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Inn Keeper, Woodbridge, N.J., 1683-1688

Samuel Moore was born c 1630, probably in England, died at Woodbridge, N.J. on 27 May 1688. He married first, 3 May 1653 at Newbury, Mass., Hannah Plummer, daughter of Francis Plummer. She died 8 December 1654. He married second, 12 December 1656 at Newbury, Mary Ilsley, daughter of William and Barbara (Stevens) Ilsley of Newbury. She died after 3 June 1678 at Woodbridge. He married third, 23 December 1678 Anne Jaques, widow of Henry Jaques, Jr. of Woodbridge.

Samuel Moore was a resident of Newbury, Mass. before 1653. About 1666 he established himself at Woodbridge, N.J., filing in that place and in Piscataway Township a survey for a number of tracts of land. He was assigned a patent for 70 acres on 27 December 1667 and about 1670 he received a patent for 356 acres.

Samuel Moore was a man of great influence and prestige at Woodbridge. He served as Town Clerk there for 19 years, was sent as Deputy to the General Assembly and returned to that office five times. In 1668 he was chosen Delegate to the first Legislature held in the Province of New Jersey at Elizabeth Town. In 1669 he was an aid to the Surveyor General and was also appointed Constable. Between the years 1670 and 1682 he held the posts of overseer of the highways, rate maker and gatherer and assistant justice of the Township Court. He was President of the Township Court in 1672 and 1674, served as Marshall of the Province of East Jersey under Governor Carteret in 1672, 1673 and also as Treasurer of the Province. His popularity grew and in 1683 he was appointed the first High Sheriff of Middlesex County, at that time a position of great dignity and much responsibility.

In June 1683, "By a unanimous Vote Made Choice of Samuel Moore to keep ordinary for this Towne, whilst Rum is to Be had from the Merchant at Three Shillings or 2 Shillings and six pence for Galln he is to aford it for Money at three pence for gill, six pence the half pint, and eighteen pence the Quart; if he gives more, then to Raise the price..." Moore's tavern was the first

tavern in Woodbridge. It stood on the corner of Green Street and Rahway Avenue, where Jannis' Cafe and the Oldsmobile Agency now stand (1978). One account of his life states that the first tavern in the colony was Samuel Moore's.

- Barbara Carver Smith  
74-36

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