

# Bible of Captain John Moody of Gilmanton, New Hampshire

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Capt. John Moody was an early settler of Gilmanton, New Hampshire.<sup>[1]</sup> Previous biographical and genealogical summaries of his ancestry identified his father as John Moody of Kingston or Philip Moody and attempted to link his ancestral line to the immigrant, William Moody.<sup>[2]</sup> In a careful analysis of deeds and church records published in 1985, Robert Charles Anderson correctly identified the father of Capt. John Moody as David Moody, son of Clement Moody, whose line was not associated with the immigrant, William Moody.<sup>[3]</sup> In these earlier publications, there was scant information regarding the descendants of Capt. John Moody beyond naming his children and those of his son, Elisha Moody. The family Bible of Capt. John Moody was rediscovered in 2015 at a construction site in Belmont (previously Upper Gilmanton), New Hampshire; in 2023 it was bequeathed to Mount Lebanon Lodge #32 Free & Accepted Masons, Laconia, New Hampshire.

The Bible was published in Worcester, Massachusetts by Isaiah Thomas in 1791. Annotations in brackets were added by the transcriber.

*First Page: "FAMILY RECORD OF MARRIAGE, AND BIRTHS OF CHILDREN"*<sup>[4]</sup>  
John Mood[y] Born Jannary 27 day 1739<sup>[5]</sup> and Abigail his wife born July the  
18 day 1744<sup>[6]</sup> and they were married November 1 day in 1764<sup>[7]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel Lancaster, *The History of Gilmanton* (Gilmanton, N.H.: Alfred Prescott, 1845) [hereafter Lancaster, *History of Gilmanton*], 71.

<sup>2</sup> Lancaster, *History of Gilmanton*, 276; Ezra S. Stearns, *Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire*, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1908), 4:1741–1742 [hereafter Stearns, *Genealogical History of New Hampshire*]; Henry C. Quinby (ed.), *New England Family History* (New York: Henry Cole Quinby, 1912), 4:628–636.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, "Clement Moody of Exeter NH, His Sons and Grandsons, A Preliminary Study," *TAG* 61 (1985):221–233.

<sup>4</sup> The earliest entries were made by Capt. John Moody; the handwriting matches his signature on a petition dated 20 Nov. 1770 in Gilmantown, *New Hampshire, U.S., Government Petitions, 1700–1826*, Box 01-10, Box 08: 1765–1770, May–November 1770, image 26 of 34, Ancestry.com; James Otis Lyford, *History of the town of Canterbury, New Hampshire, 1727–1912* (Concord, N.H.: Rumford, 1912), 2:65: "Captain John Moody, early settler of Gilmanton, who came there 15 Nov. 1764, as shown by Bible record in his own hand."

<sup>5</sup> Belmont (and Gilmanton), New Hampshire town and vital records 1742–1916 [hereafter *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs*], 79 (FSL 5511461, image 430), John Moody's birth in the Belmont/Gilmanton records was likely copied from the Bible as he was born in Kingston, Rockingham Co., N.H.; John Moody was baptized at Kingston 4 Feb. 1739, "Kingston First Church Records–Baptisms by Rev. Joseph Secomb," *New Hampshire Genealogical Record*, 5 (1908):104.

<sup>6</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs*; Kingston, New Hampshire computer printout, births and christenings, 1681–1823, 113 (FSL 8093799, image 118): Abigel Sweet, dau. of Elisha Sweet and Abigel.

<sup>7</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs; New Hampshire, U.S., Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659–1947*, Marriage, Pre-1901, Manchester – Marchand, image 2696; Ancestry.com): John Moody and Abigail Swett.

John Moody Jr. born february 22 day Sattardy 1766<sup>[8]</sup>  
 Hannah Moody born february 17 day Wensday 1768<sup>[9]</sup>  
 Doley Moody born october 14 day born Sabathday 177\_<sup>[10]</sup>  
 Elisha Mood[y] born september 28 day born of a Tusday 177\_<sup>[11]</sup>  
 Abigal Moody born march 16 day born of a Sattarday 177\_<sup>[12]</sup>  
 David Moody born may 4 day born of a Monday 177\_<sup>[13]</sup>  
 Peter Moody born November 27 day born a Sattarday 178\_<sup>[14]</sup>  
 John Moody and Elezebeth his wife was married augst the 8 day 1793<sup>[15]</sup> and she was born in 1746 in December 25 day.  
 John Moody Hannah Gale was marred June 2 day 1822<sup>[16]</sup> and she was 73 years old in may the 14 day<sup>[17]</sup> and he was 83 the 27 Jenuary.

