

WILLIAM MOON

- ii. **William⁷ Moon** was born May 3, 1820 in New York (Victor Eby's date was 1820; Vicki L. Brown Comstock's, Journey Into The Past, History of Olive Township, Elkhart County, Indiana, pub. 2001 shows May 3, 1820). In 1843, at Penn Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana he married **Fanny Eutzler** (see September 21, 1857 Will record for William Moon; also WPA Graves Project, 1938; and Comstock's History of Olive Twp, 2001; Vicki L. Brown Comstock, Journey Into the Past, History of Olive Township, Elkhart County, Indiana, 2001). Fanny was the daughter of George E. (d. 1862, buried at Eutzler-Hollingshead family cemetery south of Dragoon Trail) and Elizabeth Eutzler (d. 1876). Fanny's sister is Lucite Eutzler who married Dr. Gideon Moon, son of Dr. William Moon. So William Moon married the sister of his first cousin's wife. William's Will record identifies his brother-in-law as George Eutzler.

William and Fanny for the first 9 years of their marriage resided in Olive Township, Elkhart County, Indiana. In 1852, they moved back to their home in Penn Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana, residing on a 120 acre farm (originally 200 acres). The Penn Township farm is described as the west half of the south east quarter of Section 29 in Township 37 north, of range 4 east, also the east half of the east half of the north east quarter of section 29 in the same Town and Range.

Their children are:

- a. **Sarah⁸ Etta Moon** (her father's letters of administration spell her name Sarahett) was born in the spring of 1850 in Olive Twp, Elkhart County, IN. She married a Richardson..
- b. **Elizabeth⁸ Moon** was born on October 27, 1852 in Olive Twp., Elkhart County, IN. She married a Holderman.
- c. **George⁸ E. Moon** was born December 25, 1856 in Olive Twp, Elkhart County, IN. He married Alice Funk , daughter of William Funk of Olive Township, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Vicki L. Brown Comstock, Journey into the Past, History of Olive Townhsip, Elkhart County, Indiana, 2001 provides the following description of the lives and migration pattern of William Moon and Fanny Eutzler:

“Fanny Eutzler was born in Jackson County, Ohio, and made the long journey to St. Joseph County, Indiana, when she was about ten years old. She received her education in Penn Township and when a young lady, met William Moon. William Moon was born May 3, 1820, in New York and spent his first eighteen years in that state. William, like

Fannie, had migrated with his parents to Penn Township. He entered the teaching profession.

William Moon and Fannie Eutzler were married in 1843 and moved to her land in Olive Township, Elkhart County. There, they built a crude log cabin with a stick chimney on a spot a couple hundred feet south of what is now the town park. It was a heavily forested land with many underground springs. For about five years, they were all alone in the big woods. The land around them, although already sold, was owned by land speculators, who lived elsewhere. Then in the Spring of 1850, the silence of the woods was broken by the cries of their newborn daughter they named, Sarah Etta.

By then, the north end of the township was being settled and William realized more roads were not only desired, but necessary, in Olive Township. Being an educated and forward thinking man, he was probably the person who drafted a petition to levy a tax of two cents and acre for road purposes. He was certainly the first individual to sign the petition. This petition was sent to the Commissioners Office the very month his daughter was born. Other road petitions were filed in April 1851 and 1852 with William Moon's signature at the top of the lists.

In the year 1850, the Jacob Pletchers became neighbors, having purchased eighty acres which "butted" up against the west side of the Moon property. That same year, Olive Township boasted some three hundred and thirty inhabitants in the recently taken census and Fannie's sister, Sally Eutzler, married Samuel Newman and they sold her Olive Township in order to move to Michigan.

About a year later, adjacent landowners, John Smeltzer, John Holderman, and Jacob Pletcher came together and concluded a village was need in which settlers could buy and sell goods and supplies. Little did George E. Eutzler know in 1836, that a decision to obtain eighty acres of ground in Section 36 North, Range 4 East would bring his daughter prosperity and have his land become part of a thriving community. Although Fannie and William Moon chose not to be directly involved in the founding of a town, they did have the opportunity to sell their property for a large sum of money.

When forty-seven year-old Henry Myers offered the Moons \$1,700.00 for their farm, they decided to sell and move back to St. Joseph County, Indiana. When the transaction was completed on August 31, 1852, Fannie was two months away from giving birth to their second child, so the couple decided to remain in Olive Township until after the birth. Upon the arrival of their daughter, Elizabeth, on October 27,

William and Fannie moved to Penn Township and purchased a two hundred acre farm.

Christmas Day 1856, would bring the Moons a most precious gift in the form of a baby boy they named, George E., after Fannie's father. They must have thought life had blessed them with good fortune. But, just eleven months after the birth of their son, William Moon died at age thirty-seven, leaving Fannie to raise three small children alone.

On October 25, 1865, Fannie Eutzler Moon married **Jeremiah Simpkins**, who died three short years later, leaving Fannie again a widow. In 1870, she was living with two of her children in Penn Township on her farm valued at \$10,000. Also listed on the census is Frisdan Simpkins who may have been a son or relative of Jeremiah Simpkins. A 22 year old Abram Holderman was also working the farm with George and Frisdan.

In the census of 1880 Fannie and George were working the farm by themselves. If they were working the same land as in 1870 it seems that they had all new neighbors. No names are the same from those two census periods.

Reportedly, Fannie was living in Waverly Junction, Iowa in the late 1800s but by 1900, she was back in Penn Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana living with her son, George and his family. In February 1904, Fannie tripped on a carpet in her son's home and broke her hip. Fannie developed blood poisoning and died some four weeks later on March 12, 1904, at age eighty.

Thus ends the story of a little girl whose father unwittingly made an investment which would direct her life down a path she might not otherwise have taken.

George E. Eutzler and his wife, Elizabeth died in 1862 and 1876 respectively and are buried at the Eutzler-Hollingshead family cemetery south of Dragoon Trail near land they worked so hard to clear. Also buried there are Fannie and her first husband, William Moon.

Postscript: Fannie's son, George E. Moon married Alice Funk, daughter of William Funk of Olive Township, Elkhart County, and, unfortunately Fannie's sister, Sarah and her husband, sold her eighty acre parcel two years prior to the formation of Salem and therefore received only \$400.00 from George Culp."

Speculative Note:

According to Bob Moon (jstmoon@comcast.net the above Alice is Alice L. Funk (b. June 22, 1860) Alice's first born was William⁹ Moon born January 21, 1888, South Bend, Indiana. He married Gertrude Steeg and to this union was the following child:

- A. Robert¹⁰ Steeg Moon born July 6, 1916. He married Mary Willette Hewitt. They had the following child:
 - 1. Robert Steeg Moon, Jr. born June 2, 1944.

On another note, there is a Noah Webster Grant, born June 5, 1805, Preston CT; died February 21, 1862, Berlin, NY; married Jane Alma Simpkins, daughter of Josiah and Anna (Moon) Simpkins, born January 28, 1818, Hancock, MA; died April 25, 1888, Berlin, NY. Also, a Russell Grant, brother of Noah Webster Grant, born September 30, 1813, Berlin, NY; died January 1, 1891; married 1830 to Lucy Whitaker, daughter of William and Sally (Moon) Whitaker, born July 30, 1814, Hancock, MA. I'm wondering if there is a connection between these Simpkins families?