

# The Biography of James K. Moore

From Original Manuscript Compiled by Evelyn Bell

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## INTRODUCTION

During the reservation era of the late 19th century, it took political connections and well-placed references to win contracts as either military sutlers or Indian reservation traders. James Kerr Moore, the Indian trader for the Wind River Reservation and military sutler at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, from the 1870s until the early 1900s, had both. His successes, however, came from hard work, a willingness to learn, good timing, and honesty in his business dealings.

## FAMILY HISTORY & EARLY YEARS

James K. Moore was born into a family of middling means—his paternal grandfather, James Moore, had emigrated from Ireland about 1801 and joined the printing firm of Blanchard-Mohun in Washington, D.C. His duties included printing the newspaper, *The National Intelligencer*. Later, he worked for the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an accountant, and remained in that position until his death in 1853.

James's father, Robert Lowry Moore, was born in 1815 and moved to Henry County, Georgia about 1838, with hopes of participating in one of the land lotteries sponsored by Georgia. (Georgia passed a series of lotteries, beginning in 1805, as a means to disperse the lands that were taken from the Creek and Cherokee Indians). He was too late, as the last lottery took place in 1832, but his new father-in-law, William H. Agnew, was one of the lucky winners. Robert's first wife, Ann Johnson Askew, died in September 1840 (probably in childbirth), whereupon he married her younger sister, Mary, a month later. They eventually moved south and west to a farm near Georgetown on the Chattahoochie river (across from Eufaula, Alabama).

James K. was the first child of this union, born on February 14, 1843. Four more children, three girls and one boy, were born by 1851, brought the total number of children to 6 (including the step-sister who survived her mother's death). But the cholera epidemics of the 1850s disrupted the growing family, making orphans of James K. and his four surviving sisters.

## FIRST JOB

As was typical in situations like this, other family members came to the children's rescue. His widowed aunt, Rebecca Moore Ogden Bigelow ("Auntie Bigelow"), his father's younger sister, still lived in Washington and graciously provided a home for her nieces and nephew. In order to help provide for the family, James went to work at age 12 as a page for the U.S. Senate, serving from 1855 to 1856. In 1857 he received a promotion to the position of baliff for the U.S. Supreme Court, staying on until 1860 or 1861. According to family lore, President Lincoln

often visited with the young boys who worked for the Senate, House, or Judiciary. James was a strapping young man of 6 feet, 2 inches, when Lincoln asked “How tall are you son?” When James told him his height, Lincoln replied, “Huh, I could still lick salt off your head.” If Lincoln made such a remark, it probably occurred in the spring of 1861, as Lincoln was not inaugurated until March of that year.



Shortly thereafter, James left the government and parlayed his late grandfather’s influence to clerk for the publishers, McClelland, Blanchard, and Mohun. The picture at left depicts James in 1863. Evidently, he made quite an impact on the owners, for shortly thereafter, he took up residence in the Valentine Blanchard household. He became good friends with the boys of the family, William (Will) and Valentine, Jr. (Vod), who gave him the nickname of “Flick.” James fondly remembered their mother, Frances, and years later sent her money and remembrances.

#### ON THE EMIGRANT TRAILS

In 1864, James’s health deteriorated and his doctor advised to move to a healthier climate. He and a few friends, armed with two letters of introduction from the judges of the Supreme Court and Colonel William Seldon, former Marshall of the District of Columbia and former U.S Treasurer (for whom James’s

namesake grandfather had worked), headed west for the gold fields of Montana. They journeyed part of the way on the Hannibal and Saint Joseph Railroad—as far as Saint Joseph, Missouri—then booked passage on a steamboat up the Missouri River to Omaha, Nebraska. From there, James joined an emigrant wagon train, bargaining cash—\$50, nearly all he had—and labor—he drove an ox team—for his fare. He reached Fort Laramie, one of the main outfitting points for travelers on the western trails, in time to join another group heading to the gold fields of Montana.

