

Lewis C. Moore (1845 – 1886) & Eliza Ann Beauclair (1849 – 1935)

Lewis C. Moore was born October 31, 1845 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 7th child and 4th son of Lewis M and Sarah Chalfant Moore. Lewis was 8 years old when the family moved to Michigan and took up land in Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County.

He may have received his early schooling at the Island School, which was built in 1847, just across from the Moore homestead at the corner of Whitaker and Willis Roads. If he continued his education through high school, it would have been at Ypsilanti High School. Lewis undoubtedly worked on the family farm and saw-mill, and eventually joined his father and older brother Eli at their company, Ann Arbor Agricultural Works.



Lewis C Moore and
Eliza Beauclair
m. June 20, 1870



In June of 1870, Lewis married Eliza Ann Beauclair, daughter of Thomas Boisclair and Ann Dix Boisclair of Detroit. Eliza was born Feb. 28, 1849 in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. At the time of the 1850 census, Eliza was a one-year old, living in Springwells Township, Wayne County, Michigan, with her father, Thomas, a farmer; her mother, Ann, and three older brothers, Edward, age 5, Francis, age 3, and Thomas G, age 2. By the time of the 1860 census, Ann Dix Boisclair had married Moses Webster. It is supposed that Thomas Boisclair, and two of the sons, Francis and Thomas G. were deceased, but no records of their deaths have been found. Eliza had three half-siblings listed on the 1870 census: Cornelia Webster, born 1855, Susan Webster, born 1857, and Moses Webster, born 1860. Eliza, age 20, is listed with the Webster family on the 1870 census, but it indicates that she was married in June of that year. It is not known how Eliza, of Detroit, came to be acquainted with Lewis, from Ypsilanti, but the likelihood is a family connection. Two of Lewis's siblings, Emily Ida and James Chalfant Moore, married into the Kelly family. The mother of Benjamin and Clara Kelly was Sarah Steers, whose mother was Sarah Dix. Sarah Dix was the sister of Ann's father, Jacob Dix. Sarah Steers and Ann Dix were therefore first cousins. Had Eliza met Lewis Moore during a visit to her cousins? This may remain an unsolved mystery.

Lewis and Eliza set up housekeeping in Ann Arbor, where Lewis went to work as a machinist at Ann Arbor Agricultural Co., and they lived at 32 N. Pontiac. Their son, Webster Wirt Moore, was born on June 29, 1874. In 1878, the family was living at 3 Catherine Street, and in 1880 the family had moved to 20 Traver Street.

Emily Luella Moore, known as Luella, was born September 24, 1880. She may have been named for Lewis's sister, Emily Ida Moore Kelly, or perhaps for Ann's aunt, Emily Boisclair Boucher, sister of her father, Thomas.



Family of Lewis and Eliza Moore, ca 1884



Luella won a baby beauty contest with this photo



Luella and Wirt ca. 1884

The 1883 Ann Arbor City Directory indicates the family had moved to 10 Bowery Street. Lewis was a volunteer fireman for the city of Ann Arbor, and his untimely death on April 26, 1886, came as a result of a fire.

The cause of death listed in Forest Hill cemetery records is "inflammation of the brain", but the newspaper account of his death indicates that he developed pneumonia and died three days after the fire. It seems likely that the death could be attributed to smoke inhalation. He was 40 years old. Lewis Moore is buried in an unmarked grave in Block 33, Lot 8, Forest Hills Cemetery, Ann Arbor.

Lewis Moore, a valued employe of the Agricultural company, died Monday at his home in the Unity block, of pneumonia, aged 40 years. The attack was brought on by Mr. Moore's faithfulness to the interests of the city on the occasion of the Mummy fire in the sixth ward. He is the engineer of the steamer in the fire department and on the occasion in question he caught a bad cold which resulted in his death. Chief Seabolt says that Moore was one of the oldest and best firemen in the department. He leaves a wife and two children. It seems to be the universal sentiment that the city council as a mark of the public appreciation of his long and valuable services as fireman in which he eventually lost his life, should at least provide for the funeral expenses. The funeral yesterday afternoon was largely attended.

Ann Arbor Register Thursday April 29, 1886

Death of Lewis C. Moore

April 26, 1886

L. W. Moore, brother of Eli W. and Wendell Moore of the 5th ward, died Tuesday at his residence in the Unity block. He took a severe cold while going to the fire, on Thursday of last week, which caused his death. Mr. Moore was an efficient fireman and leaves a wife and two children.

Ann Arbor Democrat Friday April 30, 1886

Lewis was incorrectly identified in this article as the brother of Eli and Wendell Moore, who were his nephews.

Eliza was left a widow with two children to raise at the early age of 37. Family tradition holds that she worked as a housemother at one of the University of Michigan fraternities.

In the 1888-89 Ann Arbor City Directory, she was listed as boarding at 7 N. Fifth. In 1892, she was living at 37 E. Catherine, and in 1895, at 39 Thompson Street.

In 1900, Wirt married and moved with his wife to Detroit. Luella had completed her education at Ann Arbor High School and the teacher preparatory program at the State Normal School at Ypsilanti. Eliza and Luella moved to Detroit and in the 1900 census, were shown living with Wirt at 147 Clifford St. Wirt was employed as an electrician at American Car and Foundry, and Luella was a teacher in the Detroit school system.

In her later years, Eliza suffered from diabetes. She was remembered by her granddaughter Ruth as being a very cheerful, happy person. Eliza lived in Detroit with Luella until her death from a cerebral hemorrhage on Nov. 13, 1935, at the age of 86. She is buried in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.



Obit of Eliza Beauclair Moore

The Rev. Herbert B. Rhodes, D.D. of the Boulevard Temple Methodist Church, will conduct the funeral services at 2:00 p.m. Saturday for Mrs. Eliza Moore, member of one of Detroit's oldest French families. The rites will be held at 2 pm at the home, 214 Hendrie Avenue. Burial will be in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Moore was born in 1849 on Beaubien Street, south of East Jefferson Ave. She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Ann Dix Beauclair. The Beauclair family's history goes back to the days of the French settlers. She was the widow of Lewis C. Moore, an implement manufacturer, with whom she lived in Ann Arbor for many years. He died many years ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Luella E. Moore, with whom she lived; a son, Wirt V. Moore, and three grandchildren, Vera L and Ruth V Moore and Mrs. H. W. Zoller of Detroit.

Eliza Moore with son, Wirt,
granddaughter Esther and