chimneys, corn cribs, stables, and neatly pailed gardens. All seem to be well satisfied and working like Turks. The object of my visit made it necessary for me to see and converse with all of them, and I can truly say I have never seen a more cheerful and happy class of laborers anywhere. They all seem warmly attached to the Moodys, and how could it be otherwise? And the Moodys have shown their attachment for them by the care and pains they have taken for their comfort and convenience. It is an unusual thing to see tenants running walking cultivators, improved double shovels (plows), all provided by the landlord, yet you may see all this and more too on the Moody farm. If the one horse politicians who so recently tried to stir up strife between the land owners and renters will visit this farm, I am inclined to think they would sneak away and never again renew the effort. But their efforts to improve and build up have not been confined to the farm alone; at a heavy expense they have established on the farm a fine merchant MILL which, unfortunately was consumed by fire a few weeks ago. Although their losses were heavy, they seem to bear it with more fortitude and feel it less than the community around its location. It is a loss to them, but a calamity to the people who were, in a measure, dependent on it for bread. But they are game to the last, for they have built a new furnace and erected a new shed over the ruins of the old site and again we hear the shrill whistle of the engine, and all who wish may get bread or lumber on short notice. I learn they propose building a finer and better mill than the other some time this fall. I also learned they propose building a good church and school house on the place, in order to secure church and school facilities to their tenants. So mote it be. PUBLIUS.

Another newspaper article dated April 25, 1879, told of fire:

The steam, flouring grist and saw mill of M. & J.W. Moody, on Mud Creek, was entirely destroyed by fire, including a large amount of lumber and grain one night last week. The loss is estimated at four or five thousand dollars. The Moody brothers are live business men, and we sympathize with them in their loss.

The Moody brothers were: Miles Norton Moody (1835-1912), James Warren Moody (1839-1912), and John J. Moody who were born in South Carolina but had moved to Langston area where they were enumerated on 1860 census of Jackson County. When the 1870 census was taken, John J. Moody was still in Langston, but Miles N. and James W. Moody had moved to Scottsboro, where they built and operated a store at the corner of present day Mary Hunter Avenue and Houston Street (southeast corner).

When Miles N. and James W. Moody bought the Harris farm circa 1872-73, John J. and his wife, Sally Mullins Moody, moved to this farm and probably lived in the "Brick" itself in the early years. John J. and Sally Moody were the parents of Josephine Moody who married Pleasant Wyatt Sanders. The Sanders and their son, Charles Brantley Sanders, are all buried on the farm.

THE MOODY BRICK edited by Ann B. Chambless (continued)

Today the Moody Brick represents a mixture of architectural styles. The Greek Revival portico (porch with roof supported by six large columns) was added in 1916. The portico protects a second story balcony added to accommodate the second floor front door located immediately above the Victorian door of the first floor. The house was built with a center hall plan. Both floors have two symmetrical windows on either side of their doors. Old pictures of the house show two-over-two window sashes typical of the Victorian period, with shutters to cover the panes.

The L-shaped house is built of solid brick walls, both exterior and interior. Oral history passed from generation to generation relates the brick were made on site, possibly by slaves, from the red clay on the farm. The house framing (floor joists and ceiling joists) are from sawmill cut lumber, not pit sawed, which was typical in this area for houses built in its time period.

The interior is dominated by Victorian accents detailed down to the baseboards, door trim, and window trim. The mantles include two Federal period, two Italianate, and two Victorian. The two Federal period could be those of the original house.

A fire destroyed the original house in April 1888. THE SCOTTSBORO CITIZEN dated April 26, 1888, reported:

"The handsome country residence of Mr. Miles Moody was recently destroyed by fire near Mud Creek. Mr. Moody's loss is more than \$2000."

On April 13, 1888, THE ALABAMA HERALD had reported:

On last Sunday the residence of Mr. Miles Moody on Mud Creek in this county was destroyed by fire. The house was a large two-story brick. The fire caught in the roof from a spark from the chimney and had got such headway when discovered it was impossible to check the flames. Mr. Moody succeeded, however, in getting out all the house furniture. Nothing lost but the house. The total loss is estimated at \$2000.

