LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Mooers Family Members:

For the past fifteen years or so, I have been collecting information about the Mooers family in a search for the identity of the parents of my great-grandfather. Although I still do not know the identity of Joshua Mooers' parents, I have been provided with the opportunity to meet, talk with and correspond with some hundreds of Mooers cousins.

Along the way I have collected some interesting articles about individuals sharing the last name. Undoubtedly, with a few possible exceptions, all of these individuals can be traced back of Newbury's Edmund. There are, however, a lot of mysteries and conflicting information in the heritage of the "family" which, perhaps, can never be sorted out.

Promising to share information with the Mooers descendants I have contacted, I thought it would be fun to publish an occasional Mooers Family Newsletter. Not only does it provide a means for fulfilling my commitment, but I hope it can lead to even greater information distribution among members of this relatively small but far-flung family. I hope you will provide to me (and the other Mooers) the stories of your family by sharing information about your ancestors and any articles you may have about individual Mooers.

Best regards.

Sincerely.

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EDDIE MOOERS CANCELS GAME
Refuses to allow team play Jackie Robinson

Richmond, Virginia - 1946: Eddie Mooers, owner of the all-white Richmond Colts, canceled an exhibition game between his team and the integrated Montreal Royals (a farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers) rather than have Jackie Robinson take the field against white players. Four years would elapse before the Danville Leafs became Virginia's first integrated professional team by signing black outfielder Perry Miller. Although pitcher Whit Graves and Garnett Blair broke the team color barrier in Richmond by joining the Colts in 1953, segregated seating in Richmond's baseball park persisted for another decade. It ended in 1963 only after a suit before the Virginia Supreme Court. [History Notes: The Newsletter of the Virginia Historical Society, Number 24 (Autumn 1996)]

GRAVESIDE RITE HELD FOR EX-TEAM OWNER

Richmond, Virginia - 1989. A private graveside service for Edwin H. Mooers, 90, a retired partner in Mooers Motor Car Co. and former minor-league baseball player, manager and owner, was held [November 15, 1989]. Mr. Mooers, a life-long Richmond resident was known as "Eddie" and owned the former Richmond Colts from 1932 to 1953, died [the previous day] at his home.

He bought the Colts in 1932, when the team was in the Eastern League. A year later, the team was switched to the Class B Piedmont League. The team played on Mayo's Island in the James River in the 1930s and moved to Mooers Field at Roseneath and Norfolk streets in the early 1940s.

In 1954, when local interests landed a Class AAA International League franchise for Richmond, Mr. Mooers moved his Piedmont League team to Colonial

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He disbanded that operation after a year and sold the franchise to interests in Sudbury, PA.

Mr. Mooers traced his interest in baseball back to his grade-school days, when he played sandlot ball on the North Side. An infielder, he was on the Barton Heights team that won the City Federal League title.

Recalling his sandlot days in a 1937 interview, Mr. Mooers said he and his friends would sell cakes baked by their mothers to raise money for uniforms. When he got the uniform, he slept in it.

When on his first trip ever out of Richmond, he caught the eye of the manager of a Roanoke Rapids, N.C., semiprofessional team and signed for $15 a week.

His first professional contract in organized baseball was with the Richmond Colts in 1915 when they were in the International League. He was their regular shortstop in 1917, when the league disbanded because of World War I.

Mr. Mooers went to spring training with the Yankees as a shortstop in 1919 but reported with a sore arm. He was with the team for a month after the season opened but never got in a game.

He was sent back to the minors and played with various AAA clubs, including ones in Newark and Jersey City, N.J.; Rochester, N.Y.; and Baltimore, and had a short managerial stint with Richmond in 1925. He never got back to the majors and finished his playing career in 1932.

Mr. Mooers was strictly an owner the first years after his purchase of the Colts, but he took the managerial reins in 1936 after his skipper, George Ferrell, quit.

Mr. Mooers' 1937 team didn't win the Piedmont pennant, but it made the playoffs and produced a number of players who went on the majors. They included Norman "Babe" Young, Tom Ferrick and Clem Driesewerd. The Colts won the Piedmont League regular-season title in 1940.

Ferrick, who went on to pitch for the New York Yankees and appear in the World Series, recalled Mr. Mooers in a News Leader article a few years back. "Since Eddie had the car dealership, we traveled first class in new, private cars," he said. "He was a very fair man."

Mr. Mooers had occasional tie-ins with major league clubs to get players for the Colts, but basically he was an independent operator who owned his own players.

