

The Missing Child of the Loyalist James Moody of Sussex County, New Jersey

by Robert Moody

William Moody¹ of Licking County, Ohio, first appears in the recorded documents of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1794 at age 24. No evidence of his parents and origins is to be found in that County. A decades long effort involving records in far flung locations and DNA provide a surprising answer to his parentage. The story starts with the Loyalist James Moody.

James Moody, Loyalist

James Moody, the famous Revolutionary War Loyalist of New Jersey, was an army and militia officer, office holder, politician, and author, born in 1744 in New Jersey. By his first marriage to Elizabeth Brittain he had three children, John, the oldest, an unknown middle child, and a daughter Maria Jane. All were born in Sussex County, New Jersey.²

He married second Jane Lynson, née Robinson.³ James died 6 April 1809 in Sissiboo (Weymouth), Nova Scotia, Canada, where he had relocated to live on lands granted by Great Britain following the end of the Revolutionary War.

James Moody occupies a special place among the thousands of loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia after the American revolution because he is widely held to have been one of the most effective British raiders in that conflict and many of his exploits read like popular fiction. At the outbreak of the Revolution, he was living quietly on a farm belonging to his father in Sussex County, New Jersey. Like many Loyalists, he initially he had no thoughts of taking part in the struggle. However, early in 1777 the local committee of safety ordered him to renounce his British allegiance and pledge loyalty to the United States, and he refused. He was then harassed and, after being shot at on his own farm, he gathered more than 70 neighbors and left for the British lines. Soon after his arrival, he became an unpaid volunteer in the New Jersey Volunteers. He documented his efforts for the British in his Narrative.⁴

During the period from April 1777 to 1782

James is away from his family and his first wife Elizabeth [Brittain] is reportedly killed in a fall from a horse. This could have occurred no earlier than February 1782 when she appears as a witness in two cases in the Sussex County Court of Oyer and Terminer.⁵ James remarries on 21 Mar 1782 so Elizabeth's death, if the story is true, occurred in the very narrow time frame of late February or early March and James immediately remarried.

Margaret Budd Moody, wife of James' son John, wrote that Elizabeth and her family were not in sympathy with the Colonists' views.⁶ We also know Elizabeth's six brothers were split in their loyalties Three younger brothers fought for the British and the three oldest for the Colonies.⁷ Her parents, William and Mary [Collins] Brittain, also stayed in the Colonies.

James left for London in May 1782 to press his Loyalist claims, leaving his new wife and three children in New York.⁸ His new wife joined him in London in the autumn of 1783. James and Jane weren't able to leave London for Nova Scotia until April 1786. Two of James' children, John and Maria, joined him in Nova Scotia.

The author has found no evidence that James mentions Elizabeth or his third child, or their deaths, in any later writing.

It's reported, though no reliable source found, that in cases where one spouse's Revolutionary War loyalties did not agree with the other spouse's, the husband or wife could remarry without formal divorce as long as the appropriate church requirements were met for such cases. If correct, James could have

remarried without divorcing Elizabeth (i.e., it wasn't necessary for her to have died in 1782).

In an 1886 telegram, Sara Bond Ryan states that Margaret told her James Moody's "first wife and her family (our grandma) were not in sympathy with the Col. [James Moody eventually became a colonel in the Nova Scotia militia⁹] views. That she [Elizabeth Brittain] was thrown from a horse and died while the war was on. He [James] wrote in his Narrative of three children, *but only two are accounted for in Nova Scotia* [emphasis added]." It's clear Margaret, a very close relative, didn't know what happened to the third child and we also know Elizabeth was still living after the end of the War.