The house was rebuilt using the existing brick walls; only the floors, ceilings, and the roof were needed. Today, the windows date to when the house was rebuilt in 1888. Pictures made not long after the house was rebuilt show the Victorian/Carpenter Gothic porch built in 1888. A smokehouse and ground level kitchen were added to the back of the house in 1902, according to Paralee Moody. The original kitchen was in the cellar.

A. H. Moody moved his family to the Moody Brick two weeks before Paralee Moody was born on February 28, 1902. Shortly after Paralee learned to walk (near the latter part of 1903), an Italian artist, Alfonzo LaMonte, handpainted lovely designs of angels, ribbons, and flowers in pastels on ceilings and walls. Paralee could not remember the actual event but had been told many times by her parents that they were concerned she would venture into the artist's paints with her newly acquired ability to walk and explore all by herself. LaMonte (or LaMante) also decorated the first Scottsboro Presbyterian Church building which was located on Willow Street (between present day Jack's Hamburgers and Word Lumber Company.) Oral tradition says this same artist had previously done work in the White House or Capitol in Washington, D.C. before finding his way to Jackson County.

Ron Lee recently shared the following restoration update:

All seven fireplaces and the three chimneys have been completely redone; one chimney had to be taken down and rebuilt to ensure the fireplaces it serves could be used. The brick on the entire house front had to be redone which involved removing all brick below each of the windows and relaying it to remove the hairline

THE MOODY BRICK compiled by Ann B. Chambless (continued)

cracks, broken brick, and loose mortar. The brick on all sides had to be repointed. The bottom floors had to be replaced due to fire and insect damage. The windows dated to 1888, and all had to be replaced. Our architect, Harvie Jones, referred us to a millwork in Florence, Alabama, and they totally rebuilt our windows.

We removed the 90 year old kitchen and smokehouse and replaced it with a kitchen, den, and basement. The entire back and side porches were removed to accommodate bathrooms and closet space to preclude altering the main floor plan.

Our architect, Mr. Harvie Jones of Huntsville, has been invaluable to the project. Harvie Jones is a purist in restoring. He proposes restoring versus remodeling which he states very emphatically. His first advice was to stabilize the house - stop the deterioration. We replaced the roof and windows. We made several mistakes before we engaged Mr. Jones, and he was quick to insist that changes be made. Most of the changes we followed.

Mr. Jones wanted us to stop work on the house once we had it stabilized, since he understood we did not know enough about the period of the house to know what steps were required. He was correct, but we continued our work for some time after that.

The approach to our restoration has been to preserve the house as it was remodeled in the early part of this century - not to return it to its original state which meant changing the windows from Victorian to Federal, removing the front porch and columns, etc. We did not understand the importance of that decision in terms of work and finances involved; however, four years later and after much reading, I now understand what Harvie Jones meant. Our restoration is far from complete, but a mid-1995 tour will present an opportunity to view the project during a major stage of its restoration.

Who designed and built the original house? None living can say. The home site was first owned by Caleb B. Hudson, born November 22, 1794, in North Carolina. On September 21, 1814, he married Martha C. Ligon in Prince Edward County, Virginia. They were the parents of five children who included Mary Ann Hudson, born in 1817, who married Carter Overton Harris in 1835. Mary Ann Hudson Harris and Carter O. Harris either inherited the land or she and her husband purchased her father's acreage which later became the core of the Moody brothers purchase.

When the 1850 Jackson County census was taken, Carter O. and Mary Ann Harris were enumerated among neighbors known to own land adjoining the house now known as the Moody Brick. In 1850, the value of their real estate was \$6000 which was a great deal larger than the average real estate assessment in Jackson County in 1850. Most likely, they had already built their large two-story brick by 1850 and it and their slaves were included in the \$6000 assessment.

Oral history relates that the same builder also constructed the original John R. Coffey house near Wannville, the Roach house at Carnes, and the William Longacre and the William A. Austin houses at Rash. The legend also exists that the builder and his wife are buried within the stone walls in the cemetery next to the Harris family burial plot.

THE MOODY BRICK edited by Ann B. Chambless (continued)

Caleb Baker Hudson, the son of John and Lucy (Baker) Hudson, Sr. moved from Virginia to Jackson County, Alabama, with his father and brother, John Hudson, Jr. in 1828 or 1829. Caleb Baker Hudson purchased 360 acres in 1830, and his family was enumerated in the 1830 Jackson County census. His son, John William Hudson born 1818, attended the University of Alabama in 1833, according to University records. The date of Caleb B. Hudson's death is not known, but he does not appear in the 1840 Jackson County census. If he died prior to 1840, he could be buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery adjacent to the Moody Brick. Paralee Moody remembers playing on a single grave covered with a large horizontal stone when she was a child. There was no inscription on this large flat stone and she agrees this could be the burial site of Caleb B. Hudson. His wife died in 1822 in Virginia, and it is logical to assume Caleb's grave would be a solo.

