

Eli W Moore 1833 – ca 1925

55. Eli W.⁷ Moore (Lewis M.⁶, Eli⁵, William⁴, Andrew³, James², John¹) was born November 26, 1833 in Sadsbury Twp, Lancaster, PA.. He married **Elizabeth C. Moore** June 15, 1859 in Ypsilanti, Mi., daughter of Samuel Moore and Mary Cooper. She was born May 05, 1838 in Smyrna, Lancaster, PA.

The following is a profile of Eli Moore from the “Portrait and Biographical Album of Washtenaw County Michigan,” 1891.

“ Eli W. Moore is the manager of the Ann Arbor Agricultural Company, located at Ann Arbor. The present works of which he is the manager was started in 1866 by Lewis Moore & Son. Here are manufactured many things in farm implements, among others wheat drills, rakes and feed cutters. It continued under the management as first organized until 1872, when it was made a stock company with the following officers at its head: J. Austin Scott, President; Earl Knight, Secretary; J. W. Knight, Treasurer, and it continued under this leadership until 1884. When the company became insolvent a receiver was appointed, and John Finegar became assignee and Eli W. Moore was appointed manager. They proceeded to settle up the business, and since that time our subject has continued in the position. He has kept the works running, paid off claims and has the business now placed on a substantial footing.

Our subject sells his manufactures and implements directly to jobbers. He employs the greater part of the time from seventy-five to eighty men. Mr. Moore is a native of Pennsylvania, being born in Lancaster County, November 26, 1833. He is a son of Lewis Moore, who was also born in Lancaster County. The maiden name of our subject’s mother was Sarah Chalfant. She, like her husband, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Her husband moved to Ypsilanti at an early day, and was one of the first to engage in the manufacture of farm machinery. He died in 1872, leaving to his widow a small farm in Ypsilanti, in which she now lives. She is in her 87th year and is still vigorous and in the full possession of her faculties. She is the mother of nine children, six boys and three girls, seven of whom are still living.

Eli W. Moore spent his boyhood and school days in Lancaster County, Pa., attending the common schools. When seventeen years of age he assisted his father in the work on the farm and in making wheat drills in a small way. In 1853 he moved to Ypsilanti and for twelve years ran a small mill, beginning the manufacture of implements in an unpretentious way. He removed to Ann Arbor, and in company with his father, built the Ann Arbor Agricultural Works, and ran them as stated before.

Our subject was married in 1859, to Miss Elizabeth Moore, of Ypsilanti. She is the daughter of Samuel D. Moore, Esq. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have three sons – Wendell P., who is a student in the University of Michigan; Walter, who is a student in the same institution, and Eli L. Our subject is a member of the Golden Rule Chapter of the Free and Accepted Masons. He also belongs to the Royal Arch Masons and the the Commandery of the Knights Templar. He is a Republican in politics and in religion a member of the Unitarian Church.”

In 1880, Eli and Elizabeth resided at 22 Pontiac St. North, in Ann Arbor, with Wendell, 19, Eli, 17, and Walter, 13. In 1888, their residence was 3 Pontiac St. A telephone number was first listed in the city directory in 1895. By 1900, Eli and Elizabeth were living at 661 Swift St. All three sons were married and living elsewhere. The 1920 U. S. Census shows grandson Edward, 22 and Lucille, 18 living with Eli and Elizabeth. Son Walter lived nearby, at 605 Swift.

In 1919, Eli and Elizabeth celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The following article was published in the newsletter of the Friends Church, and is part of the church records housed in the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor:

*“THEY HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR MORE THAN SIXTY YEARS June 11, 1919
Mr. and Mrs. Eli Moore*

Way back in the days of the crinolines, the flowery bonnets, the hoop-skirt and high-heeled slipper in which costumes the fair maids of that time were in the habit of adorning themselves, and the “high water,” tight-fitting trousers and frilled cuffs of the young fashionables of the opposite gender, Eli W Moore and his wife, Elizabeth, became interested in each other and were married as the culmination of a romance begun when the families of the two moved into the district south of Ypsilanti, in the “fifties”.