William Moody of Licking County, Ohio

William Moody was born Dec 27, 1770, location uncertain¹⁰, and died Aug 28, 1828, in Madison, Licking County, Ohio.¹¹ His parents have until recently been unknown, except for a few references to their names being James and Elizabeth (some handed down family notes mention variations of Elizabeth's surname as Brittain/Britton). No record of William's parents is to be found in Northumberland County.¹²

The earliest records found for William are:

- 1) A land warrant dated 19 Dec 1798 for 25 acres in Northumberland County (on the Waters of the Muddy Run) surveyed for William Moody. Fourteen acres and 133 perches were returned 20 Mar 1807, patentee Daniel Montgomery.¹³ The survey of the 14 acres and 133 perches, dated 3 Apr 1799, "including his [William's] improvement bearing date on the 1 day of May 1794."
- 2) 1798 - 1806 Turbot Township, Northumberland County tax records.¹⁴ William was removed from the tax rolls in 1807.¹⁵
- 3) The 1800 Turbot Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania

census.¹⁶

From these records, we see that William first settled at/near Turbot Township, was old enough to purchase land no later than 1794¹⁷, and left for Licking County, Ohio, in 1807. Beginning in 1802, he was shown in tax records as a "smith," a reference to profession as a blacksmith.¹⁸ Some of the tax records also note the acreage that each individual held. The last tax record for William Moody noted that he held eighty acres of land.

These township records also recorded the presence of single men. In some entries, the marriage of a single man was recorded. No entry for William Moody as a single man in Northumberland or Northampton County records has been found.¹⁹ It is possible William resided in another county and was recorded as a single man in that community or that relevant tax records no longer exist.

Some 40 years ago, the author began a search for William's parents. Some certainty to that story has only come very recently with DNA evidence that leads to a surprising conclusion.

The Letters of William's Oldest Son John

William Moody's oldest son, John, wrote at least two letters (i.e., two letters survive) reflecting John's understanding that William was the son of the Loyalist, James Moody, and James' first wife, Elizabeth Brittain. John would, of course, have learned this directly from William.

In November 1817, John wrote a letter to Col. James Moody (the Loyalist) in Nova Scotia. James had died in 1809 which John obviously didn't know.²⁰ William was still living.

In that letter, John states he's the son of William Moody - the son of James and Elizabeth Moody formerly of New Jersey. John goes on to say his grandfather [James] in the Revolutionary War proved loyal to the King and left the country. He continues, saying they

have had frequent word that his grandfather settled in Nova Scotia. John also requests whoever receives the letter to please send him any information about James or John Moody (presumably James' son John who died in 1807), formerly of New Jersey.

Susan Shenstone, in her biography of James Moody, reported that Charles Colbourne Moody (James' grandson) forwarded John's letter to William Brittain (one of Elizabeth Brittain's brothers and also a Loyalist) who lived in New Brunswick.²¹ However, the author believes Shenstone may have confused this letter with another incident described next. William Brittain died in 1813 so Charles could not have forwarded John's letter to him.²² No response to John's 1817 letter has been found.

The author also found the following information which is excerpted from a letter dated 10 March 1827,²³ written by Charles Colbourne Moody to his brother Elisha²⁴:

Mr. John Janaux[sp?] wrote me a few lines the other day saying that he was at St. John last fall and there was a man by the name of James Aram who lives at Long Reach St. John River near Mr James Brittain [brother of Elizabeth]. Mr Aram said that he was about Eighteen months ago at Mount Vernon Knox County Ohio and was there introduced to a man by the name of John Moody who said that he was a son of Col James Moody of Weymouth Nova Scotia and that he further said he possessed some property at Sissiboo. Aram said that John Moody married a widow by the name of Beeler but she is now dead. Aram said that if any person wished to inquire further into the business might refer to him. I have written to James Brittain upon the subject but have not yet received an answer. Should the report prove correct I intend to go to Ohio as soon as

possible and see into the whole affair. I shall write you more fully upon this subject at some future date.²⁵

In May 1828, little more than one year after the above events, John Moody travels to Col. James Brittain's home in St. John, New Brunswick. From there, John sends a letter to James Budd Moody in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia²⁶. James Budd Moody was a grandson of James Moody. James Budd Moody died shortly afterward, in October 1828. John must have learned from James Brittain of the earlier deaths of James Moody and James' son John.

