The Land Office of Texas (Harris 1st, 269, 274) wrote that J.W. Moody by certificate No. 183 received a grant of one league and labor of land. "One third league was located in Harris County and patented in December, 1854. Two-thirds' league and one labor was located in Harris County and patented May 8, 1851. The certificate states that he arrived in this county in May, 1835, and was a married man." Illeena Friend of the University of Texas sent a sketch: "John W. Moody was the auditor of Public Accounts during the two years of Houston's first administration. He had served as auditor for the Provisional Government, having been elected by the Provisional Council, December 20, 1835. Before this time he had been serving as chief clerk of the Finance Committee, also as clerk for the committee on State and Judiciary Affairs prior to the establishment of the office of auditor... John W. Moody continued to hold the office of Auditor until his death, August 21; 1839."

His wife was Mary Baldwin born 1785 in Wilkes County, Ga., daughter of Rhoda Jennings, born about 1767, and Francis Baldwin, born in Berkeley County, Va. Mary or Polly Moody died in 1853 after leaving Texas. She lived with her daughter Dorinda, married to Capt. Michael Roup Goheen of the U.S. Army, when her husband died. The 1850 census in Grimes County shows "No. 75, Polly Moody, ae 65, b. Ga. $1,000 valuation. D. M. Goheen ae 42 b. N.C. $2,210...M.R. Goheen ae 43, cabinet maker b. N.Y. Value $320." M.R. Goheen was administrator of the estate of J.W. Moody and in 1841 notice was published for the sale of all "Moody's perishable property...at the Moody home on Spring Creek at public auction."

In 1835 Santa Ana prepared to crush the Texans and Sam Houston was elected Major-general of an army not yet in existence. On Jan. 9, 1836, Moody was made auditor of the Legion of Cavalry appointments were made. On 9 Jan. 1836 Moody was also secretary pro tem of the General Council which created the Legion of Cavalry. He was auditor before the Republic was formed and Independence was declared Mar. 2, 1836. Sam Houston, as Commander in Chief, wrote to "Major Moody," V. 1, p. 324 (Writings of Sam Houston), as auditor, Washington, 1835.

In 1837 J.W. Moody and W.W. Shepperd, for the company, advertised land for sale in Montgomery, Washington County, expecting a new county to be organized, which was done in 1837. A sheriff sale 16 Sept. 1837, Houston, for land of E. H. Winfield, two lots, "with the buildings and improvements thereon, and at present occupied by J.W. Moody Esqr., and marked on the plan of said town as lots No. 10 and 11 in block 30, to satisfy execution in favor of Smith and Allen and W. H. Hill.

May 9, 1838 had newspaper ad for sale, "A valuable house and lot, nearly opposite the Round Tent, known by the name of Texas Coffee House," apply to J.W. Moody, Houston. From April 4 1838 to May 15, 1839, J.W. Moody sold 24 pieces of property in deeds to various persons. On Dec. 12, 1843, was deed from Jno. W. Moody estate by sheriff to Alex Levi, Nov. 27, 1841, Book I, p. 147, for 4423 acres de. by M. & E. Also in 1844 Moody Tract was sold to Chas. Stephanes dated May 31, 1838, B. I, p. 411.

John Wyatt Moody was said in family tradition to have owned much of the city of Houston and it was said that the land was disposed of but not properly and legally sold. Grantee deeds to Moody showed one from H.C. and J. K. Allen (founders of the town of Houston, who left N.Y. in 1832 for Texas) for $1500.00 for land adjoining Houston on Buffalo Bayou, 15 acres adjoining Frost and Samuel M. Williams running to prairie, bought of T.F.L. Parrott, 26 Apr. 1837. Also D:206, John Green sold to J.W. Moody, Harrisburg for $1252.00 in Houston Lot 5, Square 24, see plot of city. (Moody sold Lot 5, Bl. 24, to Jasper Ellensheer 1839.)