*Second Page: "FAMILY RECORD OF DEATHS"<sup>[18]</sup>*

April the 20 day 1785 this day my moher died  
 and she was sixty nine last desember the 19 day<sup>[19]</sup>  
 Peter moody died in augst the 29 day 1790  
 and he was 6 year and 9 month & 2 days old<sup>[20]</sup>  
 April 28 day 1793 this day my wife died  
 and she was 48 the 18 of July past<sup>[21]</sup>  
 Mother Evens Died in March 8 day 1801  
 and she was about eighty years old<sup>[22]</sup>  
 Willum White died Augst 30 day 1804<sup>[23]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs.*

<sup>9</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs.*

<sup>10</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs:* Dolly their daughter born October 14 1770.

<sup>11</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs:* Elisha their son born September 28 1773.

<sup>12</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs:* Abigail their daughter born March 16 1776.

<sup>13</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs:* David their son born May 4th 1778.

<sup>14</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs:* Peter their son born November 28 1784.

<sup>15</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs;* also Records from the first book of the Smith Meeting House, Gilmanton, New Hampshire 1775–1819, 37 (FSL 7901187, image 555). John Moody's second wife was Elizabeth (Evans) White; no birth record found for Elizabeth Evans.

<sup>16</sup> John Moody's third wife was his first cousin, Hannah (Gilman) Gale, dau. of Daniel Gilman (John's uncle) and widow of Amos Gale; New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947 (FSL 4243047, image 877): Doctor Amos Gale and Hannah Gilman; Stearns, *Genealogical History of New Hampshire*.

<sup>17</sup> New Hampshire Birth Records, Early to 1900 (FSL 4243755, image 697): Hannah Gilman.

<sup>18</sup> The entries through "Eizabeh Moody" are in the same hand as the first page (*i.e.*, Capt. John Moody's); subsequent entries are in different hands.

<sup>19</sup> John Moody's mother was Mary Gilman, who was born 19 Dec. 1715, dau. of Jacob and Mary (Ladd) Gilman, wife of David Moody; Photograph of the gravestone, online at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733955; Constance Le Neve Gilman Ames, *The Story of the Gilmans and a Gilman Genealogy of the Descendants of Edward Gilman of Hingham, England 1550–1950*, manuscript submitted to the Gilmanton Public Library, 19 Mar. 1950 [hereafter Ames, *The Story of the Gilmans*], 39.

<sup>20</sup> *Belmont and Gilmanton VRs.*

<sup>21</sup> John Moody's first wife, Abigail Swett; photograph of gravestone at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733952.

<sup>22</sup> Mother of John Moody's second wife, Elizabeth (Evans) White; Stearns, *Genealogical History of New Hampshire*.

<sup>23</sup> Son of John Moody's second wife, Elizabeth (Evans) White; photograph of gravestone at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733951; also, Stearns, *Genealogical History of New Hampshire*.

and he was 27 last April the 6 day  
 Eizabeth Moody my wife died dseember 19 day 1821<sup>[24]</sup>  
 and she was seventy five lacking 11 days  
 Hannah Moody, wife of John Moody, died August 21, 1826  
 aged 77 years 3 months and 7 days.<sup>[25]</sup>  
 Peter Moody, Son of Elisha Moody died March 23 1828  
 Aged 33 years 4 months and 13 days.<sup>[26]</sup>  
 Hannah Prilay died May 26, 1833.  
 Aged 37 years 2 months and 19 days.<sup>[27]</sup>  
 John Moody one of the first Settlers of Gilmanton died September 15, 1829  
 Aged 90 years 7 months and 18 days.  
 Elisha Moody died September 21 – 1833  
 Aged 59 years 11 months 29 days.<sup>[28]</sup>  
 Betsey Moody wife of Elisha Moody died April 26th 1851  
 aged 7\_ years 6 months 8 days<sup>[29]</sup>  
 Job Moody Son of Elisha Moody died Oct 27 1887.<sup>[30]</sup>  
 W. Bean died May 3 188\_<sup>[31]</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Photograph of gravestone at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733956.