In the letter, John makes no mention that James Brittain has told him William Moody is not the son of James Moody. On the contrary, John still maintains his father is James' son. John has also been told, probably by James Brittain, of an aunt, Maria Jane Moody, who married a Mr. Taylor, as John asks for news of Maria in his letter. John asks James Budd Moody to send him a letter care of Hart & Herrick in New York City. Lastly, John states James Budd Moody's grandmother is living in New York City. This James' grandmother was either Elizabeth [Brittain] Moody (paternal) or Elizabeth [Brown] Budd (maternal). Elizabeth Brown is known to have died about 1810 so this had to be Elizabeth [Brittain] Moody.

At that time, William Moody was still living. We have to assume all of this was communicated among William's family members, leading many years later to the stories handed down through William's son Thomas, daughter Elizabeth and no doubt others identifying William's parents as James and Elizabeth.

Theodore "Ted" Brush who did extensive research on James Moody, believed William to be the missing third child of James Moody and his wife Elizabeth Brittain.²⁷

James Moody, Loyalist – DNA Evidence

In 2001, the author started the Moody

surname project at FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA), hoping through YDNA testing to connect William Moody's line to a Moody lineage. As of this date, no other Moody line has been shown to be related to William Moody's.

The male line back to William Moody's son Thomas (the author's line), has been confirmed through YDNA testing of the author and a well-documented cousin.

In 2001, John Wentworth Moody²⁸, a direct male descendant of the Loyalist James Moody did YDNA testing but was found not to be a close enough match to the author that James Moody could be William Moody's father or even that the two Moody lines are related in any genealogical time frame.²⁹

There are many generations between James and John Moody, and current descendants' lines to James are not genetically confirmed further back than a few generations, leaving many generations where a non-paternal event (NPE) could have occurred. More YDNA evidence is desirable to confirm James Moody's direct line male descendants. Unfortunately, despite a decade of searching, the author has been unable to locate another living male descendant, aside from very close relatives of John Wentworth Moody. There may well be no other male descendants available to help confirm James Moody's YDNA line.

Elizabeth Brittain

Elizabeth's three oldest brothers, Nathaniel, Zeboeth, and Samuel, served with New Jersey forces in the War of the Revolution while her three youngest brothers were Tories and went to New Brunswick, Canada after the War. Nathaniel and Zeboeth relocated to Northumberland (later Northampton) County, Pennsylvania. As noted, this is also the earliest known location of William Moody.

Zeboeth and his family had moved from New Jersey to Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, before 1790 (he isn't enumerated

in the 1790 census as he dies before the date of record). He's also not found in available tax lists from the 1780s. We know Zeboeth and a man named Robbins made a visit from Northumberland County to the area near Lightstreet, Columbia County, Pennsylvania in 1790 for the purpose of buying lands. The party was coming from Northumberland County when Zeboeth was attacked with smallpox and died in July 1790. His family was on their way to join him when they were apprised of his death. However, they did not turn back but continued to their destination and settled east of Lightstreet.³⁰ Zeboeth's will was recorded in Northumberland County. Guardianship proceedings for Zeboeth's two young children were also conducted in Northumberland County.

After the war, Nathaniel removed from New Jersey to Mount Bethel, Northampton County, and died there in 1817.³¹

Elizabeth's parents, William and Mary, must have moved to the area along with Nathaniel and Zeboeth. William reportedly died in Mount Bethel in 1804 and Mary is reported to have died in Northumberland County in 1805 (she may have been living with Zeboeth's son William). William Moody moves to Ohio shortly after the deaths of William and Mary Brittain. While no connection is known, the timing is interesting.

Zeboeth's son Joseph (b. 1771) married Anne White. Anne was the sister of Mary White who married William Stadden, the brother of William Moody's wife Mary.

Zeboeth's son, William, is in Northumberland County at least by the 1790 census where he is enumerated three residences from Thomas Stadden [Staton]. It's reasonable to assume William Moody was nearby since he married Thomas' daughter Mary about 1794. We can also conclude William Moody knew these Brittain: William Sr, Zeboeth and Zeboeth's son William, and others in those families if for no other reason than due to their

proximity.

Elizabeth Brittain's sister, Sarah, came with her parents, William and Mary, to Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, after the Revolutionary War and was married in Pennsylvania to Abraham Willett whose family was from Little Egg Harbor where James Moody had lived.