It was a historic journey, as the guide was the famous fur trapper and trader, Jim Bridger (right). As an alternative to using the famous (but



dangerous) Bozeman Trail, Bridger had plotted a new route to Montana in 1863 in order to avoid confrontations with Sioux and Cheyenne warriors along the Bozeman Trail, a route that violated the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 and trespassed through the Indians' hunting territories. Where the Bozeman Trail headed from Fort Laramie, to Fort Caspar, and then stayed east of the Big Horn Mountains before heading west once in Montana, Bridger's route struck a more northwesterly course, staying west of the Bighorn Mountains and generally traversing the Big Horn River drainage. This took him through Shoshone and Crow hunting territories, peoples with whom he had established good trade relationships.

### MEETING CHIEF WASHAKIE

The wagons rolled onward, skirting the southern edge of the Bighorn Mountains and making camp one evening on Bad Water Creek in the vicinity of the present-day towns of Lysite and Lost Cabin. They discovered an Indian band camped about a mile away from them, whereupon Bridger rode over to them to "parley." The Indian leader and several of his warriors also rode out from their camp to



meet the approaching white man. When they got close enough to see him, they yelled out "Bridger! Bridger!" and galloped up rejoicing to recognize an old friend. The Indians were Shoshones from the Fort Bridger area, led by Chief Washakie (left) and were hunting buffalo. As was traditional in situations like this, the Shoshones and Bridger's emigrants held a feast that evening, accompanied by a gift exchange, and Bridger gave Washakie a paper that indicated he was a "friend" of the whites.

### INTO BIG HORN COUNTRY

After departing the camp on Bad Water Creek, Bridger led the emigrants north, following Bridger Creek upstream, crossing the Lysite Mountain (Bridger Mountains), and then going downstream along Kirby Creek to its confluence with the Bighorn River (near Lucern, about seven or eight miles north of Thermopolis). This was very rough going, through deep washes and steep grades, with several overturned wagons as a result, but no serious injuries. Several times during this part of the trip, the entire train halted for a few days in order to hack out roads.

High water on the Bighorn required constructing rafts of cottonwood; several members of this first train showed an entrepreneurial spirit and charged \$3.00 per wagon to help others of a second wagon train (led by E.A. Maynard) that had caught up to Bridger's group. From the crossing point on the Bighorn, Bridger maintained a northwest course, first going downstream about 30 miles and then turning away from the Bighorn to cross into the Greybull and Stinking Water (Shoshone) river drainages. Eventually, they crossed the Clarks Fork River (near present-day Bridger, Montana), and joined the Bozeman Trail. Over the next 30 miles, the train halted several different times to allow for prospecting in the mountains. But Bridger's train and the Maynard group all managed to celebrate the 4th of July together at the point of the Yellowstone River ferry crossing.

Bridger's party, including J.K. Moore, arrived in Virginia City, Montana, on July 10th, 55 days and 510 miles after they left Fort Laramie. While most of the trains that followed Bridger's route generally averaged about 38 days in transit, this first group had been delayed by the hard work of building roads, as well as by taking time off to prospect. James recalled later, after nearly two months of hard traveling, that if he could have found the parties who recommended the Bridger Trail he would have been inclined to have murdered them!

### VIRGINIA CITY

Virginia City was a typical gold-mining boomtown when James arrived. Founded in 1863 soon after gold strike on Alder Gulch, it swelled to 10,000 people in 1864, complete with shops, a school, and churches. Ben Holladay, who owned the Overland Stage Line, opened a spur line in 1864 for the mail contract that ran the 400 miles between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Virginia City, Montana. The stage also provided the primary means of supplying the citizenry of Virginia City with food and equipment. James, who may have clerked in a store during his first year in the new town, also mentioned traveling on the stagecoach during February, 1865, to go to Helena. It took 18 hours of actual traveling, but spread out over three grueling days during which all passengers and crew tried their best to keep from freezing. Deep snow meant the horses could only inch forward a few steps at a time, before collapsing on their haunches and blowing clouds of steam from their exertions. The coaches, of course, were unheated and had only leather curtains to keep out rain, snow, wind, and dust. Buffalo robes formed the only shield against the cold. James said he nearly froze and suffered frostbite, but nevertheless, he made it to Helena and back and stayed in Virginia City for the rest of the year.

