

## Samuel Moore's Notable Sons

*Bob Moore*<sup>1</sup>

While there are many notable families in the history of the Quaker movement in Canada, such as the Rogers, the Zavitz, or the Haight families, few provide examples of such intense and varied engagement in political movements as that of the Samuel Moore family in the mid-1800s.

### Samuel, the Patriarch

Samuel Moore was born in 1742 in Rahway, New Jersey and died in 1822 in Norwich, Upper Canada. He was a direct descendant of Samuel Moore/Moores, who was born around 1630 in Newburyport, Massachusetts but left that hostile environment in 1656 to become one of the civic leaders in the early years of New Jersey.

As a Quaker, Samuel would not join the armed struggles during the American Revolutionary War, and he was forced to leave his Woodbridge, New Jersey home,<sup>2</sup> and flee to New York in 1777. In his deposition to the British-appointed Claims Commission in 1786 at Halifax, he testified that he had been imprisoned several times for refusing to assist the rebels.<sup>3</sup> His house and land were confiscated in 1779 and, with his wife and nine children, he was evacuated by the British to Wilmot Township in Nova Scotia. Moore became a leader in the Quaker fellowship there.

The annalist, Ambrose Shotwell, verifies that Samuel was both a Loyalist and a Quaker:

Samuel, b. 4 April 1742, at Rahway, N. J.; member of the M. M. for Rahway and Plainfield, by request, 16 of 11 mo. 1774; dwelt, before the Revolution, at Uniontown, 2 miles from Rahway, whence, having the reputation of being a

Tory, he went, during the war, to New York, and at its close, like many others, he took refuge in Nova Scotia, his property near Rahway being confiscated; his family accompanied him excepting his son Elias and daughter Sarah. On 15 of 7 mo. 1802, he received a certificate of membership from R. & P. M. M., directed to Nantucket M. M., the few Friends in Nova Scotia being under the care of that meeting.<sup>4</sup>

In 1786 and 1787, Samuel hosted his brother, Joseph, and his Quaker companions who had collected donations in the United States for the poor of Nova Scotia, Canada. This brother, Joseph, was a Quaker minister who would be part of a group sent to facilitate the peace treaty talks at Sandusky, Ohio in 1793 between the United States and the Western Confederacy of First Nations.

When Timothy Rogers, the entrepreneurial patriarch of the Rogers Communications family, was considering immigrating to British North America, he visited with Moore in 1795. Rogers records that Samuel Moore was “a Friend that lived in Wilmot in the County of Annapolis, that received us very kindly. . . . I think we had hereway about 10 or 12 meetings.”<sup>5</sup> Rogers’ journal preserves several letters between the two Friends. Rogers chose to immigrate to Upper Canada, rather than Nova Scotia, and founded the settlement that eventually became Pickering Village, Ontario.

When Joseph Hoag, the well-known Quaker preacher from Vermont, visited the Canadian Maritimes in 1801 and 1802, he stayed with Moore's family, and took Samuel with him on his journeys. In his journal, Hoag recorded that Moore “made an agreeable companion.”<sup>6</sup>



*Gravesite of Samuel Moore (1742-1822)  
Quaker Burying Ground  
Norwich, Ontario*

Between excursions, he stayed in the Moore home, and reported that the Quaker meetings “were held half the time at Samuel Moore's.”<sup>7</sup> Hoag recorded that when he became quite sick, he convalesced at the Moore home for the first three months of 1802, and “was brought near the grave” but did recover and returned to the United States on April 23 of that year.<sup>8</sup>

Perhaps influenced by Timothy Rogers, Moore re-located his own family to Upper Canada near the end of the War of 1812. His journey from Nova Scotia to Upper Canada took a detour to his old hometown in New Jersey. His wife, Rachel Stone died there, and one son, Lindley Murray, decided to stay in New Jersey. Samuel had sold almost 1500 acres in Nova Scotia, and was able to purchase about ten farms across southwestern Upper Canada from St. Thomas to Simcoe, Ontario. He passed these onto his sons. One of them built a house that is still standing today in Sparta, Ontario, but it was recently swallowed into an ostentatious country mansion.

Though Quakers and Loyalists, Samuel's family became active in the agitation against the Family Compact, a group of elite landholders in Upper Canada. A number of his sons, notably Enoch and John, and grandsons were arrested for their part in the Rebellions of 1837. “All did everything they could, short of taking up arms themselves, to aid the rebel cause, providing an example to rival the Malcolms, of a Loyalist family abetting rebellion.”<sup>9</sup> When he died in 1822, Moore's grave was one of the first in the Quaker Burying Ground on the northwest edge of what is now Norwich, Ontario.

