

Moses

Biography of Thomas M. Moses



Rock Island, IL Confederate Cemetery

By his GG-Grandson: Barry George
September 24, 2006
Updated July 19, 2008

Thomas was born between 1829 and 1830 in Alabama and died 6-Mar-1865 as a prisoner of war from inflamed lungs in Rock Island Barracks, Illinois during the War Between the States. He is buried in the Rock Island Confederate Cemetery, Rock Island, IL Grave # 1914. His middle initial "M" may have been for Meredith after his Father.

His parents were **Meredith Moses** born 1-Aug-1799 in Georgia, died 7-Feb-1887 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama and **Rebecca Pickens**, born 4-Aug-1791 in South Carolina, died 25-Aug-1843 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. They were married 10-Nov-1825 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

His siblings were **John T. Moses** (1828-1896) and **Cintha L. Moses** (1826-1853). He also had half brothers and sisters from his Mother's first marriage to **William Croft** (1777-1822). They were: **Edward D Croft** (b. 1812), **Teresa Brown Croft** (1813-1850), **Sarah B. Croft** (b. 1815), **Israel or Isaac Pickens Croft** (1820-1869), **Delilah Jane Pickens Croft** (1818-1891) and **Elizabeth Brown Croft** (1816-1858).

Thomas married **Dorcas Calfee** [Caffee] 15-Aug-1852 in Bibb County, Alabama. She was born about 1834 in Alabama and died after 1889 in Alabama. Her parents were **William R. Calfee** born about 1797 in South Carolina, died after 29-Jun-1864 in Alabama and **Elizabeth Anne Garrett** born about 1804 in Kentucky, died between 1860 and 1870 in Alabama.

Thomas and Dorcas had five children, three boys and two girls. They were: **Permelia Moses**, born about 1853 in Alabama, **William Franklin Moses**, born about 1858 in Alabama, **Matilda Elizabeth Moses**, born May-1859 in Baylor, Alabama and died 9-Nov-1920 in Dock Ray, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, **Richmond Moses**, born about 1861 in Alabama and **James Hosea Moses**, born 5-Dec-1862 in Alabama, died 14-Mar-1945 in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Their daughter **Matilda Elizabeth Moses** married **John Schoolar Bush** about 1876 in Alabama. **John S. Bush** was born 23-Dec-1855 in Coosa County, Alabama and died 10-Jul-1922 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. He was the son of **Hiram Bush**, born about 1828 in Georgia, died 8-Jun-1864 as a prisoner of war in Louisville, Kentucky and **Anice "Annie" Louise Rodgers** born Dec-1831 in South Carolina, died 1916 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Matilda Elizabeth Moses and **John S. Bush** raised a large family of thirteen children. They were:

1. **William "Will" Jasper Bush** was born on 27 Feb 1877. He died on 8 Sep 1957. William married **Sarah "Sallie" Francis** in 1906. Sarah was born on 19 Nov 1881. She died on 11 Sep 1957.
2. **Thomas "Tom" Hiram Bush** was born on 26 May 1878. He died on 20 Dec 1953. Thomas married **Lula V.** Lula was born on 29 Apr 1901. She died in Aug 1976.
3. **Lima "Leona" Bush** was born in Apr 1880. She died in 1890.
4. **Richard "Buss" Franklin Bush** was born on 3 Feb 1882. He died on 21 Sep 1957. Richard married **Maude Lavada Richey** daughter of **Andrew "Jack" Jackson Richey** and **Julia Catherine Lawley** in 1905. Maude was born on 8 Oct 1888. She died on 16 Mar 1952.
5. **James "Jim" Baker Bush** was born on 13 May 1883. He died on 13 Dec 1945. James married **Effie May Parsons** in 1912. Effie was born on 7 Apr 1887. She died on 3 Oct 1970.
6. **Lloyd Marion Bush** was born on 24 Jun 1884. He died on 24 Mar 1973. Lloyd married **Jessie Lee Gibson**. Jessie was born on 8 Nov 1899. She died on 16 May 1992.
7. **John "Jud" Judson Bush** was born on 15 May 1888. He died on 11 Jan 1953. John married **Mattie Elizabeth Dooley** in 1911. Mattie was born on 1 Aug 1893. She died in Aug 1985.
8. **Edward C. Sr. Bush** was born on 17 Mar 1889. He died on 28 Oct 1942. Edward married **Eula Mabel** in 1915. Eula was born in 1895. She died on 23 Jun 1945.
9. **Claude Lee Bush** was born on 10 Mar 1891. He died in Nov 1962. Claude married **Hulda "Avery" R Bush**. Hulda was born on 23 Dec 1897. She died in Nov 1982.
10. **Rosa "Rose" "Rosie" Mae Bush** was born on 1 May 1892. She died in Jan 1973. Rosa married **Ohlen "O.P." Presley Shore** in 1907. Ohlen was born on 12 Sep 1882. He died on 9 Mar 1956.
11. **Annie Lucile Bush** was born in Sep 1893. She died in Jul 1939. Annie married **Henley Possey Martin**. Henley was born on 12 Oct 1886. He died on 30 May 1959.
12. **Beulah Beatrice Bush** was born on 8 Oct 1893. She died in Dec 1978. Beulah married **Talbert Randolph Smith**. Talbert was born on 26 Dec 1891. He died in Aug 1977.

13. **Maggie "Mag" F Bush** was born on 4 Nov 1896. She died on 8 Oct 1987. Maggie married **John M Lawson** in 1915. John was born on 15 May 1890. He died on 1 Oct 1958.

Thomas M. Moses enlisted in Company K of the 36th Alabama Infantry



36th Alabama Infantry Flag

Division when he was about 35 years old in probably Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. He was captured 15-May-1864 at Pettis Creek, Georgia. He was then sent to Chattanooga, Tennessee where on 31-May-1864 he appeared on a roll of soldiers who signed an oath of allegiance. On this oath of allegiance record his place of residence was listed as Tuscaloosa County, Alabama and was described as having dark complexion with dark hair and brown eyes. He was 5 feet, 8 inches tall. He was sent

from there to Nashville, Tennessee and on 3-Jun-1864 arrived at the prison in Louisville, Kentucky where he remained until 7-Jun-1864. He then appears on the Roll of Prisoners of War at Rock Island Barracks, Illinois on 24-Jun-1864, this roll states he was received on 9-Jun-1864, he was assigned to barracks number 18, register number 1008. He remained as a prisoner at Rock Island until his death on 6-Mar-1865 when he died from inflamed lungs and was buried in grave number 1914. Quote from Charles Wright, of Tennessee, a Confederate prisoner at Rock Island, *Thus, naked and hungry, and in prison, enduring a wretchedness which no tongue can describe, no language tell, they suffer from day to day - each day their number growing less by death - death, their only comforter - their only merciful visitor!*

From his military records, it is apparent and noted several times that he refused to sign the oath of allegiance even though he appeared on one roll as having signed in Chattanooga. Had he signed the oath, he would have been set free as long as he remained north of the Ohio River during the remainder of the war. Many of the prisoners at Rock Island who signed the oath were exchanged for Union prisoners or were sent to fight Indians in the West; My GG-Grandfather, **Thomas Moses** chose to do neither and eventually died in prison because of his allegiance to the Confederacy. Quote from Charles Wright, of Tennessee, a Confederate prisoner at Rock Island, "*...is there not a sublime heroism in the adherence of these men, amid such trials, to a cause which they believe to be right?*" **Thomas M Moses** was a prisoner of war from 15-May-1864 to 6-Mar-1865, nearly ten months.



Rock Island, IL - Prison Roll Call