### BEAR RIVER CITY

Virginia City, however, was not the town that James wanted to call his permanent home. Using his two letters of reference, James moved south, to Utah, and became a station agent for the Holliday Stage Line at the Bear River Junction (in what would become the town of Gilmer, whose name changed to Bear River City in 1868). He worked there for two years, 1866 to 1867, and then, when the Union Pacific crews reached the area in 1868, opened up a mercantile business with Russell Thorp. Thorp had been a freighter on the Overland Trail, hauling potatoes from Saint Joseph to Salt Lake City as early as 1865. No doubt, the two young men—Moore was 25 and Thorp was only 22—met during one of the freight runs and perhaps Thorp was impressed by Moore's handling of the stage station and his general business sense. Thorp was no slouch as an entrepreneur—during one of his trips, he discovered a coal seam near Bear River City and filed a claim on it, eventually selling it some of it to the railroad.

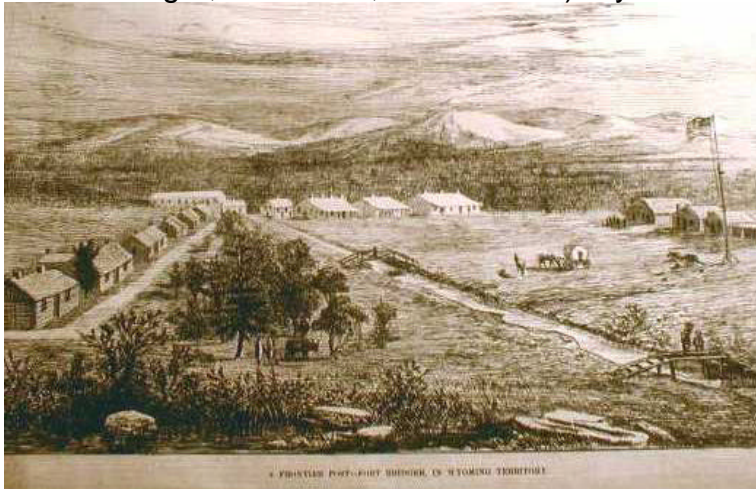
Like Virginia City, Gilmer/Bear River City blossomed into a boom town. The first residents were woodcutters, tie hacks, and their families, who established communities in advance of the railroad construction crews. Construction workers and other poured into the town so that by 1868, the town boasted 2000 residents

and 140 buildings, including the Thorp and Moore mercantile business. Yet, despite the initial success of both the store and the coal mining operation, the famous Bear River riot in November of 1868 ended the town's chance of lasting success. Thorp and others of the "better" citizens, fearing the amount of violence and robberies that accompanied the town's growth—still in advance of the railroad—formed a vigilante committee and arrested a number of people, three of whom they hanged. This enraged the railroaders, who then attacked the temporary jail and freed the other prisoners, burned down the offices of the town's newspaper, *The Frontier Index*, and holed up Thorp and his followers in the Thorp & Moore store. A call for help went out to Fort Bridger, about 25 miles distant, but all was calm again by the time the troops arrived.

The riot ended the town's chance of becoming a depot or supply station for the Union Pacific. Instead, the railroad bypassed Bear River City in favor of Evanston and the town virtually disappeared overnight. The residents tore down most of the buildings to haul the timbers and planks to a more hospitable and profitable location. Russell Thorp was among this group, first settling in Evanston and operating a successful livery business. He distinguished himself and quickly won election as a Uinta County Commissioner. In 1875, he moved to Cheyenne and operated a successful livestock company and still later, a stage line.

#### FORT BRIDGER & CARTER STATION

Meanwhile, Moore departed for Fort Bridger, where he clerked at the Fort Bridger Trading post for William Alexander Carter. Carter, 50 years old in 1868, had been the sutler at Fort Bridger since the U.S. Army took control of it in 1858 (woodcut of Fort Bridger, below left, is from 1873). By the time Moore worked for him,



Carter had built his store into an extremely successful operation—including the mercantile and trade store, a sawmill and lumber yard, and a stockgrowing business—as well as serving as Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and Probate Judge for Green River County. Other than James, the store was a family business—his co-

workers at the store were Carter's sons-in-law, Charles A. Becker and Maurice Groshon. Moreover, since the Union Pacific Railroad did not go through Fort Bridger, but 10 miles to the north, Carter established a depot at that point (Carter Station) and staffed it with his brother, Richard. Judge Carter found Moore a valuable employee, and after a few months, assigned him to the warehouse to work for his brother at Carter Station.