<sup>25</sup> Ames, *The Story of the Gilmans*, 41: Hannah Gilman, born 17 May 1749, dau. of Daniel and Hannah (Colcord) Gilman. Photograph of gravestone at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733950.

<sup>26</sup> Peter Moody, born at Gilmanton 10 Nov. 1794, son of Elisha and Betsey (Weymouth) Moody (Birth Certificate, 1631–1900, Mon-Moore, G, image 1787 of 3550; *New Hampshire, U.S., Birth Records, 1631–1920*, Ancestry.com). Photograph of gravestone at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733958.

<sup>27</sup> Hannah Moody, dau. of Elisha and Betsey (Weymouth) Moody, born at Gilmanton 7 Mar. 1796, married at Gilmanton 8 Jun. 1815 John Prelay (Birth Certificate, 1631–1900, Mon-Moore, G, image 1617 of 3550, *New Hampshire, U.S., Birth Records, 1631–1920*, Ancestry.com); John Prelay and Hannah Moody (1700–1900, Pratt-Presby, image 3237 of 3641; *New Hampshire, U.S., Marriage Records, 1700–1971*, Ancestry.com).

<sup>28</sup> Photograph of gravestone at FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 50733953.

<sup>29</sup> Elisha Moody's wife was Elizabeth "Betsey" Weymouth, dau. of George and Huldah (Folsom) Weymouth, born at Gilmanton 18 Oct. 1774, married at Gilmanton 16 Sept. 1794 (Birth Certificate, 1631–1900, Watson, Nn-Yeu, image 2085 of 3823; *New Hampshire, U.S., Birth Records, 1631–1920*, Ancestry.com); Elisha Moody and Betsey Weymouth (*New Hampshire, U.S., Marriage Records, 1700–1971*, 1700–1900, McN-Moore, image 1709 of 3611; Ancestry.com); also, Stearns, *Genealogical History of New Hampshire*.

<sup>30</sup> Job Moody died at Lowell, Mass., aged 75 years, 5 months, born Gilmanton, N.H. (Massachusetts Vital Records, 1887, Deaths, 383:149).

<sup>31</sup> No death record found. This could be the "Winthrop Y. Bean," a brother of Sally (Bean) Moody (David Moody's wife; see below), mentioned in the 1837 will of their father John Bean of Gilmanton (Strafford Co., N.H., probate records, 54:24–25; FSL DGS 7637303 image 293). According to James Otis Lyford, *History of the Town of Canterbury New Hampshire 1727–1912*, 2 vols. (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1912), 2:341, Winthrop and Sally also had a brother named William Bean, though he was not mentioned in their father's will.

*Third Page (no printed title):*

John Moody moved to Gilmanton 15 Nov 1764 and lived 4 miles from neighbors on one side and on the other none nigher than Canada.<sup>[32]</sup>

Daniel Moody son of Elisha Moody died November 25th 1873<sup>[33]</sup>

David Moody, son of Elisha Moody died in North Sutton, April 7th, 1892 aged 87<sup>[34]</sup>

Sally Moody, wife of David Moody died April 9th 1892 aged 87<sup>[35]</sup>

Both David and Sally Moody were buried in one grave April 11th 1892

*Virginia D. Hansen (vhansen521@yahoo.com) would like to thank Patrick Tierney, Historian, Mount Lebanon Lodge #32 F. & A.M., for sharing the Moody Bible with her.*

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<sup>32</sup> Lancaster, *History of Gilmanton*, 240.

<sup>33</sup> Probably the Daniel Moody who died 25 Nov. 1873 and was buried in Graceland Cemetery, Indian Grove Township, Fairbury, Livingston Co., Illinois (FindaGrave.com, memorial no. 18372348).

<sup>34</sup> *New Hampshire, U.S., Death Records, 1650–1969, 1782–1900*, McNeil-Moore, Samuel, image 1563 of 3568, Ancestry.com; “Obituary, Rev. David Moody,” *Boston Journal* [Boston, MA] 13 Aug. 1892, p. 2, col. 2; Rev. G. A. Burgess and Rev. J. T. Ward, *Free Baptist Cyclopaedia* [Free Baptist Cyclopaedia Co., 1889], 434.

<sup>35</sup> David Moody’s wife was Sally Bean, dau. of John and Deborah (Young) Bean (*New Hampshire, U.S., Death Records, 1650–1969, 1782–1900*, McNeil-Moore, Samuel, image 1817 of 3568, Ancestry.com).