Not that Mr. and Mrs. Moore were wearers of those frilly furbelowed garments—they were not, for they were of staunch old Quaker families, but it was in the days when such frivolities were affected by the smart sets of the nations’s metropolitan centers that they met.

All this occurred over sixty years ago, but memories were brought back and vivified recently during a family reunion and celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Moore’s sixtieth wedding anniversary.

Thirty-one members of the family, including descendants and near relatives came from Adrian, Tecumseh, Bellevue, and Ypsilanti to the home of Dr. Walter S. Moore of this city and there held the event mentioned in honor of Dr. Moore’s father and mother. The event was arranged as a surprise for the aged folks and they were delighted as children with the plan, when it was revealed.

Many beautiful gifts and some wonderful flowers were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Moore, in remembrances of the occasion.

The Moore family has been staunch supporter of Quakerism through a long term of years, since John Moore in 1602 became a convert of the sect in Scotland where he heard the preaching of Fox and other ministers of the Quakers. Persecution arising in Scotland, aimed at the creed, John Moore and his wife immigrated to Ireland. In 1682, William Penn had taken up a grant of land in this country to escape religious persecution in Great Britain, and the family of John Moore’s grandson, Andrew Moore, came over in 1723, settling in Delaware county along the banks of the big river.

In 1827, Samuel D. Moore, one of the family descended from the Andrew Moore, Scottish emigrant, and his wife, Mary, together with their family moved to Michigan and in 1850 went into the district south of Ypsilanti where they settled on a large farm. Samuel Moore was in direct line on the fourth generation, from the emigrant ancestor of the family.

In 1855, Lewis Moore and his wife Sarah, another family of the Moores from Scotland, also in direct line in the fourth generation, came to Michigan and settled near Ypsilanti.

A Quaker community, thus started, soon developed and it was but a little time until Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Samuel and Mary Moore met and became interest in Eli W. Moore, son of Lewis and Sarah Moore. The interest of the young couple developed into love and finally came marriage of the cousins, thus uniting the families in the fifth generation.

Throughout the entire descent from Andrew Moore and his wife, the family held to its original Quaker precepts, even to this day.

In leaving the home of Dr. Moore, the relatives of Mr. Moore's father and mother offered them their wishes for an extended and happier period of years." (some details edited for historical accuracy)

Eli Moore celebrated his ninetieth birthday in 1923. Following is a poem composed by his wife, Elizabeth C. Moore for the occasion:

*In the pleasant land of Penn several hundred miles away
Came to earth a little stranger ninety years ago today.*

*In the homelike Quaker hamlet on a bright November morn
Two young parents were blessed when their first was born.*

*Never was there such a treasure to an earthly mortal given
Was the feeling of the parents making of their home a heaven.*

*Every motion was perfection so the happy parents deemed
Day by day the precious darling more and more angelic seemed.*

*To the babe they gave the name of its grandsire Eli Moore
Grandson of Andrew who came over 200 years ago and more.*

*From Ireland with his little family an old time Quaker was his creed
A follower of William Penn in every act and deed.*

*His love of liberty and truth drove him from Irish soil
Across the deep to America where freedom reigns for all.*

*For religious persecution he could not tolerate
He felt the right to follow where conscience might dictate.*

*And so he brought his family to the land of William Penn
Where they could live and worship as best suit true brave men.*

*He built a home and meeting house of granite hard and gray
And both are standing where he left them when he passed away.*

*His family grew and multiplied an honor to his name
Till every State can claim a Moore from Mexico to Maine.*

*Our genealogist makes this claim "Of twenty five thousand Moores
No one has died in the County House or entered prison doors."*

*For which we should be thankful to our Heavenly Father above
For the start in life he gave us in the home of Brotherly Love.*

*And our prayers are today as we meet to celebrate
That the final ending of our lives be rather good than great.*

.....Elizabeth C. Moore

Eli and Elizabeth both passed away before 1930. Although he was the eldest brother, Eli survived all his siblings, and three of his four sons.



Moore brothers ca 1910

Front: Pusey (d. 1923)
2nd from left in back row:
George C. Moore (d. 1918)

Others are Eli (d. ca. 1925),
Martin (d. 1918), and James
(d.1921)