Elizabeth Brittain Moody – DNA Evidence

If one assumes the YDNA line from John Wentworth Moody to James Moody has no NPEs (in which case William Moody is definitely not in that male line), then one alternative is that William is the son of Elizabeth Brittain but James Moody is not William's biological father.

Given the probable number of generations

to present, living descendants will be somewhere in the 5th to 8th cousin range to the author. According to online information, AncestryDNA will identify about 11% of 6th cousins, FTDNA 2% or less, and 23andMe about 4%.³² AncestryDNA has the largest user base and a large number of family trees containing the relevant Brittain family. Of course, it isn't feasible to attempt a count of the number of current, living descendants of Elizabeth Brittain's family but there are enough that, if a large enough number have tested, we can identify sufficient matches to strongly suggest a connection (assuming the ancestry of the matches can be adequately confirmed).

Matches are expected to share AtDNA (in centiMorgans) as shown here:³³

Relationship	Shared cM	Average Shared cM	Expected number of cousins	Expected number of detectable cousins
6 th cousin	0-21	9	23,000	943
6 th cousin 1x removed	0-19	9		~943 – 1,320
7 th cousin	0-10	7	120,000	1,320

In brief, the author has documented matches with 38 individuals descended from Elizabeth Brittain's family³⁴ and where no other connection can be found. These matches include descendants of 6 of William Brittain and Mary Collin's 10 children (Elizabeth and her siblings). All are in the expected 6th to 8th cousin range.

Lawrence Marr Sr. and Jr.

Lawrence Marr Sr. (ca. 1700-1781) came, probably from Ireland, in the early 1700s. He likely settled originally in the village of Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, where he operated a blacksmith shop³⁵ probably no later than the early to mid-1730s.³⁶ Lawrence eventually settled in Mt. Bethel, Northampton

County, Pennsylvania. Lawrence is also known to have been in Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, adjacent to Sussex County where James Moody was living.³⁷ No records have been found that pinpoint the time frame when Lawrence Marr relocated from New Jersey to Mt. Bethel. However, two writs in the Northampton Court of Common Pleas and early assessment rolls suggest he moved about 1760.³⁸ Lawrence's move to Mt. Bethel placed him within 2 or 3 miles of James Moody's farm in Knowlton township, New Jersey.³⁹ In addition, all of Lawrence's sons who were of age at the time are found in the Mt. Bethel Tax and Exoneration lists beginning in 1772 (the earliest year available) and quite probably were there in the same time frame as their father.⁴⁰

Lawrence Marr Jr. started out as a supporter of the Colonial cause serving in Captain Thomas Craig's company, 2nd PA Battalion. During the first part of 1777 his allegiance must have changed and he enlisted with the New Jersey Volunteers stationed on Staten Island. He was involved in at least one notable escapade. In 1781, he and John Moody (James Moody's younger half-brother) were to steal and carry off the secret journals of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. However, an entrapment was arranged and they were arrested. Both were court-martialed and sentenced to die. John Moody, age 23, was hung on November 13, 1781, but Lawrence was "respited." According to the New Jersey Volunteer muster rolls, he was a "prisoner of the rebels" for the next 22 months. Evidence suggests his father and a family friend paid 200 pounds to the court for his release and promise of good behavior.⁴¹ Lawrence Jr. briefly went to Canada and then returned to Pennsylvania.

Lawrence Sr.'s daughter Elizabeth was the wife of Zeboeth Brittain (James Moody's wife's brother). Elizabeth died in Northumberland County. Lawrence's son, Joseph, was in Upper Mount Bethel in 1790 and died in Milton, Northumberland County, in 1796. On the 18th of August, 1795, Joseph donated to Matthias Webb, Samuel Stadden, and John Covert, trustees of the Turbut or Milton "Christ Church," a small field from his farm for the double purpose of a church site and burial ground.

These connections show the close relationship between James and Elizabeth [Brittain] Moody and the Marr family.

Lawrence Marr – DNA Evidence

While researching AtDNA matches with descendants related to Elizabeth Brittain Moody, the author also identified 33 matches to descendants of Lawrence Marr Sr.⁴² These matches fit the same relationship profile as described for Elizabeth Brittain.

