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NOTES

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE LIFE OF CHARLES MOORE (1815–1881), SOMERSET GEOLOGIST

Copp *et al.* (1999) published an account of the life and work of Charles Moore, the Victorian amateur geologist whose fine collection is now held mainly by the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution and the Somerset County Museum, Taunton. This note aims to amend and extend some information in that paper.

Previous workers had given Moore's year of birth as variously 1814 or 1815. Copp *et al*. (1999, 3) settled on 1814. This was largely because Moore's birthday was 8 June; he died on 7 December 1881; and his death certificate and his coffin inscription (as reported at the time) both gave his age as 67 years. However, the correct year of birth is in fact 1815. The registers of the Old Meeting (i.e. congregation) of the Ilminster Presbyterians (Public Record Office RG4 1554, p. 68; Torrens 1977) record that 'Charles son of John and Anna Moore of the Parish of Ilminster was born June 8, 1815, and baptized August 6, 1815 by me John Evans'.

The confusion over the year of Charles Moore's birth evidently arose from an error set in stone, so to speak, by those dealing with the practicalities consequent on his death, who recorded an erroneous age of 67 in the coffin inscription and on the death certificate. Perhaps the miscalculation was theirs, for Moore himself correctly gave his age as 65 in the spring 1881 census, which records him and his wife Eliza (aged 67) at 6 Cambridge Place, Bath, with three servants – one (presumably) married couple, Joseph and Susan Owen, in their 50s, born in Mangotsfield and Kilmersdon respectively, and one 21 year old single female, Annie Denning, from Vobster.

The marriage of Charles's parents, John Moore and Anna Eames (*not* Sophia as given by Winwood 1892, 4, and, following him, Copp *et al*. 1999, 2), is recorded on 24 April 1810 at Ilminster parish church (see IGI at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng). This is, of course, the local Anglican church, but the Moores would in any case have had to comply with the legal requirement for marriages to be solemnized by this State church. In fact, their true affiliation was to nonconformism, and the family evidently had a long connection with the Presbyterian 'Old Meeting' of Ilminster, as is suggested by the record of his father John's own baptism there in 1768. The Old Meeting registers also record the baptism there of Charles and his siblings, enabling us to confirm and complete the list of the Moores' children:

1. William, baptized 24 April 1811
2. Sophia, 23 January 1814
3. Charles, 6 August 1815
4. John, 22 February 1818
5. Sarah Munden, 9 April 1820
6. Mary Anna, 13 April 1823

We also take the opportunity to draw attention in the county literature to the forthcoming memoir by Savage (2004 in press) which, amongst other things, records the date of the marriage of Charles Moore and Eliza Dear as 14 January 1854, from the marriage certificate.

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H.S. TORRENS and M.A.TAYLOR