In March 1869, Moore became the first Postmaster for the community that developed in and around Carter Station. The town not only served the passenger and freight service on the railroad, it also was a stage stop and freight depot for travel to Fort Dushesne, Utah, and Virginia City. A daily stage ran to and from Fort Bridger. Moore's tenure at Carter Station, however, was a short one. 1868 had been pivotal year in the region—the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 with the Shoshone and Bannock Indians had created a reservation in the Wind River Valley, about 150 miles north of Fort Bridger. In June 1869, the Army received orders to establish a new garrison on the reservation, and Judge Carter advised Moore to apply for a Post Trader's license for the new fort—named Camp Augur—originally founded as a sub-post of Fort Bridger. Given Carter's stature with the military and in the region, the officers in charge approved the appointment, with official confirmation coming in July 1870. Armed with \$4,000 in backing from Judge Carter, Moore purchased wagons and traded goods and in September 1870, headed north with the soldiers to their camp on the banks of the North Fork of the Popo Agie River, a large tributary of the Big Wind River. A few months later, in November 1870, Moore also became the official Indian Trader at the agency, with his fiduciary bond provided by James Irwin, a physician with a medical practice in the Sweetwater mining town of Atlantic City and a justice of the peace. In 1871, Irwin became the Indian Agent at the reservation and continued to foster Moore's business, the bulk of which derived from trade with the Shoshones. The soldiers numbered less than 100, while the Shoshone and Bannocks were over 1600 strong.

#### CAMP BROWN & THE SHOSHONE AGENCY

By the time Moore was onsite, Camp Augur had been renamed Camp Brown (in March 1870) and a year later, the army ordered the post moved to a point closer to the reservation agency, located about 15 miles north on Trout Creek. J. K. Moore was one of the people who aided in finding suitable ground, with access to grass, timber, and water. In fact, the bench mark of the new site (at 5,464.3 feet above sea level), was placed in a corner of the Trading Post. From his new facility, Moore did a booming business with the Indians. He purchased their game pelts, furs, and buffalo robes and offered for sale items such as canned goods, dried fruit, cloth, tent canvas, matches, ammunition, tobacco, coffee, flour, and



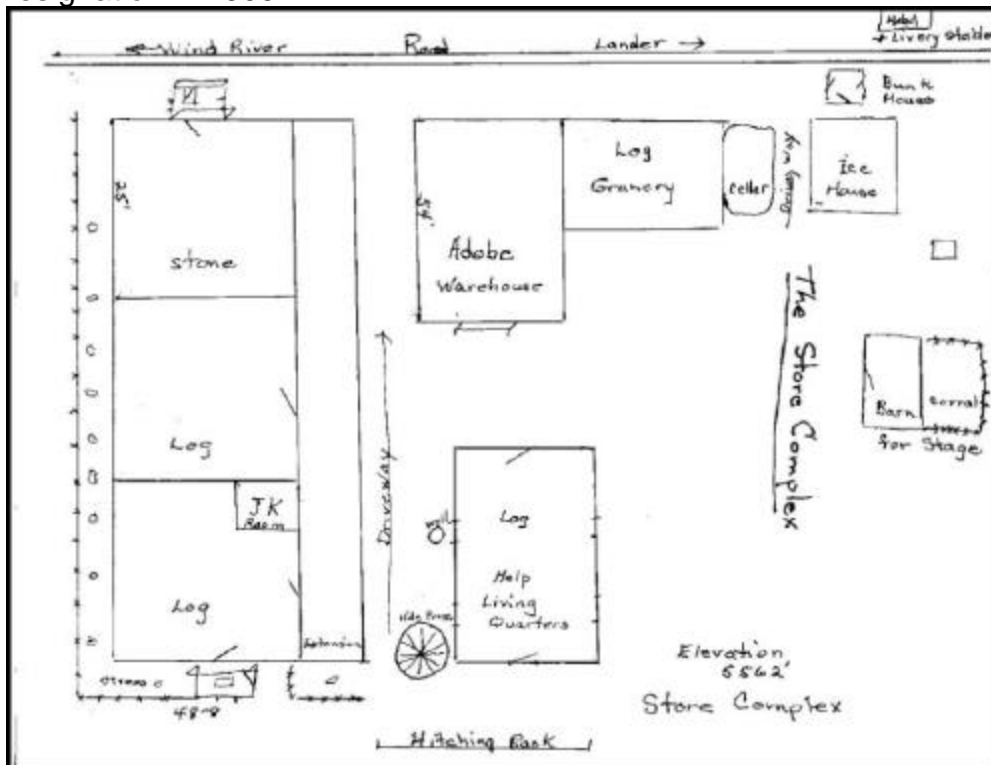
many other staples. Taking a cue from his old boss Judge Carter of Fort Bridger, he used in-house brass tokens as the basis for exchange. While convenient, this use of "script" limited the trading options of the Indians. In later years, Moore paid wages in

