James Blaine Moore was born near Navasota, Texas. He was the sixth child born to Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Moore. His public education school days were spent in Grimes County, Texas. He then entered Tuskegee Institute (Tuskegee University), Tuskegee, Alabama and graduated in 1908, having specialized in Mechanics [Mechanical Arts]. After graduation he was employed at his Alma Mater where he taught for one year. During the following year, in 1909-1910, James Moore taught at South-Eastern Baptist Academy, in Durmont, Arkansas. He was also a member of the staff at Prairie View Normal and Industrial Institute (Prairie View University) since 1910. He later did further study at Hampton Institute (Hampton University), Hampton, Virginia and Bradley University, in Peoria, Illinois.

“The Southern University” was created to provide the Negroes of the state of Louisiana a practical agricultural and industrial education. The new president of the transplanted institution began his real work at Southern University, September 1913. His first major task facing him was that of selecting a faculty.

Dr. Joseph S. Clark, now president of Southern University still had vacancies in key positions. Most important were vacancies in Agriculture, Blacksmithing, Printing and Clerical assistance for the president. To fill these positions, it was necessary that talent be brought from outside of the state. On a visit to Prairie View State Normal and Industrial Institute (Prairie View University), the Land-Grant College for Negroes in Texas, President Clark secured from Mr. E. L. Blackshear (then principal of Prairie View Normal and Industrial Institute) permission to speak with two members of his staff in the interest of having them join Southern University whenever it should open. Permission was granted and President Clark approached the first member of his staff, Ms. James Blaine Moore.

James Blain Moore was a founder and member of the original faculty present on March 9, 1914 when the reorganized Southern University reopened on Scott’s Bluff. Moore was also one of the first 10 teachers to join the staff of Southern University in 1914, when the institution began instruction on its present site. Moore served as an Instructor of Mechanics at the university. Years later he became Director of Industrial Arts. Also, during the 1930’s he became head of the Maintenance Department. While holding this position, he was elected treasurer of the Southern Teachers and Parents Federal Credit Union. He served with distinction at Southern for 34-years and retired in 1948.

During his residence in the Scotlandville community he was a dynamic leader in civic, political and economic life in the area.
Moore helped to organize and became the first treasurer, and saw massive growth under his leadership. Moore retired from Southern University in 1948, later assumed full-time responsibilities of the credit union, as manager and treasurer. He retired from the credit union in January 1959 after he served in the capacity for 23 years.

James Blaine Moore died in September of 1959.

At the time Moore was survived by his wife, Mrs. Beulah E. Moore; a brother, R. I. Moore of Denver, Colorado, two sisters, Mrs. Fannie Matthews and Mrs. B. C. Hainesworth of Houston, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The “James Blaine Moore Building” on the campus of Southern University and A&M College campus is named in his honor.

John M. Harris

The second member of the staff that President Joseph Samuel Clark approached was Mr. John M. Harris. Successful in his effort to secure one Texan, President Clark, with the assistance of Mr. James B. Moore, was able to secure the services of Mr. John M. Harris, to take charge of the work in Agriculture.

John M. Harris attended Prairie View from 1909-1911 specializing in Agriculture. He along with Mr. Moore were present on March 9, 1914.


Moore, James Blaine. Personal Papers. Archives and Manuscripts Department, John B. Cade Library, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.


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