Carter Overton Harris' grave marker records his birth and death dates as: born July 16, 1800, died November 22, 1860. His oldest daughter, Martha Catherine (Pattie Kate) was born Jan 3, 1841, and died June 3, 1862. When Mary Ann (Hudson) Harris died on Dec 6, 1897, she was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Scottsboro in the Coffey plot. The Harris' second child, Mary Elizabeth Harris (1847-1894) married Weighstill Avery Coffey, and Mrs. Harris lived with the Coffeys after selling the farm to the Moody brothers.

Miles and Rebecca Moody are buried in the Moody family plot at the Moody Brick. The large stone which marks their grave is inscribed:

Miles Moody	July 7, 1835	-	July 28, 1912
Rebecca Moody	Jan 24, 1825	-	Aug 5, 1899

Miles and Rebecca Moody's son, Albert Henry Moody, bought the farm from his father and uncle, and Albert Henry and his wife, Ursula Jane (Jennie) Campbell Moody raised their family of eight in the Moody Brick. Their children included:

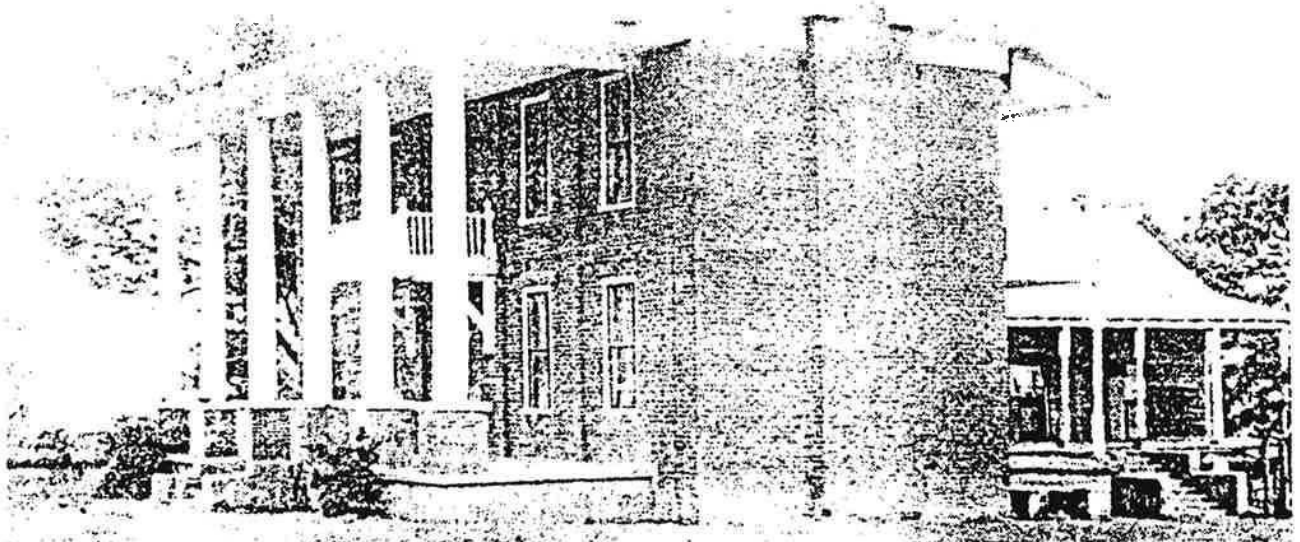
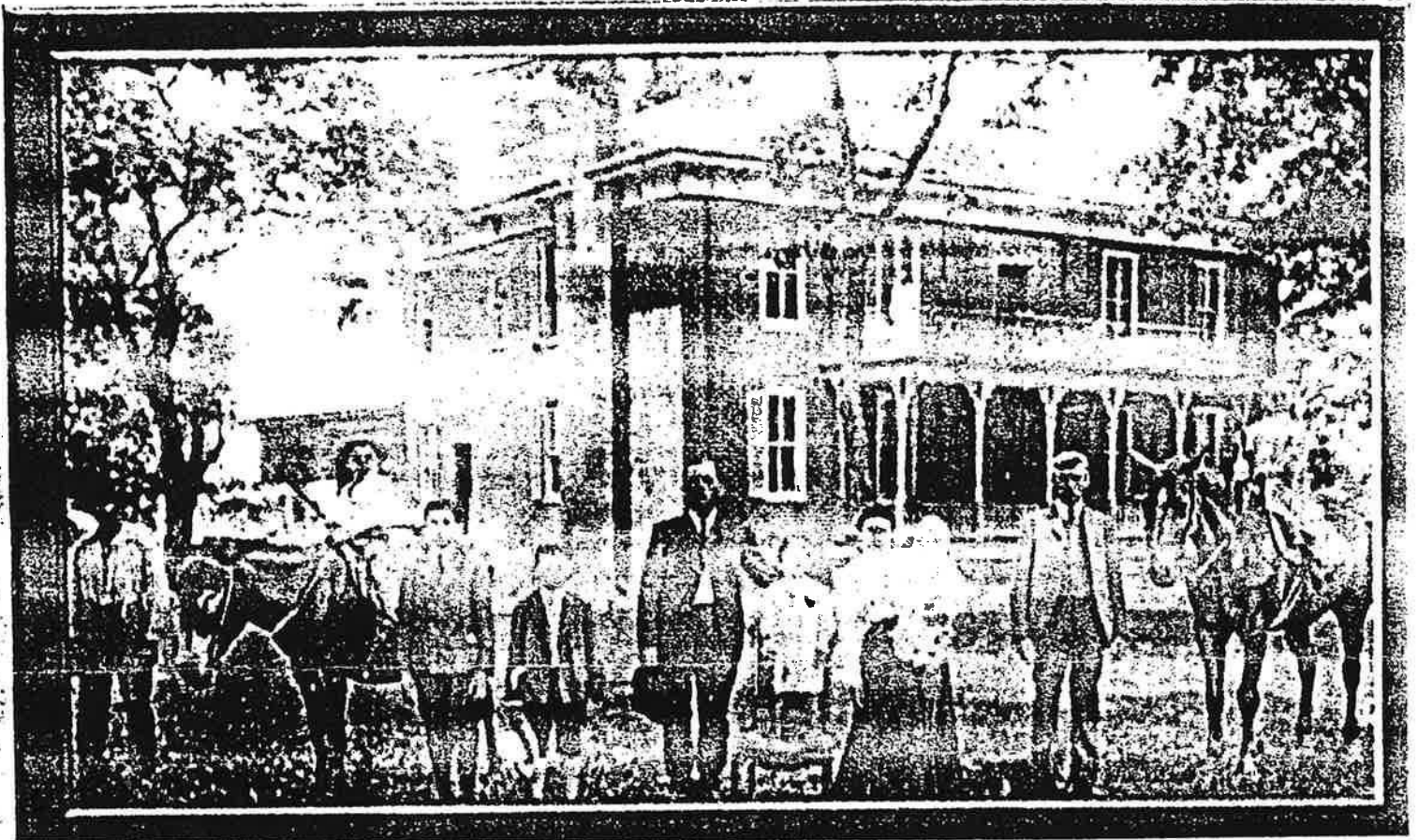
- Jeptha (Jep) Edwards Moody (May 24, 1894 - Apr 18, 1949)
- John White Moody (Dec 27, 1891 - Oct 28, 1911)
- James (Big Jim) Albert Moody (Jun 24, 1899 - Feb 2, 1977)
- Paralee Moody (Feb 28, 1902 - very much alive)
- Alexander (Alex) Moody (May 22, 1905 - Aug 4, 1906)
- Bessie Laura Moody Lipscomb (Sep 9, 1896 - Dec 7, 1962)
- Hattie Irene (Brooks) Moody Stone (July 6, 1907 - Jan 29, 1995)
- Virginia White (Redwing) Moody (July 24, 1912 - Feb 4, 1945)

Albert Henry and Jennie (Campbell) Moody's first child, William Lit, only lived six months; he was born Aug 3, 1890 and died Jan 29, 1891.