F.R. Lubbock in Six Decades in Texas, p. 42, says the Round Tent Saloon in Houston had men in homespun and broadcloth, that in 1838 J.K. Allen died of yellow fever and the epidemic raged in 1839 when 240 died of Houston's 2,000 residents.
NOTES ON TEXAS

John H. Moody in 1837 was one of the heads of a land company selling acreage at Montgomery, Washington County, Texas, 60 miles northwest of Houston, on the San Jacinto. On Sept. 10 1837 a sheriff sale of Harrisburg County was advertised for the claim of B.H. Winfield and wife to 2 lots with buildings "at present occupied by J.W. Moody Esqr," lots 10 and 11, block 30, to satisfy execution in favor of Smith and Allen and W. H. Hill. Newspaper of 1838 May 9 has for sale, "A valuable house and lot, nearly opposite the Round Tent, known by the name of Texas Coffee House," apply to J.W. Moody, Houston. An item of 1839 for Houston sheriff's sale referred to a lot of DeChaunes by "the southeast corner of the square that one Lawrence Derivaux bought of John W. Moody on the 14th day of April 1839 ...to John Baptists Boetard." Moody was made auditor 1836 and had been assistant clerk before this. Moody paid for the clerks himself and was reimbursed 1837 by the senate and house on motion of Allen of Milam, §1200.

HOUSTON, American Guide Series, WPA, has a map showing Buffalo Bayou and its joining with Bray's Bayou, with the court house on Preston Avenue south of Buffalo Bayou. No. 23 is cemetery of old families where were buried--grandchildren of Obedience Smith who owned all of S. J. Houston from Main west and S of Buffalo Bay. No. 26 is the market set aside by Augustus C. and John K. Allen and about 1839 a canvas-covered house was erected (was this the Round Tent?)

J.H. Harris arrived 1823 in his own vessel from New Orleans and received land at Buffalo Bayou for a trading post, as did John Austin where Bray's Bayou met Buffalo. In 1826 Harris had a survey made and named his town Harrisburgh, which grew rapidly, though in 1828 it had but 6 or 3 houses. Harris died 1829 and his property was in litigation in the Mexican courts. In 1832 A.C. and John K. Allen left their native New York for Texas. In 1830 Mexico closed the door for U.S. immigration. Mrs. Delia Harris wrote of Harrisburg as she saw it 1833 aboard a keel boat..."Mr. Lytle had a cart and one yoke of oxen and he moved us. He wouldn't take any pay for his work, said that was not the way in Texas." Most buildings were of logs, and there was "no church, nor preacher, school house nor court house. They had no use for a jail; everybody honest." In 1835 Santa Anna prepared to crush the Texans and Sam Houston was elected Major general of an army not in existence. In 1836 the municipality of Harrisburg ran "northwardly to include the settlements on Spring Creek, to the southern line of the Municipality of Washington," etc. On 9 Jan. 1836, J.W. Moody was made auditor by the Legion of Cavalry appointments were made. On 9 Jan. John W. Moody was secy. pro tem of the General Council which created a Legion of Cavalry. The Declaration of Independence was March 2, 1836, so Moody was auditor before the Republic was formed. Houston retreated the officials fled to the east from the Austin colony, to Harrisburg, yet in March government members boarded the Cayuga, a Harris vessel, and townspeople had to escape. The Mexicans entered Harrisburg April 15 and found several houses burning--they said Houston had 800 men and two four-pounders. Santa Anna ordered all the town's buildings burned. Houston then retook Harrisburg and won the San Jacinto battle. The Allens of Macogoches now decided to promote Houston, and had already tried to buy but the Harris interest but litigation prevented this. The Allens took the junction of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous where "Spring Creek had families who had settled there in 1831." (Moody's were at Spring Creek.) T.F. McKinney administered the property of John P. Austin etc. and in 1836 Allens bought land of him and of William Austin for 41 per acre, Aug. 24. See The City of Houston from Wilderness to Wonder, by O.P. Allen. On Aug. 30, 1836, the Allens advertised the town of Houston on the N bank of Buffalo Bay, not yet built. Columbia, temporary seat of government, was in Harris County. See also Six Decades in Texas by F.R. Lubbock. P. 42 says that in Houston the Round Tent Saloon had men in homespun and broadcloth. Houston had 500 people in 1837 under the Lone Star flag, when a ball was held to celebrate San Jacinto. In 1838 a yellow fever epidemic took J.K. Allen. In 1839 it also raged, and 240 died of Houston's 2,000 residents.
Inventory of land of probate of J.W. Moody (See Book D, p. 441, 11 pp. and 457-60; K, 10-13), shows 1476 ac. Montgomery Co. Spr. Creek; 640 ac. South of Spr. Creek; 1476, 640, 128 acres Spring Creek headrights, also 1/4 of 480 ac. Spring Creek and 1476 acres.