#### Samuel's notable sons

Samuel married Rachel Stone in 1763. Rachel had been born on 21 September 1743 in Elizabethtown, New Jersey and died on 7 December 1813 in Elizabethtown, New Jersey at age seventy. Together, they had eleven children. Sarah, Joseph, Crowel, Phoebe, Rachel and Elias were born in New Jersey, Enoch and John were born in New York City, and Samuel, Edward and Lindley Murray were all born in Nova Scotia. Three of the sons became politically active, and sought to bring about a better world: Elias through elected office; Enoch through rebellion; and, Lindley Murray through the abolitionist movement.

#### Elias Moore

As a young adult, Elias Moore returned to his home state of New Jersey but in 1811, James Brown,<sup>10</sup> drove a team to take Moore, his wife and five children<sup>11</sup> from Elizabethtown, New Jersey, to the County of Norfolk, in Upper Canada. There were three other teams, and Brown reportedly led the van through the Grand River Swamp, the first team that ever went through after the brush was cleared away. The party reached Norfolk County in July.

Moore was farming in the township of

Norwich, Ontario until 1818, when he moved with James Brown to Yarmouth, then in the County of Middlesex, now Elgin County, Ontario. Brown later became the first mayor of Kincardine, Ontario. While living in Norwich, Elias assisted Peter Lossing to assemble details for Gourlay's *Statistical Account of Upper Canada*, which was published in 1822.

The Yarmouth Friends soon applied to the Norwich monthly meeting to be allowed to establish a preparatory meeting. On First Days, Friends met alternately at the houses of John Kipp and Moore.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, the first temperance lecture in the Yarmouth district is said to have been given in Moore's home by David Burgess,<sup>13</sup> who was probably an itinerant Methodist preacher. Moore was instrumental in building the first meeting house of the Yarmouth Friends, and sat on the committee charged with establishing a school in the community.<sup>14</sup> In 1834, Moore and Thomas Parke, a Wesleyan Methodist from London, won the two seats in the Middlesex riding for the Reformers in the Twelfth Parliament of Upper Canada.<sup>15</sup> Then living west of Sparta, Ontario, Moore stood again as a Reform candidate in the crucial election of 1836, as did Parke. Both retained their seats, in the last Parliament of Upper Canada, but the Tories returned to power nevertheless.

When the Farmers' Revolt broke out in 1837, Elias was also arrested for treason but, as the witness absconded, he was not tried.<sup>16</sup> His brothers, John and Enoch, were retained in jail and convicted of treason. One of Elias' nephews died in captivity. Around this same time, Elias's younger brother, Lindley Murray Moore, was founding an anti-slavery society in Rochester, New Yorks.

Moore continued to serve in the Thirteenth Parliament of Upper Canada until it was prorogued in February 1840. Up until his death, Moore served as clergy reserve inspector<sup>17</sup> helping to implement one of the post-rebellion recommendations of Lord

Durham that land set aside for the Church of England be sold off as no other denomination had been granted land. The abuse, by the Family Compact, of clergy reserves and the income from them had been one of the sorest points for inciting the rebellions. Moore's granddaughter, Isabella Sprague, married Thomas Scatcherd, who sat in the Canada West Legislature for West Middlesex beginning in 1861.<sup>18</sup>

### Enoch Moore

Enoch Moore was born 16 April 1779 in a Loyalist refugee camp in New York City and died in August 1841 in Rockford, Illinois. He married Elizabeth Smith, daughter of James Smith and Hannah Hawksworth, on 30 March 1803 in Old Holy Trinity Church, Lower Middleton, Annapolis, Nova Scotia. Elizabeth was born on 18 April 1784 in Wilmot Township, Nova Scotia, and died on 3 March 1871 and was buried in New Milford Cemetery, Winnebago County, Illinois.

Enoch's political alignment seemed to swing from one extreme to the other throughout his lifetime. He was born in a Loyalist refugee camp in New York City during the American Revolution and was evacuated with his Quaker family, about 1784, to the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. He moved to Upper Canada about 1811 where he served as a dispatch rider in the Canadian militia during the War of 1812 against the Americans. His commanding officer was Colonel Joseph Ryerson. By 1830 Enoch Moore had gained the respectable status of school trustee.<sup>19</sup> One of the teachers in his employ was Egerton Ryerson<sup>20</sup> who became the founder of the public school system in Ontario and the son of Colonel Joseph Ryerson. Enoch's oldest son, James Moore, is buried beside Colonel Joseph Ryerson in the Methodist cemetery in Woodhouse Township, Norfolk County, Ontario.

