

Notes on
Moore, Doddridge, and Atkinson
Families

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Moore ~ Doddridge ~ Atkinson

'In our last January number, page 53, appeared a sketch of "A Moore Family of Middlesex County, N.J.,"¹ from a MSS. of 1863. The following notes furnish more details of the New Jersey head of this family (Samuel) and intermarried families.

- EDITOR.

THE TOWN of Newbury, now Newburyport, Massachusetts, furnished various early settlers of New Jersey. When Philip Carteret became Governor he exerted himself to win settlers to New Jersey, and to this end sent agents throughout New England with flattering offers to any who would consent to remove to this State. A notable group of settlers, accepted from Newbury, came to the Rahway river, and in 1665 planted the town of Woodbridge, named for the Reverend John Woodbridge.

It is likely that Samuel Moore came to Newbury from England. His first wife, who died the year after her marriage in 1653, was the daughter of Francis Plumer, a leading first settler. In 1656 Samuel married Mary Ilsley, whose parents, William and Barbara, came from England to Newbury in 1635. Driven from home as a dissenter, William shipped as a Redemptioner, but, when the ship reached America, his wife seized an iron bar and threatened to attack the Captain if he dared to sell her husband. Her attitude was so resolute that William was permitted to land a free man.

Samuel's first appearance in the annals of Newbury is in September, 1653, when his testimony cleared Dionis, the wife of Tristram Coffin, of the charge of selling beer not equal to the legal requirements.

Of the men who founded Woodbridge, New Jersey, Moore was among the most prominent, if not quite the first. Daniel Pierce, acting for the prospective settlers, entered into an agreement with Philip Carteret, John Ogden and Luke Watson, December 11, 1666, and received the deed for land on the Rahway, December 3, 1667. This, it is said, he soon sold to Henry Jacques. Pierce was at first commissioned to lay out the several allotments. Samuel Moore received 356 acres, his brother, Matthew, 277 acres, and John Ilsley, 97 acres. This entire section had been deeded, with the consent of Governor Nicolls, by the Indians Mattano, Manamowaone and Cowesto John Bayly, Daniel Denton, and Luke Watson, October 28, 1664, for "20 fathom tradyn cloth, 2 cotes, 2 gunnes, 2 kettles, 10 bars of lead, 20 handful of powder, 400 fathom of white wampum or 200 fathom of black wampum;" the whole valued at £36. 14s.; ten thousand acres for the town and twenty thousand for the adjoining plantations. The settlers took possession the following Spring and wrote boastful letters singing the praises of their new possession. The land about Amboy was reserved for the Lords Proprietors by Carteret's charter, which, however, Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret did not confirm until September 7, 1672.

¹ Download at www.DigitalAntiquaria.com : NJHS26A3

Moore ~ Doddridge ~ Atkinson

Samuel Moore was made the first Town Clerk and held the position until his death, May 27, 1688. He was Provost Marshall of East Jersey; was chosen to represent Woodbridge in the General Assembly several times, and was President of the Township Court. In 1683 he became the first High Sheriff of Middlesex county, at a time when the post was an appointment of great dignity. He was overseer of the poor, was appointed to consult concerning the best route for a highway between Woodbridge and Elizabeth, and to fill the measure of his public service was licensed to keep a tavern. Matthew Moore and John and Elisha Ilsley were in various ways useful to the community, but Samuel appeared to outrank them all.²

Of Samuel's eight children, Enoch and Frances were twins, born June 3, 1678. The latter married, October 15, 1696, Philip Doddridge, second of the name in this country.

The Doddridge family belonged in Devonshire, England. A John of South Moulton was father of Richard, a merchant of Barnstable, whose son, Sir John (Judge) Doddridge, was born 1555 at South Moulton. Judge Doddridge died 1628, aged 73 years. His recumbent effigy is on his tomb in Exeter Cathedral. Philip, the brother of the judge, had two grandsons, Philip, ancestor of the American Doddridges, and Daniel, who was the father of twenty children, one of them being Philip Doddridge, D.D., the celebrated divine whose hymns are so well known. The grandson Philip was the first Philip of America. He married a daughter of Richard Powell, of Woodbridge, and Katharine Hughes, his wife, but since all Richard Powell's property was left to John, son of Philip first, it is likely that Philip second was the son of another wife. The eldest son of this John was the Rev. Dr. Joseph Doddridge of Maryland, whose son Philip became an eminent jurist in Virginia. This latter Philip was born May 17, 1772, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and was admitted to the Bar at Wellsburg, Virginia, May 23, 1797. He was acknowledged to be the best lawyer in northwestern Virginia. He was a member of the State Legislature 1815-16, and was largely instrumental in bringing about the changes of 1829-30 in the Constitution of Virginia. In 1829 he became a member of Congress.