When the possibility of having AAA baseball in Richmond in 1954 was mentioned to him, Mr. Mooers said he would never put a nickel into AAA ball. He took his less-expensive Class B team to Colonial Heights. A year later, he got out of baseball and devoted his full-time attention to the automobile business.

He entered the auto business in 1924 with his brother, Willard. They sold Packards in the early years and beginning in the 1950s, Volvos. Mr. Mooers retired from the auto dealership in 1966.

After the Colts left Richmond, Mooers Field was used for auto racing for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Cardie N. Mooers, a daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Beattie, and two granddaughters and five great-granddaughters.


HAZEN MOOERS
1789-1857
First White Man to Settle Area of Fort Ridgely, Minnesota

[Editors Note: Hazen Mooers was the son of Moses Hazen Mooers and Jemina Jackman Mooers. His father was the brother of General Benjamin Mooers. The following is an account of Hazen Mooers' life written by Andrea Johnson of the Education Department, Minnesota Historical Society. It is part of a training manual for a living history exhibit about Hazen Mooers’ wife, Grey Cloud Woman. DWM]

Hazen Mooers was born in 1789 near Plattsburgh, New York, the fifth of 13 children in a fairly prominent local family. As a young adult, he fought against the British in the War of 1812, and later served as acting deputy collector of customs on the Canadian “frontier.” No doubt hoping to do better, on March 27, 1818, Hazen signed a $250 per year, 3 year contract as a clerk with the American Fur Company to serve at “Prairie du Chien and the interior country of the Upper Mississippi River.” (He later tried to get out of that contract when he was offered a better job at home, but he was unable to do so.)

Hazen’s first season as a clerk, 1818-19, was an eventful one: the trader he was working for, an old fur trade veteran by the name of James Aird¹, sickened during the season and died in February 1819. Hazen was made Aird’s executor and was charged with collecting all written material about Aird’s estate so the Company could do an inventory.

Whether or not it was in this first season that Hazen met James Aird’s daughter, Margaret / Mahpiyahotowin / Grey Cloud Woman is unknown; the relationship between Grey Cloud Woman and her father is not clear, as is the question of whether she lived in and around Prairie du Chien at that point in her life. One possible clue is the claim made by Jane Anderson Robertson, Grey Cloud Woman’s daughter, that Jane was present at her grandfather’s death. If 9-year-old Jane was present at Aird’s death, most likely her mother was also. If that is the case, then Hazen and Grey Cloud Woman, the former “Mrs. Thomas Anderson,” did meet that season.

Whatever kind of relationship formed between Hazen and Grey Cloud Woman, they did not form a permanent union until approximately 7 years after they met, in 1825. During those years, Hazen was stationed out west, mostly in and around Lake Traverse, although missionary Samuel Pond credited Mooers with having a post as far west as the Sheyenne River for several years. Hazen also signed a new contract with the American Fur Company and formed some type of relationship with a Mdewakancon woman named Mary / Wakanhditaniwan / Lightning Appears Woman, with whom he had a son, John Mooers / Kahoton / Makes Noise By Striking, born in 1822. John was raised by his mother and her family, but did not lose contact with his father, whom he worked with by at least 1849.

[Continued in Next Issue of the Mooers’ Memoirs]

¹ James Aird has another place in history. He was the first white man seen by Lewis and Clark during their return from their two and a half year expedition across the American Northwest.
Bakersfield, California - 1895:

Frederic M. Mooers, described in newspaper accounts of the time as an erstwhile newspaper man, discovered gold while crossing the slopes of Rand Mountain last year.

According to those accounts, Mooers, although a "clever journalist," had fallen upon hard times. He left his family in the east and traveled west seeking his fortune.

On his way to the Summit Dry Diggings, Mooers was crossing the mountain with William Langdon and perhaps others when he discovered traces of placer gold. At the time he attached no importance to it because panning a majority of the dry gulches and canyons in the region would produce color. At least at Summit Diggings he would have water to drink and food to eat.

A year later, ready to quit the "poor man's camp" of the Summit Dry Diggings, Mooers chanced to overhear a conversation between several miners. Mooers understood that they were making plans to go over to the "red top hill" nearby, to "look over that ground where Mooers and Langdon found color."

Enlisting the aid of John Singleton, a carpenter and millwright, with whom he had been dry-washing, and Charles Austin Burcham, an ex-cattleman and meat-market owner from San Bernardino who was then hauling water and supplies for the camps, Mooers could not accept that others might make a discovery where he had found the first traces. The three set off up the lower grades of the Rand Mountains, amid a royal carpet of wild asters and poppies, to the area where Mooers had made his discovery a year early.