Immigrant farmers were continuously

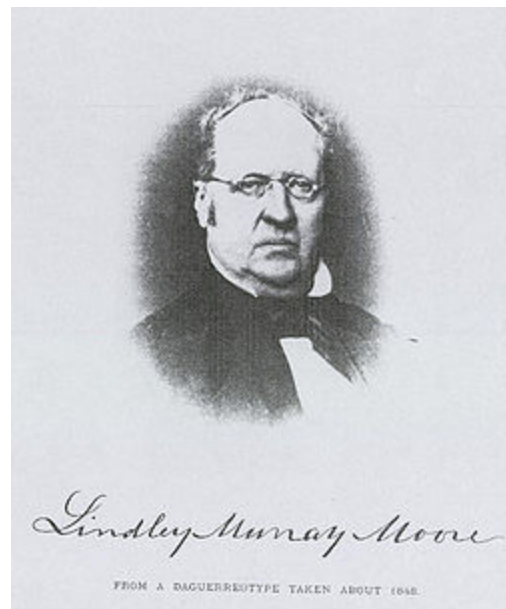
encountering broken promises concerning their land grants and claims. Powerful groups and individuals like the Family Compact, the Canada Land Company, and Sir Thomas Talbot seemed to be making up the rules as they went along, and those rules were always in favour of their friends. Many of the farmers were getting more radical in their suggestions for addressing these injustices. Groups of radicals met in Sparta in September 1837 and prepared to assist a rebellion should one occur. Some fifty men left Yarmouth to assist the western rebels who were gathered at the village of Scotland in present day Brant County, Ontario. But the rebellion miscarried when the rebels disbanded and fled. Many were arrested and rewards were offered for the capture of their leader Dr. Charles Duncombe as well as David Anderson, Joshua Doan and others. Some of the suspects from the Sparta area – George Lawton, Dr. John T. Wilson, Joshua and Joel Doan – escaped to the United States. Joshua Doan was captured after engaging in a foolhardy attack against the village of Windsor in December 1838. Along with other exiles captured in the raid, Doan was tried, found guilty, and hanged. A memorial plaque at the edge of the Friends' Cemetery on the west of Sparta village recalls Doan's fate.<sup>21</sup>

Even though he was raised in a Loyalist and Quaker home, Enoch was elected captain of the rebels at Malahide, Ontario during the Rebellions of 1837. Enoch and his brothers comprised one of the most active Loyalist families to join the rebels.<sup>22</sup> Court records show that Enoch was arrested and jailed in London on 21 December 1837, convicted of high treason, and sentenced to death, but the sentence was reprieved on 19 May 1838. His sentence was first commuted to transportation to a penal colony on Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) for life, and then relaxed to fourteen years of penal servitude,<sup>23</sup> but he was eventually pardoned and released on a peace bond on 5 October 1838.<sup>24</sup>

Enoch and his wife and nine of their 11 children immigrated to the United States in July 1840, settling in Ogle County, Illinois. Enoch died the next year in Rockford, Illinois.

### Lindley Murray Moore

Lindley Murray Moore was born 31 May 1788 in Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia and died 14 August 1871, in Rochester, New York. He is notable for his activities as an abolitionist, and educator. He was named after the renowned grammarian, Lindley Murray, who "befriended his father Samuel Moore in the difficulties growing out of the [Revolutionary] war."<sup>25</sup> The family re-visited New Jersey in 1810, and Lindley Murray Moore stayed there while his recently widowed father, continued on to Upper Canada (Ontario). He and his wife, Abigail Lydia Mott, opened a Quaker school in Rahway, New Jersey soon after they were married in 1813. In 1815, they moved to New York City to take charge of a school under the auspices of the Friends Monthly Meeting. By 1820, they had opened their own boarding school for boys first in Flushing, and then in Westchester Village, New York. In 1831, Lindley and Abigail bought a farm in





*Edward Mott Moore MD, Founder of Public Parks System in Rochester, NY*

what is now Rochester and built a two story house in the Greek revival style that is still in use.<sup>26</sup>

The minutes of November 1836 Farmington Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox) show that Moore was the clerk for the men's meeting and his wife was the clerk for the women's meeting at the time that the fellowship published a strong abolitionist statement, a pamphlet titled "An Address from Farmington Quarterly Meeting of Friends, to its Members on Slavery."<sup>27</sup> Moore's wife, Abigail Lydia Mott, was sister-in-law to Lucretia Coffin Mott the abolitionist, social reformer, and proponent of women's rights. Lucretia Coffin Mott was the first president of the American Equal Rights Association.

Rochester was known for its Quaker activists, and in 1838, Moore co-founded and became the first president and recording secretary of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Society. He was something of an emancipation author, and wrote the essay "Religious, Moral and Political Duties" in the 1853 collection titled



"Autographs for Freedom."<sup>28</sup> At the same time he was vice-president of the Rochester Temperance Society. He continued teaching at the high school in Rochester.<sup>29</sup>

Moore's wife, Abigail Lydia Mott died of tuberculosis on 4 September 1846 at the age of fifty-one. At the time, the family was living at 5 Elizabeth Street in Rochester, New York.<sup>30</sup> Her brother, Richard Mott, was elected as an Opposition Party candidate to the 34th United States Congress and re-elected as a Republican Party to the 35th United States Congress (4 March 1855 – 3 March 1859).