This initially led to the possibility that Lawrence Marr Jr. was a candidate for William Moody's father as several sources report his birth being in 1748. His gravestone shows he would have been born in 1756 and too young to be William's father and census records lend support to the 1756 birth date. However, this would still leave Lawrence Marr Sr. and several other sons as candidates.

In early 2021 a DNA breakthrough occurred when Jeff Marr, a direct descendant of Lawrence Marr Sr., did a YDNA test and matched the author on 108/111 markers. FTDNA's Time Predictor (TiP) calculation estimates a 99% probability that Jeff Marr and the author share a common paternal line ancestor within 8 generations. For reference, William Moody is 5 generations back from the author and Lawrence Marr Sr. is 8 generations back from Jeff Marr.

Conclusion

The available records and other evidence support a very close connection between William Moody and the family of Elizabeth Brittain. Handed down family stories also support William's connection to James Moody and Elizabeth Brittain. The known circumstances also support William arriving in Pennsylvania with someone in the Brittain family, a number of whom made the same journey.

The letters John Moody wrote to James Moody's family clearly show William believed he was the son of James Moody. There seems to be no other explanation for all of the information available surrounding John's letters and his actual visit to Nova Scotia to seek out his family.

The recently available DNA evidence is additional strong support for the connection to Elizabeth Brittain, even if that evidence doesn't prove a biological connection to her personally.

Finally, the YDNA evidence suggests a reason James Moody 'dropped' William

Moody from his life. It is no great leap to think James became aware of Elizabeth's infidelity with one of the Marrs. James left Elizabeth, quickly remarried and arranged for his other two children to join him in Canada. And he never mentions Elizabeth or William in his later writings leaving his relatives to wonder and speculate what became of the third child.

In summary, the evidence leads to the almost certain conclusion that William Moody is indeed the 'missing' third child of James Moody and Elizabeth Brittain. However, William's father was not James Moody but rather Lawrence Marr Sr. or one of his sons.⁴³

Endnotes

1. William Moody is the author's earliest documented direct paternal line ancestor,
2. Susan Burgess Shenstone, *So Obstinate Loyal, James Moody, 1744-1809*, (Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000). 8.
3. IBID. 140.
4. James Moody, *The Narrative of Lieutenant James Moody*. (Believed written circa fall of 1782. Published 1783, London). <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/Acadiensis/article/viewFile/11304/12054>
5. Susan Burgess Shenstone, *So Obstinate Loyal, James Moody, 1744-1809*, (Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000). 140.
6. That Elizabeth was not in favor of James' politics is evidenced in that Elizabeth didn't join her husband in New York as other Tory wives were forced to do. Lt. Col. Joseph Barton's wife, Capt. Patrick Haggarty's wife, and Capt. Joseph Crowell's wife were forced to go to New York by Sussex County authorities because of their Tory outlook. Nowhere is there evidence that James Moody's wife was forced to leave Sussex County. There is also no record of her death or any record of a divorce from James. James says nothing about any of this in his Narrative. Source: Ted Brush, *Lt. Col. James Moody 1744-1809*. (Unpublished manuscript in four parts. Warren County Historical and Genealogical Society. Belvidere, New Jersey, 1979).
7. Elmer Garfield Van Name. *Britton Genealogy: Early Generations from Somersetshire, England to Staten Island, New York*. (Gloucester County Historical Society Publications, Oct. 1970).
8. Letter: Jonathan Boucher to James Moody, 30 July 1788. Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia,