In 1838 the House heard "petitions of J.W. Moody, J.M.W. Hall's company...etc." In 1838 candidates for aldermen of Houston were W.D. Lee, J.C. Welchmeyer, J.W. Moody, Andrew Briscoe, Asa Bringham et c. On 6 Feb. 1839 Senate confirmed nomination by President J.W. Moody 1st auditor, Asa Bringham treasurer etc. In 1839, "Dr. Bailey offers his services to the citizens of Houston...Offices at Mr. Taylor's east of the Public Square near Maj. Moody's." In 1839, May 1, J.W. Moody was chairman of a railroad meeting.

Texas Tax Rolls 1840, Stirpes, p. 76: Land subject to a double tax which has not been returned by any person in Harris Co., Texas: Coheen, Dorinda M. (no acreage given); P. 77 J.W. Moody--4430 acres.

Pond Creek Bapt. Church, Monroe (was McMinn) Co. Tenn--rec'd Sept. 1834, excluded Apr. 1836. JOHN MOODY.


Telegraph, Houston, 22 July 1837, p. 2, has resolution of house and senate: "That twelve hundred and fifty dollars be and the same hereby appropriated to J.W. Moody, auditor of public accounts, to reimburse him for money paid for clerk hire..."

Telegraph 11 Aug. 1841, notice of real estate sale by Michael R. Coheen, adm. of estate of John W. Moody, to be held September in the court house: 392 acres, 392 acres, 160 acres, 4th part of each of two 480 acres, being certain bounty claims of Lawrence Long, said land "on the waters of Spring Creek, in said county of Harris (now the county of Spring Creek)."

Same paper 9 Aug. 1843 was sale by Coheen of estate of J.W. Moody, 392 acres, 160, 160, 1476 acres, all at Spring Creek formerly Harris County now Montgomery Co, 100 ac. lying 5 miles north of Judge Grimes, with 12 or 15 acres under improvement.

Jean HaldenWalker of Austin, Texas, did research on the Moois with Sally Harrison of Houston. Mrs. Walker wrote that the first map of Houston was 1836 and is to be found pp. 30-39, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, V. XIX, July No. 1, 1915. Court House Square is No. 31, and No. 30 is slightly west and south of Court House Square and between San Jacinto Street and Carolina Street. See Loscan's Harris Co. 1822-1845, p. 58 above. For Spring Creek see July 1914, V. XVIII No. 1, p. 199, Loscan's Harris County.

Houston, Am. Guide Series, WPA, says J.W. Harris arrived 1823 in his own vessel and got land at Buffalo Bayou for a trading post. He had a survey made 1826 and named his town Harrisburgh, which in 1828 had but 6 or 8 houses. Harris died 1829 and litigation ensued in the Mexican courts. In 1830 Mexico closed the door on U.S. Immigration. In 1836 Harrisburg included the settlements on Spring Creek, and went to the south line of the municipality of Washington. Harrisburg was burned by Santa Anna. Allens tried to buy out tige Harris interests but litigation prevented this. They took the junction of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous where "Spring Creek had families who had settled there in 1831."

Mrs. Walker said a new settlement named Houston was made 5 miles north of old Harrisburg by the Allens. WPA Guide says plat 25 was the market set aside by the Allens and about 1839 a canvas-covered house was erected.

John Wyatt Moody moved from Iredell Co., N.C. about 1816-19 to Coosa Co., Alabama, thence to St. Clair Co., Ala. and in 1824 to Montgomery Co., Ala. where he had a plantation with slaves. In 1833 he moved to Wumpka in Creek Indian territory but became interested in Texas and set out, arriving about May 1835, first at Bastrop and in 1836 to La Grange. Somewhere he became a Major in some armed force, perhaps in Alabama.