tokens to Indians who hauled wood, or for sales of hay, wheat, and other farm products. The Shoshones and Arapahos made other uses of these brass pieces, or “yellow money,” wagering them in their games of chance. (Visitors to the Moore Trading Post frequently commented on the gambling that took place on or near the premises).

Agent Irwin bolstered Moore in many ways, not the least of which was relying on Moore’s beef herd to supplement Shoshone diets. In fact, from early in 1872 and throughout Moore’s tenure at the agency and Camp Brown (officially renamed Fort Washakie in 1878), the agents purchased beef, or emergency flour rations, or wheat seed, or other supplies from his store. And, for at least 10 years, Moore was never charged for or asked to lease the agency lands that fed his livestock. In other words, the U.S. government subsidized the beef that Moore sold to the military post and reservation agency!

### TRADING STORE & POST OFFICE

Moore’s first store, built in 1871, was made from hewn logs, chinked with lime plaster fired in a kiln constructed by the soldiers, and measured 32 feet by 42 feet. It faced west, towards the Wind River Mountains. The stage road from Lander to the Agency lay southwest of the store. A partition of about 20 feet from the length housed surplus stock, while Moore lived in the southwest corner until he could construct his house about 3 years later. There was a 14 feet by 12 feet cellar dug under the northwest corner, and in the northeast corner were the store office and Camp Brown Post Office—at first, this was administered by the army, but Moore became postmaster in April 1875, a position he held until his resignation in 1909.



In 1877, the building was enlarged by another 32 feet on the end, again from hand-hewn logs. After this was done, the Post Office and the store office moved to the northwest corner. By this time, Moore had also built a separate log warehouse, about 20 feet square, a stable for the stagecoach teams, a well, and cabins for store employees. A few years later, in the early 1880s, a stone building, 25 feet by 26 feet, was added on the east end of the original log building. The Post Office and store office then were moved permanently to this space.