- Canada. Moody Family papers donated by John Wentworth Moody. Reference MG1, Volume 2684, Item 98.
9. Village of Weymouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, web page. <https://www.weymouthnovascotia.com/james-moody>
 10. Moody family Bible record in possession of Marcella Kiracofe, Centerburg, Ohio. Marcella is a descendant of William Moody, Jr. the youngest son of William Moody. Copy in possession of the author.
 11. N. N. Hill, *History of Knox County, Ohio: its past and present, containing a condensed, comprehensive history of Ohio, including an outline history of the Northwest; a complete history of Knox County ... a record of its soldiers in the late war; portraits of its early settlers and prominent men ... biographies and histories of pioneer families, etc.* (Mt. Vernon, O.: A. A. Graham & Co., 1881).
 12. The author's research eliminated other Moody families in the region of Northumberland County.
 13. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. Warrant located at RG-17. Recorded at Patent Book P59 page 389. Return Survey copied Book C139 page 118. Reproduction in possession of the author.
 14. Tax records, where available, were also examined for the following townships: Augusta, Chillisquaque, Little Mahanoy, Lower Bald Eagle, Lycoming, Mahanoy, Muncy, Penn, Point, Potter and Shamokin. William Moody was not found in any of those lists bearing in mind the lists are very old and handwritten. See FHL films #1449342-1449349.
 15. Between 1805 and 1809, William and his family moved to Ohio. The 1881 *History of Knox County, Ohio* indicates that William came to Knox County about 1805 and located in Madison Township, on the Bowling Green, four miles east of the town of Newark in 1807. This coincides with William's sale of property in Turbut to John Smith. Family researcher Edith Collett stated in a 6 March 1927 letter that William Moody came to settle near Newark, Licking County, Ohio in 1807 with Derick Cruzen and his wife, Elizabeth [Stadden] Cruzen. There are two pre-1808 deeds involving William shown in Licking County land record indexes. However, those occurred prior to Licking becoming a county and the records can't found despite the listing.
 16. The census recorded: 2m <10 (sons John & Thomas); 1m 16-26 (William); 1m 26-45 (unknown); 1f 16-26 (wife Mary).
 17. The period from 1783 to 1786 is when old family stories say William left his family to live elsewhere (roughly his early teen years) and corresponds to the

- time when James Moody was in London.
18. William doesn't appear to have pursued the blacksmithing profession. He bought farmland in Ohio and is a Justice of the Peace in Licking County in 1812 and 1813 marriage records. William and his wife were very involved in the local church as well. They were among the original members of the Methodist church at Bowling Green. Prior to the erection of the church, services were frequently held in William Moody's cabin.
 19. Referring to *Pennsylvania 1798 US Direct Tax Lists* (available at Ancestry.com) and *1772, 1785-86, 1788 Proprietary Supply, and State Tax lists for Northampton and Northumberland: 1772-1787* (available at DonsList.net and Google Books).
 20. Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Moody Family papers donated by John Wentworth Moody. Reference MG1 Volume 2684 Item 122a.
 21. Susan Burgess Shenstone, *So Obstinate Loyal, James Moody, 1744-1809*, (Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000).
 22. Shenstone concluded John Moody was not the son of William Moody because she had been given the inaccurate information that John was born in 1810 and was thus too young to be the writer. However, John was born in April 1795 and he is certainly the author of the two letters.
 23. Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Reference: MG1, Volume 2684, Item 37. Moody Family papers donated by John Wentworth Moody.
 24. The author could find no further communication on this and no record of Charles Moody coming to the United States.
 25. Based on the date of the letter and Mr. Janaux's statement, Mr. Janaux was at St John in the fall of 1826 and Mr. Aram was in Knox County 18 months prior, which puts Mr. Aram in Knox County in the spring of 1825. At that time John Moody was 30 years old and was living in Mount Vernon. John married Experience Miller in March 1820 and her death date is unknown although certainly prior to his second marriage to Mira Hussa[?] in 1828. We can be comfortable Experience Miller is the "Beeler" referred to in the letter and this places her death before the spring of 1825. This is supported by land records where John is shown without mention of Experience beginning in 1825. John certainly would have told Mr. Aram he was a grandson of James Moody rather than a son.
 26. Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Reference MG1 Vol 2684 Item 126. Moody Family papers donated by John Wentworth Moody.
 27. Ted Brush, *Lt. Col. James Moody 1744-1809*. (Unpublished manuscript in four parts. Warren County Historical and Genealogical Society. Belvidere, New Jersey, 1979).
 28. As well as being a descendant of James Moody, John Wentworth Moody did extensive research on the Moody family and other Nova Scotia families. See for example: *Some Ancient Harris and Harding History*. NSG 1988 Vol 6(1) Spring: 6-9. <https://novascotiaancestors.ca/fileDownload.php?cid=24&sid=4> (requires membership).
 29. The author's match to John was 22/111 genetic distance.
 30. J. H. Battle, H. C. Bradsby, [from old catalog], H. Charles Bell [from old catalog], S. Penniman Bates. *History of Columbia and Montour counties, Pennsylvania, containing a history of each county*. (Chicago, A. Warner & co. 1887). 186.
 31. The probate papers of Nathaniel and Zeboeth do not mention Elizabeth Brittain Moody or William Moody.
 32. International Society of Genetic Genealogy. https://isogg.org/wiki/Cousin_statistics
 33. International Society of Genetic Genealogy. https://isogg.org/wiki/Cousin_statistics
 34. Matches were found at AncestryDNA, GEDMatch, FamilyTreeDNA, and MyHeritage.
 35. M.D Larison, *The Ancient Village AMWELL*, (C.W. Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, New Jersey. January 11, 1908). 9. Larison places Lawrence's shop east of William Dawlis' oldest mill. Lawrence seems, according to Larison, "...to have had money enough to enter into any bargain presented at those early times and sharpness enough to get the best of it, no matter how sharp the fleecer on the other side."
 36. *A History of East Amwell, 1700-1800*. (East Amwell Bicentennial Committee. Ringoes, New Jersey. 1976). 67. In a talk given by C.W. Larison in 1906, he stated Dawlis' mill was built in 1735 and the blacksmith shop was there at that time. This would have been Lawrence Marr's blacksmith shop.
 37. a Lawrence Marr is shown in a 1741 record of ear marks in Amwell. He is then found on a deed for three acres dated 16 Nov 1743 which "Harmanus Dahles/Dawlis agreed to execute when he discharged a penal bill to the Hunterdon Loan Office." The Land was finally granted 14 June 1747 by Catherine Dawlis, widow. According to *A History of East Amwell, 1700-1800*, this was the old mill devised to Harman Dawlis.
 - b Laurence Marr is a witness on the will of John Mullen of Amwell Twp. signed 6 Jul 1747 and