The Moody Brick was owned by Moody descendants for almost 120 years. The house has known both sorrow and joy and countless hours of warm Moody family hospitality. It stands as a monument to a long line of productive, civic minded men and women who can trace their roots to that red clay soil which also produced the Moody Brick.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A July 1995 interview with Paralee Moody provided or confirmed much of the Moody family information. Ronald Lee and Sarmie Moore Brown also graciously shared their knowledge and research.

THE ALBERT HENRY MOODY FAMILY at MOODY BRICK circa 1905
Left to right: John Jones, Jeptha on mule, John White, Big Jim,
Albert Henry Moody, Paralee, Jennie Moody holding Alex, her Uncle Sam
Campbell, Bess on horse
The cook, Sally Ann, is standing on upper balcony by bannisters.



Years later the house was renovated to look like this

THE MOODY FAMILY TREE

compiled by Paralee Moody and Ann B. Chambless

The earliest known Moody patriarch is JAMES WARREN MOODY, SR., who was born in 1806 in South Carolina. He married Nancy Holden who was the daughter of John Holden who died in 1852 in Pickens County, South Carolina. James W. Moody, Sr. moved his family to the Langston area in Jackson County, Alabama, by 1857.

This marriage and move are verified on page 301 of William C. Stewart's GONE TO GEORGIA as follows:

Joel Moody married Catherine, daughter of John Holden of Pickens County, S.C. (died 1852), and Joel moved to Jackson County, North Carolina. Catherine Holden's sister NANCY married JAMES MOODY and James Holden's daughter Nancy married Abraham Moody, and THE LATTER TWO COUPLES MOVED TO ALABAMA.

A brief outline of their ten children follows, but not in the order of their birth:

I. JOHN J. MOODY

married Sally Mullins, and their P.O. was Langston in both the 1860 and 1870 censuses. John J. and Sally Moody moved to Kyles shortly after 1872 and managed the farm purchased by his brothers, Miles and James W. Moody, Jr. John J. Moody died in Arkansas while visiting relatives, and is buried in Arkansas. Sally died at Langston and is buried there. Their children were:

- A. Jim Moody
- B. Luther Moody
- C. Ben Moody (never married)
- D. Josephine Moody married Pleasant Sanders Jan 26, 1873
- E. Rebecca Moody married James W. Willmon Jun 14, 1891
- F. Laura Moody married Dan Teasley
- G. Fanny Moody married Joe Head
- H. Kate Moody married and went West

II. WILLIAM H. MOODY

married Ella Humphries, and their children

- A. Miles Alonzo Moody married Fannie Gibbs
- B. Tallulah Moody
- C. James W. Moody II

III. JAMES WARREN MOODY, JR., born 1839, died Mar 25, 1912. married Jerusha Josephine King, daughter of Wm and Vina (Edwards) King, on Nov 28, 1869. By 1870, they had moved to Scottsboro where James W. and his brother Miles became merchants. Their children:

- A. Stella Moody, born 1870, died 1927, married John F. Proctor
 - 1. James Moody Proctor, born Feb 16, 1901, died Jan 20, 1959, married Lucy May. Their children:
 - (a) John Franklin Proctor II, md Judy Jones. Children:
 - (1) James Moody Proctor II
 - (2) Laura Proctor
 - (b) Patricia Proctor, md Jessup

THE MOODY FAMILY TREE compiled by Paralee Moody and Ann B. Chambless

III. B. Annie Moody, married Otto Dodge and lived Ohio. One son:

1. James King Dodge

C. Irene Moody, born 1875, died 1955, married John A. Robinson

IV. MILES NORTON MOODY, born July 7, 1835, died July 28, 1912.

married (1) Rebecca Susan Edwards, daughter of Jesse Edwards, on Jan 24, 1856

A. Decatur Moody, born Nov 18, 1856, died Apr 9, 1857

B. Laura Ann Moody, born Apr 21, 1858, died June 29, 1916.

married David Larkin Staples. Their children:

1. Miles Staples
2. David Albert Staples
3. Littleton (Lit) Staples
4. Ollie Staples married Maurice Brown
5. Lizzie Staples married Parker Walsh
6. Susan (Lade) Staples (never married)
7. Hattie Staples married _____ Privett

