

Friley Washington Moore

Born February 22, 1820, in Jamesville, North Carolina, Friley Washington Moore was the second child of William B. Moore and Sarah Cooper Moore. Of Irish descent, Friley's grandfather, Mathew Moore or Mathias Moore as one source has it, was an innkeeper in North Carolina where he died in 1824 at "an advanced age". William B. Moore lived in Jamesville, was a carpenter and died in 1834 at age 38. Sarah Moore also died at age 38 in 1836.

Friley's education was rudimentary at best. As a youngster he worked carrying shingles in the swamps. Once, while serving as a cook on a transport boat, he nearly lost his life one evening when the vessel wrecked. He clung to a bale of cotton for some time before being rescued the next morning.

As situations demanded he found work clerking in a store by day and fishing at night to support his mother's family and to aid him in attending the two month winter term of the local school. He might have continued his father's vocation as a carpenter had it not been necessary to sell his tools to settle boarding expenses while living in Jamesville. In total he received about eight months of schooling before reaching age seventeen, at which time he began carrying mail between Edenton and Suffolk, Va.

Not long after, he accepted short-term employment as manager of a bar and hotel in Suffolk. Returning to Jamesville, he attended school for another two months before his teacher resigned and recommended him to take over the school. He did so until close of the term and in the meantime worked in a store in Jamesville.

In January, 1841, he went to Williamston, where he gained a position in the store of Rev. C. B. Hassell, at a salary of \$125 per annum, with board and washing, and with the understanding that his wages were to be increased at the rate of \$50 per year if mutually satisfied. He continued here for four years, and in 1844 bought out his employer.

On February 17, 1846, Friley married Martha Ann Clomon, of Rainbow Banks, N. C. She died in Marshfield, Mo., on June 22, 1876.

In 1848, Friley sold his store to his old employer, and engaged in the saw mill business, marketing lumber in New York City, Philadelphia and Boston. After three years he sold this business to a Virginia company and in 1856 was elected president of the Roanoke Steamboat Navigation Company, becoming commander of the steamer "John Styles."

In 1861 he sold the steamer to the State of North Carolina for use in the Confederate service, and her name was changed to the "Albemarle" of the Confederate States, Friley being commissioned her captain by Gov. Ellis, of North Carolina. Capt. Moore resigned his position in June, 1862. The "Albemarle" was captured by the Federals a short time after his resignation, and the same year she sank in Pamlico River. At this time Capt. Moore was appointed salt commissioner and collector of internal revenue for the Second District of North Carolina under William K. Lane, serving in this position until the close of the war.

After some brief business ventures in Old Sparta and Tarboro, Friley moved his family to Baltimore and left them there while investigating business prospects in Kansas and Missouri. In 1867, he relocated all to St. Louis, staying only one year before finally settling in Marshfield, Mo.. For a time he operated a tannery there but later turned his interests towards warehousing and grocery trades,

In late life he gained success in accumulating real estate and became the president of the Webster County Bank upon its organization.

Friley and Martha Clomon Moore had two children: William J. and Mozella, the latter being buried at Fort Branch.

Sources:

History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent Counties, Missouri, Goodspeed Publishing Company 1889.

The United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Prominent and Self-made Men, United States Biographical Publishing Co., 1878.