- proved 11 Aug 1749.
- c In February 1757 Term of Inferior Common Pleas Court, Lawrence Marr of Amwell, Blacksmith, was summoned to answer Robert Smith, executor of last will of Benjamin Smith deceased for the sum of \$20.0.0 current proclamation money which he had altogether refused to pay. In the same court in 1760, Aaron Doud, attorney for Lawrence Marr, summons Samuel Johnson, Esq. to render \$50 proclamation money which he has owed Marr since 8 Feb 1757. The court awarded Lawrence a judgment for the full amount plus \$5.15 "for damages he that sustained by occasion of the detaining the debt." Judgment awarded 22 Feb 1761. See Harriette Marr Wheeler.
38. Harriette Marr Wheeler, *William Marr of Northampton County Pennsylvania and His Six Children*, (Edwards Brothers Inc. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1983).
39. The distance is roughly 2 ½ miles as the crow flies but actual travel distance would have depended on where one could cross the Delaware River which forms the border between the two states in that area.
40. Ancestry.com. Pennsylvania, U.S., Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Original data: Tax & Exoneration Lists, 1762-1794. Series No. 4.61; Records of the Office of the Comptroller General, RG-4. Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
41. Letter from the State of New Jersey, State Library, Department of Education, 185 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey.
42. Six of the 33 matches are with descendants of Lawrence Sr.'s daughter, Elizabeth, who married Zeboeth Brittain, one of Elizabeth Brittain's brothers. Those matches could reflect DNA inherited from either family, Marr or Brittain.
43. The author is pursuing living direct line male descendants of Lawrence Marr and William Moody for further YDNA testing to provide additional confirmation of the Marr connection.

About the Author

Robert Moody is retired from Department of the Interior after more than 20 years of Federal government service. He earned MBA and MS degrees from the University of Colorado. In 2001, he established the Moody surname DNA project at Family Tree DNA, one of the first genealogical DNA testing companies. He is still the administrator of that project which now has more than 300 members. He has been researching his family history for more than three decades.