

ANTHONY MOORE

D.A.R. records document Anthony Moore as a Private serving in Pennsylvania. Anthony was a very early settler in what would become Greene County, Tennessee.

From *Historic Greene County and Its People*, pg 242-43

Anthony Moore, described in Goodspeed's *East Tennessee* as the first permanent settler of Greene County, was born in Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1725. While still in Pennsylvania, Anthony Moore married Margaret Copeland. One source suggests they had one son and eight daughters; other say six daughters, indicating perhaps some childhood deaths. Sarah, the eldest, was born in Pennsylvania in July, 1764. Two other children were born in Pennsylvania: Jane, on May 16, 1767, and David, on May 14, 1769.

During the year 1778, Anthony "led a colony of hardy immigrants to the great unknown wilderness west of the Alleghenies," according to papers preserved by his descendant Mabel Moore. Arriving in present-day Greene County that same year, "They discovered the big springs for which the place is now noted, ... and they decided to locate the colony in the beautiful valley surrounding the big spring."

Before a wagon was unloaded, Anthony Moore called the colonists together under the spreading oaks around the spring and led them in a praise and prayer service, thus laying the foundation of the new settlement in a spirit of religious devotion.

According to Jeremiah Moore, a nineteenth century President of Tusculum College:

Tradition says the first preaching in Greene County was in the house of great grandfather (Anthony Moore). The kitchen part of the house is still standing in the old Moore place by the big spring.

This "big spring" is one of two on the 200 acre farm that Anthony Moore owned some five miles northeast of later Greeneville.

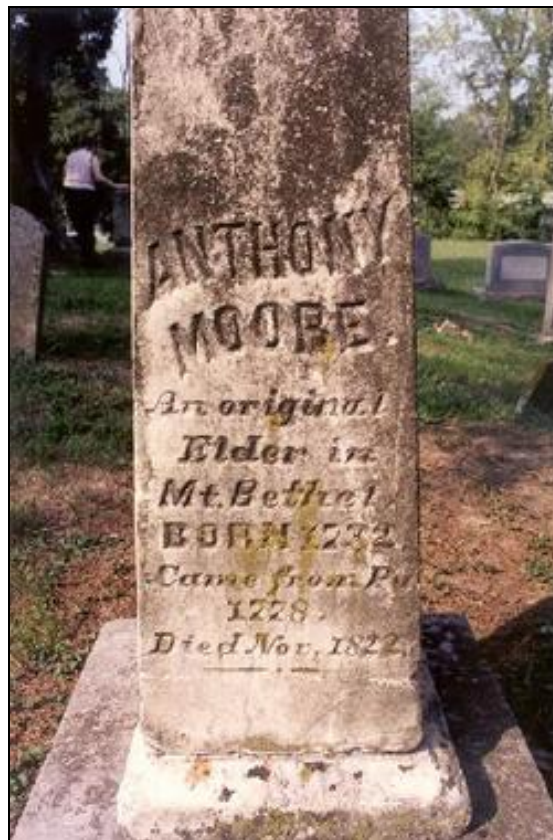
A daughter, perhaps Eleanor, was the "first white child born in Greene County." Eleanor married William Caldwell.

In 1780, Anthony Moore joined with Major Temple, Joseph Hardin as elders, and Samuel Doak as minister to found Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church, a name suggested by Anthony Moore in remembrance of the church in Pennsylvania. Three years later, Anthony Moore was among the founders of the town of Greeneville. He was a member of the first Greene County grand jury.

In 1798 the Presbyterian Church split over doctrinal differences. Anthony Moore's faction built a log church on Main Street which stood there until 1815, when the building was moved one mile northeast of town. They took with them the name Mt. Bethel.

In 1820 Margaret Moore died and was the first person to be buried in the Mt. Bethel Cemetery. Anthony Moore died in 1822 and was also buried in Mt. Bethel Cemetery.

Nine generations of the Moore family have lived in Greene County since 1778. Anthony Moore's only son, David, married Elizabeth Smith and their son was named Anthony. This Anthony married Nancy Paxton Holt. Their sons were: Joseph, William, Jeremiah, Charles; their daughter was named Elizabeth. The family was divided by the Civil War. Anthony was a delegate to the Greeneville Union Convention of 1861, but had two sons who fought for the Confederacy: William and Charles. Charles, who married Nancy McNabb of Cocke County, was mortally wounded at the battle of Chickamagua and died six weeks later in Atlanta. Before leaving his wife and small daughter to go to war, Charles wrote in the margin of a book: "When will you think of me sweet friends? When will you think of me?"

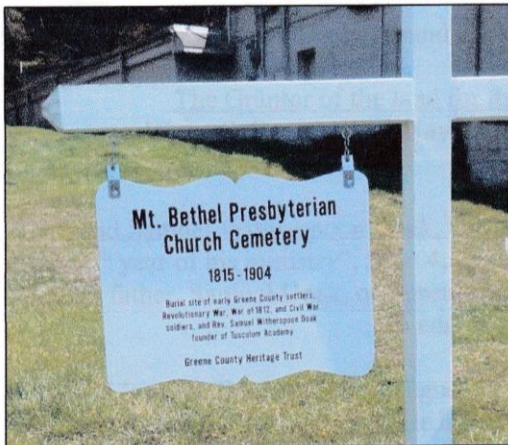


**Historic Mt. Bethel Cemetery
Tusculum Blvd., Greeneville**

INTRODUCTION TO MT. BETHEL CEMETERY

When the Scots-Irish Covenanters arrived in the place that would become the village of Greenville, most brought few things with them. What they did bring was their religion. The first Presbyterian Church in Greenville was established in 1780 and was named Mt. Bethel. Quoting from the book Greeneville One Hundred Year Portrait 1775-1875, by Richard Harrison Doughty, page 99:

“On November 27, 1792, James Galbreath deeded three acres and four poles of land near the head of Richland Creek, for ten dollars, to Anthony Moore, Alexander Galbreath, Major Temple, John Reese, John Carson, Nicholas Hays, Thomas Russell, David Robinson, William McGill, and Jeremiah Smith, elders of Mount Bethel Church.”



The Mt. Bethel Cemetery has been recognized by the Greene County Heritage Trust as one of the most important historic sites in Greenville, and as such, has been marked with an official Heritage Trust sign.

For further information on those who are interred in this historic graveyard, please visit the Genealogical Society's Website, Tab Archives: Cemeteries