By 1848, Moore was appointed Principal of Haverford College, a post-secondary Quaker institution. According to his student, Richard Wood, "He was a portly man of commanding height and mien, of benevolent countenance and expressive features. His students will not soon forget his kindly ways, nor the sonorous tones with which he repeats the verses of Milton and other English poets."<sup>31</sup> Moore retired to live with his son, Edward Mott Moore, in Rochester, New York.

These are a few of Samuel and Rachel's more notable children. They all chose to be

politically active, but after that their paths differed considerably from elected office to rebellion to educator and activist. The spark of civic leadership that first shone in the Moore family in the seventeenth century was passed down through the family and glowed brightly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, continually getting more and more colourful. The flame continued to burn, though not quite so boisterously, and Samuel and Rachel's descendants continued to make history. Notable among their descendants are:

- Edward Mott Moore M. D., President of University of Rochester, and father of the Rochester, New York public parks system;
- James Beech Moore, a Baptist church planter who preached 28 sermons in his 86<sup>th</sup> year;



James Beech Moore, Baptist Preacher

- William Henry Moore, a Liberal member of the House of Commons of Canada; and,
- Peter J. Moore, an award-winning record producer.

**Footnotes:**

1. Bob Moore is a member of CFHA and a great-great-great-grandson of Samuel Moore.

2. Christopher Moore, *The Loyalists* (Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1984), 81.
3. Theodore C. Holmes, *Loyalists in Canada: the 1783 Settlement of Quakers and Others at Passamaquoddy* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992), 91.
4. Ambrose M. Shotwell, *Annals of Our Colonial Ancestors and Their Descendants or Our Quaker Forefathers and Their Posterity* (Lansing: Roberts Smith Printers and Binders, 1895-7), 21.



William Henry Moore, MP

5. Timothy Rogers, *The Best Man for Settling New Country - The Journal of Timothy Rogers*, ed. Christopher Densmore and Albert Schrauwers (Toronto: Canadian Friends Historical Association, 2000), 80.
6. Joseph Hoag, *Journal of the Life of Joseph Hoag* (Auburn, NY: Knapp and Peck Printers, 1861), 111.
7. Hoag, *Journal*, 118.
8. Hoag, *Journal*, 119.
9. M. B. Fryer, ed., *Loyal She Remains* (Toronto: The United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, 1984), 228.
10. The Canadian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Ontario Volume, 1880. Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online <http://www.biographi.ca/EN>.
11. Robert Gourlay, *Statistical Account of Upper Canada* (London: Simpkin & Marshall, 1822), 332.
12. *Talbot Times*, Elgin County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Vol. III, Issue 4, December 1984.
13. Arthur Dorland, *A History of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada* (Toronto: Macmillan Co., 1927), 292.

14. Norwich Preparative Meeting (Men), 1816-1829, Canadian Yearly Meeting Archives (CYMA), Pickering, Ontario.
15. The Canadian Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Ontario Volume, 1880. Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online <http://www.biographi.ca/EN/>.
16. Major R. Cuthbertson Muir, *The Early Political and Military History of Burford* (Quebec City: La Cie D'Imprimerie Commerciale, 1913), 151.
17. Elgin County, Township Land Papers, Yarmouth Township, <http://www.elginogs.ca/townshippapers/yarmouthtp.htm>.
18. Henry James Morgan, *The Canadian Parliamentary Companion* (Quebec: Desbarats and Derbishire, 1863), 72.
19. Norfolk County Land Registry, Memorial No. 1783, Registered in Book F, 573 - 574.
20. A. E. Owen, *Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement* (Toronto: William Briggs, 1898 / Mika reprint 1972), 125.
21. Talbot Times, Elgin County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Vol. III, Issue 4, December 1984.
22. Fryer, *Loyal She Remains*, 228.
23. Colin Read, *The Rising in Western Upper Canada 1837-8* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982), 150.
24. Read, *The Rising in Western Upper Canada*, 152.
25. Thomas C. Cornell, *Adam and Anne Mott, their ancestors and their descendants*, (Poughkeepsie, NY: A. V. Haight, Printer, 1890), 82.
26. [http://www.historic-structures.com/ny/rochester/moore\\_house.php](http://www.historic-structures.com/ny/rochester/moore_house.php).
27. <http://farmingtonmeetinghouse.org/pdf/timeline/timeline.pdf>.
28. The Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society, *Autographs for Freedom* (Cleveland, Ohio: John P. Jewett and Co., 1853) 114, 115.
29. The published genealogy of The Brooke-White Family.
30. *Rochester Daily Democrat*, 5 September 1846.
31. A Committee of the Alumni Association, *A History of Haverford College for the First Sixty Years of its Existence* (Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, 1892).