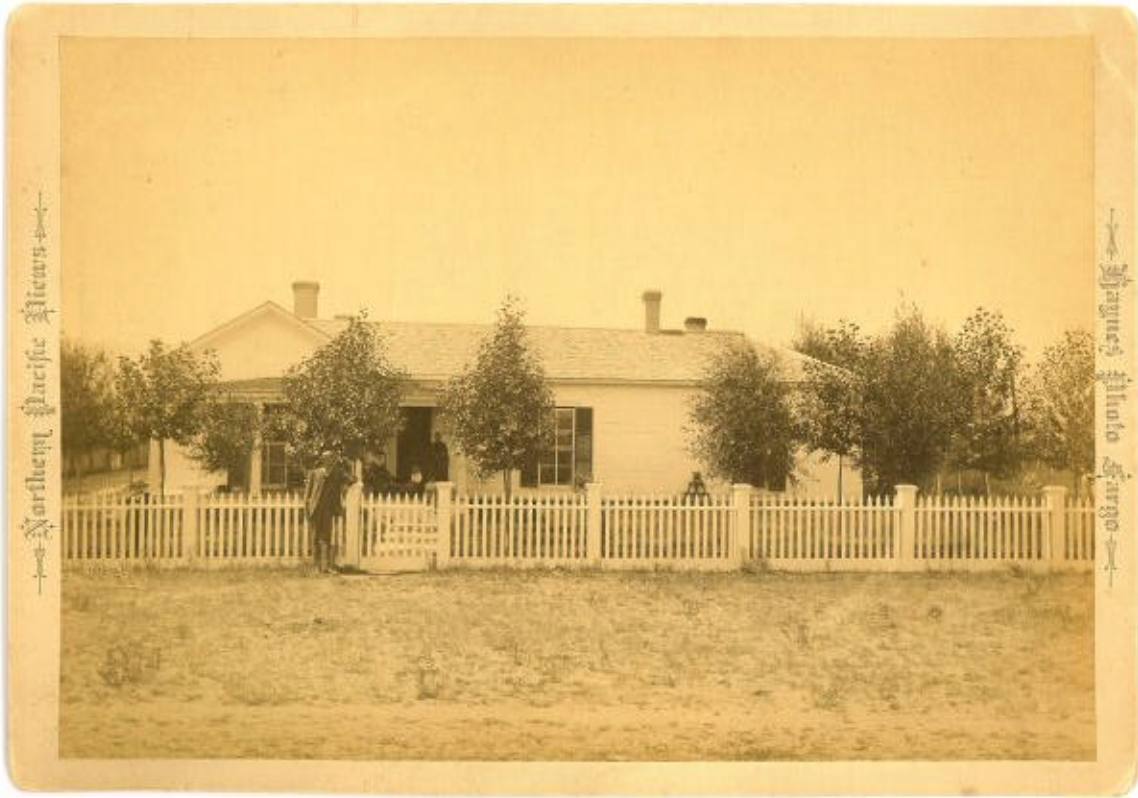
### MARRIAGE & HOME

Along with starting a business, Moore's life changed in other ways in the early 1870s. His former supervisor at Carter Station, Richard Carter, had received permission in 1870 to offer food and accommodations to the westbound passengers on the Overland Limited Railroad. That meant his busy household included his wife, Mary, and at least 4 children, 2 housekeepers (one Danish, one Swedish), a cook, two laborers, and two Chinese waiters for the restaurant. But the children needed a teacher, so Carter employed Nevada Cornell, from Fulton, Missouri, to serve as tutor, governess, nurse, and whatever other duties needed doing. The 20-year old took up her post in 1872, and soon caught the eye of at least three suitors, including J. K. Moore, who met her during his visits to the Carter Station to obtain supplies and goods for his store. Cornell, called Veda by her friends, was a beloved figure in the Carter household. The Carters eventually had five more children and named one of the Veda in honor her. Moore and Cornell married on September 1, 1875, at her parent's home. By that time, Moore was well established as the Post and Indian Trader at Camp Brown and could also provide his new bride a home separate from the store and post office. The couple eventually had five children: James (Jimmie) K. Moore, Jr. (born 1876, and also known as Lowry); Anne (Annie) (born 1878); Charles (Charley) (born 1880), Lilly (born 1882 and died in infancy in 1883) and Virginia (born 1887).

### THE J. K. MOORE HOME

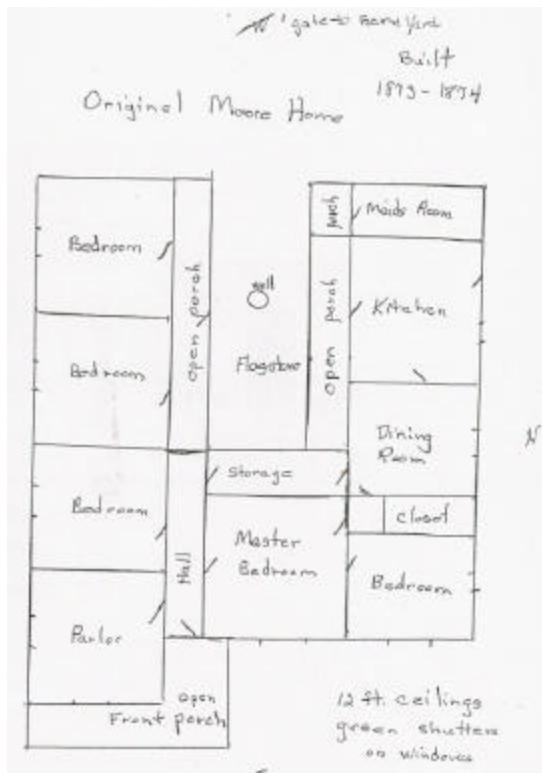
The Moore's home (below, Frank Jay Haynes photo, 1883) was built between 1873 and 1875 and was located about 135 feet north and west of the post store, just off the southwest edge of the parade grounds. The home building itself was 60 feet wide and 80 feet deep, with an east-facing entrance. Two wings extended back from the front, with a courtyard between them. The courtyard was paved in flagstones and at the center was a deep, boulder-line well. (Water had to be drawn daily until the house was connected to the post's water system in 1881). An 8-foot wide porch extended around the courtyard; eventually this was closed in to make addition bedrooms and closet space. The south wing was made from hand-hewn logs with clapboard siding on the outside and lathe and plaster inside. It had four rooms, three of them used for guests and the front room used as parlor. A master bedroom connected the south wing with the north wing, which had three main rooms—including another bedroom, dining room, kitchen,