Continuing up the slope as far as the team could pull the wagon without a road, the trio set up the little portable dry-washer Mooers and Singleton had been using at the Summit camp. After testing the nearby ground, Mooers stayed with the dry washer while Singleton and Burcham climbed up the red-stained peak. After stopping to look over the Mojave desert floor that lay beneath them and the mountain peaks beyond, Singleton turned to continue his ascent. Idly knocking off a specimen from a large rock, he let out a startled exclamation and quickly handed the piece to Burcham.

Taking a good look, Burcham cried out: "We're rich! By George, Singleton, we've found it." Feverishly breaking off other specimen, the two found these contained free gold as well.

Hastening down the mountain to share the discovery with Mooers, neither man dreamed of the millions locked within the mountain beneath their feet. Quickly, however, the three schemed a plan to keep other prospectors away until they had time to file their claim and begin their digging. Loading iron-stained bull quartz in a couple of sacks in his wagon, the trio maintained an air of mystery as they went through Summit Diggings on the way to El Paso for water. The ruse of the bull quartz provided the extra day of two the partners sorely needed to get their claim recorded and in their hands. The claim was filed on April 25, 1985.

Not all went well for the partners however. During Burcham's absence, Mooers and Singleton signed a contract granting an option to O.B. Stanton of Bakersfield to purchase the claim for $500,000.00. The contract was contingent upon Burcham also agreeing, but when he returned, he refused to sign and the trio soon became engaged in legal claims and entanglements. William Langdon was also one of the litigants, claiming an interest on the grounds that he had been with Mooers when he made the initial discovery. In the end however, the title to the claim was cleared for the partners and it became one of the outstanding properties in California.

Unfortunately, Frederic Mooers did not live long enough to enjoy his wealth. In poor health, Mooers died in the spring of 1900, just five years after the great discovery.

[Editor's Note: The information in this article came from "Desert Bonanza, the Story of Early Randsburg, Majave Desert Mining Camp" by Marcia Rittenhouse Wynn.]

The Mooers' Memoirs

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If you have any family stories or memoirs you would like to share with other members of the Mooers family, please send them to me so they can be published in the future.

Do you have information about the Mooers featured in this issue?

Eddie Mooers: It is believed that Eddie Mooers (born Edwin Hale) was the youngest of four children of Otis M. Mooers and Annie Roberts Medley. The children were: Kimball Carter Mooers, born April 20, 1888 (married Katherine Golden); Carrie Louise Mooers, born June 10, 1894 (married Howard Sledd); Willard Alden Mooers, born June 15, 1897 (married Ruth McDowell); and Edwin Hale Mooers born January 6, 1899 (married Cardie Nunnally). Does anyone have any information about the identity of the grandparents of Eddie Mooers? When did the family move to Virginia?

Frederic M. Mooers: I have no information about the family of Frederic M. Mooers. Perhaps someone in the Bakersfield area could check the Court records to determine whether there is anything there regarding his estate. The history indicates that he died a rich man. Did his family back east realize his riches?

Hazen Mooers: Hazen's ancestors are easily traced back to Jonathan Mooers, born 1694. This family was actively involved in the Revolution and the War of 1812 (Benjamin Mooers, Hazen's uncle, will be featured in the next issue.) However, not much is known about his descendants. His first child, John, reportedly married twice: first to a sister of Joseph Renville, with no known children; second, to Rosalia Freieme, with children Moses, born 1849; Mary Ann, born 1851; Jane Ann, born 1851; and James, born 1856. Do you have any information about Hazen's descendants?
MISSING LINKS

The Dilemma of Jonathan Mooers

In Amy Mooers Williams’ extensive Mooers family study, published in 1956, she quotes a letter written by Nathaniel Mooers, of Vienna, Maine to Benjamin Mooers of Plattsburgh, NY on February 27, 1827:

“My brother Peter Mooers’ widow has the family bible which belongs to grandfather Mooers. It has his family record in it. The record is very much worn so that it is not all readable. It commences in this way: Jonathan Mooers, his bible. A record of myself and all my family which God has been pleased to graciously give to me.

I. Jonathan Mooers, born April 3, 1694; my wife, Mary Mooers, born Aug. 12, 1692. Joseph Mooers, born Feb. 17, 1716; Jonathan Mooers, born Apr. 4, 1718; Edmond Mooers, born Apr. 2, 1723; Benjamin Mooers, born Jan. 20, 1725; John (not readable) born Oct. 15, 1727; Samuel Mooers, born Nov. 5, 1729; Ammitteran (not readable) born 1731; David (not readable) born Jan. 6, 1735.”