C. Jessie Walter Moody, born Mar 7, 1860, died Aug 21, 1861

D. Albert Henry Moody, born Dec 25, 1862, died Aug 6, 1934,
married Ursula Jane (Jennie) Campbell, daughter of Wm White and
Paralee (Elledge) Campbell in 1889. Their children:

1. William Lit Moody, born Aug 3, 1890, died Jan 29, 1891
2. John White Moody, born Dec 27, 1891, died Oct 28, 1911
3. Jephtha Edwards Moody, Sr., born May 24, 1894, died Apr 18, 1949,
married Ruby Skelton on July 14, 1918. Their children:

a. Sarah Jane Moody md George Japhet, June 27, 1942
(1) Ronnie Japhet

b. Ruth Moody md Charles Raymond Bradford, Jul 14, 1943

- (1) Ruby Catherine (Bunny) md Michael L. Smith
 - (a) Bradford Smith, born Aug 19, 1975
 - (b) Michael Sterling Smith, born May 16, 1978
 - (c) Ruth Adair Smith, born Jan 18, 1983
 - (d) Charles Butler Smith, born Dec 16, 1987
- (2) Charles R. Bradford III, born Mar 11, 1950, Brad
married Nancy Hammer, Dec 21, 1973
 - (a) Charles Raymond Bradford IV, b. Feb 26, 1977
 - (b) Walter Washington Bradford, b. Feb 28, 1980
 - (c) Jennings Edwards Bradford, died at birth 1984
 - (d) Barret Lowe (Bo) Bradford, b. Jun 2, 1986

c. Jephtha Edwards Moody, Jr., born June 30, 1926, married (1)
Jeane Adair Jacobs, June 29, 1953. Children:

- (1) Jane Adair Moody, b. Mar 24, 1954, md James W. Bergman
 - (a) James Wilson Bergman, Jr., born June 1, 1979
 - (b) Jon Rice Bergman, May 25, 1982
 - (c) Jacob Edward Bergman, born Aug 25, 1986

- (2) Jephtha E. Moody III, born July 4, 1956, married Deborah Me
 - (a) Mary Jeane Moody, born June 23, 1988
 - (b) Hannah Jane Moody, born Aug 31, 1989
 - (c) Annie Adair Moody, born Mar 31, 1992
 - (d) Sarah Grace Moody, born Dec 18, 1993

- (3) Jon Rice Moody, born Aug 30, 1960, married Emily Word
 - (1) Jon Rice Moody, Jr., born Jan 31, 1989
 - (2) Elizabeth Word Moody, born Oct 5, 1993

Jephtha Edwards Moody, Jr. married (2) Glenda Whitaker Aug, 1986

THE MOODY FAMILY TREE compiled by Paralee Moody and Ann B. Chambless

- IV. D. 4. James (Big Jim) Moody, born Jun 24, 1899, died Feb 2, 1977
5. Paralee Moody, born Feb 28, 1902 at Moody Brick, married Hal Bradford Word, June 12, 1937. Divorced Jan 13, 1959. Two stepchildren: Jake Word and Mildred Ann Word
6. Alexander (Alex) Moody, born May 22, 1905, died Aug 4, 1906
7. Bessie Laura Moody, born Sep 9, 1896, died Dec 7, 1962, married James Hambrick Lipscomb, Sep 15, 1921. Children:
- a. Virginia Winifred Lipscomb, born Sep 7, 1923, married James Enloe Pitt II, June 15, 1957. Son:
(1) James Enloe Pitt, III, born Dec 31, 1962
- b. Marie Edna Lipscomb, born Aug 27, 1925, md Charles Baker
(1) Jennifer Baker married Hudson Atkins, 1985
(a) Hudson Atkins, Jr.
8. Hattie Irene (Brooks) Moody, born July 6, 1907, died Jan 29, 1995. Married Stephen Lipscomb Stone Oct 28, 1929
- a. Mary Jane Stone, born Aug 1, 1930, died Aug 9, 1930
- b. Albert Moody Stone, born Oct 28, 1934, married Virginia Baxter, Sep 14, 1963
(1) Stephen Lipscomb Stone II, born Oct 3, 1964, married Leah Hagler June, 1994
(2) David Arthur Stone, born Dec 7, 1965
9. Virginia White (Redwing) Moody, born Jul 24, 1912, died Feb 4, 1945
- IV. E. William Littleton (Lit) Moody, born Feb 24, 1865, died June 6, 1939
Married (1) Hattie Alley. Children:
1. Clifford Moody, born Feb 13, 1894, died Apr 20, 1916
2. Clyde Moody, born Feb 12, 1902, Married Mildred _____
(a) Eugene Moody
(b) Donald Moody
- William Littleton (Lit) Moody married (2) Louis Shelly
- IV. MILES NORTON MOODY married (2) Margaret (Maggie) Callan, Jan 6, 1901
- F. Ida Frances Moody, born Jan 25, 1902, died Jun 19, 1976, taught second grade for 46 years and never married
- V. THOMAS MOODY operated a store at Langston. He married (1) Elizabeth Vaught on Mar 15, 1865. She and their infant child are buried near Langston. Thomas J. Moody married (2) Rose Shelton, and (3) _____ Holder. He was killed by a train near Stevenson.
- VI. ALEXANDER MOODY, born Apr 7, 1846, died Feb 14, 1878, married Paralee Edwards, daughter of Jesse Edward and sister of Rebecca Susan Edwards who md Miles Moody. Alexander's son:
A. Jesse Edwards Moody
- VII. MARY JANE (POLLY) MOODY (she may have md John L. Carter) lived Langston
- VIII. EMILY C. MOODY, married a Wilborn and lived at Langston
- IX. ???SARAH MOODY (nothing known about this possible daughter)
- X. SAMUEL MOODY (may be Samuel Jasper Moody) moved to Texas at an early date. No further information.