and a maid's room. All of the rooms had 12-foot high ceilings and the windows were built southern-style, extending to the floor.



Unlike the south wing, the north wing was made from adobe bricks and plastered on the inside. The entire house was painted white and equipped with green

shutters. An open front porch, 18 feet long, protected the east entrance and also served as a gathering place on occasions. The sketch at left shows the general floor plan.



### PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

In July 1883, the Moore home and Fort Washakie hosted the visit of President Chester A. Arthur and his entourage. The President, along with several high-ranking military officers and other governmental officials, made the stopover on their way to a camping and fishing trip to Yellowstone National Park. The officers included General Philip Sheridan, General Anson Steger, and others, while officials included Governor Schuyler Crosby of Montana, U.S. Secretary of War Robert Lincoln, and

Senator George G. Vest of Missouri. The group also included Frank Jay Haynes as official photographer for the Northern Pacific Railroad and who was to become the first official photographer of Yellowstone Park. Because the presidential visit was important news, other reporters and photographers made the journey to the Wind River Reservation, including the Evanston photographers, Baker and Johnston. The result was that many images were made of Chief Washakie and other Shoshones and of Black Coal and the Arapahos. Members of the Moore family were also subjects of these photographs, including the one taken by F.J. Haynes below. From left to right are Jennie Shidy (one of Veda's sisters), standing with baby Lilly Moore (who died within a few weeks after the photo was recorded), Annie Moore, Veda Cornell Moore, Eva Shidy (Jennie's daughter, standing), Charlie Moore, Will Shidy, standing by camera, and J. K. Moore, Sr.



#### RANCHING & LANDER BUSINESS INTERESTS

Moore rapidly expanded his business interests in the Wind River Valley in addition to running his trading posts. In 1872 he started the JK Ranch near Crowheart, on Meadow Creek, using his friendship with Chief Washakie to bypass federal regulations that prohibited non-Indians from grazing on Indian reservations. He entered into a formal partnership agreement with Captain Robert A. Torrey in 1878 and the two established the famous M – brand. Torrey and his brother bought out Moore's share and the M - brand in 1881 and moved the cattle operation to the Owl Creek drainage just north of the reservation. Moore, however, continued to run cattle and horses on the reservation on the Meadow Creek ranch. Eventually, once the government started formal leasing arrangements in the 1890s of tribally owned land, Moore leased 100,000 acres

per year in the same drainage (Bull Lake and Bull Lake Creek formed the southern boundary of the lease district). There he pastured 2000 head of cattle and numerous horses. Moore sold the ranch to A.K. Kirkland in 1905.

During the 1875 to 1876 period, Moore purchased a store in Lander from Samuel Fairchild. Fairchild was a merchant and contractor who erected some of the first buildings at the Indian agency on the reservation and who may have supplied some of the materials for the J.K. Moore home. Moore evidently kept a tight rein on the store's management by employing family members. The first manager was Milton W. Shidy, who had married to Mary Moore (a sister to James). Another was J.L. Davis, a brother-in-law to Veda. Like his ranching interests, Moore sold the Lander store in 1905, whereupon the building was transformed into the Capitol Hotel for a number of years. The Lander store, c. 1886-1887, is shown below.