Amy’s study listed this 1694 Jonathan Mooers as the son of Jonathan Mooers, born 1646 and married to Constance Langhorn. However, the birth of this child cannot be located in the records of Newbury or Rowley, Massachusetts and Savage’s Genealogical Dictionary of the First New England Settlers, does not list the birth. Instead the town records show the children of the 1646 Jonathan to be: Mary, born April 13, 1676; Jonathan, born April 3, 1681 (married Elizabeth Woodhead, Aug. 14, 1701); Richard, born July 24, 1683; Samuel, born Feb. 20, 1686; Thomas, born Nov. 6, 1688; Dorothy, born Dec. 8, 1690. Savage confirms these children, although he omits Mary.

Perhaps the even more reliable record is the Will of the 1646 Jonathan, on file in the Essex County Registry of Probate. Written by Jonathan on December 15, 1692, his Will leaves his farms to his oldest son, Jonathan. He lists his other children as Hannah, Sarah, Richard, Samuel, Thomas and Dorothy. Thus, on December 15, 1692, the 1681 Jonathan was alive and well and, in the tradition of the time, the recipient of the major portion of his father’s estate as the first born son.

The 1646 Jonathan died prior to September 20, 1693 when the witnesses to the Will appeared before the Judge of Probate and swore that they witnessed his writing of the Will. Thus, given the fact that the 1681 Jonathan was alive when his father wrote his Will on December 15, 1692 and the fact that the 1646 Jonathan died prior to September 15, 1693, it is very unlikely that the 1694 Jonathan is the son of the 1646 Jonathan (as listed in Amy’s study).

The 1681 Jonathan, who married Elizabeth Woodhead, had three known children: Jonathan, born July 27, 1702, who married Elizabeth Odar; Mary, born Oct. 1, 1704; and Sarah, born May 15, 1707. The 1702 Jonathan located on the Island of Nantucket and from his line originated a long line of Mooers.

Other Mooers compilers have solved this Jonathan dilemma by indicating that the 1681 Jonathan married twice: first to Elizabeth Woodhead, and then to Mary Poore. Thus, these compilers suggest that the 1681 Jonathan and the 1694 Jonathan are really the same person. This resolution, however, flies in the face of the Family Bible entries recorded in the letter of Nathaniel Mooers.

Does anyone have any ideas or other information about this Jonathan dilemma? If so, please share it with us so that it can be published in a later edition of the Mooers Memoirs.

Daniel S. Mooers

According to the History of the Upper Mississippi, Daniel S. Mooers, one of the prominent early settlers of the upper Mississippi Valley, was born in Kennebec County, Maine, February 19, 1837. In the spring of 1862, he came to Minnesota with Josiah P. Mooers, a cousin of his father, who was an early settler of Cokato, Wright County, Minnesota.

Trueman H. Mooers, a brother of Daniel S. Mooers, born in Kennebec County, Maine in 1838, came to Minnesota and settled in the area of Gull River between 1866 and 1870.

Josiah P. Mooers’ grandfather was Samuel Mooers, born November 5, 1729 and married to Mehitable Ingals. Samuel and Mehitable had five children: Samuel, born 1748, died June 30, 1854; Peter, born December 3, 1751 and died September 9, 1835 in Vienna, Maine; Timothy born March 22, 1763 and died May 17, 1822; Nathaniel born January 6, 1767 in Candia, NH and died November 30, 1842 in Vienna, Maine; Josiah born 1770 and died January 29, 1770.

Josiah P. Mooers was one of Nathaniel’s 12 children: Mehitable, born June 27, 1792, died June 21, 1867; Betsy, born December 29, 1793; Hannah, born May 6, 1795, died October 9, 1863; Nathaniel, born July 12, 1797, died November 20, 1814; Josiah, born October 5, 1800, died October 2, 1804; Samuel, born December 26, 1802, died March 2, 1871; Josiah Prescott, born December 27, 1804, died March 4, 1886; Peter Mooers, born November 29, 1807, died January 18, 1815; Timothy, born September 18, 1809, died, May 9, 1854; Jabez Smith, born December 25, 1811, died November 4, 1847; Mary, born December 25, 1813, died November 24, 1814; Nathaniel, born January 26, 1816, died February 28, 1874.

Does anyone have any information concerning the parents of Daniel S. Mooers and his brother, Trueman H. Mooers?