THE MOODY FAMILY TREE compiled by Paralee Moody and Ann B. Chambless

The Moody family stories are as diverse and entertaining as the large Moody clan. This brief sampling only whets one's appetite for seconds. Who in the Moody family will improve and add to?

Mrs. Moody Stone shared the following which is framed and hangs in the Stone den:

A Scottsboro newspaper clipping dated April 19, 1902, records a Letter to the Editor from S. S. Broadus, Cashier of the Merchants Bank of Florence, Alabama, written on Merchants Bank letterhead. The caption reads: MILES MOODY, ESQUIRE, SCOTTSBORO, CAN'T YOU KNOCK THEM BOTH OUT?

"There is a little controversy going on in the Moody family which their friends hope can be arranged in a way that can prove satisfactory to all the parties concerned. The dispute is between Colonel Miles Moody and his two sons, Albert and Lit. The Colonel, and Albert and Lit, have new babies at their houses, and each one claims that his is the handsomest baby in the county. The point at issue, we hope, can be amicably adjusted.

Your Friend,
S. S. Broadus

This letter was written when Miles N. Moody's sixth and youngest child, Ida Moody, was born on Jan 25, 1902. Within four weeks, Miles N. Moody's son Lit Moody became the father of Clyde, born Feb 12, 1902, and Miles' son Albert Henry welcomed Paralee Moody into the world on February 28, 1902.

Albert Henry Moody served as Jackson County Probate Judge 1917-1923, and the family moved from the Moody Brick to Scottsboro in December 1916. They lived on Andrews Street immediately in front of the First Baptist Church (the house was located in present day parking lot which adjoins Wimberly House Homes & Interior Design.) Judge A.H. Moody had a little dog whose name was Trouble. The Judge and the dog were constant companions when the Judge took his daily walks around the Square. Judge Moody's friends were fond of saying, "Here comes Judge Moody and 'Trouble' can't be far behind."

While Albert Henry and Jennie Moody were raising their family in the Moody Brick, they employed a Black who began calling Irene Moody "Miss Brooks." His explanation: Irene reminded him of a Miss Brooks for whom he had worked in Chattanooga. The family followed suit and also addressed Hattie Irene as "Miss Brooks." Later the "Miss" was dropped, and Hattie Irene was just "Brooks" for 80 years.

The Albert H. Moody family were known far and wide for their warm hospitality. Paralee Moody relates that her Mother deserved the cook, Sally Ann, as Mrs. Moody never knew how many people would sit at their dinner table each day. The Judge always felt free to bring extended family, old neighbors, business associates, and his numerous friends home to Mrs. Moody's bountiful table.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Moody donated the land for the Kyles Methodist Episcopal Church. Ruth Moody Bradford also remembers that Judge Moody purchased the clock in the Court House dome when the building was remodeled and the County ran short of cash.

MOODY DESCENDANTS, it is now your turn to tell us more!