#### MOVING FURTHER WEST

In the late 1880s, rumors circulated that the government might close Fort Washakie, so Moore and his family begin to make plans for that possibility. Veda's sister and niece, Elma and Laura Leffingwell, visited the Moore family in 1888 through the fall of 1889. Veda and Elma then took their respective children on a winter vacation via train to San Jose, California, with a letter of introduction

from James written to H. Mersing & Son, saddle and harness makers. While on the train, the suggestion was made that the family visit Lodi. Thus, after visiting for a short time in San Jose, they traveled to Lodi and wintered in a rented house. Once he could free himself from Fort Washakie, James rejoined his family and then purchased 160 acres in Acampo. In spring 1890, James brought his brother-in-law, Albert P. Bellows (married to Margaret), to oversee a 40-acre plot of Tokay grapes that James had had planted on the Acampo land.

Other family members soon made the move to California, including Veda's parents in 1892, and the landholdings expanded, although the entire family continued to rent a large home. James, Jr. ("Jimmy"), and Charles ("Charlie") even received some education while in California, first in public schools in Oakland during 1891 and 1892, and a year later at Hoitt's Oak Grove School, a military-style academy. In 1894, Jimmy and Charlie once more went east for school, this time at the Cheltenham Military Academy in Philadelphia. The picture below is of the two boys at Thanksgiving, 1894, during their attendance at Cheltenham.



Veda and the children were back in Fort Washakie in 1893 and did not return to California for several years. However, like her brothers, Virginia Moore also experienced a bit of eastern schooling. In 1900, she attended St. Gabriel's in Peekskill, NY, and then the Hannah Moore Academy, an Episcopal school for girls in Reisterstown, MD. Virginia's classmates included Ann Talbot, the daughter of the Episcopal Bishop of Wyoming (the Right Reverend Ethelbert Talbot) and Grace Weatherbie, who later married Sherman Coolidge, an Arapaho who served at Fort Washakie in the Episcopal Mission under the Reverend John Roberts.

In the meantime, James, Sr., continued to expand and improve the California property, eventually buying the rental house and another 80 acres of land, all of

which adjoined his original purchase. In addition to the Tokay grapes, the farm grew peaches, apricots, almonds, prunes, and Emperor grapes.

In 1906, when it became clear to James that the military outpost of Fort Washakie was not going to remain open for much longer, he sold his holdings at the post, although the new buyers continued to operate the facility as the J.K. Moore Company. J.K., Jr., also had an interest in the business as well as in the ranching operations and continued to work as a clerk in the store. James, Sr., Veda, and Annie finally moved to their Acampo home in 1907. By 1909, when the government closed Fort Washakie as a military post, James had basically divested himself of the majority of his business interests in Wyoming, including his position as Postmaster of Fort Washakie,

#### FINAL YEARS

For about a decade, James continually improved on his holdings in California, running a profitable fruit orchard business. But in 1917 and in failing health, he suffered a collapse at home. In order to help out, James, Jr., moved his family to Berkeley (Charles by this time was in the process of creating what would become the CM Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming). James, Sr., was moved to the Alder Sanatorium in San Francisco, but the family decided to move him south in hope a warmer climate would improve his health. Eventually, they settled in San Diego. There James died on January 20, 1920, a few week shy of his 77th birthday.

#### THE LEGACY OF JAMES K. MOORE, SR.

Although J.K. Moore left Wyoming in 1907, his influence on the Wind River Reservation persisted. J.K., Jr., as mentioned earlier, continued to clerk in the military post. He was to go on and take over the official position of Indian Trader and Postmaster in 1907 and remained at Fort Washakie until his retirement in 1920. As a result of "Jimmy's" interest in history and his family's contribution to the Wind River valley, he gave his collection of Shoshone and Arapaho art to the Cheyenne State Museum in 1962.

Charles Moore also remained in Wyoming. As early as 1910 he had offered guided packtrips for young boys into the wilderness areas of Yellowstone Park. Building on his connections and those of his father and other family members (sisters Annie and Virginia had attended prominent eastern schools), "Charlie" bought land near Dubois and opened the CM Ranch, one of the first dude ranches in the area. The ranch offered a taste of the Western experience and the Wind River region to hundreds of people and remains in operation today, courtesy of Jay Kemmerer (of J. C. Penney) who was once a young "dude" at the ranch.

Thus, in a very real way, the life of James K. Moore, Sr. interacted with the development of Wyoming and the Indians, soldiers, and settlers of the Wind River, and through political and business connections, helped to bring the East to the West.