Daniel Webster once said that Philip Doddridge was the only man he really feared in public debate, on account of the masterly manner in which he arranged his facts.

Doddridge remained in Congress until his death in 1832. He is buried in the Congressional Cemetery at Washington. His only living son in 1890 was Major John Doddridge, of Wheeling, West Virginia, at that time eighty-five years old.

There is no mention of Philip second in the church records of Woodbridge, so he was probably not a Presbyterian, but the town records contain this entry: "This is

² In 1672 the Lords Proprietors sent from Whitehall a dispatch to the Governor and the Receiver-General of the New Jersey colonies, ordering the payment to Mr. Moore of ten pounds annually for the ensuing seven years, and the gift of sixty acres of upland for each member of his family, in addition to the land he already had. This was undoubtedly the reward for some public service, and probably might be found noted among the records at Whitehall.

Moore ~ Doddridge ~ Atkinson

to certify to all who it may concern, that Phillip Doddridge and Frances Moore was lawfully married October 15th, 1696, per me, Mr. Simonem Smith, Chaplain to His Majestie's Forces in New York in America." This is, I believe, his only appearance on the records, but he must have died before 1724, for at that date his widow married, for her second husband, John Winans, and turned over to him all her property, part of which Winans later deeded to her son.

Hannah, daughter of Philip Doddridge and Frances Moore, of Woodbridge, married Thomas Atkinson, son of Timothy. They had ten children, all bearing names drawn from their ancestry, viz.: Ann; Timothy, for the Atkinson grandparents; Frances; Philip, for the maternal grandparents; Thomas; John, for father and uncle; Asher, the only name drawn from outside the family circle (I suspect that it is from the only brother of that early Quaker saint John Woolman); Joseph, a Doddridge name; Hannah; Enoch for the mother and her mother's twin brother.

The son of Joseph was the Rev. John Atkinson, a Methodist preacher who lived to the age of ninety years and who died in Michigan. For many years he was the oldest minister in the Methodist Conference in the West.

About 1890 Mr. Charles T. Atkinson, of Bardstown, Kentucky, son of Rev. John, copied a letter written by the latter for the son's information, which gave interesting details of the family, of which a part is now quoted:

"The earliest tradition I have of the Atkinson family is of a widow in Maryland, on either Gundpowder or Buttermilk Creek, reported as from England and left a widow in Maryland, with two sons. She instructed them in the principles of the Quakers and Episcopalians. Thomas moved into New Jersey and married a daughter of Philip Doddridge of Woodbridge; settled in New Jersey near Staten Island, in the wilderness between Amboy and Elizabeth. They lived in affluence for that day. An Englishman, a sea captain, made the home of Doddridge his headquarters to hunt and fish every summer. Believing him what he reported himself to be, they granted him a cordial welcome. On his last visit he bought all the land between Amboy and the Passaic along Staten Island, reaching some miles back into the interior and deeded the whole tract to Philip Doddridge and family. - When their benefactor failed to return, inquiry revealed him to be the famous Captain Kidd. Thomas and Hannah lived on the Raritan river in Hunterdon county, New Jersey. Thomas built the second mill in the State. He had put on the foundation stone, 'Thomas and Hannah,' or their initials. Thomas's brother married" [Susanna Hadden] "and came to live with him; both families in one house. They cooked on one fire. One day the wife of one moved the dinner pot of the other from the fire. They quarreled and separated. John moved his family to Springfield, New Jersey. Rumor said that he had good land and was reputable and popular. ... The old settlers in my boyhood reported the Atkinson family as remarkably smart, well-educated, as the Quakers require their children to be; so that they were employed by the population to arbitrate business difficulties, write conveyances and record business transactions. Grandfather Thomas Atkinson, born in 1703, lived till 1788, and died at my father's" [Joseph's] "house in Flemington.

"The mother of Hannah Doddridge, Frances Moore, married for a second husband a Winans, who thought when he married the widow he also married the

Moore ~ Doddridge ~ Atkinson

estate. He had it surveyed and sold in tracts. Three years before the law of limitation expired, Philip Doddridge, of Virginia, called on my grandfather to join him in recovering his property, on which the towns of Amboy, Woodbridge, Elizabeth, Newark and Paterson are located. He was a grandson of Philip Doddridge, eminent lawyer, and member of the Convention that formed the Constitution of Virginia. He said to my grandfather that the property under the English law was entailed and could be recovered. After deliberation grandfather decided that as the land had been bought in good faith he would not disturb the owners. The land had been sold when the children were minors."

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